AFMS Scholarship Foundation Honorees For 2004

from Dee Holland, Foundation President

Dr. Garvin has been an Asst. Professor, Associate Professor and Professor of Geology - Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa from 1969 to present. Dr. Garvin has interacted with the Cedar Valley Rock and Mineral Society for at least 23 years and has been very supportive of their activities.

Dr. Garvin's strong leadership in the field of Geology is shown by the forty-three student research projects and internships he has supervised, the thirteen grants he has secured to support student research, the thirty-one public presentations he has made, his eighteen publications, and his many leadership roles in professional organizations. Of particular interest to amateurs is his book, "Iowa's Minerals: Their Occurrence, Origin, Industries and Lore." This book presents very readable information for rockhounds to use in their study of minerals of Iowa. In illustrating the minerals, he has included photographs of specimen found by area amateurs.

Dr. Andrew R. Campbell
Rocky Mountain Federation

Nominated by the Chaparral Rockhounds of Roswell, New Mexico. Dr. Andrew R. Campbell, Department of Earth & Environmental Science, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, New Mexico.

Dr. Campbell began his educational training by attending Indiana University. He graduated with Distinction & Honors in Geology. He went on to Harvard University and received his M.S. in Geology in 1979 and his Ph.D in Economic Geology in 1983.

Dr. Campbell is an outstanding educator, researcher and public relation agent in the Earth Sciences. He has presented papers to the New Mexico Mineral Symposium which is sponsored by the Albuquerque Geol and Mineral Society, the Chaparral Rockhounds, the Los Alamos Geological Society and the New Mexico Bureau of Mines. Over half of the annual 250 - 300 attendees at this symposium are members of RMFMS clubs New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado.

Dr. Campbell has made himself available to all public school teachers within the state of New Mexico for presentations to their classes. And he has given presentations on mining, stressing the balance between our need for resources and environmental considerations to several classes in Socorro, New Mexico.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Minerals: The Foundation of Society
Visit The AFMS Website
www.AmFed.org

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AFMS Newsletter
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS
VOLUME 57, NUMBER 4
MARCH, 2004
Kids Are Our Future

from Marvin Starbuck, AFMS President

It seems to be a difficult job to get clubs to take on the responsibility of hosting a Federation show and convention. I’m sure there are a number of reasons they are reluctant to step forth and “bid” on hosting a federation show. One of the major reasons is “Are we going to lose money in doing that?”

When the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society of Springfield, Illinois hosted the 2002 MWF Show and Convention, they invited co-sponsors to help with the finances. Finances to be used for bussing school kids to the show, publicity, obtain speakers, and the special display…A T-Rex skull.

For the last 25 years, my club, The Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society has designated Friday of our show as “kids day.” We invite all the 3-4-5th grades in a 50 mile radius of Kalamazoo. We have a lot of material available for the kids, as well as the teachers. The last couple of years we have been experiencing fewer and fewer schools able to bring their “kids” because of the funding for school field trips. In our case, it costs approximately $30.00 per hour for the bus for field trips. So in order to get the maximum number of students, we have decided to subsidize the cost of bussing. As our treasury does not have sufficient money to fund this project, we have decided to go the “co-sponsor” route.

We followed the advice of John Washburn, 1st VP of the MWF and Chairman of the 2002 Convention, who very graciously explained to us how his club successfully obtained co-sponsors for this show and convention.

If you would like detailed information on how we ‘go-about’ inviting the school kids, and how to obtain co-sponsors, just let me know, and I will send you the information, as it is too long to put in this message.

“KIDS” are our future, we need to do everything we can to get them interested in this great hobby.

Til next time.............................................. Marvin

On The Road With Bill

from Bill Smith, President-Elect

We had a great Christmas at Janet’s folks in Kansas where our daughter and family came down from Alaska. You should have seen our grandson, age 8, when he received his sonic rock polisher. We had to make several trips into the country looking for rocks to polish.

