



AFMS Newsletter
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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 65, Number 3 – February, 2012
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

You CAN'T WIN UNLESS YOU ARE IN IT!!!!

by Pam Hecht, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

Here are a few more generous donations made to the AFMS Endowment Fund drawing. I hope they entice you enough to order your tickets! All proceeds from the drawing are invested and the interest from these investments is used to fund various AFMS programs including the badges for that most important Juniors program!

The drawing will be held during the 2012 AFMS Convention in Minnetonka, MN this coming July. You need not be present to win, but just think of the fun you'll have if you are! If you are interested in possibly winning one of the first 4 prizes (the lapidary equipment), you'll need to designate which prize you'd like if your ticket is drawn when you make your purchase. All other prizes will be awarded randomly. Tickets remain at \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

BUT we are still way short of items for the drawing. Remember I set a goal of 40 items for our drawing this year.....last year we had 36 items. So.....it's time to clean out those boxes, pails and display cases of specimens to find an item that you can donate for our drawing.....please please - pretty please!!!! Mail them me at 25393 Oak St; Calumet, MI 49913.

I would like to thank Bob Jones senior editor of Rock n Gem Magazine for his kind words in the December magazine about the AFMS and our Endowment Fund Drawing.....THANK YOU !

Prize #7 - Fossil Sharks Tooth Collection. Nine fossil shark teeth self-collected by 2011 CFMS President Jim Brace-Thompson from Shark Tooth Hill near Bakersfield, Kern Co. CA. These are from the Round Mountain Silt Member of the Temblor Formation, Miocene Epoch (about 15 million years old). Estimated value - \$90. CFMS.

Prize #8 - Sterling Silver Pin. The pin is a crafted piece of silver of the Albert Yazzie (Navajo) people from Cuba, NM. The pin measures 2 1/4 inches wide and 1 1/4 inches high. Donated by Marge and Chuck Collins it has an estimated value of \$100. MWF.

Prize #9 is a collection of three Calcite specimens from the Juanita Mine in Socorro Co. NM. The

specimens fluoresce green. Donated by Janet Clifford they have an estimated value of \$60. MWF.

Prize #10 is a 3 1/4 pound piece of natural float copper collected from the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan. It is accompanied by a stock certificate from the Calumet & Hecla Consolidated Copper Company and dates from 1949. Donated by Pam Hecht it has an estimated value of \$75. MWF.

If you have not taken the time to look on the AFMS website please do so to check out the special donation of the first 4 items.....then send your check and self addressed stamped envelope to your regional Endowment Fund representative (see the AFMS website for addresses) for your tickets.

Remember that you can't win unless you are in it!!



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THE AFMS

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FEDERATIONS



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FROM THE TOP!

by Lauren Williams, President

Competitive competitor. Competitive competition is a tool for your learning experience. Maybe you had a hard time seeing that flat spot, no polish next to the edges, minor ding on your mineral specimen, etc., but the judges will be happy to point this out to you so that you can learn and fix it for the following years competition.

If you want a higher score next year, fix what the judges told/wrote what was wrong this year. **Too many people keep doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results.** It ain't gonna happen!

- If you want different results you have to do something different.
- Too many people think that next year a different set of judges will give you a different score. Judges, especially those at the regional or national federation level, know their field of expertise and therefore know what's good and what needs improving.
- If you want a higher score next year fix what was found this year.

One of the biggest disfavours that a local club or regional federation judge can do for you is to be too lenient or forgiving and then when you get to the AFMS competition you curse and swear at the AFMS judges for being too strict, etc; 'how can this score be so different from what my regional judges gave me'.

Make sure that you have the latest copy of the rules book, it keeps changing every year and the latest issue of what is in the rule book is what you will be judged against.

- If you want a low score in competition put your case together at the last minute.
- A good competitive case takes time to put together with the liners, labels and material.
- Owning your own case will help greatly especially with the liners fitting every time and place that you set up.

Enter Competition!

Lauren



2012 RULES UPDATES

from Ron Carman, Publications Chair

A number of changes to the AFMS Uniform Rules were adopted at the annual UR meeting in Syracuse, NY this summer. These have been printed and are now available from your regional federation Uniform Rules chair.



You can also download the updates from the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm>. Beware however, that this is not the official version and that there may be minor errors.

