



AFMS Newsletter
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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 1 – November, 2010
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

by Pam Hecht, Chair

First I would like to introduce myself to everyone. I'm Pam Hecht from Calumet, Michigan. I have served the Midwest Federation as Wisconsin State Director, Endowment Fund Chair and President in 2007-08.

My husband, Steve and I live in the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan.....35 miles from the end of the world UP here! We moved to this historic copper mining community seven years ago. We take every opportunity we can to explore and hunt the mining sites for treasures and gather knowledge of the area's history.

I have been interested in this hobby since a kid. I got my husband involved looking for Lake Superior agates while he was doing field work on his parents dairy farm when we lived in Wisconsin.....it only took that first agate to get him hooked and the rest is tons and tons and tons of rock later!!!

I was asked by our AFMS President Robert Miller if I could help the AFMS Endowment Fund grow it's funds like I had done with the MWF Endowment Fund and serve as chairman for the AFMS. ??? YES.....I could !!!!! So here I am.....I'll have been in contact with the regional AFMS representatives by the time this newsletter is in your hands and will have gathered their ideas on how we can build upon the Endowment Fund Drawing that will occur during the EFMLS/AFMS Convention this coming July in Syracuse, New York.

I'm gathering donations at this time to start up our inventory of items for the raffle drawing in New York.....drop me an email as to the item you wish to donate and a photo so I can start promoting the drawing in my next article.....my goal is to have 30 items by July in New York.....the more items donated the more winners we will have !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PLUS.....I have some other ideas that will be fun, rewarding and challenging for the AFMS in the next few years.

With interest rates as low as they are, it's important for all of us to pull together and build upon our funds to assure we will have those dollars and means for the future of this organization. We only use the interest from the Endowment Fund to support a variety of AFMS activities including the Junior Badge Program, and the AFMS Program Competition and programs for your regional federation library.

I'm looking forward to an exciting and fun filled next couple of years as YOUR chair of the AFMS Endowment Fund.....always free and available to hear from you and I love to share ideas!

As I always have said.....keep looking down and you'll find something! Pam

Pam Hecht
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 Calumet, MI 49913
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Gems Along the Erie Canal July 6 – 10, 2011 Syracuse, NY An extended weekend of fun and friendship

- AFMS Uniform Rules meeting - July 6
- AFMS Annual Meeting / Cracker Barrel - July 7
- EFMLS Annual Meeting - July 8 (evening)
- AFMS/EFMLS Awards Banquet - July 9
- Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters - July 10

More details and reservation forms coming soon!



THE AFMS

PROUDLY SERVING
SEVEN REGIONAL
FEDERATIONS



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FILLING SOME BIG SHOES

by Bob Miller, President

I would like to thank the heads of our AFMS committees for assuming their positions for another year and to those who have filled some recently vacated positions. This is not a "one man band" operation and it takes a lot of work from a lot of people to keep the American Federation functioning properly.

November is here again and the summer season has moved on. I hope that everyone who wanted to had the chance to do some collecting during this time. With the approaching winter season and with more inside activities to do, now is the time to go through your collection, dust off the equipment and put your new finds to use. While you are doing so don't forget to get a display ready for your next club or Federation show. Displaying your talents to the public stimulates interest about the hobby and helps bring in new members. The displays are usually my first stop at a show and I am always amazed and impressed by the artistic talent and skills shown in the items that fill the various cases.

I want to thank all of the clubs that have been sending me their bulletins. I have been thanking each with an E-mail when possible and if I have missed anyone I would like to extend my thank you now. It would be impossible for me to visit each and every club so reading your bulletin each month gives me a good insight as to what clubs across the country are doing. I find that there is a lot of activity and effort by a lot of people within the hobby. I enjoy the articles and have learned some good "how to" tips, but I have to admit that I get a little envious as I read of some of the field trips that the clubs are planning to take or have been on. If you're not already doing so, please send me your bulletin - and yes, I encourage you to send it to me via e-mail!

