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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

Volume 60, Number 4
March, 2007

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES ACT REINTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

by Jon Spunaugle

American Lands Access Association Executive Vice President for Legislation

On January 18, 2007 a fossil Collecting Bill HR 554 "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act" was introduced into the U. S House of Representatives by Congressional Representatives McGovern of Massachusetts and Renzi of Arizona. It was sent to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture for a period of time to be determined by the Speaker of the House. (This means that regardless of what the Committee Chair people do, the Bill can be brought to the floor of the U.S. House for a vote at any time with or without amendment or Committee recommendation).

Preliminary examination of the actual Bill language suggests that it is very similar to the Bills introduced and passed by the U. S. Senate in past years. Casual collecting would be allowed as seen appropriate by the government land managers. Provisions for civil and criminal penalties remain in the Bill as does a rewards section for information on possible violators and other property confiscation including all paleontology resources.

The bill has also been introduced in the U.S. Senate, as bill S-320.

You can read the full text of HR 554 or S-320 at <thomas.loc.gov/> and then entering the bill number. If you chose to write your Representatives and Senators, please also send a copy to Speaker Pelosi.

Read more about this from the American Lands Access Association on page 6.



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JUNIOR CASH AWARDS AT ROSWELL

by Diane Weir, RMFMS Juniors Chair

Exciting news and a challenge from the Chaparral Rockhounds, hosts of the 2007 AFMS and RMFMS Show. We would like to invite all the other federations of the AFMS to participate in our Junior Cash Award Program. It entails the following:

There are two \$25.00 cash awards given; one to a junior aged between 6 - 12, the other to a junior aged 13 - 17. Each junior may enter one specimen only, in one of the following categories:

1. Minerals
2. Lapidary & Petrified Wood
3. Fossils
4. Jewelry (using specimen collected in field).

The junior must collect the specimen himself/

herself. Then he/she needs to make a label that identifies the specimen (e.g. AQUAMARINE, QUARTZ), classifies it (e.g. sulfide, carbonate, silicate, oxide, etc.), says where it was found, and states the name of the junior's club. If the specimen is a fossil, it should also state the period from which it came. The specimen should be mounted on a base or stand to best display the specimen. No personal name of the junior should be on the label.

The junior must submit an entry form to me no later than May 1st. He/she does not have to be present at the AFMS/RMFMS Show. The junior can send his/her entry with a fellow club member or his/her State Director (it is the junior's responsibility to get it to the State Director). The specimen must be presented on Wednesday, June 6th,

the day of set-up. The entry form can be found at <www.rmfm.org> under the 2007 Show information (Junior Cash Awards) or you can contact me and I will send you a copy.

As this is the first time we have expanded our horizons to include the entire AFMS Federations, we are looking forward to having many juniors enter. We would love to have every club in the AFMS participate!

Diane Weir
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THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

by Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President

In the February issue of the AFMS Newsletter, John Washburn had an article on Co-Sponsorship. The idea is an excellent one, and John gives a formula that has worked. Not only are there financial benefits, but it allows the club to become more integrated into the community.

Many clubs are suffering from a decline or static membership. A major part of that reason is that clubs are not effective in advertising. Let the Co-Sponsors help. They have as much of a stake in making your show a success as your club does (they don't want to be associated with a dud).

They have resources that your club cannot hope to meet. Consider free passes that the Co-Sponsors could pass out. The objective is to get more people into your show. Cheap advertising.

Your show should take it from there.

Too often our advertising for shows is only effective for those who are already knowledgeable about the show and its probable contents. Rarely do we hold shows where the public stumbles in and discovers the world of Gems and Minerals. And that is our failing. We keep advertising to ourselves, which brings in no new interest.

Co-Sponsorship could be a way to help your club grow by bringing in new people. A show in a Mall would help as well, but that is another story.

If you have already discarded your February Issue of the AFMS Newsletter (Shame), Steve Weinberger at the Central Office, or Shirley Leeson the Historian will be glad to provide you a reprint or you can download a copy by visiting the AFMS website <www.amfed.org> and clicking on the Newsletter tab.

RLC



YOU CAN BE AN AWARD WINNING PRODUCER!

by Marge Collins, Program Competition Chair

Did you use your new digital camera to take pictures on a recent field trip or at a show this summer? Have you begun making a visual catalog of specimens in your collection or of favorite specimens in a museum collection? Or, perhaps as you watched someone demonstrate one of the "arts or crafts" at a recent Gem & Mineral Show, you were busy snapping pictures.

