

EFMLS NEWS

Information for members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



WITH WINTER UPON US....LET'S THINK SPRING

by Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Functioning Committee Chair

I know I'm pushing the calendar a bit. Winter doesn't begin until December 21, but in much of the country the chill of winter has set in. Summer gardens have been put to rest, leaves have fallen, and in some places, a blanket of snow has fallen.

The 2007 calendars are available in the stores and if you're like me, you've already penciled in many significant dates. I hope you've considered adding a week at one (or both) of our EFMLS Wildacres Workshops to your schedule. This coming year promises to be exciting.

Our spring session will be **April 20 - 26** - a bit earlier than in the past, but we understand that it's really wonderful at Wildacres in April. Speaker Coordinator Cathy Gaber has confirmed that our guest speaker will be none other than **Bob Jones, Sr.** Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine. Bob and his wife Carol just returned from a trip to China, so we're sure to hear at least a little bit about their latest adventures in this mineral and gem rich part of the world. Bob's traveled widely, written extensively, and is an excellent photographer and speaker.

In fall - **September 10 - 16**, we'll welcome back **Dr. Steve Chamberlain**, renowned mineral collector and author. Steve is also an excellent speaker and photographer and has a wealth of knowledge to share. He's currently Director of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, has amassed a very large New York State mineral collection, and loves to go out and field collect.

Tuition for 2007 at EFMLS Wildacres will be \$330 per person. This includes lodging in very comfortable private rooms, all meals and gratuity for the permanent Wildacres facility staff.

Registration for both sessions will begin on January 1. A registration form will be in the January EFMLS News along with a list of classes that will be offered.



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If you've never been to Wildacres, we think you're missing a wonderful week of fun, learning and sharing. If you'd like a sneak peak at what the workshop is all about, we'd be delighted to send you a CD entitled "It's Wildacres...It's Wonderful and It's Yours" produced by Bruce and Cathy Gaber. Just write or send an e-mail to me (address on page 7) and we'll send you a copy at no charge.

So mark your 2007 calendar, get a group of friends from your club together, and plan on attending an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. If you've never been, you're missing a wonderful opportunity.

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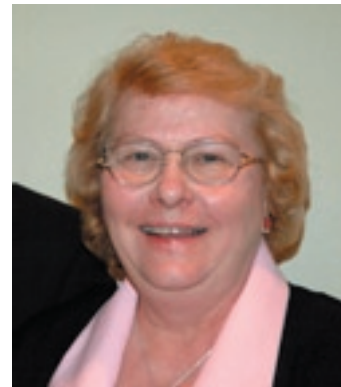
Deadline is the first of each month prior to publication date (i.e. Feb. 1 for March issue). No issue is normally published during July or August.

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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

by Fran Sick, 1st Vice President

As I write this message in late October, the 2006 EFMLS Convention in West Palm Beach and the end of my term of office as 1st VP is less than three weeks away. It has been an honor to serve in this office as part of a great team. I have enjoyed the past year and have learned a lot, thanks to the many people who have always been there to answer my questions and offer advice. If I tried to name everyone to whom I am indebted for their help I would certainly miss someone, but you all know who you are so I'll just say thank you and I hope you know how much I appreciate your support.



One of the responsibilities of the 1st VP is to conduct the election of Regional Vice Presidents, half of whom are elected each year. In 2006 this was a little more involved than usual since there were two vacancies when I began my term of office, making it necessary to conduct interim elections immediately and later the regularly scheduled elections for even numbered regions. All of these offices have now been filled and the new Regional Vice Presidents began their terms of office on November 1, 2006. Thank you to all of the clubs who submitted nominations and to the nominees who agreed to serve in these offices for the next two years.

If I have learned anything this past year, it is that when you take on a responsibility with the EFMLS you are never alone. Knowing this, I would strongly encourage anyone who is asked to accept an office or committee position to say yes. I can guarantee you will learn a lot, will get all the support you need and, best of all, you will get to know many wonderful people a lot better and will have fun. Try it! You'll like it!

I wish you all a great Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.

