Here We Go Again — A New Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

by Marion Zenker

Once again a Paleontological Resources Preservation Act has been introduced into the U.S. Senate (we are watching for reintroduction in the U.S. House as well). The number of the Senate bill is S 263 and was sponsored by the same senators as the bill introduced in the 108th Session of Congress with Prime Sponsor being Daniel Akaka of Hawaii.

The new bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and has already passed out of committee without amendment for action on the floor. Plans appear to have the bill passed by the Senate by a simple voice vote. We have already alerted our entire Congressional delegation in South Dakota about this introduction and urged them to vote against such a strategy.

The best defense at this time is to immediately (today) alert the Senators from your state to watch for this strategy and request their help in blocking any passage by voice vote on the floor of the Senate. If enough Senators are alerted this move can be averted and then we have an opportunity to provide some testimony in committee and possible block Senate passage. It is certainly worth a concerted effort. So ask as many people as possible to contact your Senators at once with this request.

As of this writing (in early March), I have not yet read through the entire bill, but it looks to be nearly identical if not completely so to the bill introduced into the 108th Congress in 2003. We need to rally the troops to try to stop this in the Senate if possible.

Meet Us In St. Louis...

LEWIS & CLARK DISCOVERIES

Combined Midwest & American Federation Convention

Greensfelder Recreation Complex - Queeny Park
590 Weidman Rd; Ballwin, MO
August 16 - August 21, 2005

The Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs invites you to join them for the 2005 combined Midwest Federation and American Federation Conventions and Show.

Activities for the week include the AFMS Rules Meeting on Tuesday, August 16 and AFMS annual business meeting on the 17th. Come and see the AFMS at work! Later in the week it will be time for the Midwest Federation meetings held on Friday, August 19 and Saturday, August 20.

There’s going to be a great show too. Opening on Friday, August 19 the show will have an excellent array of quality dealers, numerous exhibits - both competitive and non-competitive - a silent auction and a voice auction plus many other activities. You’re sure to have a great time.

For information and registration materials, visit the show website <http://convention.stlearthsci.org>.

Do plan to Meet Us In St. Louis!
As President, I receive newsletters from throughout the AFMS. This is one of the most important, demanding and overlooked positions in our clubs. I do read every newsletter and have found all to contain useful information, even to one that has been a rock hound for over 25 years. I randomly picked five bulletins to comment on because of the limited space for my message, even though I could comment on all of the hundred or so I receive. I want to let every one know how important our editors are when it comes to disseminating information to our members.

The editor, Ellery Borow, of The Rocky Road newsletter of the Water-Oak Gem and Mineral Society, Winterville, NC is also their President along with several other club positions. He sent me a personal letter thanking all the AFMS personnel for their input to the AFMS newsletter which he uses, as the President, to help make the club meetings more interesting and to help retain members.

Edith E. Hammond, editor of the Granite Chips, Southeastern New Hampshire Mineral Club, Dover, N. H. was given a standing ovation at their Christmas Party for being the editor of the Granite Chips for 38 years. The newsletter is done on a SWINTEC Typewriter. Hard to believe what can still be done on a typewriter.

Being a paleontologist, it was interesting to receive the PALEO Newsletter from the Austin Paleontological Society, Austin, TX, editor, Jean Wallace. I sure wish I could have been on some of those field trips. I also was very pleased to see three articles from the AFMS newsletter included. Eye Safety by Bill Klose, Loud and Clear by George Loud and even my Presidents Message.

Several bulletins are now available via computer. I just ran off Slabs and Cabs from the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, Corpus Christi, TX, the editor, Donna J. Roething, has a large portion of the newsletter in color. You have to check the calendar page to see how innovative Donna is at using color as an attractor to get members to read the page.

The Arrowhead News from the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club, Wyoming, Michigan, editor Edward Benjamin, has numerous pictures from a Demonstration Night. These pictures show people of all ages involved. The one with Bill Schoonveld showing a young student how to make a cab on a genie says it all.

