

EFMLS NEWS

Volume 42, Number 10
October, 2005

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



WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

by Fran Sick

Last month President Carl Miller reported that I have agreed to act as Chairman of the Committee to study and advise on issues concerning the Regional Vice President program. This committee came about as a result of discussion at the 2005 Cracker Barrel meeting in Sayre, PA, in March.

The other members of the committee are **Steve Weinberger**, Past President of both EFMLS and AFMS as well as current Chairman of the EFMLS By-laws and Operating Procedures Committees; **Barbara Fenstermacher**, current Region VI Vice President with many years of experience; **Katie Collins**, current Region I Vice President, relatively new to the position but very active and interested in the issues confronted by Regional Vice Presidents; and **Ellery Borow**, President of Water Oak Gem and Mineral Society in Maine, who has already provided valuable input.

I want to thank each of these people for agreeing to serve on the committee.

Some of the goals of the committee are to assess how the Regional VP program has been functioning in all eight regions, what has been working well, what problems are being encountered, what can be done to resolve these problems and what changes may need to be made.

There is quite a difference in the number of clubs and geographical area covered by the individual regions

ranging from Region I with 31 clubs in 6 states to Region VIII with 8 clubs all located in one state. It has been suggested that some of these regions may need to be somehow divided into more manageable units and the committee will be looking at this as well.

It has also been suggested that perhaps each Regional VP could hold a picnic or other gathering for all of the clubs in their region and at least one region has been doing so successfully for many years. In other regions, however, the distances involved may make this very difficult to implement.

The committee will be asking each individual Regional VP for input on specific questions along with their suggestions and comments. However, as with any such undertaking, in order to develop an assessment that has real merit we need to hear from both sides. Therefore we are asking that any EFMLS member who is interested in supporting and improving the Regional VP program forward comments to the committee as soon as possible.

We want to hear from you about what works, what does not and any comments, criticisms or suggestions. The committee will then sort all this information out and come up with meaningful ideas for implementing changes and providing support for the program and those folks who take on the challenging responsibilities of Regional VP.

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Please remember to send the names & address of your new club officers to Ye Olde Ed and to the EFMLS Secretary so we can keep the lines of communication open.



We hope to have this project completed by late December, 2005, at which time the findings of the committee will be submitted to the Executive Board for a decision on any action needed. Therefore we need to hear from you as soon as possible but certainly no later than November 15. We welcome your input by phone, e-mail or snail mail. You can find the contact information for all Committee Members on page 5 of this issue.

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BIG NEWS FROM THE AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

by Bob Livingston, EFMLS Coordinator

Thanks to your "unrestricted" donations plus those from the other five federations, AFMS officials announced at the recent annual meeting in St. Louis that the goal reached enables us to return to giving two scholarships away per federation per year. That is super news, and special thanks to those of you or your club who helped make that possible. I should note, it is not too late to help the cause some more, as the cushion could be larger.

Here is recognition of those donations received since my report prior to the summer hiatus.

Smokey Mountain Mineral Society
Hartford, TN;

David & Nancy Ballard
Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society
of Montgomery County, MD;

Steve & Carolyn Weinberger
Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore
in memory of Alice Bowman

Richmond Gem & Mineral Society
Richmond, VA.

So, my mailbox is eager to receive your donation - one from your club or a nice memorial donation to recognize someone special. Send any and all made out to "AFMS Scholarship Fund" to: Bob Livingston, AFMS Scholarship Coordinator, 59 Ely Drive, Fayetteville, NY 13066.

REGIONAL VP ELECTION RESULTS

by Wayne Sukow, EFMLS President-elect

The EFMLS Regional VP Program provides a means for every club in the Federation to have an active voice in Federation business. The Federation is divided into regions and the clubs within each region get to select who they want to have as their representative on the EFMLS Executive Board. There are currently eight (8) regions and the elected VP's serve a 2 year term with those in the odd numbered regions being elected during the odd numbered years and those in the even numbered regions elected in even numbered years.

Elections for Regional Vice President in the even numbered regions have just been completed and I'm delighted to announce the results.

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SAFETY FIRST - LIFTING SAFETY

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair

By our very nature of being rock hounds, we get involved with moving heavy specimens and equipment around, in addition to lifting items in our day to day lives.

Prior to lifting an item it is a good idea to consider an number of things.

1. How heavy or bulky is the item to be lifted or carried?

2. How good a shape are you in and have you had any back problems in the past after lifting? Many back problems are of a cumulative type, where a repeated minor injury will flare up and become worse.

