We Begin Our 58th Year
from Bill Smith, AFMS President

Goals for the Coming Year

I am looking forward to another great year and for my first message I thought I would outline my goals.

As with most Past Presidents my top priority is communications. Where I think we can really improve in this area is answering our mail and getting products delivered in the allotted time. It is easy to say I will answer that e-mail or letter later. Often later is too late. I am probably as bad as any in this area, but have found it takes no longer to quickly answer a letter or e-mail or get a product delivered on time.

My next goal is working as a team. When two people have different ideas or are nominated for a position and only one can be accepted then the other has their feelings hurt and the team starts falling apart. One thing the military taught me was to swallow my personal pride, follow the leader, do the job to the best of my ability and be a part of the team.

Finally I would like for all of us to do our best to turn around our decreasing membership. If your club or regional federation is growing then send an article to the AFMS editor and let us all know what we might be able to do to increase membership.

Communications and team work are products of a strong organization. Let us keep this hobby of ours a growing hobby for us and everyone to enjoy.

Until next month. Bill

Welcome to the New Team

As with every new year, a new cadre of officers takes the helm. I’m pleased to welcome them, and know that each will serve the AFMS well. Don’t hesitate to contact any of them for answers to your questions, concerns you have for the hobby and suggestions you might have for future projects. A complete listing of the 2004-05 officers is on page 2.

The AFMS cannot carry out its many functions without the diligent work of the various committees. A complete listing of the chairs is included in this issue. We encourage you to contact these individuals with your questions or ideas as they pertain to their particular committee.

Get involved! We realize that most club members really aren’t interested in either the AFMS or their own regional federation. They see no need for their involvement or even for the existence of the Federations. If you are one of these people, think about where this hobby would be without both the AFMS and your regional federation.

Involvement/membership allows most clubs: to obtain liability insurance at a group rate; to have the use of a vast program library with programs annually given free to the regional federations by the AFMS; to allow members to be informed about restrictive legislation that may hinder our ability to collect and obtain materials; guidelines for exhibiting so the playing field remains level; to recognize editors, authors, individual members who have done lots of work for their club. And the list keeps going and going and going.

Keep the list of officers and committee chairs handy and avail yourselves of the services of AFMS and expand your enjoyment of the hobby. They are all here to help you and your club.

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Minerals: the Foundation of Society
Visit the AFMS Website <www.amfed.org>
Meet The President-Elect

From Jim Robinson, President-Elect

While I am not entirely new to the AFMS it’s probably best that my first message to you be of a background nature.

I was born and grew up in Kingsport, Tennessee, enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1946. When the Korean War started, I was stationed with the 508th Airborne Rangers at Fort Benning, GA and was immediately sent to Korea, where I did two tours of duty before returning to the U.S. Two months after my Army discharge, I re-enlisted in the U.S. Navy and continued there until my retirement in 1966.

My wife, Awilda, and I have been married for 46 years and have raised three children - two sons and a daughter. We are the proud grandparents of one grandson.

Shortly after my retirement, I returned to Tennessee and attended the University of Tennessee, but left after a year to accept a position with RCA in Jacksonville, FL. I was employed by RCA for nineteen and a half years, retiring in 1989. We continue to live in the Jacksonville area.

For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by crystal forms and mineralogy, but never really got seriously involved with any organization until the early 1980’s when we joined the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. It was while president of JGMS that we became active in the workings of the Southeast Federation. After leaving the presidency of JGMS, I served for 5 years as State Director for the state of Florida and as later president of SFMS. I have served as AFMS 5th, 4th, and 1st Regional VP as the Southeast Federation member of the Executive Board.

Awilda and I are both active in the hobbies. She does gem trees and wire-wrapped jewelry. I have a sizeable mineral collection, but lapidary remains my main interest. Besides being a master facetor, I also do silver work and cabbing, and have taught faceting for many years both in our club and at the SFMS workshops.

I am excited and looking forward to the challenge of my current position.

AFMS Scholarship Foundation Report

From Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President

The 1974 Scholarship Foundation received word that the Betty Crocker Coupon program would come to an end. Started by Bernice Rexin, AFMS President from Midwest, the program generated $19,940. over the ten years that clubs and individuals could send in coupons clipped from Betty Crocker products which were redeemed by the company. It also added greatly to increasing participation by our members.

As we mentioned in recent newsletters a number of clubs have been very generous in their contributions. Recently we have received the following from our regional scholarship chairmen:

From the Rocky Mountain Scholarship chairman, Sandy Connedy:
- Chaparral Rockhounds
- Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society
- Wichita Gem & Mineral Society
- Enid Gem & Mineral Society

From the Midwest Scholarship chairman, Nellie Glaxton:
- Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society
- Norm & Joyce Hanschu
- Des Plaines Valley Geological Society
- Alan & Sandra Hukill

We thank all the clubs and individuals for their contributions and urge you and your club to continue with support of the Scholarship Foundation.
All American Club Award

from Alan Hukill

The All American Club Award competition is just around the corner, and I hope that everyone is preparing to submit an entry to the program. It constitutes a very good history of your club and lets you see where your club is relative to where you wish your club to be.

Entry forms for 2005 are on page 9 of this issue. As evidenced in the forms, the judging of the contest concentrates on six (6) areas of interest. These areas give the judge a picture of what your club is doing within itself, as well as without. Specific activities are listed in the various sections, and should be reported in the appropriate section of the notebook that will constitute your entry. It is in your interest to do so. Judges should be able to examine your entry and see in a clear manner what your club has been up to over the last year. All too often a club indicates on the entry form a particular activity, but fail to provide evidence in their report for same. Copies of your newsletter, highlighted with magic marker, do not lend themselves to judging. I won’t belabor the fact, but use common sense when filling out these reports. More information is better than less...to a point.