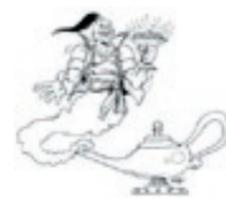
Have you thought about showing these pictures to fellow Club members as a presentation at a meeting? Using Microsoft PowerPoint® or some other software, you can easily sort, and store images; crop them if necessary, put the location name, size of specimen, etc on each "slide" - even add narration, if you wish! Believe me - if I can learn how, you can! (Well truthfully, I haven't had time to actually make audio files, but it's on my "to do" list) Just don't be tempted by all the extras -- animations and other features that actually distract viewers. (Perhaps a motivational speaker or someone presenting a business report needs those "bells and whistles" to keep their audience's attention but Club members need no such distractions!) Also, remember there can be too much of a good thing. Don't send your audience

into visual overload. It's always better to have them wanting to see more - than to have them waiting for the last slide.

And you can win an award for such a presentation if you enter Program Competition. There are still a few weeks before this year's deadline - or start now for next year!

AFMS's website (www.amfed.org) has "rules" and guidelines along with an Entry Form. We'll be looking for your program!

NOTE: If you have a presentation illustrated with 35mm slides, it's not too late to submit in that format.



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GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Shirley Leeson, AFMS President-elect

This month I would like to introduce you to a truly dedicated person who has really made an impact on the AFMS.

Jim Brace-Thompson began his Junior Activities in the California Federation back in 1998 and started writing articles about suggested Junior Activities. He offered web-site information for museums, rockhound websites, "how to" websites and many more, in fact it took four issues in the CFMS Newsletter just to accomplish all the website he had accumulated. Jim featured many clubs and their Junior Activities, through the years as CFMS Junior Activities Chairman, trying to encourage clubs to form junior groups within the clubs.



Then he found out there was an AFMS Junior Program called "AFMS Future Rockhounds of America," and you could get a patch for your junior members so he encouraged the CFMS clubs with juniors to participate, but it didn't go far enough. Someone asked him, "is there something more you get, or is the badge it?" He began to gather and store ideas for Junior programs.

Jim was tapped for the AFMS Junior Programs Chair in 2003. Jim went back to his collection of ideas for Junior Program/Activities. He went right to work on the "AFMS Future Rockhounds of America" merit badge. This program was developed by Jim and took a great deal of his time to get it written, and was presented for the first time to the AFMS Directors at the meeting in Ventura, 2003. It was unanimously accepted by the Directors, and the program with the badges was funded by the AFMS Endowment Fund. Jim immediately began implementing it. If you look at what has been accomplished since 2003 it is an amazing fete.

The Merit Badge program has been a huge success with clubs from all over the regions embracing it and some making it the centerpiece of their Junior Program. In some cases clubs have scheduled a year-long program with merit badge activities as part of their monthly programs. Jim has been like a proud parent sending out merit badges to Juniors who have completed their activities. Over thirty clubs are already involved, with more clubs joining in the program all the time.

If you have seen the badges, you'll note they are crafted on the order of the Scout badges, but of course the Future Rockhounds of America badges are original, because Jim designed them to fit our Rockhound theme. There are more than fifty activities in nine categories, Rocks and Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, and Leadership. By completing three activities in each section, junior members earn a badge. In addition if a Junior earns at least six of the nine badges, he/she is awarded a Rockhound Badge.

One more thing, Jim did something many of us would like to do, but haven't the time, expertise or fortitude to accomplish. He got a beautiful two-page color article in Rock and Gem magazine. (September, 2005 issue) It was all about Jim and his AFMS Future Rockhounds of America and the MERIT BADGE PROGRAM. The article was actually longer than two pages and explained in detail what the program is about. The badges were shown in color. Lots of people contacted Jim regarding the article, and more clubs have gotten involved.



I'm sure you agree with me, the AFMS, has a real jewel. Jim's vision can only be enhanced by your efforts to help him make the Future Rockhounds of America Merit Badge program grow. Make sure the clubs within your region are aware of the program. Get involved, the Juniors are our future. Jim's made his stand, are you willing to stand with him. I am.

Jim is married to Nancy and has two kids (his words), Hannah and Alex. They live in Ventura, California. He works for a publications firm and is an acquisitions editor of scholarly reference works. His job takes him around the country and he is able to schedule a little fossil field collecting along the way. Jim has shared his field collected fossils by exhibiting competitively and received a CFMS Self-Collected Fossil Trophy in 1998 and an AFMS Self-Collected Fossil Trophy in 2003.

Next month, another AFMS Chair who has made a difference...

Shirley

You can contact me at: <shirleyleeson@msn.com> and <beauholland@salmoninternet.com> Please send your message to both e-mail addresses since one of our internet connections isn't always 100% reliable.

DEADKUBE
FOR APRIL ISSUE IS
MARCH 1, 2007

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CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT
<WWW.AMFED.ORG>

Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Address corrections and changes

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Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

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DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH
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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair. Photos by Clyf Bourne

The Annual Fund-Raising effort for the AFMS Endowment Fund is now under way, and once again, some wonderful people from all around the Federation have come forward to offer some very special prizes to reward all you lucky supporters of the Fund!

