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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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Volume 62, Number 1
November, 2008

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 to fill the needs of FEMA and of the emergency responders. 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 Shiara Trumble, 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 who 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 and a list of the trophy winners is included elsewhere in this issue.

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 ad-

dition, 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: Shiara Trumble, 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.

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.

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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 regrettably 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 feed back 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 <osjw@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 Elery 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!



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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CONTENT - LETTERS

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DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH

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(I.E. APRIL 1 FOR THE MAY ISSUE)

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QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

by Linda Jaeger, Club Publications Chair

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



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 are due to 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

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?"

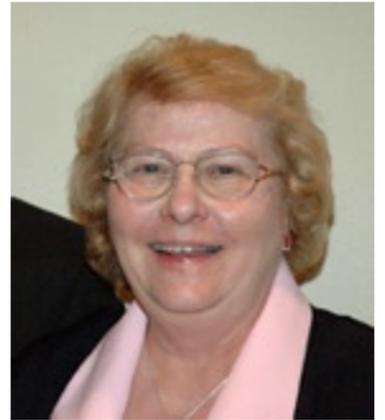
It seems to me that we have in place one of the best communication systems of any group I have ever known. Nine times each year the American Federation publishes a newsletter which is chock full of important and interesting information. It is sent not only to all AFMS personnel, but is shared with regional 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 other people 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.



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/heading 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.

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ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING

from Joy Bourne

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 on bringing with you to Humble. In order to give everyone time to get these mailed to me, I delayed holding the drawing. It will now be held at my home club meeting in mid-October.

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 adspeak, "Watch This Space!"



AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair



Eastern Federation

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 grown from a small mini mine to 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 children bring their families to enjoy all the rock fun at this area overseen by Carol and her co-director.

Carol has often organized field trips just for the youth and their families. She has kept in mind the needs and abilities of children of all ages and their safety.

In addition, Carol has worked long and hard, with her co-director to reclaim materials for the youth group activities, as well as solicit materials for the sluice and soapstone carving area from local businesses, all despite working full time and being involved in many other activities..

We thank Carol for her efforts!

submitted by Cathy Patterson, Past President



Midwest Federation

The Michiana Gem and Mineral Society have two members who are long overdue in being nominated as Rockhounds of the Year.

It is with pleasure and honor to nominate **Margaret and Bob Heinek**. Both Margaret and Bob have worked diligently giving so many of their years, time and effort to our club and our hobby. Margaret and Bob have experienced all our Board chairs many times over from Treasurer to President since the club started in the early '60's and still continue to offer their services in many ways a active members. On the MWF level, Margaret has been president, worked with the Uniform Rules, helped put on the MWF conventions, spent hours attending meetings, judging displays, etc. Bob has served as Indiana State Director, participated in Uniform Rules, demonstrated and displayed whenever asked. At the AFMS level, Margaret worked up through the chairs to become AFMS President. Bob as her sidekick supported her all the way. I am sure there are many other things I could add to their lists of commitment to earth science but enough said, they truly are folks that live the hobby we love, and they continue to share their knowledge as rockhounds with all of us. Thank you Margaret and Bob.

submitted by Kathy Miller, President

We the members of the Parma Lapidary Club wish to nominate **Dan Herod** 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 so 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 really thankful Dan Herod 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



Rocky Mountain Federation

It is with great pleasure that I nominate **Michael Ramsey** for Rockhound of the Year. As

he begins his second year as president of the Mingus Gem and Mineral Club, we can look back at the accomplishments of the first year under his guidance. They include: 10 exceptional speakers, refurbished the club workshop, trained 19 workshop trainers, introduced the popular silversmithing classes, put together the annual Gem and Mineral Show which experienced the highest single day attendance in the 33 year history of the show, offered a catered meal for the December meeting, joined the Friends of the AMMM, disseminated 10 informative newsletters, and organized 15 field trips plus a coalition trip attended by approximately 100 rockhounds. It's no wonder monthly club meetings are filled with 80-90 members each meeting.

submitted by Richard Casmier, Vice-President

The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society's Pebble pups program is alive and strong after a hiatus of several years, and I as the leader, am proud to nominate Miss **Khya Prewitt** as our first ever AFMS Junior Rockhound of the Year.