This report is to cover the calendar year 2004. Entries are to be submitted to your regional All American Club chair. See your own regional federation newsletter for the deadline date set by your region.

Having Fun - Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

In an earlier column, I described our new AFMS/FRA merit badge program. To make it accessible to as wide a range of kids as possible, enrollment in this program is free. So too are the merit badges themselves (which have recently arrived and are now available) and the leader’s guidebook, which is posted on the “Kids Corner” section of the AFMS web site (http://www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.html).

I’ve recently met and talked with a commercial provider of mineral club activities for kids that nicely complements the AFMS/FRA program: Darryl Powell of Diamond Dan Publications. Darryl, who is a member of the Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club in New York, has put together a set of 14-hour-long activities accompanied by badges that kids can earn upon finishing each. The cost ranges between $2.00 and $2.50 per activity package for each child—an incredible value for the quality of the material provided.

The list of activities, which will grow each year, currently includes a coloring/activity book to familiarize kids with minerals from A (agate) to Z (zinc-ite). I’ve seen this wonderful book being distributed at kids activities tables at local gem shows here in California as well as at the recent EFMLS/AFMS Show, and discounts can be arranged if ordering copies in bulk. Other activities include mineral hardness, mineral fun, state minerals, mineral color, 2 on crystal-making, 2 on mineral collecting, and 5 activities devoted to learning about individual minerals: gyspum, quartz, calcite, fluorite, and pyrite.

These packages are extremely well done and professionally produced. Many dovetail beautifully with our own AFMS/FRA Merit Badge 1: Rocks & Minerals and Badge 5: Collecting. They might be used to help kids earn FRA badges while receiving the various “Diamond Dan” badges at the same time as an extra way to motivate and reward the kids in your club.

If you aren’t familiar with Diamond Dan Publications, I encourage you to check it out. Contact Darryl Powell, P.O. Box 143, Manchester, NY 14504, phone (585) 289-4936, email diamonddan@rochester.rr.com. (He also hopes to have a web site posted in the near future.) His program of professionally produced, easy-to-follow guides to mineral identification dovetails nicely with our new FRA merit badge program and with our goal of educating youth while—as always—having fun!

The Central Office Has Moved

from Bill Smith

Effective November 1, the AFMS Central Office has a new home and a new administrator. Our new administrator needs no introduction—he’s Steve Weinberger who served as AFMS President in 2002.

All requests for AFMS information and supplies as well as changes in your club officers should be directed to:

Steve Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
central_office@amfed.org

I want to thank outgoing administrator Lewis Eirolf for handling the job for the past three years. He’s done a terrific job of organizing and maintaining our files and keeping in touch with the regional federations and local clubs. We wish him well as he moves on to other endeavors.
This must be my last "Loud & Clear" column. I must resign as Chair of the Conservation and Legislation Committee. That my law practice (Patents & Trademarks) continues to grow is good news, the bad news is that the passing years have reduced the amount of energy I am able to bring to my work. If and when I retire, I would love to return to the fray.

Since I started writing "Loud & Clear" more than 10 years ago, we have lost hundreds of collecting sites due to incorporation into newly designated wilderness areas and national monuments, the latter being established in the final hours of the last administration by Presidential Decrees invoking the somewhat dubious authority of the Antiquities Act. Further, those collecting sites which remain theoretically "open" became progressively more difficult to access as BLMs began to develop an intrusive policy of road closure adopted by the last administration. The trend has definitely been toward exclusion of the public in general, and rockhounds in particular, from public lands. However, I now see several promising developments. Consider the following macro trends.

Macro Trend #1 - The Judiciary - Use and Abuse of the Judiciary to Change Land Use Policy

While most Americans may believe that major policy changes should be effected through the legislative process, environmental groups have shown great adeptness in furthering their objectives through use of the judiciary. However, we now see some encouraging signs that our Judicial Branch of government is moving toward restricting the ability of such groups to further their agendas through use of the judiciary.

Much of the impetus toward management of public lands in a manner restricting human use and access derives from litigation brought against the federal land use agencies by activist environmental groups with seemingly limitless budgets. The Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department’s Environmental and Natural Resources Division stated this past Summer that there were 7100 active environmental litigation cases in the United States. However, help is on the way.

This past Summer the United States Supreme Court unanimously (9-0) dealt a severe setback to use of the judiciary by environmental groups in pursuit of their agenda. In Norton, Secretary of the Interior et al v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance et al, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected all three claims of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance against the U.S. Department of Interior acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

Plaintiff’s first claim charged the Department of Interior with violation of the Wilderness Act. The Utah lands in question in this case have been designated as wilderness study areas pursuant to the statutory mandate that lands having "wilderness characteristics" be identified and inventoried. However, once an identified wilderness study area (WSA) remains in limbo until it is designated a wilderness area or abandoned, it cannot be plucked out of context and made the basis for a suit under Section 706(1) of the Administrative Procedure Act, "APA."

Plaintiff’s second claim was to the effect that the BLM had not complied with its own land use plan. The Court denied this claim also, finding that "a land use plan is generally a statement of priorities. It guides and constrains actions, but does not (at least in the usual case) prescribe them." A statement by the BLM about what it plans to do, at some point in the future, cannot be plucked out of context and made the basis for a suit under Section 706(1) of the Administrative Procedure Act, "APA."

