A Hurricane Cancels the AFMS Meetings!

by Shirley Leeson, 2008 AFMS President

Hurricane Ike struck Texas on Friday, September 12, 2008. Anyone watching the devastating pictures on TV was shocked at the destruction.

I began trying to reach club members on Sunday, September 14, 2008. Power was out, big time which in turn affected phone and email service. I spent the next few days calling those club members I could as well as our host hotel and many nearby hotels to ascertain whether or not they would be open and able to accommodate our group.

Initially, the news was good, but by Thursday things began to unravel. When I called the host hotel manager for perhaps the third or fourth time (he never called me), I learned that he could not guarantee our rooms because they were required (he never called me), I learned that he could not guarantee our rooms because they were required. I checked with several others in the area and received similar news – or news that they were heavily damaged and could not guarantee that repairs would be done in time for our arrival.

The AFMS Bylaws (Article V, Meetings, Section 4) specify that "In the event of... or other great national emergencies, the annual meeting of the Board... shall not be held."

At this point I spoke to Steve Weinberger our Central Office administrator and asked him to send out a blanket statement that the AFMS meetings were cancelled. This was not taken lightly. I had weighed all the problems that would arise from this decision, but in the end it was necessary. I could not ask people to fly or drive to Houston only to be met by "no rooms at the inn." In a subsequent email to everyone who had pre-registered, I asked each to decide if they would donate their pre-registration to help with expenses. The response was overwhelming.

While I was making this agonizing decision Shara Tumble, the club's liaison to the AFMS, Scott Singleton, Show Chair and others were working feverishly to get the show up and running. Frustration was running high since they had to renegotiate contracts for the various functions, the caterer's power was down and refrigeration was out, and of course, the AFMS meetings were cancelled. Through lots of hard work and long hours, the club was finally able to ascertain that the show would go on as planned and the South Central Federation meetings would be held as well.

Carolyn, Steve, Dee & I began contacting everyone we thought might be attending and let them know. Emails by the hundreds were sent and received. Calls were made to those we had not heard from, but knew had pre-registration to see if they had heard. The last person finally contacted us on Tuesday, September 23rd.

Some alternate plans for AFMS activities were made. I authorized Ron Carman, the AFMS Uniform Rules Chair, to judge exhibits that qualified for AFMS and those that might come in as direct entries. Awards for these were presented at the Banquet on Saturday evening. Congratulations to: Shirley Leeson, 2008 AFMS President; Shirka Tumble, liaison to the AFMS, Scott Singleton, Show Chairman; Phyllis George, AFMS 1st Vice President, resident of Lubbock, TX who was helping get the word out and to the members of the show committee and club members of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society for their determination, and their undying commitment to putting on the show.

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Phyllis George, AFMS 1st Vice President; resident of Lubbock, TX who was helping get the word out and to the members of the show committee and club members of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society for their determination, and their undying commitment to putting on the show.

Again, my heartfelt sympathy to the Houston Gem & Mineral Society who were ready to put on the best darn AFMS/SCFMS show in Texas. The show went on as scheduled, we applaud them.

In consultation with Joy Bourne, our AFMS Endowment chair (and also AFMS President-elect), it was decided that Joy would delay the Endowment drawing until October 15th to allow for receipt of ticket sales that were going to be hand delivered to her in Humble. She will announce the results next month after members of her home club make the drawing. Prizes will be mailed to the winners.

Results of the various competitions – Program, All-American and Bulletin Editors – are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Trophies and certificates are being mailed.

Your elected officers and directors will vote on the New Business from the meeting agenda by mail. In addition, non-controversial items from the annual the Uniform Rules meeting will be voted on by URC members via a mail ballot, as will items from the Scholarship Meeting agenda. Results of the votes will be reported in the December newsletter.

While there was not a physical presence of the AFMS, we were all there in spirit. My personal congratulations to: Shara Tumble, liaison to the AFMS, Scott Singleton, Show Chairman; Phyllis George a lady of great insight and determination, Emerson Tucker, AFMS 1st Vice President, and resident of Lubbock, TX who was helping get the word out and to the members of the show committee and club members of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society for their determination, and their undying commitment to putting on the show.

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GREETINGS FROM THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS OF PENNSYLVANIA!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS President

It is my great privilege and honor to have been elected to the serve in the office of President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies for 2008-09. I will do my very best to fill the very big "shoes" of Shirley Leeson, who has left a raft of new committees and ideas for growth of our American Federation. This also means, among other things, that you will not be subjected to my newsletter articles touting the annual AFMS Endowment Fund Drawings for a while! Dee Holland will be taking up the reins for the Endowment Fund, and I am sure we could not have found a better person for the job!

By way of introduction, my home Federation is EFMLS for which I served as 2nd Vice-President, and briefly as 1st Vice-President. As First Vice President, I was called upon to fill the President's position when, after only 19 days in office, the elected President regretfully resigned in order to attend to an unexpected family emergency. In 2001, I was elected to my own term in the office of President. So, the business of coordinating presidential responsibilities is not entirely foreign to me. I actually served two terms in that post for EFMLS.

Other offices which I have filled for EFMLS include Bulletin Advisory Chairman, Geology Chairman and Wildacres Functioning Committee member. For AFMS, in addition to serving as Regional Vice President several times, I have served as AFMS Endowment Fund Chairman since 2004.

I am delighted to note that Past President Shirley Leeson has in place a terrific slate of officers and committee chairmen, most of whom will remain on board to continue to do the real work of the Federation. I thank all of these fine people for their past performance, and look forward to working with each and every one of them.

We currently have three Ad-Hoc committees working on committees which are evaluating existing programs, and implementing some new trial programs. These latter will be evaluated and voted upon to add new programs to those now being offered to benefit the Regional Federations and clubs of our organization. These committees include the Ad Hoc Contests & Competitions Study, chaired by Ron Carman; an Ad Hoc Inter-Federation Field Trips program chaired by Dick Pankey; and a brand-new Ad Hoc Webmaster's Contest headed up by Phyllis George.