All the rules changes went into effect at the beginning of this year (January 1) and will be the ones in use for all shows in 2012. We urge you to update your copy of the Rules Book.

If you are not a competitive exhibitor, we encourage you to also obtain a copy of the updated rules to use as a guideline when preparing your display.

NEW OFFICERS?

from Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office

For many clubs the new year brings about a change in officers. We'd like to be able to send the new officers copies of the AFMS Newsletter each month, but can't do that unless you let us know who they are.

Please take a couple of minutes and send an e-mail to me at <central_office@amfed.org>. Include the name of your club, name, address and title of each of your officers. Or, if you have no e-mail, just mail a copy of your officers to me at PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

EARLY DEADLINE

The deadline for the March issue of the AFMS Newsletter will be January 25.

SAFETY NOTE: KNOW YOUR LIMITS

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair



Over the past few years I've written a lot of safety articles, many of which were inspired by fellow rock hounds while out on hunting trips (kind of like those songs from Taylor Swift - don't date her!). Last week I managed to inspire another one of my own. The trip I was on resulted in a great find - a big ammonite that weighed in excess of 70 pounds. Seeing as I had hernia surgery earlier this year this posed a problem. Luckily with proper lifting techniques I managed to slowly haul the big ammo out of the water and up to my cart without injuring myself! The effort did however inspire this note.

In my particular case I really pushed the limit of how much I could safely lift without injuring or reinjuring myself. The potential was there to aggravate my hernia scar or even hurt my back.

Understanding your limits with respect to managing how much you can carry is very important. The very first article I wrote as the Safety Chairman for the SCFMS was inspired by an incident where a lady passed out from heat exhaustion while trying to carry too much weight up a hill to our cars. Ultimately she was OK, but we left most of her finds at the outcrop. If she had considered her physical condition, the heat and the terrain, then she would have been much more selective with what she had tried to haul out.

Along those lines I would encourage you to take into account what you might find while on a field trip and give careful consideration to how much you can physically carry from the outcrop to your vehicle. Personally I use a variety of buckets and

ropes to do a lot of my rock hauling, and much to the amusement of many of my friends, I haul a lot of rocks in a double-wide jogging stroller (3-wheeler) that I bought at Goodwill a couple of years ago. It works great - thus my "limit" is about two hundred pounds of rocks! I have other field trip buddies who use wagons, carts, sleds, canoes, rafts, etc. to help them haul out their finds.

My hunting in Texas also adds the summer heat to the mix. It was so hot this past summer that I know very few people who actually made many hunts over the past several months. Hunting in this heat required additional consideration for what could be hauled out from an outcrop. Distance, time, heat and how much liquid you could carry out with you were added to the equation with weight. Staying hydrated was essential. Two bottles of water in a backpack were NOT adequate!

One thing I really enjoy is the opportunity to take my kids hunting with me. My eldest daughter has type 1 diabetes and managing her insulin and food intake can become much more complicated while on extended hunts. Many of us really ratchet up our rockhounding after retirement, but likewise have a lot more medical considerations associated with age. Please keep that in mind if you are going into the field so that you can make sure that your medication and food situation is properly accounted for.

In a nutshell keep in mind what limitations you have, both physical and physiological. Considerations include rock weight, distance travelled, vertical ascents/descents, stamina, water/food/medicine requirements, and those of who you will be hunting with.

Proper planning will help keep you safe and knowing your limitations will help you to not overdo it.

BE SAFE!!!

HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

An Update on Revisions to Our Badge Program



As noted in previous articles, I've been working this past year on five new units to add to our Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program. I'm glad to report those are done, the new badges have been designed, and the order has been sent to our badge manufacturer, A-B Emblem in North Carolina. I anticipate having the badges in-hand to be able to start awarding to kids by the end of February.

In the meantime, I've been going back over all the previous fifteen units, inserting cross-references to the new units, checking any references to web sites to make sure they're still active, and adding additional activities and little tweaks and adjustments here and there, largely in response to great suggestions that have been sent in over the years from local juniors leaders. My target date to have all this done, with a revised manual posted to the AFMS web site and badges to distribute, is the end of February. Watch in next month's newsletter, when we'll hopefully be hitting the "Go!" button. Until then--have fun in the New Year!

