Instead it defines the paleontological resource it scientifically significant and commonly found fossils. Bill S-263 in its current form are: Bill S-263 as passed by the U.S. Senate. "Rockhound" objections remain a part of Senate S-263 version. However, several of the remaining improvements. Several of the objections the amateur fossil collecting public voiced to the original "Baccus Bill" in 1992-3, I can clearly see some improvements. For someone like myself, who helped write the first version of the "rockhound" fossil collecting bill, and worked to defeat the so called "bad bill" primarily because it criminalized fossil collecting with outrageous penalties for picking up a fossil on public land. The Bill was also criticized for its reward provisions for turning in violators, which seemed ripe for abuse. Those same statelords who don't like you if you have any vertebrate.

The Bill fails to make any distinction between scientifically significant and commonly found fossils. Instead it defines the paleontological resource it would protect to mean "any fossilized remains, trace, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth's crust...except for archaeological resources or those associated with an archaeological resource. (The latter are covered under an archaeological resources protection act passed many years ago). Casual collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant fossils may be allowed under this Bill in Section 5, at the discretion of the Secretary (the land managers). Therefore amateurs "may" be able to collect certain common invertebrate or plant fossils found on Federal lands, but not necessarily. Only hand tools could be used and collecting can not cause more than a "negligible surface disturbance" (undefined). Collecting common vertebrate fossils such as fish fossils, sharks teeth and the like, would be a violation of the act, as would picking up a isolated single dinosaur bone fragment in the badlands of the western United States if it was on Federal land.

All other collecting of paleontological resources on Federal lands would require a permit issued by the Secretary (the land managers) and be given only to "qualified" applicants. The resources collected would remain the property of the United States with the resources collected and the associated data deposited in a approved repository when collected under a permit.

Further, there would be no commercial collection of fossils allowed. This would preclude anyone, amateur or otherwise, from selling, trading, or bartering any fossil collected on federal land. Not only does this effect amateurs, but completely eliminates the valuable and considerable contributions to paleontology that commercial fossil entities have provided in the past in discovering, extraction, and preparation of fossils. The Dinosaur "Sue" a Tyrannosaurus Rex, is a perfect example.

Penalties for criminal violation of any provisions of this Bill would result in fines in accordance with Title 18 of the U.S. Code and/or imprisonment for up to 10 years. Title 18 provides for fines ranging up to $25,000 and up to $10,000 in certain circumstances, or up to $250,000 in certain cases. Such cases would be tried in Federal Courts.

Civil penalties are also provided in the Bill and can go as high as double the replacement cost or restoration cost of the resource involved. The value is to be determined by the land managers. No due process is required under the civil penalty provisions other than a required notice of a hearing. A judicial review petition is allowed only within a thirty day period following any civil penalty assessment, but the court is allowed to rule only on the evidence presented in the hearing report. Forget "innocent until proven guilty" and the right to a trial by your peers.

The Rewards and Forfeiture Section, Section 9, allows the Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture to pay a reward for information leading to a civil (or criminal) penalty. Rewards can go as high as $500. So, you might want to look out for any neighbors who don't like you if you have any vertebrate fossils in your yard. Continued on page 3
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**THE PRESIDENT SAYS....**

by Jim Robinson, AFMS President

By the time most of you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone and we will all be busy getting ready for Christmas or Hanukkah. Audibly and I hope that everyone had a happy Thanksgiving.

We know that many of our friends in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana did not have their usual holiday due to the ongoing effects of the recent hurricanes. Many in these areas had their homes completely destroyed or had major damage. Others may still be without electricity or other necessities which all of us consider to be essential to our daily lives. These people will all be in our thoughts during the holiday season as we will the many members of the military who are in harms way in the service of our country.

We wish you and your extended families the very best. I am looking forward to working with all during the coming year to make this one of the best years ever for the AFMS.

May I be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hannukkah.

