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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

Volume 60, Number 5
April, 2007

FROM THE FRIGID NORTHEAST: SOME HOT NEW PRIZES TO WARM YOUR HEARTS

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

We are delighted to report that the Endowment Fund has received four more fantastic prize donations for the 2007 Drawing! Thanks to the efforts of our stalwart committee representatives, we now have ten fabulous prizes just waiting for June 9, when Dr. Bob will draw the tickets to name their new owners. Here is what has been added to the list since we last wrote, in the March newsletter:

Prize #7: A beautiful and rare 7 1/2" x 4 1/2" x 2 1/2" cabinet specimen of sphalerite, crowned with barite clusters, one of which is a 2 1/2" ball, and showing the corner of a 1" clear fluorite crystal peeking out at the base of the cluster. This outstanding beauty was retrieved from the famous Elmwood Mine in



Smith County, Tennessee, which is currently closed. The prize was donated by AFMS Past President, Lewis Elrod, who values the piece at \$225. (SFMS)

Prize #8: An authentic and unique Native American knife. The blade is knapped from a piece of opal, and the handle is fashioned from a deer horn. The butt of the handle is adorned with a carved American Eagle head with open beak, in which a small (quartz?) crystal serves as the eagle's tongue. Pictured are the knife and an enlarged photo of the carved eagle. This 6 1/2"-inch masterpiece was crafted by Bill Metcalf who specializes in Native American replicas. Purchased and donated by Joyce Speed, Endowment Fund SCFMS Committee member, especially for the 2007 prize drawing. Valued at \$100. (SCFMS)



Prize #9: A gorgeous hand-crafted sterling silver bracelet, measuring 7-1/4" long and set with Capri Blue Swarovski crystal beads. This stunning piece



of jewelry was created and donated for the 2007 Drawing by Lois Allman, CFMS Past President, accomplished silversmith and long-time instructor at the CFMS earth science camps. The bracelet is conservatively valued at \$100. (CFMS)

Prize #10: Suite of Thirty-two (32) Jade Cabochons from the Estate of master lapidarist, Carl Childers, late member of the Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society. No two of these exquisite cabs are exactly alike; each was cut and shaped along the natural form of the rough material, and each is impeccably polished to a perfectly reflective brilliance. Carl's widow Mary Childers has graciously donated this



spectacular set of jade, displayed in a Riker mount case, to the Endowment Fund Drawing, continuing her generous support again this year. The prize is valued at \$150-\$200. (SCFMS)

These beautiful new prizes can be seen (as can all the earlier prizes) on the AFMS Website in full color, along with complete descriptions of each. Marty has done a super job of posting our listings, and he will be adding more new prizes as soon as he is informed of their receipt. You can see all the prizes, and read the details about each one at www.amfed.org.

But, we aren't finished yet! We are expecting at least four more great prizes in the next month or two - and remember, no matter when or where your tickets are purchased, everyone who buys a ticket will be eligible for any and all prizes we have in the case when we leave for Roswell in late May. All our Regional Representatives are ready and willing to serve you. Get your tickets now and then get some more later, if you wish.

See you next month with more . . .

Joy

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<WWW.AMFED.ORG>

GEMS OF ENCHANTMENT

ROCKY MOUNTAIN / AFMS ANNUAL
CONVENTION HOSTED BY THE
CHAPARRAL ROCKHOUNDS
ROSWELL, NM
JUNE 5 - 10, 2007



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CAN BE FOUND AT
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REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1

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SEVEN REGIONAL



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THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

by Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President

For those of you who are planning to attend the AFMS Show and Convention in Roswell, New Mexico, the following are some attributes of New Mexico that are being brought to your attention so that your visit will be more enjoyable.

Political concerns:

➤ New Mexico is part of the United States, so US Customs rules do not apply.

➤ Getting out of DWI arrests and running red lights are the state sports.

➤ Scalping, other than at sporting events, have not been a problem for several years.

➤ Discharge of firearms within the city limits is discouraged, except for the use of small bore shotguns during "Mosquito Roundup Days".

Climate:

➤ New Mexico has four distinct seasons: Summer, Fall, Winter, and Wind.

➤ Wind speeds seldom reach 100.

➤ Summer temperatures, however, do.

➤ Extended winter temperatures below zero are not uncommon.

➤ More people are killed each year by thunderstorm flash floods than are killed by lightning.