We headed home on the 4th of Jan and while at Texas A&M, College Station, TX we received a call that a pipe had broken in the overhead and flooded our garage. We then cancelled the rest of out trip which included Quartzsite. 32 miles outside Deming, NM I saw what looked like smoke coming from the 5th wheel. It was, as a wheel bearing had gone out. We finally made it into Deming at 5 miles an hour. Had a very informative and fun visit with Marv and Kitty for two days while our RV was being repaired. As we passed through Wilcox, AZ we received a call that my brother had passed away in Altus, OK. We turned the rig around and headed back. We are now on the road back home. We have a contractor working on the garage, will again stop to visit Marv and Kitty and spend some time at Quartzsite.

Having lost my last sister in August, and an Uncle in October, and now my only brother I think I can say, let’s enjoy our hobby to the fullest as we don’t know when we may be called to another place.

Until next time, Bill
Loud & Clear
from George Loud, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

H.R. 2416 - Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

As I write this in mid-January, H.R. 2416 is "stalled" in several House committees, including the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, and the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, all sub-committees of the House Resources Committee. The companion bill in the Senate (S546) passed on voice vote and some predicted smooth sailing through the House. However, by letter, email and telephone, opponents of the bill were able to get sufficient information to House members on the key committees to at least delay the legislation. In my early teens (several years ago) I collected a rock only recently confirmed by a professional paleontologist to be petrified bone. Take the problem of identification, add the problem of ignorance of boundaries of public lands, and mix in the draconian criminal and civil penalties of H.R. 2416, and we have a mix likely to cast a chill on all collecting on public lands. For example, H.R. 2416 provides for forfeiture of "all vehicles and equipment of any person that were used in connection with the violation" (section 11(d)). We have such a forfeiture provision in statutes dealing with drug trafficking, but fossil collecting?

The following is representative of letters I have sent to over 50 House members:

Urgent New

This afternoon (January 15th) I received a telephone call from a congressional aide who cautioned me that, in his opinion, the 14 co-sponsors of HR 2416 are likely to push to clear the bill from committee in the near future. Accordingly, it is not too late, indeed it is an opportune time, for you to write your congressman to express your opinion of the bill.

Congressman (or Congresswoman) 
U.S. House of Representatives 
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. - "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act"

Dear Congressman (or Congresswoman):

I am writing in opposition to the captioned bill. I serve as Chair of the Conservation and Legislation Committee of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), a national organization of "rockhound" clubs, representing about 50,000 rockhounds throughout the United States. I offer a wager to any of your colleagues inclined to support HR 2974. I will bring a group of ten (10) rocks, including one vertebrate fossil, to any location in the National Capital area at a time of their choosing. My bet is that they cannot identify the vertebrate fossil within a reasonable period of time. Yet HR 2416 would require such skill of ordinary citizens and impose draconian penalties in the event of failure. The Senate companion bill (S546) has already passed the Senate. Here’s what Washington Watch had to say about S546:

"Bad Bills S546 Anti-rockhounding bill titled the "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act" places severe penalties on recreational rockhounding, would permit only "experts" to disturb public land surfaces. Allows for seizure of private vehicles, camping equipment and anything else the government wants to grab for even minor violations. This bill assumes that big brother government has all the answers, even though some of the greatest discoveries of dinosaurs in pre-recorded history has been done by private individuals."

Frankly, I was surprised that the forfeiture provision for seizure of vehicles and other property of the misdemeanor (without right to trial?) is also provided for in the House bill, even if the violation is characterized as a "criminal", i.e. does not rise to the level of a crime (misdemeanor or felony). The forfeiture provision would put erring fossil collectors in the same peril as drug dealers. What else is wrong with HR 2416? Answer: a lot. For example, Section 9 "Prohibited Acts; Penalties - False Labeling Offenses" provides "a person may not make or submit any false record, account, or label for, or any false identification of any paleontological resource excavated or removed from Federal lands." Pity the poor collector or curator, amateur or professional, who mistakes a Piattoacaurus bone for a Chaomocaurus bone. Such misidentification can make a criminal. Thankfully, I only collect minerals which I sell too often misidentification.