3. How much space is there around the object to be lifted and how much space is around where it is to be deposited.

4. What kind of obstacles are there along the transportation route, such as trip hazards, holes, overhangs, etc.?

If any of these questions create a concern, or if in doubt, get help or use an aid such as a dolly, hand truck, or even fork lift. Statistics show that 80% of back injuries occur in people between 30 and 50.

Be sure to utilize appropriate safety equipment such as safety shoes and work gloves when lifting. The use of back belts, as seen at some stores and outlets, has not been shown to prevent back injuries according to recent studies.

Prior to the lift, make sure you have adequate clearance for your hands and arms. Stand close to the load with your feet apart and toes pointed out to provide firm footing. Bend your knees, not your waist. Grip the load firmly with a "full palm grip". Do not place your fingers under the load. Tighten your stomach muscles and then lift head and shoulders first,

and then with your back straight, use the strength of your legs to slowly and smoothly push up. "Jerk-lifting" a load will multiply the stress to your lower back. Keep the load close to your body at all times with your back upright.

Never hold the load away from your body. Make sure you can see over the top of the load. If you should have to change direction with the load, move your whole body with your feet. Do not twist your body which can be especially dangerous for your back.

To raise the load above shoulder height, first lift to waist height and rest on the edge of a ledge, hip, or stand, and then shift hand positions so the load can be boosted after the knees are bent. The knees should be straightened as the object is lifted or shifted to the shoulders. If the load is to be placed on a table or shelf, first set it on the edge, and then push it far enough onto the support so it will not fall. The load should be released gradually as it is set down and then pushed into place with your hands in front.

When setting the load down, keep the back straight and upright, bending the knees. Lower the load slowly and smoothly. Don't add the weight of your body to the load.

EACH ONE TEACH ONE

by Fran Sick

The Each One Teach One Award is unique, as far as I know, to the Eastern Federation. Maybe that's because we have some of the best "teachers" in the country and we need a unique way to thank them. Each year a beautiful plaque and certificate for top award is presented to the person who has done the most to educate us in one or more facets of our hobby, and every nominee is honored with a certificate. If you have nominated someone in the past and that person did not receive the top award he or she may and should be nominated again.

In 2006 the awards will be presented in West Palm Beach, Florida, in November. The deadline for submission of nominations will be early in the summer of 2006. Watch for the exact deadline date and nomination form to be printed soon in the EFMLS Newsletter. Meanwhile, if you have not yet chosen your nominee, I hope you will do so shortly. Then you will need a list or written record of all teaching activities of that individual and some basic identifying information about yourself and the person nominated. If you begin gathering this information now it will only take a few minutes once the nomination form is available to complete and submit it. What a wonderful way to say thank you in a special way to a special person.



EFMLS President Carl Miller and President-elect Wayne Sukow listen attentively during the AFMS Annual Meeting in St Louis, MO this August.

Photo: Steve Weinberger

GOOD NEWS!

by Hazel Remaley

I am happy to report that the lone Eastern Federation entry in the All American Club Award competition came out on TOP !! Congratulations go to the *Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse*. I was not at the Midwest Federation/American Federation Convention in St. Louis, but I certainly am proud to know that perhaps some of my nagging convinced at least one club to enter, and take the top trophy - first place gold.

Now, on to the next installment of my helpful hints on your scrapbook entries. As I stated before, there will be some slight changes in the forms, but I have not been alerted to them yet. Our editor will be publishing the complete entry forms in the November issue of this newsletter and they will be in the October AFMS Newsletter.

Section 4 involves your member's involvement in federation (both regional and American) and other clubs. Some of the categories are:

- do your members hold offices at the federation level?
- have they attended the conventions?
- has the club contributed to scholarship funds or endowment funds?
- have your members given programs for other clubs, attended other club functions, displayed cases at other club shows, exchanged club bulletins, or held joint field trips?

Sounds like a lot, but I am sure that if you really think about it, a lot of the categories will be easy to answer.

Stay tuned for the next installment in November.

EASTERN SCORES WELL AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

from Mary Bateman

Congratulations to the Editors and Authors of Eastern Federation club bulletins whose work was entered in the AFMS Editors' Competition this year. As allowed by AFMS, the top three scoring entries from the EFMLS competition this year were forwarded for the national competition. In addition, a couple of "direct entries" - those not eligible for EFMLS judging in 2005 - were also forwarded. Categories judged at the AFMS level include mini, small and large bulletins; new editors; Original and Advanced Adult Articles, Poetry and Junior Articles and Poems.

Here are the results as announced at the Editors' Breakfast in St. Louis this past August.