Jim

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**ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARD**

by John Washburn, Chair, Education - All American Committee

Okay all of you clubs, it's time to show off your stuff! Let's get those ALL AMERICAN CLUB notebooks ready for entry in this year's contest. We know you are doing a great job of promoting the hobby, so why not show off all you have done? Scrap-booking is the rage, and it's a good way to document your club's activities and history. An ALL AMERICAN notebook on your membership table at your show is a proven devise for spurring on new memberships. So, its usefulness is more than just a history, it's a membership lure!

Entry forms for 2006 were included in the October 2005 issue of the AFMS Newsletter, pp. 11-12, and they are also available on the AFMS Web site (www.amfed.org) for clubs to download. Be sure that you have the proper set of requirements as some changes have been made for this year based on comments from the clubs and judges. The contest concentrates on six (6) areas of interest. These areas were chosen to give the judges a complete picture of what your club is doing, both internally and externally, to promote the hobby.

It is important that each section have the proper documentation to show what was done by the club or members to warrant the points allotted. Examples of letters, flyers, newspaper articles, as well as club bulletin articles, and pictures are some items that make for excellent documentation. Specific activities are listed in the various sections and those activities should be reported in the appropriate section of the notebook. The documents need not be originals as copies will suffice.

Remember, the judges don't necessarily know your club, so good, clear organization and documentation for each claim must be provided.

The notebook is to cover the calendar year 2005. Entries are to be submitted to your regional federation newsletter for the deadline date set by your region.

Questions? I encourage you to ask me or your regional chairperson. Let's make this a banner year for the All-American contest by including your club in the competition!

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**2006 FEDERATION SHOWS**

from Marty Trammell

California  
June 9 - 11  
Angel's Camp, CA

Eastern  
November 18-19  
West Palm Beach, FL

Midwest  
May 19 - 21  
Southgate, MI

Rocky Mountain  
June 9 - 11  
Stillwater, OK

South Central  
August  
Bossier City, LA

Northwest  
July 14 - 16  
Kilo, WA

Southeast - AFMS  
August 14 - 20  
Nashville, TN

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Be Safe — Be Well

"Metal Smithing — Is it dangerous?"

Students in my beginning silver classes often ask if the class is dangerous. The answer to this question can be both yes and no. If you listen to the instructions given by the instructor, it is very unlikely that any sort of injury will result but we must always be aware and be very careful because minor injuries are not uncommon.

We all learned, probably before age two, that fire will burn you, as will hot metal, hot water and all other hot things. I open each new class with a brief lecture discussing the things in the classroom that can cause an injury. Students will often be afraid of the torch and need some instruction and encouragement when soldering. I always tell them that while the torch is an obvious hazard, it is really not the piece of equipment that is responsible for most injuries. During the years I have been teaching, I have never had a student suffer a serious injury but we do not want to see even small cuts, scrapes or burns. Almost all of the injuries result from polishing equipment used improperly. A buffing machine will "grab" a piece of jewelry being polished and sling it away and can cause severe injuries if it snags a finger or hand in the process. Surprisingly more buffing/polishing injuries result from the flexible shaft machines. While using a Foredom, Dremel, or similar machine with small buffing wheels or cratex-type wheels, the edge of the piece will catch the wheel and run around behind the piece being polished. This often results in a bent mandrel, that can hit the hand and cause a nasty cut.

Eye injuries are a category where none of us provides enough care for ourselves and those around us. We should wear safety glasses or some type of eye protection. We all know that, but so few of us do what we should. I must confess that I am not as religious about eye protection as I should be.

We use a variety of chemicals in our workshops and some of them deserve more caution than we give them. Think about the following list:

- Pickle solution for cleaning silver: (it is an acid you know!)
- Flux for cleaning silver: definitely requires ventilation and breathing dangerous fumes.
- Blacking or other solutions used to create a patina. Alcohol and acetone which are not only flammable but should not be breathed.

These are just a few of those that we use. Should we not read the MSDS sheets (Material Safety Data Sheets) that come with many of the products? If we don’t get the MSDS for new materials we purchase, I am sure that suppliers will jump at the opportunity to send us one. It is the law!

