HOW TO ORDER MERIT BADGES FOR YOUR CLUB'S KIDS

As we set out implementing our new AFMS/FRA Merit Badge program, I've received queries from a couple of youth leaders recently about how to go about getting merit badges and the plan for distributing them. Thus I'd like to clarify this.

Because this is a new program and we don't have a history as to what potential supply-and-demand will be, I'm keeping it centralized, at least for the first year or so. For budgetary reasons, we were only able to order a limited quantity of badges as a start. Thus, rather than send bulk quantities of badges to local youth leaders and exhaust our supply right away, I'm asking that local leaders at individual clubs send me requests for badges as they are earned.

How to go about this? You should make multiple copies of the activity checklists that are included in the Merit Badge manual (you can order a hardcopy of the manual from me or download it from the AFMS web site, http://www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.htm). For each child, check off activities as they are completed. When at least 3 activities are check off for any one badge, both the child and youth leader sign the checklist, write in the preferred mailing address of the youth leader, and then send it on to me (Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Activities Chair, 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003). I'll then record the info and send the badge.

I know this is a bit cumbersome and will mean a lag time in getting badges to kids, but in discussing this with others in the AFMS, I decided it's best to use this centralized approach at least for the first year or two in order to monitor how much the program is getting utilized. It's also necessary in order to keep tabs on which activities are proving to be the most popular and how many badges actually end up getting awarded. This way, we'll have an accurate record for the future in estimating budgets for how many badges will need to be manufactured on an annual basis. In order to keep the program free, we need to monitor all costs as we start out and keep a lid on those costs by only distributing what's actually being used. Also, to speed the process, I'm willing to do fulfillment via the phone (805-659-3577) or via email (jbrace-th@adelphia.net) rather than through the mail, so long as the youth leader indicates: 1) the badge being requested, 2) which activities a child has completed to earn that badge, 3) the child's name and the name of his/her club, and 4) the name and mailing address of the youth leader to send the badge to.

Cumbersome, yes, but in the end, I hope that maintaining such records at the outset will allow us to keep the AFMS/FRA Merit Badge program on a firm financial footing that will enable us to provide an educational program by which kids learn, earn rewards and—as always—have fun!
As Janet and I visit the clubs and shows throughout the Federations we find those clubs who are growing are sharing the hobby with and educating the public.

The Houston Gem and Mineral Club is a prime example. At their annual show they had over three thousand school children come through on Friday. Many brought their parents back to see the show. Saturday and Sunday were scout days. They even had a program where a scout could earn their Geology Badge at the show. You could learn about Dinosaurs and other fossils, volcanoes, how different rocks are formed, etc. The show was mostly directed towards educating the public. And the public did come. By Saturday evening they had nearly seven thousand people attend the show and it was very busy on Sunday. I would have to say around ten thousand people attended for the three days. Every member I talked to was very excited about the show and the club.

Is your club sharing with the public? This is a great way to get new members and let the community know about our great hobby.

Until next time,

Bill

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From Jim Robinson, President-elect

By the time you read this much of the country will be covered with a blanket of snow; the digging tools will have been stored away for the winter and we will all be busy with the coming holidays. Many will be looking forward to the kids and grand kids visiting or maybe planning that long awaited trip down to Florida or Arizona. Whatever your plans, my wife Awilda and I wish all a safe and happy holidays.

I recently had heart surgery and later developed a clot on my lung, but I am now home and well on the road to a full recovery. The doctors say I should be completely back to my old self before Thanksgiving and I'm looking forward to resuming all my regular activities with new vigor.

Again, let me wish everyone a happy holidays.

Jim

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From Steve Weinberger, Central Office Administrator

Help us keep the lines of communication open!

As your club elects officers for 2005, please remember to send the information on to the AFMS Central Office so that we can continue to send the AFMS Newsletter to the correct people.

We need the following information for your club President, Editor and Secretary (or Federation Director):
- Name
- Office held
- Address
- City, State, Zip
- and of course, don’t forget to include the name of your club.

Subscription holders - check the date next to your name on the mailing label. Several subscriptions are about to expire and need to be renewed in order for you to continue to receive future issues. Subscriptions are $4.50 per year (10 issues). Checks for renewals should be made payable to "AFMS".

