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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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Volume 62, Number 2
December – January, 2009

ROCK & GEM NOW OUR “OFFICIAL” MAGAZINE!

from Shirley Leeson, AFMS Past President

I'm delighted to share some exciting news with all of you. The AFMS Officers and Directors have selected *Rock & Gem* Magazine as the official magazine of the American Federation!

Rock & Gem is published by Miller Magazines and our own International Relations Chair, Bob Jones is its Senior Editor. He and his “boss” Lynne Varon, Managing Editor of the magazine have been actively promoting the AFMS and several of its activities for the past year and plan to continue doing so in years to come.

Rock & Gem is the last of the true “rockhound” magazine now that *Lapidary Journal* has been morphed into *Jewelry Arts/Lapidary Journal*. *Mineralogical Record* and *Rocks & Minerals* of course continue as outstanding publications, but their focus is on minerals, not on rockhounds. Each issue of *R & G* contains articles on field trips, minerals, projects and a series of kids activities.

The November issue includes an editorial by Lynne Varon entitled “Find Your Voice” touting the AFMS Conservation &

Legislation program, plus information about our efforts to get the U.S. Postal Service to produce a series of commemorative stamps featuring birthstones and an early plug for the AFMS 2009 Convention in Billings, MT by Bob Jones.



If you're not already a subscriber, and thus a supporter of the magazine, you can easily get information by visiting their website <www.rockngem.com> or by calling them at 760-291-1549.

Not yet had the opportunity of meeting our International Relations Chair Bob Jones? He's always at the club show in Tucson each February, the Denver Show each September, the Springfield show each August in W. Springfield, MA and many, many local club shows. He's also scheduled to be the speaker at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop in 2010.

Our association with *Rock & Gem* can truly be a symbiotic relationship - we subscribe and the magazine supports the efforts of the American Federation and our local clubs.

CORRECTIONS

There were a couple of errors in the November issue of the AFMS Newsletter.

All American Awards should have also listed the Clackamette Mineral & Gem Corporation of Oregon, winner of a Bronze Medal in the Large Club category.

The name of the Program Competition winner is Andres Ruben and the title of his presentation is of course “Franklin, NJ – Fluorescent Capital of the World”.

We regret the errors.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Seasons' Greetings.....	2	All American Yearbook.....	10
Election/Ballot Results	2	Rockhound Rendezvous	10
New – Webmaster's Contest.....	3	Program Competition Entry Form	10
Endowment Drawing Results.....	4	AFMS Committee Chairs.....	11
Safety.....	4	ALAA at the South Central Convention....	12
Words of Caution.....	5		
Upcoming Federation Conventions.....	5		
Public Relations	6		
Quick Tips for Editors.....	6		
A New Years Resolution.....	6		
Junior Activities.....	7		
Club Rockhounds of the Year.....	7		
Program Competition	9		



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SEASONS' GREETINGS!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS President

The new Federation year is underway, and while I have just barely finished wrapping up 2008, I am already reading and hearing reports of activities underway on current and new projects in several areas of our programs of work.

The 2008 Convention packet was sent to AFMS Officers and Directors prior to the scheduled meeting in Texas, and for those of you who did see the booklet, I am pleased to tell you that via mail ballot, we have approved the addition of a new Ad-Hoc committee this year; the Ad-Hoc Webmaster Contest.

The committee which will be headed up by Phyllis George, will provide for recognition for these faithful people who do such a marvelous job of keep us informed at the local club level, the Regional Federation level and at the AFMS level. You will be hearing more about the contest elsewhere in this issue.

We also have interim reports of two Ad-Hoc Committees which have been functioning during the past year. The Ad-Hoc Contest/Competitions program under the chairmanship of Ron Carman (SCFMS) reports that the regional federations members of the committee have not been exactly overwhelmed by a large number of requests for ideas and suggestions for most of the programs. That means we all need to make our voices heard, here. Of the replies which have been received, competition for Club Publications committee has received the most positive comments, Uniform Rules and competitive exhibiting has received mixed reviews; Club Rockhound of the Year is a real winner, and the All American Club seems to be falling behind in popularity with our members. Why not sit down and write a note to Ron and let him know what you think about these contests or competitions; Should they be continued? Either way - let him or your Regional Committee representative know why or why not. Regional Committee Members to contact:

CFMS - Dorothy Beachler EFMLS - Mary Bateman MWF - Bob & Kathy Miller
NFMS - Dorothy Lee RMFMS - Richard & Linda Jaeger SFMS - Buddy Shotts

Dick Pankey reported that his Ad-Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trips committee had a very successful outing in Springs, NV last May. He reports "The Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous was held for six days over the 2008 Memorial Day Weekend. Over 140 people from the NFMS, CFMS, RMFMS and MWF Federations came to our Rendezvous. They represented over 45 clubs from 12 states. We had rockhounds of all ages from 4 to 84." If you missed reading about it in the AFMS Newsletter, you can still see the article on the AFMS website. Go to the Newsletter page from the opening screen of the website (www.amfed.org) and select September issue of the AFMS Newsletter You will find a complete report of the outing on page 5.

It looks like another great year for AFMS - Try out these new committees and let the Chairman know what you think about making it a permanent committee. The two latter committees are now in their second year of a three-year tryout, and they would like to hear from you.

Best wishes for a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season to all of you. I expect to be back in the next issue.

Joy

ELECTION/BALLOT RESULTS

by Steve Weinberger, Central Office Administrator

With the cancellation of the annual meeting in Houston, it became necessary for the AFMS to conduct business by mail. Ballots were sent to each AFMS Officer and Director listing the items from the agenda and asking that they be returned by a specific date.

The ballots have now been received and counted and all items have been approved.