The last type of injury that I want to discuss is the common cut. Almost everything we handle can cause a cut. Paper cuts are most annoying and can become infected. Knives, jeweler’s saws, broken glass and sharp edges of work pieces can open cuts. We keep first aid supplies handy and, for ourselves, we use super glue. Not being licensed medical personnel we do not treat the students with super glue but we describe for them the potential benefits. My dermatologist (who saved my life) uses super glue for small incisions with great success. It is my understanding that this material was actually developed for battlefield use in Vietnam and I have been impressed with it. Might be worth having a discussion with your physician and get his (or her) opinion.

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Truth & Some Consequences

fossils in your collection, especially, if you cannot prove where they come from. Most fossils I know of don’t say "Made in China" or "Vlocha en Mexico" on them. And, how many of you kept receipts on items purchased, or can you vouch for exactly where the vertebrate fossils really came from even if you did purchase them and can prove it? The Bill calls for a person to exercise "due care" in knowing if the resource was excavated or removed from Federal land. Again "due care" is undefined.

Also subject to forfeiture under this Bill are "paleontological resources with respect to which a violation… occurred and which are in possession of any person and all vehicles and equipment of any person that were used in connection with the violation". I’m not a lawyer, but I do have knowledge of what has happened to several collectors and to several hobbyists in the past with regard to property confiscated, rightly or wrongly. In most cases nothing was ever returned regardless of its being legally obtained.

So, I worry for fossil collectors if this Bill, S 263, becomes law. The best way to prevent its passage in its present form is for each and everyone of us to communicate your feelings to your Congressional Representatives. A copy of the Bill is found on the Internet by using any of the Internet search engines, Google, yahoo, man, etc.

There is nothing new on the other issues we are following including the America the Beautiful Pass and legislation that would restrict public access to federal lands.

Be Safe — Be Well

A message from your Safety Committee — Don Monroe, Chair
**HOLIDAY GIFTING**

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Chair

As you consider the fast-arriving holiday season and the friends and loved ones you want to remember with special thoughts and gifts, why not add the AFMS Endowment Fund to the list?

You can choose to purchase one of the V.I.P. pins or “Fellow of the AFMS” pins we showed you in last month’s AFMS Newsletter, or, how about a single regional federation pin for a special member-friend? We have these available for $20; just let me know which one you want.

Alternatively, you might make a single contribution to the AFMS Endowment Fund to honor a friend or a whole group of friends. Your gift will surely be one that “keeps on giving” to a whole host of your special rockhound friends, and will enable the AFMS to provide even more benefits to you and everyone involved in our great hobby! And, as a bonus, you will have fewer packages to wrap and mail - we will take care of letting your friends know that you have made a gift to the Fund in their honor, and will publish their names in the AFMS Newsletter, too. There is no limit to the number of friends you can “gift” with a single donation, and there is no minimum amount required to qualify. Think about it!

Please send orders and/or contributions to:
Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair
RR #1, Box 159A
Towanda, PA 18848-9739

On another note, we are now beginning to line up the prizes for the 2006 Endowment Fund raffle to be conducted in Nashville next August, and are looking for new and interesting items to offer. As in the past, we are hoping to receive hobby-related donations of lapidary, fossil and/or mineral items from each of the regional federations. Please get in touch with me to let me know if you have something special you would be willing to contribute as a prize. We need more.

**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 cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

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 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.

**Where Are Those “Few Good Programs”?**

by Marge Collins, AFMS Program Chair

Has anyone seen any good programs lately? If so, they deserve recognition beyond the “Great program!” I learned a lot”, and similar comments of fellow Club members.

Did a fellow Club member – or you - produce a presentation this year or in the recent past? We encourage you - or you can encourage a fellow Club member - to take the next step. Authors of great programs deserve something extra in the way of recognition. “They can (and do) receive it through AFMS Program Competition. There are a variety of rewards AND best of all for other Clubs across the country; they can see the Winners via their Regional Program Library.

Since you - or any author can’t possibly make a live presentation to more than a few Clubs within a reasonable distance, why not give your - or a fellow Club member’s - presentation a much longer life by entering Program Competition? If necessary, make such a production a Club Project – bringing extra rewards of camaraderie, development of member’s talents - perhaps inspiring even more good programs.