Wildlife:

➤ Man eating animals such as Wolves, mountain lions and bears are elusive and not often seen.

➤ Rabid animals are not common.

➤ The most common rattlesnake is the "Prairie Rattler". It grows to about two or three feet in length, has rather drab markings to aid its camouflage, and is somewhat shy. The rarer "Timber Rattler" is larger, more distinctly marked, and is more aggressive.

➤ The black widow spider can be lethal if one is allergic to the venom.

➤ Tarantulas are often too slow to be very dangerous.

➤ Scorpions, although abundant, are mostly nocturnal. Only a few species are deadly.

➤ The Hanta Virus can only be contracted during late May and early June.

With these facts in mind, how can one be safe? Drive carefully; a green light in your direction does not mean that no cars are coming through the intersection on a collision course. Spend a lot of time at the show, carefully examining the exhibits and spending considerable time with the vendors (this keeps you inside, away from many dangers). Take advantage of the organized field trips; large crowds discourage predators. Dress appropriately; the Convention Hall is air conditioned, but outside it expected to be a tad bit warm. Enjoy; the people in the yellow Chaparral Rockhound vests will be happy to assist you in any way that they can.

I would also like to remind you that there will be a live gemstone auction. The time and place are TBA. The stones are cut by master cutters throughout the United States, and are set in 14kt gold. They will not be cheap, because there will be people in the audience that know the value of the stones, but they will be good! I know that there will be an Emerald cut by a Wildacres Teacher in the auction, and I have cut two stones to be included.

So, save some money for the auction, the proceeds go to the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

I will see you there.

RLC

UPDATE, UPDATE, UPDATE

by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office Administrator

In reading over the job description for Central Office Administrator, the one requirement that I do not see listed is the ability to read minds or to be clairvoyant.

Yet, some of you must believe that I have these unusual powers because you expect me to know who your 2007 elected officers are! Sorry folks, I can't do that, nor can my two assistants, Sir Barkley Bigfoot and Caesar, the GoFer. (They are both extraordinary dogs and excellent helpers, but they aren't clairvoyant either.)

So here's the plea...send me your current club officers....name, address and office held...so that Sir

Barkley or Caesar or I can update the AFMS mailing list and get the correct people the newsletter each month.

Thanks for your quick response. You can either snail mail me the info, or send it via e-mail to <central_office@amfed.org>.

Not sure if your current officers have been received? Look at the mailing label on this issue. If the number in the right hand corner says "06", then I've not received it.





GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Shirley Leeson, AFMS President-Elect

I'd like to take you back to 1997 in Jackson, Mississippi. The site of the AFMS's 50th Anniversary.... An Ad Hoc Committee was formed by incoming President Dee Holland to investigate the possibility of creating a website. On the committee were Carolyn Weinberger, Ron Carman, John Alf and Mel Albright. Mel set up a test site. The committee investigated many areas of interest and concern. At Houghton, Michigan the following year, President Dee Holland and the committee made their investigation known and asked the directors to create a website for the AFMS and to find a webmaster to handle it.

President-Elect Lewis Elrod said he knew of someone in his club who could handle the job. Lewis wasn't kidding. Someone was smiling on us that day because Marty Hart came in to the AFMS as the first webmaster and has held the job ever since.

This job, that is mysterious to most of us, is the window to the AFMS. People from all over the world can "hit" the site and learn all about the AFMS, the people associated with the AFMS, all our various programs, contests, regional and national shows and much more. All of this must be input by Marty. No small job! It's our job to send him the information and get it right, then it's his job to input it on the website.

Our job is over when we send something to Marty to be put on the website, but his job is just beginning. Marty holds a full time job, had a family with kids and does the website maneuvering after hours, so to speak. His background experience was designing industrial instrumentation and controls. This included analog, digital, microprocessor and PCB design requirements. He also spent time programming automated testing equipment for use with Windows operating system. Boy! Is he qualified...

Marty got involved in rockhounding because he had kids who were interested and they were also in to scouting. Both hobbies seemed to go together and Marty got involved in both. He joined the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society to learn more about the hobby and along the way was their Treasurer Vice President and is presently the president of the club, a position he had held before. He is also their webmaster.

Marty is married to Renee, who shares his interests, and they have three kids, Chris who is 21, Brian 18, an Eagle Scout, and Monica 14.

