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# A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

Volume 60, Number 9  
October, 2007

## HAVING FUN - JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

### NEW ACTIVITIES AND BADGES FOR OUR FRA PROGRAM!

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

I'm extremely pleased to report that soon we will add six new badges to our FRA Badge Program! My sincere thanks to the AFMS Board for approving the funding necessary in the coming year's budget to make this happen and continuing to provide their unqualified support.

Prior to the AFMS meeting in Roswell, I had already taken the following steps: 1) outlining 13 possible new badges and activity sets in my monthly AFMS newsletter column over the course of the past couple years; 2) polling youth directors at local clubs that have been using the program most actively to see which of the new badges they'd prefer; and 3) getting a cost estimate from our badge manufacturer to present to the AFMS Board. In my poll of local youth leaders, most voted to add the following: Earth Processes, Gold Panning & Prospecting, Earth in Space, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Rocking on the Computer, and Stone Tools & Art. Their input and thoughtful suggestions are all greatly appreciated, and it's a direct result of earlier suggestions by youth leaders that activities such as gold panning and stone tools were developed.

In the time since the AFMS meetings in June, I've been working at developing and fleshing out the activities for our 6 new badges, with about 5 to 7 possible activities for kids to choose from for each. And I've been sketching out possible badge designs, which I'll be sub-

mitting to our manufacturer for further refinement. Finally, I'm revisiting our current set of 9 badges to make revisions, updates, and additions to the activities we already offer. I've been slowed by a little oral surgery (ouch!) but hope to have everything pulled together and finalized this fall toward a goal of having a totally revised badge manual posted to the AFMS web site with the arrival of 2008, when I hope youth leaders can begin utilizing our new offerings on a total of 15 topics.

In addition to my thanks to the AFMS for approving funding, I offer continuing thanks to local youth leaders who have taken up the badge program with their kids. I view my role as a facilitator, trying to come up with activities that may be of value. But their real value isn't realized until a local leader at a local club gathers together a group of kids, rolls up his or her sleeves, and makes something happen in ways that are always unexpected, interesting, and, hopefully, fun! That's where the real work begins and ends, so let's all give thanks and support to our local youth leaders for inspiring and developing the next generation of rockhounds.

Please help the effort by spreading the word about our expanding FRA badge program throughout each regional federation. To everyone reading this column: please have folks contact me directly to get info (phone 805-659-3577; E-mail jbraceth@roadrunner.com). If you haven't done so already, please write an article in your regional federation and local club newsletters conveying info about the

FRA program. With these new badges, we'll now be offering units on Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, Leadership, Earth Processes, Earth in Space, Gold Panning & Prospecting, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Stone Tools & Art, and Rocking on the Computer. I ask everyone's good will and help in spreading the word to get these activities into the hands of as many kids as possible within our local clubs and societies to help kids learn the science and craft of our hobby while, as always, having fun!



AFMS Newsletter  
Carolyn Weinberger, Editor  
PO Box 302  
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302



Stone Tools and Art



Gemstone Lore and Legend



Rocking on the Computer



Earth Processes



Gold Panning and Prospecting



Earth in Space

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## SOME LAST REFLECTIONS

by Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President

Since this is my last Message as AFMS President, I would first like to thank all of the Committee Chairpersons and the members of their Committees for an outstanding job. With your help, this past year has gone by quickly and smoothly.

Looking back over the year, I can say that it has not been plagued with problems. The problems have been minor, and were quickly solved. Rather, the past year has been blessed with fun and enjoyment. The only sad point is the loss of two persons who have been very active in the AFMS and their respective Federations: *George Browne* and *Dixie Alf*.

At this point, I have attended four Regional Shows: Eastern in West Palm Beach, Florida; California in Lancaster, California; Northwest in Butte, Montana; and Midwest in Houghton, Michigan. As this newsletter goes to press, I will be attending the South Central Show in Arlington, Texas; and when you read this, I will be attending the Eastern Show in Newark, New York. I saved the best for last, the AFMS show in Roswell, New Mexico.