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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Distribution Questions

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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CONTENT - LETTERS

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DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION (I.E. APRIL 1 FOR THE MAY ISSUE)

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AFMS CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATION

by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

On November 3, 2011 a bill was introduced in congress that has a large impact on all 5 states of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The bill is entitled Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act – H.R 3334 and was sponsored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney [D-NY14]. The purpose of the bill is to “Designate certain National Forest System lands and public lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness and wild and scenic rivers, to provide for the establishment of a Northern Rockies Wildlife Habitat and Corridors Information System and Program, and for other purposes.”

If enacted, this bill will turn 24-million acres of the Northwest Federation’s National Forest and BLM Public land into a massive wilderness. This may have a devastating effect on access to amateur rock, mineral and fossil collecting sites in a five state area. More information on this bill may be found

on the American Lands Access Association Website. <<http://www.amlands.org/6652/index.html>>.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Lands Access Association recognizes the need to conserve and protect our Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitat with sensible and reasonable Land Management Practices, this bill seems to take that protection to an extreme.

As this congressional legislative session comes to an end it appears that the Rockhound Community has not lost access to any identified collecting sites through legislative actions.



AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

from Evelyn Cataldo, AFMS ACROY Chair

Here are the rest of the 2011 recognitions for club "Rockhounds of the Year". Congratulations to all who have been selected by their club or by a member of their club and honored here.

California Federation



The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society is honored to nominate **Diane and John Cook** as our 2011 Rockhounds of the year. Diane and John are enthusiastic members, helping out with our

club in many ways. They hold several positions in our club and are always there to volunteer.

Both collect rocks, minerals, and fossils and are out in the field collecting them. At the Ventura Fair, they are on the staff for the Mineral Building exhibits, where they help set up, and take down. They have won a trophy and many ribbons for their excellent exhibits. They exhibit at our annual show and other local club shows. John won a CFMS Master Class trophy for his exhibit at a CFMS Show.

Diane is our Treasurer and does a great job. At our annual show Diane is our Dealer Chair, John is there every day helping with all the work that needs to set up a show and take down and helping with the silent auction. Diane is the Dealer Director for the CFMS 2013 Show. If it's our picnic, Christmas party, seminars, club house, they are there to help. They have also put in much time to get our club house they way it is.

Diane and John go above and beyond helping our club, they deserve to be our Club Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by Robert Sankovich, President

The Conejo Gem & Mineral Club is honored to nominate **Mitty and Sal Scarpato** as our 2011 Rockhounds of the year. Mitty and Sal have been members of our club for some time. Sal is our Treasurer

and Mitty our Secretary and Past Youth Programs Coordinator where she conducted a program each month for the pebble pups at our meetings.

Mitty is currently on the Earth Science Tri Club committee, where they enhance geology education in Ventura County Schools and Libraries. They have made rock boxes, with 9 specimens of each Igneous, Metamorphic and Sedimentary specimens, with educational documents explaining the material and donated these boxes to 57 schools. They are working on 61-91 now. They have also made three Ventura Co. fossil kits that schools can borrow. They have also donated over 800 minerals, fossils and books to schools and libraries in Ventura Co. Mitty also goes to many schools, girl scouts, boy scouts and runs geology programs there.

They help with our annual show. Sal has been past Show Chairman, and chair of our kitchen. He is now current Treasurer for the CFMS 2013 Show. Each year they go out to Quartzsite and get material and specimens for our local show.

If it's our show, picnic, Christmas party, they are there to help. They have put in much time and effort for our club to be the club that it is. Mitty and Sal Scarpato go above and beyond helping our club and they deserve to be our Club Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by Robert Sankovich, President

The Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society is proud to submit **Janet Newburn and Ron Wheeler** as the VGMS Rockhound(s) of the Year for 2011. Janet and Ron have been members of VGMS for many years and from the beginning have donated their time and skills to the betterment of our Society. Ron is a skilled machinist and has spent many hours performing preventive and

MULTI-FEDERATION FIELD TRIP

by Doug True, Chair

Your Input is Needed!!

The next multi-federation field trip is scheduled for June 13-15th 2012. We will have four (4) trips to collect petrified wood in the Twin Springs area south of Ontario, OR. We're planning on collecting wood in the Grassy Mountain area, Hoodoo Basin, several white plume areas and others.

So here's a question for all of you?

Where would you like to camp? There are some options.

