



It is AFMS policy that its name and logos may not be used for commercial purposes. Please notify the Central Office of any violations.

A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

Volume 61, Number 4
March, 2008

READY...GET SET...LET'S GO!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

Great News! We already have three spectacular prizes lined up for the 2008 Endowment Fund Drawing! But, before I get on to telling you about the prizes, I want to thank some very special people who have made the first monetary contributions to the Endowment Fund since the first of the new year.

Special thanks go out to JoAnn and Wendell Mohr, of the Gem Lapidary and Mineralogical Society of Montgomery Co., MD; to the Fossils For Fun Club of Gold River, CA, and to the Santa Clara, CA Gem & Mineral Society. We really appreciate the generosity of these, and the many other clubs and individuals, who make annual contributions. As the principal of our Endowment Fund increases, so does the annual interest amount we receive. As a result, all our members can benefit from the programs which are underwritten by that interest.

Now, as promised, here are the first three prizes:

1. A large selenite plate on a broken amethyst pipe. This incredibly beautiful cabinet specimen originated in Brazil and was the first prize donation received for the 2008 Endowment Fund Drawing. The overall dimensions of the specimen are a 7-inch base diameter; total specimen height of 11-inches and plate thickness of the selenite plate is 3/4 inch,



The selenite is crystal clear, as can be noted from the uninterrupted view of the folds in the red velvet background. (See photo), and it features

a lovely green crust of amethyst crystals crowning the plate. The base consists of two broken pieces of the pipe which have been rejoined naturally. This outstanding specimen was donated by an EFMLS member who prefers to remain anonymous, and who estimates its value at \$250 - \$300.



2. A piece of "KAURI GUM" from New Zealand; also known as the New Zealand amber. This large and unusual specimen was donated by AFMS Endowment Fund committee member, Howell Whiting, who also serves as RMFMS State Director for New Mexico and Texas. Howie tells us " The specimen was sent to us from one of our members in New Zealand and is approximately 90 grams, about 3 x 3 inches in size and is about an inch thick. I estimate the value at \$200.00." (RMFMS)

3. The third prize to be offered in the 2008 Fund drawing. A Vial of Virgin Valley Opal. This valuable and beautiful cabinet specimen is Virgin Valley Opal from the Swordfish Mining claims in Humboldt Co., Nevada, donated to the 2008 Drawing by Gene Straw, a member of the Skagit Rock & Gem Club, of Mount Vernon, WA. Gene collected them on July 3, 2006. This exceptional prize is valued by the donor as between \$500 and \$700.

The 3mm x 7mm vial contains seven pieces of the prized transparent opal, the largest two of which exhibit a bluish sheen. Others show yellow or blue or red, blue and green sheen. The total carat weight of the opal is 121 ct., with the largest piece weighing in at a hefty 36 ct, The smallest piece in the vial weighs 3.95 ct.

To see the beautiful colors, and to read more information about Virgin Valley Opal, check out the Endowment Fund page on the AFMS Website posting at <www.amfed.org>. Two pictures of the vial were taken from different perspectives - showing that the color, like life, is all in the way you look at it.



Watch this space for more additions as we receive them - we hope to have 14 prizes in total by the time we leave for Humble, TX next September.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

My Thoughts This Month	2
Clips From My InBox	3
New Library Programs	3
Words of Caution	4
Public Relations Ideas	4
Quick Tips for Editors	5
All American Yearbook	5
Upcoming Regional Federation Shows	5
Be Safe - Be Well	6
Junior Activities	6



Meet Your AFMS Personnel	6
AFMS Committee Chairs	7
Club Rockhound of the Month	8
In Case of Emergency	8
AFMS Code of Ethics	8



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

TIME VALUE
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burling, ID 83318
Permit No. 9

THE AFMS

PROUDLY SERVING
SEVEN REGIONAL



OFFICERS:



PRESIDENT

SHIRLEY LEESON

<shirleyleeson@msn.com>

PRESIDENT-ELECT

JOY BOURNE

<csprings@epix.net>



1ST VICE PRESIDENT

EMERSON TUCKER

<emerson@ suddenlink.net>



2ND VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN BLUE

<jblue@n2net.net>



3RD VICE PRESIDENT

LAUREN WILLIAMS

<slharuir@yahoo.com>



4TH VICE PRESIDENT

DON MONROE

<donmonroe@windstream.net>



5TH VICE PRESIDENT

RICHARD JAEGER

<Rjgrsci@aol.com>



SECRETARY

ANNE COOK

<secretary@amfed.org>

TREASURER

PAT LARUE

<bplarue@earthlink.net>



This month I'd like to speak about competitive exhibits, both at the regional and AFMS level.