I want to thank all the editors for your dedicated support to your club, your Regional Federation and the AFMS. I remember our AFMS newsletter editor, Carolyn Weinberger, saying her newsletter is no better than her input. My goodness, just doesn’t get any better than this.

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Until next month,

Bill

FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Jim Robinson

I am sure many of you reading this message have heard of the recent legislation which cancels the Golden Age Passports and Golden Access passes to National Parks and Public Lands throughout the nation. In the last days before the holidays congress passed a mammoth appropriations bill some 3000 pages long. This bill contains, besides the necessary budgets for departments, thousands of pork barrel amendments for a wide variety of projects. This is typical of many bills passed by Congress and most of these amendments are never read nor discussed.

One such part of this bill cancels the lifetime Golden Age Passport for seniors legislation (currently a one time payment of $10.00). In its place, Congress has voted to create the “America The Beautiful” card at $100 per year. For this we would be allowed access to all USFS and BLM lands for the purpose of recreation and to the National Parks.

To use a phrase from an article by Peter Martin, President of Scribe: “The threat to Gem, Mineral and Rockhounding clubs is clear, but we are not the only ones affected. Consider the impact on a church picnic into a USFS Forest, and the need to ensure everyone has his or her pass. Perhaps the commercial collecting agents will turn their primary focus on rock hounding and the godly, and leave hunters alone; who will demand a pass from someone with a loaded rifle.”

This section to the house bill was inserted at the last moment as a late night deal between two representatives from Alaska and Ohio neither of whom have public lands in their districts. This section was never discussed on the floor of the House or the Senate. The way in which this section became law is an affront to every law-abiding citizen of this country. I hope each and every one will join me in making this known to all our elected officials in the House and Senate.

Jim
NEW PRIZES ADDED TO THE LOOT!
(WITH STILL MORE TO COME!)
by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

We have just received three more new prizes to be added to our enticements for your support of the 2005 AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle. How about these?

7. Keokuk Geode pair from Sheffer’s Geode mine, Clark County, MO. Donated by John Washburn, MWF President who reports that it was dug out of the old pit at Sheffer’s several years ago. It is about 5” in one direction and 7” in the other for an average of 6”. Lined with sparkling quartz crystals, each half also shows a light sprinkling of micro-pyrite throughout. Valued at $50.00. (MWF)

8. “Independent Wood” specimen from Brilliant Alabama. This beautiful cabinet specimen, measuring 6” x 3” x 3 3/4”, was donated by Bob and Ruby Marshall, members of the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Brilliant wood is fossilized (60 to 100 million years old) sandstone wood covered with small drusy, smoky quartz crystals. The dig site is a strip coal mine that is now closed. This specimen was collected by Ruby and Bob Marshall of Tuka, MS, who have graciously donated it for the 2005 Endowment Fund Raffle. Valued at $30 - $40. (SFMS)

9. Michigan Copper Specimen: Native copper from the Adventure Mine in Ontonagon County, Michigan. The specimen is 4” high and at the widest part 2 3/4” it comes complete with the lucite display stand. Donated by Pamela & Steve Hecht, members of the Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club. The specimen has been cleaned & protected from future tarnish damage. Value $50. (MWF)

Ticket sales are now in full swing across the USA with our super-salesmen (your regional Endowment Fund committee persons) ready and willing to sell you as many tickets as you wish. Tickets are priced at $5.00 each, or you can have 5 tickets for $20.00. You will not need to be present at the drawing to win, either. You may have a friend pick yours up, or we will gladly ship prizes to the absent winners.

The list of names of these folks was printed in last month’s AFMS Newsletter. You may view color pictures and descriptions of all prizes anytime on the AFMS website at www.amfed.org/endow2005.htm and Marty has also put contact information for all committee representatives on the page for your convenience.

Or, if you prefer, send your ticket request, together with your check payable to “AFMS Endowment Fund” directly to me:
Joy Bourne, Chair
AFMS Endowment Fund
RR #1, Box 159A
Towanda, PA 18848-9739

Watch for next month’s AFMS Newsletter for more additions to the list! We are not finished yet!