Option #1: I have made arrangements for the fairgrounds in Ontario, Oregon at \$10 per night dry camp. There is also water and electricity available as well as restrooms and showers. This is a great spot, but about 45 to 60 minutes from the collecting site.

Option #2: Twin Springs camp ground is located in the middle of the collecting area, 13 miles into back country. This is a dry camp with no water or electricity. There is an outhouse, but it's quite a way into back country. BUT it's in the middle of all of the trips for the 4 days, 10-15 minutes to all locations. We will bring in more toilets.

What's your preference? **I need to know your interests as soon as possible** as I need to apply for a permit if we want to camp at Twin Springs since it's on BLM land.

E-mail me at <dtruefossils@yahoo.com> asap.

corrective maintenance on our saws and grinders. Janet has used her skills making adorable craft pieces and handcrafted gem trees for the "Wheel of Fortune." They both spend more spare time tumbling rocks for grab bags and the "Wheel." Both Janet and Ron are faithful attendees of meetings and shows. They are always willing to help out and VGMS greatly appreciates them and acknowledges their contributions!

submitted by Marcia Grefsrud



Midwest Federation

The Lawrence County Rock Club of Bedford, IN has selected **Sherry Beemblossom** as it's 2011 Rockhound of the Year. Sherry first joined the club as a Junior member with her family in 1967. She has been active in most areas of the club since. She has always helped with our annual 3 day show where she currently works at our Information booth, has served many terms as Secretary and is currently the Assistant Secretary.

She has provided refreshments for our meetings, and helps set up and take down each month. She has also provided and secured programs for our monthly meetings. Her knowledge of club activities is superior to that of most other members.

submitted by George Aldred, Past President

Heart Attack Info on New Aspirin via The RockCollector, January, 2012

Something We Can Do to Help Ourselves

About Heart Attacks

Bayer is making crystal aspirin to dissolve under the tongue. They work much faster than the tablets.



Why keep aspirin by your bedside? There are other symptoms of a heart attack besides pain in the left arm. One must also be aware of an **intense pain on the chin**, as well as **nausea** and lots of **sweating**, however these symptoms may also occur less frequently. **Note: There may be NO pain in the chest during a heart attack.**

The majority of people (about 60%) who had a heart attack during their sleep did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from a deep sleep. If you are awakened with pain, immediately dissolve two aspirins in your mouth and swallow them with a bit of water.

Afterwards: CALL 911

- say "heart attack!"
- say that you have taken 2 aspirins
- phone a neighbor or a family member who lives very close by
- take a seat on a chair or sofa near the front door, and wait for their arrival and... **DO NOT lie down.**

A cardiologist has stated that if each person after reading this message passes it along to 10 people, probably one life can be saved!

Editor's Note (from Dan Imel): Women are more prone than men to have no symptoms of a heart attack or to display pain in their back or shoulder rather than the traditional concept of chest pain. I had a number of female patients while I worked on the cardiology floor who described intense back or shoulder pain with no other symptoms. While women have fewer heart attacks than men, they have a higher percentage that are fatal. This is partially due to the pain being in areas not normally associated with heart attacks by most people and women ignoring the pain as a result.

Rock "Camps" from the AFMS Central Office

Interested in reliving your youth by going to camp again? Several of our Regional Federations offer opportunities to do just that by holding week-long sessions. Although preference is given to members of the regional federations clubs, others may attend on a space available basis. You and your club mates might just be interested in attending.

California Federation:

CFMS is sponsoring a week long session at Zzyzx (in the Mojave Desert near Baker, CA) from April 1 - 8, 2012. Cost for the week, including room and board is \$375 per person. If you use your RV, the cost is \$325 per person.



Additional charges may be assessed for material furnished by the instructors. A wide variety of classes are offered during the session such as cab cutting, silversmithing, casting, gem trees, PMC, etc.

A registration form for Zzyzx can be downloaded from the CFMS website <www.cfmsinc.org/>. Just click on the Zzyzx tab on the left side of the home page.

CFMS also plans on offering a camp session in Northern California at Camp Paradise near Clipper Mills in the Plumas National Forest. As of this writing dates, cost and details have not yet been announced, but information will be available on the CFMS website as well.