I can fondly remember in the 1970's when I first became interested in the gem and mineral hobby I enjoyed seeing the exhibits at the various clubs and regional shows. At that time, at the regional levels, there were numerous competitive exhibits and they were to me the highest level of exhibiting. While I wasn't a competitive exhibitor myself (I have made my thoughts on this known throughout the years) I did enjoy seeing the exhibits and reading the comments of the judges. These past six to seven years I have become more involved in the intricacies of judging competitive exhibits because of Dee. In fact I have attended the Eastern Federation's

AFMS Wildacres Judges Training Course six times over the last seven years. This Training Workshop is for AFMS judges because there was a difference in judging from region to region. Many think this has been overcome and judging is on an even keel at this time, **but where are the exhibits to judge?** If you have heard horror stories about judges – I believe that's now in the past.

I think that if the lack of competitive exhibits continues this will hurt the hobby. Why? Because we have club and regional shows and invite the public in to see what we have collected, or made. We have given the public an educational experience and we have encouraged newer members by example. I can remember when early shows had exhibit cases that were really terrible to look at. Don't laugh, some had blankets or towels on the bottom of the cases, some had patterned liners that were so busy you couldn't see what was supposed to be the center of attention. Competitive exhibiting set a standard by eliminating all this and putting the emphasis on the material exhibited.

I'm reminding you of this because if we don't get back to exhibiting at some level, what is the public going to see when they attend our shows, either at the club level, regional or national (AFMS). I'd like to encourage all of you, either individuals or clubs to participate in exhibiting. Coming up in September, 2008 is the AFMS Show and Convention in Humble, just outside of Houston, Texas, hosted by the South Central Federation and the club hosts are the Houston Gem and Mineral Society.

Exhibiting in competition usually starts at the regional level, and right now there are three regional shows coming up in June - Northwest and Midwest (unfortunately on the same weekend) and the California Federation a week later. If you belong to one of these Federations you can compete and if you earn a 90 or above on the master level you will be eligible to compete on the AFMS level at the show in September. Only trophies for Masters are given out at the AFMS level except for Juniors. (more on this aspect later)

Please don't confuse this with the novice and advanced levels of competition. Even scoring a 90 or above, you can't compete at the AFMS show in Humble and expect an AFMS trophy.

Now, if you consider yourself to be a master in your class you can enter your exhibit at the AFMS show in Humble by doing the following: Enter in competition at the South Central level, and if you score 90 or above you will then be judged again at the AFMS level for a trophy. You can find entry forms for competitive exhibiting for South Central at the <www.amfed.org> website under AFMS 2008 show.

I'd like to encourage all clubs throughout the U.S. to have a "how to night." This would show new club members how to create an exhibit that will wow the public. Choices of materials used, fabric and what to use as a backing for the liners, what you can use as risers to show off your material, and what to put on your labels. And especially have someone who can read the AFMS Rules Book and help you with your choice of the GROUP: Novice, Advanced and Master. This is the tricky part because many people are encouraged by others to go right to MASTER because that's the one with the trophy.... And don't expect to be a master because you won a trophy at the County Fair. The next item would be the DIVISION, for example minerals, lapidary, education and open and finally CLASS and there are many classes included in the various divisions. If you need an AFMS Rules Book, contact your regional supply chair. And if you have not updated your rules book, please contact your supply chair for those important updates.

And finally the JUNIORS. Juniors are eligible if they have reached their 8th birthday and not yet reached their 18th birthday on the first day of the show. Juniors have their own trophies, but with the score of 70 or above can receive a trophy.

I am asking all of you to work on this aspect of our hobby because we need the public to see what we are about and exhibiting is the best way to achieve this.

