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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

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Volume 61, Number 7
June-July, 2008

WANT TO BE THE BELLE OF THE BALL? (OR HER FAVORITE GUY!)

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

We have just received this exceptionally beautiful and rare prize to show you this month. This one is catalogued as Prize #10, and like Prizes #1 - #9, You could be the lucky winner of this one for a small donation to the AFMS Endowment Fund!

The prize is a 14k gold wire-wrapped free-form Royal Lavender charoite pendant, which beautifully exhibits two different mineralization exposures.

The pendant measures 3-1/8 in. in length and 1-5/8 in. wide at the base. The pendant is hung on an 18" gold chain. Colors displayed in this piece of charoite range from light yellow to bright lavender, violet and lilac to dark purple with white veining forming a swirling pattern of interlocking crystals. (see the color picture posted on the AFMS website at <amfed.org> to really appreciate its beauty.)



First discovered in Russia's Murun mountains in 1947, charoite was not known in the West until 1978. The stone was named for the Chary River at Aldan in Russia, near which it was discovered.

This rare and valuable mineral remains unique to Russia, its only known source to date.

The creator and donor of this lovely pendant is master craftsman Marion Roberts, CFMS Past President, who is currently serving as Chairman of the CFMS Earth Science Committee. Marion estimates the value of the piece to be between \$125.00 and \$175.00, especially considering the gold prices today.

We are still expecting at least four more prizes which will be added to the case to take to Houston in September. Some of the prizes are undergoing final touchups by the craftsmen, all of whom are the tops in their fields. As soon as we receive the prizes (or pictures of them) we will be posting them on the AFMS website, along with all the specifics.

All seven of our Regional Federation representatives are ready and willing to reward your donations to the Endowment Fund with coupons to place in the white Drawing bucket. If you don't know who your rep is, here is the list: CFMS - see Bural Larue; EFMLS - contact your Regional VP; MWF -John Washburn is your man; NFMS - Rocky McCall is the man to see (if he doesn't see you first); RMFMS - Howie Whiting (of course); SCFMS - my good friend, Joyce Speed; SFMS - Ken Anderson or one of his cohorts; or anywhere you see her - Carolyn Weinberger

If all else fails (You can't contact your rep - or if he/she is all out of coupons) you can always send me your check for \$5.00 for a coupon or \$20.00 for 5 coupons,

plus a stamped, self-addressed envelope and I will mail your coupons directly to you. Please remember to include your name, address and telephone number with your request. Checks should be made payable to "AFMS Endowment".

Joy Bourne
RR #1, Box 159A
Towanda PA 18848.

Questions? Phone (570) 265-6454 or e-mail <csprings@epix.net>.

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June-July



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This month I'd like to mention something important. I have been receiving reports from the *Blue Ribbon Coalition* regarding openings for the BLM RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL in many of the western states. I have forwarded them to many individuals and clubs throughout the western regions hoping someone would step up and offer to make themselves available.

What a wonderful surprise when **Glen R. Miller** of the Shasta Gem & Mineral Society of Redding, CA offered to apply for the Northwest California BLM Resource Advisory Council. Letters were sent on his behalf from myself and John Wright, our AFMS Conservation and Legislation Chair. Then **Norvie Enns** of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society put in an application for the Northeast California BLM Resource Advisory Council and again John Wright and I sent letters of support for his nomination.

I contacted **Hugh Brady** of Fair Oaks CA, member Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society. Hugh promptly contacted the BLM in Folsom, CA and requested an application for the BLM Resource Advisory Council of Central California. Again, both John Wright our AFMS Conservation and Legislation Chair and I wrote letters of support. There were also letters of support sent by Dick Pankey, CFMS Past President and others from the CFMS in support of the nominations on the above people from California.

I e-mailed our club in Bitterroot, Montana regarding an opening on the BLM Resource Advisory Committee of Western Montana and **Wayne Farley** stepped to the plate and made himself available. Letters from John, myself and Evelyn Cataldo, 2nd VP of Northwest were sent on his behalf. Next, **Evan Day**, member of the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society of Ogden, Utah applied for the BLM Utah Resource Advisory Council. Letters of support were sent by John Wright, Joan Day, executive secretary of the Northwest Federation and myself.