(Addenda to last month’s article: the address we gave for Ken Anderson (SFMS) was slightly incorrect. The zip code for Fort Mill, SC should be 29715.)

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AUCTION
by Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President

We’re holding a special auction to raise additional funds for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation during the upcoming MWF/AFMS Combined Show and Convention in St. Louis, MO this August.

The auction will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2005.

At this time the following items have been donated to the auction. Watch for additional information in the coming months.

“Alexandrium” Lithium Aluminum Silicate with Neodymium
Color change: Rose to Lavender Cut: Antique Square Cushion
Total Weight: 15.5 cts. Mounted: 14 k Gold Basket Pendant design
Cut and donated by Steve Weinberger

Flawless St. John’s Island Peridot
Faceted by the late Walter Kean, member of the Chicago Lapidary Club. This stone was one of many in Walter’s trophy-winning case at the 1967 AFMS National Show in Washington, DC. Mounted as a pendant. Donated by Doris & Russell Kemp, in memory of Walter Kean

Six star Linde® Sapphire
These synthetic stones were produced by Union Carbide at one time. The company has since discontinued making them.
Weight: Unknown at this time. Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant. Donated by Paul and Margaret Good

Natural Emerald
Faceted by Reivan Zelezny
Weight: 1.81 cts. Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant
Donated by Dee Holland

Unique Wooden Puzzle, designed by Dr. Robert “Bob” Carlson
Faceted Stone hidden inside, mounted in 14 k Gold as a pendant
Donated by Dr. Robert Carlson

Garnet Earrings
Faceted by Ed Romack
Mounted in 14k Gold. Donated by Dee Holland

5mm Round Brilliant Sunstone
Cut by SDMG member, Letty Evans
Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant

11mm Oval Sunstone
Cut by SDMG member, Patty Miklik
Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant

6.5 x 7mm Rectangle Sunstone
Cut by SDMG member, Patty Miklik
Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant

8mm Round Sunstone
Cut by SDMG member, Don Hall
Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant

6mm Modified Square Sunstone
Cut by SDMG member, John Kruzel
Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant

7mm Round Sunstone
Cut by SDMG member, Del Overton
Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant

Opal Triplet
Cut and designed by Dee Holland
Mounted in 14k Gold as a pendant

If you would like to donate an item for this auction or a future auction please contact me at:
Dee Holland
beauholland@salmoninternet.com
or P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, Idaho 83468
SAFETY FIRST - HAND TOOL SAFETY

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair

CHISELS & DRILLS
Chisels and drills are used with hammers. Flat chisels are used to form and cut cold metal and not work with rock. Rack hounds should use brick chisels that have a double beveled point at an inclined angle of 80 degrees and brick sets with a single beveled point with an inclined angle of 45 degrees to split rocks. Star drills are used for making holes and have all cutting edges with inclined angles of 70 degrees.

Hold chisels and drills with a loose fist, keeping the fingers relaxed in order to minimize the chance of being hit by a glancing blow of the hammer. A sponge rubber pad forced over the chisel or drill above the hand and a glove will also provide protection for the hand. If some one else is holding the chisel or drill, it is best to use a set of tongs or a chisel holder as a guide. Gloves and protective clothing consisting of long sleeve shirts, long pants, and aprons, eye protection (safety spectacles, safety goggles, and face shields), and safety shoes should be used to protect both individuals from glancing blows and flying chips.

The following safe practices apply to chisels and drills:
1. Protect cutting edges by installing protective covers.
2. Store in rack where they will not be chipped or broken.
3. Reprimand broken or chipped chisel edges before using. cool in water often to protect the temper of the metal. Drill cutting edges should be hand filed. Replace chisels and drills with mushroomed heads to prevent shanks of metal from breaking off and causing injury.
4. Lubricate with light oil before storing and wipe off the oil before striking with a hammer.

CROWBARS, PINCH BARS, AND WEAKENING BARS
Crowbars, pinch bars, and wrecking bars are favorite tools of rockhounds. Be sure to pick the proper size of tool for the job, with a point or toe that will grip the object to be moved and a heel that will act as a pivot or fulcrum. Use of a block of wood under the tool will also keep the bar from slipping and causing hand injuries.

