Since we last reported to you, the prizes have been coming in on an almost weekly basis, and we are now delighted to tell you about the last four arrivals. If you have not already picked up your coupons for the Annual Endowment Fund Drawing, now is the time to contact your Regional Committee Member, and make sure that your lucky numbers are in the kitty for the Big Event in Roswell in June. Here is what we have added since our last report:

Prize No. 11: An outstanding Jewelry Sized Intarsia, created and donated by NFMS Rules and Awards Chair, Barbara Jacobson, member of the NFMS Club At Large. This excellent piece was crafted with a centerpiece of Kentucky agate in black, red, and gold which is bordered with approximately the same colors in onyx (black), petrified wood (Utah red), and jasper (Madagascar pale yellow). The overall dimensions are approximately 1-3/8 in. by 2 in. Barbara tells us it was made up of 31 separate pieces placed on a backing of basanite. Estimated retail value is $500. (NFMS)

Prize No.12: Geode lined with quartz and calcite crystals from the noted Walker Valley Agate and Geode collecting locality in Skagit County, Washington, a very special area for NFMS collectors. This beautiful specimen (as pictured) measures 5" high x 7" wide x 5" deep. It can also easily be displayed in a perpendicular orientation, as it has two flat bases. The large quartz crystals are a pale smoky color, and the calcite is sparkling white. Lightly peppered atop the crystals are tiny black microcrystals of unidentified mineralogy. The specimen was mined and donated by Dan & LaVonda Vandenburg, members of the Skagit Rock & Gem Club, Mount Vernon, Washington. Rocky estimates the value of the specimen at $125 - $150. (NFMS)

Prize No.13: A jumbo faceted (17mm x 11mm) gemstone. This stunning eye-catcher was executed by SFMS President and Master Faceter, Buddy Shotts, who has generously donated it to us for the 2007 Drawing. Buddy tells us the material is Jessiesville, Arkansas crystal quartz, and the stone is cut in Don Clark’s famous “Butterfly” pattern. A careful look through the table down through the stone reveals a beautiful butterfly reflecting back to the viewer from the interior. The phenomenon is achieved by leaving specific pavilion facets unpolished – truly a touch of artistry which was beautifully executed by Buddy in this stone. The stone is displayed in a brass collar which comes along to the lucky winner as part of the prize. You won’t want to wear this one on your pinkie – unless you really want to impress your friends. Value of the prize is $150. (SFMS)

Prize No.14: Amethyst Sage Agate Necklace. The beautiful cabochon material came from Northern Humboldt Co., Nevada, and is cut and impeccably polished into an elongated 22 x 40mm oval showing the intricate tree pattern typical of the desert sage. The custom setting features a deep, specially crafted Sterling Silver Flat bezel which is trimmed with a delicate silver lace border, and is signed by its creator. Overall dimensions of the setting are 27 x 50 mm. The piece is polished – truly a touch of artistry which was beautifully executed by Buddy in this stone. The stone is displayed in a brass collar which comes along to the lucky winner as part of the prize. You won’t want to wear this one on your pinkie – unless you really want to impress your friends. Value of the prize is $150. (SFMS)

GOOD NEWS: SPRINGTIME HAS ARRIVED - AND OUR 2007 PRIZE LIST IS NOW COMPLETE by Jay Bureau, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

LAST CALL

GOOD NEWS: SPRINGTIME HAS ARRIVED - AND OUR 2007 PRIZE LIST IS NOW COMPLETE

President’s Message........................................2
Greetings From the Press-Elect..........................3
Junior Activities...........................................4
Club Rockhounds of the Year............................4
Fabulous Stones............................................4
Scholarship Honorees........................................5
Be Safe – Be Well...........................................6
Paleohphiles and Mineral Enthusiasts....................7
About Roswell, NM.........................................7
Convention Schedule........................................8
AFMS Code of Ethics......................................8

Visit the AFMS Website
www.amfed.org

continued on page 6
I recently received a letter from one of our members who was extremely incensed over the fossil bill, and the fact that it is backed by many paleontologists. This individual felt that the bill indirectly insinuated that only qualified personnel should be allowed to do Science. Quite correctly, this individual pointed out that science is for every one, not just an elite few. This individual went on to vent against paleontologists for supporting the fossil bill, and suggested that rockhounds boycott the activities supported by paleontologists to reduce their funding, when (not if) the fossil bill passes.