I also object to Section 15 of the bill entitled "Saving Provisions", Provision 3 which specifies that the bill does not apply to "amateur collecting of a rock, mineral or invertebrate or plant fossil that is not protected under this act." I wish to specifically address the situation here in Northern Virginia where I have lived for over 30 years. During this time I have received numerous inquiries from Scout leaders as a loss as to where to take scouts to collect geological materials and fulfill the requirements for a merit badge in geology. I have always directed them to Westmoreland State Park (a Commonwealth of Virginia Park) where fossils can be collected along the Potomac shoreline. I personally have led "Indian Princess" (YMCA/YWCA) groups on such collecting trips along the shores of the Potomac. On one such trip, which I vividly recall because my own daughter was present, every one of the approximately ten children found at least one fossil shark's tooth. Other materials collected included fossil whale bone. The kids were thrilled and took their treasures into their schools for show and tell sessions. Please understand that this activity would not have been possible if the Potomac shoreline was in a National Forest subject to the provisions of the legislation as proposed in the form of HR 2416 because all of the fossils collected by the kids on the trips I have described were vertebrate fossils. I could also relate my own experiences as a youngster collecting vertebrate fossils in creek beds but I do not wish to belabor the point. I recognize that current BLM and Forest Service regulations prohibit the collecting of any vertebrate fossil without a permit, however I believe that this policy is wrong headed and certainly should not be made statutory law. Young kids and old kids should be free to collect common vertebrate fossils as well as common invertebrate fossils on public lands. Fossil collecting is and has been a gateway to the sciences, i.e. it is often one's first hands-on experience with anything science related. For the foregoing reasons I urge you to oppose H.R. 2416.

Yours truly
George Loud
Chair, Conservation and Legislation Committee

Take a moment and write!

AFMS NEWSLETTER - MARCH, 2004
AFMS Endowment Fund News
from Joy Bourne, Chairperson

You can take a first look at all of the fabulous prizes which will be featured in the 2004 AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle by visiting the AFMS website (www.amfed.org). Pictured is the beautiful glass pitcher engraved especially for our Raffle by B. Joy Bowman of Ponca City, OK, who also furnished the photograph. A real beauty, this pitcher will be a most handsome addition to any lucky person's china cabinet, for sure. Joy's en-
graved glassware regularly sells for $100+ at the Wildaures auctions, and we feel this is perhaps his best piece ever. Thank you Joy for this most generous contribution to the building of our Endowment Fund.

Thanks to the generosity of dedicated people throughout the American Federation, we are receiving pledges of some really fine mineral, fossil and lapidary prizes to offer this year. Last month we told you about President Marvel Starbuck's ex-
quisite opal gem tree, Dee Holland's special creation of a faceted stone pendant and Marc Wilson's out-
standing Carnegie Museum mineral specimen.

Since that report, we have received word that George Powell, of the American Fossil Federa-
tion will be sending us some special fossil shark's teeth from his magnificent Eocene fossil collec-
tion. George is also planning a special multi-show-
case exhibit of his extensive personally-collected fossils from the Lee Creek area at the 2004 Con-
vention show in Syracuse. You won't want to miss seeing these!

In addition, Master teacher and silversmith Will Smith, of Antoach, TN, is creating a unique
sterling pendant for a Tennessee agate which he cut and polished. In view of Wilf's past perfor-
ance in creating beautiful jewelry, we are sure this will be a superb item to add to the list of prizes offered in this year's raffle. Raffle ticket
ets for all items will be available for purchase at the AFMS/EFMLS show at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, July 9 - 11, 2004.

We continue to invite contributions from clubs and/or members of all the regional federations -
we will be happy to add the products of your spe-
cial talents to our list. Prize donations and cash contributions to the AFMS Endowment Fund are
also gratefully received at any time. For more information, please contact me by mail at:
RR #1, Box 159A
Townsend, PA 18848
email <cspings@epix.net>

We look forward to hearing from you.

AFMS Newsletter - March, 2004
Page 4

Having Fun - Junior Activities -

This month's column has one goal: to issue a call for names! One of the truly satisfying as-
pects of being the AFMS Junior Activities Chair is the occasional email or phone call from a junior
activities coordinator in one of our many local clubs or the chance meeting at club shows or lo-
cal or regionally sponsored field trips with oth-
ers involved in educating our younger members. I've never failed to come away from such a meet-
ing without new ideas for activities I'd like to try myself—and without renewed appreciation for the
efforts of so many out there working to educate
and serve our youth.

