

# EFMLS NEWS

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

Volume 41, Number 10  
October, 2003



## IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

It's not too late to contact your Representative in Washington to protest HR2416 and S546, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Acts. These are the pending fossil bills which threaten our collecting rights. Although this bill is aimed at fossil collectors, the handwriting is clearly on the wall and if this one passes, our right to collect rocks and minerals will certainly be the next target.

There are three ways to contact your Representative.

1. Write a letter and mail it to:  
Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515
2. Telephone your Representative  
Use this toll free number  
1-800-839-5276.

When you call - ask for the Congressman's office at which you wish to leave a message - they will connect you quite quickly - leave your name and address and message that you wish that House members to work for the defeat of both of these bills. (You should also call your Senators and let them know how displeased you are that S546 was allowed to pass the Senate and to please ensure that if a similar bill is reintroduced in the next session of Congress that he/she vote against its passage. If we succeed in stopping HR2416 in the House this time, you can be assured that a similar bill will be introduced again early in the next session of Congress.)

from Bob Cranston

3. E-mail your Representative. A complete listing of e-mail addresses can be found at <[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)>. Members of the Senate can be found at <[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)>.

## ANNUAL CONVENTION THIS MONTH

from Jack Rowland, Show Chair

Have you made reservations yet for the EFMLS Annual Convention and Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society's show? Although the date for obtaining a room at the host hotel at the guaranteed convention rate has passed, it's not too late to make reservations. It's also not too late to make reservations for any of the meal functions or let us know that you plan on bringing a display to enhance the show.

If you missed out on the announcement and registration forms, you can still obtain them by visiting the EFMLS website (<[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls)>) and downloading them or by checking the September issue of EFMLS News.

We're looking forward to your visit during our annual show. Now in its 34th year, our show has always been well received by the "rockhounding" community and the general public as well. Come to Pughkepsie this fall and join the fun.

## NOVEMBER ISSUE

from Ye Olde Editor

We're going to publish the November EFMLS Newsletter a bit late next month so that we can include all the convention news in it. The deadline for the issue will remain October 1, but it will not be mailed out until AFTER the convention and annual meeting have taken place.

## WILDACRES

from Ginger Posthumus

We're just back from a most successful fall Wildacres Workshop. Those attending had a wonderful week. Pictures and a complete wrap-up will be in the November newsletter. We'll announce the dates of the 2004 sessions and speakers just as soon as we receive them from the Wildacres Foundation. Plan now to join the fun.

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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 in July or August.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

from Larry Vandergrift



I have spent the last eleven months as Eastern Federation President and admit I was not prepared for the amount of time the job consumed of my already busy schedule. Somehow, I was able to meet most of the deadlines on time. As always, looking back things are not as bad or desperate as they seem at the time you are trying to write an article for the newsletter or some other function that was supposed to be in the mail yesterday. All in all, the experiences have been good ones and the support from everyone has been just great. I appreciate everyone that provided advise and nourished me along the way. Thanks.

I would like to include in my last article the President's end of the year report which is given to the delegates at the Annual Meeting, but not generally published for the total membership. Some might enjoy the reading.

### 2002 - 2003 EFMLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In accordance with guidelines prescribed, herewith I respectfully submit the following report covering the period November 1, 2002 through August 10, 2003.

It was with great pleasure and my privilege to serve as the President of the Eastern Federation and AFMS Regional Federation Officer and to work with our officers and committee chairman. We began the year with all committee chairs in place and eager to carry out the task at hand. Some committee chairperson report ongoing activity as it happens. For committees that are less active we instituted a six months Mid-term Report. After six months into each Chairs term the report allows us to review accomplishments and redirect focus if necessary. This small general report has helped identify where assistance is needed and also to acknowledge achievements.

Inga Wells resigned as Program Librarian due to a change in her residence which no longer afforded her the space needed to house the EFMLS Slide and Video Library. We were pleased that Richard Harrison stepped forward to accept the task and is doing a fine job. With the death on June 27, 2003 of Terry Cirrincione, Chairman Convention Advisory and the Ways and Means Committees, coming so

late in her term a new chairman was not appointed. Her functions and duties were graciously assumed by Matt Charsky and Mary Bateman for Convention Advisory and Carolyn and Steve Weinberger for Ways and Means. The Wildacres Functioning Committee self-produced a "Wildacres Workshop Brochure" depicting the outstanding accommodations, superb instructors, excellent classes, and the overall good times being had at the Wildacres Retreat. The Eastern Federation hosted the "AFMS Judges Workshop," at the fall session of Wildacres in September 2003.