While I don't believe that a boycott would be effective (it would be too late, and we are too small an organization to materially affect funding levels), it got me to thinking.

Some kind of fossil bill will eventually pass, maybe not this session of Congress, but it will pass. We can fight it, we can modify it, but we cannot stop it. Too many paleontologists and their allies are behind it. So, what do we do then?

What if all of the fossil collectors in clubs affiliated with the AFMS become “Professional Collectors”? There are all kinds of schools that offer degrees in a wide variety of subjects. Why couldn't the AFMS find a school or university that would offer an Associate Degree in Paleontology for the purpose of collecting specimens? Since the vast majority of new fossil finds have been made by rockhounds, a school or university that is interested in fossils would be happy to have an army of collectors sending them specimens for evaluation. The proviso would be that common fossils could be kept by the collector.

When some form of the bill passes, we need to carefully read the wording about what constitutes a “professional” collector. I don’t think a Ph.D. in Paleontology would be required; I suggest that some lesser degree (and some lesser course of on-line studies) might do the trick.

It is a thought. If you can't lick them, join them.

On another note, I receive a lot of club bulletins from all over the United States. Some of them are sent via e-mail. These are the ones that I want to address. Some of them are sent in single column format. Those can be read directly from the screen by moving the cursor down as you finish reading. It is the same format used by most web sites. Others are sent in a two column format. These cannot be easily read from the screen. My computer (and I suspect most computers) doesn't allow me to have a full 8” by 11 page on the screen at a time. So, to read from the screen, I need to read down the left column, moving the cursor as I go, and then use the cursor carefully to go back up to the top of the page to read the right column. Sometimes the cursor goes wild and takes me back to the top of the newsletter. Then I am really cursing. The alternative is printing the e-mail. That takes my HP deskjet about 1 hour for a ten page bulletin as many have a lot of color pictures. It is not a good alternative.

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So, you editors out there, please consider being kind to your AFMS President; and, if possible, reformat and send your bulletin in a single column format.

Bob
GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Shirley Leeson, President-Elect

I want to tell you this month about a person who has more information about the AFMS than most of us. Someone who has extraordinary deadlines, which we don’t make easier: In 1999, at Nashville, Tennessee, amidst the grandeur of the Grand Ole Opry, she was approached once again to take over the AFMS Newsletter and this time she said, “Yes.” Something that was music (a symphony actually) to many of our ears.

Carolyn Weinberger came to the AFMS Newsletter with a huge background of editing expertise. Her skills as an editor had been honed on the Eastern Federation Newsletter. Something that she had been doing since 1978. No, that’s not a typo. I said 1978. And she has done her club’s Newsletter since 1973. Only another editor can appreciate these facts. All others take what Carolyn has accomplished for granted.

A Newsletter is something special and each person who does a newsletter, be it a club bulletin, a regional bulletin or the national newsletter, puts their own stamp on that publication. Although it’s subtle, it’s there if you look for it.

The layout of the newsletter is critical. Go back and look at the Newsletters over the years and you’ll notice the most important items are on the first page, to catch your attention. Knowing what’s important and getting the correct information is probably at the top of the list of things that must be incorporated into a good newsletter. She goes to extraordinary lengths to make sure the information she puts in the newsletter is accurate.