Please help us so that the Federation can continue to keep you informed about important information. Send all changes to the Central Office, either by e-mail or snail mail at: PO Box 302 Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 <central_office@amfed.org>

Incidentally, this information is kept confidential. The AFMS never gives out or sells this information.

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From Jim Hurlbut

There are 13 pages if changes to the AFMS Rulebook for the year 2005. They will be available your Regional Federation Supplies Chair so you can update your Rulebook. There are changes to Cabochon Rules that are important. Minor changes were made in A division and Fossil division. All will become effective as of January 1, 2005.
The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Slide, video or CD-ROM presentations relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or “EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” for “commercial” presentations. (Inquire about CD-ROM entries)

* Each program is judged on its own merits.
* Entries will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score.
* Judging Form and “Tips for Good Programs” are available from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Library.

WHO MAY ENTER
Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2005 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter.

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2005

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES
Class I - Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.
Class II - Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimen, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.
Class III - “How To Do It” - techniques/equipment for fossil preparation, jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.
Class IV - “Just for Juniors” - any of the above for youngsters.

“Excellence in Education” entries are judged separately.

JUDGING (Judges look for):
- accuracy of information / educational value
- quality of photographs / visuals
- completeness of story
- narration that reads/moves well, one slide/view to the next
- presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try - title, credits and “The End” slides
- phonetic spelling of unfamiliar words in script example: Sault Ste. Marie (SUE saint marie)

For VHS or CD-ROM entries - submit a copy. Winners will be contacted regarding duplicates.

- may be ‘live action’ or static slides with narration.

For SLIDE PRESENTATIONS - must be 35mm, in standard mounts.
- must be relatively new originals on Kodak compatible film, otherwise good copies may be impossible.

FOR EXCEPTIONS - contact Coordinator
- must be spotted for projection, preferably with a red dot in lower left corner and coded with entrant’s initials.
- must be numbered to match script.
- a script (written narration indicating when each slide is to be projected) should be typed, ready for duplication. (sample formats available upon request)

Script on a “floppy” is very helpful but not required.

AWARDS
A $200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (with 95+ points) in each Class 1 - 4. In addition, Winners receive national recognition.

A copy is given to each Regional Program Library, thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. 2005 Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet at St. Louis MO (8-20-05)

PROGRAM LENGTH
Adult programs: 30 - 40 minutes is optimum
Junior program: 20 minutes suggested maximum
Suggested maximum slides - 138 (+ 2 Award Slides = 140)

REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION
By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate their entry for the Regional Libraries. Winning slides are returned after duplication by a professional service. Arrangements will be made for video / CD-ROM copies. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

HOW TO ENTER
Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below. Please include post-paid envelope or email address for notification of receipt.

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:
AFMS Program Competition Coordinator, Marge Collins, 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd. Buchanan MI 49107 phone: (269)695-4313 email: margaret@qtm.net

FOR 2005 PROGRAMS:
- a script (written narration indicating when each slide is to be projected) should be typed, ready for duplication. (sample formats available upon request)

All entries must be received by April 15, 2005
Send to:
Marge Collins
AFMS Program Competition Coordinator, 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd. Buchanan MI 49107
**SAFETY FIRST**

*by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair*

**FROST-BITE and HYPOTHERMIA**

Frost-bite is the cutting off of circulation to and possibly the destruction of superficial tissues, especially to hands, feet, ears, and nose as well as other areas of the body exposed to cold temperatures. The wind (wind chill factor) and moisture can add to the effects of cold temperature, even when above freezing.

Symptoms of frost-bite begin as a prickly feeling on exposed areas of the skin followed by numbness and waxy looking patches. In more severe cases, these waxy patches get lumpy, red, and blistered. Followed by the skin dying and falling off or gangrene setting in. Severe pain is associated with advanced frost-bite.

At the first signs of frost-bite, dry the affected area and cover with cloth or in the case of hands, place into the armpits to prevent further cooling. Do not rub or apply snow to the frost-bitten area. The affected area can be placed in water a little above body temperature, but not above 104 degrees F. Do not place the affected area under hot running water, as there will not be any feeling initially, so it may become burned. As the frost-bitten area "thaws" it is normal to feel pain or a burning sensation. If blisters form, do not break and protect them with a loose dressing and seek medical attention immediately.