Fran

AN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE

from The Editor

Our Bylaws state that "The General Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting" (Article X, Sect. 1) AND "The term of office of all officers ...shall begin on the first day of November following their election and end on the last day of October of the appropriate year. In the event an annual meeting...occurs later than the last day of October...the incumbent officers shall continue to serve until their successors assume office." (Article X, Sect. 4).

Our annual meeting this year is on November 17 and thus, the 2006 officers will continue to serve until after the election is held at that meeting. Because this newsletter has to be mailed before the election you'll see their names listed elsewhere on this page. The work of the Federation continues on regardless of who is President and you'll see the names and contact information for the 2006-07 Committee Chairs listed on page ___ so that you know who to contact or send information to. We'll have all the officer information updated for the January issue.

THE 2006 ALL-AMERICAN AWARD

by Pat Pittman, EFMLS Chair

Depending on what generation you hail from, you can call this project a Historian's File or an Annual Scrapbook Event. Someone in your club should be keeping records of all the activities that your club and its members do in your community. You really do make a difference in our world.



Now Big Brother or Big Sister, put on your spy-glasses and start collecting evidence of all these activities. Keep a treasure box at home where you put documentation. Then it will be much easier to gather and organize your information into a readable, informative notebook. This yearbook information is collected ONLY for the 2006 calendar year.

This notebook will be a good eye-opener for your New Members and your Veteran club members to share their adventures and club activities. You would be surprised at what your members are doing. All you need is documentation.

Things to include in your notebook are:

- ◆ Records of activities at your monthly meetings, photos of club events,
- ◆ Pictures of Displays set up in Schools, Libraries, or other public places.
- ◆ Programs for Schools, Scouts, 4-H group, Grange, Religious groups or any other community groups
- ◆ Hikes or Field trips for the club or for public outreach
- ◆ Write-ups about club members or events in newspapers or newsletters,

◆ Thank you notes for speaking engagements,

◆ Advertisements for club activities.

In other words, any outreach activity that shares our knowledge with our surrounding community will be accepted. Brag about your members but don't forget to document, document, document. Please!

Do you have members who are in any Public Service activities in the community such as being on the School board, Library board, Environmental groups, committees for EFMLS or AFMS, Officers in local public groups or anywhere where their participation makes a difference in our corner of the world?

Have any of your members authored any books or articles for publication? Did any of your members give presentations pertaining to our hobby? Have they written letters to their government officials about bills coming up for a vote that would affect our club activities or the conservation of our resources?

We live in this big blue marble world, and we do make a difference. Let's document it. Now for the DEADLINES.

I just joined this committee and found out that the deadline for ME to receive an entry is MARCH 1st, 2007. I must give these books to a committee of judges and have them mailed back to me by APRIL 1st so I can mail them to the AFMS chairman for his April 15th deadline. Because this is tax time, the mail may get bogged down. Be sure to wrap it in a water-proof container so it won't get damaged by winter storms.

Send Your Entries to:
Mrs. Pat Pitkin
12 von Zech Way
Mohrsville PA 19541

So start now and get your entries to me NO LATER THAN MARCH 1st.

If you have any questions, my e-mail is <pitkind@earthlink.net> and phone # is 610-488-1817.

Good Luck!

[Ed. Note: You can find a complete rules and entry form for the All American Award by going to <www.amfed.org/AACA2006Application.pdf>].

A FEW NEW FOLKS

from Fran Sick

I'm delighted to introduce a few new committee chairs to you and also announce the continuation of many more from last year. You can see the complete list on page 7.

Welcome aboard to:

Clyf Bourne
Conservation & Legislation.
Merrill Dickenson - Supplies
Bill Gilbert - Bulletin Editors' Advisory
Betsy Oberheim - Junior Activities
Pat Pitkin - All American Award

"Old folks" wearing new hats are

Hazel Remaley
Each One Teach One

Matt Charsky
Convention Advisory
Show Coordinator

Steve Weinberger
Parliamentarian

ROCKHOUDING CONCERNS

by Clyf Bourne, Conservation & Legislation Chair

Jon Spunaugle, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair, has a good revue in the November issue of the AFMS Newsletter. He writes that the US Forest Service is looking over the present fee structure for access to federal lands overseen by the US Forest Service. Reference the Recreation Resource Advisement Committee's (RACs). Just what will come of it we do not know; there may be fees added, taken away, raised or reduced. Our government is setting standards for government organizations to be more self-supporting. In the past, many government agencies and bodies have made rules and regulations without much if any input from the people. Perhaps change is afoot. New interagency agreements allow certain advisory councils such as those in the BLM might be chartered, to be used by the Forest Service. If any vacancies in these advisory councils exist, it would be a wonderful opportunity for us, as rockhounds to apply and become involved and make a difference. The US Forest Service's presence in the Eastern States is larger than that of the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service should offer a better opportunity to get on an Advisory Board.