To many of us who have had to make a deadline and have cut it really close, Carolyn has been there to back us up. The person who reads the final product probably doesn’t realize that all this started more than a month before. Collecting articles from the various individuals who procrastinate till the last minute, leaves her frequently with spaces to fill because the article didn’t appear in time to get it in. She’s the one who takes the brunt of the criticism for the article not appearing. Through all this she is calm, collected and professional. I have never seen her lose her “cool” but I’m also sure she has pulled her hair out in private over things that have been done, or most likely not done.

Another part of her background that puts Carolyn at the top of the class is her background in education and we get the benefit of this because of her many years as an educator and school administrator. Carolyn gently nudges all of us to get our articles in to her and her suggestions on how to make the articles flow is greatly appreciated. If you’re new at this game of writing articles for the Newsletter, she is patient and helpful.

In addition to editing and publishing the AFMS Newsletter she has been the Eastern Representative for the AFMS Bulletin Editor’s Hall of Fame since it’s beginning in 1995. She has made sure those editors in the Eastern Federation who have gone far beyond what is expected of them as a bulletin editor have received the recognition they so richly deserve.

I know for a fact that Carolyn has come to the aid of editors throughout the U.S. on numerous occasions. All they have to do is ask for her expertise and the help is on the way. She’s a person you can count on and you can’t ask for any more than that.

Carolyn is a one of a kind. She has set a standard that can’t be matched. Carolyn has gone far beyond and what is expected of her and I’d like to give her the recognition she deserves. Let’s all applaud her for her tremendous dedication.

We like to tease her about being “vertically challenged” but even though she is small, she’s mighty in stature. A real “jewel” of the AFMS.

….And she’s also a person I’m proud to call a friend.

Shirley
<shirleyleeson@msn.com> and <beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

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 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 goodwill and fellowship.

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DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH
PRECEDING PUBLICATION
(i.e. April 1 for the May issue)

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Precious gemstones have captivated and beguiled humankind from our beginnings. We use them to denote special occasions (a diamond anniversary) and we each know our own birthstones (mine is amethyst). Various cultures, right up to today’s New Age, have invested mystical powers in gems of different sorts, and some famous gems even come with their own legends and curses. Here are activities to consider in introducing your junior members to gemstone lore and legend:

• Anniversary stones: Visit a jewelry store to get a list of precious gems for different anniversaries. Such lists are often divided between Traditional and Modern. For instance, according to Traditional, you mark a third anniversary with a leather gift while according to Modern, you give cut crystal. Gems and precious metals used to mark various anniversaries include crystal, silver, iron, copper, bronze, tin, pearls, gold, ivory, platinum, brass, opal, jade, ruby, sapphire, emerald, and diamond. Work with your juniors to construct a list for anniversaries from 1 to 100.

• Birthstone and the Zodiac: Each month is marked by a birthstone and, as with anniversary stones, there are lists that either are based on Traditional and Modern. For instance, the Traditional March birthstone is bloodstone, but Modern is aquamarine. There are also lists of "Mystical" birthstones arranged according to the Zodiac rather than the traditional calendar. While a stone is sometimes the same (July has ruby according to Traditional, Modern, and Mystical lists), it’s usually different (for instance, April has diamond according to Traditional and Modern, but opal according to Mystical). Have junior members learn about their own birthstones and see if they can find out what sort of mystical powers they supposedly possess. As with anniversary stones, a jewelry store is a good place to begin in assembling a list of birthstones.

• Fabled gemstones: Some especially large and valuable gemstones have been lost, stolen, or retrieved with supernatural powers or curses. One of the most famous is the Hope Diamond, currently residing under heavy protection in the Smithsonian. According to legend, it was stolen from the eye of a Hindu idol, and various owners have suffered ignoble fates ever since: being eaten by wolves, being beheaded, suicide, and even death by starvation! Have your juniors explore legends behind this and other fabled gems: the Pearl of Lao Tzu, the Koh-i-Noor (or diamond anemethyt, a blood-stone, etc.) and have each explore what legend and lore says about the mystical use of the assigned stones versus what contemporary science says. For instance, legend says wearing an emerald curc such ailments as a low I.Q. and poor eyesight and, while improving eyesight, also allows the wearer to gaze into the future. (Roman Emperor Nero would wear emerald glasses when watching gladiator matches—perhaps all-the better to predict the outcome?) Furthermore, emeralds are said to melt the eyes of any snake that gazes upon them. Sounds like a good science fair experiment to me!