Hypothermia is the loss of body temperature and can be life threatening. The symptoms are initially uncontrollable shivering with pale and numb skin. The person then becomes confused and forgetful, acts tired, and wants to sit or lie down. In severe cases the person will become unconscious, have shallow breath, erratic heartbeat, and then the pulse weakens and slows.

At the first signs of hypothermia, take the victim to a warm, dry place and give them hot liquids (not alcohol). Prevent further heat loss with warm, windproof clothing that covers exposed areas. Warm them up to a warm, dry place and give them hot liquids. The electrical ground provides a safety shield around electrical components. To accomplish this task, the electrical ground is connected to a conductive surface that is between the electrical components and the person using the equipment. This conductive surface would include such items as the motor's chassis, and other electrical enclosures.

The electrical ground must be continuous from the power distribution to the house, all the way to the point of use. A break in this circuit defeats the ability of the ground to protect the operator from electrocution. Just because the electrical outlet has the third prong, or a GFCI build into the device's power cord, it is not as a substitute for the grounding requirements and proper safety procedures.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends the use of a ground-fault-circuit-interrupter (GFCI) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock hazards.

**BEST OF THE WEST**

*by Janet Smith*

True West Magazine has selected AFMS President, Bill Smith, as Best Knife Maker 2004.

The October issue in part states "Outstanding doesn't come close to describing the beauty created by Bill Smith. The blades, from either stainless or stainless ladder Damascus steel, are cut in shapes from skinners, hunters and carvers to combination sawtooth/skinners. What makes Smith's knives unique are the exquisite stone handles that he makes from rhodonite, petrified wood, limestone, quartz and jade."

Congratulations Bill and thanks for sharing your hobby at many of the shows.

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**ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

*by Marty Hart, AFMS Webmaster*

Most lapidary work involves the use of electric motors, and usually also includes water. This can lead to some very dangerous situations. Not only does water make the human body more electrically conductive, it also manages to work itself into electrical components providing additional seriously dangerous electrical current paths - compound all of this with some of the equipment being very old, homemade, built and possibly not well maintained. There are two very simple things that can be done to improve the situation. Providing proper electrical grounding and the use of a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter).

**Electrical Grounding**

Most modern electrical equipment now includes an electrical plug that has 3 prongs with an electrical ground. There are some limited exceptions where 2 prong groundless connections are currently manufactured but generally old equipment that was built before grounding was a standard. Sometimes equipment may have been built with an electrical ground, but someone wrongfully cut it off the plug because it did not plug into the 2 prong electrical outlet that was in an older house. The electrical ground provides a safety shield around electrical components. To accomplish this task, the electrical ground is connected to a conductive surface that is between the electrical components and the person using the equipment. This conductive surface would include such items as the motor's chassis, and other electrical enclosures. An electrical fault creates an electrical path to this grounded surface, the electrical charge is carried to ground, rather than to the operator. If the electrical fault is highly conductive, then it will probably trip the household circuit breaker, further protecting the operator from harm.

The electrical ground is a safety conductor that does not normally carry any electrical current. Just because the equipment works, it does not mean the ground is connected. The electrical ground must be continuous from the power distribution to the house, all the way to the point of use. A break in this circuit defeats the ability of the ground to protect the operator from electrocution. Just because the electrical outlet has the 3rd prong electrical ground, it does not mean that it is connected, especially in older homes where it was originally wired with only two conductor outlets. A small tester can be bought for only a few dollars that plugs into the outlet to check a lot of common wiring errors. To use the tester, simply plug it into the outlet and see which lights light up. If you ever feel even a slight tingle from a piece of equipment, it probably means that there is an electrical fault, and the ground is not properly connected. You should immediately have the area checked before using it again. Don't forget to also check the electrical outlet.

**GFCI**

A GFCI is a very sophisticated, but simple to use, inexpensive device. A GFCI measures the current that is being sent to the device (hot wire), and the current that is returning from the device (neutral wire). The GFCI compares these currents and if there is even a very small difference, the GFCI will trip to disconnect the appliance from the electrical circuit. This difference in current represents a current fault through a ground path. The magnitude of this small difference is only about 0.006 Amps, or about 0.5 Watts. Not only will a GFCI trip with such small current faults, it does this in about 0.025 seconds. In comparison, the circuit breaker protecting the appliance circuit may likely be rated at 20 Amps. The circuit breaker would therefore require about 4,000 times more current to trip. This could easily mean the difference between life and death.