The AFMS is blessed to have such a dedicated person handling our website. A few months back the website had serious problems. Marty researched servers and came up with a company who has given us more in the way of operations than we've ever had before. Marty closely monitors all this to see everything is running smoothly.

We, the AFMS, have so many wonderful volunteers who keep our Federation going. One more in the series of "AFMS GEMS"MARTY HART, AFMS WEBMASTER, extraordinaire.

(You can reach me at <shirleyleeson@msn.com> and <beauholland@salmoninternet.com>. Please use both in trying to reach me as some messages float off into cyberspace sometimes.)



Photo: Barbara Sky

WHAT A MYSTERY!

by Cathy Gaber, ACROY Chair

Over the last few years, I have had many occasions to wonder about the mystery of low participation in the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year (ACROY) program. Many clubs regularly send in an annual submission for their ACROY, but most, unfortunately do not.

I have never known of a club that could survive without the efforts of the members. It is not a job a single person can do. Many people need to take responsibility for the meetings, speakers, field trips, refreshments, library, show and whatever other activities are sponsored by the club. Some of these people are exceptional and should be recognized.

Each year, each club can and should submit a candidate for ACROY. The submitter can be ANY club member, so anyone can make this his or her responsibility. Just send me (for Eastern Federation) or your own federation representative the name of the person to be honored, the name of the club (and state), a few sentences about the honoree, your name and your title (if any). For just a little effort, you can make a fellow club member feel really appreciated for service to the club.

Don't let it be a mystery any more!!! Tell us all about one of your most deserving members! All ACROYs are printed in the AFMS Newsletter, and they may also be printed in the regional newsletter and club newsletter.

Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

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Address corrections and changes

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HAVING FUN - JUNIOR ACTIVITIES GOLD!

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Chair

Gold has held a special allure from the very beginning of humankind. Thus, it should come as no surprise that two of our youth leaders-Ted Zagwyn of the Central Maine Jr. Geologists Club and Inga Wells of the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club in Pennsylvania-have recommended that we add a unit on gold to our FRA Badge program.

Of course, there is one small problem: gold is just so darn valuable! Thus, getting even small flakes for a number of junior members could prove problematic. Here are some possible activities revolving around gold that won't bust the bank:

- Report on a historical event surrounding gold, for instance, the Spanish quest for the fabled El Dorado in the American Southwest, the Forty-Niner Gold Rush that led to California statehood, North Carolina's less well known gold rush (interesting fact: before the discovery of gold in California, North Carolina was known as the "golden state" and prior to 1829, all the gold coined at the Philadelphia mint was from North Carolina), the quest of Medieval alchemists to turn base metals into gold, the impact of gold discoveries in the Black Hills of South Dakota in the late 1800's (General George Armstrong Custer, anyone?), etc.

- Report on uses of gold. Beyond its obvious uses in jewelry and as an economic tool (good old Fort Knox!), kids might explore its uses in dentistry, in the space program for satellites and space capsules, in the electronics industry, etc.

- Learn about gold resources in your own state. Use the U.S. Geological Survey web site (www.usgs.gov)



to guide you to your state's geological survey or division of mines to find info about any gold that may be in them-thar hills of your own backyard. Simply click on your state on the map that appears on the opening page of the USGS web site.

- Learn how to distinguish between fool's gold (iron pyrite) and real gold by learning about the differing properties of each.

- Pan for gold in the field. Check bookstores and outdoor or camping supply stores for guides and maps to gold panning in your state. In bookstores, these are often found in the section selling field guides or regional books; in camping supply stores, these are often found in their maps and publications section.

- Pan for gold in your own backyard or patio. Not every state is rich in gold resources, so a good alternative to a field trip with your youth group is setting up tubs of water and using bags of gold concentrate. You can order these from many places through the web. In a search engine, just enter "gold panning concentrate" and a host of commercial sites pop up, many from California and Alaska. Pricing ranges from "practice" bags at 2 pounds for around \$15 to super-deluxe 20-pound bags at over \$400. (I recommend the practice bags....)

My thanks to Ted and Inga for suggesting this unit, which I'm hoping may become part of our badge program. Be careful, though! Catching the gold bug has been known to lead to irrational behavior while, as always, having fun!



AFMS/ALAA AT TUCSON

by Marve Starbuck, ALAA President

The AFMS and ALAA were well represented at the just concluded Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. We spent 4 days manning a booth and had several handouts for the general public. This included information asking for help in obtaining commemorative stamps from Wendell Mohr, Blue Ribbon Coalition material alerting the public to various Federal initiatives that could change access to collecting areas, along with information on the pending "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act".



