Hurry, Hurry, Hurry... Step Right Up Folks!
Two More Beauties Added to 2005 Raffle Offerings!

This will be your last chance to see the latest prizes in the AFMS Newsletter! As you know, there will be no newsletter in July, nor in August. But you will still be able to view all prizes being offered, complete with descriptions of them on the AFMS website, <http://www.amfed.org/endow2005.htm>, right up until we leave for St. Louis in mid-August! If you still have not purchased your tickets, NOW IS THE TIME - for sure!

Of the two latest acquisitions, one was a special surprise! We knew Bural LaRue was making a special piece of jewelry for us, but were absolutely delighted to discover that Anna Christiansen was also sending one of her special creations to add to the treasure chest. Here are the newest additions:

Prize #12. Yet another exquisite Chinese Freshwater pearl pendant from AFMS 2nd Vice President Pat, and CFMS Secretary Bural LaRue,—who also gave us last year’s beauty! This one is even more beautiful, if possible, than the first. Set in a 14k-gold wax casting created by Bural, and hung on a 18” 14k-gold chain, the pendant measures 40mm x 9mm. This gorgeous piece of jewelry was created by Bural, who is a master craftsman and regular instructor at Camp Paradise, at Zzyzx, the CFMS’s annual Earth Science retreat. Its market value is $295. (CFMS)

Prize #13. A simply gorgeous electric-blue Swarovski bead bracelet. Seven inches long and 3 1/8 inch wide, the bracelet is formed of a woven triple strand of tiny round and 4mm bi-pyramidal crystals with a sterling silver clasp. The bracelet, donated by John and Anna Christiansen of the Mother Lode Mineral Society, Oakdale, CA, was created by Anna, who is an instructor in wire art jewelry at Camp Paradise. She also serves as the registrar for that same program, as CFMS Bulletin Aids Chair, and talented maker of outstanding jewelry. Value: $95. (CFMS)

It is possible that we will be receiving two or three more gifts - watch the website for pictures of them, too. All prizes shown will be placed in the drawing pool, and all tickets sold will be eligible to win!

Of course, you know that we are all winners when we support the EFMLS Endowment Fund, but you could also be one of the raffle winners, as well! Contact your region’s AFMS Endowment Fund representative for your chance to be one of the prize winners in the 2005 drawing. Tickets can also be ordered directly from the chair until August 1. Send your ticket request, together with your check payable to “AFMS Endowment Fund” to:

Joy Bourne, Chair
AFMS Endowment Fund
RR #1, Box 159A
Towanda, PA 18848-9739

Tickets are priced at $5.00 each, or 5 tickets for $20.00. You will not need to be present at the drawing in St Louis to win, either. We will ship unclaimed prizes to holders of the winning tickets immediately after the drawing, and winners’ names will be published in the AFMS Newsletter in October.

Good Luck!!

Joy
Butterfly created by President Bill Smith

Intarsia Pendant created by President-Elect Jim Robinson

More photos on page 7 and on the AFMS website.
Not everything goes as planned! I had my June message almost complete before leaving for the SFMS 1st Executive Board Meeting in Memphis TN intending to complete and email it upon my return. Unfortunately, when I got back I found my computer dead — a bad power supply and hard fried hard drive were the culprits. Needless to say everything on the hard drive was lost. Thus my shorter than usual message this month.

In the coming months I will be contacting many of our committee chairs asking them to continue to serve the AFMS for another year. These people are the hard workers for the Federation - they receive no remuneration for the hours of work they put into their committees. Without these dedicated volunteers, our Federation, like your club, would be hard pressed to continue.

I'd like many of our in place chairpersons to remain on board for another year, but in the meantime, if any of you feel that you cannot continue in your current position, I'd appreciate a note or email from you letting me know that you'd like to step down. The earlier I know, the longer I have to find a replacement for you. And if I do call you to fill a position, please accept the challenge and say "yes".

I had some other items I wanted to address, but because we're rushing to meet the publication deadline, time does not permit me to find my notes and try to reconstruct what was on that hard drive.

Hope everyone has a happy and safe rock hounding summer. We hope to see all in St. Louis this August.