Eastern Federation

The EFMLS sponsors two workshops each year at the lovely Wildacres Retreat near Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Each session features a guest "speaker in residence" plus an opportunity to take one or two classes from an extensive list of offerings. Other activities during each session include a tail gate session, auction, "show and tell", fun night and sometimes a "free day" with opportunities for field trips.



Dates for 2012 are April 10 - 15 and September 3 - 9. The fee for April is \$350 per person; for September, \$370. Both sessions include room and board. Additional charges may be assessed for material furnished by the instructors in the class(es) taken (i.e. metals, cabbng rough etc.).

Speakers for the sessions are renowned photographer Jeff Scovil in April and Julian Gray, Curator at the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, GA in September. Each will give six illustrated talks during the workshop.

Information and registration information may be obtained by visiting the EFMLS Wildacres website <www.amfed.org/efmls> and clicking on the Wildacres tab.

Northwest Federation

The Northwest Federation also sponsors a rock-hound retreat at Hancock Field Station, Antelope, OR each year each year the week of Labor Day. The 2011 cost for the retreat was \$270 per person for room and board plus a \$45 fee for the classes. This may change for 2012 as plans are finalized.



Classes offered during the session may include cabbng, faceting, silversmithing, beading, and casting. In addition, field trips, talks by informative speakers an auction and "show and tell" normally occur.

Information, when available, can be found on the Northwest Federation website and newsletter, both available via <www.amfed.org/nfms>.

Southeast Federation

Last, but certainly not least, are the workshops sponsored by the SFMS. Two locations are used - the Wildacres retreat near Little Switzerland, NC for workshops in August and September and the facility at William Holland in Young Harris, GA. Dates for Wildacres are August 20-26 and September 10-16. William Holland dates are June 10-16 and October 7 - 13. All workshops feature instruction in a variety of hobby related skills, auctions, and other related activities.



Tuition for 2011 was \$310 per person for William Holland and \$330 per person for Wildacres. Both will probably increase slightly for 2012. In addition, additional fees are charged by the instructors to cover the cost of materials used in the classes taken.

Information on the 2012 workshops will be available in the January SFMS Newsletter, the Lodestar which can be downloaded at <www.amfed.org/sfms> - just click on "Lodestar Newsletters".

PLEASE SEND YOUR CLUB BULLETINS TO:

- THE AFMS OFFICERS
- YOUR REGIONAL FEDERATION OFFICERS

E-MAIL WORKS JUST FINE AND SAVES
YOUR CLUB \$\$\$\$!

SENDING THE BULLETIN HELPS THE
OFFICERS LEARN ABOUT YOUR CLUB

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

- 🍏 I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- 🍏 I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- 🍏 I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- 🍏 I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- 🍏 I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- 🍏 I will leave all gates as found.
- 🍏 I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- 🍏 I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- 🍏 I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- 🍏 I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- 🍏 I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- 🍏 I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- 🍏 I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- 🍏 I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- 🍏 I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- 🍏 I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- 🍏 I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

by John Martin

Doug True of Billings, Montana has joined the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee.

Doug has been involved with US Forest issues regarding Rockhounding for many years and will bring that expertise and knowledge to the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee. Doug will serve as the Liaison between the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the US Forest Service at the National Level and will be working on defining uniform rules for Amateur Collecting of Rocks, Minerals and Fossils on all public lands managed by the US Forest Service.

Upcoming Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

Here are the dates and general locations for the upcoming regional federation conventions for the next few years. I encourage each regional federation to notify me of the dates and location for their conventions as soon as possible so that we can avoid conflicts. Further details about the various conventions can be found in your regional federation newsletter.



	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2012	July 13-15 Riverside, CA	Sept. 15-16 Harrisburg, PA	AFMS July 26 - 29 Minnetonka MN	May 18 - 20 Kennewick, WA	March 16-18 Albuquerque, NM	Aug. 25-26 Jasper, TX	
2013	Ventura, CA	April 5 - 7 Long Island, NY	April 6 - 7 Lincoln, NE	August 16-18 Butte, MT			AFMS Sept. 20-22 Jacksonville, FL
2014			Oct. 18 - 19 Des Moines, IA	August 15-17 Pendleton, OR	AFMS		
2015						AFMS Austin, TX	

AFMS LAND USE POLICY

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.