Plaintiff’s third claim was to the effect that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) required the BLM to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement given evidence of increased ORV use. However, the court found that such a supplemental statement is required only in circumstances where major Federal agency action is ongoing. The Court held that there was no requirement for a supplemental environmental impact statement in that adoption of the plan is an action completed when the land use plan is approved.

Summarizing, the Court’s decision in Norton, Secretary of the Interior et al v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance et al, severely curtails the ability of private entities to compel land use decisions in furtherance of their objectives. While the extent of ORV use may be the subject of legitimate debate, the Court’s decision goes well beyond that issue and curtails, in general, access to the judiciary as a route around the more democratic legislative process and rule-making process of the executive branch - a welcome development, at least in the view of this writer.

Macro Trend #2 - The Executive Branch

Roadless Management rules adopted late in the Clinton Administration ran roughshod over the interests of local governments and the statutory right of public access via preexisting roads, the so-called RS2477 roads. A case in point involved a federal initiative to close a road through the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois. Probably the same road I once traveled, through a forest fire, en route to the Southern Illinois Fluorspar district. I received a telephone call from an Illinois state attorney inquiring about RS2477 rights and how the county and state might rely upon same in order to prevent closure of the road or roads in question. One concern was that the federal closing would make it exceedingly difficult to travel from one end of the county to the other.

However, help is on the way. By an Executive Order issued August 26, 2004, President Bush ordered Federal Agencies to adopt a more cooperative (less confrontational) approach in implementing laws relating to the environment and natural resources, "with an emphasis on appropriate inclusion of local participation in federal decision making."

H.R. 2416 (5546) - Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

The U.S. House of Representatives website shows no movement of this legislation subsequent to referral to several subcommittees on June 19, 2003. Accordingly, we see no movement to die in committee at the end of this current Congress.

It has been hard work, but enjoyable.

George Loud

Scholarship Challenge

by Keith Harmon, AFMS President

At the AFMS meeting in Syracuse New York in July 2004 the Directors of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation were informed of a shortage in funds available to award scholarships for 2005. We had a lot of expenses to meet and an order for our scholarship fund to be restricted and only the interest earned being available for use. At the Meeting the Directors voted to allow money to be donated to the fund as unrestricted funds and available for use in scholarship funding immediately. In this way if enough money is donated we will not have to eliminate the second scholarship.

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies challenges all the Regional Federations to make up the difference in the available funds for the 2005 AFMS Scholarship Awards. We propose that each Regional Federation raise and donate to the AFMS Scholarship fund the equivalent of $100 per member. This can be accomplished in any manner each Federation chooses. The only thing you must do is state the money is for unrestricted use when you send it in so it can go directly to the scholarship. The total we need to raise is $12,000 (twelve thousand dollars). I believe we can do this and more because it is a worthy cause and one of the most important things we as members of the American Federation of Mineral Societies do. Remember the nominating process is already underway so this is a time-constricted effort. The deadline for raising the funds is the AFMS meeting in St. Louis, MO, August 21, 2005. This is a Challenge!! Are you up to meeting it???
Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as AFMS Committee Chairs for the coming year. Please feel free to contact these people (or the person in your regional federation who serves on the committee as well) if you need information or have ideas to share with them.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Cathy Gaber
5707 Northfield Rd.; Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 654-7479
<bg@his.com>

AFMS Newsletter Committee
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AFMS Boundaries Committee
George Browne
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AFMS Club Publications Committee
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AFMS Commemorative Stamp Committee
Wendell Mohr - Chair
9509 Emory Grove Rd; Gotha, FL 34734
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AFMS Conservation and Legislation
currently vacant

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Past President’s Advisory Committee
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Anne Cook
see AFMS Secretary, page 2

Website/Webmaster Committee
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<webmaster@amfed.org>
AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

Eastern Federation
On behalf of the Microminerologists of the National Capital Area, I nominate Kathy Hreinchka as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Kathy, a member since 1988, was the editor of the Mineral Mile for four years and is currently serving as vice president. In addition to finding speakers and arranging programs for the club, she often makes her own presentations. Kathy’s micromount exhibits have earned several trophies from the Eastern and American Federations. There are many other ways she has contributed to the club and the hobby. At our recent club picnic for instance, she was busy providing mineral and fossil activities for the juniors.

submitted by Bruce Gibe, MMCA past president

Southeast Federation
The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC nominates Bruce and Debra Siegfried as AFMS Rockhounds of the Year. As treasurer, they organized our records; they initiated our club’s auctions; they worked together as curator and assistant for our museum; as education chairman, Debra coordinates visits to schools and arranges tours for schools and universities to our museum; and is current gift shop manager for our Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum. The time they volunteer is immeasurable.

submitted by Linda Behr, President

California Federation
I would like to nominate Peggy Hill for the Education Through Sharing Award. Her volunteer activities have been extensive, although not directly related to South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society members. As you may know, she and many other members are also members of the Palos Verdes Society, which owns the lapidary equipment utilized in the old Torrance Bartlett Senior Center. For over 10 years, Peggy has spent 3 mornings a week or more introducing a great many seniors to the art of lapidary by tutoring and mentoring them through the steps from cutting rough to setting the final polished stone. Over the years, she has supervised the shop and gradually reconstituted all of the 9 or so machines bringing them up to full operational and safe status. She has also developed machine operation guidelines, obtained supplies, lapidary rock, and other materials for the Bartlett Senior Center.

