Do not get excited when you read the title of this article. It will be suitable for young readers and will not venture into forbidden or questionable areas. As a matter of fact it will not cover any of the following subjects:

- Burglar alarms, the mafia or other “protection agencies.”
- Snake boots, chaps or brier-proof pants.
- Sunscreen or insect repellent.
- Goggles or safety glasses.
- Welding gloves or welding goggles.
- Bulletproof vests or mosquito nets.

I want to talk to you about umbrella liability insurance. This is not a commercial message or even an infomercial. I have absolutely nothing to do with insurance except as a consumer but I have been increasingly concerned about my fellow rockhounds and lapidarists and exposure that they may not be aware of.

Ann and I are pretty much retired and live on retirement income and the little bit that we have put away for a rainy day. Much of our enjoyment is derived from pro-bono teaching (that means free) and we have become concerned that if someone in class or elsewhere is injured, we could be held liable even if we did nothing wrong. A little note in our auto club magazine pointed out dangers or situations that we had never thought of. Upon investigating we learned that umbrella liability coverage is quite inexpensive, covers many situations and can really be necessary for chopping tasks to avoid chipping the edge. The included angle made by the two surfaces of the blade should influence how it is sharpened, the tool will slide across the work causing several problems such as a long, unwanted cut or scratch in the work or, even worse an unwanted cut in our hand or fingers. When tested, a sharp grover will make a smooth cut across the top surface of your thumbnail without any slipping or gouging. This sharp cutting edge can be best obtained using fine stones such as hardsteen or a fine synthetic ruby sharpening stone. Various stones require their own special lubricant such as fine oil or water. Do read the directions! I selected the grover as a subject because all of us can profit from the use of a grover at some time or another but we do not use it enough to become proficient. Either take a course or read a good book to learn about using the grover.

A knife is a far more complex tool than we often realize. A knife edge can be ground or honed to many different angles or “grind” as the knife makers say and the purpose of the knife should influence how it is sharpened. The included angle made by the two surfaces of the edge can vary from about 15 degrees to about 35 degrees. The so-called sharper edge is great for slicing food and tasks of that sort but the less steep edge is necessary for chopping tasks to avoid chipping the edge of the blade.

Do not get excited when you read the title of this article. It will be suitable for young readers and will not venture into forbidden or questionable areas. As a matter of fact it will not cover any of the following subjects:

- Burglar alarms, the mafia or other “protection agencies.”
- Snake boots, chaps or brier-proof pants.
- Sunscreen or insect repellent.
- Goggles or safety glasses.
- Welding gloves or welding goggles.
- Bulletproof vests or mosquito nets.

I want to talk to you about umbrella liability insurance. This is not a commercial message or even an infomercial. I have absolutely nothing to do with insurance except as a consumer but I have been increasingly concerned about my fellow rockhounds and lapidarists and exposure that they may not be aware of.

Ann and I are pretty much retired and live on retirement income and the little bit that we have put away for a rainy day. Much of our enjoyment is derived from pro-bono teaching (that means free) and we have become concerned that if someone in class or elsewhere is injured, we could be held liable even if we did nothing wrong. A little note in our auto club magazine pointed out dangers or situations that we had never thought of. Upon investigating we learned that umbrella liability coverage is quite inexpensive, covers many situations and can really be necessary for chopping tasks to avoid chipping the edge. The included angle made by the two surfaces of the blade should influence how it is sharpened, the tool will slide across the work causing several problems such as a long, unwanted cut or scratch in the work or, even worse an unwanted cut in our hand or fingers. When tested, a sharp grover will make a smooth cut across the top surface of your thumbnail without any slipping or gouging. This sharp cutting edge can be best obtained using fine stones such as hardsteen or a fine synthetic ruby sharpening stone. Various stones require their own special lubricant such as fine oil or water. Do read the directions! I selected the grover as a subject because all of us can profit from the use of a grover at some time or another but we do not use it enough to become proficient. Either take a course or read a good book to learn about using the grover.