Attending all of these shows has given me an insight into the differences between Regions, and I have some observations that may help you improve your shows.

The Eastern Show in West Palm Beach did not have a lot of exhibits, but they did have a lot of dealers. Some of the dealers had jewelry and gemstones that I have not seen outside of Tucson, Way above my price range. West Palm Beach is an affluent community, and those items must sell or the dealers wouldn't pay for the table space to display them.

By contrast, the AFMS show in Roswell has been characterized in print as being a small show. It had a lot of exhibits (40 in Competition) but relatively few dealers. Roswell is a relatively small community whose show caters to the public, not the few affluent in town.

In California, the exhibits and demonstrations were held in one building, and the dealers were in another. The weather was hot and the breeze was strong. Both buildings were air conditioned, and as one person said to me: "These must be new facilities, because the air conditioning works". The show was well attended. There were even tour busses in the parking lot during the show. This means that the advertising was effective.

At the Northwest Show in Butte, it was hot. The show location was large, air conditioned and had a good number of exhibits and a fairly large number of dealers. How were the dealers? Fran dropped a bundle.

In Houghton, the weather was somewhat cooler. The school where they held the show didn't need air-conditioning. Houghton is a small college town. During the summer, there are only the permanent residents who are not on vacation. The show was appropriately small.

A common thread runs among these observations.

First assess your potential patrons. If you expect high rollers, plan accordingly. If you do not expect high rollers, do the same.

Second, advertise as much as your budget will allow and don't spend a lot advertising to Rock-hounds; they already know.

Third, you need to provide an atmosphere that is comfortable for the public. The advertising will bring in the public; the comfortable atmosphere will induce them to stay. When the public comes and stays, they have a tendency to shop and buy. When this happens, the dealers are happy and will support your next show.

Fairgrounds that have recently had animal shows, complete with flies, and have no air-conditioning are not comfortable to the public. That hasn't happen this year, but I do remember a Federation show where Louie Redfern had an eight foot case of carvings and he complained so bitterly about the flies that we awarded him a special trophy for having the most flies in a single case. 'Nuff said.

I have enjoyed my time in office. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve you. My only request is that you treat the future AFMS Presidents with the same respect and affection that you have afforded me.

RLC



## GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Shirley Leeson

This month I'd like to mention a few words about someone who is the "glue" of the AFMS. He has made life easier for all the preceding AFMS Presidents, officers and chairmen. This person is someone who has "been around" and is able to work miracles. If you're in a bind and need help, he's there. Unlike me, he's diplomatic.

This person has a huge background in education. He's the second member of the dynamic duo. He's been on the AFMS Bylaw Advisory Committee for a number of years.

When the AFMS had the problem with Dan McClennan he was there to "fix the problem." It was during his term of office that Dan was summarily fired as AFMS Secretary and Central Office Administrator. Lewis Elrod stepped in as Central Office after Dan but was unable to continue because of eye problems. Once again, **Steve Weinberger** stepped in and took the position of Central Office Administrator and we've been fortunate to have him ever since.

The job isn't easy. It requires remembering dates and procedures. It means continually reminding Officers and Chairmen of important things coming up on the calendar. If you read your AFMS Bylaws and Operating Procedures you'll see that the job is complex and demanding. Not something for the faint of heart.

Steve has been helpful and diplomatic in doing his duty and reminding you of yours. Ask any previous AFMS President and they'll tell you that Steve has been their backup.

Steve's background is in education, he was a teacher for many years in the Baltimore area. He's been a staunch member of the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, holding most of the offices in the club. He's been through the chairs of Eastern Federation and also through the chairs of the AFMS, culminating in President in 2002. He's involved in Eastern's Wildacres and heads the Board for that program. He also teaches faceting at Wildacres, usually in the fall.