Jim

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As I read bulletins and observe the activities of those clubs that are healthy and growing, I notice they are interfacing with the community. Most often these clubs host a show each year. Several have a three day show with Friday's devoted to school children. Some of these students bring their parents back on Saturday or Sunday, also exposing them to the hobby. There are often hands on demonstrations for adults as well as the children. At their show the Ktisap Gem and Mineral Club, WA added extra tables to accommodate everyone that was interested in beading around a cabochon or wire-wrapping a free form.

Having a space devoted to the club at the county fair has proven to be very successful in adding new members. The Port Townsend Rock Club, in Washington state has several cases, demonstrations, and club members available to talk to anyone that stops at their building during the annual fair.

Many clubs give rock talks at local school and scout groups. Some clubs have programs where a scout can earn their geology badge.

Clubs also have displays at the library and other public facilities. Ask your library if your club can put in a display the month prior to your show. You may have to provide a table for a couple of cases and make sure you have hand outs about the show and your club.

Most communities have at least one special event each year for the public. If your town has such an event, ask if you can have space for showing what your club represents. It may cost a small amount, but can be an excellent place to introduce people to our hobby.

Bringing in new members can only happen if they know about your club. I will never forget overhearing a fellow at a show saying, I have lived here and collected rocks for 40 years and didn't know there was a local rock show and have just been informed there is even a rock club. There are probably many just like him in your community. Community involvement is the way to let them know.

Until next time,

Bill

LOOKING FORWARD

from Jim Robinson, President-Elect

Not everything goes as planned! I had my June message almost complete before leaving for the SFMS 1st Executive Board Meeting in Memphis TN intending to complete and email it upon my return. Unfortunately, when I got back I found my computer dead — a bad power supply and hard fried hard drive were the culprits. Needless to say everything on the hard drive was lost. Thus my shorter than usual message this month.

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Jim

Page 2
Each year the participating Regional Federations select an Honorary Scholarship Recipient who selects the college or university that chooses the two graduate earth science students who receive the monetary scholarships that the Foundation awards each year. We are pleased to tell you who the Honorary Recipients for this year are and a little bit about each.

California Federation
Ernest L. Kastenbein
Ernie graduated from Rutgers University with a BSc in Ceramic Science. He spent 30 years at Rutgers doing research and teaching. He became the advisor for all undergraduate students and scheduled all undergraduate classes. He served as Chairman of the Whitewares Division of The American Ceramic Society. Retiring in 1982 he and his late wife moved to Reno, Nevada where he joined the Reno Gem & Mineral Society. Ernie has served the society in many capacities over the years. Even at 82, Ernie still finds time to speak at the local schools concerning the local geology and rocks and minerals, and show the children polished stones found in the area.

Geology Collections Manager, New York State Museum Institute, Albany, New York.

Mike began his interest in minerals as a child. He started working as a volunteer at the New York State Museum Institute in the Mineral Section in 1987. One of his first major tasks was to begin cataloging and working on the mineral collection. He officially went on the payroll as Collections Manager in 1992. As Collections Manager he has helped usher in a revitalization of the New York State Museum collection, and involving the mineral clubs of New York in the process. Mike has been instrumental in the museum acquiring major collections of New York State minerals and expanding the mineral display section at the museum several times over the past decade.

In addition, he helped found the New York Academy of Mineralogy, an adjunct organization to the museum and has involved state clubs in its creation and direction.

Midwest Federation
David J. Lowrie
Dove had helped plan and execute cooperative exhibits between Wayne State University and both Cranbrook Institute of Science and the Science Museum of Natural History. Dove has given geology programs over the years to both rock clubs groups and civic groups and has helped set up permanent displays for many museums and groups such as the Detroit Science Center. The Children’s Museum of Detroit, Cranbrook Institute of Science and the Birmingham MI Public Schools Environmental Center. Dove has also and is still helping the many college scholarship knowledge of minerals, and always gives generously of his time and talents.


Northwest Federation
Dr. Roger Nielsen
Chair of Geosciences, which includes the Geology Program of Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

Roger’s education includes B.S. Geology, University of Arizona 1976. M.S. Geology, University of Arizona, 1978. Ph.D. Geology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas Texas, 1983. Fields of Specialization: Igneous Petrology, Mineral chemistry and phase equilibria; Microanalysis Techniques. Roger has reviewed a long list of impressive publications. He has worked with graduate students and postdoctoral trained since 1990. He has a list of internships he has directed and he is Graduate Council Representative. He is doing research in Microprobe Analysis – Developed techniques course for microanalysis designed for a broad student clientele. Experimental course in advanced trace element petrology. This course was designed to provide the graduate students with background in the most recent theory on modeling. And Theoretical Petrology. This course was developed to fill the existing gap in the theoretical background of the petrology graduate students. Roger is active in his community of Corvallis, Oregon.