The GFCI is such an inexpensive device that it is continually saving lives. I have routinely seen GFCI outlets for about $10, and on sale for as low as $5. GFCI's are available in many forms. The most common is a duplex outlet that is permanently wired into the house wiring. They are also available as a combination skin/cover device that goes between the outlet and the powered device. Many appliances now even come with a GFCI built into the device's power cord.

Even though the GFCI can protect people from many, if not most household electrocutions, it cannot protect from all situations. For instance, if a person becomes connected to both the hot and neutral wires without any ground current path, the GFCI cannot detect a problem and will not trip. A GFCI can provide protection with even a 2-wire connection if the fault current flows through an alternate path. This is because the GFCI measures the currents in the hot and neutral wires. GFCI protection is in addition to, not as a substitute for, the grounding requirements and proper safety procedures.

Be sure your shop is safe for you and others. Proper safety doesn’t have to cost a lot, unlike the lack of proper safety.

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**BEST OF THE WEST**

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Congratulations Bill and thanks for sharing your hobby at many of the shows.
AFMS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT
by Dee Holland
AFMS Scholarship Foundation President

In the October issue of the AFMS Newsletter, Keith Harmon, President of the South Central Federation issued a challenge to all participating regional federations to help come up with the additional funds so that a second student may receive an AFMS Scholarship for the year 2005.

At the AFMS Scholarship Director’s meeting in Syracuse, the directors voted to suspend for the year 2005, the second scholarship. This was due in part to the low interest rates on our investments and also a carryover of expenses incurred in the investigation that was necessary to end our relationship with the former treasurer. The Directors also voted to allow us to accept “unrestricted funds”, something that we had not been allowed to do in the past. This means that Keith’s challenge may go forward and money sent to each of the regional scholarship chairpersons that specifies “Unrestricted” may go into a fund created for the sole purpose of granting a second scholarship for 2005.

At this time the goal is $12,000. This may seem a lot at first hand, but remember that Isabellas Burns, AFMS President raised $10,000 in her "Million Penny" drive. This money went into the “restricted fund” to help boost the amount in the Scholarship Fund. We would like to suggest the following: Everywhere rockhounds gather, pass the hat. Ask for pocket change at your meetings and events. Have a "Silver Shower" for the AFMS Scholarship Fund. All monies raised within each participating regional federalation should be sent to your regional federation AFMS scholarship chairman and marked "UNRESTRICTED FUNDS." The Chairman, in turn, will forward the money to the AFMS Scholarship Treasurer and credit the participation to the individuals and clubs in their region.

To kick this "challenge" off, a collection was taken and a considerable amount was donated during the South Central Meeting in September, 2004. In addition, Russell Kemp, AFMS Past President and former President of the Scholarship Foundation now residing in Texas, wrote an "UNRESTRICTED" check for $100. What a great start!

We have just received word from Willie Smith, co-chair of the MWF/AFMS Show and Convention, that we may have time on Saturday after the Midwest Federation Director’s meeting for a “LIVE AUCTION.” We have already received a number of important items for this (more next issue on items) and the money from this auction will be added to the "unrestricted fund." At the end of the show an announcement will be made to whether we have reached our goal. Donations for the auction will be gratefully accepted. There will be a limit as to how many items may be auctioned off this year. All other items will be held for a future auction.

Remember, all money sent to your regional scholarship chairpersons must have "unrestricted" on the check or a note to that effect attached. All other money will continue to be collected as "restricted" and will go into the Scholarship Foundation trust account.

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

Eastern Federation

Tom Smith of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania has been nominated as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for the Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club. He has constantly encouraged members, especially newcomers, by identifying specimens brought in, or found on field trips, by sharing his own collection, and giving his time to club projects such as the annual Rock and Mineral show in Chambersburg each spring. He is so knowledgeable that he’s considered an expert in the club.

submitted by Becky Dietrich

California Federation

The way for clubs to prosper is to have members like Joyce Whitney. She has served our club well for 30 years, holding every office at least twice with the exception that of Treasurer. For 12 years she was the club’s bulletin editor winning both CFMS and AFMS awards. There is not a committee that she has not chaired or served on, many times over. At this time, she is on the Board of Directors and is still very active.

