SORRY FOR BEING LATE
from Carolyn Weinberger

This issue of the AFMS Newsletter is reaching you about 4 weeks late with my apologies. I’ve been suffering with back and leg pains since December. In mid-April, things fell apart and I ended up spending 3 weeks in bed not being able to sit, stand or walk until surgery was performed in late May. This of course prevented me from producing this issue of the newsletter for receipt by you in a more timely manner.

LAST CALL FOR THE BIG ONE IN SYRACUSE
Bob Livingston, Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse

We’ve added two items to the EFMLS website, so if you did not get a packet or misplaced it, no problem — everything including the field trips and all the forms for exhibiting, registration, volunteering to be a demonstrator, field trips, it is all there.

-- Antique appraisals for Charity are a growing thing in the Syracuse area. For the first time we have added it for 3 hours only on Friday July 9 from 1 to 4 pm. So if you have some pre-1910 jewelry, or old coins, stamps or painting that you want to learn the value, bring it into the show that afternoon and experts will be on hand to tell you about it and estimate its value. Cost: a whopping $2 per item or (3) for $5. Bring something along to support a good cause.

-- Also, we will have two national mineral magazines on hand so you can thumb through their issues, talk to them first hand, get a deal on their subscription, buy other related books they publish etc. The two are: Matrix, and Rock & Minerals. We should have special “show deal” subscription forms to Rock and Gem, as well.

-- There will be commemorative convention pins featuring the New York State fossil — Eurypterid (we did quartz in 1994). Don’t hold me to this as absolute, but the price will be in the neighborhood of $4 each. You would get them at the Syracuse club booth at the show.

In closing off this fifth and final article in this series on the 2004 Big Show for All America, and convention, we wish to thank Carolyn Weinberger for putting in her two newsletters all the info we have supplied. We thank too, all you local club newsletter editors who have kept your members abreast of the news on the show. We are grateful for all the ink you have given this 2004 event. It really is a show for all of us, not just Eastern or Syracuse but all of us who get involved in this great hobby because we enjoy it. It will be a jam packed, long weekend of good times here. Come and see for yourselves and be amongst the finest anywhere — America’s rockhounds. I already look forward to St. Louis in 2005.

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Minerals: The Foundation of Society
Visit The AFMS Website
<WWW.AMFED.ORG>

Eastern Federation (EFMLS) and American Federation (AFMS) present

The Big 2004 Show for All America
The Splendor of Quartz
State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, N.Y.
• Make this your one stop to see what’s hot and/or buy your jewelry, minerals, gems, fossils, etc. • 64 hand selected dealers including wholesale from U.S. and Canada • 3/4 mile of tables of goodies • For kids: mineral slice, strawdust, geode splitting and more • Meet Sue, the famous T-Rex from out west. • See minerals from 2 1/2 miles beneath the Atlantic • Planning for 100 stunning educational exhibits • Demonstrators • Lectures • Door prizes • Food • Wheelchair accessible • Air conditioned

Fri./Sat., July 9 & 10 — 10am to 6pm
Sun., July 11 — 10am to 4pm
Donation $5 (Stiff off with ad, maximum 2 per ad)
Under 12 FREE with adult
Host: Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc. — www.gmss.us
HAVE WE LOST SIGHT OF WHAT OUR ROCK CLUBS, FEDERATIONS, ETC., ARE ALL ABOUT? Have we become a 'Me, myself and I, what's in it for me society?' Or are we functioning the way we are supposed to function?

A number of our clubs, federations, etc. spell out the purpose of their club, "to promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of groups interested in these fields" or similar words.

The whole purpose of this hobby is to educate and inform interested people and the public about the joys, and pleasures of rockhunting. BUT OUR MAJOR PURPOSE IS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND OURSELVES, and not just ENTERTAIN OURSELVES.

One of the main reasons we are losing members in the rock hobby, is because the culture of the country is changing, and people are thinking, "What can the organization do for ME, not what can I do for the organization, and help it reach its stated goals? What are some of the other reasons we are losing members... what might they be? When a new member comes to your club, what are they looking for? Do they want to go in the field and collect? Learn to do lapidary and silverwork, etc.? Are these things being provided? Do they want hands on type programs to do these lapidary functions... do they want a club operated workshop? Speaking of going out in the field... Kitty and I invited 5 members of our club to join us this year down in New Mexico, to go field tripping... they had a ball, and so did we! And they have already told us, "We're coming down again next year! Are we taking advantage of these types of situations? Inviting younger members, if they are able and available to go on an extended field trip? We were privilege to such an invite! Several times! Are we helping them get started in doing lapidary work now that they've collected all those agates? Are we doing everything we can to keep them interested and coming back? If we aren't, WE SHOULD BE!