I am from the Midwest and we here are somewhat limited as to open collecting areas, so it makes since for all of us as members of the American Federation to also belong to organizations such as the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) that is working to preserve our collecting ability on our seemingly shrinking public lands. Many of us in the eastern part of the nation venture to the west on vacation and head for the open spaces and public lands that are left where we are able to freely collect (reasonable amounts) on those public lands. Our support for such an organization that is working to save our ability to collect helps to preserve a main part of our hobby for ourselves and for future generations. If you and/or your club are not yet members, please consider joining - there is strength in numbers!



"HUNTING" IN AUTUMN - A FIELD SAFETY NOTE FOR THE SEASON

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

For some folks down here in the SCFMS region the boiling bite of summer may have started to wear off. Here in Houston we're counting the days until October when our 6-month summer unofficially ends! Of course, once it cools down it will be time to fill our weekends with field trips and visits to locations from our youth or rumored spots not on any map!

It all sounds like great fun, but keep in mind that this time of year we aren't the only ones "hunting." Dove season started in north Texas a couple of weeks ago. Subsequently a couple of my friends (Barry and Tera) ended up in a creek next to someone's hunting lease. As there were plenty of doves, there were also plenty of shots going up into the air. On several occasions bird shot could be seen and heard falling back to earth right where they were hunting.

Barry, who has the nickname Creek Crawler, has plenty of experience doing both kinds of hunting and felt confident that they were not in danger. However Tera eventually had enough of the gun shots and decided to move. <insert any mental comment here that you may have about women having better common sense than men>

Similarly a few years back, OK it was 25 years ago, I was out hunting and was marveling at the new path that had been cut through the cedar and oak brush at an old quarry spot where I liked to hunt. Well shortly thereafter I discovered at the head of the path a big deer stand. Luckily no one was hunting that day or I might have been in a heap o' trouble!

As for a general safety recommendation make sure you are aware of potential hunting activities in areas where you go on field trips. You never know when you are going to head to an area and find a couple of dozen grizzly looking rednecks all excited about bow season starting that Saturday!

BE SAFE!

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

Seeking Suggestions for New FRA Badge Activities

Our Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program began in 2004 with 9 badges plus a Membership patch for all kids and a Rockhound badge for kids earning 6 or more activity badges. My plan from the beginning was to revisit, revise, update and expand the program every four years in order to keep it fresh and to offer new activities for kids who had run through the existing set. Thus, in 2008, I updated some of the original 53 activities while also unveiling 32 more activities and 6 new badges. (Especially popular was the addition of the Gold Panning & Prospecting badge!) Plus, we've recently begun to offer AFMS cloisonné pins for kids who earn all the badges.

If we do decide to offer more badges in 2012, I need to start today in order to plan out and develop activities, get badges designed, and secure cost estimates for approval at the 2011 AFMS Show and Convention. As a start, I turn to you, my fellow AFMS members: **Should we add more badges? And if so, what do you think would be good badges to add?**

Our existing set covers these topics: Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, Leadership, Earth Processes, Earth in Space, Gold Panning & Prospecting, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Stone Age Tools & Art, and Rocking on the Computer. I'm thinking we might add three new badges. One junior member has already suggested we do a unit on Reaching Across Generations on kids working in partnership with older club members. Other suggestions have included Fluorescent Minerals, Micromounts & Thumbnails, and Map Reading & GPS. I'll be developing a list and then surveying local FRA leaders. Meanwhile, to help develop that list, I welcome your thoughts on the four ideas listed here and any new ideas (send to: Jim Brace-Thompson, 7319 Eisenhower St., Ventura, CA 93003, phone 805-659-3577, e-mail jbraceth@roadrunner.com).

Thank you in advance, and here's to keeping the FRA Badge Program fresh—and fun!