Finally, **Michael Nelson** of the Colorado Springs Mineral Society, Colorado Springs, CO put his application in for BLM Colorado Resource Advisory Council. Unfortunately I was on the road and unable to offer a letter of support, but I did contact John Dow of the Canon City office of the BLM on my return from a three week road trip.

Perhaps this doesn't seem much to many of you, BUT until these men stepped forward, the BLM had no idea who we were. Many of us assume "everyone knows who the rockhounds are" but this just isn't true. We may or may not get these people on the various advisory boards for the BLM, but at least the BLM knows who we are now.

All of the nominations above will have to go to the U.S. Secretary of Interior for confirmation later, but at least we got our foot in the door. Please go to the <amfed.org> website, click on "Rockhound Information" then click on Bureau of Land Management, then for regional information click on the state. Current information on what the BLM is doing in your state will come up. At this time there are no applications being taken for BLM Resource Advisory Council in any of the states. That closed April 14th, 2008, but keep it in mind and check frequently.

Dee and I have just returned from our sixth year at Eastern Federation's Wildacres Workshop in North Carolina. We have taken the Judges Training class there, sponsored by the AFMS since its inception in 2003. The purpose of the course, taught by Jay Bowman, is to have one person from each regional federation who is currently either on the rules committee or a judge or exhibitor and bring them together so that the AFMS will have everyone on the same page when judging at the AFMS level. The program has been enormously successful, BUT except in the Northwest and California Federations, we aren't getting enough people to compete. I hope this changes....

Have you sent your letter supporting "Birthstone Gemstone Stamps" to the U.S. Postal Service yet? Don't let "someone else" do it. We need all of you to support this effort.

More thoughts next month,

Your AFMS President

Shirley

<shirleyleeson@msn.com> and <beauholland@centurytel.net>
(Please note the new e-mail for our Idaho ranch)

NEWS AND NOTES

by Joy Bourne, President-elect

Can it be that we are half-way through the AFMS Year 2007-2008 already? And the Big Convention at Humble, Texas hosted by the Houston Gem & Mineral Society, is only four months away. That means it is time for me to make a report to all of you of the progress some of our committees have made thus far.

I have been in contact with both Scott Singleton, 2008 Show Chairman and Shiara Trumble, HGMS AFMS/SCFMS liaison, and it looks as if everything is going smoothly as far as planning for a busy and well-coordinated event from start to finish. I understand that each and every function will be operated on a strict timetable, so that every Convention attendee will be able to be present at all meetings and events.

The complete Convention Schedule of Events was listed in the May AFMS Newsletter. Please take note that the Editors' Award Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday this year, rather on Sunday as we have been accustomed to hold that event. I might also point out that according to Don Shurtz, SCFMS BEAC, the new name for "Editors' Awards Breakfast" is "Breakfast With the Editors." He has planned for a keynote speaker, who is limited to a strict 15-minute time period for the talk. In addition, both Linda Jaeger, our new AFMS Bulletin Editors Committee Chair, and Don are planning on using a projected PowerPoint presentations to expedite the awards distribution. Talk about efficiency!

The Endowment Fund Committee has been super-efficient this year, too. Reports are that despite the discouraging reports of our US Economic Consumer reports, the committee members are experiencing a bang-up distribution of coupons for the Endowment Fund drawing. Pictures and descriptions of the ten prizes already received are posted on the AFMS Website, with at least four more still to come.

President Shirley and I think we have come up with a solution to the unfortunate situation of two important Regional Federation shows having been scheduled for the same weekend of June 20-22.

The plan is for President Shirley Leeson to attend the combined AFMS/CFMS 69th Annual Convention & Show in Ventura, California, and I will be attending the combined AFMS/MVWF Show in Lincoln, Nebraska. This Show is also the 50th Anniversary Show of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, and is being held in conjunction with the Nebraska Association of Earth Science Clubs. With these arrangements, both conventions will be hosting an AFMS Officer who lives fairly close to the Convention location. I know I am looking forward to seeing lots of good rockhound friends in the heartland, (I am a native South Dakotan), and I'm sure Shirley feels the same about her many friends in California.

See you next month.

Joy



AFMS JUDGING SEMINAR AT WILDACRES

from Jay Bowman, Guidance Counselor

The 2008 AFMS Judges Seminar at Wildacres was a huge success. The assembled group, pictured below, reviewed the Uniform Rules book, discussed the interpretation of each section, and came to an agreement on what each means to both the judge and exhibitor. The group also had an opportunity to "practice judge" five displays set up by participants in the workshop and then discussed their results. One of the more interesting discussions held centered around "what if" scenarios that could and have happened at shows and how the judges should handle each eventuality.