The guidelines and rules are quite straightforward. Digital, VHS and old-fashioned 35mm slide presentations, related to our hobby are eligible. See the November Newsletter, AFMS website, or contact your Regional Librarian or the author for details. Deadline? 4-15-06 ...but it’s not too early to be thinking of 2007.

Marge Collins, Competition Coordinator
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd
Buchanan MI 49107
phone: 269-695-4313
email: margaret@qtm.net

**Does the Afms Central Office Have the Names and Addresses of Your 2006 Officers?**

Please mail or e-mail them as soon as possible.

Contact information can be found on page 3

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the AFMS Newsletter Staff

Sir Barkley Bigfoot
Caesar the GoFer
Carolyn and Steve

Page 4
Lapidary and Mineral Club submitted to the AFMS for recognition as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Betty has been a member of this club for about 15 years. She has served as President for 2 years and held many other offices. Her most important feature, that of being even-tempered, has enabled her to work with any person regardless of personality conflict. Betty has taught classes in her home every Friday evening for many years. She gives of her time and talent to teaching at Camp Paradise and Camp Zzyzx. Betty drives from Jackson (about 1 hour) to teach at the Stockton Club every Wednesday night and teaches beads, casting, silver work, wire wrapping, and anything else needed. I am aware that she is teaching every Saturday morning in different towns in her area. When she returns from classes (that she finds time to attend), immediately, everyone around her is learning her new skill. She teaches all ages and no one leaves frustrated because Betty doesn’t understand. Betty also attends many Club Shows and demonstrates square wire wrapping and many other skills. Betty is one of the few members of at least 4 other clubs and active in all.

Amador County Gem & Mineral Society has selected Betty Egger as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. When it comes to Education Through Sharing, Betty Egger exemplifies what is required. Betty has held many officer positions for the Amador County Gem & Mineral Society, but her most important role is the ability to motivate people through her energy in training and education. Betty holds classes at her home and teaches members the many skills needed for making jewelry and lapidary. Betty also started classes at the club house on the second and fourth Saturdays and enlisted the help of other members to help with these classes. Betty’s unselfishness to continue her education has benefited many members by willing to share what she has learned. It is my honor to nominate Betty Egger for the Education Through Sharing Award.

The members of the Pasadena Lapidary Society have nominated Todd Nadinke as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2005. Todd has served as President for three two-year terms, the last two consecutively ending this year. He has also been instrumental in working the annual show, handling door prizes and show signs, including making two large signs used to attract the public to the show. Todd, over the years, has worked in setting up the monthly workshop at a previous member’s home and presently hosts the workshop at his home. In addition to providing room for the equipment, which he moves in and out each time, he also provides tables, benches, chairs and shade on warmer days and facilities to warm any food for the workshop potluck. Todd has been a devoted and tireless worker, setting a shining example for others to follow since joining the Society many years ago.

Midwest Federation

The Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club has a family that joined the club only 2 years ago. They, in that short time, have made an amazing difference and are our AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year and AFMS Club Junior Rockhound of the Year. They are the Valentines. They attend meetings regularly, go on field trips, and participate in the junior Club. Kenny Valentine, who is 11 years old is an artist! He creates groups of people from horns, canals. Patty Valentine, his mother, is also an artist who makes wall hangings using clay and crinoid stems. They both participated in our lapidary contest and our Show Silent Auction. Also, at the Annual Show, Kenny demonstrated how volcanic rockses, and manned the Petoskey polish room by himself many hours over the weekend. Patty helped in a large variety of ways. Ken Valentine, Sr. (better known as Spanky) stayed alone overnight all three nights at the Show as our security. He also participated long hours in our Silent Auction Booth. Last, but far from least, is a “Kew”. She is a 6-year old parrot who attends the show for a day. She allows members to hold and adore her. Even though she doesn’t speak to us, she makes it quietly known when she is tiring. To top it all, they all have a sense of humor that makes it a pleasure to be around them.