The satisfaction you get from this hobby is relative to how involved you get. YOU ONLY GET OUT OF IT WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT! The more involved you get the more benefits you will receive. We got involved 40 years ago, and are reaping bushels of benefits! TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT...!

Hope to see you in Syracuse in July,

Marve

KEEPING UP WITH FINANCES from Bill Smith, President-Elect

Many clubs are experiencing a decreasing membership as the cost of doing business continues to increase. Thought I would mention some of the ways clubs use to help with their finances.

Most use a silent auction and a door raffle at meetings to give an immediate income. All of us have material we don't use and can donate. Some have a rummage sale and our local club holds an auction once a year which generates around $2,000.

If you hold a show, you can have a raffle with the case of material at the door where the material can be seen and the tickets may be purchased. A silent rock auction certainly helps defray costs.

If carefully planned, a Regional Show can certainly help your club and regional federation financially. Get your federation involved in helping plan such a rewarding and exciting event. When it is all over, you will be proud of what you have accomplished.

Never forget the primary source of income by increasing your membership which, of course, adds many other benefits.

Good Luck.

Bill
Huge Kudos

from Dee Holland, President, AFMS Scholarship Foundation

Here are the latest reports from our Regional Scholarship Chairman: from December 2003 through March 2004.

California Federation:
Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society
San Jose, CA
Fossils for Fun Society, Sacramento, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society for
Mrs. Jennie Gibson
Ruth Bailey, San Jose, CA
for Mrs. Jennie Gibson
Shirley Leeson, La Mesa, CA
for Jack Streeter, Johnny Short and Charley Leach

Midwest Federation:
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society, Dearborn, MI
5% of Auction Proceeds
Driftless Area Gem & Mineral Club, New Lisbon, WI
Dayton Gem & Mineral Society, Kettering, OH
for Clifford Tays, Mrs. Edwards Winer, Mrs. Iris Jackson, Charles Funk, Mrs. Anna Funk and Dr. George Gamson
Sac & Fox Lapidary Club, Fairfield, IA
for Katie H. Paarman
Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society, Dearborn, MI
for Robert Rutkowski
Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Springfield, IL
for Gail Kaleel
Joe Claxton, S.I.E.S. Club, Mt. Vernon, IL
for Ferne & Oren Drew
Judith & John Washburn, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Springfield, IL
for Gail Kaleel
Connie & Neil Nepp, President of Midwest Federation for
Past President Harold Rice
Miami Valley Mineral & Gem Club, Xenia, OH
- Annual Auction
Norman & Joyce Hansch, Canton MI,
for Robert Rutkowski
Spring River Gem & Mineral Club, Cherokee Village, AR
Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc, Shoals, IN
Calumet Gem & Mineral Society, Inc., Flossmoor, IL
for Dirk Dodge and Hubert Liehe

Northwest:
West Seattle Rock Club, Seattle, WA

Yakima Rock & Mineral Club, Yakima, WA
for Ellen Garner
Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society, Caldwell, ID
for Harry Ellis
Oregon Trail Gem & Mineral Society, Pendleton, OR

Rocky Mountain Federation:
Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club, Shawnee, OK
Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Topeka, KS
for Betty O’Neill
And also Pebble Pile Show donation
Dan Lingellbach, Stillwater, OK
for Robert Fast
Chaparral Rockhounds Show Committee, Roswell, NM
And Mary Trammell, dealer at the show
Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, Wichita, KS
for Robert Williams and Wes Stambaugh
Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Topeka, KS
for Dr. Randall Van Schmus
Gila County Gem & Mineral Society, Miami, AZ
Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society, El Reno, OK
for Gene Roseboom
Deming Gem & Mineral Society, Deming, NM
John & Dixie Alf, Bartlesville, OK
for Arlene Johnson
South Central Federation:
Rollin Rock Club, Grand Prairie, TX
for Betty O’Neill
DeRidder Gem & Mineral Society, Leesville, LA
East Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Tyler, TX
And special THANKS to the Southmost Gem & Mineral Society of Harlingen, TX who are disbanding their club and have sent their entire treasury to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

