

EFMLS NEWS

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



SAFETY MATTERS – THE EXAMPLE

by Ellery Borow

The examples we set for the kids around us are profound. Whether it's our own kids, the neighbors kids, the playground kids, the kids in the grocery store, or the kids on our field trips, kids are watching what we adults do.

Have you every taken note of the oft-repeated safety message recited by air-line flight attendants just prior to take off? There is a section in their message about loss of cabin pressure and the resulting need to take the now-dangling-in-front-of us oxygen masks, pull them out to straighten (un-kink) them and, place the masks on our faces. After we are wearing the masks, we are then directed to place them on the kids traveling with us. There is a reason why we are told to place them on our faces first before placing them on the kids faces. When a kid sees the mask on us first, they will understand that it is safe and right thing for them to do as well. Like it or not, for better or worse, we set the examples kids learn to adopt.

Just as with aircraft safety, field trip safety is important and if adults set a good example, it can make an impression on kids. Kids will mimic, adopt, accept, follow and learn from the examples we set. Safety issues are no exception to that essential nature of kids.

Kids, for the most part, want to grow up, be adults, and do the things adults do. If we, as responsible adults, set good examples that pathway to adulthood will be that much safer for the child. On the next rock collecting adventure, think about putting your proper footwear on first, wearing your safety goggles first, placing gloves on your hands first. On our upcoming rock collecting outings please mind where you toss your leaverite, mind how you use your collecting tools, pay attention to how we interact with our fellow rockhounds -- the kids are watching.

Now, even if the kids are hundreds of feet away from where we are working kids will do what they do best. The curious nature of kids and the little sponges in their heads will absorb the sights of our actions, the words we speak, and take note of our behavior. Even without your being aware, kids are watching us -- that is their nature.

What if the kids around us are far away from our location, too far away to see the details of whether or not we are wearing safety glasses? Should the adults in such an instance let their guard drop and dismiss wearing goggles, or gloves, or using proper tool technique? Well, adults are just grown up kids and we need to protect ourselves too!

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SEPTEMBER

Perhaps you have noted the incredible tendency of kids to show up just as we make our greatest mistakes (such as not wearing those goggles). Even without kids around, we adults still deserve to be safe too. It's just that, with kids around, we need to extra vigilant with our setting a good, or even a great, example for them to soak up.

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JUST A SHORT TIME

by Merrill Dickinson, President



It is only a very few more months before the succeeding officers and appointees begin their rolls as leaders for the Federation. I wish them good speed in their tasks and I hope that they will be able to move the Federation forward with good judgment. In the time remaining for the change-over in November and the next convention and annual Business Meeting in October, 2016, it is unlikely that there will be any proposals or ideas that can be enacted, but surely there will be many discussions taking place. So, in the interim, let's have some fun. Here is something to educate you and keep your mind active.

In my first draft to our EFMLS Newsletter, I found an article from a Texas club's bulletin dated September 1992 titled "Rock and Mineral Pronunciation Guide". The article was an alphabetical list of minerals from A to Z with corresponding phonetic sounds. The list was three pages long. Our EFMLS Newsletter editor, upon reading my article, contacted me to suggest that the bulletin article may have been taken from a reference book and that publishing the list in our newsletter might violate copyright laws. The result was that we should not publish the list even though the article is 23 years old. I did a search on the internet and I could not find a reference to the bulletin.

The idea for you and your clubs to do a phonetic list of minerals is still on the table. Try this yourself. There are hundreds of names to choose from. Use your own take on what the sounds would sound like. (Ref. The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals, et al). This can also be used for an educational youth program. Also, here is another game. Do the phonetic translations with the names of dinosaurs. Here is some help with the internet. Dinosaur Names and their Meanings – <kidsdigdinos.com/dinosaurnames.htm and <en.wikipedia.org/List-of-dinosaur-genera> and <www.bing/images/search?q=%22*dinosaur+names*%22&FORM=HDSC2> .

Club's Corner

For those clubs who have a show, try this to increase your attendance, public interest and your revenue. A club in upstate New York now has vendors who are engaged with Metaphysical, Psychic, Reiki and Holistic activities. Many people who are in these societies are always looking for rocks and minerals as well as other paraphernalia. Another draw to your club would be vendors and artisans from our Native American culture. Visit a Native American Pow Wow to see firsthand what they have to offer.