Store bars secured upright so they will not fall or cause tripping hazards.

Never hit a bar with another tool and do not try to pry an item that will cause the bar to bend.

AXES
Axe handles are designed for cutting, felling, trimming, notching, and splitting wood and soft material. A narrow blade is for hard wood and a wide blade for soft wood. A single bit ax may also be used for driving wooden stakes, NOT CHISELS and BITS! Never strike an ax against metal, stone, or concrete. Never use an ax with a worm or damaged handle. Use steel wedges with a mail or sledge hammer when splitting wood, never a single bit ax. Keep ax blades sharp. A dull blade may glance back and cut the user. Always wear safety shoes, eye protection, and long pants when using axes. Before swinging an ax, ensure you have a path clear of vines, brush, etc., and that no one is standing nearby. During the swing, let your hand slide down the handle towards the other hand near the end. Have your weight distributed evenly with your knees set, but not tense. The body should be relaxed and the arm free to swing and bend at the waist. For a right handed person, the left foot should be closer to the work. Protect the ax blade(s) with a sheath or metal guard when not in use. Carry axes at your side single blades pointed down. Axes, like knives, should be kept sharp by honing.

MATTOCKS
Double bedded mattock and pick mattocks are designed for digging and cutting. The use and safe practices are similar to those for axes.

SHOVELS AND SPades
Long handled shovels are used for digging in open areas and "D" handled shovels are for light digging in confined areas. The spade is for heavy digging in confined areas. The past hole digger is used to bore holes for posts, explosive charges, etc. Shovel blades should be kept well trimmed and the handles in good shape and free of splinters. Wear heavy safety boots with sturdy soles and use the ball of the foot, not the arch, to press the shovel into the ground. If the instep is used and the foot slips off the shovel, the sharp corner of the shovel may cut the shoe and the foot. Keep legs well separated with spring in the knees—the leg muscles should take much of the load while shoveling. Dip the blade in water often or coat the blade with wax or grease to keep the shovel free of sticky material and baking. Treat the handle with linseed oil occasionally to avoid cracking and splinters. Store shovels against or hanging on the wall in a rack or shovel box.

A WOrd FROM A.L.A.A.
by Peggy Blickfeld, ALAA President

As you can tell by this letter we still have no edi-
tor so you are stuck with another letter from me.

The goal of ALAA is to promote and insure the right of amateur collecting and recreational mining, and the use of public and private lands for educa-
tional and recreational purposes.

We need the help of members in each and every state to be alert to and report any activities both for and against this goal. By reporting it word will get to every member, giving them the opportunity to support you in any way possible.

At this time a new web site for ALAA is in the making. I am not as computer literate as I need or hope to be so please be patient. Once it gets up and running I will publicize the address. You can also check on the AFMS website and follow the links which will be updated.

A new Paleo Bill has been introduced in the 109th Congress by the same Senators who introduced a similar bill in the last session. We all need to con-
tact our Senators and Congressmen now to voice our opposition to the bill. The Senate version is S263. Please encourage your legislators to bring the bill to the floor for discussion so that our input and opposi-
tion can be heard.

Thank you all of you for supporting this orga-
nization. We are hoping to reach many more people and clubs so please promote the organization.

Also please feel free to contact me at:  
Peggy Blickfeldt  
President ALAA  
304 E. 45th St.  
Garden City, Idaho 83714-4841  
208-321-0261  
<grumpies@quixnet.net>

I can always use your ideas, comments or sug-
gestions. We need all of you to achieve our goal.  
And if you are not already a member of A.L.A.A., I encourage you to join us.

SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE
From Sir Barkley Bigfoot, Asst. Editor

I don’t know about you, but I’m saving some of my doggie biscuit money and using it to make a contribution to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. My donation is going to be earmarked for the non-restrictive funds so it can be used towards the special Scholarship Challenge issued by Keith Harmon a few months ago.