Khya was there at the first Pebble Pups meeting and continues faithful attendance and participation in the programs. She shared her specimens with a display in our Pebble Pups case at our June Show. She brings a friend to almost every meeting to introduce them to rockhounding. Khya submitted a specimen to the NASA Mars Program has received a certificate and has her specimen (rock #RATW08752) displayed on their website <marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/rockworld>. She is always ready and willing to assist me with the classroom presentation by passing out specimens and handouts, carrying the leftover material to my car, and tidying up the Pebble Pups room when we leave.

Khya makes sure the younger Pups feel welcome and not afraid to participate in class. She proudly displays her FRA badges on her pebble Pups vest and has prepared a display for the upcoming RM-FMS Show in November. Khya's knowledge of rockhounding is growing as she does and I know geology will always be a part of her life.

*submitted by Steven Wade Veatch
CSMS Pebble Pup and Junior Leader*

The Enid Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. would like to recognize **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 flooded 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 Dealer 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 Enid 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 recently having given us an introductory lesson in freeform intarsia. Ed served the Southeast Federation as Federation Registrar at Wildacres for two years. He was an instructor at Wildacres' Eastern Federation workshops for ten years. He's taught Cabochons and Channel at William Holland and Wildacres. He has also been published in both Rock & Gem and Lapidary Journal.

submitted by the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina would like to nominate **Fred Plesner** as Rockhound of the Year for 2008. Fred has been an active member for 10 years. When Fred joined the club, he didn't know much about "rocks." However, being an inquisitive type person, through his research, he has surpassed many members in the knowledge of rocks and minerals. He is chairman of our two annual Gemborees (our gem shows). This in itself is quite an undertaking: the long hours, the planning, the set up and making sure the vendors are happy. Geodes can be a great introduction to rocks for children. Fred supplies his own geodes and allows the children to slice them. He does this when we have demonstrations at the museum, at schools and other locations. Fred has held the position of President and Vice President for several terms. You can always find him behind the scenes working for the Society and the Museum. Our Society is responsible for The Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum. This requires volunteers to host during open hours. Fred can always be called on at the last minute to host. He has held the position of Publicity Chairman for several years, overseeing the distribution of Museum brochures and publicity information. He is the example of an active member.

ALL AMERICAN CLUB YEARBOOK

by John Washburn, Chair

Part V

Well, we're almost there - to the end, I mean. If you've been following along, you know the only parts of the application left to deal with, are Section 1 - Club Information and Section 2 - Service to Members or Guests. Since Section 1 is simply a "fill-in-the-blank" format, for which there are zero points, we'll address Section 2.

The only section easier than Section 1 is this one. This is you - your club! It's time to brag about all the great things you do for your members and guests, who should, by the way, always be treated like prospective members! This is a section about numbers and lists, starting with your general meetings. Be sure to make a list of your monthly meetings: what was your program topic; who was the speaker; and what, if any, highlights you want to mention. If you do not have monthly programs, ask yourself, "Why not?" You need to do some brainstorming. What are the resources you have in your community to tap into for possible programs? Have you checked into the program library your federation maintains? It is a rich source of programs!

Next list your officers, directors, and special committees. Cite how often they meet. Are members encouraged to submit ideas to the board? Are members invited to attend the board's meetings?

Next, it's time to brag about your juniors. Explain how your club caters to junior members. Do you hold separate meetings for your juniors? If not, why not? With the AFMS program that has been developed for juniors, right down to specific lessons and award badges, all you need is someone to lead the group. Check out "Suggestions on Forming a New Youth Group in Your Club," by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Activities Chair at <www.amfed.org>.

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

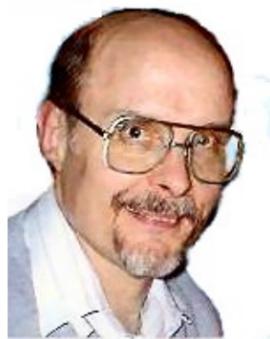
Does your club sponsor a show? How about getting together with another club to host a show together? List all of the specifics of the

TED'S SAFETY CORNER

by Theodore J. Reith, Safety Chair

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 than its 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 As₂S₃ and As₂S₂. 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 ("presumed to present a serious threat to health during transportation")

•to produce Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) when contacted 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 personnel with procedures for handling or working with that substance in a safe manner.

show: how many dealers you invite; how many demonstrators 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.