The first prize we received is a most unusual 4 1/2-inch round nodule of agate, which has been beautifully cut and polished into eight nested bowls. Each curved bowl is a stand-alone beauty, about one inch deep, with a small flat circular base, and it stacks beautifully into the next



bowl(s) above and below. Donor Fred Schaefermeyer (EFMLS), who is a Past AFMS President, says he has yet to find anyone who can tell him how it was made! If you have any idea as to how it was done, please let him know!



The second prize is a lovely 21-inch gold filled hand-knit chain necklace, which was donated by Marge Collins (MWF). The "chain" is actually a hollow 1/4" diameter tube of finely knit gold wire. Marge tells us the pattern is an original creation of master wire-crafter, "Grit" Turner, and she does not know of anyone else who has the pattern.



Our third prize is an exquisite pendant featuring a freshwater pearl blister set in a dainty 18mm x 24mm, 14 karat gold filigreed bezel. This quietly stunning gift was the contribution of AFMS President Dr. Robert Carlson (RMFMS), who created it especially for this year's drawing.



Howell Whiting, RMFMS committee-man for the Endowment Fund, donated prize #4; A most intriguing Tampa Bay Geode pair from his personal collection. Howie's daughter, Diane Weir says she's pretty sure there is a "one-eyed fat little alien sitting in the left bottom corner of the biggest piece. So," she continued, "we think we might have a fossilized alien to offer." (Remember, this convention will be held in Roswell, NM - Could it be? —JB)



Judy Washburn (MWF), famous for her lovely gem trees, contributed prize #5 which consists of two exceptional examples of her handiwork. One is a 4 -inch gem tree of green wire with selenite rose

flowers and tumbled petrified wood buds mounted on chalcocite with malachite rosettes. The second is also a 4 -inch tree. This one is made of silver wire with perky flowers of milky quartz, with peridot buds, and the tree is mounted on a peridotite volcanic bomb. The two items are included in the one prize.



Not to be outdone, Judy's husband, John (also the MWF member of our committee), donated our prize #6; An excellent mineral specimen of well-defined sparkling red vanadinite crystals perched on quartz crystals, which came from the Pure Potential Mine in La Paz County, Arizona.



These items are just a sample of the full list of gifts we are lining up to express our appreciation to the supporters of the AFMS Endowment Fund during this drive. We are expecting to receive more prizes in the near future, and we will be showing them as they arrive.

If you would like to try to become a recipient of one of these prizes, or of the ones we have not yet mentioned, you will need to obtain a prize eligibility coupon. A contribution of \$5 entitles you to a coupon - and any contribution of \$20 will give you five coupons. A drawing to decide the prize winners will be held following the 2007 Awards Banquet in Roswell, NM.

Coupons are available from all Regional Representatives, listed below. Or, you can make your donation directly to me by mail and I will send your coupons to you by return mail. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win!

For more information - and color pictures of all our prizes - updated as we add more - please check out the AFMS website <www.amfed.org>. Marty will be keeping you up to date as we progress.

Won't you please help us build the AFMS Endowment Fund? Keep Our Committee Busy and Our Federation Growing!!

Joy

Endowment Fund
Regional Representatives for 2007

CFMS: Bural LaRue
P. O. Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657
(909) 874-5664 or <bplarue@earthlink.net>

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(570) 265-6454 or <csprings@epix.net>

MWF: John Washburn
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(217) 498-7713 or <jrwashburn2msn.com >

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(360) 629-2515 or <rm711@tgi.net>

RMFMS: Howell Whiting
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(505) 622-5679, or <htwdhw@dfn.com>

SCFMS: Joyce Speed
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(214) 337-9446 or <llispeed@yahoo.com>

SFMS: Ken Anderson
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EFMLS Wildacres: Carolyn Weinberger
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(410) 833-7926 or <csystals2@verizon.net>

SCAVENGER HUNT...

by Shirley Leeson, AFMS Historian

Please search your attics, basements and garages for any early items of AFMS Historical significance. We have little in the way of important early documents. If you know someone who was involved with the AFMS in the early years, 1950's, 60's and even 70's and they might have agendas, or chairmen reports, please see if they will part with them.

As usual, I'm also looking for pictures, but they must have the dates, locations and the names of the people in the pictures. If it's pictures of an AFMS event, the date and location would be good enough.

You can send them to me at 6155 Haas St; La Mesa, CA 91942-4312 or you can bring them to Roswell, New Mexico in June and you'll get a big hug for your efforts.

