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# A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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<[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)>

Volume 62, Number 3  
February, 2009

## IT'S TAX FORM TIME AGAIN

by Mike Kokinos, CFMS Tax Advisor

### Internal Revenue Service Form 990

Societies that are required to file Form 990 or 990EZ should be aware of material changes to the forms. Most of our societies have gross receipts less than \$25,000, so are only required to file Form 990N. There are no material changes to this form.

The new forms (990 and 990EZ) apply to both societies with a 2008 calendar year and organizations with fiscal years beginning at some time during 2008. For example, a fiscal year society whose year ends May 31, will file the revised form for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2009.

I would recommend societies required to file the revised forms access the IRS website at <[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)>, then access the exempt organization section to locate the revised forms and the revised instructions for filing.

### Form 990N

Those societies who are not required to file either Form 990 or 990EZ and whose gross receipts are below \$5,000 must continue to file Form 990N electronically. If your club operates on a calendar year, then you must file by May 15. If your club runs on a fiscal year, you must file by 4 months and 15 days after the end of your fiscal year.

Visit the IRS website <[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)> for more information.

## HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

### Youth Poster Contest 2009

David Rich of Summit Lapidary Club in Ohio is sponsoring their Second Annual Youth Poster Contest and is looking for a good turnout from kids all across America. Here are details for entering kids in your club or community...

#### Youth Poster Contest 2008-9, sponsored by the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio

#### Theme:

"Gemstones of the World" - a poster illustrating one or more gemstones or minerals that interest you, from anywhere in the world.

#### Eligibility:

Any kids grade 1-8. Each grade will have a winner. Ribbons awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winners will also receive a prize.

#### Contest Rules:

- All entries must be on paper 12 X 18 inches.
- Include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of Entry.
- Artwork can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint or any other artists' medium; however, no 3-dimensional posters.
- The title may be on the front or the back.
- List names of the gems and/or minerals and why you chose them.
- All entries become the property of the Summit Lapidary Club.

#### Scale of Points:

Originality and artwork—30 points; Design—25 points; Title—25 points; Listing of gems and/or minerals and reason—20 points.

#### Deadline:

Entries must be postmarked by April 1, 2009. Send to David Rich, 1166 Broadview Road, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Winners to be displayed and prizes/ribbons awarded at the Summit Lapidary Club's Spring Gemboree on April 25, 2009. If you have questions, contact Contest Chairman David Rich: (330) 630-9625, DRICH@lapidaryclubofohio.org.



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## HELLO FROM PENNSYLVANIA

*by Joy Bourne, AFMS President*

It's Cold Outside - So you might as well read this.

Here is what has been happening since my December/January message. Hope you all enjoyed a joyous holiday season and are looking forward to a very Happy New Year.

I hear by the grapevine (aka bulletin exchange) that our most recent Ad-hoc committee, namely the Webmaster committee is off and running for their first Webmaster contest. Patterned after the Bulletin Editors' contest, each Federation will conduct its own contest with two judges, and the top three(?) winners' entries will be forwarded to the AFMS for the Federation contest. Deadlines for the most regional contests will be the same as the Editors contest, as will be the deadlines for the AFMS contest. The regional awards will be made at the regional Bulletins Editors' Awards Breakfast. Similarly, AFMS awards will be presented at the AFMS Editors Breakfast. Phyllis George, Chairman of the committee has done a great job of planning all the details. It sounds like a winner to me. Be sure to encourage your local club's Webmaster to submit your website to your own regional coordinator.

As everybody knows, rockhounds are truly a special breed of people! We attended the SFMS Annual convention in December, and had a wonderful time meeting old friends and making new ones. This happens whenever we visit another club or convention - invariably, the folks one meets are just like your best friends as soon as you shake hands! I think Wendell Mohr is planning to use a picture Clyf took in Nashville in his article in this issue of the Newsletter. The picture is of Lewis Elrod posing in front of our "Minerals on Stamps" display at the show.

