



# NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Bryan Schroeder, Editor  
153 Spring Street  
Richland WA 99354-1651

VOLUME 47 NO. 6

APRIL 2007

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – DO NOT DELAY

## REVISIONS TO AFMS UNIFORM RULES

In the past the Lillian Turner Junior Award, presented at the AFMS Annual Show, has been presented to the Junior with the best competitive exhibit. In the event there are no Junior entries in competition, this award will now be given to the best non-competitive Junior case, as determined by a team of two (2) persons appointed by the Rules Chair.

Addition to rules for Jewelry - Wire Wrapping. Under variety of work for DST-6, one item should now use four wires to make the outside frame.

Change to Out-of-Class for Petrified Wood. The past rule included (f) Any tumbled stones except as minor background material in Class G-6, Diorama. The revised rule deletes the word "any".

Change to Out-of-Class rules for Scrimshaw. This section will now read: All contemporary ivory (already banned by the AFMS) and related materials banned by the Federal Government or by specified state or local laws are therefore illegal and any exhibit using this material will be disqualified. Ivory guidelines will derive from information from US Government authorities. Cast work material or surface coloration of materials is ruled Out-of-Class. Five (5) points will be deducted from the total score for each Out-of-Class item.

A current version of the rules can be obtained from [www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm](http://www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm). The official version should be obtained from the NFMS Publications Chair.

Barbara Jacobsen, Rules & Awards Chair, NFMS

## REVISION TO NFMS RULES

*The Darrell Dalton Award for the best case of obsidian will no longer be given, effective immediately. The club that sponsored it has decided to support other efforts.*

## ADVANCING AT THE RETREAT

This article owes many of the following ideas to an excellent editorial in the Journal of Nursing Scholarship (Second Quarter, 2006) by Sue Thomas Hegyvary.

Competitive racecar drivers and cyclists know that if they haven't already crashed, they will one day. Nurses and physicians also know they will make mistakes, not to mention authors, teachers, politicians, and so on. And, does anyone believe judges of competitive exhibits at gem and mineral shows should be exempt from mistakes? In fact, I have yet to talk with anyone who has served as such a judge who failed to admit at least one mistake.

Crashes or mistakes occur for many reasons. In the case of judges, mistakes may occur because of a lack of knowledge of the rules or a lack of experience with the materials being judged or even a lack of equipment, such as a 10-power

microscope for the judging of faceted stones. Besides knowledge and experience, judgments of mineral or lapidary cases often occur in a distracting, noisy environment with some pressure to get the job done quickly. In addition, judges at gem shows work in teams of two or three, and the person with the most influential personality can overwhelm the others. Then, in an atmosphere of excitement and charged emotion, hasty judgments can be reached.

In some 30 years of competing, I have not experienced 'mistakes' because of ethical violations, though I have listened to the complaints of others about favoritism or personal vendettas. These latter mistakes can be considered deliberate as opposed to the vast majority of mistakes by judges that can be considered accidental or due to carelessness.

At the Retreat in September at Camp Hancock, we are going to try to reduce error by discussing in detail the American Federation of Mineralogical Society's Uniform Rules. We will practice applying those rules and review standards of conduct for judges. Perhaps by means of such seminars, we can reduce the number of times we quote Alexander Pope's dictum that to err is human. Perhaps, too, we can reduce the number of depressed judges who wring their hands with regret after a mistake and vow never to judge again. We need good judges both new and experienced. Please consider joining us for an interesting and challenging week.

Barbara Jacobsen, NFMS Chair of Rules & Awards Committee

**B.C. Gem Show**  
**"Minerals of the Pacific Rim"**  
 April 13, 14, 15 2007

**A Gem of A Show**

- ◆ dealers
- ◆ jewellery
- ◆ rocks
- ◆ displays
- ◆ crystals

**Ag-Rec Bldg. CFV Fairgrounds**  
 32470 - Haida Dr., Abbotsford, B.C.  
 Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. & Sun. 10am-6pm

◆ Adults \$6.00 ◆ Students \$2.00 ◆ Child (under 6) Free

033107

**Billings Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show**

Billings Holiday Inn  
 Grand Convention Center  
 Billings, Mont.

Sat. April 28, 2007 10 - 6  
 Sun April 29, 2007 10 - 5

Featuring Fossils & Artifacts  
 Jewelry, Gems, & Rocks

Dealers                      Show cases  
 Silent Auction              Garnet Table  
 Grab bags                      Kids fun

Admission \$3.00 (14 and under free with adult)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Butley ID 83318  
Permit No. 9

NFMS JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

"News Flash April"



Juniors Chairman

Gary Buhr

The most recent membership count reflects over 300 Junior Rockhounds in the NFMS, which is an increase of over 60 from 2005 statistics. Juniors are the Treasures we need to support, plus make sure they are

having a positive, fun experience while in our hobby. We are charged with assuring that this is the best hobby the Juniors ever enjoyed. There will be a day in the future that the usual suspects of today are gone, and if you fast forward time, guess who will be the leaders?