Contact me at: <shirleyleeson@msn.con> and <beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

I ask you to send to both locations because some emails fly off into cyberspace, never to be heard from again. With two emails, we have a chance of getting one of them.

Thanks in advance.

BE SAFE - BE WELL

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

My Relatives

From time to time I have included a comment or two about my personal life, but I have rarely noted anything about my relatives. Some of them are nice folk and some are even better than that, but some of them are not to my liking and really should be avoided. One of these unsatisfactory folks is my Uncle Arthur.

Uncle Arthur Itis visits me periodically and he may even come by your house. Can we do anything about "Arthur Itis"? Well, we can do a little and here are some of the ways we can attack this most unpleasant visitor and increase our enjoyment and ability to pursue our hobby.

Our first move should be to educate ourselves. There are foundations and many other organizations that can teach us about this invasive malady. There is more than one type of arthritis and we each need to know what type we have. I read everything that I find and have found a few things that seem to help me or least explain what is going on. I have not identified a "cure" but, at least, I know more about what brings on my attacks.

Suggestion #1 Follow a planned exercise program. Here is an area where advice from your doctor is probably needed. Arthritis can occur in many parts of our bodies and for me it is the knees and shoulder and, for reasons unknown, my thumbs. Exercise really helps the knees and shoulders but the thumbs are still a problem.

Suggestion #2 What we eat can definitely have an effect on arthritis but I do not think that is universal and applicable to all of us. I like tomatoes and one summer one of the people in my office brought bags and baskets of fresh ripe tomatoes every day. At lunch we would make great sandwiches and that was a daily ritual. After a few weeks my knees became so sore that I really could not walk well. I finally learned that my system is very sensitive to the acid in the tomatoes. When I broke the tomato habit, the relief was quick and dramatic. I also determined that too much citrus fruit or juice was not my friend. Read up on the dietary aspects of arthritis and you may be surprised to learn what can help or hurt.

Suggestion #3 Don't abuse your body. One of my old golfing buddies would collect aluminum cans and he would stomp on them to flatten them before bagging them. It took a long time for him to finally accept the fact that crushing cans was really hard on his knees and ankles. Look at your work area and think about jar openers and resilient floor pads to take the strain off wrists and knees.

Suggestion #4 There are some medical procedures that may help. When I had surgery to remove unwanted bits of cartilage in my knee, my orthopedic surgeon also peeled off some arthritis which he described as having the appearance of a heavy white paint. I never saw it but that's what he said. I think it came back so the benefit was temporary.

Suggestion #5 Medication is an idea that I really do not like but many people swear by the anti-inflammatory and other drugs. I do not like the side effects that are possible but as I said in the beginning, there is no universal cure.

HAVING FUN - JUNIOR ACTIVITIES....DINOSAURS!

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair

As noted in earlier columns, I'm attempting to expand our activities for the FRA badge program. So far, I've come up with ideas for as many as 15 possible new badges. I described some in these pages last year, for instance, Rocks from Space, Thumbnail Collecting, Organizing a Club Library, or Rocking on the Computer. This year, I'll describe several more, some thanks to suggestions from youth leaders at local clubs.

This month, I thank Mitty Scarpato, a youth leader of the Conejo Gem & Mineral Club in Thousand Oaks, California. Mitty suggests a badge on dinosaurs or adding dino activities to our existing Fossils badge. Mitty's group had a fun evening coloring and cutting out paper models of dinosaurs she found on the Internet. They also did a quiz game about dino facts and myths. Dinosaurs are a big draw for kids, and Mitty got me thinking about what other activities might revolve around dinosaurs to capitalize on that fascination. Here are a few that came to mind:

- Test dinosaur identification skills with flash-card games or plastic models. Dinosaur cards are commercially available, or you can make your own by cutting pictures of dinosaurs from books, magazines, or web sites.
- Make dinosaur footprint molds and casts with clay and plaster.
- Create dinosaur dioramas with models in shoe boxes.
- Draw and color dinosaur murals or time lines on a long sheet of paper, incorporating dinosaur stickers. Sheets of dino stickers can be found in party or gift-wrapping sections of stores, in craft stores, bookstores, etc.
- Make dino masks on cardboard sheets using templates available from web sites or from books such as Shaffer's Cut & Make Dinosaur Masks or Smith's Dinosaur Punch-Out Masks. You can also make 3-D masks by coating large inflated balloons with papier-mâché or using paper grocery bags, cardboard, glue, colorful markers, and other readily available materials. A nice web site showing how to convert grocery bags into dinosaur masks is at: <http://www.miamisci.org/avacado/projects/dinos/masks.html>
- Assemble dinosaur skeletons from chicken bones (see Chris McGowan's books, *Make Your Own Dinosaur out of Chicken Bones* and *T-Rex To Go: Build Your Own from Chicken Bones*). Commercial kits are available from places like Edmund Scientifics for "excavating" bones and/or building skeleton models with wooden or plastic bones. My daughter's kindergarten librarian, Bev Paxton (of the Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society) introduced me to a fun group activity for assembling a 6-foot dinosaur skeleton: cut large bones out of cardboard and hide them around a room. Then hold a scavenger hunt and once all bones have been located, assemble them with brass fasteners (the kind with the button-like heads and wing clips).
- Discuss theories of dinosaur extinction. Then have kids research and report on it.
- Hold a dinosaur facts and myths quiz. A site devoted to "Dinosaurs: Facts & Fiction" is on the USGS web site: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/dinosaurs/>
- Make collections of fossils from the age of dinosaurs. Some parts of the country, like Texas, the Dakotas, the Rocky Mountain states, and the West in general, abound in marine and land fossils from the Mesozoic Era, and localities with Creta-