We also brought with us the various Regional Federation Directories and were able to help several visitors find a local club in their home area. We answered lots of questions over the four days, and overall had considerable more interest in our booth than in 2006.

The Forest Service have a large number of road closures in the works; in fact, held a meeting during the Tucson proceedings designed to generate input from the public.

The Paleo bill has been called out of committee in the Senate; as of this writing, it's on the Senate calendar for action sometime in the future. It's still not too late to write your Senators and certainly not too late to write your Representatives and Speaker Pelosi voicing your concerns about the bill.

I've scheduled an ALAA Board of Directors meeting during the AFMS Convention in Roswell. The meeting will be Thursday, June 7th at 3:00 P.M. in the host hotel. Although it's called a "Board" meeting, all of you are welcome and I look forward to seeing all of you there.

If you've had difficulty reaching me via e-mail, be patient. The computer I was using decided to die and it's taken a while to configure the new one for our e-mail service. Keep trying...I will get back to you. In the meantime, don't forget to contact your Congressmen!!

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Mary Trammel, Show Coordinator

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2007	June 15-17 Lancaster, CA	Oct. 6 - 7 Newark, NY	Aug. 11-12 Houghton, MI	Aug. 3- 5 Butte, MT	AFMS June 5 - 10 Roswell, NM	Sept. 1 - 2 Arlington, TX	Nov. 9-11 Gulf Coast of MS
2008		Feb. 23-24 Jackson, MS	June 20-22 Lincoln, NE		Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 Tulsa, OK	AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX	
2009			May 16-17 Berea, OH	AFMS			
2010	AFMS						

BE SAFE - BE WELL

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

"Sticks and Stones May Break Your Bones but Splinters and Stickers Can Hurt You"

It seems obvious that splinters and stickers do indeed hurt, but it may be that the damage is more serious than we recognize.

Most years I spend a couple of weeks assisting a deer hunting group in the Big Bend region of Texas. The ranch we have access to is about 15,000 acres and it is wild country. The most sobering aspect of this area is the fact that everything, and I do mean everything, sticks. In addition to the ever-present cactus in an impressive variety of sizes and colors, almost all other plants stick. Now I don't



mean little stickers, but I mean thorns of size and ferocity that you do not see many places. Once you have allowed one of these thorns to deeply penetrate, you have a wound that needs attention. Since we hunt in a really remote area, both guides and hunters often have to take care of their medical problems. To see one of your friends digging in his leg with a sharp knife and tweezers to pull out the offending sticker is not a pretty sight. Applying a strong antiseptic is necessary but can make a strong man cry.

You are now thinking "what can a person do"? I do not have all of the answers. As a matter of fact I do not have many answers but I will tell you what I do. First, I acquired some snake-proof boots and snake-proof pants. I put snakes in the category of nasty stickers and snake-proof outerwear will take care of most all types of stickers. Then I put together a little first aid kit just to handle cuts, punctures and abrasions. Finally I wear gloves. I don't just wear any old gloves, but I wear leather gloves that will repel thorns and the like. The last thing I do is try to be alert. Watch where you step and where you sit and try to not fall down. Vigilance can really pay big dividends.



Do not get the idea that you must "go west" to encounter stickers. Our yard in north Georgia has been left in the "natural state" because that is the way we like it. Most of the trees and bushes are wild crab apple and they will attack you with a vengeance. Add briars, blackberry bushes and other unfriendly varieties and you get the picture. On our farm we had Osage orange and black locust, both of which have well-deserved bad reputations. Is there any part of our great country that does not have stickers?

I haven't forgotten about the splinters. There are a great number of splinters that we encounter in daily life and we really should be a lot more concerned about them because any skin penetration can provide an access path for germs.

Splinters can be soft wood, hard wood, metal, glass, plastic, paint, and many other materials. Splinters can be insidious and really quite dangerous.

Obviously a splinter in the eye is a serious hazard but have you enjoyed a splinter under a fingernail? When we were much younger, a friend got a small splinter in his foot and could not locate it so he ignored it. Have you ever heard of phlebitis? He hadn't either until the doctor at the hospital explained why his leg was so severely swollen. Keep a magnifying glass and good tweezers handy and search out those pesky splinters.