Precious gemstones have captivated and beguiled humankind from our beginnings. We use them to denote special occasions (a diamond anniversary) and we each know our own birthstones (mine is amethyst). Various cultures, right up to today’s New Age, have invested mystical powers in gems of different sorts, and some famous gems even come with their own legends and curses. Here are activities to consider in introducing your junior members to gemstone lore and legend:

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Gemstone lore and legend is a wide-ranging, fascinating realm, a realm with both a long history and ample opportunities for having fun!
Since it’s founding, your AFMS Scholarship Foundation has distributed over 1 million dollars in scholarship funds to deserving graduate students in the earth sciences. I’m often asked how the selection of students to receive the scholarship is made. The answer is quite simple.

In order to remain impartial, neither the American Federation nor the Scholarship Foundation has a hand in the selection. Instead, each participating regional federation names an “Honorary” recipient. This person is often a college professor or someone well known in the earth sciences field. The honorary recipient then selects the student recipients. If the honoree is not associated with a college or university, he or she usually contacts an institution and receives help from them with the selection process.

Six of our seven member federations participate in the AFMS Scholarship Foundation and all have chosen their honorary award for 2007. They are:

California Federation:
WAYNE LEIGHT owner along with his wife Dona, of the famous Kristalle in Laguna Beach, California. Almost every museum in the world is counted among Kristalle’s customers. Wayne has done appraisals for almost all the major museums as well as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Wayne has given over a hundred lectures around the world about mineralogy and in particular gold specimens. He is also featured on several videos about gold and minerals.

Wayne (a mineral collector since age 7) earned his degree in Earth Science at the University of California, Long Beach and graduated with honors in 1976. He also studied Physics at Johns Hopkins University. He has worked in low temperature physics for Aero-nutraonics (a Division of Ford Motor Company formerly in Newport Beach, California) He served with the U.S. Army Intelligence for three years in Baltimore, Maryland and later in Washington, DC.

Wayne has done appraisals of the gold collections belonging to the Harvard University, The U.S. National Museum (Smithsonian), the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History and the Houston Museum of Science. 

Eastern Federation:
DR. PETER J. HEANEY Professor of Mineralogy, Department of Geosciences, Penn State University currently. NSF-NATO Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Earth Sciences, Cambridge University, with Dr. Michael Carpenter, 1991. Vice President, Mineralogical Society of America, 2005.

Dr. Heaney has organized a number of Symposia, the latest being “Environmental Mineralogy”, Spring meeting, American Geophysical Society, 2006. His publications go on for pages. Books include “Silica: Physical behavior, geochemistry and materials applications”. Review in Mineralogy, vol. 29, 606 p. Government reports include “Optical and X-ray diffraction examination of selected concrete aggregates for minimum flint. Federal Highway Administration Report FHWA-RD-95-XXX. Dr. Heaney has supervised numerous Graduate Theses and Projects. And he received numerous grants and contracts.

Midwest Federation:
DR. GEORGE ROBINSON holds a joint appointment as the sixth curator of the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum and Professor of Mineralogy in the department of Geological Sciences and Engineering at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan.

Dr. Robinson earned his B.A. in geology from SUNY, Potsdam, New York and his Ph.D. in mineralogy from Queen’s University in 1979. In 1982 the “George W. Robinson Laboratory of Mineralogy” was dedicated in his honor at the State University of New York, Potsdam. He is the author of over 50 publications in technical and popular journals, numerous scientific abstracts and seven books or book chapters. His book “Minerals” published in 1994, is unique among the countless books on popular mineralogy in that it combines the lovely photography of minerals by Jeff Scovil with a text that explains, in terms that appeal to both the layman and the expert, how minerals form in different geological environments.