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Advisory

	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	April 17-19 San Jose, CA	Oct. 17-18 Bristol, CT	May 16-17 Parma, OH	AFMS July 30 - Aug. 2 Billings MT			
2010	AFMS Aug. 5 - 10 Riverside, CA						

ALL AMERICAN CONTEST AWARDS

by John Washburn, AFMS Chair

Here are the results of the 2008 All American Club Award Competition. Congratulations to all those who entered this year.

	Name of Club	Award Received
Small Clubs	Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society Marysville, CA (CFMS)	Silver Medal
	Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society Temple, TX (SCFMS)	Silver Medal
	Waco Gem & Mineral Club Woodway, TX (SCFMS)	Silver Medal
Large Clubs	Arlington Gem & Mineral Club Arlington, TX (SCFMS)	1st Place Gold Medal
	Mother Lode Mineral Society Empire, CA (CFMS)	Gold Medal
	Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club Ishpeming, MI (MWF)	Silver Medal
	Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society Tulsa, OK (RMFMS)	Silver Medal
	Wisconsin Geological Society West Allis, WI (MWF)	Silver Medal

SCFMS / AFMS COMPETITION RESULTS

by Ron Carman, AFMS URC Chair

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:



South Central Federation competition:

Alan Cherepon
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Class UV-3, second level award

Paul Otto
Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society
Class BS-6X, second level award

Grant Gibson
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Class BS-1, first level, SCF trophy 6

Susan Postlethwait
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Class EGS-2, first level, SCF trophy 27

AFMS competition results:

Brent Lockhart
Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Class BU-1, first level

Bruce Stinemetz
Independence Gem & Mineral Society
Class BU-1, first level & Trophy 2

Stretch & Lynn Young
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Class BU-4X, first level & Trophy 3

Dottie Smith
Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society
Class BC-1, first level & Trophy 4

Grant Gibson
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Class BS-1, first level & Trophy 6

David Gardner
Houston Gem & Mineral Society
Class BT-1, first level & Trophy 8

Ronald Carman
Houston Gem & Mineral Society
Class BF-3, first level & Trophy 12

Susan Postlethwait
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Class EGS-2, first level & Trophy 27

Stretch & Lynn Young
Austin Gem & Mineral Society
Class EIC-1, first level & Trophy 30

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!

PROGRAM COMPETITION WINNER

by Marge Collins

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. Andreas 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.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: Authors / producers of non-commercial slide, video or digital presentations are invited to participate in the 2009 Program Competition. Entrants must be members of an AFMS affiliate Society. Winners receive a cash prize and national recognition.

Commercial presentations are eligible for AFMS "Excellence in Education" recognition award. Deadline for all submissions is April 15, 2009.

Details, entry form 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.

SAYINGS

"I'd rather be a failure at something I enjoy than be a success at something I hate."
George Burns

"Always do right. It will gratify you and astonish the rest!"
Anonymous

"The man who reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers."
Thomas Jefferson

"Patience is the ability to idle your motor when you feel like stripping your gears."
Anonymous

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!



ROCK & GEM CLUB SHOW LISTINGS via Bob Jones, International Relations Chair

As you may have read in my April 2008 "All She Wrote" column, *Rock & Gem* is moving its annual club listing from the pages of the magazine exclusively to its Web site, <www.rockngem.com>. In the past, this listing was updated – in the magazine and on the Web site – only once a year. By giving it



a permanent home on the Internet, we hope to make it more flexible, allowing updates throughout the year, and increase its usefulness.

Your club can certainly benefit by having up-to-date information on our

website. To do this however, each club will need to notify the designated person in your regional federation, or if you don't know who that person is, you need to send your club information directly to me. E-mail contact is on page 15 of this issue. The deadline for this is no later than December 31.

Clubs will be grouped by federation in our listing, with unaffiliated clubs in their own section.

Thus, not only will each federation have current information to post on its own Web site, but *Rock & Gem's* listing will also be up to date. After January 1, individual clubs can e-mail updates directly to me or to the federation to be forwarded to me as their information changes and the listing can be updated on a monthly basis.

The trick is that not all clubs want the same information published in their listing, so some customizing is necessary. *Rock & Gem* gives space for contact information: a mailing (not meeting) address, phone number, e-mail address, and/or Web address. Our intention is that interested readers can contact the club for its meeting place and other details (you can encourage clubs to have a current brochure ready to mail). In the past, I have insisted on a mailing address because not all our readers have e-mail, but now that the listing is moving to the Internet, we won't be reaching those people.