Merrill

LAST CALL FOR AFMS ENDOWMENT TICKETS

by Carolyn Weinberger

The excitement is building and soon it will be time to announce the winners of the prizes being offered in the 2015 AFMS Endowment Drawing which will be held during the AFMS/SCFMS convention in Austin, Texas this October. Over the years, our EFMLS ticket holders have always fared well in these drawings.

The AFMS Endowment Fund was established about 30 years ago as a means of raising revenues to be used for special AAFMS projects that benefit our local clubs. The monies raised from fund raising efforts like the drawing, are invested with only the interest generated from the principal available for use. Some of the projects funded by this interest include the various programs donated by AFMS to our EFMLS program library (you can borrow these for use at club meetings at no charge other than return postage) and the various badges that clubs with organized juniors programs can obtain.

There are currently 22 fabulous prizes in the drawing, all donated by members of clubs like yours. If you would like to see each of them in color, just visit the AFMS website <www.amfed.org>, scroll down and click on the "2015 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing" link.

Four new prizes have been added this month.

#19. A metal nail trilobite donated by John T. Benedict of Some Distant World. This iron sculpture is about 9" long. Estimated value is \$35. (RMFMS).



#20. A green and purple fluorite carving has been donated by Sandy Fuller and Martha Miss of Rock Biz. It is about 4" tall. This item has an estimated value of \$65. (MWF).

#21. Calico onyx from Barstow, California, necklace and earrings from Mary Hicks of Contra Costa Gems. Estimated value is \$50. (CFMS).



#22. A beautiful heart shaped opal fashioned by and donated by Steven Shimatzki, Toledo Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value is \$200. (MWF)



If you're going to Austin, you can purchase tickets from me during the AFMS meeting on Thursday or during the day at the show on Friday, but your best bet is to send me a stamped self-addressed envelope and your check payable to "AFMS Endowment" by October 15th. Include your name, address, and phone number with your order.

Other prizes with estimated value in parenthesis

- #1 - Copper and copper stock certificate (\$65)
- #2 - Howlite & onyx agate necklace and earrings (\$75)
- #3 - Agatized coral head (\$100)
- #4 - Fossil fish from Green River formation, WY (\$65)
- #5 - Tampa Bay coral pair (\$50)
- #6 - Willow leaf fossil from Green River formation (\$125)
- #7 - Agate bola (\$50)
- #8 - Calcite with celestine mineral specimen (\$60)
- #9 - Jade "fruit" sculpture (\$75)
- #10 - Sterling silver necklace w/variscite pendant (\$100)
- #11 - Owl etched on verdite (\$75)
- #12 - Stellerite mineral specimen (\$75)
- #13 - Red jasper pendant set in silver (\$75)
- #14 - Three ocean jasper eggs (\$75)
- #15 - Dendritic quartz wire wrapped pendant (\$65)
- #16 - Dichroic glass wire wrapped pendant (\$70)
- #18 - Mookite carving \$150)

The drawing will be held on October 24 during the AFMS/SCFMS convention in Austin, TX. If you're one of the lucky winners, and you're not present, your prize will be mailed to you shortly after the end of the convention.

Please send your ticket "order" to me at:
Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

THE SUMMER RUSH

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS ACROY Chair

The late summer rush is sooooo very busy a time for many rockhounds – field trips and digs, club picnics, shows, and a myriad of other outdoor activities. The late summer rush is also a great time to step back and take note of the effort many of your members devote to your club's health and well being.



In this year's late summer rush, please consider taking note of all that your members do in support of your club and consider honoring one of your best to be your club's AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2015.

You can submit the names and deeds of an individual or a couple plus the name and deeds of one junior from your club each year. If you do a brief write-up (100 words or less) telling of your honorees valuable contributions to your club and send that information to me (including the name of your person, club affiliation, as well as your name as submitter), we will have the privilege of printing that submission in a future AFMS and EFMLS Newsletter.

While this is the late summer rush, we hope everyone still takes time out of their busy rockhound schedule to stop and smell the pyrite, or quartz, or rhodochrosite, or whatever fragrances makes this time of year special to you. I look forward to hearing from you with information about your club's "Rockhound of the Year".