We would like to recognize a pair of sisters who were charter members of the West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club in Macomb, IL. The club was started in 1973 as a result of a group of people taking an earth science class at Western Illinois University taught by Dr. David Hess. Janie Irish and Virginia Welch have been very active in the club by participating in activities, encouraging junior members and supporting the adult members of the club through their endeavors. Janie and Virginia both help at our show, which is sponsored by a combination of several clubs. They both help with set up of the show, especially covering the tables with sheets so the dealers, exhibitors and demonstrators can get set up. They take turns sitting at the registration table greeting guests.

Betty Egger is the choice from the Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club submitted to the CFMS for recognition as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Betty has been a member of this club for about 15 years. She has served as President for 2 years and held many other offices. Her most important feature, that of being even-tempered, has enabled her to work with any person regardless of personality conflict. Betty has taught classes in her home every Friday evening for many years. She gives of her time and talent to teaching at Camp Paradise and Camp Zzyzx. Betty drives from Jackson (about 1 hour) to teach at the Stockton Club every Wednesday night and teaches beads, casting, silver work, wire wrapping, and anything else needed. I am aware that she is teaching every Saturday morning in different towns in her area. When she returns from classes (that she finds time to attend), immediately, everyone around her is learning her new skill. She teaches all ages and no one leaves frustrated because Betty doesn’t understand. Betty also attends many Club Shows and demonstrates square wire wrapping and many other skills. Betty is one of the few members of at least 4 other clubs and active in all.

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Betty Egger is the choice from the Stockton
and answering questions. Both Jane and Virginia have encouraged our juniors by sharing specimens as well as offering praise and support for the efforts of our young members. Jane has shared her lapidary skills that she learned in classes at William Holland School. Each of these ladies has hosted the club picnic at her home. Our holiday dinner wouldn’t be the same without Virginia roasting the turkey. Jane and Virginia have been very instrumental in keeping our club active since 1973. We thank them for their encouragement and support.

submitted by all the members of the West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club

Northwest Federation

True rockhound “couples” are a special breed. If not actually dedicated to the hobby, they do nevertheless give of their time, talents and efforts to their clubs and organizations. We in the West Seattle Rock Club are so fortunate that Lyle and Audrey Vogeloh is one such couple and they belong to us. A pair of broken arms (one each) and heart surgery (Lyle) slowed them down temporarily a few years ago, but they bounced back in great shape. Over the years each has been president (Audrey is currently serving) and other elected positions as well as Show Chair multiple times. Lyle’s patient instruction in cabling has been a huge help to novices taking advantage of his classes. Audrey excels in making visitors and new members welcome. Lyle is most generous in sharing his knowledge of rocks and minerals with those who bring in specimens for identification. And his love of gold panning is a part of the sparkle in his eyes. Both are also active on the Federation level. Lyle served as treasurer, vice-president and president over twenty years ago, and is again the treasurer. Audrey has spent countless hours on a committee to “clean up” the Federation OP’s, in addition to serving in other capacities. This club would not be the same without Lyle and Audrey Vogeloh.

submitted by Toby Cozen, Federation Director

The North Idaho Gem and Mineral Club of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, recognized Mike and Diane Rose as their AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. Their activities and leadership have contributed to the continuing success and growth of the club. They have led several field trips collecting rocks and minerals, and visits to interesting sites. Many members join for the field trips. They built a shop large enough for classes and other activities. Subsequently classes have been held in Precious Metal Clay and intarsia. These activities have enhanced the skills and rockhounding experience of our members. Mike is currently President of our Club and Diane organizes field trips and classes. Diane also was the contact for dealers participating in our annual show held the first weekend in June. Their enthusiasm for rocks and minerals extends to membership in other rock and mineral organizations. Diane belongs to the Rock Rollers of Spokane, WA, the Panorama Club representing Kett He Falls, Colville and Chewelah, WA. She is also the Second Vice President of the Washington Mineral Council. Their activities translate into more information and activities for our club.

submitted by Everett Headrick, Federation Director

News from the American Lands Access Association

by Marve Starbuck, ALAA President

I would like to bring everyone up to date on what is going on with the American Lands Access Association (ALAA).