Your newly elected AFMS officers for 2009 are

Joy Bourne, President (EFMLS)
Emerson Tucker, President-elect (SCFMS)
Bob Miller, 1st Vice President (MWF)
Lauren Williams, 2nd Vice President (NFMS)

Ann Monroe, 3rd Vice President (SFMS)
Richard Jaeger, 4th Vice President (RMFMS)
Colleen McGann, 5th Vice President (CFMS)
Pat LaRue, Treasurer (2-year term)
Anne Cook, Secretary was not up for election this year.

There will be an increase in AFMS dues from 50¢ to 75¢, a variety of OP changes were approved and as you read on page 1, a new Webmaster's Contest was approved on a 3-year trial basis, and adoption of Rock & Gem as our official magazine.



NEW- WEBMASTER'S CONTEST!

by Phyllis George, AdHoc Webmaster's Competition Chair

It's official—the AFMS Officers and Directors have just voted to create a Webmaster Contest on a three-year trial basis. Ike House (new president of the SCFMS) first started a Webmaster Contest within his region while he was the SCFMS Bulletin Aids Chair. Marty Hart, AFMS Webmaster, took the SCFMS Webmaster Contest judging sheet as a start, and he did an outstanding job of developing the documents that are now available for download on the AFMS Web site. The entry form, judging score sheets, and the score sheet guidelines will all be available on the AFMS Web site <<http://www.amfed.org/>> by the time you read this.

I am assembling a Webmaster Contest Committee that will have one member from each regional federation, and that person should be knowledgeable about Web sites and webmasters. Dan Imel has already agreed to be the Committee member from the Eastern Federation. Marty Hart will be our advisor and mentor. I'm open to suggestions for committee members from the other regions. I hope many people will send in the names and e-mail addresses of webmasters whom they feel would be great on the committee. We will be lining up two contest judges from each region, but these judges will be judging entries outside their own region. So I also want suggestions from all over the U.S. for club webmasters who would do a great job of judging Web sites.

Each Committee member is tasked with announcing the new contest to all the club webmasters in their regional federation and with sending out all the Webmaster Contest forms by e-mail. To participate in the contest,

club webmasters need to fill out the entry form and return it to the Webmaster Contest Committee member from their region. The Committee members will send all the entrants' Web site addresses to their two regional judges. When the completed judging forms come back, the Committee members will determine the regional winner and send that winning entry off to the two AFMS judges for evaluation. Since this contest is "on probation" so to speak for three years, the decision was made to have only one winner from each regional federation and one winner at the AFMS level during that time. This contest will run concurrently with the Bulletin Editors' Contest—same due dates at the regional level for Webmaster Contest entries and the Bulletin Editors' Contest entries. The regional judging results will be announced at the regional Bulletin Editors' Contest. The AFMS judging results will be announced at the AFMS Bulletin Editor's Breakfast. The AFMS schedule is as follows:

By February 28, 2009

AFMS Judges List is sent to all regional Webmaster Contest Judges

March 31, 2009

All regional entries forwarded to the AFMS contest are due to the two AFMS Judges.

May 15, 2009

All AFMS contest entries judged and the results returned to Phyllis George by the two AFMS judges.

July 31–August 2, 2009

NFMS/AFMS joint Show & Convention in Billings, Montana. Results will be announced at the Bulletin Editors' Breakfast.

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

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MERRY CHRISTMAS **HAPPY HANUKAH**
WE'RE TAKING A BREAK

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS JANUARY 1, 2009



HERE IS THE NEWS YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

by Joy Bourne, 2007-08 Endowment Fund chair

AND THE WINNERS FOR 2008 ARE...

	Prize	Donor	Winner	Hometown
1	Selenite plate on amethyst pipe	Anonymous	Jim Gadden	Joplin, MO
2	"Kauri Gum" from New Zealand	Howell Whiting	Mark Sherwood	Oak Grove, MO
3	Nevada Virgin Valley Opal	Gene Straw	Charles Hessler	Athens, PA
4	Brazilian Amethyst Pipe	Gary Peve	George Coursey	St. Augustine, IL
5	Faceted CZ Gemstone Pendant	Steve Weinberger	John Kuehn	Rockville, MD
6	Faceted Texas Topaz - "Lone Star" cut	Don Buhl	Dee Tinsley	Amhurst, VA
7	U.S. Digital Balance Scale	Dan Ceacle	Tom Burchard	Ogden, UT
8	Engraved Vase, "4 Witches" pattern	B. Jay Bowman	Delcyne Grant	Tahlequah, OK
9	Michigan Copper/Mining share	Pamela Hecht	Larry Costigan	Newport, MN
10	Royal Lavender Charoite Pendant	Marion Roberts	Heidi Otto	E. Norriton, PA
11	Fossil Leaf Collage	Steven Holley	Lonnie Griffin	Sherrard, IL
12	Ceremonial Indian Knife Replica	Henry Vaughn	J.C. Moore	Cuba, IL
13	Cameo & Cross Moonstone carvings	Kenneth Neaves	Fran Sick	Dushore, PA
14	Burning bush Rhyolite Bead Necklace	Betty James	Bess Novak	Berwyn, IL
15	Faceted Portuguese Cut Rose Quartz	Buddy Shotts	Ray Gottschalk	Cherokee Village, AR
16	Texas Lone Star Cut Topaz Pendant	Jill Rowlands Moffitt	Betty Morris	Mt Pleasant, IA

Congratulations to all the lucky winners - Your prizes are on their way! And our grateful thanks go to all those who participated in the 2008 Fund Raiser to benefit the Endowment Fund ! This year's drive was the most successful drive we have had in the five years I have been chairing the committee - and we especially wish to thank our tireless Regional committee members for their outstanding work in promoting and soliciting donations throughout the Federation.