Other News:

John Wright, your AFMS Conservation and Legislation chair has been writing you reports on what to expect with pending Forestry and BLM road closures, if YOU don't respond, these government bodies will only get the "other" side of the argument. Fair warning.

Thanks to Loretta Ogden, our new AFMS Rockhound of the Year chair, the transition to Loretta has gone smoothly. Please forward your regional Rockhound of the Year nominees to her and she will include them in the AFMS Newsletter. We will be giving out AFMS certificates to all those who have been nominated since November, 2007 at the regional conventions this year.

....till next month,

CLIPS FROM MY INBOX

by Joy Bourne, AFMS President-elect

Although I am writing this message in late January, by the time you read it, March will be just around the corner with all the glory of Springtime coming right along! This is my favorite time of the year when the crocuses burst forth, followed by daffodils while we scurry around the workshop getting things ready for the Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club Show - the first club show of the season in the north central region of NY and PA.

In response to my request to the chairmen of the committees named in the OPs as those with whom I am to interact, my mailboxes (e- and snail-) have already begun to receive some very interesting interim reports. Now, that is what I call communication!, - just what I asked for!

Lauren Williams, our new Financial Advisement Chairman tells me that he has already set up a schedule of appointments with Merrill-Lynch to meet with them and go over the current investment status of the Endowment Fund principal funds. He has three sessions planned over the next several months, and will have up-to date information in time to prepare his report for the annual meeting in Humble next September.

Glenn Lee, Chair of the Ways & Means Committee, wrote a very interesting article for the February AFMS Newsletter, which I hope you all noted. If not, you should be sure to check it out. Glenn gave us a really good plug for showing our treasures with the public by exhibiting at the local, regional and Federation shows. At first reading, I was not sure his thrust was really a Ways & Means Committee topic. However, (I learn something new every day!) Did you know that OP #17 for that committee stipulates that one of the main duties is to ". . . encourage and initiate suggestions for the betterment of the Federation."? He surely achieved his goal. Great work, Glen. It would not surprise me to look up every committee's OPs to find that we all share that same responsibility.

Keep those emails and letters coming, folks. What a wonderful way to learn what each of our committees is doing, and how our officers can better serve you! That is what we get paid for, Our pay, of course, is not in funds - but rather in friendships and communication and a truly vital American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



NEW PROGRAMS FOR REGIONAL FEDERATION LIBRARIES

by Marge Collins, AFMS Program Competition Chair

I'm delighted to announce that copies of the following programs from the AFMS have been sent to each of our regional federations. Contact your own regional federation librarian to borrow these.

AFMS 2007 Program Competition Winner
"Agates Close-Up" DVD format
by Doug Moore approx. 40 minutes

Spectacular images of agates can easily become "eye-candy". This presentation is much more -- specimens from around the world are shown to examine both common and unusual structures in agates. Areas smaller than a postage stamp are magnified to show how the various agate patterns were formed and point out the differences between agates that formed in sedimentary and igneous environments.

The following VHS and DVDs were purchased using interest from AFMS Endowment Fund.

First, six VHS from the extensive "PaleoWorld" series. Each is 30 minutes total running time.

"Amber Hunters" -- Fossil resin from the Dominican Republic is highly prized because of the varied species perfectly preserved in it -- so well DNA can be extracted.

"Dino Doctors" -- Non-invasive medical scans not only reveal anatomy, but also help scientists learn about the genesis of diseases common to dinosaurs and humans.

"Monsters on the Move" -- Trackways -- fossilized footprints - reveal a wealth of dinosaur behavior and habits -- to those who can decipher the clues.

"Mammoths" -- A North Dakota site reveals clues about the lives and extinction of these creatures that roamed parts of North America, as recently as 11,000 years ago.

"The Legendary T-Rex" -- Was this the perfect predator -or a lowly scavenger? The answer isn't conclusive, but more clues are revealed as intimate details are revealed.

"Treasure Island" -- Madagascar has always been inhabited by extraordinary and weird creatures. Scientists try to resolve mysteries of natural history found there.

ALSO independent productions:

"Geology -- Why Bother?" a 26-minute DVD reveals that geology isn't about things that happened millions of years ago. It's events going on around us every day!