MATERIAL FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

by Mary Bateman, BEAC Chair

Hope you enjoyed your summer and were able to stay cool. As I sit here and write this, it has been in the mid 90's and above with lots of humidity and rain here in Northern New Jersey. A lot better than those areas of the country that are experiencing temperatures in the 100's. During this sweltering heat, only the most dedicated rockhounds are out there doing their thing.

For the summer, many editors were fortunate enough to be able to take a break from their monthly newsletter/bulletin output. Others continued to produce their publications throughout the summer. No matter which category you fall into, it seems that September is the month that most clubs gear up for the coming year—activities usually abound after a summertime lull. It's time for that dreaded chore to get busy and solicit articles for not only the next issue but future issues of your publication.

Members are usually energized after a summer break. Now would be an opportune time to approach members to write articles for the newsletter/bulletin. Remember, it is harder to say "no" if you contact them in person rather than over the phone or even electronically. It is also easier to get a "yes" or "I can do that" if you give them a specific topic to write about. Don't forget the junior members—they are often overlooked and even a six-year old can submit something. Here are a few ideas for topics for material that you might ask someone to write:

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

by Betsy Oberheim, EOTO Chair

To many of us, back to school time means the grandchildren are getting school clothes and new shoes and are maybe not as excited as we hope about the new school year!

But it also brings new possibilities for spreading the work about our club and our love of geology. Are you aware of what grades of elementary school near you concentrate on a geology unit? In our system its only 3rd grade. But such a delightful age; too young to be arrogant but old enough to get really excited about finding cool rocks. I've found the teachers to be thrilled to have someone come in to their class and share their knowledge.

The "fly in the ointment" now is the new "Child Abuse Protection Act". After teaching 53 years, I still had to undergo a PA Child Abuse History Clearance check. Getting the certificate was a simple quick process, finding the right building took much longer. So now Toni (Donchak; my right hand lady) and I are certified and ready to go have fun with our eager 3rd graders. Check on your state's requirements before you schedule your visits. And remember to let me know who in your club is the person who encourages others to join our hobby.

EFMLS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS

The Rochester Lapidary Society is pleased to honor **Liliya Greggo** as its Junior Rockhound of the Year 2015.

Fourth grader Liliya Greego formed a lunchtime rock group at her school. She then proposed a formal group to the director of the Gifted and Talented program. "Ro-Ro", the result of her effort, is a 2-hour a week program for 4th and 5th grade students interested in rocks and minerals.

Liliya has done presentations and displays at the school as well as at the Rochester Lapidary Society annual gem, mineral and fossil show. She won awards in the Midwest Federation sponsored Youth Poster Contest for 2014 and has earned patches in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. Best of all, she communicates her enthusiasm to others as she builds knowledge and her collection.

submitted by Frank Roakoski

Formed in 1989 the American Fossil Federation celebrated its 25th anniversary in October 2014. The highlight of this celebration was contributed by **Debbie Young**. Her effort to design and create a photo montage display of our past and present members was amazing! Debbie also served as our 1999 and 2000 bulletin editor – winning numerous awards as editor and as author of numerous articles in the EFMLS editors' contests. In addition, she's presented several talks to the club during our meetings. The AFF is indeed fortunate to have Debbie Young as one of our valued members.

SAFETY MATTERS

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Also, please consider this -- by our setting a good example, the parents of the kids around us will have a much easier time teaching kids the right things to do because everyone around the kids will be doing the right things -- what a great relief for a parent of young children! It's no fun for a parent to have to keep saying to their child, "No, don't do what they are doing." or "No, that guy over there is not following the safety rules for the trip."

Be safe, act safe, set a safe example, and see the smiles. Be safe 'cause your safety matters.

AS THE FISCAL YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE

by Jean Charsky, EFMLS Treasurer

As a reminder ... The EFMLS fiscal year ends on October 31 so all **requests for reimbursements must be received by the Treasurer by October 15, 2015.**

Payment of Invoices and Reimbursement of Expenses

Most purchases made by members of the EFMLS Executive Board and Committees are budgeted and tracked by account and will be paid upon presentation of appropriate supporting documentation that is summarized and totaled. Original receipts or invoices for the current fiscal year (11/1/2014 – 10/31/2015) are examples of supporting documentation.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the individual member of the EFMLS Executive Board or Committees to ensure that the EFMLS Treasurer receives the invoices and supporting documentation summarized and totaled for the current fiscal year within 30 days of the purchase/expense and **no later than October 15, 2015.**

- The EFMLS Treasurer is responsible for the EFMLS budgeted accounts.
- The Wildacres Workshop Committee is responsible for the Wildacres budgeted accounts.
- The EFMLS Supplies Committee is responsible for the supply expenditures.