As a result of these volunteer activities, Torrance’s Park and Recreation Department has a recognized and acknowledged fully professional lapidary workshop that is well organized, well operated and an outstanding city resource. A vast number of seniors have passed through the shop in the last decade, starting as complete neophytes and finishing as accomplished lapidarians. Many have gone on to the activities at home and to make a variety of lapidary items for their church bazaars, etc. I think Peggy has been one of Torrance’s unsung heroes for her devotion to sharing the lapidary arts and the expenditure of many thousands of volunteer hours.

submitted by Burt Dobratz

Midwest Federation
The Livingston Gem & Mineral Society would like to honor Hazel Morgan. Fifty words is not enough to say what an incredible member she is, and her knowledge of rocks and minerals is outstanding. She has been a member for over 30 years and has filled all the officer positions, doing some more than once. We feel she is an outstanding person for this honor.

submitted by David Riggs, President

The Northwest Wisconsin Gem and Mineral Society have nominated Pamela and Steve Heath as their 2004 Rockhound of the Year. They joined the organization 8 years ago and have been going non stop ever since. Pam has served as president for 7 years, editor of “Rough n Tumbled Times” and Steve has served as treasurer of 6 years and showed chairman for 4 years. Pam was co-chair of MWF’s Annual Convention, served as State Director, and as Endowment Fund Chair, and is on the nominating committee.

When these two joined the Northwest Wisconsin Gem and Mineral Society our organization was 8 or 10 it is now 60 members with 90% active. Pam organized a youth group that soon grew to 12 members. During social hour each month, she would sit with kids and make some type of craft rock project. These two “Gem treasurers” are going to be missed as they have move to the UP of Michigan to explore their love for the Copper Country.

submitted by the membership of the Northwest Wisconsin Gem and Mineral Society

Northwest Federation
Bill Foreman has been a member of the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society since 1988, joining when he was 74 years old. He can make spheres by hand in three hours. He makes eggs, bookends, belt buckles and bolas from the material he collects on field trips. He runs the silent auction and shows new members how to cut, sand and Polish cab. He visits schools showing kids the gems found in Owyhee County Idaho. He interviews club members who have belonged for over 60 years so that their expertise won’t be lost. He was featured in the “Shop Talk” section of the August Rock and Gem

submitted by Jerry Wells, Federation Director

AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

from Bonnie Gillmann, 2004 Chair

Safety First
by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair

HOLIDAY SAFETY
The Holiday Seasons seem to come earlier every year, so it is appropriate to review some of the safety tips that are associated with them to keep our members, their families, and collections safe.

Smoke Detectors - Make sure that there are a minimum of one in each bedroom and one at the top of the stairwell. Test each one or replace the battery to ensure they are operational.

Food Preparation - Properly thaw out (in refrigerator or under cold water, not in the microwave), wash and cook meats and prepare other foods. Do not leave cooking food unattended. Refrigerate leftovers as soon as possible in approved airtight containers. Do not leave out at room temperature.

Fireplaces and Wood burning Stoves - Check for cracked mortar, check the operation of the damper and the spark screen on the roof. If you burn soft or green hardwood or have a build up of soot or creosote, have the chimney cleaned. Do not have combustible material within three feet of the fireplace or stove.

Evacuation Plan - Implement and practice an emergency home escape plan.

Heaters - Inspect the heating system and change filters. Have your system serviced annually. Install a carbon monoxide detector.

Extension Cords - Use UL or CSA approved cord, preferably the type with an ON/OFF switch and overload protection, or a remote or foot operated switch. Do not exceed the rating (WATT) or outlet capacity of the cord. Keep the cords clear of walking areas and do not cover with rugs, packages or other items that could cause them to overheat. Inspect for damage or frayed wires prior to using and replace if required.

Gift Wrapping Paper and Boxes - Dispose of wrapping paper and boxes immediately in the trash or recycle bin. Due to the highly flammable nature of these materials and high burning temperature (due to additives) do not burn in fireplaces or wood burning appliances.

Smoking - Ensure all cigarettes and matches are completely extinguished before discarding. Before going to sleep, check all furniture and waste bins for smoldering embers.

Drinking - Drink in moderation or use a designated driver.

continued on page 7
Safety Trees -

The National Safety Council states that there are over 400 residential fires and 40 deaths each year involving Christmas Trees. To avoid tree fires, consider an artificial tree that is fire resistant and if lighted, UL approved, or a live tree that can be planted outside after the holidays. If you decide on a live tree, pick one that is fresh and not dried out. Check the tree for insects and shake or blow out before bringing indoors. Xmas Tree Farms may color the trees prior to shipping, so check the tree for dried out spots, leaves falling off, or dry branches that snap when bent. Pick a tree that is not too tall for the room, leaving space for ornaments and that will be well clear of walking areas and heat sources. Cut off the trunk 1 to 2 inches from the base of the tree at an angle and place in a sturdy, water holding tree stand. Keep the stand continuously filled with water containing a mixture of two cups of Karo syrup, two pinches of epsom salt, one teaspoon of boraxo, two ounces of liquid chlorine bleach and one teaspoon of chelated iron for each two gallons of hot water to ensure that the tree stays waterlogged (more than 800% of a live tree) and fireproof. Tie the tree to the wall or ceiling with a wire or nylon cord to prevent it from being knocked over. After the holiday remove the branches and use in the garden over the mulch for protection of your plants from the cold. Do not burn the tree in the fireplace.