New Editors:

3rd - Rocky Echoes, **James Monk**, Editor
Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society

Mini Bulletins:

1st - Collector's Corner, **Bill Ellis**, Editor
Keene Mineral Club

6th - Crystal Courier, **Michael Kessler**, Ed.
Brooklyn Mineralogical Society

Small Bulletins

5th - The Mineral Newsletter
Georgia Olmstead, Editor
Northern Virginia Mineral Club

HM - The Collecting Bag, Bill Gilbert, Ed
Richmond Gem & Mineral Society

Large Bulletins

3rd - Gem Cutters News
Carolyn Weinberger, Editor
Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore

10th - The Mineral Journal
Natalie Darling, Editor
Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg

Special Publications

3rd - The Big One for All America - Show Guide & Program, **Bob Livingston**, Ed
Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

6th - 2004-5 Gem & Mineral Almanac
Mitchell Portnoy, Vivien Gornitz, Karen Rice & Anna Schumate, Editors
New York Mineralogical Club

Original Articles

3rd - What is Datolite?
Cathy Patterson, Author
Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

10th - Screening for Treasures
Phil Schmitz, Author
Maryland Geological Society

HM - The Glen Eyrie Formation Near Colorado Springs, **Jeff Carpenter**, Author
American Fossil Federation

Adult Articles - Advanced

2nd - Rare Earth Minerals by Clyf Bourne
Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club
6th - Minerals in the Ancient World
Vivien Gornitz, Author
The New York Mineralogical Club

HM - The Day the World Ended - For One Reptile, **Joseph Monks**, Author
New York Paleontological Society

Junior Articles - authors under 12

6th - My Science Fair Project
Elizabeth Russell, Author
Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

Junior Articles - authors 12 - 17 yrs.

2nd - 35 Million Year Step Backward in Time
Laura Patzer, Author
American Fossil Federation

5th - Will She Blow Again?
Evgenia Tihomirov, Author
Northern Virginia Mineral Club

9th - My Trip to Herkimer
Amanda Thome, Author
Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club

Adult Poetry

3rd - A Show For All America
Catherine Smith, Author
Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

8th - Elusive Gold
Betsy Oberheim, Author
Central PA Rock & Mineral Club

HM - Pick Me! Pick Me!, by **Michael Gilbert**
Richmond Gem & Mineral Society

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VISIT A SHOW

from William Lema

September:

17 -18: Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club, Zembo Shrine Auditorium, 3rd & Division Streets, Harrisburg, PA

24: Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Albany Town Hall, Rt. 16, Albany, NH.

24-25: 41st Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard Co. Fairgrounds, I-70 at MD rt 32, West Friendship, MD.

October:

1: PESA Autumn Mineralfest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Assoc., Inc. Macungie Memorial Park Building, Macungie, PA., eight miles southwest of Allentown.

1 - 2: Annual show sponsored by the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club. St. Michael School, 320 S Main St (Rt 88), Newark, NY

7 - 9: Annual Show sponsored by the Smokey Mountain Mineral Society. Jefferson Co. Rescue Squad Bldg; 915 Industrial Park Rd; Dandridge, TN

7 - 9: 27th Annual Gaston Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Gaston Co. Gem & Mineral Society. Dallas (Biggerstaff) Park, Dallas Cherryville Hwy (Highway 279 just off Hwy 321); Dallas, NC

7 - 9: 48th Annual Paul Desautels Micromount Symposium sponsored by the Baltimore Mineral Society. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. Registration info: <cweinber@bcpl.net>

8-9: 42nd Annual Gem & Mineral Festival sponsored by the Capital Mineral Club. Sunapee State Park Ski Area, Newbury, NH.

15-16 - 36th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Sale sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society. Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Buildings B & C; Route 9, Rhinebeck, NY.

22-23: Annual Gem-Jewelry-Fossil-Bead Show sponsored by the Rochester Lapidary Society & Rochester Academy of Science Mineral Section. Monroe Co. Fairgrounds, Minett Hall; Calkins Rd; Henrietta, NY.

22-23: 33rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show hosted by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT (near Rt. 6 and Stephen's Auto).

29-30: 34th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Rhode Island Mineral Hunters. Community College of Rhode Island - Knight Campus, Rt. 113, East Av; Warwick, RI.

November

19 -20 - 14th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. Student Union II, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

March 2006

4 - 5: 43rd Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & Community College (I-95 Exit 4B, Churchmans Rd), Newark (Stanton), DE

If you are an EFMLS member club and would like to have your show or swap listed here, send information to William Lema, EFMLS Show Coordinator at 74 Ninth St; E. Providence, RI 02914 or e-mail <williamlema@cox.net>.