"Kentucky Agate Hunting", a 30-minute DVD, shows examples of this colorful gemstone; how it's collected and how the author cuts and polishes them.

"Umoona" - a 26-minute DVD - two segments
1) The history of (Australian) opal hunting
2) an aboriginal folk tale of how opal was created.

QUESTION: Why not enter AFMS Program Competition? Clubs will be waiting for the 2008 Winners. You could be a Winner -- but you can't win if you don't enter!

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.

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

Address corrections and changes

Subscription Information

Distribution Questions

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

Subscriptions are \$4.50 per year
Remit payment to the AFMS Central Office
Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

ADDRESS MAINTENANCE AND MAIL LABELING ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE.
ALL CHANGES AND QUESTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE
STEVE WEINBERGER
PO Box 302
GLYNDON, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<Cebar62@aim.com>

CONTENT -- LETTERS

EDITORIAL COMMENTS -- SUBMISSIONS

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

EDITOR:

CAROLYN WEINBERGER
PO Box 302
GLYNDON, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<Cebar62@aim.com>

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

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

WORDS OF CAUTION

by John M. Wright, Chair, AFMS Conservation & Legislation

When you head out this spring on a field trip or any other type of outing that involves federal lands, don't be surprised to find roads blocked by gates or earthen structures and many parks, camp sites, and trails closed. In spite of congressional legislation that requires proposals and recommendations for road closures based on in-depth studies and public hearings, the U. S. Forest Service has more-or-less chosen to ignore the congressional mandate and is pursuing a course that is indiscriminately restricting the public from vast areas of federal lands. Trying to understand the rationale they use in choosing areas to be closed is impossible and reminds me of a game kids play called "pin the tail on the donkey".

During the early 1980's the U. S. Forest Service began to make changes in their philosophy for the management of forest resources. In all fairness, I want to acknowledge up front that in large part this was because of reductions in federal funds; however, in recent years the reduction in funds has become a scapegoat for placing millions of acres off limits to the public because of pressure exerted by well-financed special interest groups. These restrictions may very well come back and bite them in the backside, but that will be of little consolation for us as our tax dollars will be used to correct the mistakes.

The following USDA News Release is the new philosophy in a "nut shell" so to speak. It also contains the website for a more detailed version:

NEWS RELEASE
USDA Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

Release No. 0721
USDA FOREST SERVICE RELEASES FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

WASHINGTON, October 29, 2007—U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell announced today the release of the agency's strategic plan for fiscal years 2007 – 2012. The plan includes Kimbell's emphasis areas of climate change, water and involving youngsters in forest activities.

"Forests play a unique role in meeting our Nation's future challenges associated with climate change, renewable energy, and sustaining abundant flows of fresh water to the American people," said Kimbell. "Because issues related to climate change and looming water shortages will take many years to resolve, the Forest Service is committed to instilling stronger land ethics in future generations."

The Forest Service Strategic Plan for FY 2007 – 2012 provides a clear yet broad direction to carry out its mission of natural resource management while focusing on critical programs and activities. The Forest Service strategy includes the integration of environmental, social, and economic issues into its management decisions while accounting for present and future needs.

The Forest Service Strategic Plan can be found at: <www.fs.fed.us/publications/strategic/fs-sp-fy07-12.pdf>

So what does this mean for you? Ultimately it will mean fewer places for field trips and other outings as competition is increased for access to private property as trail bikers, 4-wheelers, hunters, campers, etc. are displaced from federal lands and seek out new areas for their pursuits. It will also mean higher prices for lumber and wood products, fuel, and minerals used to make our lives more productive and comfortable.

The underhanded covert methods being used for taking away public access to federal lands without public approval or hearings will continue unless we

take a stand. Become involved and let your opposition be known. We are not alone in this fight and can increase our leverage by joining with other groups that are opposed to the road closures and limiting the public's access to lands controlled by the Forest Service. Find a way to become aware of, and to keep yourself up to date on these important issues in your area. I recommend that you or your club join the American Lands Access Association and also the BlueRibbon Coalition (sharetrails.org). These are two of the better ones for keeping informed, but there are many more and some of them may be located in your immediate area.