Tree and House Lights -

Check lights for broken sockets and frayed wires and replace if required or if the string is over 5 years old. Outdoor lights burn hotter than indoor, so only use them outside. Indoor lights are not waterproof and should only be used indoors. Do not exceed the WATT rating of the lowest rated string or extension cord when connecting together (usually no more than three). Turn OFF lights when going out or retiring for the night. Do not use lighted candles on trees. Do not use light strings on artificial trees, but light with spotlights or floodlights that are placed a suitable distance from the tree to avoid the lamp heat. Remove outside lights as soon as the season is over to prevent damage from the weather.

Ornaments -

Use flame resistant ornaments. Place glass ornaments or those with small parts out of reach of small children and pets. Do not use popcorn chains or candy on trees when small children are present to avoid their climbing into the tree for them. Use approved step stools or ladders to reach high places when trimming the tree or installing outside decorations. Do not use cellophane as it can not be made fireproof. Use an approved flame retardant on cotton batting, paper decorations, and Santa suits.

Candles -

Burn candles in sturdy containers away from combustible materials and out of reach of children and pets. Never leave candles burning when you are not in the room.

Have a great Holiday Season and New Year.

Public Relations - Advertising Your Show

by Carolyn Weinberger, Editor. Adapted from EFMLS News, October, 2004

In recent months I've had several inquiries from clubs asking for a list of hobby related publications that have a calendar of events that can be used to publicize club shows and swaps. Here's the list which I have. Remember, most of these publications have a 3 – 4 month “lead time” so you'll have to get your information in to them early enough to meet their deadline.

Mineral News
Send to: The Editor
Mineral News
PG Box 2088
Peekskill, NY 10566-2088

Lapidary Journal
Send to: Lapidary Journal Calendar
60 Chestnut Av, Suite 201
Devon, PA 19333-1312

Rock & Gem Magazine
Send to: Rock & Gem Show Dates
290 Maple Ct, Suite 232
Ventura, CA
<editor@rockingem.com>

Rocks & Minerals Magazine
Send to: Coming Events
Rocks & Minerals
1319 Eighteenth St NW
Washington, DC 20036-1802

Mine Design
(listing on the web only)
<www.gemdata.com/show.html>

Your Regional Federation Newsletter
(see your federation directory or newsletter for specific address).

For each of the above, include the date, place, sponsoring club, name and address of show chair or contact for information. Some also allow space for a listing of featured speakers, admission and show times, so include that as well.

Because of space constraints, the AFMS News- letter does not publish local club show information, only regional federation conventions.

Scribe CD Available
from Dan Imel

SCRIBE, the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors has an offer for you and your club editor. It's a CD which contains lots of useful material that can be used in your own club newsletter. The 2004 edition of the CD has articles, cartoons, clipart, and a variety of club newsletters. All can easily be imported into your own newsletters to give them added interest and variety.

SCRIBE provides these CD's at a nominal cost - $2 each which includes the postage - as a way of assisting editors. Does your editor have a copy? If not, why not order one. Send your check (payable to SCRIBE) for $2 to:

Dan Imel
4 Laney Park
Fairport, NY 14450-8443

Don't forget to include your return address! You do not have to be a SCRIBE member to take advantage of this offer.

Work has already started on compiling the 2005 issue of the CD which will make its debut at the SCRIBE confab in Quartzsite, AZ at the end of January. Why not have your club editor send Dan a copy (or copies) of your club publication for inclusion. It's fun and educational to share your good work with others, so you're encouraged to do so. Mail your contributions to Dan at the address above.

Regional Federation Shows
from Mary Trammell, AFMS Show Coordinator

2004 Shows:
Southeast Federation
December 10-12, 2004
Norcross, Georgia

2005 Shows:
California Federation
June 10-12, 2005
Roseville, California

Eastern Federation
March 18 – 20, 2005
Sayre, Pennsylvania

Midwest / AFMS
August 16-21, 2005
St. Louis, Missouri

Northwest
August 5-7, 2005
Albany, Oregon

Rocky Mountain
June, 2005
Colorado Springs, Colorado

South Central Federation to be announced
Once Upon A Time

by Kitty Starbuck

ONCE UPON A TIME...and that time is here again...it should be ticketed for speeding! It comes around faster and faster every year.

NOW IS THE TIME that all of you club editors are gathering up material to enter and be judged in your regional contests. The top three entries in each category in the regional contests will then be passed along to the AFMS judges to be judged. The awards for the AFMS contest will be handed out at the AFMS/MWF Convention in St. Louis, Missouri August 19-21, 2005.

I have heard complaints from editors, that it takes a long time to go through bulletins and pick out material that is worthy of entry in the contest. Just a suggestion, it might make your job easier. Starting with the January issue, start a "Contest File"...if you find any material in the January issue, clip it, and place it in the file. If you do this for each month, at the end of the year, when it is time to send in your entries, rather than have to run through every bulletin for the whole year, you do check your 'monthly files', and there they are! This should save you a lot of time.

Last year, we only had 133 entries, that is not very many for seven Federations! I receive 80-100 bulletins a month, and I KNOW THERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING ARTICLES, POEMS, ETC. JUST WAITING TO BE ENTERED. I get a lot of material from exchange bulletins, because I think it is interesting, and maybe could help someone with a problem, and have wondered many times why they weren't entered in the contest. I clip them, because someday I might use them...if I can find them!!