Before coming to Michigan Tech in 1996, Dr. Robinson was curator at the Canadian Museum of Nature. Before that he was a successful private mineral dealer and also a high school earth science teacher.

He has taught numerous special intensive courses and workshops on mineralogy and its relevance to earth science teachers, students and rockhounds, and regularly teaches the mineralogy class to Michigan Tech students each fall semester. He has tirelessly worked to update the Seaman Mineral Museum’s collection and their interpretation to the public, including the development of the new Michigan Gallery, which includes subgalleries focusing on minerals from the Keweenaw/Lake Superior District, the iron district, and the minerals from Michigan’s lower peninsula.

Northwest Federation:

1986-1989 – Participant in cooperative research between Mining College Akita University, Japan and Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology. Research activities included three trips to the Tohoku region of Japan to examine deposits of industrial minerals in the Green Tuff sequence.

Dr. Berg is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, among a number of other prestigious organizations. He has published numerous papers, articles, and open file reports, filling pages.

On the basis of his Berg’s work and some careful sleuthing by a graduate student at Montana Tech, a new in-situ deposit of sapphire has been discovered in volcanic rocks near Butte, Montana. This type of occurrence is probably the source for the alluvial sapphires that are found north and west of Butte in Dry Cottonwood Creek.

Rocky Mountain Federation
DR. JACK MURPHY, B.A. in Earth Science, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, 1967. M.S. in Earth Sciences, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, 1994. In 2000, he received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Colorado, Denver. In honor of his 35 years of dedicated service at the Denver Museum of Natural History, Dr. Murphy was given the title of Curator of Geology Emeritus.

In his 35 years of employment at the Museum, Dr. Murphy has been responsible for a number of significant exhibition initiatives including the Coors Mineral Hall and the installation of the rhodochrosite wall from the Sweet Home Mine. He has published more than 60 popular and technical articles on rocks, minerals, gemstones and meteorites. As Curator Dr. Murphy was responsible for the acquisition of a number world class specimens including Tom’s Baby, Colorado’s largest gold specimen; the Alma King, a giant rhodochrosite crystal considered to be one of the finest non-genetic mineral specimens known, several species from the famous family tourmaline collection; and a number of meteorites including the recently discovered Elbert County pair.

Dr. Murphy has been a member of Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter and The RMFMS for many years. He is familiar to the members of all mineral clubs in Colorado, most of whom are also members of the RMFMS. He has given many lectures to these clubs and has led field trips for some. While at the Denver Museum he has had many friends in the rockhound community. He has been retired for two years and is now working on a book on Meteorites.

South Central Federation

Mrs. Bieniek created “School Daze” for the Houston Gem and Mineral Society for their annual show. The event occurs on the first day of the annual show, Friday, and invites teachers with their classes to attend the show on a field trip. The students participate in an earth science scavenger hunt during the show with the dealers participating. The dealers submit questions for the students and a route through the show helps the students find the scavenger objects. This program has steadily grown through her guidance to the point where the show committee has over 2700 students attending and now restrict attendance by taking reservations with strict limits on the number of kids per time slot.

Mrs. Bieniek travels to Austin, Texas whenever necessary to speak at the State Board of Education proceedings on the wise proposals to eliminate earth science from the high school curriculum in Texas.

President, Texas Earth Science Teachers Association (1987-1997). He is actively involved in the Rocky Mountains of Texas, Minerals and Fossils of Texas for professional and amateur organizations.