Thanks to Bural LaRue, CFMS; John Washburn, MWF; Rocky McCall, NFMS; Howell Whiting; RMFMS; Joyce Speed, SCFMS; and Ken Anderson SFMS. EFMLS promotion was ably handled by Regional Vice Presidents, Katy Collins, Michael Kessler, Hazel Remaley, Dee Tinsley, Doug Dover, Betty James and Barbara Ringhiser, assisted by volunteer Carolyn Weinberger and yours truly,

In addition to the funds generated by the annual fund raiser, we have received generous gifts from several clubs and organizations within the Federation. Gifts have been received from Roswell Stamps Committee; Wendell & JoAnn Mohr; Fossils for Fun Club; Santa Clara Gem & Mineral Society; GLMS of Montgomery Co., MD; and the Ye Old Timer's Club. Thank you all for your gifts. What a great way to support the work of the AFMS!

A large part of our success again this year is due to our media masters Marty Hart, and Carolyn Weinberger for their prompt and excellent promotion of our effort on the AFMS Website and in the AFMS Newsletter, which kept everyone informed as new prizes were added to the list. Special thanks to these most important people.

In case you do not know, the Endowment Fund principal fund can never be spent. It is invested by our financial geniuses. However, the interest generated by this investment may be used to fund special programs which are offered to all members of all clubs of all Regional Federations in the AFMS. For example in the budget planned for 2009, programs which are to be funded by the Fund are the Slide and Video Library programs, including the duplication and conversion to new media; The Uniform Rules Judges Training program; the Junior Badge program and the ad Hoc Advertising program.

SAFETY

*by Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chair
from the CFMS Newsletter, October, 2008*

It has been quite a while since we had any shop safety. The following is from chapter two of the AFMS Safety Manual.

The following safety rules, if followed, will lessen the risk of possible harm or injury. Protect your eyes when chipping or grinding rocks. WEAR PROTECTIVE GLASSES. Run your grinding wheels no faster than the speed recommended by the manufacturer. Do not let your {Ceramic/stone} wheel become water logged. Keep it running until all water has been thrown out; otherwise, it will cause a heavy spot and make your wheel out of balance. Keep your wheel true. It will wear longer and there will be less chance of its parting while in use.

Keep all belt pulleys and belts covered. It may save a finger. Use dop sticks whenever possible. It may save a badly cut finger. A word of warning to those individuals who use dry sanding of their cabochons: Silicosis is a serious disease which is caused by the inhalation of fine silica dust. Use a dust mask or suction blower, or change to wet sanding. Silicosis cannot be cured!

Be careful with your alcohol lamp. It can cause a fire. Keep all containers properly labeled. Putting polishing powders in empty baking powder cans, for instance, without a proper label, can be dangerous. (If you put the polishing powder in an empty baking powder can, your wife could use it with disastrous results).

The use of Oxalic Acid, when properly used, greatly facilitates the polishing of agates. Oxalic Acid is caustic to the skin, as well as a frank poison, if accidentally ingested or inhaled. Also, getting some in the eyes from the spray from the polishing wheels, may cause a burn of the cornea, resulting in impaired eyesight. When using this acid, proper precautions must be taken.

continued on next page

That means that YOU benefit from the efforts of all the people named above! Why not think about when and how much you can donate to the Endowment Fund?

Please send your 2009 contributions to:
Dee Holland
Chairman AFMS Endowment Fund
PO Box 23
Tendoy, ID 834-0023

Thanks,
Joy

WORDS OF CAUTION

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

By the time you read this article the national elections will be over and regardless of the outcome we are going to be facing the possibilities of significant changes in our access to public lands. The senate has before it a bi-partisan package known as the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2008. This Act is a sweeping package that contains numerous "bills" that will add millions of acres of new wilderness and other public lands to the areas now under government protection.

Senate Majority Leader, Senator Harry Reid may call the Senate back for a "lame duck session" to vote on this bill after the national elections. Since this is a bi-partisan bill, it may be allowed to die if the Democrats win a substantial number of seats and a more liberal version could conceivably be written next year.

Besides the thousands of acres that will be added to the Wilderness Areas and National Parks, a new entity will be established known as the National Landscape Conservation System. This will essentially place an additional 26 million acres of public lands to be controlled by BLM under a "National Park" type system which will eliminate or severely limit any type of recreational mining. The public lands that are designated as Wilderness Areas are already "off limits" for all practical purposes for most types of recreational activity. The Paleontological Resources Preservation

Act, HR554, which was resurrected again earlier this year and approved by committee, could conceivably be added to the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2008.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 originally consisted of 9.1 million acres of national forest wilderness areas. As of 2004, the Wilderness System comprises over 107 million acres involving federal lands administered by four agencies: the National Park Service (43,616,250 acres), U.S. Forest Service (34,867,591 acres), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (20,699,108 acres), and Bureau of Land Management (6,512,227 acres) for a total of : 107,436,608 acres. Using these figures as a reference, I think we can safely assume the areas set aside for The National Landscape Conservation System will grow accordingly and the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, if passed into law, will be substantially expanded over the coming years.

The environmentalists are also working diligently at having states and large private land owners convert their properties into wilderness areas similar to the ones owned by the U.S. government. The environmentalists are well organized and financed, which in many cases allows them to exert considerable pressure on land owners. This is going to further limit many areas that can be used for recreational purposes.

SAFETY

continued from page 4

It is advisable to apply the polish to the wheel with a brush. Wear protective glasses. It may be advisable, under certain circumstances, to wear protective gloves. Immediately wash any contact areas of the skin with soap and water. Medical attention may be advisable.

Sulfuric Acid and Nitric Acid are sometimes mixed with polishing compounds when faceting sapphire. They are also used in the polishing of sapphire cabochons on lead laps.

These acids are severe caustics and will cause severe burns if they come in contact with the skin or eyes. In using the techniques above, one must use the utmost precautions. Any contaminated areas must immediately be washed with soap and water. If any gets in the eyes, thoroughly irrigate with water and seek medical attention. The application of a baking-soda pack is often advisable or the sponging with a solution of baking soda in water to the burned area.