Hard to believe that it is Mid Year already for NFMS, which starts the "new year" on September 1 and ends its year on August 31. No wonder Mid Year always seems to come early.

As the weather improves, Field Trips are more plentiful so check out the "Field Trip Safety First" on the Juniors Page of your NFMS Website. Webmaster Jack Eads has carefully placed important data there that we consider valuable for the whole year.

Education Chair Margaret Stallknecht came over to Everett, WA to enjoy the heartbeat of the 54th Annual Gem & Jewelry Show for Everett Rock and Gem Club. Margaret found a place to sell NFMS Caps and T Shirts, so you may see her this year at your show too. Even better, order NFMS Caps and T Shirts directly from her and save some gasoline.

2007 Junior Achievement Award Winners will be contacted on May 1 and their Awards will be presented in Butte, MT on August 4 at the Annual NFMS Awards Banquet.

Are you planning to vacation in Butte, Montana this summer so you can attend the Annual NFMS Show and Convention? We have the best KIDS CORNER for Junior Rockhounds or adults to enjoy including the Junior Achievement Trust Fund Raffle, a giant four-foot Wheel of Fortune, Gem Panning in dry sand, Critter Making and Mineral Bingo. Plan now and meet some new friends in Butte this summer.



Everett Rookie Rockhounds JILLIAN BERG (left in photo) and DEMI MONTES (right in photo) helped the success of the 2007 KIDS CORNER for the 54th Annual ERGC Show, Everett, WA. The eight-foot Mardi Gras Clown enhances the festive environment at our KIDS CORNER.



Rock Roulette was the name of the game for the Juniors of Issaquah Valley Rock Club who participated in the Annual EKRC Show. Left to right in photo are EVAN HJORT, age 8, likes quartz xtls; CAMI CALLAWAY, age 8, likes amethyst; and ANDI CALLAWAY age 6, likes gem trees. Their motto was "We Spin-- You Win-- Everyone's a Winner".

East King County Rock Club had their Annual Show at Pickering Barn in Issaquah, WA where the KIDS CORNER was a success because of SHANNON APGAR (top in photo), age 9, likes quartz crystals; SAPPHIRE WHELAN (left in photo) age 6, likes rose quartz; and MEGAN NYBERG (right in photo), age 12, likes crystals.



Life Member Derek Whitmarsh runs the Kids Silent Auction at the Everett Rock & Gem Club Annual Show. Derek is a vital part of the goings on at the KIDS CORNER. (So is his dear wife, Life Member Amy Whitmarsh)



Lorna Goebel with her ABC's Mineral Case that she developed in concert with NFMS and Friends of Mineralogy/Seattle Chapter. Lorna runs the FREE game of Mineral Bingo at the KIDS CORNER at the Everett Rock & Gem Club Annual Shows and the NFMS Annual Shows.



MONTANA PELLEGRINI, age 11, helped make the 2007 EKRC Show a success in Issaquah, WA. Her favorite rock is Montana agate; she helped carving soapstone from Lake Wenatchee area and showed a display case full of jewelry that she made plus crystals & jasper, but best of all she won "Peoples Choice" 1st Place for Juniors Display Cases.

**Education Article**

By Margaret Stallknecht

As we welcome in spring and the hopes of the snows being behind us, I want to pass out a big thank-you to Rocky McCall and Gary Buhr for taking a helping hand selling T-shirts and hats & for Frank Posthuma taking them to Washington for me. Thank you for the wonderful response and table the Everett Club gave me, the friends I stayed with, and the wining and dining they gave me. A huge thanks to Duane Bays for going to Washington to see his extended family and help me drive (as I had worked non-stop to be able to go!) The show was wonderful. I really enjoyed visiting with old friends.

Then, the Owyhee Gem & Mineral Show in Caldwell, Idaho, was March 3 & 4. The Owyhee Club was very kind to support me setting up at their annual show. Next week, I hope to make it to the Twin Falls Show. As it nears my first year as your Educational Chairman, I want to thank my ghost writers that make my articles readable. Thanks for the wonderful e-mails that I get from everyone and keep those T-shirt & hat orders coming in!