New officers for the association were elected at the annual meeting held during the AFMS Convention in St. Louis, MO this past August. Marve Starbuck was elected President and Bruce Stinchcomb as Vice President. Most of you know who I am. Bruce lives in the greater St. Louis area and is quite active in his clubs and concerned about legislative actions that would limit our collecting activities.

Under normal conditions, the new officers would start their term of office on January 1, but because of previous ALAA inactivity and the pressing needs stemming from pending legislation in Washington, the Directors encouraged the new officers to begin work immediately.

In the near future, I intend to create a new website and keep it up to date. We’ll also be producing a newsletter for the members to keep them informed on what’s happening in DC and elsewhere and how these actions affect our collecting rights.

One of the major concerns discussed at the St Louis meeting was the inactivity of ALAA this past year. The officers and Directors felt somewhat guilty at the lack of action and thus decided to extend membership for those who paid dues in 2005 for another year. Thus, if you paid dues to ALAA in 2005, your dues for 2005 your membership has been extended for one year. We continue to seek new members. Donations to help fund our expenses are always welcome.

If you’re a current member of ALAA, please send me your e-mail address so we can use that method of communicating with you. This way you’ll be kept abreast of late breaking news.

I’m going to need help in monitoring the BLM, Forest Service, the Federal Register etc. I would very much appreciate anyone who is willing to help me from that standpoint letting me know. It’s really imperative that we stay on top of news so we can get everyone on the same page.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please help us by encouraging your clubs and club members to join ALAA so that we can keep rockhounding a viable activity for ourselves and our kids.

ALAA Officers:

Marve Starbuck, President
<br><hr>
Bruce Stinchcomb, Vice President
<br><hr>
Izzy Burns, Secretary
<br><hr>
Toby Cozen, Treasurer

submitted by Toby Cozen, Federation Director

The American Lands Access Association, Inc.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

| Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA Annual membership fee is $25.00 | New __________ Renewal __________ |
| NAME ____________________________ ____________________________ |
| ADDRESS __________________________ STATE _______ ZIP ____________ |
| CTY __________________________ PHONE __________________________ E-MAIL __________________________ |
| CLUB AFFILIATION__ FEDERATION______________________________ |
| HOBBY INTEREST______________________________ |

Remit fees to: ALAA, Mrs. Toby Cozen, Treasurer, 4401 S. W. Hill; Seattle, WA 98116

The ALAA is a 501(c)(4) organization. It's purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the ALAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal
Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as AFMS Chairs for 2005-06. 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
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AFMS Boundaries
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ByLaws Revisory
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AFMS Club Publications
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AFMS Commemorative Stamp
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AFMS Conservation and Legislation
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AFMS Education-All American
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AFMS Endowment Fund
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AFMS Finance
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AFMS Historian
Shirley Leeson
See Editor’s Hall of Fame

AFMS International Relations
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AFMS Junior Programs
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AFMS Long Range Planning
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AFMS Name Badge
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AFMS Nominating
Bill Smith
See Long Range Planning

AFMS Photography
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AFMS Program Competition
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AFMS Safety
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AFMS Show Consultant
Mary Trammell
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AFMS Supply and Publications
B. Joy Bowman
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AFMS Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart - Chair
<webmaster@amfed.org>

AFMS Uniform Rules
Betty James - Chair
<mineralid@jam.rr.com>

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

AFMS American University Program
John Washburn
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AFMS Ad Hoc AFMS Judging Seminar
Dee Holland, Chair
See Financial Investment

AFMS Ad Hoc AFMS 60th Anniversary Planning
Shirley Leeson, Chair
See Historian
**Having Fun - Junior Activities**

**A Juniors Club For Every State**

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Activities Chair

Earlier this year, I had set a goal of enrolling at least 50 clubs and societies into the AFMS/Future Rockhounds of America’s new merit badge program—or approximately one club for each of the 50 states in the U.S. Although we don’t actually have clubs enrolled from all 50 states, I am thrilled and happy to report that we have reached that magic number of 50! Over the course of the past year, the juniors activities coordinators of 50 different societies across the country have called, written, or emailed to request FRA membership applications, the merit badge manual, or more information about the program, and I’ve happily been awarding merit badges to kids throughout the American Federation.