If your club is interested in being listed on our website, you will need to send the correct information to someone designated to receive it in your regional federation. I know that in the EFMLS, it's going to be the editor, Carolyn Weinberger. Check with your own regional federation to see who will handle this for your club.

Rock & Gem
THE EARTH'S TREASURES • MINERALS AND JEWELRY

AFMS 2008 BULLETIN EDITORS CONTEST WINNERS

from Linda Jaeger

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.

Joy Bourne, Towanda, PA – New Editors

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

1. Underwater Treasure Hunting - My Colorado Adventure

by James Wark, Houston Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Backbender's Gazette, 12/07 (SCFMS)

2. Don't Freeze When the Heat Is On!

Heat-Related Illnesses vs. Rock Hounding Fun!
by Owen Martin, Houston Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Backbender's Gazette, 8/07 (SCFMS)

3. Wildacres: Spring 2007

by Heather Felsen, Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery Co., MD
From: The Rockhounder, 7&8/07 (EFMLS)

4. Virgin Valley and the Ark!

by Jim Hutchings, Roseville Rock Rollers
From: The Rolling Rock (CFMS)

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 Cyprium, Whatever You Want to Call It, It's Still Copper to Me

by Brett Whitenack, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
From: The Post Rock, 5/07 (RMFMS)

7. When the Heck Did I Become an "Elder Statesman" Guru??

by Jerry Kruessling
Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society
From: High Country Gleanings, 4/07 (SFMS)

8. The Corral Bluffs An Exposure of the Denver Formation East of Colorado Springs, Colorado

by Jeff Carpenter, American Fossil Federation
From: Fossil Finder, 3/07 (EFMLS)

9. Ancient Shipworms in Kansas

by Lois Larson, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
From: The Post Rock, 8/07 (RMFMS)

10. Travels in Guatemala

by John Lien, Sacramento Mineral Society
From: The Matrix, 5/07 (CFMS)

Honorable Mention

Another One Bites the Dust – Farewell to Tall Chief Cove

by Virgil G. Richards, Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society
From: The T-Town Rockhound (RMFMS)

The Perfect Diamond

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

President's Message

by R.J. Harris, Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club
From: Rock Buster News, 5/07 (EFMLS)

Flintknapping & A Flint Knapper Named Ed

by Marie Zigler, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Strata Data, 12/07 (MWF)

Crystal Park Trip 2007

by John Usher, Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club
From: A Stone's Throw, 7/07 (NFMS)

Treasures of Davis Creek

by Tom & Mary Hooker, Springfield Thunder Egg Club
From: Springfield Thunderegg Rock 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 Bastedo, 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 (CFMS)

Rockhounding –

A Mother's Point of View

by Jackie Sullivan, West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club
From: Rock Chatter, 7/07 (MWF)

Diamonds

by Chris Fite, Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society
From: The T-Town Rockhound, 4/07 (RMFMS)

Geological History of the East Texas Big Thicket

by Robbie Smith, Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society
From: The Pineywoods Rooter, 2/07 (SCFMS)

Original Adult Articles Advanced, Top 10

1. The First Forests

by Kevin Dermody, Central PA Rock & Mineral Club
From: Rock Buster News (EFMLS)

2. Birthstones –

Traditional and Alternates

by Mark Villanueva G.G., C.S.P., A.J.P., Houston Gem and Mineral Society
From: The Backbender's Gazette, 12/07 (SCFMS)

3. A New Park County Gem Discovery: Tarryall Fire Agate

by Steven Wade Veatch, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
From: Pick & Pack, 7/07 (RMFMS)

4. Magnet Cove Rutile Sixlings and Eightlings

by Art Smith, Houston Gem & Mineral Society
artsmithite@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: Tips and Trips, 1/07 (SFMS)

6. Visiting Agate Creek, the Home of Queensland Agate

by Sir Paul Howard, Orcutt Mineral Society
From: Ore-Cutts, 9/07 (CFMS)

7. It's Back – With Feathers

by Judith Washburn, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society
From: The LOESS Bulletin, 10/07 (MWF)

8. Wyoming Dinosaur Dig – Field Report No. 1

by Bob Simon, Richmond Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Collecting Bag, 7/07 (EFMLS)