In addition to the expertise of all these special people, I have the additional advantage of having access to experts Shirley Leeson and Carolyn and Steve Weinberger, who have both indicated that they are willing and able to provide advisement to keep me on the right track, should I stray. How lucky can one person get?

Until next month -

Joy

COMMUNICATION

from Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office Administrator

Did this issue of the AFMS Newsletter arrive in your home because you’re the current club president? or Editor? or Federation Rep (Liaison)? or Secretary?

If you can answer “Yes” to the question above, then you can stop reading this article now.

If you’re no longer one of the people mentioned above in your club, then you need to take about 5 minutes and let me know who should really be receiving this newsletter. Communication between your club and the AFMS is our goal and we cannot properly succeed unless the correct club officers read the news.

Each regional federation club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter at no charge. We prefer to have the issues delivered directly to the home address of each, but in some cases, do to lack of information, send things to the club post office box or mailing address. We think that this delays receipt of what could be time-sensitive material.

So here’s our plea...send us the name of your club and current officer information (name, address and office held). You can save money and e-mail the information to us at <central_office@amfed.org>.

If you’re no longer an officer, but would still like to receive the AFMS Newsletter, you can do so with a subscription - $4.50 each for a year - with checks payable to "AFMS". The mailing address is on page 2. OR, you can download the newsletter from the AFMS website at no charge by visiting <www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm>.

Thanks for keeping the lines of communication open.
Words of Caution

by John Wright, RPG, Conservation & Legislation Chair

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554, to the best of my knowledge has cleared all committees and the next logical step would be to schedule it for a vote by the House of Representatives, but with the current turmoil in congress caused by the failures on Wall Street, I can’t get through to my contact to find out the exact status of this particular legislation. My personal opinion is that it has been placed on a back burner and action on it will be delayed for the time being. This does not mean that we are out of the woods, but it does give us another small window of opportunity to express our opposition. With the up-roar among the citizens caused by the proposed bail-out plans for Wall Street and the up-coming elections, constituents have really gotten the undivided attention of representatives, and if you have not written or petitioned yours to express opposition to HR554, you now have a short but golden opportunity to let your sentiments be known.

While my information has been very limited, I was very pleased to find out that quite a few of our members have talked to their representatives or have written them a letter in opposition to the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. I also know that a number of our clubs have submitted petitions opposing this legislation. While these efforts are really commendable, the down side is that these individuals and clubs represent only a very small percentage of our membership. If we want to stop or have this legislation significantly modified in our favor, it is going to require a lot more participation. We have to let our representatives know what our desires are if we want them to act in our favor.

I am serving as president of my club again and for several months I have encouraged our members to contact or write a letter to our representative regarding HR554. As you might expect my efforts were basically ignored. Finally, I decided to write a petition that our members could sign and a sample letter that they could use as a guide to write their own. Quite a few of our members signed the petition and several of the ones that did not sign took copies of the sample letter to use as a guide in writing their own. I regret that I waited so long to do this and that all of our members did not participate, but at least we have taken a positive step. I would like to challenge other club presidents to take similar action to get more of our members and respective clubs involved.

I am getting very little feedback about the issues I am addressing in my articles. I do occasionally see some of them reprinted in the exchange bulletins we receive from other clubs. If you have any recommendations or suggestions, please let me know. I would very much like to know about any conservation and legislative matters in your particular areas and also what actions your club might be taking in national issues like the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. My e-mail address is <osjwbw@datasync.com>.

Scholarship Award Update

by Dee Holland, Foundation President

In the AFMS October 2008 Newsletter students for both Northwest and Eastern were pending. Here’s an update......
Northwest: Federation:
Honoree, Ed Romack.
School chosen, Idaho State University, Department of GeoSciences, Pocatello, Idaho. The faculty chose the following students:
Kelly M. Whitehead, Masters in Geology, GPA - 3.6
Joseph W. Sheffield, Masters in Geology, GPA - 3.5

In regard to Eastern, President Erly Borow has indicated that the Honoree reports that the schools he’s contacted in the northeast have been “less than receptive”, but they are still working on the situation.

Plans have been made to hold the Stone Auction that was cancelled in Houston during the AMFS/NFMS 2009 convention in Billings, MT. Bring money!
Quick Tips for Editors

by Linda Jaeger, Club Publications Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing the bulletin 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.

Congratulations!

Awards have been given to the winners in the 2008 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest. Look for their names in this issue. I had the opportunity to read all of the entries. It’s hard to pick a favorite, but being the math person I am and appreciating “short” and “concise,” I have to say I REALLY enjoyed the junior poem by Nick Riebeek entitled “Smilodon.” It is very clever and fun.

If you would like your own copy of the winning articles and poetry (including honorable mentions), you can purchase the Winning Articles booklet in either hard copy or on CD.

There are a limited number of hard copies, so reserve a hard copy by emailing me first <LJgrAlg@aol.com>. I will send a reply email letting you know your copy is reserved—then you can send a check to me (Linda Jaeger) for $8.00. See my address in the first paragraph above. The price covers printing and mailing.

If you would like to purchase the CD version (all articles and poems are in both PDF format and Microsoft Word, or .doc form), just mail a check to me (Linda Jaeger) for $3.00. See my address in the first paragraph above. The price covers the cost of producing the CD and mailing.

2009 AFMS BULLETIN CONTEST

Important dates for BEACS:
1- By February 28, 2009—AFMS Judges List to all BEACS
2- March 31, 2009—All regional entries into AFMS contest due are the respective AFMS judges
3- May 15, 2009—All AFMS contest entries judged and returned to me by AFMS judges
4- July 31-August 2, 2009—NFMS/AFMS joint Show & Convention in Billings, Montana.