The polishing compounds we use today are, as a rule, relatively non-toxic, except to some individual. The use of detergents added to the polishing powders could cause dermatitis of the hands. This can be eliminated if the offending substance is eliminated.

The use of Epoxy Resins is very irritating to the skin, and severe cases of dermatitis have resulted. This can easily be prevented by not getting the hands in actual contact with the resins. Acetone will

continued on page 12

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, Convention Coordinator



Please remember to send me the dates of your regional federation convention as soon as they are announced for inclusion here. In addition, it is critical that no regional convention conflicts with the AFMS Convention since the regional president and vice president are expected to be at the annual AFMS meeting to represent their clubs. If at all possible, we should also try and avoid having two regional federation conventions at the same time.

Send your regional federation convention dates to me at <gemguy@verizon.net>.

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2009	April 17-19 San Jose, CA	Oct. 17-18 Bristol, CT	May 16-17 Parma, OH	AFMS July 30 - Aug. 2 Billings MT		Oct. 10-11 Temple, TX	
2010	AFMS Aug. 5 - 10 Riverside, CA					Nov. 13 - 14 DeRidder, LA	
2011							

PUBLIC RELATIONS OR PUBLICITY – IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

by Fran Sick, Public Relations Chair



Webster's Dictionary defines publicity as: an act or device designed to attract public interest; specifically: information with news value issued as a means of gaining public attention or support; while public relations is defined as: the business of inducing the public to have understanding for and goodwill toward a person, firm or institution. So technically, yes, there is a difference. But does it really matter?

Whether you call him/her your Publicity or Public Relations Chairman, Public Information Officer, or whatever, I imagine most clubs have only one person responsible for both of these important activities. If her or she is really good at both, and is receiving full cooperation from all members, your club is probably gaining at least a few new members on a regular basis and may frequently receive requests from schools or other groups to present programs. If this is not happening maybe a little extra effort is needed.

Have you ever patronized a place of business and felt like your business was not appreciated, or even that it was an annoyance or unwelcome intrusion to the person helping you? If so I am sure you were not anxious to return. Our clubs and federations are businesses, and we certainly want people to feel welcome. It does not matter how much great publicity we have if our public relations efforts do not make people feel welcome and excited about what we offer. Just one negative comment or failure to project a positive attitude by just one member, which may then be passed on to a couple of friends or relatives, who then pass it on to a couple more, and who knows how many potential members may be lost.

With this in mind I would like to offer a suggestion. We are always looking for ideas for programs. Why not take ten or fifteen minutes at a club meeting to address this important issue. It could be done by the president, public relations chairman or by any club member with a positive attitude who is committed to seeing your club grow and prosper. I realize we all know the importance of a good first impression, but a little reminder can't hurt. If you are interested and would like more ideas, feel free to contact me at ednfran@epix.net. As I said last month, public relations is everyone's job.

May you have a wonderful holiday season and may all your dreams of beautiful rocks and special friends come true.

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Aids 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>](mailto: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.



CATCHING UP ...!

All AFMS awards have been mailed to the editors who submitted them to the regional BEACs, except for RMFMS. I will present the AFMS awards to RMFMS winners at the Breakfast with Editors in Tulsa, November 8. By the time you read this, you should have received certificates and/or trophies.

Again: 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>](mailto: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

If you would like to view the new judging sheets for the 2009 Bulletin Editor's Contest, go to the AFMS website, [<www.amfed.org>](http://www.amfed.org), and look for the hotlinks for the 2009 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest. These judging sheets are a "fill-in" format for BEACs to use once they have their top three regional winners.

Any BEAC who wants to use the same format (wording) for their regional score sheets has permission to do so. If you are interested in making your regional judging sheets downloadable & "fillable," the software we used for the AFMS forms is called CutePDF Professional. There is a trial version (free), and if you like it you can purchase the software for about \$50. The web address to download it is: [<www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/Pro.asp>](http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/Pro.asp).

I thought it was pretty easy to use and definitely worth the price for what it does. It is created for use on a PC, and it will not work on a Mac. However, once you have created the fillable pdf files, they work fine on any computer that has Adobe Reader (which is a free download from adobe.com).

Have you come across a really neat software program? If you would like to share that information with the rest of us, please let me know about it!



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

A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION!

from the AFMS Central Office

Here's an easy resolution for the new year that you can easily keep. Take 5 minutes and notify the AFMS Central Office (and your own regional federation) about your new club officers. How else can we keep you and your members informed about important information?

Send the name of your club, the name and address of your club president, secretary, Federation Director (liaison), and editor along with the office each holds, to the AFMS Central Office at [<central_office@amfed.org>](mailto:central_office@amfed.org) and we'll update our mailing list.

In addition, most of our regional federations are in the process of collecting membership dues for 2009. When their request comes, please respond promptly so it's not forgotten!

HAVING FUN – JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

Youth Education Opportunities at the HGMS Annual Show

The following article was written by Scott Singleton, the 2008 Houston Gem & Mineral Society/AFMS/SCFMS Show Chairman, to describe the kids' activities that HGMS provides at their annual show. Scott concludes with a web link that I strongly encourage everyone to check out. Without doubt, it's one of the finest club-constructed web sites I've seen, with superb resources for kids, parents, teachers, and scout leaders. Very nicely done, HGMS! And now, without further ado, here's Scott:



By now I'm sure everyone knows this year's AFMS show, which was to be held in Houston, suffered a direct hit from Hurricane Ike two weeks prior to show time. We held our show anyway, and it turned out to be our typical great show. There were some casualties, namely, the AFMS, which cancelled its annual meeting, and our public schools, which cancelled their reservations for our earth science program on Friday because they were just beginning to get back to class following the hurricane. Nonetheless, our youth educational programs went on as planned, albeit on a smaller scale. Because we were not able to showcase these programs to the AFMS, Jim asked me to describe them to you in his column.