A knife is a far more complex tool than we often realize. A knife edge can be ground or honed to many different angles or “grind” as the knife makers say and the purpose of the knife should influence how it is sharpened. The included angle made by the two surfaces of the edge can vary from about 15 degrees to about 35 degrees. The so-called sharper edge is great for slicing food and tasks of that sort but the less steep edge is necessary for chopping tasks to avoid chipping the edge.
**SUMMER THOUGHTS**

by Jim Robinson, AFMS President

August in Jacksonville is always hot and humid, but it's my guess that this one will be one for the record books. As I write this in late July, it has been in the middle nineties for the 6th straight day without a cloud in the sky. In my area of the county we have had less than 1 inch of rain in three months and the farmers and the rest of us are really suffering.

The AFMS/SFMS Annual Meeting will be coming up soon; it's going to be a pleasure to get out of town for a few days. I sure hope that Nashville will be cooler!

Speaking of the annual meeting, you may or may not read this message before the 16th of August, but for those who do we hope to see many of you there. It's still not too late to hop in the car or catch a plane so you can come and join us. We have some important matters coming up at this meeting and need all the Federations represented.

Keeping in mind the ever-increasing cost of gasoline and other travel expenses we understand it could put a stress on some budgets. Some Federations, the SFMS being one of them, pay their officers expenses to the AFMS. I am not aware of what financial help is being offered by the other Federations, but it is becoming more and more important to assist these devoted offices and committee people who have made the hobby what it is today.

The summer has been relatively quiet and not much has happened to report. I guess that's a good thing. I have seen some rumbling about the Paleontological Resources Protection Act (anti-rock hounding bill). Thanks to the help of a "rockhound" member of Congress it's likely to remain bottled up in committee for this session. WE have to be ever vigilant though, it could rear its ugly head again anytime.

If I don't see you at Nashville, have a safe, healthy and pleasant remainder of the summer.

**Jim**

---

**BE KIND TO YOUR DEALERS**

by Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President-Elect

I recently attended a show, and read about another one, that had many dealers, and very few customers. Result: Many of the dealers did not cover their expenses. Oh, they might have covered their dealer's fees; better yet, they might have covered their dealer's fees and their production costs; but when the customers aren't there, they don't cover their transportation, lodging or food that are necessary expenses for them to attend the show. Result: They lose money, it costs them more to attend the show than they take in. In short, they could have saved money by staying home.

The dealer's fees are what make a show happen. Their fees cover the rent of the facility, the advertising, and some of the miscellaneous expenses. But they need sales to be able to exist.

The Rockhounds at the show are primarily interested in the raw materials, as opposed to finished pieces. Whether it be faceting rough, minerals, cabbing material or jewelry supplies, most Rockhounds already have extensive collections and are only looking for something that is exceptional or unusual. They do a lot of looking, but not a lot of buying. The dealers, therefore, need to have a large number of products that are aimed at sales to the general public. Inexpensive things for the children, and medium to high quality goods for the adults - at a substantial savings over the local jewelry stores. Thus, most of their sales are aimed at the public that comes through the front door.

But, if for whatever reason, the public does not come through the front door? The dealers go home hungry. And, if they lose money over a couple of years, they are not likely to come to your show again.

I have painted a bleak picture. How can it be improved?

Show committees need to be more realistic, rather than optimistic, about the number of people who will come through the front door. Each person has only a limited number of dollars that can be spread among the dealers. The larger the number of dealers, the thinner is the spread.

Keep good records of the number of people that come through the front door. Canvas the dealers to see how they did, and what kind of items were their biggest sellers. Get an estimate of the dollars that come through the front door, and plan the next year's show accordingly. Get the number and type of dealers down to the point where they can all make money.

Remember, without dealers, your show cannot exist.
**Records Retention**

These guidelines give consideration to reports required by the Internal Revenue Service, the States, and retention of historical records.

In the years I have worked with California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the biggest problem is the loss of records. The losses occur from death, fire, resignations, relocations, failure to turn over records by outgoing officers and chairpersons and destruction.

Keeping records in an officer or member's home account for most lost records. It is imperative that a common facility be used that is accessible to all officers and committee chairpersons. Records should be nearly organized and stored in lidded record storage boxes of a uniform size. Permanent records should be stored in a fireproof file cabinet. For non-permanent records, the date of destruction should be noted on the outside of the box. A listing of the contents should be kept inside the box, and a separate listing stored with the association's current general files.