Watch your Regional Federation newsletter for more information on your Editor's Contest deadlines and rules. I am encouraging you to send in MORE entries so more can be forwarded to AFMS. I know they are out there!

Cards for June

by Sir Barkley Bigfoot

My friend June Zeitner has been a bit under the weather lately and could use some cheering up. I know that not all of you know June, but certainly you know of the many of the things that she's done for us "rockhounds".

June is the founder of the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of fame and the author of many guides to collecting areas all over the U.S. She's also written all those monthly articles for Rock & Gem and Lapidary Journal magazines as well as several books. There's a lot more too, but I don't have room to tell you about everything.

Why not take a moment to drop June a card? Her address is 5203 S Canyon Dr; Rapid City, SD 57702-1870. If you want, you could tell her that Barkley says "Hi" too.

The Federation Is Here To Help

by Keith Harmon, SCFMS President

A few years ago one of the big questions circulating in the South Central Federation was "why should our club belong to the Federation and pay dues to an organization that we don't get anything back from?" Our club was in a period of decline and had little money and seriously considered dropping the Federation affiliation because of the cost of the dues.

What changed our mind? We had a Federation Convention coming up in a couple of months and we decided to send a delegate to see what it was about. As amazing as that sounds, our club had not had a representative attend any convention in several years. Consequently we did not know what the Federation did, or could do.

I was the President of the club and new to the Rockhound experience so I had no idea of what to expect at the convention as a delegate. As it turned out, Mary Trammell was the current President of the Federation [SCFMS] and we went to the convention in Waco. At that convention we found out we were not the only ones asking what good the Federation was for our club. Fortunately for us, many Federation members answered the question in several ways. In my fulfilling memory and hindsight, the things that struck me were:

1. The Federation is here to serve the clubs by offering their help in anyway they can.

2. If a club has a problem and does not bring it to the attention of the Federation, the Federation has NO WAY of knowing a club needs help.

3. As a Federation, we provide a scholarship to four graduate students each year for $2,000 each to help them through school. [This is the AFMS Scholarship Foundation program.]

4. Through the Federation a directory is published that contains officer addresses and club addresses with phone numbers so those can be used as resources if we want to plan a field trip in other areas of the three states the SCFMS covers. [Your Federation does this too.]

5. The Federation has a slide library that we can check out programs for our clubs.

6. There is an American Federation of Mineralogical Societies that covers the entire United States. Through that we can network and find places all over the U.S. to go rock hunting and actually find things.

All this was new to us because we had not been an active participant in our Federation. Not being real bright, I decided to see if the Federation would do what it said, so I wrote a letter to Kate Shaw, then Executive Secretary of the SCFMS, and explained how our club was in a decline and asked what we should do to improve our club. To my chagrin and mortification, the letter found its way to the editor of the Federation Newsletter and was published. I thought I would die of embarrassment - I had revealed that our club needed help and now the whole world knew it! But you know what? We received a letter from George Finley in Oklahoma that gave us several suggestions on what we could try to generate excitement and interest in our club.

We tried several of the suggestions that fit with what we wanted to do. Guess what? They helped! Those suggestions got us thinking and we tried a lot more ideas and some of those worked too. One of the best ideas we had was to ask our District VP for help. That was Joyce Speed of the Arlington Gem & Mineral Society. Through her efforts we started to change our attitudes and look at the positives in what we had and did. We felt that the whole Arlington Club more or less adopted us and supported us in our efforts to re-vitalize our club. We started to grow and quadrupled in size in just four years.

We have energetic and excited members who want to learn and do things. Through the kindness of individuals and the generosity of the Arlington club several of our members learned the basics of silversmiting. What a truly great way to spread our hobby and teach others about lapidary skills through inter-club cooperation.

What does the Federation do for our club or yours? Nothing if you don't ask. Everything they can if you do ask. What has the Federation done lately for our club besides offer suggestions you might ask? Well, let's see:

1. It has instituted a general liability insurance program that is extremely important and extremely inexpensive...

2. It continues to provide scholarships to worthy students.

3. A growing slide library with videos is available also.

4. Information on pending legislation which may affect our collecting rights.

5. Not bad for concrete, hard things that can be readily demonstrated.

So when I look back just a few short years ago when I knew nothing of the Federation and I asked the question "Why should our club remain a member and what does the Federation do for us?", I am glad that I attended a Federation Convention to find out. I am glad I wrote a letter to ask for help because we sure got it. And I am mostly glad that I had the honor and privilege to meet the folks who were interested enough to try and help someone they did not know and a club that had not been active for years.

Ed Note: Although Keith wrote this about his experiences with his own club and the South Central Federation, you too can avail yourself of help from your own regional Federation. Just write to one of your officers or committee chairs and ask. If you need help or have a question about the American Federation, direct your question to the AFMS Central Office and you'll get the answers to your questions or help as you requested.

Remember...the dumbest question of all is the one never asked.
All American Club Award Entry - 2004

SECTION 1 - CLUB INFORMATION (no points awarded)

Club Name and Address:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Date organized: ___________________________  Federation Affiliation: _________________________________________

Number of Members:
Adult__________  Honorary__________  Life__________  Junior__________

Meeting Place _________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Applicant Name________________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________
Phone______________________________E-mail__________________________________

Mission or Purpose of Club

SECTION 2 - SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS (30 points possible)

General Meetings:  Number of Meetings __________  Average Attendance: __________
Guests __________  Door Prizes: Yes______ No______

Programs: Include list for the year, naming type of program, speaker, etc.