He lives with another important person to the AFMS, Carolyn. She's the one who puts out the AFMS Newsletter each month and has been featured in this column. They live with two special "people." Their dogs, Barkley and Caesar think they are people and act accordingly. I remember once at Placerville when the Director's meeting was "going on" and all at once Barkley, who had been sleeping under Carolyn's chair jumped up and barked. It brought the room to attention!

We've been privileged to know both Carolyn and Steve for many years, going back to the 70's when Carolyn and I were club bulletin editors and corresponded frequently. (Of course there wasn't instant messaging then; it took days to get letters back and forth across country ) It's been a rich experience and as I go into the AFMS Presidency in November, I can't think of anyone I'd like at my back than Steve and Carolyn. Perhaps they can keep me in check so I won't do something unacceptable.... But that's a tall order for even them.

It's been fun this past year helping you learn more about some of the people who have made the AFMS what it is today. Next month I'll be stepping up to the Presidency and doing a much different column. Till then, thanks for listening.

Shirley Leeson  
AFMS President-Elect  
<shirleyleeson@msn.com> and  
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>  
(Please send to both e-mail addresses)



Sir Barkley Bigfoot  
"When I bark, people listen!"



Caesar the GoFer  
"I was adopted"



### 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

#### Subscription Information

#### Distribution Questions

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### CONTENT — LETTERS

#### EDITORIAL COMMENTS — SUBMISSIONS

ANY COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE CONTENT OR FORMAT OF THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO THE

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## BE SAFE - BE WELL

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

### Sun Exposure - Changes Through Time

A few things that we consider as safety issues have actually changed but not very many.



Most hazards remain constant and are still bad for you but our attitude and our knowledge about sun exposure has really changed over time.

When I was young (no snide comments please) I remember the social implications of having a sun tan. Men were regarded as "red necks" if they had a tan face and hands but were whiter over the rest of their body. Women who had a tanned complexion were thought of as farm women or farm workers and were thought to be of a lower socio-economic class. Many of the girls from the "city" were extremely careful about exposure to sunlight.

All of these attitudes changed in the mid-1900's when it became stylish to have a "tan". The health effects of sun exposure and the positive aspects of Vitamin D created emphasis on the tanned appearance. Everyone wanted a "tan" and we all got one and tried to keep one.

Well, now we are paying for those tans as the pendulum swings back toward sun protection. I won't say that skin cancer is rampant but it is a major concern particularly for the fair skinned. It was not very long ago when a popular money-

making scheme was to own a tanning studio or sell tanning beds for home use. Now I see many more advertisements for sun creams, sprays and other forms of protection from the sun.



Until recently, I did not know what SPF meant and how sun protection were rated. A very tiny little black speck which turned out to be a melanoma absolutely changed my life and now I am seeing many of my friends learn the same hard lessons.

I am not in the medical profession but I will share with you some thoughts that I share with my children and grandchildren.

1. Visit a dermatologist on a regular basis, more often if you have a fair complexion.
2. Minimize your sun exposure. I simply am afraid to stay out in the sun because it is not worth the risk. Dress sensibly wearing hats, sun glasses, long sleeved shirts and light colored clothing outside.
3. Use an appropriate sun screen following your physician's advice.
4. Try to convince the younger generations that it is not "macho" to fry in the sun.
5. Don't forget the little children or grandchildren. I have been told that sun damage is a cumulative thing and we do not want the kids to start too young.

## WHAT A SURPRISE!

by Marge Collins

The distinction of receiving the AFMS Recognition Award is a most unexpected honor! Sharing this recognition with June Zeitner, Jim Hurlbut, Dee Holland and Glenn and Dorothy Lee leaves me almost speechless. Each has a substantial record of service for AFMS and our hobby!



It's been a genuine pleasure to chair Program Competition the past 12 years - thanks initially to the trust of Ruth Bailey. But without producers, who submit presentations, there would be no Competition, and nothing to give to the Regions. I encourage more amateur and professional producers to participate in this circle of sharing. And I thank my husband, Chuck - so many unforeseen adventures and friendships as a result of that first silversmithing class he enrolled us in 35 years ago!