In addition to the warm welcome offered to all comers, these special folks are generous - particularly when it comes to offering helpful tips, instruction and information to all who want to learn more about the earth sciences; or the mineralogical nature of our planet, or the lapidary skills. They go into schools, scout troops and shows to talk about rocks (and give away samples to all attendees) and do not accept any pay. Most of our Regional Federations have special Foundations Funds set up to fund the special programs which are offered to all, with the emphasis on Junior programs. I have witnessed this phenomenon in my travels, and read about it in the newsletters you send to me.

My special thanks to all who sent cards and calls expressing their sympathy to me and my family at the time of Clyf's unexpected passing. He died peacefully sleeping during the night that we arrived home from our Nashville trip. He had a wonderful time at the convention - doing what he loved to do - visiting with his rockhound friends. He would have been 87 years old on January 10.

Until next month .. Keep warm and read your newsletters.

*Joy*



**AFMS/NFMS SHOW & CONVENTION**  
JULY 30, 31 AUGUST 1, 2 2009

30,000 SQ FEET OF GEMS, JEWELRY,  
FOSSILS, & MINERALS

SEE THE **MOON ROCK** FROM NASA  
DINOSAURS \* YOGO SAPPHIRES \* CAVE BEAR

WHERE: HOLIDAY INN TRADE CENTER  
5500 MIDLAND ROAD  
BILLINGS, MONTANA

HOURS: THURSDAY, FRIDAY,  
& SATURDAY - 10AM-6PM  
SUNDAY - 10AM-5PM

Tickets: \$5.00 Ea.  
2 Day Pass \$8.00  
4 Day Pass \$15.00  
Children under 12 free with adult

Shop @ more than 35 Jewelry, Gem,  
Mineral, Fossil, and Lapidary Dealers  
Demonstrations, Educational Displays  
Silent and Live Gem and Rock Auctions  
A full week of Field Trips after the show

For more information: email Doug True @ [stuffs@ahs@yahoo.com](mailto:stuffs@ahs@yahoo.com) Call (406) 670-0506  
ALSO CHECK OUT WEB: [WWW.AMFED.ORG/NFMS-FEDERATION-SHOW](http://WWW.AMFED.ORG/NFMS-FEDERATION-SHOW)

## AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING - 2009

by Dee Holland, Endowment Fund Chair

We're off to a slow start this year but I hope things will begin to gel shortly. We've had a number of regional people ask to be replaced so here's the new list of "HELPERS."

California: \*Colleen McGann <Colleen.Mcgann@hds.com>  
P.O. Box 224, Santa Clara, CA 95052-0224

Eastern: \*Carolyn Weinberger, <editor@amfed.org>  
PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

Midwest: John Washburn, <jrwashburn2@msn.com>  
107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563

Northwest: Rocky McCall <rm711@tgi.net>  
8330 27snd St NW; Stanwood, WA 98292-7430

Rocky Mt: \*Richard Jaeger, <Rjrsci@aol.com>  
3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602  
Howie Whiting is still helping sell tickets

South Central: \*Bill Pattillo <bill@rockfoodtable.com>  
619 Wright St; Robstown, TX 78380-3815

Southeast: Bill Waggener <waggenerii@bellsouth.net>  
1909 Moores Mill Rd; Atlanta, GA 30318-1309



The good news is we have our first major donation and it's from our perennial donor and master engraver Jay Bowman. He's come up with a beautiful square crystal vase etched with a Celtic Princess and Dragon on one side and the Celtic Knot on the other. Estimated value is \$235.

There are rumors of a number of prizes but we don't have pictures of them yet. Tickets have already gone out to the regional "helpers" listed above. If YOU have something special you'd like to donate, please don't hesitate to contact one of the helpers in your region.

Don't forget, the AFMS Endowment Fund supports many programs that your clubs benefit from including the Junior Rockhounds badge program, the AFMS Program Contest, Converting the older slide programs into digital format, and the Judges Training Program.

Tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You can purchase them from your regional chairperson by sending a check payable to "AFMS Endowment" plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope or, if your federation does not currently have a chairperson, send your request to me at PO Box 23; Tendoy, ID 83468-0023.