**2008 Show**

By Margaret Stallknecht

I would like to give everyone who has been so supportive an update on the June 2008 NFMS Show in Ontario, OR. With taking time to attend as many club meetings and shows as I can, I hope to rally more support and attendees. I know that many of you that I have talked with are starting to plan your vacation around the show. I think that is wonderful! We will have extra field trips for those that wish to stay a day or two afterward. I have the Mountain Home Club onboard and have talked with the Owyhee Club about cases and helping with the field trips, (more on that later.) My club has many new members this year and a few that are returning. They will have time to help and we hope to recruit many more before Show time. We have so far paid for the Fairgrounds, got the M-M on board for displays. We have Ind, from Mines Org and many other places coming to show off their special ways of working with rock. I would like to see the Judging in '08 include a category for their work. We have many, many things in the works. Mr. ----- from Caldwell will bring his dinosaur egg. There are 10 workshops already confirmed with more asking every week.

Thank you so much for the ones that keep the wind beneath my wings with their help and all of you, we will make the Show the best ever! I hope to see many of you in Montana at the 2007 Show. Please if you e-mail me, mention the Show or Rocks, as many of the names I don't know and I don't always open them soon. Your 2008 Show Chairman,

P. O. Box 171  
Letha, ID 83636  
(208) 365-1653, e-mail: [mestallknecht@yahoo.co](mailto:mestallknecht@yahoo.co)



**Editor's Column**

By Bryan Schroeder

For those that may remember, Joe Btfsplk, the guy on the right, was the bearer of bad news. You will notice this is only a 4-page newsletter, the smallest I have ever published. You will also notice in this issue and the past 3 or 4 issues our leadership has not provided any articles for publication in this newsletter. Your NFMS Newsletter is only successful when people contribute to it. This endeavor

should be a team effort, not left to the editor to do it all (which I can not do anyway). Thank you to those who have contributed.

The next issue of the newsletter (May) should be mailed using the 2007 mailing list. This mailing list will be based upon the 12/31/2006 membership list that was submitted to the Treasurer with the appropriate dues. After that issue of the newsletter (June), the new members this year and all the changes submitted this year to the circulation chair (Beverly Schroeder) will be incorporated into the 2007 mailing list.

**Articles for the May issue of the newsletter are due:  
April 10, 2007**

**FOSSILS**  
THEME FOR 2007 SHOW

52nd Annual  
*River of Gems*

AGATE & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.  
WILLAMETTE  
SALEM, OREGON

Presented by:  
**Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
A Non-Profit Educational Organization  
Donation \$1.00 (Under 12 year - FREE)

<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>APRIL 27</b> 9 am - 6 pm	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>APRIL 28</b> 10 am - 6 pm	<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>APRIL 29</b> 10 am - 4:30 pm
---	--	---

**Dealers and Exhibits of Rocks, Gems and Minerals from around the World!**  
Precious Gems and Jewelry, Lapidary and Faceting Materials  
Silver, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Beads, and much more!

Fossil Displays & Demonstrations ♦ Display Cases  
Demonstrator Area - Gold Panning, Flintknapping, Beads,  
Gem Setting, Spheres, Wirewrapping and Cabochons  
Silent Auction ♦ Free Door Prizes ♦ Grab Bags

**TREASURE HUNT**  
Thundereggs • Agates • and more  
Sat. - 1:00 pm (Kids Under 12)

**New KID'S CORNER**  
Games • Educational • Fun  
Sun. - 1:00 pm Kids Rock Contest  
Ask the Expert - Bring Your Rocks

Contact Cathy Fisher at 503.851-1837 or email [rockhuntinggem@comcast.net](mailto:rockhuntinggem@comcast.net)  
Tours for School Children on Friday [www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org)

**POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
Rickreall, Oregon • HWY 99 • 10 miles west of Salem

**MT HOOD ROCK CLUB  
ROCK AND GEM SHOW**  
(Free admission-bring your friends)

**SAT/SUN, April 14 & 15, 2007, 10 am to 6/5 pm**

---

**WHERE: Mt Hood Community College Gym  
26000 SE Stark, Gresham, OR (watch for signs)**

**26 DLRS, DEMOS, DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLE  
EASTER (THUNDER) EGG HUNT FOR KIDS  
2:00 Sat--800 lbs. of free polished rock (Kids 1-12)**

**ORAL AUCTION: Sun. @ 2:00 p.m. (Quality Mat'l)  
USED EQUIPMENT SALE & SILENT  
AUCTION:**  
Buy it now-Sat and Sun, Low bid closes at 4:30 Sun.  
(for auction lists contact [odroc@comcast.net](mailto:odroc@comcast.net))

---

**Guest Cases wanted**  
Contact Patty at [packrats2000@yahoo.com](mailto:packrats2000@yahoo.com)