This year the AFMS Scholarship Foundation takes a great deal of pleasure in announcing the Honorees from the participating Regional Federations. Each Honoree will receive a plaque at the Regional Convention and will choose a University with a graduate Earth Science Program, and will select two graduate students for two years. Each will receive $2000 per year, for a total of $4000 per student.
AFMS Endowment

continued from page 1

hung from an 18" Sterling Silver 3 mm round Ome- ga Chain necklace. This lovely prize was created especially for the 2007 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing and donated by the artist, master silversmith, Norvie Ernst, member of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society, and also serving as CFMS Public Lands Advisory Chair. It is valued at $100 - $150. (CFMS)

All prizes are currently posted on the AFMS website at www.amfed.org - along with complete details and descriptions of each. If you cannot make contact with your Regional Endowment Fund Committee representative, you may still order your coupons directly from me right up until May 15th at the following address:

Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair RR No.1, Box 159A Towsanda, PA 18848-9739.

Make your check payable to AFMS Endowment Fund, and as soon as I receive your letter, I will send your tickets to you by return mail. (Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request.) We are asking for a donation of $5 for a single coupon, or you can make a donation of $20, for which you will receive five tickets. As a final reminder, all coupons will be eligible for drawing for any of the fourteen fabulous prizes we now have. All our Regional representatives are ready and waiting to hear from YOU!

Time is running out! Don’t miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to get your advance sale coupons for the 2007 Drawing! You, too, can be among the winners at Roswell on June 9.

AFMS Newsletter - May, 2007

BE SAFE - BE WELL
Searching for Mental Health
by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

All of us are searching for something, usually rocks or minerals. We want to find things to ex- tend our hobby or add to our collections. Many of us are also looking for ways to improve our health and extend our useful life. But, I ask you, how many of us have concerns about our memory or mental sharpness. My doctor tells me that it is absolutely normal to have these concerns as we mature (read that as "age"). We have little questions such as:

- Why do I have trouble remembering names of people that I know very well and even see often?
- Why do I enter a room and cannot remember what I came in there for or why I am there?
- Where did I park my car?
- Why do I select a novel or a piece of clothing that as "age")

I have been assured that this does not indicate Alzheimer's disease or even an onset of some form of dementia. I have been told that this is perfectly normal but frankly this answer does not warm my heart or even satisfy my curiosity. I have determined that it is not unusual but there are some proactive steps to consider:

- First have a positive attitude! Be happy because nobody likes a grouch. Associate with pleasant people of all age groups.
- Be concerned about your physical condition. A little moderate exercise can do wonders, walking is among the best.
- Diet. I hate that word but we are not talking about weight control. We are talking about healthy eating. I have heard it said that we are what we eat. We must worry about blood pressure and blood sugar levels. Much can be accomplished if we eat what we know to be healthy.
- Mental exercise. Use your brain! Write something such as a journal or stories for your children and grandchildren. Write a family history or do genealogical research. Do articles for club or federation publications. Match wits with Jeap- ory contestants or do crossword puzzles. Attend workshops or, even better, teach. Share your knowledge with others. I was not a great student in college but I needed money so I tutored other students. It was hard work but I really learned a subject in depth by teaching it.
- Consider doing for others. There are so many opportunities for service to the handicapped, the elderly, and the poor. I enjoy hunting but I really enjoy hunting with a group that is affiliated with a rehabilitation hospital. Our hunters have many, many physical limitations but it will make you totally humble to be with these people who are determined to overcome what appear to be totally debilitating physical conditions.

I suppose I can sum much of this article with the words: "stay active".