I hope that you and your club members will join me in this endeavor to raise enough money between now and August so that the Scholarship Foundation can award a 2nd student scholarship in the coming year. If every club contributes just $1 per member (that’s just a quarter of a box of biscuits for me,) we can meet the challenge.

If you are willing to meet the challenge, send your contributions to your Regional Federation Scholarship Coordinator and mark the check "unre-
stricted funds".

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AFMS NEWSLETTER - APRIL, 2005
Honoring Service to Juniors: Kempton Roll’s “For Young Rockhounds” Series

This month, I continue efforts to honor those who are going above and beyond in introducing youth to our hobby. My hope is that sharing their experience might guide our own efforts. In response to my request for names and stories, Diane Dare and Gayle Graham have singled out Kempton Roll of the Southern Appalachian Mineral Society. He wrote a series entitled “For Young Rockhounds” that earned him a humorous disclaimer: “Warning – for young readers only. Parental discretion advised. Parents may read at their own risk.”

This informative, fun-to-read series had several field trip features including “What Am I Looking For?” and “What Did I Bring Home?” and also covered “Show Business.” Part Seven, entitled “Stuff You Did Not Want To Hear,” was on safety.

Kemp’s interest in minerals began in grade school when he enjoyed making model airplanes. The local model dealer also happened to be a mineral collector. After returning from a trip to Herkimer, NY, he put a display of his “diamonds” in the store’s showcase. Kempton saw them and was trapped—intrigued by their naturally created beauty. Encouraged by his parents, he learned as much as he could about minerals from library books and field guides and persuaded his father to take him on trips, including one for Herkimer “diamonds.”

But events relegated rockhounding to the back-burner: getting educated, WWII, and an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, a job in metallurgical engineering, and raising a family. But with retirement, Kemp relocated to Asheville, NC, in the heart of a unique gemstone district known for rubies, sapphires, emeralds and gold. He soon became active in the gem and mineral museum district known for rubies, sapphires, emeralds and gold. Ten articles were printed in the SAMS newsletter, Mountain Mineral Monthly, starting July 2002 and continuing January 2004. To obtain copies, contact editor Gayle Graham (mailing address 861 Pennsylvania Road, Arden, NC 28704; email address Gayle_Graham@compsure.com). Gayle is happy to email copies to interested parties.

My thanks to Diane and Gayle for sharing Kempton’s story, and to Kempton for his efforts to encourage interest in our hobby. We welcome more stories! Please send names of individuals, their club affiliations, and a brief description of their accomplishments to share in these pages. (Send to: Jim Brace-Thompson, 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003; email jbteacnh@dadelphia.net; phone 805-659-3577.) As 2005 progresses, let’s celebrate those among us who are teaching and guiding our kids in the hobby while—as always—having fun!

However, Kempton could see interest in the hobby diminishing. The rockhounding generation was aging and the young generation seemed preoccupied with computers, TV, and the pressures of getting educated. He felt youngsters were being deprived of the exhilaration and joys of discovery that rockhounding offers. The hobby seemed destined for extinction. That concern, coupled with a sympathetic SAMS newsletter editor, Gayle Graham, and a supportive Board of Directors, triggered his decision to write about the hobby of rockhounding in general and procedures for getting started in particular.

Kemp wrote the articles in a style to appeal to a young but smart readership. He covered safety measures and distinctions between ordinary rocks and collectible minerals in ways to build interest. He described geological aspects in ways young readers (and adult neophytes) could understand without getting lost in jargon. Ten articles were printed in the SAMS newsletter, Mountain Mineral Monthly, starting July 2002 and concluding January 2004. To obtain copies, contact editor Gayle Graham (mailing address 861 Pennsylvania Road, Arden, NC 28704; email address Gayle_Graham@compsure.com). Gayle is happy to email copies to interested parties.