Conservation & Legislation

by John Martin, AFMS Chair

This is a time of national, state and local political upheaval. There are many new pieces of legislation that have been introduced during the current congressional session which may limit the ability to access and collect at our favorite collecting areas on public lands. These pending bills are not only addressing public lands in the west, they are creeping into the eastern part of the United States trying to restrict access to and the collecting in our National Forests.



In order to be effective as the Conservation and Legislation Committee for the AFMS we need input from the membership where these pieces of legislation or local restrictions and regulations are being introduced. When legislation does appear in any of the 7 regional federations please let your committee know and it will be investigated and the results will be distributed to the AFMS membership.

To report any information on public land initiatives please drop the committee an e-mail with the pertinent information to the Conservation and Legislation Committee e-mail address <afms-conservation@antelecom.net>.

The American Lands Access Association website has current information on active legislation pertaining to Public Land Usage. The website is <www.amlands.org> and you are urged to utilize this resource.



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.

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Quick Tips for Editors

by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair



If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by e-mail: <LjgrAlg@aol.com> or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer, we'll publish the question and ask readers for their answers.

Contest Time – Again?!

The end of 2010 is rushing toward us, meaning it's time to start looking at bulletins and articles from the past year. Take some time to curl up with that stack of hard copies of your newsletter and enjoy reading through them. Or maybe you'll be curling up with your computer! Choose your best issues for the bulletin contest; choose the best articles/poems/written features/junior articles for their respective categories. Remember you are entering your TEAM for more than just an award. The rest of us are counting on you, too!

Important information for regional BEACs:

March 1, 2011 – AFMS Judges List to all regional BEACs

April 1, 2011 –Regional entries due AFMS judges

May 15, 2011 –AFMS entries judged and returned to me by AFMS judges

July 7, 2011 - EFMLS/AFMS joint show and convention in Syracuse, NY

July 10, 2011 – Breakfast with Editors and Web Masters in Syracuse, NY

Written Features Changes: Thanks to Barbara Fenstermacher, our Written Features AFMS judge, for updating the rules, score sheet, and judging criteria in that category. All responses from the AFMS BEAC members were favorable to the changes, although not everyone replied. Look for the new information on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org) by the end of 2010.

Seeking Your Input: Are you interested in a category for photographs published in bulletins? In August I received an e-mail with that request. I will be sending information to the BEAC committee for their input, but everyone's ideas are welcome! Contact me at the e-mail above or by my snail mail address.

Teasers: In September I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the Denver Show and participating in an editor's workshop and social organized by Beth Simmons, editor for the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild.

I represented the AFMS to give information about the bulletin editor's contest and answer questions. I was awed and inspired by the following speakers, many whose names I knew and whose faces now "go with" those names!

Short (and very interesting, worthwhile) topics:

1-A Logo "Look" for Your Organization, led by Susan Passmore, editor for the Western Interior

Paleontological Society.

2-Writing An Award-Winning Article, presented by Steven Veatch, multi-award winning author from Lake George Gem & Mineral Society.

3-Using Microsoft Publisher, presented by Dr. Beth Simmons, editor for the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild.

4-Photos in Your Production, led by Marjorie Payne, Historian for Denver Gem & Mineral Guild.

5-Writing for Juniors, presented by Gary Raham, award winning editor from Flatirons Mineral Club and AFMS Editor Hall of Fame member.

6-Setting Up and Using Your E-mail Address Files, presented by Dr. Pete Modreski, US Geological Survey

7-Coordinating Your Club's Web Page and Newsletter – group discussion.

This was such a GOOD workshop that I must share specifics with you from some of these topics. The speakers have been kind enough to send summaries and power point presentations to Beth Simmons, who has forwarded those to me. Look for the above topics in this column in the months to come.