Another item Jon reported on was the Secure Rural School Land Initiative, bills H ,R, 515 and S-267. The administration proposes to aid rural school districts which may have been hurt by a reduction in funds coming from reduced timber sales from federal lands. A proposed solution is to sell certain parcels of Nat'l. Forest Lands. These are generally small in size but should be monitored for any possible impact on collecting sites or effect on us as rockhounds. Since Jon resides in the Northwest, he reports he has looked into that area and, so far, has not found sale parcels threatening collecting sites. We should be on the alert for parcels for sale within the EFMLS, however. If any of you hear of land

proceedings which might affect our hobby, please notify us. My e-mail is <cwbournesr@epix.net> The purpose of C & L is to look out for our hobby interests. One of the ways is for C & L members to track legislation before Congress and keep us informed so we can write our congressmen. Consult the Internet to find names and contact information.

In the North East, the White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) has issued new Standards and Guidelines for 2006. Copies may be obtained by calling the supervisor's Laconia office, 603-528-8721. Gold panning in streams is still permitted. Surface disturbing rock and mineral collecting are only allowed in certain management areas and by use permits. Permits may be obtained at all ranger districts. Rock collecting is not permitted near safety hazards such as unstable slopes. Jon Herndon, Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Conway, NH, assumes you could be fined and tools confiscated by the WHNFLR if you are caught within the White Mountains Nat'l. Forest although, so far, no such incidents are known.

Check www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white.mountain/projects/forest_plan_revision/Downloads.php. Remember the Deer Hill (purple amethyst), Stowe, ME. dig closing was averted by a dozen or so rock clubs working with the WHNFLR. Agency a few years ago. In response, they laid out a FEE area for collecting. According to Jon Herndon, this area is already pretty well played out and the WHNFLR has yet to close the depleted area and open a new one. He said a letter had been sent to WHNFLR and Terry Miller had responded, stating they were working on it. We must remain ALERT and at the same time, be good rockhounds, abide by the AFMS Land Use Policy and follow our Code of Ethics. Good Hunting.

References: Truth and Some Consequences, Jon Spunaugle, November 2006 AFMS Newsletter

Pamphlet, Recreational Rock And Mineral Collecting On The White Mountain National Forest

Communications with Jonathan Herndon, Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club

EACH ONE TEACH ONE

by Hazel Remaley, EOTO Chair

This is the first request for nominations for the 2007 Each One Teach One Award. You do have a few months before the deadline is upon you, but now is the time to observe those around you in your club. Who does the teaching, lecturing, writing, leading field trips, and in general promoting our hobby, primarily in a volunteer basis? These are the folks who should be nominated for the honor that comes with this EFMLS program.

The latest winner will be named at the convention in West Palm Beach this month and will be announced in the January newsletter. If you previously nominated someone and they did not win the top award, please nominate that person again. There may have been only a few points separating the top nominees. Review your submission and make a few updates. That may take them to the top.

Stay tuned for further messages about this important award and the deadline for your entries.

THE WINDOW

by Betsy Oberheim, Chair

As a rockhound, the pleasure of collecting, utilizing, and observing rocks and minerals is exceeded only by the opportunity to teach others the marvels and beauty on rocks. This hobby is a never-ending source of wonder, and to hear a child say "That fossil is sooo awesome" or "Please Mom, I really want that beautiful crystal!" is just as exciting! There is a window where we can reach, impress and plant the seeds of appreciation and interest in rocks. For my local school district; 3rd grade is the only year they study rocks, and it is a wonderful age of enthusiasm. It's sad that that's the only year they do that unit, but it's a great window to let in the knowledge that may stay with them and later flare up into a passion or at least a fun hobby. There are so many ways to informally teach children; school visits, rock and gem shows, field trips, club activities, etc. And I hope to encourage you to "...teach one" (or many!) Share your hobby and it compounds your own enjoyment! I suspect you already know this, but I would like to establish a basis for this column. I would love to hear from you with suggestions about how you encourage the next generation of rockhounds, and I hope to exchange ideas with you through this column.