My most recent such meeting was with Leona Sheffied, the SFMS Youth Coordinator, during a business trip I had taken to St. Petersburg, Florida. (And I'd like to thank her and Hugh for their great hospitality!) In the table-bound world where all-too-often the negative aspects of youth behavior (the stereotypical "sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll") gets all the press, it's great to hear of young kids pursuing positive activities and of the dedicated adults who take the time to guide them.

It's in this spirit that I'd like to begin recog-
nizing individuals and their accomplishments. Is there someone in your Federation and in your clubs who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in

Recognizing Service to Juniors
by Jim Bruce-Thompson

I'd like to begin acknowledging such individu-
als within the pages of this column to provide them with recognition and thanks and to spread the word by sharing their ideas and activities. Along the way, I'm sure we'll all learn a lot and—as always—have fun!

Have You Moved?
from Kitty Starbuck

It is very frustrating to send the paperwork for any of the AFMS contests, only to have it come back to you saying, "Unable to deliver, forwarding time has expired." This tells me, a notifi-
cation of an 'address change', should have BEEN
sent some time ago. This is a bad situation when you are at HOME, where you have access to in-
formation, but when you are 1700 miles from home, that's a different story.

When something as important as rules and guidelines and other pertinent information COME BACK to you 'undelivered', and there is a deadline involved, WHERE IS THE MATERIAL SUPPOSED TO BE SENT?

In a recent message, Marvel has been advo-
cating that the clubs send their most recent in-
formation to the Central Office, to insure that clubs receive the AFMS Newsletter. It is also
VERY IMPORTANT that the people in charge of the
various AFMS contests HAVE YOUR COR-
RECT ADDRESS.

Have You Moved 2
from Leona Ethold, AFMS Central Office

Echoing what Kitty says in her message else-
where in this newsletter, I too want to remind ev-
ery club president of the importance of the Central Office having the correct name and address for your club officers.

We need to have the name and mailing address for your 2004 President, Editor and Secretary. If two of these jobs are held by the same person, send us the name of your Vice President or Federation Director or Federation Liaison.

By keeping the Central Office informed about your officers we can insure that the AFMS News-
letter is sent to the correct club officers each month.

By the way, we'd really like to send the news-
letter to your home rather than a club post office box. We never sell or share our mailing list to oth-
ers so you don't have to worry about security!
The splendor of Quartz 2004

This is our second installment of getting the word out to you. Last month we told you when and where the show is and when and where the meetings are. We tried to give enough info for the early birds to lock in a hotel reservation at the headquarters Ramada Inn. (Remember for complete package details you can go to www.amfed.org/EFMLS< click on 2004 Convention and get full particulars, plus all the forms may be easily downloaded.)

This time we will tell you what’s going to be shaking at the show, and why you should not miss coming to the fabulous Finger Lakes area of upstate New York.

This show is several acres of goodies all in air-conditioned comfort in the largest building at the New York State fairgrounds. With all this going for you, it can easily be your one-stop shopping site for this summer: you will walk several miles to taking it all in—a wholesale section of 12 wholesalers (valid tax number will be required for entry) and 52 hand-picked retailers from the US and Canada. You will get to meet dino Sue in all her glory from out West plus see great educational exhibits (with everyone’s cooperation we are planning for at least a hundred-strong showing)—here’s a sampling of some we already know: the Smithsonian, Carnegie Museum, AE Seaman Museum, New York State Museum, PR, Penn State and Syracuse U. World class minerals by pros like Bill Pinch, a phenomenal case of treasures brought up by Dr Steven Chamberlain from his descent 2 1/2 miles under the Atlantic in the sub Alvin, fantastic carvings, wowopal, New York State garnets, Art Grant’s museum cut stones, Cuprolites, Calcites, Quartzes in many forms including Herkimer diamonds like no other, and huge specimens from a Canadian quarry.

Then there are humongous several-thousand carat-faceted stones from the Northwest Faceters group, the 5800 carat “Dare Devil” CZ won just 2 years back, Aquamarine to die for, large and complete fossilized shark by George Powell, plus all the jewelry, metal work exhibits, cabs, faceted stones, minerals, fossils, spheres, carvings, mining memorabilia and whatever that will be brought in to share by you all. Plan on placing yours in competition and stand a chance for a nice bragging ribbon, or better yet a trophy.