PUBLIC RELATIONS IDEAS FROM CLUBS

by Fran Sick, AFMS Public Relations Chair



In my last message I asked for your ideas about ways to promote our clubs and federations in an effort to attract new members. I was delighted to hear from several of you with information about what you are doing and how you take advantage of activities to promote your clubs. While the ideas I received were as diverse as are our clubs throughout the country, the one common theme seems to be that successful clubs are doing everything they can to make themselves known and appreciated in their communities. They make use of any public forum available to them, donate or hand out "free stuff", invite public officials and local dignitaries to club happenings and in general try hard to create a positive image. These are the things that attract attention and make people want to join their clubs.

Bill Rathbun of the Sac & Fox Lapidary Club in Fairfield, Iowa, wrote that in 1996 the club was down to only six members and in danger of disband-

ing. Today they have forty-five members, the club is alive and well and still growing. In February they planned an open house for their new club shop at the local February Art Walk. They planned to invite the mayor to participate in their ribbon cutting ceremony. It took a drastic step to get the club back on it's feet. They moved the club 25 miles to a community that was more supportive, got involved with the local art community, and this year they were asked to move their show, previously held at a local fairgrounds, to the brand new Community Art and Convention Center.

John Washburn of the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Springfield, Illinois, proposes club membership increase awards be instituted by every federation. Currently the Midwest and Eastern Federations present these awards annually at federation meetings. John is also a proponent of clubs having an active membership table and drive at their shows. John's ideas were passed along to me by AFMS President, Shirley Leeson. I suggest that if you offer free mineral samples or other handouts of interest you will attract even more attention.

Ellery Borow of the Water-Oak Gem and Mineral Society, Waterville, Maine, sent a long list of ideas which included encouraging members to bring a friend to club events, making use of public

forums including libraries, schools, community bulletin boards, to advertise your club on a regular basis, not just for the club show. Some other suggestions from Ellery include offering the club's services at "volunteers-needed" events, and don't overlook the opportunity to establish communication with arts, crafts, science and other like minded organizations.

These are just a few of the ideas I have received from clubs throughout the country. What is your club doing, or how might you adapt some of these ideas, to attract new members for your club?

More next month, and remember I'd love to hear from you so I can share your ideas and success stories.

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day



QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Club Publications Chair

ALL AMERICAN CLUB "YEARBOOK" AWARD CLUB CONCERNS & RESPONSES

by John Washburn, AFMS Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: <LjgrAlg@aol.com> or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we'll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.



WHO AND WHAT GET CAPITAL LETTERS?

Recently I received a request from an editor asking for clarification on capitalizing names of rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Generally speaking, rock and mineral names are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence, are given in a list of names, or are written as part of a specific format — such as on a label for a competitive case according to the convention required by AFMS.

Even minerals that are named after a person are not capitalized in general usage. The correct spelling of the person's name would be used, but no spaces and no capital letters at the beginning or in the middle of the name as applied to the official name of a mineral. Some examples are: goethite, mcnearite, joesmithite.

Names of rocks are not capitalized (sandstone, quartzite) unless they refer to a proper name (such as Dox Sandstone, Troy Quartzite).

When writing the scientific names of fossils, the genus name is capitalized, the species name is lowercase, and both names are italicized. An example is: *Favosites* sp. If you use a typewriter and do not have the capability to italicize, you must underline: Favosites sp.

Names of fossil phylums, classes, orders, and families are capitalized but are not italicized (examples: Ammonoidea, Mollusca, Arthropoda). If these are used informally as English nouns or adjectives, they are not capitalized (examples: ammonites, mollusks, arthropods).

Names of geologic eras, periods, epochs, and formations are capitalized: Paleozoic Era, Jurassic Period, Miocene Epoch, Green River Formation.

If you need a really quick reference, you can always look up the word in the dictionary!