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not



2011 Rendezvous

by Dick Pankey, Inter-Regional Field Trip Co-Chair

Central Oregon is known for petrified wood, agate and thunder eggs. If you like petrified wood, agate and thunder eggs, if you like rock collecting, if you like meeting other interesting rockhounds then join us for this 2011 Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous on May 27th to the 30th. This Rendezvous will be to the Hampton Butte green petrified wood area, the Paulina area for pink, green and blue limb casts and to Glass Butte for a big variety of obsidian. Trip logs will be available to 8 to 10 other nearby sites for agate, thunder eggs, jasper and petrified wood for self guided collecting trips. These trips will include: Muary Mtn. jasper, Bear Creek petrified wood, Eagle Rock dendritic/moss agate, Ochoco thunder eggs, and several other petrified wood and thunder egg sites. (I told you that this is a great rockhounding area.)

This Rendezvous will be lead by Doug True and is hosted by the Northwest and California Federations.

We are going to camp on a centrally located private ranch about 35 miles southeast of Prineville, OR. This is a dry camp with no services available. There will be porta-potties at camp for those who need them. Motels and RV parks are available in Prineville.

Of course we will have daily happy hours, evening campfires, and a couple of potluck dinners. Doug has lined up several speakers: a USGS geologist to talk about recently discovered calderas in the area; Walt Wright to tell us about what we are collecting and a BLM geologist to talk about the geology of the area.

A flyer with Rendezvous details, directions to camp, a schedule of trips and events, and other useful information will be posted on the AFMS, NFMS and CFMS web sites and newsletters in January.

This trip is open to members and guests of all the regional Federations affiliated with the AFMS. Everyone who agrees to adhere to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics, abide by the direction of the field trip leaders, and practice safe rockhounding is welcome to attend.

Please notify one of the Federation leaders early, but no later than May 20, if you plan to attend; e-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. Don't wait – do it now. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over the west, and all of the Federations of the AFMS, to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share.

Come join us for a great Inter-Regional Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Doug True
Richard Pankey

(see page 7 for contact information)

CHANGE OF OFFICERS?

from the Central Office

Please take a minute or two and let the AFMS Central Office know about your new officers.

Send the name of your club, plus the name and address of your president, federation director (or liaison), secretary and editor so that we can keep the news coming to the correct people.

Use e-mail (central_office@amfed.org) or snail mail: PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

USPS requires us to request "return service" on our mailing at least 4 times per year. Doing so costs the AFMS 50¢ for each newsletter that's returned to us as non-deliverable since bulk mail is normally not forwarded. That's 50¢ per issue that cannot be used for programs that directly benefit your club and federation.

Please help us by informing us when recipients move or no longer should receive the issues.

2011 AFMS PROGRAM COMPETITION

by Marge Collins, AFMS Chair



The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Video, digital presentations or slides, relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION" for "commercial" presentations.

- * Each program is judged on its own merits.
- * Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score. Winners may be asked to make some changes based on judges comments before final version is duplicated. (contact Coordinator for details)
- * Judging Form and "Tips for Good Programs" are available on AFMS website (www.amfed.org), from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Librarian.

Who May Enter

Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2011 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter. (Does not apply to "Excellence in Education" entries)

Deadline for entry: **April 15, 2011**

Classes for Entries

- Class 1 - Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.
 - Class 2 - Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.
 - Class 3 - "How To Do It" - techniques/equipment for fossil prep, jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.
 - Class 4 - "Just for Juniors" - any of the above for/by youngsters.
- "Excellence in Education" entries are judged separately.

Judging (Judges look for:)

- accuracy of information / educational value
- quality of photographs / visuals
- completeness of story - but not "too much" information
- narration that moves well from one image to the next
- presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
- title, credits and "The End" "slides"

For CD, DVD or Video entries

- amateur entries should not be transferred to DVD format before entry.
- submit a copy preferably in PowerPoint or similar format -without author's credits (for anonymity)

- consider sending entry on a flash drive instead of disc
- may be 'live action' or static slides
- integrated audio is preferred, but not required for judging, however audio is needed for final version.
- include typed script if there is no audio.
- 35mm SLIDE PRESENTATIONS can be entered, however please contact Coordinator before sending entry.