Board Meetings:  Number of Meetings __________  Average Attendance: __________
Guests:__________

List of Officers, Directors and Committee Chairpersons

Junior Meetings:  Number of Meetings __________  Average Attendance: __________
Guests __________

Adult Leader_______________________________________________________________

Special Group Meetings (Established Groups)

Number Attending:
Cabbing __________  Faceting__________  Metal Working __________  Beading___________

Other (please specify) _________________________________________________________

Social Events:  Number attending -

Summer picnic__________  Installation Dinner__________  Holiday Dinner__________

Other (describe):______________________________________________________________________________________________

Show Conducted:  Yes__________  No__________
Date__________________________

Number of Members Attending: __________
Number of Dealers: __________

Number of Members Helping: __________
Number of Demonstrations: __________

Special Features:  Club Library: Yes__________  No__________
Number of Books: __________

Workshop or Classes:  Yes__________  No__________ (List kinds)

Permanent Traveling Displays Yes__________  No__________ (List type and location)

SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY (30 points possible)

Bulletin Name:____________________________________________________________________

Editor's Name:____________________________________________________________________

Were meeting notices posted in libraries, stores, etc.? Yes__________  No__________

Were meeting notices published in local newspapers? Yes__________  No__________

Were show fliers posted in public places? Yes__________  No__________

Were show notices published in local newspapers? Yes__________  No__________

Were meetings or shows announced on radio or TV? Yes__________  No__________

Copies of any supporting material such as printed articles about club or members, show announcements or fliers,
meeting and show notices from newspapers should be submitted.  

continued on next page
All-American Club Award Entry, Part 2

SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR THE FEDERATION (Regional and American) AND OTHER CLUBS (20 points possible)

Members served as Federation officers or on committees: Regional: Yes________ No________ National: Yes________ No________

Members attended: Regional Federation Convention and Show: Yes________ No________

American Federation Convention and Show: Yes________ No________

Club or members contributed to Scholarship Fund or Endowment Funds: Yes________ No________

Members gave programs for other clubs: Yes________ No________

Members attended other club shows/swap workshops: Yes________ No________

Members displayed cases at other club shows: Yes________ No________

Monthly bulletin exchanged with other clubs: Yes________ No________

Joint field trips with other clubs: Yes________ No________

Supporting material should include a list of all above persons, positions and other activities, and could include pictures, copies of certificates, etc.

SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS (15 points possible)

Talks or demonstrations given at schools, youth groups, etc. Yes________ No________

Displays at libraries or other public locations: Yes________ No________

Booth or other activity at local fairs or events: Yes________ No________

Support for other community activities: Yes________ No________

Donation of materials to school, nursing homes, groups, etc. Yes________ No________

Supporting material should provide details for all above items, and could include pictures, thank you cards, Certificates of Appreciation, etc.

SECTION 6 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS (10 points possible)

Members served on agency committees: Yes________ No________

Members provided comments on agency proposals and drafts: Yes________ No________

Members contacted congressmen concerning legislation affecting access or collection: Yes________ No________

Club or members supported access/collection lobbying organization: Yes________ No________

Supporting materials should provide details for all above items and could include copies of letters sent.

SECTION 7 - OVERALL FORMAT AND PRESENTATION OF SUBMISSION (10 points possible)

This will be judged for neatness, organization and spelling, and the overall presentation of material.

SCORING AND AWARDS

90 - 100 points = Gold All American Club

80 - 89 points = Silver All American Club

70 - 79 points = Bronze All American Club

Instructions for completing entry form: Calendar year 2004

1. Each entry is to be submitted as a single document, limited to a maximum of 100 pages (one or two sided), including text and graphics. A loose-leaf notebook is a suitable binder.

2. The document should have six sections divided with numbers 1 - 6, with the entry form in section 1 and the supporting information for each of the sections in its place following the appropriate divider. There is no restriction on the number of pages in any section.

3. When filling out the entry form, mark all appropriate blanks and entry numbers, or other information where requested. Assemble requested supporting materials and lists after the appropriate section divider, and insert photos and other graphics following the typed information.

4. Entries are to be submitted to your regional federation All American chairperson. Check your Federation newsletter for due dates.

5. Winners will be announced during the AFMS Awards Banquet in St. Louis, MO on Saturday, August 20, 2005. All submitted materials will be returned.
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 firearm 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.

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 rock-hounding, 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 $4.50 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:
AFMS Central Office
Steve Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
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: Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
editor@amfed.org

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

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The creation of an international authority for the purpose of controlling new minerals and their names appeared to be essential in the eyes of numerous mineralogists in order to avoid the then existing confusion in this field. Until 1959 when the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) was created, there were no strict rules regulating the definition of new mineral species. New names were created by researchers themselves, with all possible risks arising from erroneous or incomplete descriptions, or from using already existing names.

Michael Fleischer (1961) thus noted that out of 583 new minerals recorded between 1940 and 1959, 106 appeared to be identical to already existing minerals, 97 were mere varieties and 60 descriptions were incomplete. As a result, 46% of the species were of dubious validity.

Another good example for the confusion in the nomenclature is illustrated by corderite: this mineral has received 23 different names belonging either to local varieties, or to species with only slight differences in the chemical composition or physical properties. Moreover, there existed no guarantees as to the conservation of the type material, which made all subsequent comparisons with new material hazardous.