The members of the American Fossil Federation (Maryland) have selected Betty Hallman as their 2005 AFMS Club Fossilhound of the Year. Betty was elected into membership in 1996 and has served as Refreshment Coordinator (1999) and as Secretary (2000 to present). She is always ready to do whatever is asked of her and is enthusiastic about fossil collecting, so much so, that she attends nearly every collecting trip and will serve as Field Trip Coordinator when necessary. Betty enjoys taking photos on the club trips and sharing them with the other attendees. Betty has donated fossil specimens to the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland and to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. She is a friend of the Aurora Fossil Museum in Aurora, North Carolina and has assisted and displayed at their annual festival from 1998-2002. In 2002, she presented a program on Fossils for the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, Maryland.

submitted by George Powell, Jr., President
Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as AFMS Chairs for the coming year. Please feel free to contact these people (or the person in your regional federation who serves on the as well) if you need information or have ideas to share with them.

**AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year**
Cathy Gaber  
<bg@his.com>

**AFMS Newsletter**
Carolyn Weinberger  
P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302  
<editor@amfed.org>

**AFMS Boundaries**
George Browne  
<brownegj@aol.com>

**AFMS Bulletin Editor-Hall of Fame**
Shirley Leeson  
<shirleyleeson@msn.com>
OR  
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

**ByLaws Revisory**
Steve Weinberger  
<central_office@amfed.org>

**AFMS Central Office**
Steve Weinberger  
See ByLaws Revisory

**AFMS Club Publications**
Kitty Starbuck  
<minedump@iserv.net>

**AFMS Commemorative Stamp**
Wendell Mohr - Chair  
<wmohr@erols.com>

**AFMS Committee Chairpersons**

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as AFMS Chairs for the coming year. Please feel free to contact these people (or the person in your regional federation who serves on the as well) if you need information or have ideas to share with them.

**Education-All American**
Alan Hukill  
<facetman60@yahoo.com>

**Endowment Fund**
Joy Bourne  
<csprings@epix.net>

**Financial Investment**
Dee Holland - Chair  
P.O. Box 23, B Holland Lane;  
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

**Historian**
Shirley Leeson  
See Editor’s Hall of Fame

**International Relations**
Janet Smith  
<beetlebill@silverlink.net>

**Junior Programs**
Jim Brace-Tompson  
<jbraceth@adelpia.net>

**Long Range Planning**
Marvin Starbuck  
<minedump@iserv.net>

**Name Badge**
Frank Mullaney  
<rockyfiv@aol.com>

**Nominating**
Marvin Starbuck  
See Long Range Planning

**Photography**
Barbara Sky  
(636) 207-8766

**Program Competition**
Marge Collins - Chair  
<margaret@qtm.net>

**Public Relations**
Betty Luke  
<ramblers@3rivers.net>

**Safety**
Bill Klose  
<seagoatc@epix.net>

**Show Consultant**
Mary Trammell  
<trammell@our-town.com>

**Supply and Publications**
Jack Edwards  
<edwardsj@wwics.com>

**Ways and Means**
Isabella Burns - Chair  
<isbill@aol.com>

**Uniform Rules**
Bill Cook  
<bc006@juno.com>

**URC Eligibility Files**
Anne Cook  
See AFMS Secretary, page 2

**Website/Webmaster**
Marty Hart - Chair  
<webmaster@amfed.org>

**Conservation and Legislation**
Jon Spunaugle  
<jonsp@juno.com>
AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
I will leave all gates as found.
I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
I will support the rockhound project HELP (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of 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 rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.
a skill center in Betty’s home which gave members a place to learn and practice lapidary work. Bob is a talented writer who regularly keeps our editor supplied with articles. He has gone on digs around the state and the country and never fails to share with the membership what he finds. Our Rockhound of the Year has a big heart, a lot of talent, and is a real asset to our club.

submitted by Cathy Petterson, Club Secretary

The 2005 AFMS Rockhound of the Year from the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club is Maxine Nicholas. It goes without saying that our club would not function as it does without the hard-working Maxine Nicholas. Our “First Place” award winning newsletter alone is a mammoth task to mention the dozens of other things that Maxine handles. She has done it all: president, show chair, secretary. What an asset!

submitted by R.J. Harris, President

The El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society is proud to recognize Jack Williams as our society’s candidate for the Education Through Sharing Award (AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year). Jack has been one of our club’s most active members since joining in 1987, serving as Club President, Parliamentarian, Program Chairman and Show Chairman for our club’s show as well as the 2002 Federation show. He has made us proud by representing our club while serving the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies as Treasurer, 2nd Vice-President, 1st Vice-President and ultimately as President in 2002, and he continues to be very active in service to the Federation.