In case you need an introduction to me; I am a retired art teacher and make jewelry and cards from the rocks I collect out west on our biannual camping trips. I was past president of the Central PA Rock and Gem Club and youth director for several years. I also do "Rock Shows" in many local schools.



AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

from Cathy Gaber, EFMLS Chair

We would like to honor **Cynthia Payne** as the 2006 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. She is a founding member



of the club (started in 1967) and has remained active all these years. From 1975-1990 the club meetings were even held in her home. She helped start the annual micromount symposium and served as the speaker chair from 1976-1990. She has also held various offices including president and vice president several times each. Cynthia has been a huge supporter of micromounting, participating in many symposiums other than ours and teaching micromounting at Wildacres in the 1980's. She has exhibited minerals many times and won several trophies from EFMLS. She has also served on a number of EFMLS committees. We feel her contributions have been invaluable to both our club and the hobby in general.

submitted by Tom Tucker, President

Shortly after joining the Gem Cutters' Guild of Baltimore two years ago, **Marilyn South** volunteered to chair the coffee break committee and often contributed goodies for the table herself. She held that position for a year before resigning to accept the office of Recording Secretary. Quiet in nature, Marilyn is always there to support any Guild activity whether it's demonstrating her interest in beading at various gem and jewelry shows in the area, teaching classes to the public through our Guild Workshop or chairing committees for our own annual club show. She's one of the "regulars" at our meetings and always exhibits at the show. Marilyn is really one of the gems of our Gem Cutters' Guild.

submitted by Carolyn & Steve Weinberger



A REMINDER

from Bill Gilbert, BEAC Chair

Entries for the 2006 Bulletin Editors' Contest must be received no later than January 5th. Complete rules and all forms were printed in the November EFMLS News and are also available on the EFMLS website <www.amfed.org/efmls/beac.htm>. I'm looking for a swamped mailbox this year and lots of new editors and authors entering the contest.

PROGRAM COMPETITION...WHY?

by Marge Collins

AFMS Program Competition Chair

Have you seen any good programs lately at a Club meeting? Were any of them produced by a fellow Club member? No doubt, there was a round of applause to show appreciation for the producer's efforts.

There is a way that producers of presentations can earn more than a round of applause - by entering Program Competition! There are "rewards and recognition" for the winners. Cash prizes defray production costs, an award certificate and pin are presented to the winners and information is published in newsletters and magazines. But more importantly, each winning program is duplicated and distributed to the seven Regional Libraries, making the winning programs available to Clubs across the country - giving members a chance to enjoy and learn from them for many years.



*If the answer to the first question is "no", perhaps you can borrow an AFMS Winner from the MWF Program Library. There are many excellent programs available.

We admit, not all winners are equal and older programs need to be replaced. You and/or your Club could produce a presentation and enter Program Competition, perhaps to replace an older program. Why not share your interest, your enthusiasm for an aspect of our hobby - so that others may benefit from it and you can reap the rewards? Too late for the 2006 deadline? Start now for 2007.

"Guidelines and Rules" for 2007 Program Competition are on the AFMS website along with "Tips to Develop Programs". If you want more information or have questions, contact your Regional

SAFETY FIRST - HOLIDAY TREE SAFETY

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

The tree is a tradition and centerpiece in many homes during the holiday season. When properly selected and trimmed the traditional tree is a thing of beauty and pride, but if not has lead to over 400 fires and 40 deaths a year in the United States.



To avoid tree fires, consider an artificial tree that is fire resistant and if lighted, UL approved, or a live tree that can be planted outside after the holidays.