New Category!

Remember that we have added two Features Categories for any age entries.

The written category will include items (other than poems) in sentence form which add spice to a club bulletin, but do not necessarily follow the form of an article. They must be original, and there is no length limitation. A possible entry would include a humorous anecdote, president’s column, shop hints, play on mineral names, special club contest, or club history commentary (not just copied quotes from past newsletters; the author must introduce personal input/analysis).

The drawn category will include original items that bring spice to a bulletin but do not follow a literary form. Included here are puzzles that are made up of a form or shape (not word puzzles), cartoons, crystal structures (drawn by author and incorporated in an original application). The drawn feature should have some accompanying description/headline to add to the originality but the drawing predominates.

You can view a judging sheet for each of these categories by going to the AFMS website, <www.amfed.org>, and looking for the hotlinks for the 2009 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest.

Endowment Fund Drawing

By now I know that you are expecting to learn who the prize winners are from the Endowment Fund drawing. We were planning on holding the drawing during the Awards Banquet in Humble, but do to the cancellation of our AFMS meetings, there has been a delay.

Several of you wrote to tell me that you still had tickets and monies for the drawing that you planned to the cancellation of our AFMS meetings, there has been a delay.

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We’ll mail the prizes to each of the winners and post the list in the December issue of the AFMS Newsletter. I’m sorry for the delay, but in fairness to everyone, thought this was the best course of action. So as they say in ad speak, “Watch This Space!”

Public Relations is Everyone’s Job

by Fran Sick, Public Relations Chair

Are you doing your part?

This month I am going to concentrate on a different kind of Public Relations, that within our own clubs and federations; because if all of our members don’t know what’s happening they can’t tell people about it.

Wherever rockhounds gather, time after time, we hear things like “What does the Federation do for me?” or “I didn’t know about that (program, contest, problem).” How do we find out about these things?” or “What do other clubs do about this?”

It seems to me that we have in place one of the best communication systems of any group I have ever known. Nine times each year the American Federation publishes a newsletter which is chock full of important and interesting information. It is sent not only to all AFMS personnel, but is shared with regional federation officers and committee chairs and with every single club president, editor and secretary or liaison. The regional federations also publish wonderfully informative newsletters on a regular basis with copies going to these same federation and club people. And clubs publish their own newsletters which they gladly exchange with other clubs and the federations just for the asking. So why are we not taking full advantage of this super communication network?

The people responsible for the information contained in all of these publications work very, very hard to keep all of our members informed. But it is not possible to hand deliver them to your meetings and read them to your members. It is the responsibility of everyone who receives these newsletters to make sure everyone in their group is kept informed. How can you know your organization is not interested in a contest or event if they do not even know it exists or have never been given the opportunity to make an informed choice?

It is the responsibility of every president, editor, and of every leader, to ensure their members are told about and, equally important, encouraged to take full advantage of all the things available to us.

We are not a secret society. Rockhounds are some of the friendliest, most outgoing and generous people I know. They love sharing and helping others enjoy the hobby. They go out of their way to pass along all kinds of news. But if people receiving the information drop the ball and do not pass it on what good are their attempts to share?

Please think about the fact that if our members don’t know about it they can’t sell it, and if they can’t sell it we can’t attract new members. I am begging each person who receives this newsletter, and/or their regional federation newsletter, to take just a few minutes at your next gathering to share the information contained in them and encourage your club to get involved. Your commitment and encouragement can make a lot of difference.
The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse wishes to nominate our Youth Group Leader Carol Hamilton-Gibbs for Rockhound of the Year. Her interest began when her daughter, now in college, was a youngster interested in collecting rocks. Over the years Carol has taken on more and more responsibilities coordinating activities for the youth group and co-running our Kids Area at our annual show. Under her leadership the Kids Area has flourished and is now a large, well attended sluice area, large soapstone carving section, beading area, and craft section with many volunteers. We have many repeat visitors year after year because the love of the hobby and the fun of the area are shared with all the kids. We thank Carol for her efforts!

submitted by Cathy Patterson, Past President

Midwest Federation

The Michiana Gem and Mineral Society have two members who have served on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Federation. They have been nominated as Rockhounds of the Year.

Submitted by Kathy Miller, President

We the members of the Parma Lapidary Club wish to nominate Dan Herold as our candidate for 2008 Rockhound of the Year. Dan has served as our vice president for several years always fulfilling his duties. He can always be counted on to do whatever he is asked to do. He is always doing work around the shop and donating to our monthly raffle held at our meetings. Although he is a young family man, he can still find time to share his talents with the club. A lot of remodeling and rearranging not only to be more attractive but more organized; and Dan not only has done most of the work but has a talent for getting donations from the most unusual places. We are very thankful. Dan Herold has chosen to join our club. Dan has also served as the Silent Auction chair in the past and I understand this year he is moving up to Chairing the demo table.

submitted by The Members of the Parma Lapidary Club

Eastern Federation

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina would like to nominate Billy and Lora Wood as special members in 2008. Although they have been members for less than three years they have been active. In Gulfport, Mississippi Billy was co-founder of Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society in the Southeast Federation and served as Show Chairman, Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. They were voted out at Gulfport and moved to Enid in 2006.

In 2007 Billy was elected as EGMS President and also served as Dealer Chairman. Lora Woods is serving as Show Chairman for our November 2008 EGMS Show and Billy is again Dealing Chairman. Billy is accomplished in making cabochons and finishing with wire wrap and he and Lora participate in shows and swaps with a booth. They went before the cameras at our local television station to promote our show and our End Gem and Mineral Society. We are proud to nominate them for this award.

submitted by Frances Johnson, Editor

Southeast Federation

Edwin Elam has been an “involved” member of the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society for 33 years. Ed served as AMLS President in 1979, was Show Chair for 13 years, and has been a longtime teacher. He continues to conduct instructional presentations at club meetings, most recent at our recent show. Edwin recently has given us an introductory lesson in Geodes. He is a long time member in good standing who has contributed much to our club. He is the example of an active member.
What Have I Just Collected?