BE SAFE - BE WELL

AFMS Newsletter - May, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>June 15-17 Lancaster, CA</td>
<td>Oct. 6 - 7 Newark, NY</td>
<td>Aug. 11-12 Houghton, MI</td>
<td>Aug. 3- 5 Butte, MT</td>
<td>AFMS June 5 - 10 Roswell, NM</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - 2 Arlington, TX</td>
<td>Nov. 9-11 Pascagoula, MS</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>June 27-29 Ventura, CA</td>
<td>Feb. 23-24 Jackson, MS</td>
<td>June 20-22 Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>June 20-22 Ontario, OR</td>
<td>Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 Tulsa, OK</td>
<td>AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>May 16-17 Berea, OH</td>
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PALEOHPHILES AND MINERAL ENTHUSIASTS
by Marge Collins, AFMS Program Competition

Your help is needed! Newcomers to the Earth Science hobby want to learn more about all the aspects of this hobby. Why not share and explain your special interest to others in a presentation? First, you can show it to your Club and others that aren't far away. Then share it with a wider audience - across the country - by entering AFMS Program Competition.

You can inspire and inform current and future generations of neophytes about your favorite fossil or mineral species, about a classic location, a special museum, a notable field trip, etc. There are so many stories to share! You make the choice! First, make an outline to organize your thoughts, then start taking pictures to illustrate your "story" with that new digital camera whether still or video (or a good 35mm camera). If you've got digital, you don't have to use a "professional" software program - you can simply make a collection of images on a CD with a written script. (35mm slides and a typed script are still acceptable.)

Just two warnings: first, if you use presentation software, don't be tempted to use transitions, animation, etc. An audience watching an otherwise boring business presentation might appreciate some of those gimmicks for variety, but engaged viewers find them distracting. Second, don't overload the audience with images or information. You don't need to show every image and tell "every thing" you know. The goal is to whet viewers' appetite, and inspire them to search for more information on their own. In other words, a relatively short presentation - 35 to 40 minutes is good.

There are a few more tips and suggestions that can lead to a prize winning presentation. They're listed on the AFMS website <www.amfed.org> as are deadline, entry form, etc. You can also contact your Regional Program Librarian or AFMS Program Competition Committee c/o Marge Collins phone: 269-695-4313 or email: margaret@qtm.net (If you don't receive a prompt reply, phone - gremlins can mysteriously snag email!)

Sharing your passion for our hobby can lead to many rewards: a cash prize, recognition and best of all, the satisfaction of knowing you are inspiring others.

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO
The 60th Annual American Federation Convention is being held this year in Roswell, N.M. As Howie Whiting, the Show Consultant says, "There's more to Roswell than just aliens."

Located in southeastern New Mexico, Roswell is the county seat of Chaves County. It has a population of around 45,000 which makes it the fifth largest city in the state. It's about 200 miles southeast of Albuquerque and also about 200 miles northwest of El Paso, TX. Daytime temperatures in June usually average in the 90's with cooler nights.

"Discovered" in the 16th Century by Spanish explorers, and people realized that the numerous springs of the area could sustain large herds of cattle and large fields of crops. Added to these today are manufacturing and petroleum production. The Better Lake National Wildlife Refuge is located a few miles northeast on the Pecos River.

Dr. Robert Goddard did much of his early work with rockets in the Roswell area during the 1930's and several "personalities" were born or raised in the area.

There are numerous things to do and see in and around Roswell. The Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art houses a collection of paintings and sculptures. On the campus of the New Mexico Military Institute is the Lt. Gen. Douglas McBride Museum which houses a collection of military memorabilia.

The Roswell Museum and Art Center features Southwestern culture through historical artifacts and features works by such notables as Georgia O'Keefe and Peter Hurd. The Goddard Wing has a recreation of Dr. Goddard's early laboratory with displays about rocketry and space. There is also a planetarium.

For those enamored by animals, the Spring River Park and Zoo features numerous animals and birds.

Perhaps Roswell is best known for having its name attached to numerous UFO sightings and a purported UFO crash that occurred in 1947 all of which have become the subject of widely divergent views and speculation.

The U.S. military maintained that what was recovered at the crash site was a top-secret research balloon. Many UFO proponents however, believe that the wreckage was of a crashed alien craft and that the military covered up the craft's recovery. As a result, mention the name Roswell and people immediately think of UFO's. The "Roswell Incident" is probably the most famous UFO incident on record.