Within another year or two, it will be the turn of someone else to take over the reins of Program Competition so the next generation can have a new crop of great programs for use at Club meetings, etc.

With sincere appreciation,  
Marge Collins

.....

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• Remit fees to: ALAA, Norm Hanschu Treasurer, 6607 Sturbridge Ln; Canton, MI 48187-2638.

• The ALAA is a 501(c)(4) organization. It's purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purpose; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the ALAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.

• .....

## SWARF...AND HOW TO TAME IT

from Gem Cutters News, Nov. 1984

Swarf is that milky liquid you get when you cut cabochons or facet stones. Although it appears to be harmless, swarf can be deadly to your plumbing system and lapidary equipment if not handled properly.

When you grind rocks to make cabochons or faceted stones, you're removing tiny bits of the rock and carrying them away from your work with water. When the water evaporates, the tiny rock bits are left behind as a sort of concrete gunk. Over time, this gunk will harden like concrete.

So how do you tame the swarf? Never, never, ever, dispose of your swarf in your plumbing system. Don't pour it down a sink or toilet because eventually that gunk will harden and eventually narrow your pipes. Because it's concrete-like when hardened, it will be almost impossible to remove! Instead, take your swarf outside to a non-important part of your garden and dump it there - or if there is no garden handy, allow the swarf to settle in the bottom of a bucket for a day or two, then carefully pour off the now clear water, and scoop out the swarf, put it in a plastic bag and toss it in the trash.

## WHO ARE YOU???

If you've ever watched CSI: Crime Scene on television, you probably know the theme song is "Who Are You?" Since I'm new to most of you, that's a good question to ask me.

I wear a lot of different hats. I'm a rockhound by marriage (to Richard - really, I DO like fossils, sand, and thumbnail minerals), a teacher by choice, a mother to 3 grown sons, a novice yoga instructor, and a volunteer in several areas.

My background in editing includes doing the T-Town Rockhound for 9 years, entering (always) and winning (occasionally) the bulletin editors' contests, being the RMFMS Club Publications Chair ("surprise, you're it!") the past 4 years, and writing/revising all those papers in college.

For me, life is an education, and I love it that way! There are so many interesting people and things in the world to explore.

Now - what about the AFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest? Since we are already most of the way through 2007, I don't think it would be fair to announce any drastic changes for the 2008 contest. And that does NOT mean there will be any drastic changes made. However, I think we do need to update some things to bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

So, I have some questions for everybody:

1 - Do you want to see any new contest categories added? Old categories dropped?

2 - What about club web sites? This is another means of communication with members.

3 - Is there anything else you want AFMS Club Publications to cover besides the bulletin contest?

4 - Are there any AFMS contest rules you would like to see changed or "tweaked"?

5 - What other ideas do you have?

Regional BEACs and any bulletin editor - please contact me with your ideas, suggestions, frustrations, etc. This is your chance for input. My e-mail address is: <LJGRALG@aol.com>. My telephone number is: 918-481-0249. We have an answering machine, so leave a message if you don't reach a live person!

Here are some clarifications for the 2008 contest:

1 - All AFMS guidelines, rules, and sample judging sheets will be available to everyone on the AFMS website as soon as I can get them typed and sent to the webmaster. (<www.amfed.org>.

2 - Cover pages - will NOT be counted as a "page" for determining what category a bulletin fits into UNLESS that cover page contains information that NOTICEABLY CHANGES EACH MONTH, such as a calendar or news items or officer reports, etc. If a page contains no information (other than a date/volume number) that changes each month (some bulletins have an "inside cover page" that contains only the club purpose, officers/committees lists, federation affiliations), then it does NOT count as a "page" for deciding the bulletin category it belongs to.

by Linda Jaeger, incoming AFMS Publications Chair

3 - A sheet of paper printed on front and back (with info that "changes" each month) counts as 2 pages.