9. Axinite

by Dr. David Hess, West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club
From: Rock Chatter, 3/07 (MWF)

10. Identify Those Unknowns – Mineral Color and Luster Part I

by Hal D. Mahan, Ph.D., The Southern Appalachian Mineral Society
From: Mountain Mineral Monthly, 11/07 (SFMS)

Honorable Mention

The Wells 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, 2/10/07, 9 a.m.

by Sue Gorday, Georgia Mineral Society
From: Tips and Trips, 3/07 (SFMS)

Petrified Wood from Franklin, NJ

by Dave Woolley, CPG;
<woolley.dave@gmail.com>
Lynchburg Gem & Mineral Society
From: Gem and Mineral Journal, 4/07 (EFMLS)

Definition of the Month: Heap Leaching

by Steve Mulqueen, Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
From: Rockhound Rambling, 1/07 (CFMS)

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BULLETIN EDITORS CONTEST WINNERS

continued from page 8

Lucy in Texas

by Neal Immega, Houston Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Backbender's Gazette, 12/07 (SCFMS)

What's a Holectypus?

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 Cave, 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 (NFMS)

3. All About Apophyllite

by Asher Kemp, Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society
From: The Strata Data, 12/07 (MWF)

4. Way Cool Workshop

by Berit Lorton, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society
from: The LOESS Bulletin, 4/07 (MWF)

5. Starstruck!

by Jocelyn Regehr, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
From: The Post Rock, 2/07 (RMFMS)

6. My Rock Story

by Julianna Cardona, Central PA Rock & Mineral Club
From: Rock Buster News, 11/07 (EFMLS)

7. What a Year

by Blake Sullivan, West Central Illinois Rock
and Mineral Club
From: Rock Chatter, 12/07 (MWF)

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. Learning Wire Weaving

by Elizabeth Siegfried
The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
From: The Mountain Gem, 12/07 (SFMS)

3. In My Own Words – Camp Delaney 2007

by Jillian Berg, Everett Rock & Gem Club
From: Pebbles, 7/07 (NFMS)

4. In My Own Words

by Ransom Samuel Cutshall, Everett Rock & Gem Club
From: Pebbles, 6/07 (NFMS)

5. The Opal in Myth and Folklore

by Isabel Salmon, New Haven Mineral Club
From: Triassic Valley Bulletin, 1/07 (EFMLS)

6. LOESS Scores a Victory in Black Rock

by David Carter, Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society
From: The LOESS Bulletin, 12/07 (MWF)

7. Our Journey to the World's Best Kyanite Mine

by Zachary McKinney, Lynchburg Gem & Mineral Society
From: Gem & Mineral Journal, 10/07 (EFMLS)

8. Gold

by Rodney Duncan, Motherlode Mineral Society
From: MLMS Ghost Sheet, 11/07 (CFMS)

Adult Poetry (11 entries)

1. Fossilimericks

by Matt Westbrook, Maryland Geological Society
From: The Rostrum, 3/07 (EFMLS)

2. Messages in Stone

by Steven Wade Veatch, 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, J.D.
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 Mitscherling, Houston Gem
and Mineral Society
From: The Backbender's Gazette, 10/07 (SCFMS)

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
and Mineral Society
From: Green Valley Rocker, 6/07 (CFMS)

10. Ode to Ted

by Vi Jones, Skagit Rock & Gem Club
From: Skagit Gems, 10/07 (NFMS)

HM. April's Show 2007

by Joan Harkin, Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club
From: Rockhound Special, 5/07 (NFMS)

Junior Poetry (2 entries)

1. SMILODON

by Nick Riebeek, 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

Mary Polacek, Editor
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Ventura, CA (CFMS)

2. Rock Writings

Jeanne Boone, Editor
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Nevada City, CA (CFMS)

3. The Collecting Bag

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

4. Skagit Gems

Kate McKinney, Editor
Skagit Rock & Gem Club, Mt. Vernon, WA (NFMS)

5. Chips & Chatter

Anita Dresner, Editor
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas
Richardson, TX (SCFMS)

6. The Hound's Tale

Paula Truitt, Editor
Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, Arlington, TX (SCFMS)

7. The Rockytier

Rhonda Taylor, Editor
Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society, Lubbock, TX (SCFMS)