Awards

A \$200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (with 95+ points),
 \$100 if score is 94 - 90 points, (for highest score) in each Class 1 - 4.
 In addition, Winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet at Syracuse NY, July 9, 2011.



Program Length

Adult programs: 30 - 40 minutes is optimum
 Juniors: 20 minutes suggested maximum

Reproduction / Duplication

By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate / transfer their entry to DVD format for the Regional Libraries. 35mm slides will be scanned, and then returned to producer. Digital entries can be returned after duplication if requested. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

How to Enter

Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below.

Direct questions and entries to:

AFMS Program Competition Coordinator
 Marge Collins
 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
 Buchanan MI 49107
 phone: (269) 695-4313
 e-mail: <margaret@qtm.net>

.....

2011 Program Competition Entry Form

I / we submit " _____ " (presentation title)

in [circle one] Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4
 - or -
 (for programs produced "for sale") "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION"

Producer(s) _____
 (your name/s) (include your Office if Club entry)

Member of _____
 (Club name)

Federation _____

_____ [street address]

_____ [city] _____ [state] _____ [zip]

Home phone _____ e-mail _____

Is this program for sale? No _____ Yes _____ Cost: \$ _____

Mail to:
 Marge Collins
 AFMS Program Competition Coordinator
 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
 Buchanan MI 49107

.....

**Entries must be received by
 April 15, 2011**

Something Different

from Mike Vagnetti, Big Rapids Gem & Mineral Club, Big Rapids, MI

Editor's note: In my view, a federation newsletter is not normally the place for puzzles, feature articles etc. The usual place for these should be individual club bulletins. Occasionally however, exceptions can be made as in the puzzle below. Enjoy and feel free to reprint for your own club bulletin. Answers elsewhere in this issue.



A cryptogram is a block of text which has been rendered unreadable through the use of what is called a "substitution cypher". This means that each letter used in the original text has been substituted with another. Letter positions, spaces and punctuation remain unchanged. In this puzzle **W** is substituted for **P**.

Rocks & Minerals

1. XAUHYY
2. SUJMSZOVHR
3. YMAKYJZAU
4. EYMIJ

5. RZWWUO
6. YIMJU
7. IHSUYJZAU
8. YVMIU
9. ZEYHKHMA
10. YRVHYJ
11. SMOEIU
12. XOMAHJU
13. YUKHSUAJMOC
14. RZAXIZSUOMJU
15. ROCYJMIY
16. XOOUAYJZAU
17. HXAUZNY
18. XMOAUJ
19. GNMOJT
20. RMIRHJU
21. JZNOSMIHAU

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Coordinator

As the 2010 regional convention schedule winds down, we already have most of the dates for 2011 and some for 2012. Please remember that we need to avoid having more than one convention per weekend to help maximize attendance by AFMS officers, exhibitors, judges and dealers! Please send me the dates of your upcoming federation conventions as soon as they become known.



	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2010	AFMS June 18-20 La Habre, CA	March 6-7 Newark, DE	Aug 27-29 Peoria, IL	Sept. 17-19 Hillsboro, OR	April 23-25 Wichita, KS	Dec. 11 - 12 DeRidder, LA	October 16-18 Knoxville, TN
2011	May 13-15 Anderson, CA	AFMS July 7-10 Syracuse, NY	Sept 8-11 Toledo, OH	July 29-31 Chehalis, OR	June 24-26 Colorado Spgs, CO	April 15-17 Alpine, TX	
2012		Sept. 15-16 Harrisburg, PA	AFMS July 26 - 29 Wayzata, MN	May 18 - 20 Kennewick, WA			
2013		April Long Island, NY					AFMS

Share Your Club Bulletin

by Ye Olde Editor

New AFMS Officers and Committee Chairs take office on November 1 so you'll notice some changes throughout this issue. For an up-to-date listing of officers, look on page 2. For committee chairs, look on page 7.