**PERMANENT RECORDS:** These records must be retained for the life of the organization

**BOARD MINUTES:**
- Minutes of member meetings if business is transacted
- Original Articles of Incorporation including Amendments and Bylaws
- Reports to state organizations that oversee non-profit public benefit corporations
- Letters granting exemption by the Internal Revenue Service and state of incorporation
- General ledgers, financial statements, sales tax reports, non-profit reports to the Internal Revenue Service and state of record

- Records of major assets and special payments
- Membership records
- Newsletters
- Correspondence (legal and/or other important papers)

**RECORDS TO BE RETAINED 4 – 5 YEARS:**
- Bank statements, reconciliations, deposit slips/Advices/Canceled checks
- Cash receipts and disbursement records
- General correspondence
- Insurance records unless involved in litigation or other problems

**YEARLY ACTIVITIES:**
One or more members of the Audit Committee should do a year end review at the location where the financial records are maintained. For this review, the original of the year end bank statements, brokerage statements, etc. should be examined. In addition, the first statement of the New Year should be examined to verify balances forwarded.

Sampling of actual receipts and invoices should be verified to the entries posted in the financial records.

Receipts and disbursements should be compared with prior years and any material differences verified.

Once the annual non-profit reports are posted for mailing to the Internal Revenue Service and the State where the organization does business, the Audit Committee should review a copy before mailing.

**YEARLY ACTIVITIES:**
- Reports to be stored in a fireproof file cabinet
- Financial records should be stored in a fireproof file cabinet.
- General ledgers, financial statements, sales tax reports, non-profit reports to the Internal Revenue Service and state of record

---

**ACROY’s For Everyone**

by Cathy Gaber, Chair, AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

OK, do you even know what an ACROY is? Like so many organizations, services and the like, we have a recognition program through the American Federation that everyone should know about. Everyone in every rock and mineral club is eligible to submit names and to be the recipient of this honor. Because AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year is a mouthful, I find it convenient to use the acronym. Every year, one person or one couple can be recognized from each club. Isn’t there someone in your club that you feel deserves to be the ACROY for this year?

The process is very easy. All we need is the name of the person to be honored, the name of the submitter (and office held, if any), the name of the club, the name of the federation and a few sentences telling us why this person is so special to the club. There is no need to do any research or have each detail nailed down. The important thing is to just send it in, and then see how happy it will make your club member to be the designated ACROY for 2006. Each region has an ACROY representative that will be happy to process your submission, which will appear in this bulletin. I would encourage you to also send your submission to your regional newsletter editor and to your club bulletin editor so that everyone will know how much you appreciate the person selected.

Ed. Note: To learn about the most recent honorees, turn to page 5 of this issue.

---

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Address corrections and changes
Subscription Information
Distribution Questions

Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are sent to the President, Editor and Secretary.

Subscriptions are $4.50 per year
Rumit payment to the AFMS Central Office
Checks should be made payable to “AFMS”

**ADDRESS MAINTENANCE AND MAIL LABELING ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE.**

**ALL CHANGES AND QUESTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE
STEVE WENBERGER
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<central_office@amfed.org>

**CONTENT — LETTERS**
**EDITORIAL COMMENTS — SUBMISSIONS**

Any communication concerning the content or format of the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor:

CATHY GABER
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<editor@amfed.org>

**DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION (I.E. APRIL 1 FOR THE MAY ISSUE)**

Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes provided credit is given this publication and the author. For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.
**Having Fun - Junior Activities**

**Thinking Small: Thumbnail Collecting**

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

In my effort to develop new activities for FRA's merit badges, this month I've been thinking small, probably because an article in a recent issue of Rocks & Minerals caught my eye: "The Year in Micromounting." The lens of a microscope can bring into focus astounding examples of perfectly formed crystals and fossils no bigger than a grain of sand with nary a ding or blemish. However, the art of the micromount requires a real bankroll to get a microscope and other specialized equipment, and it requires a truly steady hand and lots of experience and patience to prepare micro-mineral and microfossil specimens for study and display. So while I'm thinking small, maybe when it comes to kids' activities I shouldn't think that small! Fortunately, there's an intermediate step between the pinhead micromount and the fist-sized cabinet specimen: the category of minerals and fossils known as thumbnails. (As a rule of thumb, so to speak, if it fits in a 5-inch cube, it's a cabinet mineral; a miniature mineral will fit in a 2-inch cube, a thumbnail fits in a 1-inch cube, and a micromount requires magnification.)