I have been a rock and mineral collector for more than three decades now. Being a Chemical Engineer, I've typically been more interested in a specimen's chemistry that it's geology, though I plan to grow my knowledge of the latter. This is a most wonderful hobby, though all of us must be aware of the potential hazards that some minerals could represent.

This was most apparent to me in an acquisition made when still relatively new to the hobby. A vendor offered a very nice specimen of a rather gemmy-yellow and red crystal matrix from Utah, which I had not seen previously at several dozen Shows. What a great new collection addition! The card identified the specimen as Orpiment and Realgar. As the vendor was quite busy at that time, I did not inquire as to the chemical composition of these minerals.

At home, my research quickly identified this specimen as two arsenic sulfides, chemically AsS and As$_2$S$_3$. Arsenic is an obvious hazard word for most of us. A bit more checking of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) showed it to have

- a Health rating of 4 (defined specifically as “Life-threatening, major or permanent damage may result from single or repeated overexposures.”)
- to be listed by DOT as a Class B poison (“pre-sumed to present a serious threat to health during transportation”)
- to produce Hydrogen Sulfide (H$_2$S) when con-
tacted with water, a known respiratory hazard with its own Health rating of 4.

If a sample has a Health rating of 3 or 4 on the MSDS (or 2 if you're extra cautious), then you need to do some homework on safe handling.

The lesson to learn - know what you're collecting, in order to include necessary safety considerations for the specific material. The first step would be to discuss the specimen with the vendor (I've found many to be well informed), or a knowledgeable person at the collection site. Certainly use all available reference materials. If you have Internet access, there are a multitude of safety information sources if you know the chemical composition of your specimen. Google can certainly be your friend in this search. The MSDS, noted above, is a fine information source even though designed for industrial users of chemicals.

So, what did I do with my colorful, but hazardous specimen? It's clearly marked as to the arsenic content. Handlers, including myself, will use non-cloth gloves or wash hands thoroughly after admiring the crystals, especially prior to eating. Younger children may look, but not touch. And, from that point on, this writer knows what is being added to his collection!

A material safety data sheet (MSDS) is a form containing data regarding the properties of a particular substance. An important component of workplace safety, it is intended to provide workers and emergency per-

sonnel with procedures for handling or working with that substance in a safe manner.

How about Special Group meetings? Do your members get together for any special crafts events? List them. Do members gather for social events? List them.

Does your club sponsor a show? How about getting together with another club to host a show together? List all of the specifics of the show: how many dealers you invite; how many demonstrations work your show; and how many displays you have. All through these categories, be sure to provide pictures, printed programs, and other documentation.

Does your club sponsor field trips? List the places you go and how many folks attend. This is another great place to provide photos.

What remains in this section is to list special features such as: a club library; a club workshop; a Web site; or a travelling display that can be put up in public venues. Document, document, document.

Next month - putting it all together.

Ted's Safety Corner

by Theodore J. Keith, Safety Chair

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Next month - putting it all together.
Here are the results of the 2008 All American Club Award Competition. Congratulations to all those who entered this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Club</th>
<th>Award Received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlington Gem &amp; Mineral Club</td>
<td>Silver Medal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Silver Medal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffalo Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Silver Medal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tri-City Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Silver Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulsa Gem &amp; Mineral Club</td>
<td>Silver Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Allis, WI (MWF)</td>
<td>Silver Medal</td>
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Here are the results from the SCFMS/AFMS show in Humble, Texas held Sept. 26 - 28. Although the AFMS meetings were cancelled, the show and SCFMS convention were held and it was decided to continue with the AFMS competitive judging despite the difficulties after Hurricane Ike. Eleven exhibits were entered in competition from three different federations and the results are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Club</th>
<th>Award Received</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Sinemetz</td>
<td>Independence Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stretch &amp; Lynn Young</td>
<td>Austin Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dottie Smith</td>
<td>Oklahoma Mineral &amp; Gem Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Gibson</td>
<td>Austin Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
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<td>David Gardner</td>
<td>Houston Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
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<td>Ronald Carman</td>
<td>Houston Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Postlethwait</td>
<td>Austin Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Lockhart</td>
<td>Brent Lockhart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Houston Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thanks to all those who entered exhibits and a BIG thank you to the Houston Gem and Mineral Society for putting on a great show in spite of the difficulties. Well done, everyone!</td>
</tr>
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Would you and fellow Club members like to take a virtual trip to Franklin, New Jersey and learn something about fluorescent minerals? There is only one winner in the 2008 AFMS Program Competition, but it answers many questions about Franklin, NJ. Andrea Rubin, a member of Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club (MWF) produced this entry which scored 95+ points on an objective scale, earning “First Place, with Highest Honors”.

“Franklin, NJ – Fluorescent Mineral Capitol of the World” takes viewers to the Franklin area and shows some of the minerals found there, a brief overview of the geology and history and in conclusion lists some online resources for more images and information. A PowerPoint presentation, it will be transferred to DVD and VHS formats. Affiliate Clubs and their members can borrow this (and other) presentations from their Regional Program Library.

Details, entry forms and tips to improve presentations are available on AFMS website <www.amfed.org> … OR contact your Regional Librarian or Marge Collins, Program Competition Coordinator c/o <margaret@qtm.net> (QTM.net) or 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd., Buchanan MI 49107.

by Jon Washburn, AFMS Chair

by Ron Carman, AFMS URC Chair

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Having Fun: Junior Activities
Making Our Shows "Kid Friendly"

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Chair

At this year’s show in Humble, Texas, the Houston Gem & Mineral Society’s show committee planned out a large earth science education program for public, private, and home-schooled kids on Friday and a Scout geology merit badge program for the weekend. These were both planned as special events in addition to still more fun things, including crafts and activities, for kids to do all during the show. I’m hoping to have further details about their kids’ activities to share in a future article.