We have two programs specifically aimed at youth: our School Daze earth science field trip and our Scout Geology Merit Badge program. The School Daze program occurs on Friday of the show. That day is referred to as "Kids' Day" on all of our literature. Our advertising program for this event encourages elementary and secondary teachers to register their classes to come to the show on a school-sanctioned field trip. If they do, their kids participate in an earth science scavenger hunt. The teachers and chaperones are given a map of the show that gives the route the class must follow to reach each station. Each child has to fill out the scavenger hunt form with the appropriate answer. Stations can be either retail vendors, which fill out a Kids' Day questionnaire form in their dealer packet if they want to participate in this program, or our demo/education booths, which all are required to participate as part of their agreement to be a demo booth in the show. The scavenger hunts are age-appropriate with levels from K through 6, but we have found that the 5/6 level is sufficient for middle school and high school.

Our Scout Geology Merit Badge program occurs on the weekend. We have configured this

program with 9 stations, 3 of which the HGMS teaches. The others are scattered around the show, all at demo/education booths. To staff the three stations HGMS teaches, we call upon Scout counselors experienced in the geology merit badge plus area university geology educators. They have 20-minute sessions that they prepare, and the scouts rotate to each of the three stations before going out into the show to hit the other six stations with their Scout leaders. This program is based on the Webelos Geology Belt Loop and the Junior Girl Scouts Rock Rocks badge, because they are the easiest to teach but hit all the geologic basics. It satisfies most of the Boy Scout Geology Merit Badge and Girl Scout 11-17 Digging Through the Past Badge requirements but not all.

Both of these programs are put together by committees staffed by people experienced in those respective fields. The Education Committee has many current and former teachers who design the program to meet TAKS requirements, and we state so on our literature. The Scout Committee is staffed by current and former Scouts and geologists with input from those counselors and educators who help teach the program.

These programs have been in existence since 2001 and have grown from sparse attendance to overflowing. Initially we faced skepticism from elementary school administrators that thought of us as no more than a retail show. We worked extremely hard to counter this criticism. By 2004, when we held the SCFMS Federation Show, we hit an all-time high 2100 public/private school kids, 625 home school kids, and 930 associated adults. The Scout program attracted 525 Scouts and about 200 associated adults. The home school and Scout numbers have continued at that level since then, but the public schools have had to be cut back because the main complaint we received from teachers was that the convention center was too crowded. We now have strict registration limits per half-hour time slot to prevent overcrowding at any particular time.

For more details, please visit the K-12 Education page on our website, <www.hgms.org>.



2008 Houston Show Jr. Activities
John Mitscherling photo

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair

It gives us great pleasure to recognize the following individuals as their clubs "Rockhound of the Year". Each AFMS affiliated club may recognize one individual or one couple per year as well as one junior member for their contributions to their club. Submissions should be 50 words or less and should be sent to your regional federation ACROY chair. (See your regional federation Directory or website to determine who that is.)

We're starting the collection for 2009! The record book is blank so every club, even those who recognized someone in 2008 may do someone else for 2009. What a wonderful way for you to share your "hidden treasures" with the rest of the AFMS family!

Here are the latest honorees.



California Federation

The Delvers Gem & Mineral Society would like to recognize **John Vincent** for his many years of service to the club. John and his wife joined Delvers in 1957. At that time he taught science in the local schools and founded Prospector Clubs for his students. He became treasurer of Delvers in 1959, President in 1960 and Show Chair in 1961. He has held many jobs since. Presently he is our Librarian. For many years he put his background in security to good use at our shows. He was an active field-tripper and has a large collection of gems, minerals, and fossils including a lot of self-collected Lake Superior Agate.

submitted by Nancy Bird, Secretary



Midwest Federation

The Spring River Gem and Mineral Club, Cherokee Village, AR., proudly submits the name of **Betty Shaffer** as their Rockhound of the Year 2008. Betty has taken on the responsibility of Treasurer for several years, also this year due to health reason, when our newly elected Treasurer had to vacate the position; Betty volunteered to fill in the void and again did an admirable job. Her Dedication as treasurer and enthusiasm for minerals & fossils is unique. Betty has participated in several field trips in search of minerals & fossils and has always managed to have her vehicle full to capacity. Even during her weekly hunting for treasures, she acquired additional pieces of minerals to add to her huge collection. She also

continued on page 8

CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

continued from page 7

has donated many nice mineral specimens for our Club's silent auction and for the rock swaps. SRGMC is extremely happy to have a person like Betty Shaffer as member of our club and we very much appreciate everything she has done. Thank you!

*submitted by the members of the
Spring River Gem & Mineral Club*

I wish to nominate **Dale Snyder** for the honor of Rockhound of the Year. He is always willing to share his knowledge and experience with a novice, regardless of the questions they ask or the lengthy explanations that they needed. In addition, Dale has worked for almost every event the club has sponsored, and has never expected anything in return! Dale is that rare type of member who loves our hobby and is always willing to give of his time to benefit our club.

submitted by David Dick, President

The West Central Illinois Rock & Mineral Club would like to honor two members we feel truly deserve recognition as Rockhounds of the Year - **J.C. and Donna Moore**. Hard work and excellent volunteers are necessary to make any venture a success. We have been fortunate enough to have two exceptional volunteers. Donna is newsletter editor, mentors our youth and encourages them to have displays in our club show. She helps with show advertising and arranging displays, helps organize field trips and always brings lots of fun items as well as her UV light for "show and tell".

JC, our club treasurer, helps put out the signs for our club show, helps with the silent auction at the show and is a willing (well usually) participant in whatever trouble Donna finds to get him into.

Both Donna and JC are involved in the MWF, with Donna being the Secretary and JC being on the scrapbook committee. Our club benefits from their willingness to attend and bring back information from the MWF and AFMS meetings.