Add fossil prep demos, glass bead-making, faceting, beading, cabling, daily “Glowing Fluorescent” shows with UV Bob, tools, machinery, supplies, on-site jeweler, wirewrapping, and we have the nucleus of enough to keep you busy for a while. Last we forget your kids, we’ll have mineral slabs for them, Strawdaw game, geode splitting, operating gondola car trains (for kids of all ages) and a second paper mache carving. Top it off with lectures, some hand-made quilts for the ladies, hobby art, gem trees, hourly door prizes, great show prizes, an EFMLS auction of “Good Stuff” on Saturday, food, Free parking, a building that is wheelchair accessible, camping on the fairgrounds (reserve early), and several collecting trips and this whole Syracuse adventure takes on a life of its own.

You just can’t lose unless you fail to come and be part of The 2004 great gathering of super people—Rockhounds.

Plan to take some extra time and enjoy the sights and pleasures of the Finger Lakes Vacationland for extra bonuses.

- Syracuse China factory and outlet is 10 minutes from the hotel
- Erie canal museum in Syracuse has full size packet boat
- Boxing Hall of Fame (Canastota) is 25 minutes east from your hotel
- St. Lawrence Seaway and 1000 Islands are 2 hours North
- Tour and “taste” in the beautiful Finger Lakes wine country (25 wineries)
- Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown & Corsette Museum are 2 1/2 hours East
- Learn all about garnet production and collect, 3 hours north at North Creek; NY
- Historic aviation and glider trips 2 hours South and West
- Museum of Glass, Corning (see world-renown Steubenware crystal made) 2 1/2 hours South
- Sail on one of the eleven Finger Lakes or enjoy an evening dinner cruise then
- Take in the Museum of Automotive History in downtown Syracuse
- Don’t miss Niagara Falls, 2 1/2 hours West
- IMAX Theater and Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse
- Eastman (Kodak) Museum is in Rochester, 1 1/2 hours West
- Huge 3-story Carousel Mall for shopping 1 1/2 miles south of Ramada Inn
- Salt Museum (Syracuse got its start pumping and evaporating salt) 2 miles from the hotel
- Stickley, collector-grade furniture factory and showroom 20 minutes East

Lots to enjoy, lots to see, photo opportunities galore to snap and share back home. Remember, “Memories” are made from all of this. The welcome mat will be out for YOU.

Next month, we will tie-up some loose ends and take it up “another notch” with Field Trip opportunities.

More convention information is available at www.amfed.org/efmls click on “2004 Convention”

You can find downloadable forms, motel information, applications, etc.
AFMS Club Rockhounds
From Bonnie Grooman, AFMS Coordinator

In the past months we've had several inquiries about the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Recognition Program and how it works. The process is very easy.

Each member club of a regional federation may submit the name of one individual or one husband and wife team for recognition by the AFMS each year. There are no set criteria for selecting your honoree. Once you or your club has decided on an honoree (or couple), tell us in 50 words or less, why this person (or couple) is valuable to your club. Perhaps your person is always in schools talking to kids, or maybe your person is the spark plug for getting new programs started in your club,... or maybe your person has edited your club newsletter for many years. These of course are just suggestions...we're sure there are many people in your club that you would like to say "thank-you" to and the AFMS Rockhound of the Year Recognition is an easy way to do it.

Send your nomination to your regional ACROY chairman who will forward it to me for inclusion in a future AFMS Newsletter. This is a painless and wonderful way to say "thank-you" to a valuable member of your club.

Eastern Federation

I would like to nominate Jeff Splitstoser as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year from the gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Washington, DC. He is a true Rockhound who will go rockhounding not just around the local area but to places in general. He has been the field trip coordinator for the GLMS-DC in previous years. He was a very good field trip coordinator and quite knowledgeable about rocks and minerals. Also, due to his love of rockhounding he was instrumental in having his friend Chris Galverte give the Club one of the most informative and fun lectures on personal rock collecting given by amateur and/or professional speakers. Jeff truly deserves the title of Rockhound. It is my pleasure to be able to nominate him for this recognition.