Jack has educated himself over the years with many classes in lapidary, jewelry-making, wire-wrapping and silversmithing and now teaches many of these classes to others at our annual show, monthly lapidary programs, Camp Paradise and Zzyzx as well as other club shows throughout the Federation. He is recognized by our members for his service to our club and as a true artist and craftsman in his wire art endeavors. Thanks!

submitted by Fred Ott, President

Our President, Mike Humenik, was unanimously selected as the year’s outstanding “Education Through Sharing” member of Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society, but he has been actively contributing his time and talents for the past 15 years. In the past he has served as Secretary, and he continues to be a Shop Steward, helping to keep our Lapidary Workshop open and teaching others its use and care. He has also presented original programs for our monthly meetings on subjects such as local geology, chemistry, and the kinds of environments in which to look for specific types of rocks and minerals. He has brought some of his extensive collection to meetings, and he has displayed exhibits at our annual shows. He has encouraged talented non-members to bring excellent exhibits to our shows, and he has made the souvenir trophies given to all exhibitors at several shows. Mike has also volunteered as a docent and trail guide in nearby state parks, sharing his knowledge with the whole community.

submitted by Fran Ferris, President

The Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc. of Bedford, Indiana has selected Priscilla Chastain as their nominee for the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Priscilla was one of the organizers of the Lawrence County Rock Club in 1965. She has never stopped being involved. She has served through the offices more than once. She and her husband Jasper served as Chair for the Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show/Swap. She is currently the Club Liaison and Historian. She has recently been elected to serve as a Club Director again. She has helped with setting up field trips, window displays and other displays to interest people in the collecting of rocks, minerals, and fossils and the Lawrence County Rock Club. She has been a 4-H Leader and has helped 4-H Club members with the county 4-H fair exhibits, assisted Club and Boy Scouts with merit badge requirements, provided identification of rock, minerals and fossils for adult and youth collectors, made presentations of these things to all the schools in Lawrence County, and worked and made donations to the Lawrence County Museum.

submitted by George Aldred, President

We would like to nominate Bill Medford for “AFMS Rockhound of the Year” for the Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society, Georgetown, Texas. Bill has been very active in our club, and now as President of the SCFMS, starting a new job, directing activities for the SCFMS. Besides, he is presently President of the WICGEM Society. He has worked on our Gem Show for several years. We hope he doesn’t decide not to be President of our club in 2005. We need HEDM!!!

submitted by Don & Jean Buell

Many of you have heard about the Eastern Federation and Southeast Federation Workshops held at the Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina each year. The Eastern Federation would like to invite you to join us at one of our two 2005 sessions.

Session #1 is June 3 - 9 and will have, as its “Speaker in Residence” none other than Bill Metropolit, Assistant Curator at the Harvard Mineralogical Museum.

Session #2 is September 12 - 19 and will feature Fred Ward, noted author and gem expert as the featured “Speaker in Residence.”

In addition to talks by our guest, each session will have a variety of hands on classes for participants to enjoy taught by a cadre of really wonderful instructors. There will also be a “free day” for exploring the area, tailgate, auction and fun activities during the week.

Cost for each session is $280 per person which includes lodging in modern, motel-style lodges plus all meals. There will be a slight charge for materials for the classes you take during the week, but these remain modest.

For more information about Wildacres, about our classes and to obtain a registration form, visit the EFMLS website www.amfed.org/efmls.

Representatives from your regional Federation will be in attendance during the September session when the AFMS will once again hold its AFMS Judging Seminar.

Whether you come in June or September, Wildacres is a special place. It’s off the main road on it’s own private mountain about an hour from Asheville, North Carolina. Those of us who return year after year know it’s a special place. We hope to share the magic with you this year.

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