Your AFMS officers would love to receive copies of your club bulletin each month and now, with most club editors having e-mail, the cost of sending them is no longer a budget-breaker. With just one click of a button, your bulletin can be sent, at no cost to you or your club, to everyone. Please consider doing so beginning with your next issue.

Why do AFMS (and your regional federation) officers want to read your bulletin? Doing so gives everyone an opportunity to get to know your club a bit better even if we cannot physically get to visit you. Officers also gain an understanding about some of the good things that your club is doing as well as some of the problems that you may be facing.

Communication does help to strengthen the regional federations and the AFMS, so please "get on the e-mail bandwagon and share your club bulletins each month.

Rocks & Minerals Answers

1. GNEISS
2. METAMORPHIC
3. SANDSTONE
4. BASALT
5. COPPER
6. SLATE
7. LIMESTONE
8. SHALE
9. OBSIDIAN
10. SCHIST
11. MARBLE
12. GRANITE
13. SEDIMENTARY
14. CONGLOMERATE
15. CRYSTALS
16. GREENSTONE
17. IGNEOUS
18. GARNET
19. QUARTZ
20. CALCITE
21. TOURMALINE
22. AMETHYST

AFMS COMMITTEES: 2010 – 2011

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2010 – 11. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with

All American Club John Washburn <jrwashburn2@msn.com>	Historian Shirley Leeson <shirleyleeson@cox.net>	Safety Owen Martin <owenmartin@yahoo.com>
AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Loretta Ogden <Fbriktr1@aol.com>	International Relations Bob Jones <jonesb52@gmail.com>	Show Consultant Bob Livingston <gemguy@verizon.net>
AFMS Newsletter Carolyn Weinberger P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 <editor@amfed.org>	Inter-Regional Field Trip Doug True <dtruefossils@yahoo.com>	Uniform Rules B. Jay Bowman (see Publications)
Boundaries John Wright <osjbw@datasync.com>	Judges Training Seminar Dee Holland <beauholland@centurytel.net>	URC Eligibility Files Anne Cook <secretary@amfed.org>
Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame Kitty Starbuck <greenstone@iserv.net>	Junior Programs Jim Brace-Thompson <jbraceth@roadrunner.com>	Ways and Means Marve Starbuck <greenstone@iserv.net>
Bulletin Editors Advisory Linda Jaeger <ljalrg@aol.com>	Long Range Planning Emerson Tucker <emersont@suddenlink.net>	Website/Webmaster Marty Hart <webmaster@amfed.org>
Bylaws Revisory Steve Weinberger <central_office@amfed.org>	Name Badges Frank Mullaney <rockyfiv@aol.com>	Web Site Contest Phyllis George <pgeorge4@comcast.net>
Central Office Administrator Steve Weinberger P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 <central_office@amfed.org>	Nominating Emerson Tucker (see Long Range Planning)	AFMS Scholarship Foundation Dee Holland, President (see Endowment Fund) Bob Miller, Vice President Ruth Bailey, Secretary Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
Commemorative Stamps Wendell Mohr <wmohr@erols.com>	Parliamentarian Dee Holland (See Judges Training)	
Conservation and Legislation John Martin <smartin@antelecom.net>	Past President's Advisory Emerson Tucker (see Long Range Planning)	
Endowment Fund Pam Hecht <steverox@up.net>	Photography Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)	
Financial Investment Lauren Williams <slharuir@msn.com>	Program Competition Marge Collins <margaret@qtm.net>	
	Publications B. Jay Bowman <bjb@wildblue.net>	
	Public Relations Fran Sick <ednfran@epix.net>	

The American Lands Access Association works for and on behalf of the over 52,000 members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the millions of unaffiliated rockhounds and users of our public lands. ALAA monitors legislative and regulatory activity and issues to determine their impact on public lands access and rockhound activity. When a need is identified we issue a "call to action" to respond to the legislation or regulation. You don't have to be a member of ALAA to respond: to write letters, send e-mails, make phone calls, attend meetings, and to participate in the legislative and regulatory process. What I am asking for is that all members of AFMS, all rockhounds to get involved. To start with you need to educate yourself and learn about the issues, and then you need to respond.