Your **donations** are critical to the AFMS Endowment Fund., especially now. Only the interest earned from the Endowment Fund principal can be used and as we're all aware by now, interest rates have been quite low for the past several years with no real hope of an increase in the year to come. Your donations and ticket purchases help add to the principal which in turn gains us greater interest that can be used for additional services to benefit your club.

Till next month.

\* New "Helpers" this year

INTERESTED IN DONATING A PRIZE FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING?  
CONTACT DEE HOLLAND AT <BEAUHOLLAND@CENTURYTEL.NET>

### Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

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

Address corrections and changes  
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Distribution Questions  
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CONTENT - LETTERS  
EDITORIAL COMMENTS - SUBMISSIONS  
ANY COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE CONTENT OR FORMAT OF THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR:  
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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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## WORDS OF CAUTION

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

By the time you read this Congress will have been back in session for almost a month and we will have a new President. I believe we can expect quite a dramatic change in the prevailing attitude in Washington regarding public and even privately owned lands. "Green" is definitely the political "in" and the environmentalists will probably be afforded an unprecedented opportunity to have many of their "dream-world" theories implemented. We could be looking at a lot of changes that will affect our hobby and while most of them will not happen right away, in the long run they could present us with some real problems.

I know that I am still beating on an old drum, but the issue that should probably concern us most is the "Omnibus Land Act" which also includes the old HR554 or S320 "The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act" among more than 150 other separate, but equally important issues. While legislative action on this bill was allowed to die in the last Congress, it is still very much alive and will be reintroduced again in the new session. Action on this package is scheduled for later in the legislative session because of other more pressing concerns, but it could be brought to the floor during a lull in proceedings at any time for a vote. I fully expect an all out effort to get this astronomical piece of legislation passed at some point during this legislative session.

If enacted into law, The Omnibus Land Act will close or severely restrict access to millions of acres of public land and exercise control over private property rights in many areas. Thousands of miles of roads, trails, and waterways used for recreation will be closed. It will reduce mining, lumbering, grazing and farm lands, and hamper or eliminate energy exploration in many areas, which will ultimately result in higher prices for consumers. Many businesses, those in particular associated with recreational activities, do not realize that severe restrictions are going to be imposed on them and ultimately may even force them to shut down. The economies of many smaller communities and rural districts will be hurt. It will also establish precedence and procedures for acquiring and controlling many additional vast land areas in the future.

Most of our members and the general population are unaware of the Omnibus Land Act and its ramifications. The majority of the bills in this package would not be passed if considered individually on their own merit and this sleazy underhanded method of lumping them together and trying to sneak them into law is apparently a rare but true reflection on the character of many of the individuals that we elected to serve and protect our interest. This bill is absolutely so ridiculous that it wouldn't surprise me for them to someday require us to register our "rock-hammers" and tumblers.

We can accept these infringements on our lawful rights and learn to live with them, or we can put up a fight and try to stop, change, or repeal these schemes by letting our representatives know how we feel. It's our choice! Rest assured that our adversaries are letting representatives know their desires.

## TED'S SAFETY CORNER

by Theodore J. Rieth, Safety Chair

100% Safe!

Interesting title, isn't it? Bet you never thought you could be 100% safe from anything, did you? Well, you can be almost perfectly safe in at least one aspect of this great hobby!

I'll borrow a topic from OSHA and my employer (before retirement) – ZES, or Zero Energy State. Here's the info: <OSHA regulation 1910.147> defines the unexpected movement or release of mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, or thermal energy as "hazardous". While this energy is vital to the operation of a facility, it must be properly controlled and isolated to help prevent its unexpected release during equipment maintenance. Establishing a "zero energy state" is the best method of controlling hazardous electrical energy.