References:

"Capitalization." AFMS Approved Reference List of Classifications and Common Names for Fossils. 1/11/2008. 11/2002. <www.amfed.org>

"Earth Sciences Sector." GSC Guide to Authors: Formal and Informal Scientific Names. 1/12/2008. 11/21/2005. <ess.nrcan.gc/pubs/scipub/guide/paleo/formal_e.php>

"Geologic Terms." Capitalization. 1/11/2008. <www.mms.gov/itd/pubs/1994/94-0049styleguide/Corel%20Ventura%20CAP.pdf>

Idaho Museum of Natural History. "The Structure of Geologic Time." Education Resources. 1/12/2008. <imnh.isu.edu/Exhibits/geo_time/geo_time_epochs.htm>

Nickel, Ernest H. and Grice, Joel D. "The IMA Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names: Procedures and Guidelines on Mineral Nomenclature, 1998." The Canadian Mineralogist, Vol. 36, pp. x-xx (1998). 1/11/2008. <www.geo.vu.n/users/ima-cnmmn98.pdf>

"Taxonomy." Scientific Names of Fossils. 1/12/2008. 5/15/2007. <english.fossiel.net/inforatie/taxonomy.php>

The Active Tectonics, Quantitative Structural Geology and Geomorphology Research Group at Arizona State University. "Writing Tips for Scientific Papers." 1/11/2008. <64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:ckSLMvEW7usJ:activetectonics.asu.edu/Structural_Geology/Labs/FinalProject/Writing_Tips_for_Scientific_Papers.doc+capitalization+of+rock+names&hl=en&ct=clnk&cs=8&gl=us&client=safari>

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)

In an earlier newsletter, I included a discussion of concerns and responses concerning specific aspects of the All American Club "Yearbook" Club Award. One of the major concerns dealt with documenting a club's efforts for juniors, but my response was inadvertently not included. So to set the record straight I will repeat the comments and my response to the junior question.



Concern #4: Three points are taken off automatically for No Junior Program. Many groups have activities for Junior members in their regular meetings, as shown by photos and programs they take part in. The Shows also have many activities geared to the Junior members.

There are only 7 days in a week, and Juniors are stretched to beyond limits for a separate time to have a "subgroup" of the Club. I am a firm believer that they can learn more at the shoulders of the regular members who mentor and guide them in the regular meetings, rather than have a separate group doing projects. I grew up with favorite Aunts & Uncles who took the time in regular activities to include me in the group activities rather than separate me as a Kid! Now-a-days, kids are far from relatives geographically, and don't always hear adult viewpoints. This is necessary for maturity. Encourage the Juniors and their sponsors to come and participate in the regular meetings. They both will profit.

Response: Again being All American means being all inclusive and that means including our juniors. As far as the points for each area are concerned the committee is reviewing that now and hopes to have the points more in line with the criteria specified. Now, not having a juniors program per se is fine. My own club does not, yet we have earned the gold award for our submittal two out of two times! Mentoring a junior or juniors is a fine example. So be a salesman on what you do for juniors and the judges will consider your approach. But be sure you document what you are doing for juniors via your newsletter etc.

REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
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 Parma, OH	AFMS July 30 - Aug. 2 Billings MT			
2010	AFMS Aug. 5 - 10 Riverside, CA						

BE SAFE — BE WELL

DON'T LIFT THAT WAY!!!

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

As I write this article, I am sitting here on our hill top wishing I could get up and do things that I really need to do. I am currently "chair – bound" because I did something extremely stupid. If we are going to publish articles telling you about all of the things that we should not do, then we must tell you about the things that we did and should not have.



We live on a fairly high hilltop in the Blue Ridge Mountains and my neighbors and I have been installing gates and barricades because we have burglars visiting our neighborhood. Ann and I were installing what is known up here as a Forest Service Gate which is a pipe barricade blocking access and we were lifting the pipe section which is a 4" diameter heavy steel pipe and is 16' long. You can see this coming can't you? Yes, I lifted with my back, not with my legs and suffered a muscle strain about two weeks ago and it is s-l-o-w-l-y improving. I know better but I was in a hurry and did not stop to think.

We all have been taught that we lift with our legs, not our back. But, the question is, do we always do what we know we should do? This is just one example of the type of injury that many of us suffer needlessly. Let's take a minute to think about other things that we do that are, at best, ill-conceived and, at worst, stupid.

Here not that far from the beginning of a new year, we should resolve that we will avoid those basic mistakes that we tend to make when we just do not stop to think. Let me give you a short check list.