This is the sixth year that this Seminar has been held and it's becoming quite evident that the idea of getting everyone "on the same page" in understanding the rules is having a positive effect. This should make it easier for exhibitors to be evaluated fairly across the country. The seminar is open to anyone with an interest in exhibiting.



Members of the 2008 AFMS Judges Seminar at Wildacres.
Front: Roger Barnett, Shirley Leeson, Marie Wester Josie Middleton, Buddy Shotts
Row 2: Barbara Sky, Rose Blue, Linda Northcote, Reba Shotts, Sue MacInnis
Row 3: Dee Holland, Tom Burchard, Vick Wells, Lamarr Tilgner. Photo: C. Weinberger

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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HAVING FUN — JUNIOR ACTIVITIES AN FRA PROGRESS REPORT

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Program Chair



Last month, I promised to provide statistics about our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program to give a picture of how it's evolved. Herewith is that "demographic portrait":

- 110 local societies have requested info about the program in the past 4 years.

- 48 of those societies currently have their kids actively enrolled. See the AFMS web site at

<http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm> for a roster.

- 1,175 FRA Membership patches have been issued.
- 1,355 of the various activity badges have been issued (i.e., badges for Rocks & Minerals, Lapidary Arts, Fossils, etc.)

- 48 kids have "graduated" by earning the Rockhound Badge. This is awarded upon earning at least 6 of the individual activity badges. See the AFMS web site at <www.amfed.org/fra/honor_roll.htm> for an Honor Roll of kids who have attained this distinction.

- 46 kids have also earned the Leadership badge, meaning they've taken an active roll in working with and directing other kids within their clubs.

- The most popular badges are proving to be Rocks & Minerals (301 awarded), Fossils (241), and Collecting (222). However, I predict that the new Gold Panning & Prospecting badge will quickly join them. We only began offering that new badge in 2008, and in the first 3 months of the year, we already issued 33 Gold Panning badges!

In addition to these overall statistics, I'd like to acknowledge those clubs that have most actively utilized the FRA Badge Program in recent months. The following clubs have awarded 50 or more activity badges each:

- Kern County Mineral Society's Mineral Mites (CA); youth leader Ismael Sanchez

- Woodland Hills Rock Chippers' Little Chippers (CA); youth leader Thalia Goldsworthy

- Flatirons Mineral Club's Junior Geologists (CO); youth leader Dennis Gertenbach

- Mineral Minds (NY); youth leader Michael Putney

- Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club (PA); youth leader Inga Wells

A couple other clubs have awarded 50 or more badges in the course of the past 4 years (such as the Memphis Archeological & Geological Society) but haven't been active for the past several months or longer. The clubs listed above are currently proving to be our most active.

Finally, those clubs that have requested the most Membership patches over the course of the program include:

- Mobile Rock & Gem Society (AL); youth leader Bonita Harris (35 Membership patches issued, in all)

- Kern County Mineral Society Mineral Mites (CA); youth leader Ismael Sanchez (40 patches)

- Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society (CA); Bill Sullivan (38)

- Mother Load Gem & Mineral Society (CA); Terry McMillin (71)

- Flatirons Mineral Club's Junior Geologists (CO); Dennis Gertenbach (33)

- Central Maine Jr Geologist Club (ME); Ted Zagwyn & Shirley Davis (40)

- Mineral Minds (NY); Michael Putney (67)

- The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg's Rock Raiders (VA); David Murphy & Adelaide Lee (33)

- Memphis Archeological & Geological Society (TN); Mike Baldwin & Sherida Helms (35)

With 6 new badges now added to the program and the recently revised manual (see <www.amfed.org/fra/meritbadge.htm>), we've seen a distinct up-tick in interest in the program this spring. In fact, I had to make an emergency re-order for more Membership patches. My thanks to one and all for this up-tick and for your interest in helping us help kids learn while, as always, having fun!

BE SAFE — BE WELL TRACK WALKING

by Don Monroe, Safety Chair

Do not let your kids or grandkids read this article!