Rocky Mountain Federation
Howell T. Whiting
Howie became interested in semi-precious and precious stones in the mid-1960s while in the Army stationed in Anchorage, Alaska. He became friends with a Turkish jeweler whom he had commissioned to make some custom jewelry for his wife. From that point on Howie read everything he could get his hands on about rocks, gems and minerals.

After retirement Howie and Doris moved to Roswell, New Mexico and joined the Chaparral Rockhound Club. Beginning in the late 1970’s Howie initiated and conducted a program for gift students in the Roswell school system, in six-week sessions the students learned identification of rocks, minerals, gems and made gem trees, cut gemstones and made jewelry.

Howie began the Rockhound Endowment Fund at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology at Socorro, NM. Began in 1982 the proceeds from the fund’s interest have been used to provide scholarships to numerous students. The fund now exceeds $48,000.

In his quest for knowledge Howie enrolled in the Gemological Institute of America. On completion of the courses in general grading, identification and appraisals of colored stones and diamonds, he received his Graduate Gemologist diploma.

Howie is a passionate advocate of public land use and is a charter member of ALAA. He stays informed on current land issues and is in constant communication with government officials, locally, and nationally.

Howie is currently the Youth Program Chairman for the Rocky Mountain Federation, encouraging junior members of clubs to participate in Federation shows. He is a Past President of the Rocky Mountain Federation and has received the coveted “Gold Pan Award” for his services to the Federation.

South Central Federation
Dr. Judith A. Schiebout, Ph.D
Dr. Schiebout received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. She is Associate Curator at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dr. Schiebout has to her credit an impressive list of 59 published books, papers and articles. She is the recipient of the Association for Women Geoscientists Foundation Outstanding Educator Award in 2001 and the Gulf Coast Association of Geologists and Geoscientists Foundation Outstanding Educator Award in 2002. She was also awarded the LSU Award for Women’s and Gender Studies Award for Outstanding Faculty Contribution in 2002.

She has taught geology at LSU since 1976 and has supervised 14 graduate students with two more in progress. She developed a new undergraduate course titled “Dinosaur, Carnivorous and Extinction.”

She developed the LUS Vertebrate Paleontology collections, one of the 16 LSU science collections that make up the Louisiana State Museum of Natural History. A cast of a Louisiana Eocene whale skull is being featured at Sciport, the science center which opened in 1998 in Shreveport, LA. It is the single most spectacular vertebrate fossil from the state and was excavated as part of her research at Montgomerie Landing, Louisiana.

Dr. Schiebout was so excited about her selection that she phoned the AFMS Scholarship President to let him know of her pleasure at being selected by the South Central Federation.

Our Contributions Do Help - A Success Story
forwarded by Izzy Burns

[Ed Note: The following letter was received by Izzy Burns, an AFMS Honorary Recipient from the California Federation. As you can see, our contributions do make a difference!]

Isabella,
I'm glad to hear from you. My plans are to move to Houston, TX this June. I was offered and accepted a position at ChevronTexaco as a Geologist.

I would like to thank you and the AFMS for helping me financially. I took 6 months off from work to complete my thesis, and I'll be graduating this June.

The AFMS help in making that possible. Hopefully the AFMS can help someone else with that money, especially someone at CSUB.

CSUB have great geology students that usually have to work to help pay for their tuition, and I'll bet that they could use the money as well.

Again thank you for all your help.