The IMA was established in 1959 and its Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) was entrusted with the control of the new species and their nomenclature. The first meeting took place in Copenhagen, in 1960, where the functioning rules of the association had been defined. In 1962, during the meeting held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, the members of the Commission abstained from taking a vote, which was therefore postponed to the next meeting. The new international system of approval of new minerals was thus inaugurated by the mineral roquesite.

The present functioning rules of the CNMMN are the result of successive conventions, continuously improved and adapted according to new analytics techniques. We may quote the successive works of Hey et al. (1961), Fleischer (1970), Donnay and Fleischer (1970), Mandarino et al (1984), Nickel and Mandarino (1987), Dunn and Mandarino (1988), as well as a later adaptation by Nickel (1996).

The executive committee of the Commission consists of a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary, elected by the members of the Commission and entrusted with the following well-defined tasks:

- the chairman is responsible for all matters concerning new minerals and their nomenclature;
- the vice-chairman deals with proposals of disregard, re-definition and re-naming of minerals;
- the secretary functions as a link between the subcommittees with the task of reorganizing mineral groups (amphiboles, micas) and is charged with administrative duties for the Commission.

Besides the officials, the Commission consists of present of 29 national delegates representing the following countries: the Republic of South Africa, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

Criteria For The Definition of a New Mineral

A mineral can be described as a solid, inorganic and crystallized substance having a well-defined chemical composition and physical properties. It is the result of a terrestrial or extra-terrestrial geological process, with no intervention of man. Metallurgical slags and chimney deposits are therefore not considered as minerals.

A new mineral must necessarily have a chemical composition and crystallographic properties which are different from those of the already existing species. As stated by Nickel (1996), a very slight variation in the chemical composition may justify a new species, provided that a minor element stabilizes the structure, or that its presence in a certain site causes structural modifications linked to its charge or to its different size. One the other hand, an element may partly substitute another, but this must not necessarily result in major structural modifications. In this case, the chemical varieties are designated by only one mineral name accompanied by a chemical adjective: for example: nickel-pyrite.

The problem of minerals having the same chemical composition, but crystallizing in different systems is more delicate to solve. According to the case, either two different minerals will be distinguished (ex: pyrite (cubic) and marcasite (orthorhombic), diamond (cubic) and graphite (hexagonal)) or only one single species, ex: analcime, having cubic, triclinic, monoclinic, etc., polymorphs, depending on minor variations in the ordering of the cations Al and Si in the structure. Some polymorphs and polytypes (compounds characterized by a different periodicity in the stacking of layers) are designated by an only name of species followed by a structural suffix. Ex: heterogenite - 2H and heterogenite - 3R; lepidolite - 2M1 and lepidolite - 3T.

Procedure for the Validation of a New Mineral

A mineralogist who wishes to have a new mineral officially recognized, should submit a proposal to this effect to the chairman of the CNMMN. He should fill in a type form for this purpose, indicating the following indications:

- the proposed name for the new mineral (this point will be discussed more in detail below);
- the precise geographic occurrence: country, province or state, locality, mine, or the geographic co-ordinates in case toponymic references are lacking. Additional data to be mentioned here are the geological context, para genesis and associated minerals;
- the chemical composition accompanied by the formula, as well as by the method of analysis;
- crystallography: system, class, space group, unit-cell size, volume, number of formula units per unit cell (Z) and x-ray diffraction powder diagram;
- the crystal structure, when permitted by the morphology of the crystal;
- the macroscopic description and physical properties: morphology, crystal size, color, luster, fracture, cleavage, hardness, measured density, calculated density;
- optical properties. A different form is filled in, depending on whether the mineral is transparent or opaque:
  - Non-opaque mineral: isotropic or anisotropic, uniaxial or biaxial, optical sign, indices of refraction, 2V angle, dispersion, pleochroism, absorption, orientation with respect to crystallographic axes;
  - Opaque mineral: color in reflected light, internal reflections, isotropic or anisotropic, bi-reflection, indices of reflection measured under different wavelengths;
- other data: thermal behavior (thermogravimetric and differential analysis, infrared spectrum, fluorescence under UV light), magnetism, radioactivity;
- conservation of type material: place of conservation (necessarily a recognized national collection);
- relationship to species;
- bibliographic references.

Choice of Name

The problem of the choice of a name for a new mineral deserves a more detailed discussion. In the first place, the name should be sufficiently different from the already existing minerals (indeed, langbeinite and langbeinite may give rise to confusion just like smithite and smithite).

Homonyms will be distinguished by adding the first name to the surname of the chosen person: youngite and yonaginayite; melonite (after the mine Melones in California) and melonjosephite (after Joseph Melon). Care should also be taken that a name deriving from a language such as Chinese or Russian is not too difficult to pronounce by someone of Latin or Anglo-Saxon origin (ex: przhevalskite or xiangji- anpite). In any case, a transliteration into the Latin alphabet should be provided. It is however, also true that such names as vandenderiesscheite or haapalite must be equallyarduous for Asiatic readers.

Subscription Price Increase

Due to rising costs, the yearly subscription price of the AFMS Newsletter, will increase to $4.50 per year, effective immediately.

The newsletter is published 10 times per year with no issues in January, July or August. Subscriptions run for one year from the date of receipt. Checks should be made payable to AFMS and mailed to the Central Office (see page 11). Be sure to include your name and address as well as club affiliation with your order.

If you are a subscriber, check your current mailing label for expiration date.