ceous marine fossils are common on the East Coast and Southeast.

In addition to these activities, there's no end of dino activity books geared to every age level (just one example: Janice VanCleave's *Dinosaurs for Every Kid*). Check Amazon.com or B&N.com, the kids' sections of bookstores, teacher supply stores, and the web. Just type "dinosaurs" into a search engine like Google, and thousands of possibilities spring up!

My thanks to Mitty for her suggestion to include a unit on dinosaurs in our badge program. Email me at <jbraceth@adelphia.net> or call (805) 659-3577 to provide still more activity suggestions that will help us spread our love of the earth to kids while—as always—having fun!

[Ed. Note: Adelpia has been purchased by Comcast and in some markets, e-mail addresses are being changed by Comcast. If Jim's does bounce, try substituting "comcast" for "adelphia" and it should work.]

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*May the luck
of the Irish always be with you*



MORE INFORMATION ON THE FOSSIL BILLS IN CONGRESS

by Jon Spunaugle, ALAA Executive Vice President for Legislation

Some talking points on: The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Senate Bill S-320 and House Bill HR 554 now being considered by the U. S. House of Representatives Natural Resources and Agriculture Committees and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

These Bills are, for all practical purposes, identical to the fossil bills considered by the 108th Congress in 2003-4 and in the 109th Congress which passed the Senate in 2005. Therefore, past comments by previous AFMS and ALAA (American Lands Access Association) reviewers applies to these latest Bill introductions, (S-320 and HR 554). I would expect quick action on these bills, without the lack of action in the U.S. House as in the past. You may remember this Bill was passed by the U.S. Senate by voice vote without objection.. In the last several years several reviewers called this a "bad bill" primarily because it criminalized fossil collecting with outrageous penalties for picking up a fossil on public land. The Bill was also criticized for its reward provisions for turning in violators, which seemed ripe for abuse. Those same statements apply to the current version.

The current Bills under consideration have some good points and some bad points. For someone like myself, who helped write the first version of the "rockhound" fossil collecting bill, and worked to defeat the so called "Baucus Bill" in 1992-3, I can clearly see some improvements. Several of the objections the amateur fossil collecting public voiced to the original 1992-3 Bill have been remedied in this latest S-320/ HR 554 version. However, several of the remaining "rockhound" objections remain.

Some of the remaining objections to the Bill S-320/ HR 554 in its current form are:

(1) The Bill fails to make any distinction between scientifically significant and commonly found fossils. Instead it defines the paleontological resource it would protect to mean "any fossilized remains, trace, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth's crust" except for archaeological resources or those associated with an archaeological resource. (The latter are covered under an archaeological resources protection act passed many years ago). Casual collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant fossils may be allowed under this Bill in Section 5, at the discretion of the Secretary (the land managers). Therefore amateurs "may" be able to collect certain common invertebrate or plant fossils found on Federal lands, but not necessarily. Only hand tools could be used and collecting can not cause more than a "negligible surface disturbance" (undefined). Collecting common vertebrate fossils such as fish fossils, sharks teeth and the like, would be a violation of the act, as would picking up a isolated single dinosaur bone fragment in the badlands of the western United States if it was on Federal land.

All other collecting of paleontological resources on Federal lands would require a permit issued by the Secretary (the land managers) and be given only to "qualified" applicants. The resources collected would remain the property of the United States with the resources collected and the associated data deposited in a approved repository when collected under a permit.

(2) Further, there would be no commercial

collection of fossils allowed. This would preclude anyone, amateur or otherwise, from selling, trading, or bartering any fossil collected on federal land. Not only does this effect amateurs, but completely eliminates the valuable and considerable contributions to paleontology that commercial fossil entities have provided in the past in discovering, extraction, and preparation of fossils. The Dinosaur "Sue" a Tyrannosaurus Rex, is a perfect example.