Our regional scholarship chairmen are doing a fantastic job. Please accept the Foundation's sincere thanks: Montella Lopez, California; Nellie Claxton, Midwest; Toby Cozens, Northwest; Sandy Connedy, Rocky Mt. and Jonathan Moehring, South Central.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES:
E-Z Rock & Mineral Guides for Kids
from Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

There are a great many beautifully illustrated guidebooks out there for learning about and identifying rocks and minerals, with glossy, full-color photos and lots of helpful information about mineral characteristics. However, a lot of these can go into quite a bit of technical detail and they can be a bit pricey for a child’s budget. Fortunately, there are some nice alternatives in the form of what I call “E-Z Rock and Mineral Guides.”

Of course, the old stand-by has long been Zim and Shaffer’s “Rocks and Minerals; A Guide to Familiar Minerals, Gems, Ore and Rocks,” put out by the Golden Guide Series. In fact, my copy even states “Easy-to-Lite” right on the cover. It’s inexpensive, thorough, and at a level many kids can follow, although even this handy little pocket book goes into a bit of text at times.

A nice alternative I've found are “quick-guide” sheets. These consist of convenient fold-out sheets of heavy cardboard that have been laminated. They have an abundance of colorful photos of the most common rocks and minerals and take an approach that is less text-heavy than a book. Instead, the emphasis is on visual learning, with useful diagrams, photos, and artwork supported by a minimum of text that conveys “just the facts, ma’am.”


Convenient, visual, basics-level “E-Z Rock and Mineral Guides” like these are a great and inexpen

Sive resource for the juniors in your club to learn while – as always – having fun!
California Federation:

The Executive Board of Directors and the general membership of the Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral Society are delighted to honor Otis L. Sampson as our choice for 2004 Rockhound of the Year. Otis has been a member of our organization for approximately 40 years. He continues to go on field trips, and supports the club's most important fund raising project, the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival. Otis has taken on the task of cleaning our 20 inch lapidary saw every year at the Date Festival, and at age 94, continues to do that task that no one else wants to do! He also serves for many hours each year cutting rocks at the Date Festival. Aside from all Otis does for the Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral Society, he is decorated veteran, and a hero of World War II. Submitted by: Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral Society

The Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society would like to nominate Mary Louise & Joe Law as our candidates for Education Through Sharing 2004. Mary Louise was our club President three years, Joe has served as Vice-president. Both Joe and Mary Louise have been Federation Directors and attended Federation show and meetings. Mary Louise also took a class on judging showcases and worked as secretary to one of the show judges. They have been our representatives to the Superior Col. group, a small group of Northern California clubs. Mary Louise started our Tuesday Morning Crafty Ladies Club. She made arrangements for a one week faceting and wire wrapping class. Mary Louise is very intent upon learning all she can about our hobby. She has taken classes in past years at Camp Paradise and lapidary classes with the Roseville Rock Rollers. She was showcase chairman for our show for several years, and worked in the kitchen. Mary Louise and Joe have been great hosts and entered showcases when we had presentations at the local fair. Mary Louise & Joe worked up a presentation for 4th and 5th graders with the basic design of club and show flyers and location maps, show publicity and visiting local shops with club flyers and literature. Sylvia, an avid gem carver, has written two articles on carving which were published in the Rock and Gem magazine. This Rockhound Couple of the Year truly have been an inspiration to the basics of rockhounding And the resulting rewards. Submitted by: Todd Neikirk President

The Long Beach California Mineral & Gem Society Nominates their longest standing member as Rockhound of the Year. Einar Loftness himself cannot quite remember how long he has been a member and since the records have suffered a catastrophe we settle for a long time. Einar has been president several times and has served in each office and many appointed positions. He always focused on fiscal responsibility, increasing membership and education through lab activities, programs and field trips. He is still the person the members call to identify a certain mineral or a particular dig site. He has served as liaison to the city or senior centers as he was called to do. We sincerely hope will continue on the board for a long time to come.

The Sacramento California Mineral Society wishes to honor the two members, (one for 2003, the other for 2004) who through their vision and determination change our club into a cohesive, forward moving organization that the young and old want to join. Les Clark and Judd Darling spent hours and hours meeting with the Sacramento County Airport System at Mather Field to negotiate a rental agreement that would give us a clubhouse and a shop. With the shop, our club become a club of doers. New members join because of the shop facilities and our excellent instructors. Both men have been president our club, they have served in other elected and appointed positions during their 15 plus years as members. Whenever a job needs doing there is always a hand, a pair of helping hands and new ideas for improvement of our facilities and teaching techniques. They have been instrumental in supplying our clubhouse with furniture and features that make our members more comfortable. When we set up for a show or POW WOW they are the first to help as well as show new members how to set up safely. Outstanding and reliable members such as these are what makes our club the success that it is.