4 - Bulletin Categories:

Mini Bulletins - 4 pages or less

Small Bulletins - 5 pages through 11 pages

Large Bulletins - 12 or more pages

New Editor - any size, First time editors only (and not "taking over" from a relative or becoming editor from assistant/co- editor)

5 - E-mail/electronically stored bulletins:

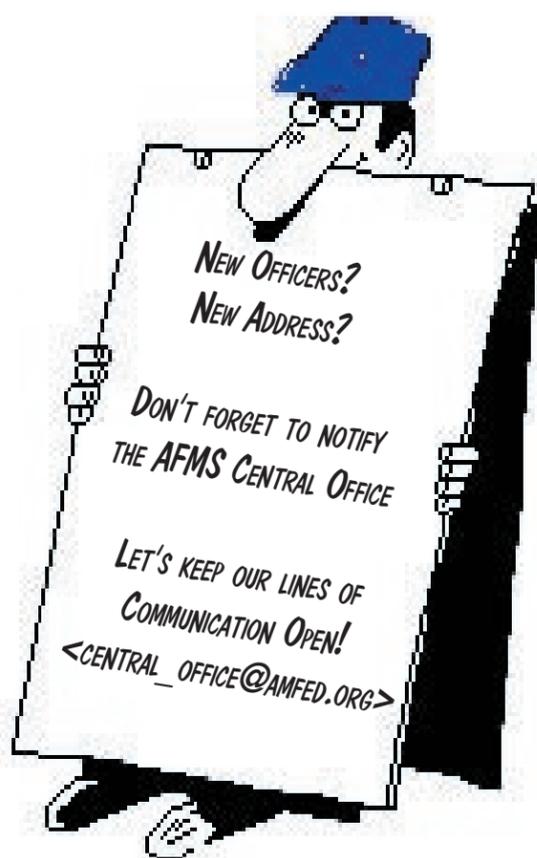
For clubs that send bulletins by e-mail only and/or store bulletins electronically: submissions (hard copy!) in color and printed on only 1 side WILL BE ACCEPTED. They will be judged without regard to the fact that they are in color or printed on only 1 side. These must be submitted exactly as they were e-mailed/sent to club members. (No Cheating!)

I would like to send revised (as needed) rules for the 2009 contest to BEACs and post them on the AFMS website by January of 2008. This means I need responses from YOU, ASAP!

Deadline for getting your input to me is December 1, 2007.

## NEW OFFICERS?

by Steve Weinberger



## 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.

## AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Cathy Gaber, AFMS Chair



### Eastern Federation

The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse nominates **John Baumler** as their 2007 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. John continues to be one of our club's unsung heroes. For a couple of terms each, he has served as Region III VP for EFMLS and our club's Show Chairman. For years he has been right there to get our member manpower signed up and is Johnny-On-the-Spot with his efforts, critical for pulling off our large show. With private lessons under his belt and after a few visits to Wildacres, he took the challenge to go forth and teach seriously and came back to his home club, and using his own tools, handouts, and equipment, taught a well received course in basic cabbing over the course of several months last year. In addition to his work and family obligations he engineered and built an exceptionally fine two-level mineral sluice which can simultaneously handle 6 or 8 kids washing and picking out their finds. John's sluice continues to be a big hit every year at our Syracuse show. Long overdue, we are proud to recognize our key member, John Baumler, as our Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by Cathy Patterson  
President, Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

bers are currently serving as officers of the club, another example of their willingness to donate their time towards our club. They have a vast collection of minerals that they share with the club. Therefore, I am nominating both Diann and Hubert Bateman for the AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year award.

submitted by Thomas J Dilworth  
Representative for the Brukner Gem & Mineral Club