Helping kids build thumbnail collections has several advantages. For one, a collection of thumbnails takes a lot less room to store. Over 100 specimens can easily fit in a space just one foot by two feet. For another, these smaller specimens can often—formerly but not always—a be a lot kinder to a child's budget at a gem show. Finally, working with smaller specimens helps a child develop concentration and focus.

A good way to start collecting thumbnails with your club's kids is to take a field trip to the club rock pile or to the backyard of a willing club member who has a 40-year accumulation sinking into the ground. In this case, you won't be looking for the spectacular, one-of-a-kind giant hunks of semi-precious. Instead seek the rejects and castoffs: the quartz or calcite-filled geode that had shattered under a hammer blow and now lays in unwanted pieces or that chunk of rotted granite shedding flakes of mica, quartz, and feldspar. These pieces may have been deemed unfit as cabinet specimens but, on closer inspection, may yield perfect thumbnails. Encourage your kids to get up-close-and-personal with the rocks. Other resources include more traditional field trips to mines and mineral localities listed in the guidebooks, gem shows, and trading.

After collecting, you can lead kids in an evening exercise of cleaning and trimming their specimens to size, followed by another evening teaching how to mount and store specimens. Basic supplies needed might include hammers and small chisels (and eye protection!), pliers to snip away pieces of matrix, pins and tacks, or plastic bristles from combs or hairbrushes. Kids just starting out might store their thumbnail specimens in those small plastic boxes with magnifier tops. Or even a simple matchbox will do!

There is one frustration to note about this aspect of our hobby: an apparent lack of reference resources. I've found Milton Speckel's The Complete Guide to Micromounts in the used book pile at a gem show. Originally published in 1965 by Gembooks and apparently reissued in 1980 by Gem Guide Books, it now seems to be available only in the used book circuit. And that's about it! If anyone out there knows of other helpful resources and publications for micro- and thumbnail collecting, I'd sure appreciate hearing about them (jbrace-th@adelphia.net).

With thumbnail collecting, thinking small can result in smiles that are big as kids build an affordable, space-saving collection from specimens that are often overlooked while—as always—having fun!

Ed. Note: Probably the best reference on micromounting is "The Complete book of Micromounting" authored by Micromount Hall of Fame member Quintin Wright. It's available from Mineralogical Record.

---

**Upcoming Regional Federation Shows**

from Mary Trammell, AFMS Show Coordinator

Here is the schedule of upcoming Regional Federation Conventions that I have to this date. Please remember to contact me prior to finalizing any dates if your federation has plans for any shows other than those shown here so that we can avoid conflicts. You can reach me at <trammell@our-town.com>.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
<th>South Central Federation</th>
<th>Southeast Federation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9-11</td>
<td>Angel's Camp, CA</td>
<td>Nov. 17-19 W Palm Beach, FL</td>
<td>May 19-21 Southgate, MI</td>
<td>July 14-16 Kolo, WA</td>
<td>June 9-11 Stillwater, OK</td>
<td>Aug. 18-20 Bossier City, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15-17</td>
<td>Lancaster, CA</td>
<td>Oct. 6 - 7 Newark, NY</td>
<td>Aug. 3 - 5 Butte, MT</td>
<td>AFMS June 7 - 10 Roswell, NM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFMS Newsletter - September, 2006

California Federation

The Sacramento Mineral Society's nominee for AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2006 is Carl Zimmerman. Carl joined the Sacramento Mineral Society in 2001 and has worked above and beyond in many areas to make our club an outstanding organization. As vice president this year, he has obtained outstanding speakers for our meetings. He works on keeping the rock piles neat and tidy, the case displays up to date, and the yard looking nice. He works quietly in the background to keep things moving during shows, open house events, and other club activities. He participates as a shop steward and a saw master. Carl knows where everything is located. "Ask Carl" is a common statement. He is a dependable, sincere, and conscientious member who has earned this recognition.