*submitted by the members of the
West Central Illinois Rock & Mineral Club*

I am pleased and honored to nominate **Velma Bower** of the Loup Valley Gem and Mineral Society and the Northeast Nebraska Gem and Mineral Society as the Rockhound of the Year. Velma has made exceptional contributions to the enjoyment of the mineral sciences in Nebraska. She has been a secretary-treasurer of the club since its founding in 1972, except for the year she was club president. She has kept the treasurer's books, answered correspondence, recorded club minutes, and recorded membership dues for the last 36 years! What a record of service. In addition, she and her husband Roy

are one of the founding members of the club.

Velma and Roy were active in the Nebraska State Organization of Mineral Clubs (NOSCI), serving as officers and in the MWF. After Roy's passing, Velma donated many of her fine specimens to the silent auction at our annual club show. Velma has been a terrific benefit to our NE rock club and to rockhounding in general. She has really made a difference.

submitted by Ben Vrana

Edwards River Earth Science Club would like to nominate **Lyle Kugler** for the Rockhound of the Year. He has worked long and hard to spread his fascination in Rocks and minerals with the public and with our club members. He is the guiding force in our small club. Even during a bout of ill health he managed to keep our club from slipping into obscurity. His friendly outlook and knowledge of rocks and minerals have brought many members into the club and kept them coming back. He has served repeatedly as an officer of our club and leader of many enjoyable field trips.

submitted by Kathy Thompson, secretary



Northwest Federation

The Billings Gem & Mineral Club nominates **Dale and Helen Fryer** as our Rockhound of the Year. As they are very seldom apart it is fitting that they be nominated as a couple.

Dale is our only living charter member. He and his wife Helen have been an important part of this organization. Helen states that he helped put on the 1975 NFMS show in Billings. They seldom missed a meeting and were always there to help when needed. They were one of our club's biggest promoters, always talking up the club. They would go sit in the heat all day at another function just to introduce new people to the club. Helen often brought refreshments for club meetings and Dale, known as the "Bola King" often made and gave away countless bolas and tumbled material for our show grab bags for years. For the upcoming 2009 AFMS/NFMS show, Dale volunteered to make a Bola as a table favor for each person attending the banquet and luncheons. This couple has probably put in more hours helping out than any other couple in the history of the club.

*submitted by Doug True, Federation Director
Billings Gem & Mineral Club*

West Seattle Rock Club names **Ella Cox** as their Rockhound of the year. A member since 1968 Ella is representative of members who support the club's activities in many ways. In the club she has volunteered her time as various

committee chairs and has always helped when and where needed, including as award winning club newspaper editor, NFMS Bulletin Aids Chairman and Judge.

Retiring in 1981 has afforded her more time for her various interests including fashioning figures of tissue and glue to create scenes inside eggs, creating jewelry boxes of rock encrusted eggs, fashioning lapidary jewelry. But wait, there is more ... painting and poetry, playing the organ, collecting old music, and attending dances. The most visible facet of our hobby in recent years has been her WSRC's "Peoples' Choice" display at the club's annual show ... her miniature train lay-out with gem loaded cars traveling through amethyst mountains.

Thanks, Ella, for inspiring each of us to be creative and to have fun.

*submitted by the Executive Board
West Seattle Rock Club, Inc.*



South Central Federation

Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society nominates **Tim Walker** as Rockhound of the Year for 2008. Very knowledgeable in the field of lapidary, Tim is manager of the club shop. He is at the club house all the time working on equipment.

A well-liked person by all members of the club, he is willing to help teach anyone about lapidary. He not only donates his time; but, if he sees a need, he donates materials for the shop as well.

submitted by the Central Texas G & M Society



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

PROGRAM COMPETITION – WHY BOTHER?

by Marge Collins, Program Chair



- Do you like to share your “rockhound” interests?

- Do you demonstrate at Shows or other events?

- Have you ever prepared a display of minerals, rocks or some other aspect of our hobby?

- Have you presented a program about a special interest at a Club meeting or during a Show?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should seriously consider the next step: Enter Program Competition to share your interest and enthusiasm with viewers across the country!

You ask, why bother?

Viewers across the country will be able to see your presentation.

You’ll earn national recognition.

A cash award helps to defray the expense of producing a presentation.

A digital camera and computer makes this process easier but video or old-fashioned 35mm slides can also be submitted. If need be, ask a fellow Club member or friend to help. In any event, be sure to use the best images possible - “fuzzy” pictures - whether out of focus or low resolution – are counter productive. And when writing a script, remember every professional author has one or more editors. In other words, don’t be satisfied with the first draft. Ask someone to read the script to you. Listen, take notes; and then, re-write as needed. Again a computer is a big help!



The “rules” and entry form are elsewhere on this page. If more info is needed, contact your Regional Librarian (one of the judges) or the Coordinator (see “rules”). We’re looking forward to your entry. And so are viewers across the country!

2009 AFMS PROGRAM COMPETITION RULES

The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Slide, video or digital presentations relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or “EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” for “commercial” presentations.

*Each program is judged on its own merits.

*Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score.

*Judging Form and “Tips for Good Programs” are available from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Library.

WHO MAY ENTER

Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2009 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter. (Does not apply to “Excellence in Education” entries)

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2009

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES

Class 1 - Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.

Class 2 - Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.

Class 3 - How To Do It - techniques/equipment for fossil prep., jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.

Class 4 - Just for Juniors - any of the above for youngsters.

“Excellence in Education” entries are judged separately.

JUDGING (Judges look for:)

-accuracy of information / educational value

-quality of photographs / visuals

-completeness of story

narration that reads/moves well, one slide/view to the next

presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try title, credits and “The End” slides

-phonetic spelling of unfamiliar words in script example: Sault Ste. Marie (SUE saint marie)

For CD or DVD, VHS VIDEOS entries

-submit a copy.

-may be ‘live action’ or static slides with narration.

For SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

-must be 35mm, in standard mounts.