When I was young (late Elementary or early High School) I did a lot of track walking. We lived about 4 miles out of town and for me the easiest way to get there was to walk the railroad. The only real hazard was the trestle over the river which had no walk way, just cross ties. The drop to the river was about 40 feet so we



always stopped before going across and put an ear to the rail so that we could hear an approaching train before we ran across. At that time most of the trains were steam powered and quite noisy. These days, the trestle would be much more dangerous.

Why did we do this? Well, it cut at least a mile out of the walk and gave us the opportunity to find all sorts of objects, mostly metal, that fell off the trains. It was also safer that swimming across the river because my mother always knew when she would tousele my hair and that brought on corporal punishment. I deserved it.

Over recent years I have resumed track walking. Do you know how many good things such as tomahawks and knives that can be forged from the high carbon steel variety of spikes plus any pieces of broken rail can make a great anvil? Other good things scattered along the track include an endless variety of metal scrap. Before you point it out, I already know that I am a scavenger and can never pass up nuts, bolts, screws and the like. Since I once worked for the railroad, I know (and have been told recently) that small quantities of scrap are of no concern to them if you don't go on private property or in dangerous areas. We still spend some time in Birmingham and the city is full of grade crossings. You can literally walk down the streets in the older industrial parts of town and pick up enough small pieces of steel to keep your forge busy.

O.k. you are not into metal working or forging but how about cabochons, or specimens or even gold. If you persist in walking along with your nose in the air, several things can happen. First, folks will think you are a snob and, second, you may trip and fall over something. Last, you will miss good things along the path. I am not a super geologist or gemologist but even I can spot quartz crystals or even a raw sapphire or ruby. It may not be a good one but the price is right. Last week I found a really neat cloudy quartz specimen in my driveway and I already know how I am going to shape, polish and use it.

Do you know that it is said that gold can be found in every state in our nation and it is yours for the effort? I am writing this from Sanibel Island, Florida where we are attending a fund raiser for a non-profit school. The beaches are a treasure and a metal detector is nice but not necessary. Get out and look around because, if nothing else, you may need the exercise.



IT'S VACATION TIME

from the Editors

The AFMS Newsletter will not be published during July and August so that the AFMS News staff (Sir Barkley Bigfoot, Assistant Editor and Caesar, the GoFer) can get a rest. Both have expressed a strong desire to spend the summer months exploring their sleep number (we think it's 24-7) and to roll in the grass, admire the deer, owls and hawks in the backyard, bark at squirrels,

scare off the foxes and play with rocks.

During our hiatus, please take time to write to the Citizens Stamp Advisory people and urge them to put gemstones on stamps! (Address is on the AFMS website). Sure would be a best seller and gorgeous to boot. And don't forget to contact your delegation in Congress and remind them that the pending legislation - paleo bills and mining law revisions - are bad for collectors like ourselves. Passage of these bills would make it even more difficult for you and your children and grandchildren to collect on public lands.

Have a safe and productive summer. We'll see you in September.

Carolyn, Barkley and Caesar

ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

It has come to my attention that it is a possibility that all the Federations do not do this program all in the same manner. All I can say is, if you are the committee chairperson for your federation the you need to encourage your local clubs to submit the name of an individual or couple each year. No matter how your federation deals with this, please send this persons name on to me with the 50-word description of why they are worthy. They will be honored to have their names published in our national AFMS newsletter of which their Federation Director should pass on to them. Encourage your clubs to honor their members and make someone happy.

Do your clubs right and get busy!
Loretta



California Federation

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society nominates **Anne Schaffer** (Member Extraordinaire) for Rockhound of the Year.. Among many of her contributions she is or has been Editor of *Pegmatite*, bulletin of the SDMG, treasurer, show secretary, BBQ committee, asst. instructor, Christmas party chair, donation committee, school/scout outreach program, scout geology badge program, fair committee, high school Science Olympiad instructor, she is the registrar for the Sinkankas Symposium in conjunction with the GIA each year. She has served as president and vice president more than once and is in the AFMS Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame and last, but not least she is an enthusiastic field tripper and a true treasure for our Society and hobby.

Shirley Leeson, SDMG Federation Director

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair

Don and Adriane Vieira have been members of the Tule Gem & Mineral Society for 35 years. They have both been officers and Gemboree Show Chairpersons. Adriane arranged the 2008 Banquet for new Officers. They both mentor new officers and new members. Don teaches at the club workshop as well as repairing the equipment.