submitted by Barbara Fiskett, SMS Federation Director

The North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society would like to honor Don Opcen as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2006 as he is an indispensable member of our club. Don has been President, Secretary, Show Chairman and Bulletin Editor for many years now. Aside from this he originated the CFMS Website and continues as the webmaster to this day. We are convinced our club would not be the fine club it is without Don's hard work and dedication. We feel she has earned this honor and more.

submitted by Nancy Bird, President NOCGMS

Marion Roberts has held many offices in the Mother-Lode Mineral Society and other clubs including president of The Northern California Facetors Guild and CFMS. He has been the chef at many of our Thanksgiving trips. Marion never fails to offer help when he sees the need. He is an asset to our club and his many other affiliations and is worthy of the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year honor.

submitted by William H. Hoyes, Treasurer LBMS

Marion Roberts

The Long Beach Mineral & Gem Society nominates Dorothy “Dottie” Beachler as their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. She is our Federation Director, and she strengthens our club daily. Dottie keeps us going with her warmth and dedication. We feel she has earned this honor and more.

submitted by William H. Hoyes, Treasurer LBMS

Marion Roberts

The Peninsula Gem and Geology Society nominates the Mother-Son team of Jo Burchard and Tom Burchard for AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. Jo has been the editor of our newsletter, the Petrograph, for the last 15 years of our 50 year club history, with Tom as the publisher. Both have been involved of the CFMS level teaching at Earth Science Seminars. Jo taught Ming Tree crafts at Camp Paradise. Jo hosts our annual summer picnic at her house where the club’s rock collection is stored prior to our fall show. She leads frequent crafts workshops which often attracts new members and is active in Board meetings and most club activities. She sorts and identifies rocks and minerals for the September Show and is our cashier. She and Tom have been past officers. Tom not only publishes our monthly newsletter, but mails it and keeps track of our mailing list. Tom taught lapidary for the last 8 years at both Zayante and Camp Paradise. This daughter/son team is a prime example of the participation and dedication needed by clubs, as suggested by our club member and CFMS President, Colleen McGinn, in the April CFMS newsletter.

submitted by George Martin, Treasurer, PGG5

Eastern Federation

I nominate Hazel and Marvin Remaley as the AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. Hazel is currently Vice President and is a Past President of the club. Marvin is currently a board member and is a Past Vice President. Both have served on the board for many years and have worked tirelessly on behalf of the club. In their roles as Vice-President they have arranged excellent club meeting programs. They also arrange the club Holiday Party and many other events, such as museum exhibits for the club show, and they take a lead role in all aspects of the show. Hazel was Show Publicity Chairperson and does a fabulous job on an almost non-existent budget. They are always willing to step up and take charge wherever needed and can be counted on to do a great job at whatever they do. These are just a few of the many reasons why I think they are the obvious choice for our 2006 Rockhounds of the Year.

submitted by Fran Sick

South Central Federation

The Hi-Plains Gem & Mineral Society in Plainview, Texas has submitted by Fran Sick, President Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club

Ever since Mary Bateman was recruited to be our newsletter editor about 10 years ago, she has been a loyal and energetic member of the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Washington, DC. She gave up the award-winning newsletter to take up the presidency a few years ago and has done an outstanding job. She has been working hard for the last year trying to help get a new location for our club show, and she organizes the work teams for the club table, ticket sales and the children’s area and often works the shifts herself. Prior to the show, she sends out thousands of post cards to prospective attendees and keeps track of this huge list from year to year. Mary has also been instrumental in the GLMS-DC efforts to award annual scholarships to deserving students at the University of Maryland. There is no aspect of the club in which she has not participated, from legal issues and setting up special tours for Maryland Day at the University of Maryland to bringing refreshments to monthly meetings, picnics, and holiday parties. It is a pleasure working with Mary and she deserves to be our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. In addition to her club duties, Mary has been actively involved in Eastern Federations activities, such as the time consuming Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Chair and recently as EMFLS Secretary.

submitted by Matt Charity, past president GLMS-DC

South Central Federation

The Hi-Plains Gem & Mineral Society in Plainview, Texas has nominated Jim Matlock as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2006 for all the work he has done as show chairman for 3 years. Jim helps all members with their rocks and shows them how he makes spheres. Jim has a great personality and loves to talk with anyone that will listen about his sphere making. He has demonstrated at several of the area shows.