Submitted by Elva Ruiz immediate past president

Rocky Mountain Federation

Shoshone Rock Club is honored to recognize club member Margaret Scranton as our Rockhound of the Year. Margie has served on our rock club board for many years and is very actively participating in many other community activities. Margie is known in Powell as the "flower lady" because of her diligently kept rock and flower gardens she has created at her home, decorating with rocks of all types large and small both inside and outside her home. She has shared her flowers with the local Boy's and Girl's Club presenting seedlings to the youngsters on behalf of the rock club. Margie's love of rocks has prompted her to purchase flats of crystal specimen etc. to donate to the club's silent auction many times.

Margie is always willing to help with any project and loves to attend the state shows. At 82 years young, she is an inspiration to all and boosts all our spirits. Thank you for this opportunity to honor our outstanding member.

Submitted by Jane R. Neale

Thank You!
From Dee Holland, AFMS Scholarship Foundation President

Contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation continue to allow us to fund scholarships to earth science graduate students across the country each year. These scholarships are funded from the interest we draw annually from the Scholarship Foundation monies. The principal - your contributions - is never touched.

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation would like to thank the following individuals and clubs who have made donations since November 1, 2003:

- California Federation
- Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
- In Memory of Cal Koeck
- Eastern Federation
- Manasota Rock & Gem Club
- In Memory of Helen Smith and Constantina M. Freilinghaus
- Gulf Coast Mineral, Fossil & Gem Club
- In Memory of Robert Vas & Joseph Jones and Jeanette Stover
- Stamford Mineralogical Society
- In Memory of Edith Mitchell
- Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore
- Northern Virginia Mineral Club
- Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Washington, D.C.
- Lakeshore Gem & Mineral Club
- Moreaine Rock Busters
- Midwest Federation
- Alan & Sandra Hukill
- In Memory of Harold "Arizona" Rice

- Joe & Nellie Claxton
- In Memory of Ferne & Oren Drew
- Norman & Joyce Hanschu
- In Memory of Harold "Arizona" Rice
- Gem City Rock Club
- In Memory of Rode S. Bubbemeyer
- Judith & John Washburn
- In Memory of Geil Kaleel
- Minnesota Mineral Club
- Northwest Federation
- Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club
- In Memory of Betty Haight
- Oregon Trail Gem & Mineral Society
- In Memory of Caryl Unruh and Clifford Jackson
- Everett Rock & Gem Club
- West Seattle Rock Club
- Rocky Mountain Federation
- Dan & Ruby Lingelbach
- In Memory of Robert Fast
- Rick & Elizabeth Goeden
- In Memory of Betty O'Neill

These notices of donations have been forwarded to me by the regional federation Scholarship Chairpersons and verified by the Foundation Treasurer.

Donations such as these will go toward our continued efforts in aiding Earth Science Graduate Students and also rebuilding the Fund.

Sincere thanks to all.

Regional Federation Shows
From Mary Trammell

California Federation
May 28-30, 2004
Mariposa, California

Eastern Federation / AFMS
July 7-11, 2004
Syracuse, New York

Midwest
April 23-25, 2004
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Northwest
July 23-25, 2004
Boise, Idaho

Rocky Mountain
April 23-25, 2004
Wichita, Kansas

South Central
September 24-26, 2004
Houston, Texas

Southeast
to be announced

AFMS Newsletter - March, 2004
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 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 HELP. (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 petrofied 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.

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 (ALAAA), 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 ALAAA 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.

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
Subscription information
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 Secretary.

Subscriptions are $3.50 per year.
Remit payment to the AFMS Central Office.
Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

Address maintenance and mail labeling are the responsibility of the AFMS Central Office.
All changes and questions should be sent to:

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Murfreesboro, TN 37130-1541
615-893-8270
central_office@amfed.org

Content - Letters
Editorial Comments - Submissions

Any communication concerning the content or format of the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor:
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editor@amfed.org

Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e. April 1 for the May issue)

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AFMS Newsletter - March, 2004
The Darwin Awards - 2004

For those who don’t know about it, the Darwin Awards are awarded every year to the person(s) who died in the stupidest way, thereby removing himself or herself from the gene pool.