I would like to nominate **Ryan Shanks** for AFMS Junior Rockhound of the Year. I have been a teacher for over 30 years and have rarely encountered anyone as enthusiastic for fossils as Ryan. I met him for the first time when he came to one of our meetings and asked me to identify a fossil that turned out to be a ground sloth claw. To me, this was very impressive that a 4th grader would have such a fossil in his collection and it told me that he had a true passion for paleontology. For his age, Ryan has an extensive knowledge and collection of fossils and he hopes to pursue a career in this area when he is older. Ryan joined the Central Iowa Mineral Society (CIMS) in the fall of 2005 with his parents. They have been very supportive of his passion and have provided him with many opportunities to pursue his interests. As a member of CIMS Ryan has participated in most of our field trips, such as Pella, Galena, La Grand quarry, Hempstra quarry, and Vinton quarries. He has made some spectacular finds in these quarries that included bones and teeth of the oldest known tetrapods. He has attended all CIMS meetings and club activities since becoming a member. Ryan constructed fossil displays, for the Iowa State Historical Building in the spring of 2007. He also exhibited the displays when Dr. Jack Horner lectured and on Iowa Geology Day at the Historical Building. Ryan displayed and answered questions about displays at the Story County Conservation Spring Festival

"Nature Rocks" in Ames, Iowa in 2007. Over the last two years he has presented research topics on fossils in his Science and Reading Research Language Arts classes. For the National History Day-Biography Research Night he made a display "Bernice H. Beane, World Renown Self-Taught Iowa Paleontologist." For his work on these projects, Ryan was awarded 6th grade "Future Paleontologist" by his teachers.

submitted by Michael Blair  
President, Central Iowa Mineral Society, Madrid, Iowa



### Rocky Mountain Federation

**Wes Ault** is the Gates Rock & Mineral Club's (Colorado) 2007 nominee for AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. His contributions to our club and community for over 47 years include officer positions from President, Trustee & Field Trip Chair to community volunteer activities with Webelos Scouts and school classrooms. He is a master lapidary, having taught many in and out of our club to cut. Wes is the field tripper extraordinaire with an encyclopedic knowledge of locations, although distance can be problematic. He once said we were going a couple of miles, but it was 26, leading to our Club's expression of a "Wes Ault Mile." He never seeks credit for his many contributions, but he just gets it done. If you need help, with anything, he'll be the first there, and then be indefatigable. Shows from the Denver area, Roswell, and Quartzsite have all benefitted from his labors. A diamond in the rough? No, he is a true gem.

submitted by Lynn Peterson, President



### Midwest Federation

Both **Diann and Hubert Bateman** are long time club members, who are very active with all aspects of the club. They are energetic and enthusiastic, which is picked up and enjoyed by fellow club members. They have an impressive breadth of knowledge about rocks, minerals and the functioning of the club. These two club mem-

## REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Mary Trammel, Convention 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 Pascagoula, MS
2008	June 27-29 Ventura, CA	Feb. 23-24 Jackson, MS	June 20-22 Lincoln, NE	June 20-22 Ontario, OR	Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 Tulsa, OK	AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX	
2009			May 16-17 Berea, OH	AFMS			
2010	AFMS Aug. 5 - 10 Riverside, CA						

## AFMS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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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.

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*Club Publications*  
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*Commemorative Stamp*  
Wendell Mohr - Chair  
<wmohr@erols.com>

*Conservation and Legislation*  
Isabella Burns  
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## 2007 INDUCTEES - NATIONAL ROCKHOUND & LAPIDARY HALL OF FAME

from Maxine Wilson, Curator and June Zeitner, Founder

The National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame was founded in 1987 to recognize excellence in the earth sciences by inducting one or more persons each year in six categories: Education, Fossils, Lapidary, Metalcraft, Minerals, and Tribute (Deceased). At this time we have 125 inductees representing 44 states. All of the inductees are experts in their fields. Many of them have published several books and most of them have been active in community service. The "Hall" is housed in Murdo, SD and is open to the public.