submitted by Mildred Matlock

Northwest Federation

A member since the mid 1970s, Greg Durocher is now a pillar of the Chugach Gem and Mineral Club. He is a life member who has helped guide our club through the years by serving in many club positions and we wish to honor him as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Greg has been vice president twice, president three times, treasurer for 7 years and has served on various committees and is currently program director. Greg’s commitment extends to volunteering for many positions at the Fur Rondy and AK Minerals Convention rock shows. He also provides a top rate display case. As a working professional in the earth science field, Greg is a great asset to the club. He teaches a rock identification class and shares his knowledge at club meetings, field trips and shows. Greg has often been our auctioneer and contributes articles and field trip reports to the Pebble Patter. He has shared his “old red” van with other rockhounds, driving all night to get in a full day of rockhounding, then he would play his harmonica around the campfire and recite “The Creation of Don McGee.”

submitted by Tom Cooper, Federation Director

The Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club of Springfield, Oregon, nominates William (Bill) Contrell as their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Bill goes beyond the “Code of Ethics” for rockhounds, demonstrating leadership, showmanship, friendliness and generosity to others in advancing our rockhounding hobby. While he is a family man with a large extended family, Bill donates his time to the Willamalane Adult Activity Center as their Rock Shop Director. He coordinates work schedules, repairs equipment and instructs students on how to identify and turn a piece of rock into a gem. Because Bill keeps the shop going at the senior center, the club meetings are held at no cost to the club. Bill also volunteers in his community by bringing his own equipment and demonstrating during the City of Springfield’s “Children’s Celebration” every July. The Springfield club has benefited from his leadership as he has been President many times, Field Trip Director, and Trustee. He also stores club equipment on his property and works tirelessly at club shows during set-up, demonstrating, walking security, selling rocks, tear-down and storing equipment. Bill still works full time (even though starting his 80th year of life), but still finds energy to visit members’ homes and help repair their lapidary equipment or give them spares of his own. He also contributes articles to our newsletter and writes letters on behalf of rockhounding. He has received our “Man of the Year” award. With Bill’s unflinching effort and willingness, he promotes our club and rockhounding to all.

submitted by the Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club

continued on page 6
Wilderness
On July 24th and 25th, 2006, the U.S. House of Representatives passed several wilderness bill designations by voice vote. They passed unanimously. One of the Bills has a similar Bill already passed by the U.S. Senate which makes its passage by Congress very likely. The others need to gain support in the U.S. Senate if they are to pass Congress. There is no indication about the Presidents attitude on any of these Bills, but it seems likely that the President would sign them rather veto them if they arrive on his desk, given his reluctance to use his veto power.

The Bills passed by the U.S. House:

HR-233 "Northern California Coastal Wild-Heritage Act" which would designate 277,000 acres in Northern California as wilderness. The Bill numbers are HR-233 passed in the U.S. House on 7-24-2006 and S-128, passed a year earlier in the U.S. Senate on 7-26, 2005. The House passed bill has been placed on the calendar of the US Senate for a vote. It would normally be passed easily and sent to the President for signature... 

HR-3817, "Valle Vidal Protection Act of 2005", though not specifically a "wilderness bill" this Bill would Withdraw 101,794 acres in the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest (New Mexico) from: (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under public land laws; (2) location, entry, and patent under mining laws; and (3) operation of laws pertaining to mineral leasing, geothermal leasing, and mineral materials. It does not, however add these acres to the National Wilderness system. The House passed Bill was referred to the U.S. Senate and sent to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

Both the Idaho and the Northern California areas are likely to have hobby materials within their borders. We suggest you contact your Senators to advise them how you feel about these designations.

The America the Beautiful Pass:
Up to this point all indications seemed to point to a 2006 public input opportunity to comment on the cost and terms of the absence of this pass. Now it looks like the process has been pushed back several months due to a conflict in the name "America the Beautiful Pass" which might be a violation of a copyright. Some new information can be found on the internet at <www.govworks.gov/solic/uploads/44091_QA.pdf>. The agencies are continuing to develop the procedures for issuing the passes mandated by the "Lands Recreation Enhancement Act". It is not a question of "if", but only a question of "when".

New Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG), and Forest Service Trails Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG):

On May 22, 2006 the U.S. Forest Service published new guidelines for the agency in developing and restoring recreation areas. Most of the guidelines deal with trails, toilet facility dimensions, day camping facilities and structures, parking areas and the like. These are very likely precursors to these facilities requiring a permit or passes for use by the forest visitor.

Fossil Bill
"Paleontological Resources Preservation Act" Senate Bill 263 remains in the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources without any action taken by the House or the Committee.
### AFMS Committee Chairpersons

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 served on the as well) if you need information or have ideas to share with them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Email/Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
<td>Cathy Gaber</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bg@his.com">bg@his.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td>P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 (410) 833-7926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Boundaries</td>
<td>George Browne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brownegj@aol.com">brownegj@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Bulletin Editor-Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shirleyleeson@msn.com">shirleyleeson@msn.com</a> and <a href="mailto:beauholland@salmoninternet.com">beauholland@salmoninternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ByLaws Revisory</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:central_office@amfed.org">central_office@amfed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Central Office</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:central_office@amfed.org">central_office@amfed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Publications</td>
<td>Kitty Starbuck</td>
<td><a href="mailto:minedump@iserv.net">minedump@iserv.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Commemorative Stamp</td>
<td>Wendell Mohr - Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wmohr@erols.com">wmohr@erols.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and Legislation</td>
<td>Jan Spunaugle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jonspe@juno.com">jonspe@juno.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education-All American</td>
<td>John Washburn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrwashburn2@msn.com">jrwashburn2@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>Joy Bourne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csprings@epix.net">csprings@epix.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Investment</td>
<td>Dee Holland - Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beauholland@salmoninternet.com">beauholland@salmoninternet.com</a> and <a href="mailto:shirleyleeson@msn.com">shirleyleeson@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
<td>See Editor’s Hall of Fame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Janet Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beetlebill@silverlink.net">beetlebill@silverlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Programs</td>
<td>Jim Bruce-Thompson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbraceth@adelpia.net">jbraceth@adelpia.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Range Planning</td>
<td>Bill Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beetlebill@silverlink.net">beetlebill@silverlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Badge</td>
<td>Frank Mullaney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rockyfiv@aol.com">rockyfiv@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating</td>
<td>Bill Smith</td>
<td>See Long Range Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Ruth Bailey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rba51825@aol.com">rba51825@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President’s Advisory</td>
<td>Bill Smith</td>
<td>See Long Range Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Competition</td>
<td>Marge Collins - Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret@qtm.net">margaret@qtm.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
<td><a href="mailto:acmonroe@att.net">acmonroe@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Consultant</td>
<td>Mary Trammell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:trammell@our-town.com">trammell@our-town.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply and Publications</td>
<td>B. Joy Bowman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjb@wildblue.net">bjb@wildblue.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ways and Means</td>
<td>Isabella Burns - Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:isnill@aol.com">isnill@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Rules</td>
<td>Betty James - Chair</td>
<td>&lt;<a href="mailto:mineralid@jam.rr.com">mineralid@jam.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URC Eligibility Files</td>
<td>Anne Cook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See AFMS Secretary, page 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website/Webmaster</td>
<td>Marty Hart - Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webmaster@amfed.org">webmaster@amfed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ad Hoc AFMS Judging Seminar</td>
<td>Dee Holland, Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See Financial Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ad Hoc AFMS 60th Anniversary Planning</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson, Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See Historian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Barbara Sky</td>
<td>(636) 207-8766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The AFMS Judges Training Workshop was begun four years ago as an effort to bring about a clear understanding and interpretation of the AFMS Uniform Rules throughout all of the Regional Federations. Held annually in conjunction with one of the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop sessions, we believe the program has been successful.

Each year one representative from each of the AFMS Regional Federations is invited to attend the workshop. Participants must be those interested in the judging process, and involved with the program at their own federation level. During the week long class, instructor and former AFMS URC Chair Jay Bowman, discusses the various aspects of judging, reviews the URC manual and gives participants an opportunity to "practice judge" a variety of displays.