*submitted by Marshall Havner
TGMS President 2008*



Midwest Federation

We are nominating **Ray and Sue Trucksis** for Rockhound of the Year for the Brukner Gem and Mineral Club. They have been members for eight years, Ray Trucksis has had an even longer interest in minerals, fossils and especially geodes. Formally a member of the Fairborn Club, Ray enjoys working with children and provides rocks for school projects. Ray has a lovely wife who is a rockhound herself; Sue is very active with the club and currently is an officer on the Executive Board. Ray is a Trustee and puts lots of hours into making the mystery rock popular at our show.

Thomas J Dilworth, Brukner Gem and Mineral Club

The Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society of Fort Wayne Indiana hereby nominates **Bob and Marie Zigler** as the 2008 AFMS Rockhounds of the Year. They have been extremely active since 1990. They have participated in leadership roles and been as well as editor contributing to the newsletter. They both teach lapidary, jewelry making and gemstone trees. They display at shows and donate specimens to School Days for the juniors. This couple is a treasure to The AFMS, The MWF, The TRGMS and our hobby.

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.

REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston

	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	Nov. 7-9 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						

DOES THE AFMS NEED THE A.L.A.A.?

by Dr. Robert Carlson, President, ALAA

No, if we don't care about our rights to collect on Public Lands!

The American Lands Access Association (ALAA) was designed to be the lobbying arm of the AFMS. It was established to protect our collecting rights on Public Lands. The ALAA has been declining as an effective organization over the past several years. Bob Cranston and Jon Spunaugle nurtured the organization for a long time. When they could no longer carry the ball for us, the ship became rudderless.

I am now your new President. I plan to revive the ALAA or be present at its funeral! As one of the founders of the ALAA, I have a vested interest in making it succeed. I do not have all of the answers, but membership and communication are the keys. We belong to a larger organization: Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC). They do the research that Bob and Jon did on our behalf. They provide us with alerts on legislation (both National and Local) that could curtail our access. They provide us with the information.

MY VISION

What we need now is an active communications network among ALAA members across the nation to get the BRC information to all ALAA members and their gem and mineral clubs - the local clubs that may be affected. The ALAA members and their clubs can then mobilize members to attend legislative hearings and do whatever seems appropriate via personal appearances, newsletter, newspapers, etc., to stop the legislation in its tracks.

The Proposed Process:

Alerts from the BRC should come in to three ALAA members who then e-mail it to all ALAA members. Why 3 hubs? So that if one is out of town, and one has computer trouble, there is still an open channel, which can be important when time is of the essence for some alerts. Any volunteers for the top three channels? -- (If all three channels are operating, members will receive duplicate messages, but better than a lost alert.)

A word of caution: The BRC is funded by the makers of ATV's and snowmobiles and such. Hence, to the environmentalists out there, keeping the roads open means keeping them open for these who don't stay on the roads, who make noise and tear up the turf. We don't get environmentalist support. Somewhere along the line there may have to be categories of openness, as collectors are seen as relatively benign, in general, even by the environmentalists. (The above comments are based on some interesting conversations at the ALAA booth and at breakfast in Tucson!)

So Help! We need three members who have e-mail and a fire-in-the-belly to catch and send on the information from the BRC, with words to inspire the recipients to take timely action. We also need ALAA recipients who will thereupon take action.

Are you there?? If not, ALAA quietly passes into oblivion and the roads close to dedicated collectors of nature's treasures, closing one by one. The ALAA is currently on life support and we need your assistance.

IS THERE A FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH FOR CLUBS?

by Bob Livingston, EFMLS Past President

Mia Culpa!!

Originally planned for inclusion in the last AFMS Newsletter, I incorrectly included part 3 rather than part



2 of this wonderful article by Bob Livingston. Juggling plates sometimes gets difficult, especially when the number of plates reaches more than one! Thanks to those of you who inquired about the error and apologies to Bob.

Part 2 of a 3-part series on analyzing the health of our clubs.

YES, my findings show me there can be a Fountain of Youth for our clubs. That implies two relevant things -- Youth and Health. A main key to sustained healthy-life for a club is youth for ongoing growth and renewal, and officers with stamina, ideas and drive.

Of course, there are exceptions to any situation. Look at Jack LaLanne, the famous guy with the juicers, whose daily routine of long healthy workouts allowed him to swim and actually tow a not so small ocean ship in his '80s.