Here in my home state of California, June Harris of the Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society has pursued similar avenues for their annual spring show, and she’ll be running Kids’ Activities for the next California Federation show in April 2009. Like the Houston club, she’s focused attention on getting the word out to local schools for field trips on the Friday of the show and on gearing activities to help Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts earn badges. (One suggestion from June: Get to know and curry favor with the person in your area in charge of selling badges to the local scout troops and dens, let them know what you’re doing, and they can prove invaluable in helping get the word out about your show to the local scout leaders. It’s in their direct interest, after all, to sell more badges!) The result? Two years ago, they had 500 kids come through their Kids’ Area. Last year, 2,000! (I’m exhausted—though excited—just trying to picture it!)

Making our shows “kid friendly” like the Houston and Santa Clara clubs are doing helps in several ways. We cultivate interest in our hobby at a young age. We attract not just a child but a whole family when we offer fun things for the kids to do. And we attract still more families when kids show other kids in the neighborhood the neat rock or fossil they got at the show. We attract the attention of schools and youth groups, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. And we stand a better chance of attracting local press attention (and free publicity along with it) if we stress that a big part of our shows will be educational and family-oriented. And the educational orientation helps fulfill our mission as nonprofit organizations operating in the public interest.

Here’s urging all regional federations and local clubs to put a focus on carefully planning for kids’ activities at your very next show for the sake of educating while having fun!
The 2008 Bulletin Editors Contest would not have been a success without the efforts of our judges. These hardworking individuals evaluated the entries forwarded to them from the seven regional federations and deserve a rousing round of applause.

Diane Dare, Holiday, FL – Adult Articles, Advanced
Cecilia Duluk, Dearborn, MI – Poetry
Phyllis George, Katy, TX – Adult Articles
Joyce Hanschu, Canton, MI – Large Bulletins
Alan Hukill, E Lansing, MI – Special Publications
Pat LaRue, Rialto, CA – Small Bulletins
Don Rathert, Rapid City, SD – Junior Articles
Terry Yoschak, Rocklin, CA – Mini Bulletins

And here are the results:

Original Adult Articles – Top 10
2. Don’t freeze when the heat is on! by Owen Martin, Houston Gem & Mineral Society From: The Backbender's Gazette, 8/07 (SCFMS)
5. Like Thomas the Train Said, “I think I can, I think I can” The Hall's Valley Field Trip by George Libby, The Georgia Mineral Society From: Tips and Trips (SFMS)
6. Kyprios, chalkos, or aes cryprium, whatever you want to call it, it's still copper to me by Brett Whitson, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club From: The Post Rock, 5/07 (RMFMS)
7. When the heck did I become an “ elder statesman” guru? by Jerry Krusinski, Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society From: High Country Gleanings, 4/07 (SFMS)

Honorable Mention
Another One Bites the Dust – Farewell & Tall Chief Cove by Virgil G. Richards, Tula Rock & Mineral Society From: The TTown Rockhound (RMFMS)

The Perfect Diamond by David Dick, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society From: The Pick and Drop Stick, 1/07 (MWF)

President's Message by R.J. Harris, Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club From: Rock & Busters News, 5/07 (EMF)

Flintknapping & A Flint Knapper Named Ed by Marie Ziggler, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society From: The Stratata Data, 12/07 (MF)

Crystal Park Trip 2007 by John Usher, Boazeman Gem & Mineral Club From: A Stone’s Throw, 7/07 (EFMLS)

Treasures of Davis Creek by Tom & Mary Hooker, Springfield Thunder Egg Club From: Springfield Thunder Egg News (NFMS)

Let’s Go Sunstoning by Dennis Williams, Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society From: Nuggets & Pebbles, 10/07 (NFMS)

What is a fossil? by Ralph Baxter, Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society From: High Country Gleanings, 11/07 (SFMS)

Displaying Your Treasures by Clay Williams, El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society From: Petroglyphs, 9/07 (CPMS)

Rockhounding – A Mother’s Point of View by Jackie Sullivan, West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club From: Rock Chatter, 1/07 (MWF)

Diamonds by Chris Fife, Tula Rock & Mineral Society From: The TTown Rockhound, 4/07 (RMFMS)

Geological History of the East Texas Big Thicket by Robbie Smith, Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society From: The Pinewoodso Rooster, 2/07 (SCFMS)

Original Adult Articles Advanced, Top 10
1. The First Forests by Kevin Dermody, Central PA Rock & Mineral Club From: Rock Busters News (EFMLS)


4. Magnet Cove Rutile Sixlings and Eightlings by Art Smith, Houston Gem & Mineral Society artsminorth@msn.com From: The Backbender’s Gazette, 11/07 (SCFMS)

5. “I’m in big trouble, aren’t I?” Recollections from Greenland by Julian C. Gray, The Georgia Mineral Society From: Trips and Trips, 1/07 (SFMS)

6. Visiting Agate Creek, the Home of Queensland Agate by Sir Paul Howard, Ocrut Mineral Society From: Our-Curs, 9/07 (CPMS)


Honoroble Mention
The Wills Creek Impact Site by Brian Poelker, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society From: The LOESS Bulletin, 4/07 (MWF)

GMS February Field Trip Diamond Hill Mine – Antreville, South Carolina, 2/28/07, 9 a.m. by Sue Gorday, Georgia Mineral Society From: Trips and Trips, 3/07 (SFMS)

Petrifried Wood from Franklin, NJ by Dave Wiscoley, CFG. <wooley.dave@gmail.com> Lynching Gem & Mineral Society From: Gem and Mineral Journal, 4/07 (EFMLS)