Eastern Federation:

I nominate Donald Garrett as the Gem & Mineral Hunters (VA) AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Don has belonged to the club for many years and has always been active, enthusiastic and willing participant in the club activities. He has been editor of the club newsletter for nine years and treasurer for four of those years; positions he is still holding. For all his extraordinary service, Don is more than worthy to be the club Rockhound of the Year. Submitted by Dan Zeil, editor

The Parksido Lapidary Society is pleased to honor Vern and Sylvia Cifflie as the Rockhound Couple for 2004. After joining the society over twenty years ago, they are still actively involved in many facets of the group. Vern has served as vice president, president and trustee, show dealer chairman for many years and federation director, a position he still holds.

Vern and Sylvia serve as assistant field trip leader over the years and lead an annual field trip to Burro Creek in Arizona every spring. Sylvia was the society membership chairperson for nineteen years, and has worked closely on the annual show, decorating stones before the show begins. She provided the blueprint for the current setup, and has always been actively involved, and in charge of table displays and presentations. Accordingly, she is in charge of show demonstrations. Vern and Sylvia have served in other capacities, programs for club meetings, teaching at the monthly workshops and estimating values of rock collections for family members whose parents passed away. Vern has been involved with the basic design of club and show flyers and location maps, show publicity and visiting local shops with club flyers and literature. Sylvia, an avid gem carver, has written two articles on carving which were published in the Rock and Gem magazine. This Rockhound Couple of the Year truly have been an inspiration to the basics of rockhounding And the resulting rewards. Submitted by: Todd Neikirk President

As President of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia, I had the pleasure of proposing to our membership that we nominate Paul and Jennie Smith as AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. So far as both Paul and Jennie have admirably served as past presidents of MSDC, as well as for their leadership in collaborating with other local and national mineralogical clubs, in so far as each has shared their knowledge by giving excellent talks, by publishing interesting articles and leading adventure field trips, as well as by generously donating their minerals to MSDC auctions and sharing their audio-visual equipment and expertise to make our monthly meetings run smoothly, for their unrelenting dedication in promoting the increase and diffusion of mineralogical knowledge, with all these and other contributions in mind, I asked the MSDC membership to second my nomination of Paul and Jennie Smith. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the members present.

For all his extraordinary service, Don is more than worthy to be the club Rockhound of the Year. Submitted by: Dan Zeil, editor

The One-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club proudly nominates Betty Jones as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2004. For nearly two decades she has provided exhibits for our annual club show and educational exhibits at public locations from her incredible collection of minerals, shells and mineral stamps from all over the world. She invites area scouts to her home to learn how the world, writes outstanding monthly articles on minerals for the club newsletter and is generally recognized as the club’s mineral identification expert. She serves as club librarian, maintaining the club library and workshop at her home. She has hosted the July club picnic for many years and provided mineral identification games. She coordinates the Christmas party, represents the club at Senior Expo and at Federation conventions. Betty has served as club president and has been an active board member for over

Einar Loftness himself cannot quite remember how long he has been a member and since the records have suffered a catastrophe we settle for a long time.
Gene Ridall is the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year nominee of the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, New York. Joining as a youngster in the early 1950’s, he has held many major assignments in the club including vp and twice as president. A natural salesperson, Gene is typically our motivational guy. An avid mineralogist, he has been a dealer as Gem Hunter Minerals for years in many area shows from Buffalo to Albany. Gene has been dealer chair for many years and this year is also co-chair of the Big 2004 Show for All America, the EFMLS and AFMS combined show and convention. Gene’s life revolves around four things – family, minerals, volunteering at the local zoo and coaching girls softball. We are happy to honor him as our special person for 2004.

South Central Federation

The Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society has selected Zack and Gelene Stockton as their 2004 Rockhounds of the Year. They are at every meeting. Zack serves as secretary and treasurer. He mans the membership booth at all Gem and Mineral Shows. Gelene is helpful when food is served, works on the bulletin, helps with cleanup and anything else she is asked to do. They go on rock trips. Zack has made some beautiful jewelry, which Gelene proudly wears. This couple are true rockhounds and we are proud to name Zack and Gelene Stockton as our 2004 Rockhounds of the Year.