I am aware of 6 or 7 clubs who have been hanging on by their fingernails for several years. This is not recommended SOP for most of us. One club lost it's perpetual president and exists on paper primarily with a few members, a dwindling treasury, almost no meetings but an occasional shot of money. Another is tiny with a core of like-minded folks and has no plans for real growth. The third is another New York club comprised almost totally of seniors who have stopped their annual fund raiser and hold irregular meetings and whose membership is tailing off fast. Another, is a



Florida club really on the ropes last fall, that is mostly aged. I forwarded them some suggestions for change and have my fingers crossed. A small club in Tennessee also reached out in a plea for help. Unfortunately, one club that had lost its youth and spark in the New York Metro area just folded this year.

I learned from my discussions, observing and reading that for the most part, successful clubs have a good share of 12 things going for them:

- Officers attuned to what the members want plus an adequate treasury
 - Good programs and activities so members want to belong and come -- Field trips help
 - The dues are kept "affordable"
 - A common project which members rally 'round - like an annual show to help sustain funding for the club
 - Regular newsletter to keep members informed and in contact with good hobby information and news
 - Refreshments at the monthly meetings
 - Constant promoting of the club and ongoing recruiting of young families and school kids
 - Take advantage of what their federation can do for them -- ie. insurance and learning experiences like "Wildacres" workshops
 - Good social activities that allow all to keep on having FUN
- Fear not, there is no need to go Belly UP, even if it appears that the battle is lost. Specific doses of medicine will be spelled out . . .

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

A.L.A.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PUBLIC

Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA! Annual membership fee is \$25.00

Annual membership fee for clubs is \$50.00

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Club Affiliations _____

Hobby Interest: _____

Remit fees to: ALAA

Norman W. Hanschu, Treasurer

6607 Sturbridge Lane, Canton, MI 48187-2638

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c4) organization. Its 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 purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.

AFMS ENDOWMENT DRAWING - ANOTHER LOOK AT THE PRIZES!

from Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

As we've said before, the AFMS Endowment Fund was established so that the Federation would have available funds for special projects. In recent years these projects have included the purchase of patches for the Juniors program, sending representatives from the regional federations to the AFMS Judges Seminar and most recently converting the slide programs in the library to DVD. Funds collected are invested and only the interest from them can be spent.

One successful method of adding to the Endowment Fund principal is to hold an annual drawing. For 2008 the drawing will be held on September 27 during the AFMS Convention in Humble, TX. But, "You've got to play to win."

Here's another look at all the prizes that you could take home if you have the lucky coupon! You can see these in color by visiting the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/endow2008.htm>. Details about obtaining coupons for the drawing are on page 1 of this issue.



Prize #1 - Selenite Plate on Amethyst Pipe
Est. value - \$250-\$300



Prize #2
Kauri Gum from New Zealand
Est. value - \$200



#4 - Brazilian Amethyst Cathedral
Est. value - \$200



Prize #3
Vial of Virgin Valley Opal
Est. value - \$500 - \$700



Prize #5
London Blue CZ Pendant set in 14k
gold. Faceted by Steve Weinberger.
Est. value - \$200



Prize #6 - Faceted Topaz
Est. value - \$400



Prize #9 - Float Copper and Calumet & Hecla Mining Company Share Est. value - \$75



8 - Hand engraved vase by B. J. Bowman
scenes engraved all around
Est. value - \$225



Prize #7 - Digital Scale
Est. value - \$100



Prize #10
Charoite Pendant Wire-wrapped in 14k gold
Est. value - \$125 - \$175

ALL AMERICAN CLUB YEARBOOK - PART II

by John Washburn, AFMS Chair



Here we go. You've finished laying down the groundwork for Section 6 of the Application, "Government Agency and Legislative Relations." Now we're ready to tackle Section 5, "Community Relations." You can be a great club by concentrating on serving your membership and providing the best you can for them. To be an "All American" club, you need to take a step beyond. Let your community know of your existence and your willingness to support the community. How can you do that?

- Poll your membership to find out which members would be willing to give a talk or demonstration to school groups. Some clubs have a traveling display that can be taken to schools as a backdrop for a presentation. A box could be put together with samples of rocks and minerals of your area. Encourage retirees to participate. In the case of a large club, maybe there are those doing this already - just not "blowing their own horn" about it.

- Plan a talk about your club that can be given to other community groups that includes your purpose, your goals, and how you can benefit the community. Involve those who would be willing to give such a presentation in the planning.