Definition of the Month: Heap Leaching by Steve Mulqueen, Ventures Gem & Mineral Society From: Rockhound Rambling, 11/07 (CPMS)

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continued from page 8

Lucy in Texas
by Neil Immega, Houston Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Backbender's Gazette, 12/07 (SFMS)

What's a Holoclytus?
by Doris Perkins; McCurtain County Gem and Mineral Club.
From: McCurtain Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter, 12/07

Junior Articles – Under 12 (7 entries)
1. The Onion Creek Mosasaur
by Leighton Cove, The Austin Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Stone Chipper (SCFMS)

2. My Rock Display
by Grace Trumbo, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club
From: GeoDe, 8/07 (NPM)

3. All About Apophyllite
by Asher Kemp, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Backbender's Gazette, 12/07 (SCFMS)

by Elizabeth Siegfried, Rock Chatter, 12/07 (MWF)

5. Starstruck!
by Jocelyn Regehr, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
From: The Stone Chipper (SCFMS)

6. My Rock Story
by Julianna Cardona, Central PA Rock & Mineral Club
From: Rock Buster News, 2/07 (EFMLS)

7. What a Year
by Blake Sullivan, West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club
From: Rock Buster News, 1/10 (EFMLS)

Junior Articles – 12 to 17 (8 entries)
1. My Passion
by Cassandra Belcher, Oregon Coast Agate Club
From: Coastal Waves, 2-3/07 (NFMS)

2. Messages in Stone
by Steven Wise, Vashon, Colorado Springs, Mineralogical Society
From: CSMS Pick & Pack, 6/07 (RMFMS)

3. A Rockhound Looks Up
by Betsy Oberheim, Central PA Rock & Mineral Club
From: Rock Buster News, 2/07 (EFMLS)

4. Rockhounds Come from Teachers
To Rockhounds Friends Everywhere
by Terrell William Proctor, Jr., Houston Gem and Mineral Society
From: The Backbender’s Gazette, 12/07 (SCFMS)

5. Fools Gold
by Ed Gage, Fredericksburg Rockhounds
From: Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter, 11/07

6. Opal Again
by Mary Ann Mistcherling, Houston Gem and Mineral Society
From: The Backbender's Gazette, 10/07 (SFMS)

7. Geode
by Hugh Sheffield, Pinellas Geological Society
From: Outcroppings, 12/07 (SFMS)

8. My Favorite Things
(With apologies to Julie Andrews)
by Rose-Alene McArthur, Hells Canyon Gem Club
From: Boulder Buster, 7/07 (NFMS)

9. Bill Hill
by K.T. Gates-Waldrup, Yucaipa Valley Gem
From: Nugget & Pebbles, 6/07 (NPM)

10. Ode to Ted
by Vi Jones, Skagit Rock & Gem Club
From: Rockhound Roundup, 5/07 (NFMS)

Junior Poetry (2 entries)
1. SMILODON
by Nick Rebeck, Roseville Rock Rollers
From: The Rollin’ Rock, 11/07 (CFMS)

2. Hickory Dickory Dock
by Emily Price & Charli Gaston
Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society
From: Rockhound Roundup, 6/07 (SFMS)

New Editors (8 entries)
1. Rockhound Rambling
by Terrell William Proctor, Jr.
From: The Backbender’s Gazette, 11/07 (EFMLS)

2. Nuggets & Pebbles
by Lisa Williams, Editor
Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society
Lewiston, OR (NPM)

3. The Collecting Bag
Alan McCleaf & Suzanne Hedderly, Eds.
Richmond Gem & Mineral Society, Richmond, VA (EFMLS)

4. Rock Gems
Kate McKinney, Editor
Skagit Rock & Gem Club, Mt. Vernon, WA (NPM)

5. Chips & Chatter
Anita Dresser, Editor
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas
Richardson, TX (EFMLS)

6. The Hound’s Tale
Paula Truitt, Editor
Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, Arlington, TX (SFMS)

7. The Rockyooter
Rhonda Taylor, Editor
Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society, Lubbock, TX (EFMLS)

8. Rock-A-Teer
Dana James, Editor
Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Puyallup, WA (NPM)

Mini Bulletins (7 entries)
1. Lowcountry Diggin’s
Mark Easterbrook, Editor
Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society
Charleston, SC (SFMS)

2. Greater Cincinnati Lapidary and Faceting Society Newsletter
Jim & Judy Budnik, Editors
Greater Cincinnati Lapidary & Faceting Society
Cincinnati, OH (MWF)

3. The Nuggets
Sandra J. Gyrich, Editor
North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society
Madison, MS (SFMS)

4. The Rock Tablet
Randy & Sandra Phillips, Editors
Noville Public Museum Geology Club
Green Bay, WI (MWF)

5. Nuggets & Pebbles
Liz Williams, Editor
Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society
Lewiston, OR (NPM)

6. Fredericksburg Rockhounds News
Bill & Cheryl Wildfong, Editors
Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Fredericksburg, TX (SFMS)

7. A Stone’s Throw
Dick Wendel, Editor
The Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club, Bozeman, MT (NPM)

Small Bulletins, Top 10
1. West Seattle Petroglyphs
Mike Wall, Editor
West Seattle Rock Club, Seattle, WA (NFMS)
Honorable Mention

Boulder Bouncer
Anna Denton, Editor
East Alabama Gem & Mineral Society, Opelika, AL (SFMS)

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Syracuse, NY (EFMLS)

Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, East Alabama Gem & Mineral Society, Opelika, AL (SFMS)

Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society, Chicago, IL (MWF)

Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Sayre, PA (EFMLS)

Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, Holland, MI (MWF)

Honorable Mention

Jasper, TX (SCFMS)

Boulder Bouncer
Anna Denton, Editor
East Alabama Gem & Mineral Society, Opelika, AL (SFMS)

Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, East Alabama Gem & Mineral Society, Opelika, AL (SFMS)

Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society, Chicago, IL (MWF)

Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club, Sayre, PA (EFMLS)

Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, Holland, MI (MWF)
All-American Club "Yearbook" Award - 2008

SECTION 1 - CLUB INFORMATION (NO POINTS AWARDED)

Club Name & Address ____________________________________________________________

Date organized ____________ Federation affiliation _____________________________________

Number of members: Adults___________ Honorary/Life ______________ Juniors______________
[Don’t combine Honorary/Life with total adults.]