Notable past inductees include such luminaries as

- Washington Roebling - although best known as the designer of the Brooklyn Bridge, he had an extensive mineral collection that was donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

- Joseph Lizadrrro, collector of lapidary masterpieces and founder of the Lizadrrro Museum outside Chicago, IL and

- Paul Desautels, former curator of the Mineral Section of the Smithsonian.

For a complete list of inductees, visit the Hall of Fame website <[www.rockhoundhalloffame.org](http://www.rockhoundhalloffame.org)>.

Selection for inclusion in the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame is made by a "Board of Consultants" who review nominations received for individuals in six categories - Lapidary, Metalcraft, Fossils, Education, Minerals and Tribute (Deceased). Anyone may make a nomination - the process is quite easy (see box below).

The 2007 inductees are as follows:

### Education - Roger Clark

Roger has written and illustrated two books on Fairburn agates that have highlighted the geology of the Badlands and Black Hills. He is a popular speaker who regularly shares his love of rocks with local elementary school classes as well as adult groups. He was also involved with the Fairburn Agate section of the Johann Zenz book of agates.



### HOW TO MAKE A NOMINATION

1. List the name, address, phone number and e-mail of your nominee
2. Select a category....Education, Fossils, Lapidary, Metalcraft, Minerals or Tribute (Deceased)
3. Include the name, address, phone number and e-mail of a contact person.
4. Tell why your nominee should be included in the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame. Include as much information about the nominee as possible and the reasons they should be inducted. Remember the Board of Consultants may not know your nominee.
5. Mail your nomination to:  
Maxine Wilson, Curator, NRL Hall of Fame  
23530 263rd Av  
Murdo, SD 57559-6025

Nominations may be made at anytime.

### Fossils - Ben Vrana

An avid field collector, Ben studies, prepares and identifies his specimens. He eagerly shows his personal collection to students and continues to share with both adults and students the many interesting things he's learned and found. One of his more important finds, a rare and well preserved Mesosaurus was donated to the South Dakota School of Mines.

### Lapidary - Martin Hultquist, PhD.

His passion is making exquisite bowls from agate, quartz, jade, lapis and other jade materials. Rather than purchase commercially available equipment, Martin designed and built the unique equipment that he uses, modifying things as he finds a better method of doing something. He has earned two AFMS National Trophies for his work and has taught many in his club how to make these unique lapidary items.

### Metalcraft - Paul Cory and Sharon Bertch (tie)

Paul Cory was fascinated with opal and as a result developed skills that have led him to become a master of gemstone inlay. He's learned the best ways to keep opal from breaking, crazing or losing polish and he's learned how to set his beloved gems in high karat gold. He currently markets his inlaid jewelry through his company, Iteco.

Sharon Bertch excels in using designs to bring out the best in the stones she uses. Most of her jewelry is silver and is fabricated. Most of her motifs are based on nature and her interpretations are natural rather than stylized. Her jewelry is delicate, graceful and delightfully wearable. She has won a jewelry trophy from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

### Minerals - Steve Weinberger

Steve's interest is primarily in micro-minerals. He studies and photographs them and is organizer of the annual Atlantic Coast Micromount Conference held in the Washington, DC area. He's won 2nd place in Jeff Scovil's Tucson photo contest two years in a row. In addition to his love of minerals, he teaches faceting both for his home club and at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops held in Little Switzerland, NC.

### Tribute - Robert "Bob" Lange

Bob became interested in carving at the age of five when he carved a wooden head. Later in life he became interested in rockhounding which led to his carving of gemstone materials. Recognized as a master of his craft, Bob was responsible for the founding of the Gem Carvers Guild of America and for teaching many others. He had numerous articles published in *Lapidary Journal*, *Rock & Gem*, and *Gems & Minerals* magazines.

I heard that the 2008 AFMS Convention will be held in Humble, TX from September 24 - 28.

I'll have more details soon, but mark your calendar now!