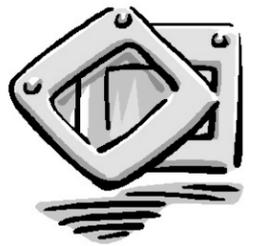
-must be relatively new originals on Kodak compatible film, otherwise good copies may be impossible.

FOR EXCEPTIONS - contact Coordinator

-must be spotted for projection, preferably with a red dot in lower left corner and coded with entrant’s initials.

-must be numbered to match script.

-a script (written narration indicating when each slide is to be projected) preferably typed, ready for duplication. (sample formats available upon request) Script on a “floppy” or CD is very helpful but not required.



AWARDS

A \$200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (with 95+ points),

\$100 if score is 94 - 90 points, (for highest score) in each Class 1 - 4.

In addition, Winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet at Billings MT, August 1, 2009

PROGRAM LENGTH

Adult programs – 30 - 40 minutes is optimum

Juniors - 20 minutes suggested maximum

REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION

By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate their entry for the Regional Libraries. 35mm slides will be scanned by a professional then returned to producer. Arrangements will be made regarding duplication of video / digital presentations. Non-winners will be returned after judging is complete. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

HOW TO ENTER

Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below.

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:

AFMS Program Competition Coordinator,
Marge Collins,
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
Buchanan MI 49107
269-695-4313
<margaret@qtm.net>

Turn to page 10 for the application form.



AN ALL-AMERICAN YEARBOOK

by John Washburn, AFMS Chair

Part VI

Whew! You've gathered together all the material you need to finish Sections 1-6 of the Application Form. Now, you just need to put it all together. A group putting their heads together can garner all kinds of ideas and have fun doing it. Call some of your "rocky" friends in your club and plan a brainstorming session.

Your yearbook can take the form of a note-



book, stuffed with lists, forms, pictures, newspaper articles, printed programs and brochures, etc. Or, as I've suggested before, you can get creative - go a step further and create a scrapbook. Every sizable city has a scrapbooking supply store these days. If you are living in a small town, there's the Internet, where the sites for supplies are almost limitless. Got a Walmart nearby? Most carry a descent supply of scrapbooking materials.

The basics:

-a scrapbook with enough filler pages to hold your material

-backing paper for the fillers to mount your articles and pictures (choose a style that doesn't overshadow your pictures)



-frames for pictures are nice (paper ones, that is); some you can cut out yourself or simply use a plain colored paper backing lettering is available, or you can draw your own

You can go "nuts" with this stuff! There are tons of extras like shapes and borders, rub-on phrases and images, stickers and fancy glitter, etc. You can



spend a fortune. So, make a list before you go and stick to it. You can cut fanciful things from old magazines to decorate your pages. It's actually more creative that way.

Whatever you decide to do, whatever method you choose,

do it with this in mind. Your club yearbook will be treasured by your club for years to come. It is an excellent prop to have on the Membership Table at your club's show to let visitors and potential members see the kinds of things your club is involved in doing throughout the year.

No matter what, have fun!

[Photos are courtesy of Scrapbook Your Story, Springfield, Illinois. Taken by Judith Washburn.]

INTER-REGIONAL ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS

by Richard Pankey, Inter-Regional Field Trip Chair

Our next Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous is schedule for May 20-25, 2009 (Memorial Day Weekend) to Davis Creek/Lassen Creek for **OBSIDIAN!!!** The Rendezvous is hosted by the NFMS and the CFMS.



Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is the premier California obsidian collecting area with an abundance of a great variety of beautiful obsidian. This area is noted for sheen obsidian: multi-colored rainbow, electric blue, green, mahogany-gold, silver, gold and pink sheen. Also to be found is mahogany, lace, double flow and needle obsidian. This area is located on Buck Mt. in the heart of the Modoc National Forest. The altitude ranges from 5000 to 7000 feet. A free permit is required for collecting which will be available at camp. In addition to the collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, speakers, evening campfires, knapping demonstrations, tailgate displays, map exchange, and a great rockhound get-together.

Davis Creek/Lassen Creek is in the extreme northeastern corner of California on Highway 395, between Alturas, CA, and Lakeview, OR. The collecting area is in the mountains behind the little town of Davis Creek, which is 22 miles north of Alturas. Some supplies and gasoline are available at the general store; also ice cream on a hot afternoon. The people at the store are very helpful and prices are reasonable. They can give advice on the road conditions and other local information.

There are two established campgrounds convenient to the collecting areas, although you can camp in many locations throughout the mountains. The Plum Valley Campground has many trees and a stream, but the interior roads are somewhat rough and narrow. Large trailers and motor homes may have difficulty.

A much larger campground that can handle any size rig is the Lassen Creek Campground. This is the campground we will use for our rendezvous. This is a beautiful, spacious campground with enough room for our group and all of our planned activities. There is a stream and big tall pine trees. No facilities are available at any of the campgrounds, except for well maintained pit toilets. All trash must be carried back out. Motels and full hook-up campgrounds are available in Alturas and Lakeview.

There are a lot of other rockhounding opportunities within 100 miles of our Rendezvous site: sunstones, opal, petrified wood, other obsidian sites, geodes and more. The Rendezvous is a good way to start your summer collecting tour. So mark your calendar - **May 20 to 25, 2009**, watch for the trip flier for all the details and start making your plans to join us for another great Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous. The trip flier and other information for the Rendezvous will be posted on the CFMS web site, www.cfmsinc.org in December and other federation web sites.

2009 PROGRAM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

I/we submit " _____ " (title)

in [circle one] Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4
OR "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION" (for programs produced "for sale")

Producer(s) _____
(your name/s)

Club _____

Office _____ Federation _____
[if Club entry]

_____ [street address]

_____ [city] _____ [state] _____ [zip]

Home phone _____ e-mail _____

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR SALE? No _____ Yes _____ Cost: _____

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
<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
<rockyfiv@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

A.L.A.A. AT THE SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION SHOW

by Dick Pankey, A.L.A.A. Vice President

As you are all well aware of by now the AFMS meetings at Humble were canceled because of Hurricane Ike. I was already on my way when I got the news so Betty and I just kept going. Since I was pulling my trailer hotel availability was not an issue for us. We arrived at the Civic Center in Humble to find out that the show was going on as planned. Betty was going to the show to represent the Ye Old Timers Mineral Club and present checks to the AFMS Endowment Fund and the Scholarship Fund.