The last splinter I want to warn you about is unusual and many have not encountered it. It is the common cat hair. No, not dog hair or any other type of hair, just cat hair. Now cat hair is fine, but a bit stiff and has a very sharp tip. If you get cat hair in your shoe it may take awhile, but it can get lined up so that the sharp tip comes up against the bottom of your foot. This most often occurs on the heel or ball of the foot. This little sharp spike will work its way between the layers of the "print" of the foot and work its way into your foot. You slowly begin to feel a little pain and you cannot see the source. The pain continues and finally you get serious about finding the source. When you find that little hair it will appear that it is growing out of your skin. When you pull it out, the relief will be instantaneous. I know this is hard to believe, but it does happen. Ask around and I will bet you will find someone who has experienced this unusual "splinter".



Do you have a topic that you would like Don Monroe to discuss in an upcoming safety message? You can contact him with your idea at <donmonroe@windstream.net>.



HELP CELEBRATE!

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the American Federation and the Convention in Roswell will give us a chance to celebrate. We hope that you will join us!

Our BIG celebration will occur on Thursday, June 7 beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the host motel. We'll hear a few words about "the aliens" of Roswell...did they see flying saucers overhead or was it some other anomaly? In addition, several of the AFMS past presidents plan on being in attendance and will share with us some of their recollections of their year as president. And that's just for starters.

The 60th Anniversary Committee also plans to have _____ and _____. Sorry, we can't fill in the blanks for you - you'll have to attend to find out all about our special plans and commemorative gifts.

Today...call the motel and make your room reservation (Best Western Sally Port Inn, 1-505-622-6430. \$78.30 per night includes taxes and breakfast).

Tomorrow...send in your registration form for advanced tickets, the Awards Banquet and the Editor's Breakfast. (see <www.amfed.org/show2007.htm> to download forms and further information). Plan your competitive or non-competitive exhibit and send in your application. Some club cases are available on a first come basis. Registration deadline is May 1.



FABULOUS STONES!

by Dee Holland, AFMS Scholarship Foundation President

Many of you know Ed Romack, Past AFMS President and Dick Glismann, Past NFMS President and both members of the Intermountain Faceter's Guild. They are master faceters who have been putting on a stone auction for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation in the Northwest for many years. This year because it's the AFMS's 60th Birthday, Ed had been persuaded to put the auction on at the AFMS Convention and Show in Roswell, New Mexico in June. Howie Whiting, Show Coordinator has given us time for the AUCTION on Friday from 11 am to 1 pm.

Just to get the juices flowing, Ed has asked "master cutters" from around the U.S. to donate natural stones for the auction. Dick Glismann will work his magic and mount the stones in 14K gold. Among the stones: Sapphire earrings, Tourmaline earrings, an Aqua pendant, Zircon pendant, Apatite pendant, Blue Topaz pendant, Garnet pendant, Emerald pendant and a .58 carat DIAMOND cut by Gary Peterson of Sun Valley, Idaho. The retail value of the diamond unmounted is \$2200.

There will be a total of 20 lots to be auctioned. Come early. This event won't be matched again, so don't miss it! All proceeds, except for the price of the gold is donated to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. BRING MONEY.

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Cathy Gaber, AFMS Chair



Eastern Federation

In recognition of her many contributions to the club, **Georgia Olmstead** is nominated as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. Georgia joined NVMC in 1991 and has been an active member of the club. She served as club secretary when asked by the incumbent to take over; and subsequently was elected and served in that position for the next six years and added the club minutes to the newsletter. She has also served as secretary for other clubs. At the main branch of the county library she set up a display of 15 cases that depicted the many aspects of rockhounding, from how to collect with tools, books, and mineral samples, cabochon and jewelry making, samples of local fossils, and how to make a dinosaur footprint cast. Georgia has been the editor of the NVMC newsletter for over six years, volunteering when that position became vacant. She has saved the club money by taking advantage of the non-tax status. She is also editor of the newsletters for two other clubs. Her newsletters have been well recognized by EFMLS and AFMS. She received a trophy for New Editor, a trophy for Editor, Small Bulletins, and First Place Awards. Georgia enjoys writing articles, such as her trophy winning article on Petosky stones, for NVMC and several other club newsletters. Her encouragement of junior members to write has resulted in a first place award and two trophies. Georgia is on the NVMC Show Committee and helps at the NVMC and other club shows by registering attendees, selling tickets, helping visitors make cabochons, and helping at the kids' mini mines. She sets up display cases at shows and received an EFMLS trophy for an educational display. Georgia leads field trips to collect fossils or to pan for gold. As NVMC Vice President since 2006, Georgia brings good programs and speakers for the meetings. Since the position of president was vacated early in 2006, Georgia stepped in as President Pro-Tem, revitalizing the club and striving to keep the club on an even keel.