- Are you using the right tool for the job? A knife is not a pry bar or a chisel.
- Are your tools in good shape? Dull knives, chisels, saws and punches will only bring you grief. Hammers with loose handles or mushroomed heads are not reliable (read that as not safe).
- Some power tools are downright scary. All power saws will bite you. We all have horror stories involving folks that we know. We visited good friends in Scotland recently and could not find them. It seems that he was cutting a tree and when his wife walked up beside him and spoke, he swung around and slapped her in the head with his chain saw which was running. We can't find out what finally happened but we know it was really bad.
- Are you faithfully using eye protection? I feel confident that a majority of you are not using safety glasses when you know you should.

I could turn this list into a book but, would you read it? I know I am "preaching to the choir" and you all know all of the things that I am saying but the question is, are you willing to stop and think.

HAVING FUN — JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

NEW BADGES ARE IN FOR OUR FRA PROGRAM

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

I'm pleased to report that a supply of six new badges for our FRA Badge Program arrived this month from our manufacturer, A-B Emblem of North Carolina, and they look great! Thus, we now have a total of 15 activity sets, offering badges that junior members can work toward earning in the areas of: 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 Age Tools & Art, and Rocking on the Computer. In addition, all kids receive an FRA Membership badge when they start the program, and kids earning at least 6 of the badges symbolically graduate from pebble pup status to full-fledged rockhound by receiving a Rockhound Badge. To date, three dozen kids have earned this distinction.



I'm in the process of making final tweaks to the badge manual for these new activities while also revisiting our original set of 9 badges to make revisions and updates. This is taking me a bit longer than anticipated, so I'm extending my original goal

of posting the new manual to the AFMS web site from January to February.

I offer continuing thanks to local youth leaders who have taken up the badge program with their kids. As I've said in a previous column, the true value of our FRA program isn't realized until a local leader at a local club gathers together a group of local kids, rolls up his or her sleeves, and makes something happen in ways that are always unexpected, interesting, and, hopefully, fun!

Please help the effort by spreading the word about our expanded 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; email 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. 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!



MEET YOUR AFMS PERSONNEL

Secretary, Anne Cook

Anne is a resident of Cleveland Heights, a suburb of Cleveland, OH. Her hobby interest has been in minerals (which she shared with her late husband Bill) and in judging competitive displays at local, regional and national shows. She's served the Midwest Federation in a number of positions including president (1995), is on the Midwest uniform rules committee and is the long-time AFMS URC eligibility file manager.



When a vacancy in the AFMS secretary position arose in 2002, Anne was the candidate recommended by the executive board because of her excellent work habits and dedication to whatever jobs she's held. She has been re-elected to additional 2-year terms since then.

In addition to her work with the AFMS and Midwest Federation, Anne is active in the Micromineral Society of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Mineralogical Society of Cleveland and has served both in a number of capacities.

Treasurer, Pat LaRue

Like our secretary, Pat has been active in the hobby for many years. She started cutting cabochons, but soon became interested in minerals - especially thumbnails. A degree in Soil Science led her to employment as a chemistry lab technician. She's also taught school and sold real estate.



Pat was appointed AFMS treasurer in 2006 following the resignation of former treasurer Toby Cozens and she's done an exceptional job ever since. Pat has a head for figures and continues to keep tight control on our spending, examining and re-examining each request for reimbursement that comes her way and preparing excellent monthly reports.

She and husband Bural (current CFMS president) have long been involved with the California Federation where Pat has served as president (1996 and 2000) and now, as executive secretary. Pat has served as editor for several local club bulletins as well as the CFMS. She's currently a member of the Valley Prospectors.