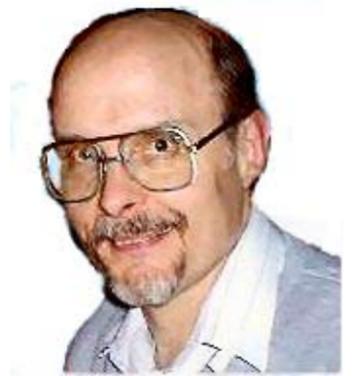
What does this mean to you? Many of us may process our specimens in some fashion after collection. We'll use saws, sanders, polishers, faceters, and a myriad of other electrical devices in our processing. What would happen if a piece of equipment started when we didn't expect it to start? Saws can do obvious damage. Other rotating equipment may create a nasty abrasion. Any equipment with a pinch point (a drive belt going around a pulley, for example) that could draw in a finger or a part of clothing into it may cause an injury.

The answer – require more than one event for that equipment to be started.

Most of us will simply turn off the switch on a device when done, or when taking a break. That's fairly safe if the switch is on the equipment, and reasonably protected against accidental operation. If the device is on an extension cord and plugged into a switch-controlled outlet somewhat removed from the device, then it's much less safe.

The easy way to do this is to turn off the power switch AND unplug the tool. If the switch is accidentally engaged, nothing will happen because it's under zero energy. To be extra, super safe, also turn off the breaker controlling the equipment, such that it will require 3 events to happen before device operation (breaker on, plug in, switch on). In a manufacturing setting, one would disable the power source and lock it out with a personal, unique locking tag to absolutely create a safe environment.

One final point – many fairly modern devices have guards, which provide a barrier to pinch or danger points. The guard over saw blades, which protect you from the rotating blade, but pivot out of the way as the specimen is cut, is a good example of guarding. If your devices are not guarded, it would be advisable to find a commercial guard, create a home-made one, or at minimum provide a brightly colored warning near the danger point.



## AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair



California Federation

The El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society is proud to nominate **Merryan O'Neill** as our Society's Rockhound of the Year. Merryan has been a member for many years and has consistently contributed to the successes of our society. She has served our Society in many capacities including President and other positions on the Board of Directors, Show Chairperson, Nominating Committee and Long Range Planning Committee. She has been the editor of our Society's newsletter, *Petroglyphs*, for many years and in 2006 took "first place" in AFMS competition for large society newsletters. She recently volunteered for, and was appointed to, the new AFMS Webmaster Contest Committee. She chairs the Publicity, Historian and Website Committees of our society and has assisted other societies in developing their websites. She is currently a member of our Ad Hoc Committee developing grant proposals.

Merryan prepares and updates earth sciences and lapidary arts judging rules for the El Dorado County Fair and has been chairperson of the Fair

Committee several times in the past. She is heavily involved with the Field Trip Chairmen's Association (aka: CO-OP) and serves as its Webmaster. She helped develop our Society's highly successful Scholarship program and she regularly exhibits at our county fair and annual Rock and Gem Show.

Merryan's many contributions to our Society continue to play an important role in increasing the membership which today stands at over 280.

submitted by Michael Kokinos, President

The Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society is proud to announce that active member **Joe Yarbrough** has been chosen as our Member of the Year. We all benefit from Joe's support of the organization. He has been a multi-term president and the display chair at our meetings. Joe is a cheerful auctioneer at our scholarship fundraiser and announcer at our annual Education Show. He volunteers to teach enameling once a week at the Diablo Adult Enrichment classes. He donates his time helping other clubs shows in our area.

## UNIFORM RULES CHANGES FOR 2009

by B. Jay Bowman, Publications Chair



As most of you know the AFMS meeting in Humble Texas was cancelled due to the hurricane that hit Texas shortly before the meeting was to be held. There were several proposed changes for the Uniform rules, some that would require extensive discussion and debate. Those were tabled until next year but some were minor and did not require a lot of discussion. These were voted on by the members of the rules committee by mail and Email. The ones that were passed are listed below and will be incorporated in the on line version by January 1, 2009. They will also be available for the supplies chairs of the various regional federations by then.