Meeting Place:__________________________________________________________________

[Include city, state]

Person filling out form: Name______________________________________________________

Address:___________________________________________________________________

City____________________________ State____________________ Zip _______________

Phone:___________________ E-mail_____________________________________________

Mission or purpose of the club:______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

SECTION 2 – OFFERINGS TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS (25 POINTS POSSIBLE)

General Meetings: Number of meetings__________________ Average attendance_______________

Guests_______ Door Prizes: Yes_______ No________

Programs: *Include a separate list of programs for the year, including topic, speaker, etc.

Board Meetings: Number of meetings____________ Average attendance_______ Guests__________

Officers: *Include a separate list of officers, directors, and committee chairmen.

Junior Meetings or other involvement: Number of meetings_____ Average attendance ____

Guests _____. Explain other involvement.

Adult leader(s):__________________________________________________________

Special Group Meetings (Established groups): Number attending - Cabbing______ Faceting________

Metal-working ________ Beading________ Mineral study________ Fossil study_______

Intarsia_______ jewelry making ______ Other _______ [Indicate type.]

Social Events: Number attending - Picnic__________ Banquet__________ Holiday dinner _________

Other (Describe):_______________________

Show, swap, or public event: Yes_____ No_______ Date(s) ______________________

Dealers: Yes_______ No_______ #________ Members attending: #________

Members working: #________

Demonstrators: Yes_______ No_______ #________

Displays: Yes_______ No_______ #________

Special Features: Club library: Yes_______ No_______ Number of books:__________

Field Trips: Yes_______ No_______ No. of trips in field _________ Other _________

Other clubs invited? Yes_______ No_______ Non-members allowed? Yes_______ No_______

Workshop: Yes_______ No_______ Web site: Yes_______ No_______ URL ___________________

*Include a separate list of workshops.

Traveling club display (For other club shows, youth groups, schools, etc.): Yes ____ No______

Do individual members provide displays? Yes ____ No______

Continued on page 12
SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Bulletin: Yes________ No________ Bulletin name________________________________________

Editor’s name____________________________________________________________

* Include a copy of your bulletin/newsletter.

Meeting notices posted in public places: Yes_______ No______ Where?___________________

Meeting notices published in local media: Yes_______ No______ Where?___________________

Show fliers posted in public places: Yes_____ No______ Where?____________________________

Show information published in local media: Yes_______ No______ Where?___________________

Free or paid ads on TV or radio:  Meeting notices: Yes________ No________

Show information: Yes_______ No________

*Include a copy of your bulletin/newsletter.

Copies of supporting material to include in report: 1) fliers; 2) media articles about the club activities; 3) show ads; 4) show or meeting notices from newspapers; 5) articles copied from club newsletter; 6) other.

SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS AND OTHER CLUBS (20 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served as Federation Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members:

Regional federation: Yes_____ No_____ (*Include a separate list of members serving.)

AFMS: Yes_____ No_____ (*Include a separate list of members serving.)

Members attended a Federation convention or show:

Regional Federation: Yes____ No____ #____ AFMS: Yes____ No____ #____

Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds:

Regional: Scholarship fund: Yes_____ No_____ Endowment fund: Yes_____ No_____

AFMS: Scholarship fund: Yes_____ No_____ Endowment fund: Yes_____ No_____

Members gave programs for other clubs: Yes_____ No_____

*Include a separate list of programs.

Members attended other club shows, swaps, etc.: Yes_____ No_____

Members held joint field trips with other clubs: Yes_____ No_____

Members displayed/demonstrated at other club shows: Yes_____ No_____

Club exchanged bulletins with other clubs: Yes_____ No_____

*Include a separate list.

Supporting material should include lists of all the above persons, positions, etc. and could include pictures, copies of certificates, reports printed in club newsletter, thank-you notes, etc.

SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools: Yes_____ No_____

*Include a separate list of those given.

Members gave talks or demonstrations to local groups: Yes_____ No_____

*Include a separate list of those given.

Members maintained displays at local public sites: Yes_____ No_____

*Include a separate list of sites.

Members maintained a booth, or an activity, at a local event: Yes_____ No_____

*Include a separate list of events.

Members donated materials to school, nursing home, etc.: Yes_____ No_____

Members active in local affairs: Yes_____ No_____

Supporting material for the above should provide details for these items, and could include pictures, thank you cards, letters and certificates of appreciation, reports from club newsletter, etc.

continued on page 13
SECTION 6 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS
(10 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served on governmental agency committees: Yes____ No____
*Include a separate list of those who served.

Members provided comments on governmental agency proposals, etc.: Yes____ No____
*Include a separate list of proposals and participants.

Members contacted congressional representatives regarding legislation affecting access to sites, and collecting from same: Yes____ No____
*Include a separate list of representatives contacted and legislation.

Club or members supported access/collection lobbying organizations (such as ALAA): Yes____ No____
*Include a separate list of organization(s).

Supporting materials should include details for all of the above items, reports from club newsletter, and should include copies of correspondence.

SECTION 7 - OVERALL FORMAT AND PRESENTATION - (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

This section evaluates the entry on neatness, organization, grammar, spelling, and overall presentation of material.