ALAA is having a slow year due in part to a lack of a newsletter editor. ALAA usually holds its annual meeting and election of officers at the AFMS meeting/show. Unfortunately, President Bob Carlson and the other officers and directors were among those with "no room at the inn" and were unable to attend. I thought that it was important for ALAA to have a presence at the Show so I scheduled a meeting for Saturday afternoon. Since I was helping Betty at the YOTMC information table I posted a sign inviting all ALAA members and any interested people to attend. I put out a sign-up sheet and hoped. I got a few question about what is ALAA and what do they do and I got a couple of sign-ups.

So on Saturday afternoon, September 27th the ALAA meeting was called to order by Vice President Dick Pankey. No other officers nor directors were present so this was not a "formal" meeting." The purpose was five fold:

- for ALAA to have a presence at this show;
- to get things moving again;
- create some visibility and enthusiasm for ALAA;
- discuss pending legislation that will affect rockhounds;
- and highlight the need for an editor for the ALAA Newsletter.

Meeting Highlights:

There were 6 people attending; one from NFMS, four from MWF and me from the CFMS. We started with self introduction.

A problem – PLAC Chair positions in some federations are vacant. There is a lack of leadership, continuity, central focus. Need a focus person in every federation and every society.

Need – a list of Federation Web Masters and Bulletin Editors. [Ed. Note: Listed on the Regional Federation websites].

Need – lists of who to write and their addresses for both congress and federal agencies. Since we need to communicate nationally how

to identify people to contact and how to get contact information.

Need – more information about Blue Ribbon Coalition and how to get on their E-mail Alert list.

Need – an editor for the ALAA Newsletter. We have not had an editor since 12/07 when Kitty Starbuck did her last issue. Communication with the membership is drastically needed.

Objective – encourage membership in ALAA for both individuals and societies.

Idea – because there is often a "need for speed" to respond to legislative and agency activities ALAA should communicate through e-mail. (I believe AFMS President Shirley Leeson is already working on this.)

Need – increased visibility, action, and leadership from ALAA on pending legislation and BLM/FS activities.

Problem – there is a marked increase legislative activity and federal agency activity that restricts our collecting activities and access to our public lands. Many of our local society membership seem to be uninformed, ill informed and complacent about what is happening and what can be done about it. All of us who "know", all of us who are "informed", all of us who "care" must help the others to "know", to get "informed" and to "care." And then we must all take the next step and get involved by writing letters and e-mails, attending meetings and taking action.

Our meeting was adjourned with the satisfaction that we did something today and left with a little more enthusiasm and commitment.

So what are the next steps for ALAA? A number one priority for me is a new (willing, enthusiastic, committed) Editor for our Newsletter. The ALAA Newsletter is only published 4 times a year and thus the need for more timely communication through e-mail. If you would like more information about this job as editor or if you would like to volunteer, please contact me at dickpankey@juno.com. In the interim I am volunteering to edit the next issue (**ONE ISSUE**) of the ALAA Newsletter in December. Therefore, I am calling on **all** officers and directors of ALAA, and all people that are interested and involved, to submit articles to me. Due date for submission is December 8th. I prefer to get your article by e-mail attachment (as a Word Doc) or in the body of the e-mail.

SAFETY

continued from page 5

remove this, if you should get some resin on the skin. The various cutting oils used in the diamond saws are primary irritants to the skin, and will, in many individuals, produce dermatitis. Also, the fire hazard, in the use of certain cutting oils, must be realized and proper precautions taken. **WARNING TO SILVER-SOLDERING ENTHUSIASTS:** Silver brazing alloy, frequently called silver solder, is an extremely valuable industrial material. It is used for joining metals and alloys such as silver, copper, brass, bronze, stainless steel, carbon steel and dissimilar metal combinations where it is necessary to perform the joining of these metals at low temperatures. Fumes generated during brazing can be a serious hazard. Brazing fluxes generate fluoride fumes when heated.

Cadmium in silver brazing alloys vaporizes when overheated and produces cadmium oxide, a highly toxic substance. If cadmium oxide fumes are inhaled into the respiratory tract, they can cause pulmonary distress, shortness of breath, and in cases of severe exposure, may cause death.

Silver brazing filler metals containing cadmium are: BAg-1, GAg-1a and BAg-2 and BAg-3. Since the boiling point of Cadmium is 1412 degrees F, brazing can be carried on safely using BAg-1 and BAg-1a classes of filler metal at temperatures below 1400 degrees F. BAg-2 and BAg-3 have recommended brazing temperatures of 1295 - 1550 degrees F. and 1270 to 1500 degrees F. respectively. Brazing can be carried out - safely - using temperatures below 1400 degrees F. Since temperatures in the upper portion of these ranges can be reached, it is important to provide adequate local exhaust ventilation or, where this is not possible, individual air-supplied respirators. (This article taken from, Working with Silver Solder, Public Health Service Publication No. 1518, U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.)

Do not overload electrical outlets. If in doubt, have the circuits checked by an electrician.

Keep switches and motors in a dry place, where the water from the grinding will not splash on them.

Be sure to have all motors and outlets grounded. In case of faulty wiring or short circuit, the ground will absorb the shock -- not you! Standing on a rubber mat will give some protection. Electric shocks can cause death!

Suspicious wires lying on the floor or ground should be avoided -- at home, or on field trips. They may be harmless, but if they are not, beware!

When a person suffers electric shock, it is important to use a stick or other such wooden object to separate him from the source before beginning resuscitation.