Submitted by: Penny Rohrbough

Has your club sent the name of a person or couple for the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year? With all the federation affiliated clubs, my mailbox should be inundated with submissions, yet it’s not. I wonder why.

There is only one rule for this award. A club may only submit the name of one individual or couple (husband and wife) per year. That’s it! You decide on the rest.

Want to honor someone in your club for all their contributions to the club? That’s great! Want to honor someone for completing a major project for your club? That’s great too. Or how about the fellow who supports the club by just showing up at all the meetings and activities? That’s fine too.

Get the idea? You write the rules as far as who to select from your club.

Then, send us the name of your “Rockhound of the Year” and tell us in 50 words or less, why you or your club are recognizing him/her/them. Be sure to include the name of your club and the name of the individual or group making the submission. It’s just that simple. Nominations can be made by the club, by the officers, or by an individual.

Send your club nomination to your regional federation chairperson. We’ve listed them below for your convenience. Hopefully, they will then appear in your own Regional Federation Newsletter. And once I receive them from your chairperson they will appear in a future AFMS Newsletter so you can share your pride with the rest of the AFMS family.

Regional Federation Chairpersons:

California
Barbara Matz
PO Box 7086; Petaluma, CA 94955-7086
<barmatz@yahoo.com>

Eastern Federation
Cathy Geber
5707 Northfield Rd; Bethesda, MD 20817-6737
<bg@his.com>

Midwest Federation
Fran Gutkowski
711 W Summerdale; Chicago, IL 60656
<fgutkowskioh2=earborn.com>

Northwest Federation
Dick Parks
2004 SE 134th; Vancouver, WA 98683-7125

Rocky Mountain Federation
Leon Gorrell
813 Gold; Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
<leon81040@yahoo.com>

South Central Federation
Dee Cable
3348 S 21 St; Abilene, TX 79605-5839
<spheresrus@aol.com>

Southeast Federation
Billie Wright
3304 Nottingham Rd; Ocean Springs, MS 33956
<atljw@datasync.com>

Regional Federation Shows:

California
2005 - to be announced

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

Midwest
August 19-25, 2005
St. Louis, MO

Northwest
July 23-25, 2004
Boise, Idaho

Rocky Mountain - 2005 to be announced

South Central
September 24-26, 2004
Houston, TX

Southeast
December 10-12, 2004
Norcross, GA

Rockhound of the Year continued from page 4

ten years. She served as General Show Chairman for the 1996 EFMLS Convention and can always be counted on to help with any club activity. This is just a small sample of her contributions.

nominated by Fran Sick and Joy Boursen

Gene Ridall is the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year nominee of the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, New York. Joining as a youngster in the early 1950’s, he has held many major assignments in the club including vp and twice as president. A natural salesperson, Gene is typically our motivational guy. An avid mineralogist, he has been a dealer as Gem Hunter Minerals for years in many area shows from Buffalo to Albany. Gene has been dealer chair for many years and this year is also co-chair of the Big 2004 Show for All America, the EFMLS and AFMS combined show and convention. Gene’s life revolves around four things -- family, minerals, volunteering at the local zoo and coaching girls softball. We are happy to honor him as our special person for 2004.

Submitted by: Penny Rohrbough

UNIFORM RULES CHATTER

Based on what I have been receiving for Rules changes I should have written this much earlier. If you want to add a new rule, make changes to an existing rule, or change some other aspect of the rules book, you must write it up the way you want it. You can’t just say, “This needs to be better defined.” You must write up how you want it defined. “This rule needs to be changed.” How do you want it changed? “We need rules to set up a class in beading.” You write the rules and present them.

You, as the person making the proposal, must do the research on what other rules will be affected by your proposal. All of this information must be in the proposal along with a rational about why this should be done.

These proposals should be made to your regional Uniform Rules chairperson. That person discusses the proposal with the other members of the committee (that is what is supposed to happen) if the majority agrees that the proposal has merit it is then sent to chairperson of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee. That person then puts it on the agenda for the next URC meeting. Sixty days prior to the meeting the URC chairperson sends a copy of the agenda to each of the seven regional Rules Committee Chairperson. These people then discuss with their respective committees about how they want the chairperson to vote on each of the changes. (Again that is how it is supposed to work).