With all her accomplishments in every phase of the lapidary arts, silver smithing, etc., there is one aspect she did not attempt, and that is faceting. That was her late husband, Alf, forts. Their basement served as the weekly meeting place for the faceting classes with as many as 12 to 15 members at a time.

Besides a huge amount of her time, she has generously donated equipment, tools, slabs, rocks, faceting rough and much too much to mention. High energy keeps her going with the many organizations that she belongs to besides the Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club, Northern California Federation through sharing award. Her volunteer activities are extensive, although not directly related to the lapidary arts, her contributions have been significant.

Joyce was the club’s bulletin editor winning both CFMS and AFMS awards. She has served our club well for 30 years, holding every office at least twice with the exception that of Treasurer. For 12 years she was the club’s bulletin editor winning both CFMS and AFMS awards. There is not a committee that she has not chaired or served on, many times over. At this time, she is on the Board of Directors and is still very active.

Regional Federation AFMS Scholarship Coordinators

California Federation:
Montella Lopez
676 Hermitage Pl, San Jose, CA 95134

Eastern Federation:
Bob Livingston
59 Ely Drive, Fayetteville, NV 13660-1001

Midwest Federation:
Nellie Claxton
1000 Wildshire Dr, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Northwest Federation:
Toby Cozens
4401 S. W. Hill St, Seattle, WA 98116

Rocky Mountain Federation:
Sandy Conady
RT 1, Box 7, Binger, OK 73009

South Central Federation:
Jonathan Moehring
6004 Cohoke Dr, Arlington, TX 76018-2366

Southeast Federation:
SFMS clubs or individuals wishing to make contributions should send them directly to the Scholarship Foundation Treasurer, Arlene Burkhalter (see address on page 6)

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society Board of Directors are pleased to announce that member, Barrie Bailey, has been chosen as our Education Through Sharing nominee for 2004. Barrie has been an active member of our club for many years. He has served as First Vice President - Program Chairman several times and has also been our President. As a side line, Barrie has been a teacher of geology, mineralogy, and photography in the local school systems of adults and younger students although his career was as a Scientist for Dow Chemical Company. He has given talks to all ages visiting various schools. He has presented many interesting educational programs to our club as well as to those from other Kiwanis groups. He demonstrates faceting at our annual shows as well as other shows in the area.

We feel Barrie is well qualified for the Education Through Sharing Award. Our club appreciates Barrie’s dedication.

submitted by Debra Greenfield

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

Facetor’s Guild (both of which she is a life member) and Ye Old Timers.

All clubs would benefit by having someone like Joyce as a member. Our club sure has and we appreciate and thank her for all she has done.

submitted by Laura Haines

The Fresno Gem and Mineral Society has selected Lois Heath as our choice for Rockhound of the Year. In the 19 years she has been a member of our club, she has Held several positions of responsibility. She is a past president, has been a board member, membership and door prize chairperson and currently is our First Vice President.

Lois has been involved in workshops for our annual Fair Show and has been co-chairperson for the sales booth for seven years. She conducts workshops, attends all meetings and is always willing to help when asked.

She is an inspiration for all of us.

submitted by Jerry Wells, Federation Director

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 2 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 recognized and honored our club as the recipient of a Sunset Through Sharing Award that is well organized, well operated and an outstanding community resource. A vast number of seniors have passed through the shop in the last decade, starting at complete neophytes and finishing as accomplished lapidaries. Many have gone on to continue the activity at home and to make a variety of lapidary items for their church bazaars, etc. I think