The EFMLS is facing the same problem as other federations, one of declining membership. With 136 clubs we boast of 10,500 members within the Eastern Federation at this time. In 2000 Eastern Federation membership stood at 11,121 with 146 clubs. At the present rate our clubs and overall membership is declining at approximately 3% per year. We should be looking for a way to reverse this trend.

We are pleased to announce that the 2003 AFMS Scholarship Honorary Award Winner is Dr. Helen Lang, Associate Professor of Geology, West Virginia University.

*continued on page 4*

## THE 2002 WILDACRES APPRECIATION AWARD

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, takes great pleasure in presenting the 2003 Wildacres Appreciation Award for outstanding contribution and distinguished service to the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops.



Whereas, Carl Phillips served as Director of the Wildacres Workshop for five years, from 1984 to 1988.

He was Director prior to the establishment of the Wildacres Functioning Committee.

He worked on the planning committee that outlined and established the duties and functions of the Wildacres Workshop Functioning Committee that was brought into existence in 1989.

He served as the first Chairman of the Functioning Committee in 1989 and 1990.

He served as Co-Chairman of the committee in 1991.

Whereas, Carl Phillips has served the Eastern Federation in many other positions:

as an advisor to Wildacres Workshop,

as EFMLS Parliamentarian 1992, 1994 and 1995,

as General Show Chairman 1980, 1983, and 1985,

and as a member of the Bylaws and Operating Procedures Committee and

earned the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Citation Award in 1993.

[Ed. Note: Inaugurated in 1997, these awards are given annually at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop by the President of the Federation to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the EFMLS sponsored Wildacres Workshops. Previous recipients are Angie Teixeira, Jennie R. Smith, Virginia Meador, E. T. Pike, Virginia & Tom Milligan and Milton Shaw.]

## ALL AMERICAN AWARDS

from Hazel Remaley

Well Folks, Here we go again. Summer is over, some field trips are history, and memories are all we have. But, if you have someone in your club who is diligent about recording the goings on and you have pictures and articles to substantiate your events, that it all you need to start the scrapbook that I have been begging and nagging you for. I know that that sentence is far too long, and probably is not phrased correctly, but I certainly hope you get the idea. As I have said many times, all it takes is a loose leaf binder, the guide for the format, and several good people to assemble the information. The clubs who have assembled a scrapbook in the past are very proud of them. What a wonderful way to show visitors to your club show just what you are about. The format was last published in the Dec. 2002 issue of this newsletter. If there are changes this year, they will be published at a later date. So, for now, why not start putting the material together. Then when the due date is announced, you will be ready. With the combined AFMS/EFMLS meeting in Syracuse next July, I would expect a March deadline to me, but that is only a guess. For now, review the format, gather your information, and start asking your members for other information that you may not be aware of.

If you have questions, I can be reached at 570-888-7544 or <northridge@infoblvd.net>.

### CORRECTION

The e-mail address for Program Librarian Richard Harrison is:

<rlh-ss@infoblvd.net>

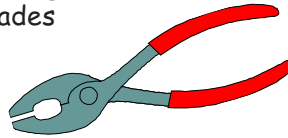
Please update your records as well as your Directory.

**HAND TOOL SAFETY - PLIERS AND FILES**

Slip joint pliers, which includes the well known water pump pliers, have serrated jaws with a rod-gripping section and are used to hold objects. The slip joint accommodates objects of different sizes. These pliers may also have a cutting edge for cutting soft wire and nails, however cutting large or hard items will spring the jaws. Arc joint pliers are similar, but may have straight or curved jaws and will accommodate a larger variety of object sizes. The tightening of bolts or nuts with slip joint or arc joint pliers is not recommended and will usually result in damage to the nut or bolt and may lead to damaged knuckles when the pliers slip. Use wrenches for tightening nuts and bolts. Vice grip pliers are designed to provide a tighter grip, but are still not to be used to tighten nuts and bolts. Parallel jaw pliers are designed to hold flat surfaced items, such as sheets of metal.



working surface, thus keeping fingers away from the wire ends. Hand shears are made with straight or curved cutting blades and are used for cutting sheet metal. Shears are made for right-handed operators so that the cutting line is always in full view for accuracy. Straight blade shears are used for cutting straight lines and curves, while curved bladed shears are used for cutting short straight lines and curves and small intricate designs.