Other things may be brought up at the meeting and they may be discussed but if it was not on the agenda with an opportunity for previous discussion then it cannot be voted on at that session.

It is too late to get anything else on the agenda for this year and as it stands we will have a pretty short meeting with only four items on the agenda. Just remember, if you want to make changes, you must write them up the way you think they should be. In all probability some wording may be changed to make them shorter, if possible, and still mean the same thing.

B. Jay Bowman
Chairman AFMS URC
Midwest Federation
5788 Bowman Road
Ponca City, OK 74604
580-765-5854
bjb@pswan.net

A Reminder
From B. J. Bowman, URC Chairman

The 2004 Edition of the AFMS Uniform Rules is available from your Regional Federation Supplies Chair. An unofficial version may be downloaded from the AFMS Website <WWW.AMFED.ORG>
AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND RAFFLE

We have just received pictures of the new additions to the impressive list of prizes being offered for the 2004 AFMS Endowment Fund raffle. Believe me, black-and-white just doesn’t do justice to these two magnificent and colorful pieces. You just must check them out on the AFMS website at <www.amfed.org/endow2004.htm>.

This first prize will really attract the attention of those who collect museum-quality mineral specimens, especially since it came to us from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History’s Section of Minerals in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Thanks to Marc Wilson, Collections Manager for the museum, we will be raffling this beautiful and colorful piece of adamite which has recently been deaccessed from the Museum collections. As the ruler in the picture shows, it is slightly larger than 12 inches wide and approximately 7 inches tall. Marc tells us that it came from the Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico and is valued at $250.

The second newly-added prize is the opal gemstone tree we told you of in one of our earliest articles last spring. It is even more beautiful than we could have imagined! AFMS president, Marve Starbuck is the artisan who crafted for this work of art, and we thank Norm Hanschu, for taking the beautiful photograph.

We still have one more super prize coming to complete the list, and hope soon to have a picture of the new authentic reproduction of the Plains Indian axe, ca. 2790-1840, created by Bill Metcalf, of Kileen, TX, who was also responsible for making the authentic reproduction of the Lewis and Clark era Indian Ax for the 2003 raffle.

We remind you that the 2004 Endowment Fund raffle tickets cost $5.00 each, and as an added incentive, you can now get 5 tickets for $20.00 from your regional federation’s committee member. You will find a list of these regional federation Endowment Fund committee members on the AFMS website. The committee members will be selling the tickets until June 15th. After June 15th, you may still purchase tickets by contacting me - until I leave for the convention on July 7, or purchase them at the convention up until 5:00 p.m., July 10.

Drawing for prizes will be held during the Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 10. Holders of winning tickets do not need be present at the drawing in order to win. We’ll be happy to ship prizes, or pass them along to your designated person(s) who can furnish written permission from you, along with the winning ticket stub, to receive your prize.

Any questions? Contact me at Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair RR#1, Box 159A Towanda, PA 18848-9739 (570) 265-6454<csprings@epix.net>

With only a month left until the drawing, tickets are going fast. Don’t miss out on your golden opportunity to be among the luck winners and to support the AFMS Foundation Fund at the same time.

Opal pendants

Turquoise Pendant

Louisiana Opal Cab

Fossil shark’s teeth

Engraved glass vase

Tennessee Agate pen

Silver Lace Onyx Cabochon
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", 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 (ALAA), 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 ALAA 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 next issue of the AFMS Newsletter will be published in September. Deadline is August 1.

Have a wonderful, safe and productive summer.
Trip 1 - Gouverneur Talc Co. dumps at Balmat, NY – Friday, July 9th

This, our biggie, will be a collecting trip to Gouverneur Talc Co. dumps at Balmat, NY (due South of Gouverneur, NY) on Friday, July 9. Sorry, even though the show opens this date, Friday was necessitated as it is the only day without meetings, auction or Editor’s breakfast. For this trip, we encourage car pooling.

Entrance into the mine will be at 9:30 am. You will need to leave the Ramada by 7 am. You should be back, able to go to the show by approximately 3 pm. We offer a HUGE thank you to our sister club, the St. Lawrence Mineral Club in Upstate NY for helping us out with this one.

Persons going on this trip will be going into an operating mine and will be required to sign in and assure each of you are members of a club with federation insurance in force. There will be a $5 fee collected. You will need water, hard hat, safety glasses, hard toe shoes and we suggest gloves, rock hammer, 5 gallon buckets etc. and maybe a sledge. You will be working on huge piles of mine tailings and you will have to cart your stuff a ways to vehicles.