Sincerely,
Ariel Auffant

AFMS Newsletter - June-July, 2005

Page 3
Kids have always been hard-wired, metaphorically, for learning, but with the advent of the Internet, today's kids are literally wired-to-learn. If given a research assignment in school when I was a kid, my first stop was the library, but my kids run immediately to the Internet and Google. They play video games, they chat with friends via instant messaging, they write their papers on the computer, and they surf the Web for both school topics and personal interest. To help youth leaders capitalize on this new-natural proclivity of today's kids and teens, I've recently concluded a 4-part series for the CPMS Newsletter that provided annotated listings of Web sites organized around various aspects of the rock-hounding hobby: 1) Fossils, 2) Minerals & Earth Resources, 3) Lapidary Arts, and 4) Museums. Following are abbreviated highlights from those four articles:

Fossils
- www.igems.uiuc.edu/dinos/
  This site is maintained by Russell "Dino Russ" Jacobson, an associate geologist at the Illinois State Geological Survey and a "certified dinosaurian." It collects info on dinosaur digs, exhibits, societies, publications, dinosaur artwork, and more. A truly wonderful site and easy to navigate!
- www.paleoportal.org
  The Paleontological Portal (produced by the University of California Museum of Paleontology, the PaleoSociety, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists, and the USGS) is a central entry point to paleontology resources for audiences of all levels. Topics for exploration include Exploring Time & Space, the Fossil Gallery, Famous Flora & Fauna, Careers, Resources, Collections, and Calendar.

Minerals & Earth Resources
- www.usgep.gov
  Go to the "Education" section on this, the official web site of the U.S. Geological Survey. They have a nice link to the "Earth Science Information Center" where experts will answer kids' earth science questions via the USGS education web site.
- www.mii.org and www.womeninmining.org
  The Web sites of the Mineral Information Institute and the Women in Mining organization provide a wealth of info and resources on minerals, uses of minerals in everyday life, and careers in the earth sciences. Both also offer links to other interesting earth science sites.
- www.theframe.com
  This site allows you to wander through a Mineral Gallery of gorgeous gemstones to learn about the chemical properties of nearly 200 different types of minerals.

Lapidary Arts
- www.rockhounds.com
  Brought on-line in 1995, "Bob's Rock Shop" is the Internet's first 'Zine (or on-line magazine) for rockhounds. This noncommercial site teamed with Rock & Gem magazine to provide a first-class resource on topical information for hobbyists. It includes excellent reference lists of books on all aspects of lapidary arts.
- <www.socrates.berkeley.edu/~eps2/>
  Together with Honna Cook-Wallace (a professional gemologist with a jewelry studio in Madison, Wisconsin), Jill Barfield of the UC-Berkeley Department of Earth & Planetary Science provides lessons on Gems & Gem Materials from an on-line course she offers. This is a terrific site, packed with useful lapidary info.
- www.tradeshow.com/gems/
  These pages provide a comprehensive introduction to gemology and the lapidary arts for the general public and a handy resource for the jewelry trade.

Museums
- www.lib.washington.edu/sla/natmus.html
  Rated a "Top Site" by Education Index, here you'll find direct links to local and regional museums, large and small, museums, and university collections across the U.S. and around the world. One of the most comprehensive collections of museum links I've seen!
- <Paleo.cc/Apaleo/museums.htm>
  "Kuban's Guide to Natural History Museums on the Web" features annotated links to the larger, more famous museums and virtual museums that feature displays of fossils, paleontology, and related subjects.
- www.amnh.org/education/resources/
  On-line activities and resources are available through the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Lessons are written for elementary through high school levels (and divided by grade levels) in 5 areas, including Earth Sciences, Paleontology, and Astronomy. You'll find 17 lessons on minerals, 6 on meteorites, and more than 25 on various aspects of paleontology.

If you would like to receive the full listing of sites or all four of my CPMS columns, feel free to email or call (jbraceth@adelphia.net; 805/659-3577). These sites scratch just the surface of what's out there. You can make this into a fun activity for your juniors by encouraging them to surf the Web themselves for interesting sites related to our hobby and having them share and report on what they find with their fellow members at your next meeting. Let's capitalize on the tools today's kids use for learning while—as always—having fun!
The Paleo Resources Bill is still floating around in the Senate. If you’ve not done so, it is imperative that you and your club members write to your Senators and Representatives expressing your views on a) the effort to fast track the legislation without debate and b) the legislation itself.

If we remain silent on this legislation all of us will lose our right to collect. Although this bill deals with fossils, other collecting possibilities may be threatened next.

One important note: In the last AFMS Newsletter, Jon Spannagle gave an incorrect bill number in his "Truth and Some Consequences" article. The correct number for the bill is S-263.