When using diagonal pliers, end cutting pliers, or shears, keep fingers away from the jaws and cutting edges and always wear eye protection. Do not attempt to cut material that is heavier than the tool is designed for. Do not use pliers or shears as hammers or pry bars. Keep shears sharp with an oil stone or file. Grinding is not recommended and shortens shear life. Keep pliers and shears clean and lubricate the pivot point with a light oil. Store in a dry location on hooks or a shelf, protecting the cutting surfaces from contact with other tools. A thin coat of oil can be applied to protect from rust. Do not remove insulation from handles or oil insulated handles. Replace pliers that have broken handles, cutting edges or jaws.

Flat nosed and round nosed pliers have a fixed pivot jaw and curved handles and may or may not be equipped with insulated grips. The flat nosed pliers may have smooth or serrated jaws and are designed to bend light sheet metal or wire. Round nose pliers are used to make loops in soft wire.

Diagonal cutting pliers have a fixed pivot and curved handles that are offset from the jaws about 15 degrees so as to provide the operator enough knuckle clearance while making flush cuts in soft metal. These pliers are designed for cutting small, light pieces of wire, cotter keys, solder, etc., and should not be used to hold or grip items. When cutting, restrain the piece that is to be cut off so it will not become a missile hazard. End cutting pliers or nippers are used to cut off wire flush to the

Straight-lip flat jaw tongs have a fixed pivot point, two straight jaws and long handles and are used for placing hot items into and picking them out of pickling solution.

Files come in many types and sizes and are used in metal smithing and soap stone carving. Some general safety precautions for using files are:

1. Never use a file without a securely attached file handle (unless is a swiss pattern type).

2. Do not oil files which will cause the file to slide across the work, preventing fast cutting.

3. Do not use files for anything but filing.

4. Clean files often, as clogged files will scratch the work. Always use a file scorer and file cleaning brush to clean a file-do not strike against another tool or object to remove filings.

5. Store files in a file rack or box so that the file faces or edges do not touch each other or other tools. Do not store files with lubricants on them. Wrap each file with a water-proofed barrier wrapping paper.

Proper care and use of hand tools will provide the operator with long tool life, injury free.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*continued from page 2*

November was good for us, we announced that the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem and Mineral Society will be hosting our annual convention in Poughkeepsie, NY on Oct 17-19, 2003. The Eastern Federation is honored to host the combined Eastern Federation and AFMS Conventions in Syracuse, NY for 2004.

Although we are looking at some possible setbacks, this has been a stable year for EFMLS.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Larry Vandergrift  
EFMLS President

## AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

by Bob Livingston

Despite the many distractions of summer and vacations, I am pleased that several of you have kept this important activity in mind and that there have been donations received since we last reported in the June issue.

Arthur Walker and his wife Florence Walker of the Southern New Hampshire Mineral Club have each been remembered in memorial donations by both the club itself and by Edith Hammond of the same club. At the same time, the Southern New Hampshire Mineral Club sent a general donation.

In addition, the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD has also remembered the fund with a welcome donation.

Letters of appreciation went to all the above, but once again we do thank you for continuing to support this important ongoing endeavor.

If you wish to remember a fellow club member, friend or family member for doing something nice, or someone who has passed on, for their years of loyal service, or you simply recognize the value of continuing to fund the important education of our earth sciences scholarship recipients, you can make out a check to AFMS Scholarship Fund. Send to me for processing/notification:

Bob Livingston  
Scholarship Coordinator,  
59 Ely Drive  
Fayetteville, NY 13066-1001

Checks should be made payable to "AFMS Scholarship Foundation".

## AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

from Cathy Gaber

We're pleased to share information this month about a few more individuals who have been recognized by their club for contributions to that organization.



Two members from the Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, a husband and wife team, have devoted their talents to the club since 1994 and are valued for keeping the club an active organization.

*Kathleen Wallis* has served as an innovative president, secretary, treasurer, and show co-chair. She has been instrumental in revitalizing our educational programs for elementary and middle school students of the Aiken/Augusta area. As library chairman, she was instrumental in reorganizing the club library and its record keeping. In addition, she is our web master, designing the site and keeping it up-to-date as needs arise. *Walt Kubilius*, also a past president, is a wealth of geology and paleontology information from an extensive academic background and personal exploration. He is a consummate lecturer and has presented numerous programs for members. He has also been actively involved in our annual show and has added considerably to the education of young folks and others who search for answers about our terra ferma and its history. In addition, he served for a number of years as field trip chairman extending his collecting experiences in members' behalf.