continued on page 7

AFMS NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2004 - JANUARY 2005
PAGE 5
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Historian Committee</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply and Publications</td>
<td>Jack Edwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations Committee</td>
<td>Janet Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ways and Means Committee</td>
<td>Isabella Burns</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
<td>Cathy Gaber</td>
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<td>Junior Programs Committee</td>
<td>Jim Brace-Tompson</td>
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<td>Uniform Rules Committee</td>
<td>Bill Cook</td>
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<td>AFMS Newsletter Committee</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
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<td>Long Range Planning Committee</td>
<td>Marvin Starbuck</td>
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<td>URC Eligibility Files</td>
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<td>AFMS Boundaries Committee</td>
<td>George Browne</td>
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<td>Name Badge Committee</td>
<td>Frank Mullaneay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website/Webmaster Committee</td>
<td>Marty Hart</td>
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<td>AFMS Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
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<td>Nominating Committee</td>
<td>Marvin Starbuck</td>
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<td>AFMS Scholarship Foundation</td>
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<td>(elected by AFMS Directors)</td>
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<td>ByLaws Revisory Committee</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
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<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Ruth Bailey</td>
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<td>AFMS Central Office</td>
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<td>Past President’s Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Marvin Starbuck</td>
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<td>AFMS Club Publications Committee</td>
<td>Kitty Starbuck</td>
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<td>Photography Committee</td>
<td>Barbara Sky</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Commenorative Stamp Committee</td>
<td>Wendell Mohr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Competition Committee</td>
<td>Marge Collins - Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation and Legislation</td>
<td>Jon Spunaugle</td>
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<td>Public Relations Committee</td>
<td>Betty Luke</td>
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<td>Education-All American Committee</td>
<td>Alan Hukill</td>
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<td>Safety Committee</td>
<td>Bill Klose</td>
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<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>Joy Bourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Investment Committee</td>
<td>Dee Holland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Show Consultant</td>
<td>Mary Trammell</td>
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AFMS Committee Chairpersons

From Bill Smith, President

Happy Hanukah

Merry Christmas

Joyous New Year
Club Rockhound of the Year

continued from page 5

Peggy has been one of Torrance’s unsung heroines for her devotion to sharing the lapidary arts and the expenditure of many thousands of volunteer hours. submitted by Burt Dobratz

Midwest Federation

As field trip coordinator of the Sprint River Gem & Mineral Club, I have the honor and privilege to nominate Mary Kozak for AFMS Rockhound of the Year 2004. Mary has only been in the club 6 years. She was vice-president for 2 years and the last 2 years she elected to step in and be our president so we could continue to have a club. She works hard to secure interesting guest speakers and information for our meetings and to get articles in the paper so the people in the area are aware of our club. Her enthusiasm is so contagious she has no trouble in getting members involved in the club activities. Mary is always working to enhance our club, and has enriched our club with her vibrant smile and attitude. submitted by Virginia Cony

Spring River Gem & Mineral Club, Arkansas

As we approach a new year, I want to remind everyone that each AFMS affiliated club may submit the name of one person or one husband/wife team as their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. To do so, send the name(s), club name and a brief (50 words or less) write up about why your person or persons are being recognized to your regional federation committee member:

California:
Barbara Matz
PO Box 7066; Petalluma, CA 94955-7066
<barmatz@yahoo.com>

Eastern:
Cathy Gaber
5707 Northfield Rd; Bethesda, MD 20817
<bg@his.com>

Midwest:
Fran Gutowski
711 W Summerdale; Chicago, IL 60656
<fgutowski@Dearborn.com>

Northwest:
N/A. Send to Cathy Gaber, AFMS Chair

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Kenneth V. Zahn
1910 – 2004

Ken Zahn, AFMS President (1976-77) passed away on September 15, 2004 at the age of 94.

Trained as a chemist, Ken became interested in gems and minerals while visiting a local gem show in the Washington DC area where he lived. He soon joined several of the local clubs, serving each in a variety of positions - club officer, committee chair or member, newsletter editor - to name just a few. He also served the Eastern Federation in a number of positions until he was elected President for the 1967-68 Federation year.

Perhaps best known for his work in keeping the AFMS alert to pending federal legislation which would affect collecting rights, Ken served as AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair from 1965 - 1975, resigning only when he was elected AFMS President for the year 1976-77. His monthly newsletter columns “The Washington Scene” were a regular and much reprinted feature of each AFMS Newsletter.

One of the highlights of Ken’s AFMS Presidency was the inauguration of the AFMS Program Competition with the winning programs being donated to each of the Regional Federations. Other programs begun by Ken during his presidency include the idea for the formation of a Ways and Means Committee in order to improve planning and raising of funds for the AFMS.

For a number of years Ken also served as a Director of the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame (housed in Murdo, SD). His most important duty in that capacity was helping to select the annual inductees for the “Hall”. He was also an exceedingly generous donor to the AFMS archives sending numerous photographs, programs, and other memorabilia for the permanent files.