If you decide on a live tree, pick one that is fresh and not dried out. Check the tree for insects and dead loose needles and shake or blow them out before bringing the tree indoors. Tree Farms now color the trees prior to shipping, so check the tree for dried out spots, needles falling off or dry branches that snap when bent. Pick a tree that is too high for the room, leaving space for ornaments and that will be well clear of walking areas and heat sources. Cut off the trunk about 1 to 2 inches from the base of the tree at an angle and place in a sturdy, water holding tree stand. Keep the stand continuously filled with water containing a mixture of two cups of Karo syrup, two pinches of Epsom salt, one teaspoon of Bo-

raxo, two ounces of liquid chlorine bleach, and one teaspoon of chelated iron for each two gallons of hot water to ensure the tree stays waterlogged and fireproof. Tie the tree in place to the wall or ceiling to prevent it from falling over. After the holidays, remove the branches and use in the garden over the mulch for protection of the plants from the cold. Do not burn the tree in a fireplace.

Check the tree lights for broken sockets and frayed wires and replace if required or if over 5 years old. Do not use outdoor lights on indoor trees. Use UL or CSA approved extension cords and tree lights and do not exceed the WATT ratings of the lowest rated string or extension cord when connecting together, usually no more than three. Turn off, or better yet unplug light strings when going out or retiring for the night. Do not use lighted candles on trees. Do not use light strings on artificial trees, instead light with spot lights that are placed at a suitable distance from the tree to avoid the lamps heat.



Use flame resistant ornaments on the trees. Place glass ornaments or those with small parts out of reach of small children and pets. Do not use popcorn chains or candy on trees when small children are present to avoid their climbing into the tree for them. Use approved step stools or ladders to reach high places when trimming the tree. Do not use cellophane, as it can not be made flameproof. Use an approved flame retardant on cotton batting, and paper decorations.

Have a great holiday season and New Year.

Program Librarian or
AFMS Program Competition
c/o Marge Collins
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
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269-695-4313 or <margaret@qtm.net>
(Attach "read receipt"
to verify receipt.)

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EFMLS NEWS

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VISIT THE EFMLS WEBSITE
<www.amfed.org.efmls>

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VISIT A SHOW

from Matt Charsky

November:

18-19: Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 56th EFMLS Convention sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. So. Florida Fairgrounds, West Palm Beach Florida. EFMLS Annual Meeting - November 17

18-19: 14th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. George Mason University, Student Union II; Fairfax, VA.

24-26: 27th Annual Show and Sale sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Gem & Mineral Society. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Boulevard; Salem, VA.

February:

24 -25: 14th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show & Sale sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and NY State Academy of Mineralogy. NY State Museum, 4th floor, Empire State Plaza, Madison Av; Albany, NY.

24-25: Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Trade Mart Building, State Fairgrounds, I-55 & High Street, Jackson, MS.

March

3 - 4: 44th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & Community College, I-95 at Exit 4B, Churchmans Rd (Rt 58); Newark, DE

9 - 11: 19th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society and the Augusta Gem & Mineral Society. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St; Augusta, GA

10-11: 43rd Annual Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co. MD. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St; Gaithersburg, MD.

10-11: 2007 Clifton Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the North Jersey Mineralogical Society. Pope John Paul II Elementary School, 775 Valley Rd (Rt 3 at Rt 46); Clifton, NJ.

24-25: 2007 Annual Show & Sale sponsored by the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society and the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society. Lu Lu Temple, 5140 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA.

24 -25: 38th Annual Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Show sponsored by the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club. Athens Twp. Volunteer fire Hall, 150 Herrick Av; Sayre, PA

24-25: 29th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Franklin Co. Rock & Mineral Club. NEW LOCATION: Quality Inn & Suites, Interstate 81 at Exit 14, Wayne Av; Chambersburg, PA

March-April

30-April 1: Atlantic Micromounters Conference hosted by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. Maryland Hospital Association Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. For Registration & Info contact S. Weinberger <cscrystals2@verizon.net>.

June:

23 - 24: 43rd Annual Gilsum Rock Swap and Mineral Show. Gilsum Elementary School, Rt 10, Gilsum, NH.

September:

22-23: 43rd Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard Co. Fairgrounds, MD 32 just off I-70; West Friendship, MD.



If you are an EFMLS member club and would like to have your show or swap listed here, send information to Matt Charsky, EFMLS Show Coordinator at 2430 N Glebe Rd; Arlington, VA 22207 or e-mail at <Charsky.Matthew@epa.gov>.