submitted by the No. Virginia Mineral Club

Andy and Betty Thompson are two of our newest members in the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia, but they stepped right into leadership roles without any hesitation. Since

2004, Andy has served as the president of the club. He has sought to improve cooperation with other local clubs, to have a joint occasional field trip, and he made sure that we had a club website and a new brochure. His monthly president's messages in the club bulletin are always thoughtful and thought provoking. Betty became the secretary pro tem in 2005 and has served very professionally in that role. She not only records the business portion of the meeting but provides a concise report on the lecture. She also has taken on the role of refreshments coordinator, often offering her own home made goodies. Without this "fresh blood", the club might not be thriving as well as it is.

submitted by Bruce and Cathy Gaber



Rocky Mountain Federation

When Margueritte Hunt started collecting fossils and minerals on field trips in 1974, her husband Jim carried her buckets for her. Then he got wise and made her carry her own buckets. "I got a lot more selective after that," she chuckled. In 32 years as a member of the Tulsa (Oklahoma) Rock and Mineral Society, Margueritte has served two years as Secretary, is currently is serving her fourth year as Club Treasurer (two terms) and last fall served as the TRMS Show Treasurer. She has been "Mrs. Grab Bag" for the club for many years, instructing new members on how to sew the cloth bags. The Hunts host a summer picnic for club members - not only for food and fellowship, but also to fill hundreds of grab bags for club shows. Margueritte is always willing to teach beading and how to make gem trees and crafts. She has acted as the Rocky Mountain Federation Credentials Chairman for shows in Tulsa and Enid, Oklahoma and in Phoenix, Arizona. She has also served as RMFMS Secretary. She is always ready to travel with fellow rockhounds on field trips near and far. Margueritte is a gracious and energetic woman - 86 years old - a spark plug in any job she accepts.

submitted by Kay Atkinson

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 H.E.L.P. (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.

A FEW GROANERS FOR APRIL

via Angie Teixeira

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Police were called to a daycare where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.

Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.

We'll never run out of math teachers because they always multiply.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U C L A.

The math professor went crazy with the blackboard. He did a number on it.

The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

The dead batteries were given out free of charge.

If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

Happy April Fool's Day!

AFMS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as AFMS Chairs for 2006-7. Please feel free to contact these people or the person in your regional federation who serves on the as well- if you need information or have ideas to share with them.

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

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
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Boundaries
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Dan Lingelbach
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Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
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<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

ByLaws Revisory
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Central Office
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Kitty Starbuck
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Commemorative Stamp
Wendell Mohr - Chair
<wmohr@erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
Isabella Burns
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Education-All American
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Endowment Fund
Joy Bourne
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Financial Investment
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<shirleyleeson@msn.com>

Historian
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International Relations
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<beetlebill@kanokla.net>

Judges Training Seminar
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Long Range Planning
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Name Badge
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Nominating
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Parliamentarian
Ruth Bailey
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Past President's Advisory
Jim Robinson
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Photography
Barbara Sky
<bskysky@aol.com>

Program Competition
<margaret@qtm.net>

Safety
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Show Consultant
Mary Trammell
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Supply and Publications
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Ways and Means
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Uniform Rules
Jim Hurlbut - Chair
<jfhu@earthlink.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
<secretary@amfed.org>

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

Ad Hoc AFMS 60th Anniversary Planning
Shirley Leeson, Chair
<shirleyleeson@msn.com> and
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

AFMS AFFILIATED MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND WORKSHOPS

by Julia Larson, SFMS Education Chair

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies will offer five week-long workshops during 2007 at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Georgia and at the Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina. The following schedule has been announced:

- Session 1, Wildacres --
Friday, April 13 to Thursday, April 19, 2007
- Session 2, William Holland --
Sunday, June 10 to Saturday, June 16, 2007
- Session 3, Wildacres --
Monday August 20 to Sunday, Aug. 26, 2007
- Session 4, Wildacres --
Monday, Sept. 17 to Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007
- Session 5, William Holland --
Sunday, October 14 Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007

The total number of available bedrooms has been expanded significantly during recent seasons and the Southeast Federation is pleased to invite members of other Federations to attend the workshops. Southeast Federation registration will start on February 15, 2007 and members of other federations may submit registration forms on or after March 15th. The postmark date determines priority in classes with limited enrollment. Of course, out-of-federation AFMS members who are also SFMS club members may register in February.