Each of the three categories are reviewed by the Audit Committee.

Payment (Invoice Without a Purchase Order)

If you have no receipt, the Treasurer cannot reimburse you for the expense(s) and there is no need for you to submit a request.

Payment (Invoice With a Purchase Order)

Receipts, invoices and summary of purchases will be reviewed. Should any questions arise or discrepancies be noted the Treasurer will contact the individual member of the EFMLS Executive Board or Committee to resolve. Payment will proceed as resolved, made in a timely manner and mailed appropriately.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter.

LAPIDARY OF THE MONTH ARTICLES SOUGHT FOR ROCK & GEM MAGAZINE

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Rock & Gem contributing author

Rock & Gem is the officially sponsored hobby magazine of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies—our official magazine! They and Senior Consulting Editor Bob Jones have done much to promote rockhounding and rock clubs like those to which you and I belong. As you may know, I'm a regular contributing author, as well, mostly with articles for their "Rock & Gem Kids" section. Recently, *Rock & Gem* Managing Editor Lynn Varon has asked my help soliciting articles from within the ranks of the regional and national Federations for their "Lapidary of the Month" feature.

"Lapidary of the Month" is usually the very first article appearing in each issue of the magazine. In it, a lapidary artist (amateur or professional) describes a relatively simple project with a photo and step-by-step procedures for others to follow. For an example, see page 8 of the July 2015 issue. We would like to encourage *you* to write such a contribution! Here are the specifications:

- A 500-word description telling step-by-step how you crafted your lapidary project from start to finish, saved as a document file.

- At least one close-up digital color photograph of the finished project (with camera set for high resolution, i.e., 300 dpi at 4 inches by 5 inches, minimum).

Send your document file and digital photo (.tif or .jpg) as attachments in an email to editor@rockngem.com with the subject line "Lapidary of the Month." Include your name and a street address (not a PO Box) for prize delivery should your entry be selected for publication. (Only winners will be notified.)

Authors of articles selected to appear in "Lapidary of the Month" receive a two-speed Dremel Model 200 N/40 MultiPro kit and a wall plaque in recognition of their creativity and craftsmanship. (Thus the need for a street address.)

For questions or further submission details, please contact Lynn Varon at *Rock & Gem*, 5235 Mission Oaks Blvd. #201, Camarillo, CA93012, phone (972) 448-4626, email editor@rockngem.com. Here's to good projects and good writing—and to seeing *you* as a Lapidary of the Month!

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.

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Wildacres Continued

**Also Eastern Representative
to American Federation Committee*



VISIT THE EFMLS WEBSITE
<WWW.AMFED.ORG/EFMLS>

VISIT A SHOW

from Matt Charsky

August:

22-23: 50th Annual Rock & Mineral Show sponsored by the St. Lawrence Co. Rock & Mineral Club. Madrid Community Center, Madrid, NY.

September:

5-6: 26th Annual Rockhounds Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Kennebec Rocks & Minerals Club. National Guard Armory, Western Ave., Augusta, ME

12-13: 52nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Northern Berkshire Mineral Club. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 515 Curran Hwy, MA

19-20: Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Jewelry Show & Sale sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society. Gold's Gym & Sports Complex, 258 Titusville Rd; Poughkeepsie, NY

26-27: 51st Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard Co. Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

October:

3: Fall Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA.

17-18: 43rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave; Bristol, CT.

24: Annual "Ultraviolation" (Fluorescent mineral show) sponsored by the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks Co. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd; Fairless Hills, PA.

November:

7 – 8: 46th Annual Gemarama 2015: "Rocks in the USA" hosted by the Tuscarora Lapidary Society. NEW LOCATION: Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center, Hall C; Oaks, PA.

7 – 8: 27th Annual Show & Sale sponsored by the Stamford Mineralogical Society. Eastern Freenwich Civic Center, Greenwich, CT.

21-22: 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead & Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. So. Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL.

21: 2nd Annual Mineral/Fossil Fest sponsored by the Lancaster Co. Fossil & Mineral Club. Trinity Church of Christ, 450 W Main St; Mountville, PA.

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 <matt2430@comcast.net>.