- Plan and put together a display that could be mounted at public sites: at a local library; in a community bank; in a university or college display case; etc. Be sure information about the club is prominent.

- Plan for club members to man a booth or activity at a local event: a county or state fair; a camp for needy children; a community festival; etc. Again, advertise the club in these efforts.

- Plan to donate materials to schools, nursing homes, etc. Set up a "Donation" box at meetings where members can deposit material they are willing to donate - those "extras" from a recent field trip or items culled from basements or garages. Research those places where these items would be put to good use.

- Poll your membership to find out those who are active in local affairs.

This is work that needs to be planned in advance of putting together your yearbook. It's also a reason to have a committee dividing up the responsibilities. The more helpers you have, the easier the task.

Remember to collect supporting documentation for these activities: newspaper clippings, photos, thank-you notes, letters, certificates of appreciation, and reports from your club newsletter, etc.

Remember to keep it fun, make it funky (in scrapbooking terms), and create something you'll be proud to place on your Membership Table at your show!

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRPERSON

by Fran Sick, AFMS Public Relations Chair



Every organization looking to attract new members needs a good public relations chairperson. So how do you choose the right person for such an important job? While I am certainly no expert, over the past several years while serving in various club and federation offices, I have had a chance to observe the impact on club success of several very good public relations officers. Following are a few observations I have made.

The most successful public relations chairmen really love the hobby and want very much to see it grow and prosper. They are people with a positive attitude who love people and, since they believe anyone who has not been introduced to the rock and mineral hobby is missing something in their lives, they will spend as much time as it takes talking to individuals or groups to entice them to give it a try. They are also good listeners and will do their best to answer questions. They can write a pretty good news article and will do so for any publication they can convince to print them. An interest in basic photography is a plus since they will have lots of photos of rockhounds having fun, or of special events or exhibits, to include with their articles. Or, if they are not photographers, they know who the shutter bugs in their group are and will get photos from them. Usually they have very lively imaginations and often see promotion opportunities where most of us would not even think to look. They are also the folks who are in touch with what is happening in and around their area and may often suggest club exhibits at local fairs, art festivals and other community events.

So if you have an enthusiastic person in your group, a "people person" with the "gift of gab", who can write news articles or press releases and maybe take some good photos as well, you now have a good candidate for Public Relations Chairman. If you really want to attract new members you should probably get that person working on it as soon as possible.

JUDGES SEMINAR - A RECAP

from Josie Middleton, SCFMS Participant

I was the representative from the South Central Federation at the just concluded AFMS Judges Seminar held in conjunction with the EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres. What fun we had!

There were fourteen of us in the class plus teacher extraordinaire, Jay Bowman. The class was informal in nature, but we sure covered a lot of territory.

Some of the things we learned were just how many versions of the AFMS Rules book there are...and that some people have not updated their copy to reflect the latest version which causes lots of problems.

- We heard all the horror stories from the past ten years of National Shows and then talked about what to do should any of these situations crop up again.

- We learned that competition has raised the standard of exhibitions even in non-competitive exhibits.

- We talked about what we can do to increase the number of competitive (and non-competitive) displays at our shows.

We learned and met new friends, both in our class and during non-class time. All of us will take what we learned back to our clubs and federations and share the hobby with members back home.

Thanks a lot to Jay Bowman (our teach) and Dee Holland (our sponsor) for all their hard work and support thru AFMS and the Eastern Federation to make all of this possible and for all of us to obtain a way for growth and friendship through Wildacres.

Do Join Us!

from the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

September 26-28, 2008

- Drop items on show: 10 gem, jewelry, mineral, fossils, and field books.
- Join enthusiastic children's systems leaders the "Dig Dig" and Bone Mark Boogie.
- See (mostly) making and gemstone-making demonstrations and mineral displays including a live rock melt, more.
- Bring your gemstones, rocks, minerals, and fossils for FREE expert identification.

LOCATION:
Humble Gem Center •
1622 Fritch Road •
Humble, TX 77066

FREE PARKING

Deadline for making advanced reservations for meals, show admission, and competitive and non-competitive displays is August 24, 2008. Complete information can be found on the AFMS website <www.amfed.org>. Just click on the show flier to download all the relevant information and forms. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel of your choice.

We look forward to meeting you in Humble this September.