AFMS COMMITTEES: 2010 – 2011

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2011 – 12. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club

John Washburn
<jrwashburn3 at att.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

Evelyn Cataldo
<cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>

AFMS Newsletter

Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries

Marion Roberts
<myroberts at bigvalley.net>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame

Carolyn Weinberger
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AFMS Scholarship Foundation

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(see Judges Training)
Lauren Williams, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

by Richard Pankey, President



When talking about the use and protection of our public lands, the environment, and the protection of our natural resources we often refer to certain groups and people as "Environmentalists", as "Conservationists." It is like we are putting them in a special group that is different than ourselves. The words "Environmentalists" and "Conservationists" have come to have a variety of connotations. One is "protector" of plants, animals, land and resources. Another meaning is "preservationist" meaning to preserve by denying use. Yet another meaning is one who advocate restricting (or eliminating) land use. In recent years we often use these last 2 meanings. In general terms rockhounds as a group tend to refer to ourselves as different from the "Environmentalists" and "Conservationists." But I am not sure that distinction is true and accurate if we use the terms as meaning "protector." To the general public "Environmentalists" and "Conservationists" are positive terms. To many of us they are negative or al-most derogatory terms meaning "restrictors" and "preservationist". Also, it is often assumed that if you are not an "Environmentalists" or "Conservationists" you must be the opposite or oppose conservation and the environment. I am here today to advocate that we take back these terms and show the world – the public and the land managers that we are protectors of the environment and the land.

If you haven't read the AFMS Code of Ethics lately do so soon. It is basically an environmental and conservation document. We care about the land and the environment. And believe that "Use is not abuse." Responsible use of our public and private land is compatible with our concern and care for the land. We need to show the public, land use managers and ourselves that rockhounds care by word and by action. The AFMS Code of Ethics is an action document. It states "I will..." (active) not "I believe..." which is passive.

I would now like to focus on Item 13 of the Code of Ethics: "I will support the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found." At the ALAA meeting during the CFMS Directors' meeting last November collecting area, camp and road cleanups was discussed. It was reported that several Off Highway Vehicle groups regularly conduct trash and litter removal which they coordinate and involve the BLM and other land managers. We thought that this is a great idea and something that ALAA should do and promote. As part of CFMS field trips and AFMS Rendezvous' and other trips that I have led since 2000 have always involved a clean-up and emphasized the Leave No Trace philosophy.

I would like ALAA to reactivate/to re-establish the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P. To accomplish this I am looking for 1 or 2 or more members to lead this project. Their task is to:

- Explain, advertise and promote participation of all AFMS societies.
- Develop procedures, recommendations on conducting clean-ups.

- Establish and coordinate procedures with BLM, FS, private land owner, etc. on how to conduct a clean-up.

- Establish/recommend how to report and publicize clean-ups and results
- And what ever else we come up with.

If you (or your society) would like to be a part of and spearhead this project please contact me. ALAA has some other projects and task waiting for the right person to step forward and volunteer. Is that someone you? Or you may see a need, opportunity or know of something you would like to do. Please contact me with your ideas.

Dues are Due

ALAA continues to have good growth of individual and societies. We are starting a new year and dues for 2012 are now due!! Please send your dues to our treasurer Ruth Bailey. And remind your society to join or send in their renewal and dues. Be an involved member!

Footnote: I need some information about the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P. What is the history? When did it start? What has it accomplished? The purpose is obvious, but I would like to know more of the details. Can anyone help me? Please call or e-mail me.

JUDGING SEMINAR

from Dee Holland, Chair

There is still room for YOU at the 2012 AFMS Judges Training Seminar being held this year in Reno, NV. The dates are Thursday, May 10 - Sunday, May 13.

Complete information along with a registration form can be found in the November or December AFMS Newsletter, available online at <www.amfed.org>. Just click on the newsletter tab to download a copy. Registrations must be received by April 16, 2012.

The seminar will consist of an orientation session on Thursday evening, two days of classes and a working "practice judging" activity during the Reno Gem & Mineral Show on Sunday morning. Cost for the session is \$20 per person which includes lunch on Friday and Saturday.

Lodging will be at the Sparks (Reno) Holiday Inn, 55 E Nugget Ave. You must make your own hotel reservations - be sure to say that you are with the AFMS Judges Training group in order to receive the special room rate of \$75 per night. The number for the hotel is 775-358-6900.

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.