Ken’s wife Bea passed away several years ago. He is survived by two daughters.

Those wishing to make contributions in Ken’s memory are encouraged to send them to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation (see page 9 for the address of your Federation Coordinator).
Keeping Public Lands Public

from Bob Cranston

This was sent to me by an officer in the BLM. I think his advice is good and if anyone wants to protect their rock collecting privileges, this would be one good way to start. The other and best way is to get off our duff’s and do something. First download and print out and digest the 7.3 megabytes of material listed below. If you can’t digest it and make a decision, get some help. There are at least a couple of lawyers in our group and although they are up to their ears in work, they will talk to you.

If you print this out, you will have the e-mails of at least a couple of them. They are your peers, so don’t hesitate to talk to them.

I am purposefully omitting the name of the BLM officer who sent this to me, so he doesn’t have to answer questions of WHY? from superiors.

Keeping Public Lands Public

Dear fellow rock hunter recreationists:

Today I stumbled upon a valuable document that can help all of us fight for the use of public lands to continue our hobby.

We can take a page out of the other side’s book to assist our efforts to participate in the resource management decisions of the BLM and the US Forest Service that may unjustly restrict our rights and abilities to collect rocks, fossils and minerals.

Actually, this is 7.3 megabytes of pages from the Wilderness Society “book” titled “A Conservationist’s Guide to BLM Planning and Decision-Making Using FLIPMA and NEPA to Protect Public Lands.”

Just as the wilderness advocates can use knowledge about federal agency decision-making and processes to lock us out of public lands, rockhounds can take the same knowledge to present opposing information and perspectives. Each of us can become informed about what’s being planned in areas of collecting that are our favorites. Personal visits to ranger stations, field trips with the geologists or recreation planners are valuable to make ourselves known and our interests heard. Participating in the planning processes also gives us “standing” to protest or appeal decisions that are made against our hobby in spite of our previous inputs.

Rockhounds don’t have the multi-million dollar budgets of the eco-scare organizations, but we can use our existing club and federation contacts to lobby agency managers and legislators. If we could team with like-minded groups that would amplify our voices.

A personal pitch of mine is for us to keep other political agendas separate from our interest in either promoting responsible collecting opportunities or opposing unreasonable restrictions. Some of the other groups that support access to public lands have tended to attach unrelated philosophies and themes, such as right to bear arms, and property rights, for examples, to their messages. These themes may be important in themselves but they distract from our main interest and shift discussion from facts to opinions and emotional responses.

Imponderables

via Angie Texeira and Alan Dean

1. If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?
2. If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren’t people from Holland called Holers?
3. Why do we say something is out of whack? What’s a whack?
4. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
5. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
6. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
7. When someone asks you, “A penny for your thoughts” and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?
8. Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
9. Why do croatians come in airtight packages? Aren’t they just stale bread to begin with?
10. When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?
11. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car not called a racist?
12. Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?
13. Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
14. Why isn’t the number 11 pronounced onety one?
15. “I am” is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that “I do” is the longest sentence?
16. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn’t it follow that electricians can be disfranchised, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?
17. If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed Up?
18. Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?
19. What hair color do they put on the driver’s licenses of bald men?
20. I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use? Toothpicks?
21. Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don’t they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?
22. If it’s true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
23. How come no one ever says, “It’s only a game” when their team is winning?
24. Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it didn’t zigzag?
25. Last night I played a blank tape at full blast. The mime next door went nuts.
26. Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?

Upcoming Regional Federation Shows

from Mary Trammell, AFMS Show Coordinator

2004 Shows:

Southeast Federation
December 10-12, 2004
Norcross, Georgia

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 17-19, 2005
Colorado Springs, Colorado

South Central
December 2-4, 2005
Austin, Texas

Last item: A plug for the Barstow BLM office website pages on rockhunting in the Barstow, CA area.

<www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/rock.html>

This is an excellent summary of collecting rules and some descriptions of local collecting sites. I haven’t confirmed it, but I suspect Harold Johnson, Recreation Chief of the Barstow BLM office is to thank for the good work.

No AFMS Newsletter in January

The deadline for the next issue is January 1, 2005