Here is a good sample letter that might serve as a guideline for your own letter to your legislators.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

Midwest Federation

The Des Plaines Valley Geological Society nominates Darren Cesario as our Rockhound of the Year. Although this young man is physically disabled with the loss of muscular control and movement his spirit is overflowing with enthusiasm, youthful vitality and most of all desire to learn and be involved in our hobby. He is currently pursuing studies in Earth and Natural Sciences at Oakton Community College, earning his Associates degree in '91, and continuing his studies in his choice field. He has a vast interest in paleontology. His ultimate goal is being a Historical Geologist focusing on the smaller invertebrates and plants.

Darren is an avid fossil collector, having a fairly large collection of Mazon Creek fossils from collecting with his parents. He admits collecting there has been a passion he has carried with him since he was young. Darren has continued to acquire a large collection of Mazon Creek fossils from collecting with his parents. He has done this for many years, and has given many talks about his findings and his love of fossils.

Northwest Federation

Hell's Canyon Gem Club of Lewiston, Idaho is pleased to announce the choice of Ace Nash for our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Although he has not been a member of our club for very many years, his whole-hearted dedication to the job he has undertaken has earned him the appreciation of our club. As field trip chairman he had expended himself to make our field trips enjoyable, productive, safe and educational for every member. As silent auction chairman he has given unbounded enthusiasm and organizational skills to make this attraction a hub of activity at our annual show. Thanks, Ace, for a job well done!

AFMS Newsletter - June - July - August, 2005 Page 5
SAFETY FIRST - SAFETY RULES FOR FIELD TRIPS

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair

Field trip season is upon us and we need to pause and review appropriate safety rules. Field trip leaders need to review these rules before every field trip.

1. Never go on a field trip alone. Have someone along who can help or summon help if necessary. Make sure someone knows where you have gone and when you will return. Carry a cell phone with spare battery to expedite your communications. Call someone if you are going to change your routine or are going to be late. Should you leave a field trip early, notify the person in charge.

2. Should there be children on the field trip, have them within sight or talking distance at all times. A child could not only become lost, but could encounter a snake, scorpion, etc., or have an accident of some sort.

3. Do not collect directly above or below other people or below unstable rock piles, cliffs, walls or overhangs where there may be danger of falling rock.

4. Park so that all cars can get out. Do not block the roadway. Do not drive cars, SUVs, or RVs, such as “4 wheelers”, across fields to avoid damaging property, setting grass fires with catalytic converters or damaging the vehicle. Do not drive across or walk on newly planted or cultivated fields without special permission.

5. Have your vehicle in proper working order with appropriate emergency equipment and supplies as outlined in last month’s Safety First article.

6. Make sure that all fires are completely out and wet down the ashes with water, stir to make sure there are not any buried embers and then smother completely with dirt. Adhere to local fire regulations and warnings.

7. Break all matches and shred all cigarettes before discarding and be careful where they are disposed of. Take them with you rather than leaving them as litter.

8. Do not throw rocks or engage in “horse play” and do not allow children to do so.

9. Do not over exert or stay in the direct sunlight or heat too long. Take a rest in the shade from time to time and drink plenty of electrolyte replacing fluids, such as sports drinks. Properly wear appropriate safety equipment, sunscreen, and clothing.

10. Avoid old mine tunnels. Never go into a mine alone. Carry a flashlight and a candle with you. Carbon dioxide or other gases, such as methane, may be present. There may even be a lack of Oxygen. Mines are also havens for snakes, scorpions, spiders, rodents and their feces which can carry disease. Mines also may contain uncovered shafts and pits. Also be extremely cautious around abandoned buildings. You may stumble into old deep wells or cesspools not properly covered.

11. Respect property rights and signs. Obtain permission to enter property if owned by private individuals or corporations. Attend Company safety briefings required by MOSHA and sign releases. Pay attention to and practice the Company’s safety policies. Adhere to government regulations and restrictions if collecting on public lands or parks. Pay any collecting fees required and do not exceed collecting limits where established.

12. Inquire if there are any dangerous animals on the property. Close all gates you open.

13. Refill any holes you dig so people or animals will not fall in. Do not dump dirt or other debris into streams.

14. Respect another’s diggings. If a person has left for lunch or for any other reason with the intent of returning, and has left a pick, cast, or definite marker, find another spot.

15. Leave any place in good condition. Do not leave paper, cars, and other litter lying around to mar the beauty of the place, and to tell others that you have been there. Take your litter with you, do not bury it.