*Submitted by Barbara Fenstermacher*



On behalf of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, *Peter Chin* is particularly worthy to be nominated for the 2003 AFMS Rockhound of the Year. Peter became president during a period of dif-

ficulty for the club. His enthusiasm and energy has been focused on improving and enhancing the status of the club and revitalizing the membership, and he has achieved notable results. Peter makes the monthly club meetings fun, encourages member participation, and helps bring in good door prizes and great speakers. Peter reinstated the annual club picnic by adding games, educational quizzes for juniors with prizes, a mineral swap, and he even brought his secret ingredient BBQ chicken prepared at 4:30 a.m. Peter reinvigorated our field trip program by appointing an effective and active field trip chairman and "aiding and abetting" him. Peter works hard to insure success of the annual club show with its large fluorescent display and exhibits by members and guests. Peter recently initiated an annual club scholarship in honor of, and named for, Fred C. Schaefermeyer. Mr. Chin is slow to take credit for the work he has done but makes great efforts to honor and thank club members who contribute to the club, especially for work done for many years. This has contributed to the club spirit.

*nominated by Georgia Olmstead*

Has your club recognized someone for 2003? If the answer is "No", there is still time to do so. Send the name of an individual or couple from your club, along with a 50 word or less description of why this person (or couple) is so valuable to your organization and we'll print it in both the AFMS and EFMLS Newsletters.

Send your submissions to:

Cathy Gaber  
5707 Northfield Rd  
Bethesda, MD 20817-6737  
<bg@his.com>

## EFMLS NEWS

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### VISIT A SHOW

from *George Everett*

If you are an EFMLS member club and would like to have your show or swap listed here, send information to George Everett, EFMLS Show Coordinator at 69 Jeff St., Oxford, MS 38655-5602 or e-mail him at <mlgae@olemiss.edu>.

#### September

27-28: 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard County Fairgrounds, MD 32 at I-70; West Friendship, MD. (just west of Baltimore)

27- 28: 15TH Annual Hiddenite Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society. Hiddenite Educational Complex, Sulpher Springs Rd, Hiddenite, NC.

#### October

4: Autumn Mineralfest, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association, Inc., Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA

3-5: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale sponsored by the Gaston County Gem & Mineral Club. Dallas Park, Hwy 279 W-Dallas Cherryville Hwy, Dallas North

4 - 5: The Central Kentucky Gem and Mineral Show, sponsored by the Central Kentucky Gem and Mineral Society. Kentucky National Guard Armory, Airport Road, Lexington, KY.

**18-19: 34th Annual Show, sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society and the EFMLS Annual Convention. Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY.**

25:14th anual Fluorescent Rock and Mineral Show, Ultraviolation 2003, sponsored by The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County . The First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA

#### November

1 - 2: 34th Annual "Gemarama", sponsored by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. CFS, School at Church Farm, Business Route 30 & Route 202, Exton, PA.

1 - 2: Rochester Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Rochester Lapidary Society and Mineral Section, Rochester Academy of Science. Monroe County Fairgrounds, 2685 Calkins Road, Henrietta, NY

1 - 2: 12th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. Student Union II Building, George Mason Univ., Fairfax, VA.

8 - 9: Annual Mineral, Fossil, Gem, and Jewelry show, sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Mineral Society. Jefferson County Rescue Squad Building, 915 Industrial Park Rd, Dandridge, TN. Exit 417 off I-40, go south 0.8 mi. turn left, 2nd building on right.

21-23: The Carnegie Gem & Mineral Show, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA.

28-30: 24th Annual Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Show at the Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society.

#### March 2004

6 - 7: 41st Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. New Location - Delaware Technical & Community College, I-95, Exit 4B churchmans Rd (Rt 58), Newark, DE.

#### April 2004:

2 - 4: 32nd Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference. Tyson's Westpark Hotel, McClean, VA. Info & Registration: contact Steve Weinberger <cweinber@bcpl.net>.

#### July 2004:

7 - 12: Combined EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. State Fairgrounds, Syracuse. NY.