Please help continue the effort by spreading the word throughout each regional federation. Have folks contact me directly to get info (phone 805-659-3577; email jbrace@adelphia.net) or encourage them to download info from the AFMS web site at www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.htm. By the end of 2006, here’s to yet another 50 clubs and societies taking advantage of the program to reward their kids for—as always—having fun.

**Competitions - Lot’s Of Changes To Gain Fame**

by Sir Barkley Bigfoot and Ceasar the GoFer

The American Federation sponsors a number of activities that you and your clubmates should seri-ously think about getting involved with. In doing so, your club will certainly gain the recognition it deserves from other clubs across the country. You know you have a good club and entering one or more of the AFMS competitions is a terrific way to tell everyone else about your club and why it’s so good.

Doing so is not that hard! There are actually four ways you can do this.

1. The Club Publication Program. This is really the “bulletin editors contest”. Your regional federation is where this program begins. Why not urge your club bulletin editor to enter the regional competi-tion? You know your club has a good newsletter so why not let others know how good.

Entering is not difficult. Your regional federation bulletin editor then sets the guidelines as to how many issues of the newsletter or what months of the newsletter will be accepted. A deadline is set and you send your submissions in by that date. At your regional convention you will get a score sheet telling you all the great things your editor is doing along with some suggestions for improving the product. And if your newsletter scores highly, there might also be a nifty trophy awarded.

But wait…that’s not all. Your club members who have written articles for the newsletter are included in the competition also. Your club editor can submit a certain number of features, technical articles, poems, drawings, etc. for the contest too. What a great way of saying “thank you” to your wonderful contributors.

And…as an added bonus, the top scoring newsletters and articles from each regional federation are sent on for further examination at the AFMS level with a chance for more recognition.

Results are always printed in both your regional federation and AFMS Newsletters so your club gets recognition. Entering is really painless and easy and we wonder why more editors don’t do it.

2. All-American Club Award. This one takes a bit more work because you have to assemble a booklet in which you highlight all the activities your club has been involved in during the year. The action starts off at your regional federation level with all entries then being forwarded to AFMS for further review.

In your scrapbook you get to include pictures, newspaper clippings, programs etc. detailing your club activities. You also get to brag a lot about them.

If nothing else, entering the AFMS All American competition is a great way of checking out the health of your club. You’ll quickly see areas that probably need improving and even better, see the areas at which you excel.

3. The Program Competition. Many of the slide programs in your regional federation library are there because of the AFMS Program Competition. Perhaps your club has used one or more of these for your monthly programs in the past so you know how valuable they are.

Although most of the programs in the library were made by individuals, several were submitted by clubs such as yours. What a terrific way of sharing with others what your club members are doing.

4. AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. This is the easiest one of all. You or your club simply names an individual or couple and tells briefly why you se-lected them. You can also select a junior member to recognize in the same way. The hard part is just sitting down and doing it! Limit is one adult and one junior submission per club per year.

Your club could easily gain fame (sorry, no for-tune) just by entering one or more of the AFMS programs outlined above. Guidelines are in previous AFMS Newsletters and they can be downloaded from the AFMS website. We say, “Go for it!”

**Really Old (and Bad) Puns**

from Ye Olde Ed

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine. A backward poet writes inverse. A man’s home is his castle, in a manor of speaking. Practice safe eating - always use condiments. Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death. A man needs a mistress just to break the mon-ogamy. A hangover is the wrath of grapes. Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play. Reading while sunbathing makes you well red. When two egoists meet, it’s an I for an I. What’s the definition of a will? (It’s a dead giveaway.)

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion. If you don’t pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can’t budge it.

He often broke into song because he couldn’t find the key.

Every calendar’s days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

Every calendar’s days are numbered.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

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A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

A plateau is a high form of flattery.

A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

Bakery trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Santa’s helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture is a job well done.