The SFMS Workshops offer a wide variety of classes in both lapidary and jewelry-making crafts. In general, students will spend four and a half days in class with an optional half-day off in midweek. Registration is the afternoon before classes start and departure is after breakfast on the day following the last class. Workshops are open from 9 to 5 each day with a break for lunch. Evenings and the free afternoon are devoted to extra curricular activities that may include guest speakers, demonstrations, field trips, and an auction. The week concludes with show-and-tell. Anyone may tail gate when classes are not in session during the last half of the week.

The 2007 Workshop curriculum includes Chain-making, Fused Glass, Jewelry and Closeup Photography, Precious Metal Clay, Beginning and Advanced Silversmithing, Southwest Silversmithing, Advanced Metalsmithing, Gem Appreciation/Identification, Beginning and Advanced Wirecraft, Wirecraft Sculpture, Wire Weaving, Scrimshaw, Opal Cutting, Cabochon Cutting, Lost-wax Casting, Seed Beading, Mineral Identification, Seed Beading, Raku Pottery, Beginning Stained Glass, Stained Glass using slabs, and Origami.

Lodge accommodations including meals are \$310 per person, double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available for \$470. There will be lab fees and charges for supplies and materials. Details regarding the SFMS Workshop curriculum are published in the Lodestar, the official SFMS newsletter. Electronic copies of the Lodestar, as well as a 4-page brochure containing registration forms and class details, are available on the In-

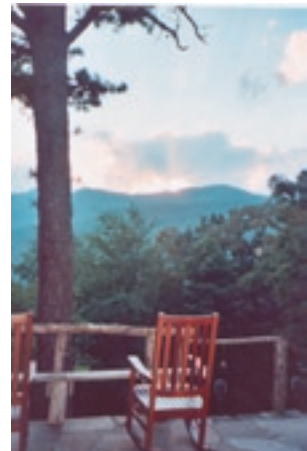


Photo: Steve Weinberger

ternet at the following URL: <www.amfed.org/sfms>

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies is a friendly federation. We look forward to having members of other federations join us at Wildacres or William Holland for a week immersed in our hobby or craft.

Editor's Note:

Several other regional federations also hold workshops that you're invited to attend. Here's a brief rundown....

Eastern Federation

Session I at Wildacres
April 20 - 26, 2007

Bob Jones, Sr. Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine is the guest speaker in residence for the week. Class offerings include cabbing, crystallography, fused glass, ivory identification, micromounting, silversmithing, faceting, wax modeling, exhibiting and judging and faceting. This session will host the AFMS Judges Training Seminar with participants representing each of our Regional Federations.

Session 2 at Wildacres
September 10 - 16, 2007

Dr. Steven Chamberlain, retired professor at Syracuse University and Chairman of the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium will be the speaker in residence. Classes include cabbing, gem identification, faceting, chain making, fused glass, geology,

intarsia, mineral, gemstone and jewelry photography and soapstone carving.

The cost for either session is a modest \$330 per person which includes room and board. Photographs and more information may be obtained at the EFMLS website <www.amfed.org/efmls>.

California Federation

The CFMS sponsors two workshopes each year. The first was March 18-25 and was held at Zzyzx, a rustic camp near Soda Springs. Cost for the week was \$300 per person with a variety of classes being offered.

The second workshop is held at Camp Paradise in September. Check the CFMS website for complete information, costs and registration materials <www.cfmsinc.org/>.

Northwest Federation

September 3 - 9, 2007 at Hancock Field Station, west of Fossil, Oregon. Cost per person is \$320 which includes the workshop fee and a guided trip to the Fossil Beds. Classes to be offered include lapidary, faceting, silversmithing, intarsia, beading, wire wrapping, and judges training.

Complete information can be obtained by visiting the NFMS website <www.amfed.org/nfms/newslet2.htm>. Click on February, 2007 to download the newsletter containing the information..

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