8. Rock-A-Teer

Dana James, Editor
Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Puyallup, WA (NFMS)

Mini Bulletins (7 entries)

1. Lowcountry Diggings

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 Nugget

Sandra J. Grych, Editor
North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society
Mathiston, MS (SFMS)

4. The Rock Tablet

Randy & Sandra Phillips, Editors
Neville Public Museum Geology Club
Green Bay, WI (MWF)

5. Nuggets & Pebbles

Liz Williams, Editor
Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society
Lebanon, OR (NFMS)

6. Fredericksburg Rockhounds News

Bill & Cheryl Wildfong, Editors
Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Fredericksburg, TX (SCFMS)

7. A Stone's Throw

Dick Wendel, Editor
The Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club, Bozeman, MT (NFMS)

Small Bulletins, Top 10

1. West Seattle Petroglyphs

Mike Wall, Editor
West Seattle Rock Club, Seattle, WA (NFMS)

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BULLETIN EDITORS CONTEST WINNERS

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2. Crack 'N Cab

Loren Patterson, Editor

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

3. The Shin-Skinner News

Joy Bourne, Editor

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

4. The Stone Chipper

Laura & David Dow, Editors

Austin Gem & Mineral Society, Austin, TX (SCFMS)

5. High Country Gleamings

Margaret Johnson, Editor

Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society
Hendersonville, NC (SFMS)

6. Boulder Bouncer

Anna Denton, Editor

East Alabama Gem & Mineral Society, Opelika, AL (SFMS)

7. Chipper's Chatter

Rebecca Kays, Editor

Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society
Baltimore, MD (EFMLS)

8. Snoopy Gems

John & Billie Wright, Editors

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society
Ocean Springs, MS (SFMS)

9. Mineral Minutes

Georgia Olmstead, Editor

Mineralogical Society of District of Columbia
Arlington, VA (EFMLS)

10. Napa Gems

Jennifer Haley, Editor

Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club, Napa, CA (CFMS)

Honorable Mention

The Rockhounder

Wendell Mohr, Editor

Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Montgomery County,
MD, Gaithersburg, MD (EFMLS)

The Pick & Dop Stick

Fran Gutkowski, Editor

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

McCurtain Gem & Mineral Newsletter

Carole Ann Griffin, Editor

McCurtain County Gem & Mineral Club
Idabel, OK (RMFMS)

The Strata Data

Michele Yamanaka, Editor

Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society
Fort Wayne, IN (MWF)

The Quarry

Jim & Judy Budnik, Editors

Cincinnati Mineral Society, Cincinnati, OH (MWF)

Ore-Cutts

Debbie Hood, Editor

Orcutt Mineral Society, Santa Maria, CA (CFMS)

Tulip City Conglomerate

Julia Sherwood, Editor

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

Rock-N-Rose

Susan Burch, Editor

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Tyler, TX (SCFMS)
Summit Gem

Pat Powers, Editor

Summit Lapidary Club, Cuyahoga Falls, OH (MWF)

Flatirons Facets

Barry Knapp/Dennis Gertenbach, Eds.

Flatirons Mineral Club, Boulder, CO (RMFMS)

The Pineywoods Rooter,

John D. Nash, Editor

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society
Jasper, TX (SCFMS)

The Hatrockhound Gazette

LaVonna Griffin, Editor

Hatrockhound Gem & Mineral Society
Hermiston, OR (NFMS)

Beacon

Karen Murphy/Tim O'Donnell, Eds.

Tim O'Donnell/Grant County Rolling Stones Gem &
Mineral Society, Silver City, NM (RMFMS)

The Rock-It

Patty Amos, Editor

Mt. Hood Rock Club, Gresham, OR (NFMS)

Large Bulletins, Top 10

1. The Pegmatite

Anne Schafer, Editor

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
San Diego, CA (CFMS)

2. Gem Cutter News

Carolyn Weinberger, Editor

Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD (EFMLS)

3. Pick & Pack

Betty Cain, Editor

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
Colorado Springs, CO (RMFMS)

4. The Matrix

Kris Jarusevicius, Editor

Sacramento Mineral Society, Sacramento, CA (CFMS)

5. The Mountain Gem

Linda Behr, Editor

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
Franklin, NC (SFMS)

6. Hy Grader

Beth Heesacker, Editor

Tualatin Valley Gem Club, Forest Grove, OR (NFMS)