(3) Penalties for criminal violation of any provisions of this Bill would result in fines in accordance with Title 18 of the U.S. Code and/or imprisonment for up to 10 years. Title 18 provides for fines ranging up to \$5,000 and up to \$10,000 in certain circumstances, or up to \$250,000 in certain cases. Such cases would be tried in Federal Courts.

(4) Civil penalties are also provided in the Bill and can go as high as double the replacement cost or restoration cost of the resource involved, The value is to be determined by the land managers. No due process is required under the civil penalty provisions other than a required notice of a hearing. A judicial review petition is allowed only within a thirty day period following any civil penalty assessment, but the court is allowed to rule only on the evidence presented in the hearing report. Forget "innocent until proven guilty" and the right to a trial by your peers.

(5) The Rewards and Forfeiture Section, Section 9, allows the Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture to pay a reward for information leading to a civil (or criminal) penalty. Rewards can go as high as \$500. So, you might want to look out for any neighbors who don't like you if you have any vertebrate fossils in your collection, especially, if you cannot prove where they came from. Most fossils I know of don't say "Made in China" or "Hocho en Mexico" on them. And, how many of you kept receipts on items purchased, or can you vouch for exactly where the vertebrate fossils really came from even if you did purchase them and can prove it?. The Bill calls for a person to exercise "due care" in knowing if the resource was excavated or removed from Federal land. Again "due care" is undefined.

(6) Also subject to forfeiture under this Bill are "paleontological resources" with respect to which a violation occurred and which are in possession of any person and all vehicles and equipment of any person that were used in connection with the violation". I'm not a lawyer, but I do have knowledge of what has happened to several collectors and to several hobbyists in the past with regard to property confiscated, rightly or wrongly. In most cases nothing was ever returned regardless of its being legally obtained by the collector.

So, I worry for fossil collectors if this Bill, S 230/HR 554 becomes law. The best way to prevent its passage in its present form is for each and everyone of us to communicate your feelings to your Congressional Representatives. Because it seems likely that these bills will be passed in short order you need to write that letter immediately. Copies of the Bills are found on the internet at <http://thomas.loc.gov> using the Bill numbers.

HAVE WE GOT A DEAL FOR YOU!

from Dee Holland, Scholarship Chair

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation has received a beautiful hand-made silver bowl by the late Doris Kemp. Given in her honor by AFMS Past President and Past President of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation Russell Kemp and his family. The bowl measures 6 ½ inches by 4 inches, it has three little feet and comes with a hand-wrought silver spoon and an additional fork each measuring 5 inches. This item is of historical interest.



In addition we have been given a very special wooden puzzle dog jewelry box. What makes this special is that Dr. Robert Carlson made it, and inside is a beautiful faceted stone cut by him and mounted in a pendant of 14 K gold. Dr. Carlson is the current AFMS President and a master craftsman.

Both these special items will be available through a donation drawing at the AFMS Show & Convention in Roswell, NM, June 5 - 10, 2007.

If you can't make the show, you can order tickets from me at: Dee Holland, 6155 Haas St. La Mesa, CA 91942-4312.

Tickets are \$5. per ticket, and 5 for \$20.

This is a worthy cause and you'll be getting something really special. The drawing will be at the end of the Rollin' Rock Club meeting on Sunday morning, June 10th.

And remember, there will be a live faceted stone auction with proceeds going to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation on Friday from 11 am - 12:30 pm. Ed Romack, auctioneer. The natural faceted stones will be coming from master cutters from all over the US and will be mounted in 14K gold by Richard Glismann.

Bring money!!! You're sure to leave with a terrific piece of jewelry.

ALL-AMERICAN CLUB AWARDS

by John Washburn, Chair

This is a reminder to all the clubs, that are working on their yearbooks, to check the date that your regional chairperson needs your submittals. And regional chairs, please remember that I need the entries by April 15th, 2007.



Thank you and good luck!

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Cathy Gaber, AFMS Chair



California Federation

I would like to nominate **Bob and Maxine Dearborn** as AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year for 2007. They are 30 year members of the Del Air Rockhounds Club of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, California. They have both held various offices over the years. Currently, Bob holds the office of Secretary as well as being Editor of the Club Newsletter. Maxine coordinates the five-member Education Team, and makes Earth Science presentations in the local public and private school 2nd and 4th grade classes. The demand for classroom presentations is growing as more teachers hear about the club and its' Education Team. Maxine also helps with publicity for the Club and the shows. Both Bob and Maxine are very active in all Club activities. They are usually the first to volunteer for anything that needs to be done, from helping with shows & fairs, Silent Auctions, filling rock bags, to hosting meetings. Bob and Maxine are strong supporters and promoters of the Del Air Rockhounds Club. There are others who are very quick to help in Club activities as much as possible, but Bob and Maxine are two of the most reliable, energetic people I know, always coming up with new ideas to better the Club. They always have the best interests of the Club at heart. It is for all these reasons that I nominate them together as Rockhounds of the Year.