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
Loretta Ogden
<donogden@aol.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
P.O. Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<editor@amfed.org>

Boundaries
John Wright
<osjw@datasync.com>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
Kitty Starbuck
<minedump@iserv.net>

ByLaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@amfed.org>

Central Office
Steve Weinberger
P.O. Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<central_office@amfed.org>

Club Publications
Linda Jaeger
<ljalgal@aol.com>

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

Conservation and Legislation
John Wright
<osjw@datasync.com>

Education-All American
John Washburn
<jrwashburn2@msn.com>

Endowment Fund
Joy Bourne
<csprings@epix.net>

Financial Investment

Lauren Williams
<slhaaruir@msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shiryleeson@msn.com> and
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

International Relations
Bob Jones
<bjonesb52@gmail.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland, Chair
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>
and <shiryleeson@msn.com>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Tompson
<jbraceth@adelpia.net>

Long Range Planning
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobotcarlson@yahoo.com>

Name Badge
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv@aol.com>

Nominating
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobotcarlson@yahoo.com>

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland
<beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

Past President's Advisory
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobotcarlson@yahoo.com>

Photography
Chuck McKie
<chuckmckie@aol.com>

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret@qtm.net>

Public Relations

Fran Sick
<ednfran@epix.net>

Safety
Don Monroe
<donmonroe@wildblue.net>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Supply and Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<bjb@wildblue.net>

Ways and Means
Glenn Lee
541-276-2365

Uniform Rules
Ron Carman
<rrcarman@centurytel.net>

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

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

Ad Hoc Competition Study
Ron Carman
<rrcarman@centurytel.net>

Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip
Dick Pankey
<dickpankey@juno.com>

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair



Eastern Federation

The Lapidary & Mineralogical Society of Central Connecticut nominates **Rich Kupisz**, president of the LMSCC, as Rockhound of the Year because of his hard work and selflessness toward improving the club. Besides the normal presidential tasks, Rich has gone out of his way to upgrade our club's annual show, has organized two overnight field trips to Maine, has thought of numerous ways to make the club more interesting and attractive, and conducted a myriad of other tasks behind the scenes. As a result of his leadership, commitment, and attention to detail, the club has turned around declining membership and increased show attendances and income to the benefit of all members.

submitted by Harold Moritz
Bulletin Editor

The Manchester Connecticut Mineral Club submits Ed Force as its Rockhound of the Year. For many years Ed has tirelessly worked on organizing field trips. In a time of decreasing availability of collecting sites, Ed has managed to gain access to a variety of places and made valuable contacts with many individuals and corporations. He has gradually assembled a comprehensive GPS database of Connecticut mines, quarries, and mineralized sites while researching and publishing their history. He always brings his displays of minerals and their uses and of garnets from nearly every town in the state when helping at club shows or other public events. Many thanks Ed!

submitted by Harold Moritz
president

2008 AFMS / SCFMS SHOW NEWS

by Shiara Trumble, Houston Gem & Mineral Society

The Houston Gem and Mineral Society is proudly looking forward to hosting the 2008 AFMS/SCFMS National Show. The show is to be held September 26th through 28th at the Humble Civic Center in Humble, Texas, with Federation events beginning as early as Wednesday the 24th.



When you're not at federation-sponsored meetings, you can view our ongoing demonstrations for casting, cabochon cutting, faceting, and more, as well as special exhibits such as the fluorescent display and Mad Science. Our members also identify fossils, gemstones and minerals for the general public, so bring along that unusual piece and try to stump our experts!

To add to the excitement, there will be a field trip to Whiskey Bridge to look for mid-Eocene invertebrate fossils. Those interested can see what to expect from this trip by going to our website, <www.hgms.org>, and clicking on '2008 show registration'.

On Sunday morning, those interested will be able to take a tour of our clubhouse. We're proud of our facilities, and happy to show them off! Come along, tour the clubhouse and have light refreshments before returning to the show.

Sunday afternoon we'll host a trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, to tour the permanent exhibits as well as one of the special exhibits. After the HMNS tour, we will have two guides, one to take you directly back to the HCC, and another to take those interested to the clubhouse for a short tour and light refreshments, then back to the HCC.

As an added attraction to our show, the Facetors Guild is planning their Symposium concurrently with our show, with meetings scheduled on Saturday and Sunday.

All this and more will be awaiting you at the 2008 National Show in Humble, Texas. Check our website, <www.hgms.org> for registration forms and all information you need to enjoy the show. If you have any questions, please contact me at: <shiara.trumble@sbcglobal.net> or 281-463-7954.

"ICE" – IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

from numerous sources via the Internet

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory, but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign. The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE."

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. A great idea that will make a difference!

Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones today!

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.