7. Pebbles

Shawn van der Putten, Editor

Everett Rock & Gem Club, Everett, WA (NFMS)

8. Rocky Echoes

James A. Monk, Editor

Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society, Jackson, MS (EFMLS)

9. Tips and Trips

Tom Batcha, Editor

The Georgia Mineral Society, Atlanta, GA (SFMS)

10. The Lithnics

Tom Kottyan, Editor

The Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society
Mansfield, OH (MWF)

Honorable Mention

Ghost Sheet

Chris Whittier, Editor

Mother Lode Mineral Society of California
Modesto, CA (CFMS)

The Umpqua Gem

Brenda Britton, Editor

Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club, Roseburg, OR (NFMS)

The Hot Springs Bulletin

Ray Lynch, Editor

The Hot Springs Geology Club, Hot Springs, AR (SCFMS)

The Vug Examiner

Edward Mattson, Editor

Stamford Mineralogical Society, Stamford, CT (EFMLS)

Special Publications (8 entries)

1. Meteoroids, Meteors, and Meteorites

by Zeb William Rike, III Ph.D.

Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, Jasper, TX (SCFMS)

2. McPherson County 4-H & McPherson Gem & Mineral Club Field Trip to the Pennsylvanian

by Lois Larson

McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
McPherson, KS (RMFMS)

3. "Scrapbook of a Show"

by Judith Washburn

Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society, Springfield, IL (MWF)

4. What It's All About

by Betty Cain

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
Colorado Springs, CO (RMFMS)

5. Show Committee Performance Booklet

by Betty Cain

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
Colorado Springs, CO (RMFMS)

6. Our Favorite Rockhound Books

by Sandy Fuller

Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club
Minneapolis, MN (MWF)

7. Poetry About Editors

by Margaret Good

Austin Gem & Mineral Society, Austin, TX (SCFMS)

8. "Souvenir Program"

by John M. Wright

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society
Ocean Springs, MS (SFMS)

ALL-AMERICAN CLUB "YEARBOOK" AWARD – 2008

SECTION I - 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

ALL-AMERICAN CLUB "YEARBOOK" AWARD – 2008

Page 2

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 _____

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.

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ALL-AMERICAN CLUB "YEARBOOK" AWARD – 2008

Page 3

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/collecting 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:

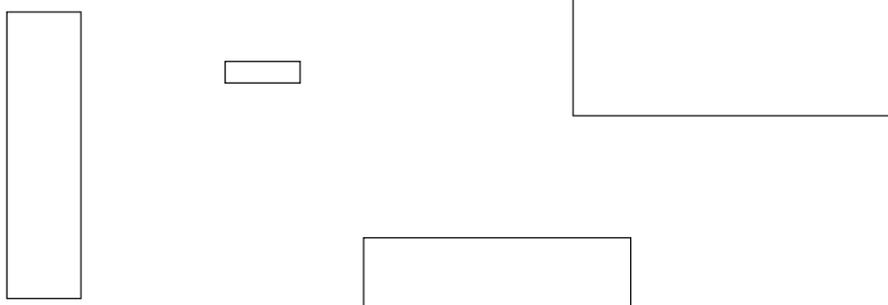
1. Each entry is to be submitted as a single document, limited to a maximum of 100 pages (one- or two-sided), including text and graphics. A loose leaf notebook or a scrapbook is a suitable binder. Entries may be submitted on a CD or DVD. Pages must be delineated, and the same numbers apply.

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 legislations. 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, Vinagre 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
<osjw@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
<lgralg@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
<slhaaruir@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 Mullaney
<rockyfv@aol.com>

Nominating
Shirley Leeson (see Historian)

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland (See Endowment)

Past President's Advisory
Shirley Leeson (see Historian)

Photography
Clyf Bourne
<cwbournesr@epix.net>

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret@qtm.net>

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

Public Relations
Fran Sick
<ednfran@epix.net>

Safety
Ted Rieth
<tjrieth@epix.net>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
Barbara Jacobsen
<barbjake@embarqmail.com>

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

Ways and Means
Marve Starbuck
<greenstone@iserv.net>

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

Ad Hoc Webmaster Contest
Phyllis George
<pgeorge4@houston.rr.com>

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

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

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Endowment Fund)
Joy Bourne, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Arlene Burkhalter, Treasurer

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. Lets 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.