On a similar 2003 trip, we noted that approximately 50 persons left for home laden with several tons of material. Half of the trip is on I-81 north from Syracuse. The rest is on two lane paved road. It should be easy to find with the maps we will hand out at the Ramada in Syracuse. What are you likely to find? Some cutting but mostly minerals – foliated talc, Tremolite, chrome tremolite (beautiful green), hexagonite (a nice purple, tremolite) and wollastonite. Most of the hexagonite specimens you will find will have sharp needles which can be a pain if you get them in your arm or hand. If you have sharp eyes and are lucky you may be able to find some solid purple Hexagonite which can be cut into slabs etc. Talc and Wollastontite are the two products the mine is after. The latter is used in paint and paper manufacturing.

On the day of the trip, if conditions are right and the timing ok, you may be allowed to go into the dumps of a second mine in Harrisville, NY. In this case, you would be led caravan style to the second mine which happens to be on the way “home.” At the second mine dumps you would find massive blue calcite and large unakite that is not as fine grained as the Virginia material. Similar to Mexican, the calcite is ideal for mini mines, giant show specimens and for busting up into smaller pieces for kids. Some people report success in cutting and cabbing this material.

If this trip tickles your fancy and you can delay for a few hours going to the show, fill out the Trip Reservation slip and mail it with your $5 per person to Lou Budell, 2718 Falls Road, Marcellus, NY 13108-9722. Make out check to: Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse.

Trip 2 – Alden, NY for Pyritized fossils
– Monday, July 12th

This trip was set for this date (1) to not conflict with meetings or the show, as it is approximately 2 1/2 hours west of Syracuse via the NY State Thruway (I-90) and just east of Buffalo, NY by approximately 18 miles. Number (2) reason for the date is several persons from areas west of the Mississippi approached us early on with a strong desire to see Niagara Falls while out here. It makes solid sense to tie in the two as "the falls" and attractions there are just a little further North and West from Alden. Folks-bound folks can leave by 2 or 3 pm and have plenty of time to get settled into pre-reserved spaces or motels before dinner.

What does one find? Mid-Devonian fossils such as trilobites, brachiopods, pelycops, and gastropods are there. The really neat thing is the vast number of them have been replaced in the shale by Pyrite giving you a really special fossil. At times this location can be a little wet depending on creek level so boots or old sneakers may well be in order plus maybe some bug repellent.

You will be digging out your finds from soft shale and/or the creek bed, so you may need a chisel, rock hammer, old screwdriver and the like plus a box or pail, whatever, to carry your finds out in. Paper towels and plastic baggies will help to keep these fragile specimens intact for the trip home.

Again, persons attending should be current members of clubs with federation insurance coverage in force. You will be signing a Trip sheet. We will provide a trip leader for this FREE trip and we plan to leave our vehicles and enter for collecting approximately 11 am. This gives persons with 5th wheels or driving motor homes time to get disconnected early Monday AM at the Fairgrounds or wherever and make the trip west to the meeting point in time. If this is a trip you want, complete the form below, indicate Trip 2 and mail.

Trip 3 - Mid-Devonian Fossils
– Location, Date and Time to be Announced

Nearby, 30 minute drive, for collecting Mid-Devonian Fossils like trilobites, cephalopods, bivalves, brachiopods, gastropods and rarely, parts of a sea lily. Depending on pre-registration interest, this trip may or may not occur. If there is sufficient interest shown, during the Friday night Crocker barrel session, we will try to schedule this on a day and time mutually agreeable. Unlike Trip 2, only some fossils collected on this trip will be pyritized. No fee for this trip. Ditto above on active club insurance being in force. Use the mini Trip Reservation form to indicate your trip interests for Trip 3 or for any or all of the trips.

FIELD TRIP RESERVATION FORM

Mail by June 15 to Lou Budell, 2718 Falls Road, Marcellus, NY 13108-9722. Make out check to: Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse.

Trip 1 - Balmat, NY mine dumps ($5 fee required) $5.00
Trip 2 - (opposite side) Alden, NY for Pyritized fossils Free
Trip 3 - Mid-Devonian Fossils (nearest) Free

Total amount included with this form ____________

Your name ____________________________________________________________
Federation ___________________________ Club Name ____________________________________________
Your address _____________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip Code _____________________________________________________________________