submitted by Julia Marin, President
Del Air Rockhounds Club

Fossils For Fun would like to nominate **Virginia & Howard Freidman** for our 2007 Education thru Sharing. Virginia is a student at UC Davis working on her PhD. Her dissertation subject is the paleoecology of the early middle Pleistocene. Despite her heavy study load, Virginia & Howard find time to attend Fossils For Fun functions when they can. As part of her studies; Virginia goes on professional field trips. This year she participated in a paleobotany conference and field trip organized by UC Berkeley. She also visited Sonora, Mexico to help

take paleomagnetic readings for Arizona Western College. She belongs to the Northern California Geological Society, and volunteers/consults at the local museum in Fremont. Howard, her husband, accompanies her on her field trips and acts as her assistant. As a professional in our amateur group, Virginia has shared her expertise with us. She tells us about lectures and programs available at Berkeley & Davis. She has offered us programs, most recently on amber. We consider ourselves very lucky to have Virginia & Howard in our club. They help illustrate the inter-dependence in paleontology between the professional and the amateur. This is a very important goal for Fossils For Fun, and we thank them for their contributions.

submitted by Debbie Bunn, CFMS Director



South Central Federation

The Big Spring Prospectors Club would like to submit the names of **Ralph and Elaine Matteson** for AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year, 2007. Ralph and Elaine have been members of the Big Spring Prospectors Club since the early 1970's and have been very active members. Ralph served as president for 7 years, on the board of directors for several years and always took care of security during our gem shows. Elaine has served as 2nd Vice-President for several years, has been on the board of directors and served as hostess for many years. She is in charge of the snack bar during our Gem shows, which is no small job. Both have been active in selling ads for our show booklet. They have taken displays to area shows many times. They are always ready for field trips and often take their camper trailer so we may all have a place to rest during the day. Ralph has taught many of the young members the art of making cabs and is always willing to help new members. They both make good ambassadors for the gem and mineral hobby.

submitted by Lola Lamb,
Big Spring Prospectors Club, Big Spring, TX

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society has named **Dee Fly** as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2007. As a current vice-president, one of her responsibilities is the club's building and its assets. Her efforts in the last year have included taking a complete inventory, updating records, serving on the show committee and the board of directors. Dee is more than willing to step-in whenever and for whatever is needed. Her organizational skills really had a challenge in June due to the water damage in our clubhouse. She would be the first to say that the removal, cleanup, and repairing process could not have been accomplished without the members who have spent many hours doing so. Dee, however, has been the driving force in this endeavor. Adding to this, is the time she also spent in the estimating and insurance adjusting for the damages. The building certainly is shaping up, cleaned, and almost returning to full use. Thank you, Dee, for your work and management of such an undertaking for AGMS.

submitted by the Austin Gem and Mineral Society

Sharon Perkins has been unanimously voted as our 2007 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year at the January 4 meeting of the Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society in Texas. Sharon is our editor and secretary of our club and has been for nearly 3 years. She has devoted a lot of time and energy into her monthly newsletter and meetings at which she takes pictures and notes for references. She has also become quite knowledgeable about rocks and minerals due to her researching of the articles for her newsletter. She also contributes a great deal to the annual rock show and is quick to volunteer for almost any task involving the club. We feel that Sharon is well deserving of the Rockhound of the Year award.

submitted by Larry D. Perkins

REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Mary Trammell

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2007	June 15-17 Lancaster, CA	Oct. 6 - 7 Newark, NY	Aug. 11-12 Houghton, MI	Aug. 3- 5 Butte, MT	AFMS June 5 - 10 Roswell, NM	Sept. 1 - 2 Arlington, TX	Nov. 9 - 11 Location TBA
2008		Feb. 23-24 Jackson, MS	June 20-22 Lincoln, NE		Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 Tulsa, OK	AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX	
2009			May 16-17 Berea, OH	AFMS			
2010	AFMS						



RMFMS / AFMS CONVENTION NEWS
ROSWELL, NM - JUNE 5 - 10, 2007

"MINERALS OF NEW MEXICO" SYMPOSIUM (REVISED)

In almost every Federations' Articles of Corporation the phrase "to increase and disseminate knowledge about minerals and other geologic materials" or one like it appears. This is one of the primary reasons for our existence. The Chaparral Rockhounds fully support that concept. As a result, we will have as one of the Highlights of the Convention, a Symposium of outstanding speakers drawn from Past AFMS Scholarship Honorary Awardees and prominent New Mexico mineral collectors. They will speak about "The Minerals of New Mexico".