16. Never eat wild berries or anything else unless you are absolutely sure they are safe. Carry bottled water or other drinks and do not drink from streams or wells that have not been recently tested.

17. Be able to recognize poison ivy, poison oak, etc. Should there be any doubt, don’t touch.

18. Always be alert for snakes, scorpions, ticks, spiders, rodent infestations, etc. Be very careful where you place your hands and feet.

19. Bring and properly use the appropriate well maintained and inspected tools. Don’t expect others to provide tools for you.

20. Use proper lifting and carrying techniques to bring home your finds. Do not overload your vehicle.

Many of these safety rules are covered in greater detail in the AFMS Safety Manual and on the AFMS web site. Have a safe field trip season in 2005.

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.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF MICROMOUNTERS

from the Baltimore Mineral Society

The Baltimore Mineral Society, sponsors of the annual Desautels Micromineral Symposium and Micromounters Hall of Fame is pleased to announce the availability of the 20th edition of the International Directory of Micromounters.

The cost per copy is $6 plus postage of $2.50 for up to 3 copies mailed to the same U. S. address. For foreign addresses, visit the BMS website <http://edisk.fandm.edu/mike.seeds/BMS.htm>.

The Directory lists those interested in micro-minerals from around the world and is a useful tool for those who wish to contact others in the field. It also lists micro-mineral clubs, museums housing micromount collections and annual micromineral symposia.

Copies can be obtained by sending a check payable to “Directory of Micromounters” to Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
AND WE'RE OFF!
From Sir Barkley Bigfoot and Caesar the GoFer
Assistant Editors

This newsletter is the last that you will receive until September. We're off on vacation until then.

Please don't forget us though. If your club changes officers between now and September, please send us the list of new officers with their correct addresses. We want the right people to get the next newsletter.

While we're on vacation, take a minute or two to write to your Senators and Representatives about the Paleo Bill (S-263). If we're silent we'll surely lose our collecting opportunities and for many, the main reason to belong to a club.

And while you are "surfing the web" with your kids or by yourself, visit the AFMS website as well as the website for your Regional Federation. There is lots of useful information on each plus lots of good links to other important and useful sites.

We'll be spending our summer doing a little rockhounding*. We both love to dig holes and that's the first step in field tripping so we get to go and get to play. We both even get to keep some of the rocks we dig up so we're eager to get started.

The deadline for the September Newsletter is August 1.

Have a good summer.

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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 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.

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MORE ENDOWMENT PRIZES

Opal Pendant
Pecos "Diamond" Gem Tree
Herkimer "Diamond" crystal cluster
Uvite

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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

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Preparing Your Club Newsletter
by Jeff Ursillo, EFMLS Region VIII Vice President. Reprinted from EFMLS News, May 2000

Editors Note: In the past few weeks my mailbox has been inundated with small plastic envelopes from the USPS that all tell me that they are very sorry, but the enclosed mail was damaged in transit. What I usually get is one page on a club newsletter. The remaining pages are lost, probably discarded for lack of a mailing address. What a shame. We [Steve and I] don't get to read that newsletter and the club has wasted money for postage and printing.

Jeff Ursillo, an EFMLS Regional Vice President works for a company that deals with the postal service and with mailings. The article below was written by him a few years ago in an effort to streamline the process of preparing and mailing club newsletters with the idea of reducing the need for those ominous plastic bags. I've checked with my local post office and the advice Jeff gives is still very valid.

Preparing your newsletter for it's HARRIOW Tip through the Postal System!!!

Many people are not aware of what happens to their mail after it is dropped at the Post Office letter box. Hopefully, in this article, I can help you understand the mechanics of the Post Office and how, a little adjustment in the preparation of your newsletter for the mail can make a world of difference.

As a little background, I have been involved in the mailing industry for over 5 years now. My job totals all aspects from mailpiece design to delivering the mail to the Post Office. In the past year alone, I have mailed over 1 million pieces of mail. I am also a member of the West Palm Beach Postal Customer Council, a joint venture between the Post Office and the mailing community. From this background, I would have to say that the most important point about mailing is to have a good relationship with your local Post Office. Don't be afraid to call and ask questions or to bring your newsletter into them and ask for advice on preparing it for the mail.