The Nominees Are:

Nominee No. 1: [San Jose Mercury News] An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriend’s windshield, accidentally shot himself to death while the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

Nominee No. 2: [Kalamazoo Gazette] James Burnis, 34, (a mechanic) of Alamo, Michigan, was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police described as a “farm-type truck.” Burns got a flat tire and ran over a pothole, while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertained the source of a troubling noise. Burns’ clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns “wrapped in the drive shaft!”

Nominee No. 3: [HickoryDaily Record] Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, NC. Awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson .38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

Nominee No. 4: [UPI, Toronto] Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Gary Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto DominonBank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the building’s windows to visiting law students. Hoy had previously conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lawyers, managing partner of the firm Holden Day Wilson told the Toronto Star newspaper that Hoy was one of the “best and brightest” members of the 200-man association.

Nominee No. 5: [Bloomberg News Service] A terrible diet and room with no ventilation are being blamed for the death of a man who was killed by his own gas. There was no mark on his body but an autopsy showed large amounts of methane gas in his system. His diet had consisted primarily of beans and cabbage (and a couple of other things). It was just the right combination of foods. IT appears that the man died in his sleep from breathing the poisonous cloud that was hanging over his head. Had he been outside or had his windows been opened, it wouldn’t have happened. But the man was shut up in his near-airtight bedroom. According to the article, “He was a big man with a huge capacity for creating this deadly gas.” Three of the rescuers got sick and one was hospitalized.

Nominee No. 6: ["News of the Weird"] Michael Anderson Godwin made News of the Weird posthumously. He had spent several years awaiting South Carolina’s electric chair on a murder conviction before having his sentence reduced to life in prison. While sitting on a metal toilet in his cell and attempting to fix his small TV set, he bit into a wire and was electrocuted.

Nominee No. 7: ["The Indianapolis Star"]: A cigarette lighter may have triggered a fatal explosion in Dunkirk, Indiana. A Jay County man using a cigarette lighter to check the barrel of a muzzle loader was killed Monday night when the weapon discharged in his face, sheriffs’ investigators said. Gregory David Pryor, 19, died in his parents’ rural Dunkirk home about 11:30 p.m. Investigators said Pryor was cleaning a 54-caliber muzzle loader that had not been firing properly. He was using the lighter to look into the barrel when the gunpowder ignited.

Nominee No. 8: [ Reuters, Mississauga, Ontario] A man cleaning a bird feeder on the balcony of his condominium apartment in this Toronto suburb slipped and fell 23 stories to his death. Stefan Macko, 55, was standing on a wheeled chair when the accident occurred, said Inspector Arcy Honer of the Peel Regional police. “It appears the chair moved and he went over the balcony,” Honer said.

And finally: [Arkansas Democrat Gazette] (now, these two guys don’t count because they aren’t dead yet, but this is a goodie, nonetheless)

Two local men were seriously injured when their pickup truck left the road and struck a tree near Cotton Patch on State Highway 38 early Monday.

The American Federation of Minelogical Societies has an ongoing goal of having subjects of interest appear on commemorative stamps. Many of you remember the first such stamps depicting four minerals from the Smithsonian collection. Unusual in that they were diamond shaped, the stamps were so popular that they “sold out” in a matter of weeks.

Several years later a second set of mineral stamps was issued by the U.S. Postal Service. These too were wildly successful and the printing was quickly depleted.

Subjects which appear on U.S. Postal stamps are selected by a group called the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee. They meet periodically, review all the input from people like us, and then select themes which they think will make attractive and popular stamps. (Did you know that a high percentage of commemorative stamps are never used? They go into the albums of stamp collectors or other interested citizens. This is of course great for the postal service... they have the money from the sale of the stamp and never have to spend any of it processing the mail.)

Our goal now is to have the Advisory Committee select the theme “gemstones” for future stamps. You can help make this happen by writing to them and telling why you would like to see them issued. Gemstones have never been on U.S. stamps.

Your letters should be sent to: The Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee U.S. Postal Service 475 L’Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 5670 Washington, DC 20260-2437

Why not take a moment at your next club meeting to write letters? It will only take about 5 minutes of your meeting time and, if we’re successful, think of the pleasure we and others will get from these stamps. We might even get a junior interested enough in gemstones to seek us out and join us at our meetings!

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