The International UFO Museum and Research Center is dedicated to the study of UFOs. Exhibits include paintings, murals and dioramas depicting the purported 1947 crash along with other alleged sightings of alien beings and their spacecraft.

Just a few miles from Roswell lies the Pecos River where small quartz crystals known as "Pecos Diamonds" may be found. Two field trips to the area are being planned during the Convention.

In addition, Carlsbad Caverns lie only a short distance to the southwest and the Sacocono and Blanchard Mining Districts are about 150 miles west. Field trips to the mining districts are planned for after the convention. See the AFMS website <www.amfed.org> for show and trip information.

If you've never been to an AFMS Convention, this would be a good year to start attending. The annual AFMS meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 6th at the Best Western Sally Part Inn beginning at 9 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet all of the AFMS officers and committee chairs and learn more about the workings of the Federation.

On Thursday evening the AFMS will celebrate its 60th Anniversary with a program and social activity hosted by AFMS President Dr. Robert Carlsson and Rocky Mountain President Richard Jaeger. Many of the AFMS Past Presidents will say a few words and we'll have several surprises on the program as well. Come, relax and help us celebrate.

The convention is hosted by the Chaparral Rockhounds, the local Roswell club. They're members of the Rocky Mountain Federation which will also be holding their convention during the show. The RMFMS annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 9th.

Editors, perhaps the hardest working members of our clubs, will be recognized and honored at the annual Editor's Breakfast on Saturday morning. Even if you're not an editor, come and show support to these unsung folks who help keep your club moving in the right direction.

Come to Roswell and join the fun! Complete information can be found on the AFMS website <www.amfed.org>.
CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, June 5
8:00 - 10:00 A.M. Convention Registration Host Motel
9:00 - Noon AFMS Uniform Rules Committee Meeting Host Motel
3:00 - 5:00 P.M. Convention Registration Host Motel

Wednesday, June 6
8:00 - 10 A.M. Convention Registration Host Motel
9:00 - ??? AFMS Annual Meeting Host Motel
AFMS Scholarship Foundation Meeting to follow
8:00 - 10:00 P.M. Show Set-up Convention Center
1:00 - 8:00 P.M. Exhibitor and Vendor Set-up Convention Center
6:30 - 7:30 P.M. Potluck Dinner (Exhibitors and Vendors) Convention Center
8:00 P.M. Convention Center Closes

Thursday, June 7
8:30 A.M. Judges Meeting Convention Center
9:00 A.M. Judging Begins Convention Center
9:00 A.M. Show Opens Convention Center
9:30 A.M. Field Trip for Pecos Valley Diamonds Convention Center
5:00 P.M. Show Classes for Day
7:00 P.M. AFMS 60th Anniversary Bash Host Motel

Friday, June 8
9:00 - 11:00 A.M. RMFMS Executive Council Meeting Host Motel
9:00 A.M. Show Opens for Day Convention Center
1:30 - 4:30 "Minerals of New Mexico" Lectures Host Motel
5:00 P.M. Show Classes for Day

Saturday, June 9
8:30 - 11:00 A.M. Editor’s Breakfast Host Motel
9:00 A.M. Show Opens Convention Center
11:00 A.M. Judges and Exhibitors Meeting Convention Center
1:00 P.M. RMFMS Delegates Meeting Host Motel
5:00 P.M. Show Classes for Day
6:30 P.M. Awards Banquet "Happy Hour" Host Motel
7:00 P.M. Awards Banquet Host Motel

Sunday, June 10
8:00 A.M. Rollin’ Rock Club Meeting Convention Center
9:00 A.M. Show Opens for Day Convention Center
10:00 A.M. Field Trip for Pecos Valley Diamonds Convention Center
5:00 P.M. Show Classes for Day
5:00 - 9 P.M. Show Tear Down Convention Center

Monday, June 11
Multi-day Field Trips Begin

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.