The following is a brief description of what happens when your mail is placed "into the system". When mail is deposited at the Post Office it is sorted into 2 categories: mail that can be handled by automation, and mail that must be handled on non-automated equipment. It is to your benefit to use paper tabs (wafers) in place of staples to seal the mailing labels. This way the mail can go through the multiple zip codes and still sort properly.

Example:

MR JOHN A SAMPLE
123 MAIN ST APT 231
(HOLLYWOOD CA 90028)

Which class?

Now that our mailpiece is properly formatted, we need to decide on how to send it. The two choices, First and Standard, each have their good and bad points. First class mail comes with all the bells and whistles you could want, all for 37¢ an ounce! The mail will be forwarded if your member has moved, you can be requested to be notified of their new address (you should add the wording "Address Service Requested" 1/4 inch below your return address if you want to be notified of the member's new address. This applies to Standard Class mail as well, but there is a return fee). First class mail requires no sorting. You can get a discount on First class mail if you preset it, but this involves having a minimum of 500 pieces of mail. With foresorting, you can realize a saving of up to 9 - 10 cents per piece. This might be useful, for example, if you send out lots of fliers for your club show.

Standard Mail requires you to have a permit which carries an annual fee of $150. The main drawback of Standard Mail is that it must be pre-sorted. This involves sorting to 5 digit and 3 digit zip code levels. The good part ... 200 piece minimum. If your club is close to a 200 piece mailing list, it is well worth the cost to you to add yourself to the mailing list multiple times in order to bring the count to over 200. With a computer printed label (without a barcode), Standard Class rates can be as low as 20 cents per piece, a little less than half the cost of First Class. If you have the ability to barcode your address labels, or are willing to have this done by a local mailing house, the rates can go as low as 14¢ per piece. The charge for having a set of barcoded labels varies from mailhouse to mailhouse, but as an example, my shop charges 5.5 cents per label. This would still result in a substantial savings over First class postage.

For years, Standard mail has had the reputation for being slow. With the advent or automation however, the Post Office can move more mail than ever before. The end result is all the mail flows through the system faster! As a case in point, I drop my mail at West Palm Beach's main Bulk Mail Facility. (Actually, the Post Office uses the term "Business Mail" these days and never uses the J(unk) word!). In 95% of my mailings the pieces are received at local addresses the next day and at out of town addresses within a week. All it takes is some planning of the mailpiece, and if possible, adding barcodes to the mailing labels. Remember - the mailing panel goes ABOVE the fold!

Mailing panel Fold

A note about your mailing labels: whenever possible print them in all UPPER CASE LETTERS and do not use punctuation, such as a comma after the city name, or between the street name and the apartment number.

We've all heard of oxymorons - those wonderful expressions that just seem not to go together. Someone has compiled a list of what they believe are the top 35 oxymorons of all time. For obvious reasons, the contributor wishes to remain anonymous. Enjoy!

1. Microsoft Works
2. Religious tolerance
3. Rap music
4. Pretty ugly
5. Plastic glasses
6. Terribly pleased
7. Tightly packed
8. Pink whistles
9. Computer security
10. 37¢ an ounce
11. "Now, then ...
12. Extinct life
13. Plastic glasses
14. 55 cents per 20 pieces
15. Military intelligence
16. Terribly pleased
17. Compassionate conservative
18. Sanitary landfill
19. Plastic glasses
20. Airline food
21. Soft rock
22. Extinct life
23. Military intelligence
24. Plastic glasses
25. Soft rock
26. Sanitary landfill
27. Compassionate conservative
28. Airline food
29. Soft rock
30. Sanitary landfill
31. Compassionate conservative
32. Airline food
33. Soft rock
34. Sanitary landfill
35. Compassionate conservative

And the No. 1 oxymoron
1. Microsoft Works

And to these we might also add my favorite...

Near miss

Reports Are Due

Just a quick reminder to all AFMS Officers and Committee Chairpersons that your year-end reports are due in the AFMS Central Office no later than June 15. This will allow enough time to compile and print the meeting packet and mail it out so everyone receives theirs in ample time before leaving for St. Louis. This will also allow everyone to have a chance to read through the material in a leisurely manner.

Reports can be sent via US Mail to the Central Office, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 or via e-mail to central_office@amfed.org.

The Top 35 "OXYMORONS"

from an anonymous contributor

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