This program will be presented at the Host Hotel on Friday, June 8 starting at 1:30 PM and lasting until 5:00 PM. It will be moderated by Dr Virgil W. Lueth, Senior Mineralogist/Economic Geologist of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources.

New Mexico's geologic diversity and complex history has blessed the state with a wide variety of mineral treasures. This program will highlight past collecting history, famous mineral deposits, and recent new discoveries. Some of the topics to be presented by the speakers include:

1. New Mexico Mineral Collecting since 1880.
2. Three new finds of collectable minerals in New Mexico.
3. Geology, Mineralogy, and History of the deposits to be visited by the three day field trip after the show. These include the Hansonburg (Blanchard), Luis Lopez Manganese deposits and the Kelly Mine.

I can assure you that this will be an outstanding program. I suggest you might want to plan on attending.

THEFT ALERT

from the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences

The Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences (AAPS) Executive Board has been notified of a fossil theft from the Smithsonian's Fossil Mammal displays. A number of important type specimens have been taken from the museum's public displays, including:

1. *Frictops emryi* (Insectivora) USNM 336367, skull with nearly complete postcranial skeleton.
2. *Neohipparion republicans* (Perissodactyla, Equidae) USNM 352701, partial upper jaw and palate with nearly complete dentition.
3. *Chrysemys picta* (Testudines, Testudinidae) USNM 351927, complete carapace.
4. *Palaeolagus haydeni* (Lagomorpha) USNM 16291, complete skull with lower jaws.
5. *Thinocyon velox* (Carnivora) USNM 22479, complete skull with lower jaws.
6. *Uintacyon juglans* (Carnivora) USNM 22478, anterior part of skeleton on slab.
7. *Ischyromys veterior* (Rodentia) USNM 336369, skull and partial skeleton.
8. *Hyrachyus affinis* (Perissodactyla, Tapiridae) USNM 22482, complete skull and lower jaws.
9. *Paradjidaumo trilophus* (Rodentia) USNM 18804, skull and partial skeleton.

If any one is contacted with any of these specimens, or should see them in Tucson or at a local show, please contact Matthew Carrano - (202) 633-1314, or any of the AAPS board members immediatly.

There are pictures of these specimens posted at <www.nmnh.si.edu/paleo/stolen_specimens/>.

THE AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA! Annual membership fee is \$25.00 New Renewal

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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CLUB AFFILIATION _____ FEDERATION _____

HOBBY INTEREST _____

Remit fees to: ALAA, Norm Hanschu Treasurer, 6607 Sturbridge Ln, Canton, MI 48187-2638.

The ALAA is a 501(c)(4) organization. It's purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purpose; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the ALAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.

CONVENTION FIELD TRIPS

by Howie Whiting, Convention Advisor

Here is the latest information for those interested in field trips and collecting during the RMFMS/AFMS Convention this June in Roswell, NM. Field trips are scheduled during and after the show.

During the show there will be two field trips for "Pecos Valley Diamonds". One on Thursday and one on Sunday. These will be short one day trips and one or the other should be readily available to all who attend the show. They will leave the Convention Center according to the schedule and will be led by an experienced leader. Those that wish to go on these are advised to bring several Zip Lock bags to collect their specimens along with a rock pick to help dig out the clusters. Water and proper clothing are essential since the temperatures during the summer here are very high.

After the show there will be a three day field trip west of Roswell to several mining claims that are well known to collectors. ON this trip hard hats and boots are required by Federal Law to collect on the mine sites.

On Monday the group will leave Roswell at 8:00 am and proceed to Bingham, New Mexico where they will visit the Blanchard claims. Dr Virgil Lueth of the New Mexico Tech Geology and Mineral Resource Bureau and one of the claim owners will meet the group and assist in specimen collecting and identification. After collecting at this site the group will proceed to Socorro, New Mexico for lodging that night.

On Tuesday morning, the group will visit the Mineral Museum at New Mexico Tech. That afternoon they will visit the Luis Lopez Manganese mine.

Wednesday morning the group will leave Socorro at 8:00 AM and proceed to Magdalena, New Mexico and visit the Kelly Mine.

These sites are internationally known for good specimens and will be well worth the trip. At the end of the visit the group is dismissed and on their own.

Some of these claims are fee sites. At the present we are negotiating the fees and will notify you before leaving Roswell what they are.

To assist the members of this field trip to plan ahead there is a list of RV Parks and Motels in Socorro attached. It is suggested you make arrangements well in advance.

Last but not least. There is a Waiver of Liability Form in the Packet. This MUST be filled out and signed. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ON THESE TRIPS WITHOUT IT.

For those without a packet, you can download a copy at <www.rmfmms.org/rmfms_2007_show.htm>. While there you can also find a complete events schedule and registration forms for all of the Convention Events.