Here are some of the thoughts sent me by some of the 2006 participants. I hope that after reading them, you might just decide that this is something that interests you. If so, contact your Regional Federation Rules Chair and express your desire to participate in 2007. The AFMS Endowment Fund pays your tuition (room and board) to the session, but each participant must furnish his or her transportation. Spouses are welcome to attend also, but must enrol in classes (either judging or other EFMLS Wildacres classes of their during the week).

From Alice Bradshaw, representing the AFMS:

Scholarship attendee of Judging program, Alice Bradshaw, reports that the May Judging program held at Wildacres was a most invaluable learning experience that really helped to bring together every regional federation of judges for promoting a more fair and uniform understanding and interpretation of the Uniform Rules of Judging. The week long course covered thoroughly all the judging rules and their interpretation, along with practice judging of cases and lively discussions and learning times sorting out areas of complexity or past confusion among exhibitors and the judges.

Excellent information on improving showmanship, judging skills, and encouraging participation competitive exhibiting was shared. All of this will find its way to many rock club across this country, and should be the beginning of an upsurge in the quality and quantity of competitive exhibiting. Repeat attendees of the Wildacres Judging course continued to add to their knowledge and understanding of competitive judging and exhibiting, all of which will add to the improvement of judging and exhibiting in all competitive gem and mineral show exhibitions. This is a wonderful program for the furthering of the growth and appreciation of all that our hobby can aspire to attain! Everyone behind sponsoring this educational outreach is to be commended.

From Rocky McGill, Northwest Federation Rep

Where do WE go from here?

That is a big question in my mind. I just came back from Wildacres and a very informative week on judging. I know where I intend to go, and with your help I am sure we can make a change in judging. Many times I have heard from club members that they won't enter competition because they don't like the judging teams. What this judging seminar was all about was starting to get some uniformity not only between judges, but also from different Regional Federations, and on to the American Federation.

This year when I was asked to attend the AFMS Judging Seminar I spent the next few months trying to prepare myself with any questions to ask and what I could do to help represent The NFMS. I know now what I am going to do to try to improve the shows in the Northwest to work with others to set up a program to train judges. I can't do it without your help so it bring me back to the question WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE. With your help we can support a judging seminar in the Northwest. If you want to know what the Federation is doing get involved. The waters not bad after the first plunge.

I would like to express my gratitude to the AFMS for the opportunity to attend the Judging classes at Wildacres. I feel that in doing so we have made great strides towards having uniformity in the judging of cases not only at the regional level but very much so on the AFMS level. With the help of the AFMS I believe that we can pull the regions closer together and in doing so improve the hobby that we all enjoy. Once again I wish to thank you for all the help.

from Dick Friesen, California Federation Rep

My Week At Wildacres In The Judging Class

I want to express my deepest thanks to the AFMS for sponsoring this program and to the CFMS for selecting me to be this year's California attendee. The Eastern Federation people are gracious hosts and the environment is beautiful.

Standardizing the Judging across the seven Federations is an ambitious project, but one that is, in my opinion, desperately needed by the Federations. Different Judges interpreting the rules differently has allowed members opinion of the competitive environment to decline to the point that few new members will even consider competing.

Before I attended the class I had heard several comments to the effect that "all they do is read the book" and "I can read the book, I don't need the class". After attending the class and listening to our excellent instructor Jay Bowman, read and explain the rules to a class of Judges of widely varying skill levels, there is no doubt in my mind that "reading the book" is just what is needed by the Judging community.

There was no effort to teach mineralogy, jewelry, or any such skill. To attempt to do so would be, in my opinion, a waste of time and effort. Those skills need to be learned prior to being considered for a Judge. Learning to evaluate the rules and being knowledgeable enough to be able to explain the rules and the competitive environment, both before competition to people wanting to know what to do about getting started, and after the competition explain what went wrong and how to fix it is not going to happen by just "reading the rules". Building the confidence level of the competitors that they would have received the same score if they had a different Judge or were in a different Federation is not going to happen by "reading the book".

Perhaps an argument could be made for rewriting the rule book in some clearer form. But the level of effort to accomplish such a task is likely to be beyond the available resources of the Federation and just not realistic. The book is clear enough if we all work together to ensure that all our Judges understand the situation and what is need to make it work. The American Federation should continue to offer this educational process and the Regional Federations need to continue sending Judges for this training.