SCORING AND AWARDS
Gold All-American Club Award: 90 - 100 points (average of three)
Silver All-American Club Award: 80 - 89 points (average of three)
Bronze All-American Club Award: 70 - 79 points (average of three)
Honorable Mention: Less 70 points (average of three)

Instructions for completing the entry form:
1. Each entry is to be submitted as a single document, limited to a maximum of 100 pages (one- or two-sided), including text and graphics. A loose leaf notebook or a scrapbook is a suitable binder. Entries may be submitted on a CD or DVD. Pages must be delineated, and the same numbers apply.

2. The document should have six (6) sections, divided with the numbers 1 - 6, with the Entry Form in section 1 and the supporting documentation for each of the other entry sections following the appropriate divider. There is no restriction on the number of pages in any one section. PROVIDED THE TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS DOES NOT EXCEED 100 PAGES.

3. When filling out the entry form, mark all appropriate blanks and entry numbers, or other information where requested. Assemble requested supporting materials and lists following the appropriate section divider and insert photos and other graphics following the typed information.

4. All requested material is for the year 2008.

5. Deadline for submitting to the AFMS chairman is April 15, 2009. * Check with your regional chairs for their deadlines.

FROM THE MAILBAG

The following letter was received from Jim Strain, Public Lands Advisory Committee Chair for CFMS and member of the Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society.

Senator Diane Feinstein is considering writing legislation to put an additional 800,000 acres into Wilderness in the California Desert. A wilderness group has been working on this proposal for several years to prevent our use of Public Lands for Educational & Recreational purposes.

Since entrance to wilderness areas is by foot or horseback only, the education and recreation use of public lands is lost. This type of legislation discriminates against the elderly, handicapped, and children as they cannot walk the miles required to get to specific mineral deposits and other points of interest.

We have found that some Federal Employees want to manage wilderness areas the same as a National Park, so the threat to collecting rocks and minerals for personal use, schools, museums, etc. is also under fire.

In talking to Senator Feinstein’s staff in Los Angeles we found that they need input from all CFMS and AFMS members so our needs for access can be addressed in the legislation. Chris Carrillo, who is one of Senator Feinstein’s staff in Los Angeles, is one of the lead people in assembling information for the legislation. He seems to be a very understanding individual and should be receptive to our information.

Some of our local Imperial County Supervisors have indicated that they want to stop Senator Feinstein’s proposal as we already have excessive wilderness areas in the county. Of the 800,000 acres mentioned, 70,000 are in Imperial County.

The local areas mentioned are Milpitas Wash (including the Hauser Geode Beds), Palo Verde Mountains, Virage Wash and Indian Pass. The other 330,000 acres are apparently in the China Lake area, Fort Irwin area, and additional land surrounding the Mojave National Preserve. The National Preserve is being managed like a National Park. Originally, they promised to permit rock and mineral collecting in the Preserve. When the National Park Service in Washington examined the agreement, they deleted the portion we had negotiated with local NPS Staff.

CFMS has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with BLM on the Hauser Geode Beds. Apparently neither Senator Feinstein’s office, nor the local BLM office were aware of the MOU. We are supplying copies to both and hope it will be honored so the Hauser Geode Beds will still be accessible.

We must act now! The legislation will probably be introduced in January 2009. If we get information into Senator Feinstein’s staff now it can be considered when the legislation is being written.

We have found that once a piece of legislation has been written it is almost impossible to have it changed.

May the next rock or mineral you find be the best ever!
2009 AFMS Committees

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2008-09. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club
John Washburn
<jrwashburn2@msn.com>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Loretta Ogden
<donogden@aol.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926 <editor@amfed.org>

Boundaries
John Wright
<osjbw@datasync.com>

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

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926 <central_office@amfed.org>

Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Club Publications
Linda Jaeger
<branig@aol.com>

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr@erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Wright (see Boundaries)

Endowment Fund
Dee Holland
<beauholland@centurytel.net>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slhaauri@msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson@msn.com>

International Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52@gmail.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland (See Endowment)

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<jbraceth@roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Shirley Leeson (See Historian)

Name Badges
Frank Mulaney
<rockyfiv@aol.com>

Nominating
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Parliamentarian
Dee Holland (See Endowment)

Past President's Advisory
Shirley Leeson (see Historian)

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Show Consultant
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Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip
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AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Endowment Fund)
Joy Bourne, Vice President
Rush Bailey, Secretary
Arlene Burkhalter, Treasurer

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Commemorative Stamps by Wendell C. Mohr

Efforts to reach success in obtaining Birthstones on U.S. postage stamps are ongoing.

Thanks to Shirley Leeson for the full support of the project. She personally wrote several articles in the AFMS News, stimulating participation of every member in every society. She also carried the message in person to several of the Federations, and made many useful contacts.

Thanks again to Bob Jones for publishing a two page article about Birthstones on Stamps in the Feb. 2008 Rock & Gem Magazine.

Thanks to Dr. Jeffrey Post Curator-in-Charge at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History for providing for the use of pictures of birthstones from the national collection. Although the majority of the gems are non-US, they provide a colorful idea of what could appear on stamps using U.S. Materials.

Thanks to the many clubs who have already used the promotional materials at meetings, in their newsletters, and at their shows. I have seen many fine examples in newsletters and bulletins.

As said previously, Persistence Pays. Let’s gain even more support to have another stamp in the “Our Mineral Heritage” series of 1974 & 1992 with birthstones next. For promotional materials you may use refer to the AFMS website, <http://www.amfed.org/stamps.htm>. Pass-outs are for members of clubs and the general public, and for student and teacher use which is educational while promoting our project.

Send your request for Birthstone stamps (Do it again even if you did before) to this address:

The Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development, US Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St., Room 5013
Arlington VA 22209-6432

HELP FILL IN THE BLANK! (The CSAC doesn’t have an E Mail address. Ever wonder why?)

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the “Public Image” of recreational collectors.

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.