John Martin wears many hats – AFMS Legislative and Conservation Chairman, ALAA web master, CFMS Public Lands Advisory Committee - South Chairman and all of them deal with what is happening with legislation and regulations that affect rockhounds. John is doing an excellent job of informing us about pending and proposed legislation and regulations.

If you haven't done so recently check out the ALAA web site. There is a wealth of information about ALAA and pending and proposed legislation and regulations – nationally and by state. In most cases the actual bills and regulations are posted. This gives you the opportunity to read, evaluate and form your own opinion. John sends out e-mails to ALAA member with alerts on new and time sensitive issues.

The Blue Ribbon Coalition always does a good job of monitoring and communicating to all of us legislation and regulations activity. For the past few months they have had good background information and current activity and meeting announcements for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Several of the ALAA Officers and Directors are on their Alert e-mail list and the amount of information they provide is amazing.

In the past we had a difficult time getting information and details on pending and proposed legislation and regulations. Most of the time we would learn about issues and meetings a few days before the end of the comment period, or the vote in congress, or scheduled meeting date. We were often scrambling and playing catch-up. This has changed!! We now know about legislation soon after it is introduced and have copies of the bills within a few days. We are learning about some legislation when it is in the development/writing stage which gives us an opportunity to be proactive and participate in the process. We are learning about the regulatory process, also and have started attending the meetings for the development of Management Plans.

All of this is only useful to us if we respond to it in a meaningful and timely way. The BRC, John and others alert us to the issues and challenges of legislation and regulations that affect our access and collecting rights not just to provide us with interesting information but to call us to action to write letters, send e-mails or attend meeting.

This brings me to the real purpose of this message. We need informed members and rockhounds but to meet our goal and objective of having open access to our public lands we need **involved** members. The easiest way to become involved is to take a few minutes to write a letter or send an e-mail; to make your voice heard. Your letters, e-mails and sometimes phone calls are important and have impact. This is how we let our representatives and the regulators know what we want. Numbers count; the more we send the more affect we have.

The work of ALAA is accomplished through the efforts of our member. We need members (and interested rockhounds) to share their skills, their talent, their interest and their time. We have accomplished a lot this past year and a half, but we could do more with more people involved. There are many tasks that we could do or do better or do more if we had the help. We need your help. Some ways to be an involved member are:

- Become informed about proposed legislation and the legislative process.
- Read the bills and regulations.
- Analyze them and determine their affect on rockhounds and access to public lands.
- Communicate your findings with ALAA through e-mails and articles in our newsletter.
- Help develop an ALAA position statement.

•Become informed about proposed regulations and the regulatory process for BLM and the Forest Service.

•Get involved with a BLM or Forest Service office in your area.

•Develop a relationship with local personnel.

•Get on their mailing list to be informed about activities, their Management Plan and meetings.

•Attend meetings and participate and contribute in the process.

•Write letters, send e-mails, make phone calls attend meetings to let your congressmen and the regulators know what you think and what you want.

•Share what you know and what you did with others and get them involved.

We especially need people to write articles about land access, about ALAA, our goals and objectives for magazine to the general public – AARP, AAA, RV magazines, your local newspapers, etc.

The assault on our access to public land is great. Now is the time to stand up and be counted. Will you help? Contact me to learn more about how you can help or contact any Officer, Director or State Rep to volunteer your help.

Be an involved member!

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION
Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

*Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA! Annual membership fee is \$25.00
Annual membership fee for clubs is \$50.00*

_____New _____Renewal Date ____/____/____

Please print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations: _____

Hobby Interest: _____

Remit fees to: ALAA
Ruth Bailey
2857 Addison Pl
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its 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 purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as a charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.