Part I - Arbitration Committee wording – at the end of paragraph 2.3 add:

“See Arbitration Committee, S-I-P-V-2(2003)” and on page S-I-P-V-2(2003) add the title: “Arbitration Committee” to paragraph 8.8 (all else remains the same).

Part II – Paragraph 5.1 (c) (3) change “three months” to “thirty days”

Part III – Rule 6.7 change “for the same trophy” to “in the same class”. (This change would allow an exhibitor to compete for the same trophy in a different class without having to wait 3 years.)

Part IV – In paragraph 7.0 after the second sentence, add: “E-mail may be accepted, but must have all information as listed on the registration form.”

In division C, subdivision CA, add size limitation in classes CA-1, 2, 3, and 11: “One piece must have minimum measurement of 100 x 150 millimeters” Also in subdivision CW (one type of work), change Class CW-10 to: “Contoured polished specimen(s) – one piece must have minimum measurement of 100 x 150 millimeters” (F)(1)(T21) (lists dimensions in millimeters to agree with those used in other classes)

10 pieces minimum be shown in D classes: Change Rule 15.12 to read:

“All classes in this division must contain a minimum of ten items.”

Re-number Rule 15.12 (Out-of Class) to 15.13 and 15.13 (References) to 15.14

Also, in Out-of Class, add: “(h) Items under the imposed minimum of ten”

Add three names to lapidary list: caymanite, larimar, pietersite.

8. Certification cards for AFMS judges:  
ADD TO: Special Operating Procedure #12 – JUDGES TRAINING, page 2  
CERTIFICATION CARDS FOR AFMS JUDGES

Certification cards are to be issued on approval of the AFMS Judges Training Chair and instructors at RECOGNIZED Judges Training School Facilities. Recognized Facilities and instructors shall be approved by the Judges Training Chair.

## QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory



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. 88<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Editor + Templates = Streamlined

Did that make you feel slimmer and trimmer already? I really meant that using templates for your newsletter could reduce your work as an editor. When you use a template you no longer have to re-type the same information or re-create the same page for things like your officers list, committee chairmen, club information, headers, etc.

Dennis Chapman, editor for the Tooele Gem & Mineral Society, uses a free desktop publishing software called Page Plus SE to create templates for use with his club bulletin. Dennis has put together some short video tutorials demonstrating how this software works, and these are viewable by going to <showmedo.com/videos/?author=3583>.

He has created 12 short, narrated videos covering: Introduction to Page Plus SE, building templates for your newsletter, starting your newsletter, text flow, text wrap, finishing your newsletter, creating a club phonebook cover, creating a club phonebook template, finishing your club phonebook, and inserting a calendar in your newsletter. All of these can be done within the Page Plus SE software.

Here is how you can check this out:

- 1- go to the web address above and click on the Amateur Desktop Publishing hotlink
- 2- click on Introduction to Page Plus SE
- 3- click in the middle of the video screen
- 4- click on the arrow at the bottom left corner of the video screen to start the video (make sure your computer volume is loud enough to hear!)
- 5- when the video is over, click the “close” hot link on the top right of the video screen or use your escape key
- 6- to view the next video, click on the box labeled 2 at the bottom, under the video screen
- 7- click in the middle of the video screen
- 8- click on the arrow at the bottom left corner of the video screen to start the video, etc.

You can view as many of the 12 video clips as you like, as many times as you like, in any order you like. When you run your cursor over the numbered boxes underneath the video screen, a description of what is on that video appears. If you like what this software does, you can get the free download by going to <www.freerisefsoftware.com>.

Thanks to Dennis Chapman for sharing his knowledge with us!

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.)

To Receive a Certification Card the Applicant:  
Must have attended an approved Judges Training Course. (A one or two day seminar does not count toward this certificate.) Must have judged at least two years at the Regional Level and one year at the AFMS Level as a full judge. (Not a learning judge)  
Must be recommended by two or more AFMS Certified Judges.

Certification Award Committee shall consist of Judges Training Chair, Committee members to be Judges Training Instructors of approved courses.

A list of persons having received certification cards is to be maintained by the Judges Training Chair.

Upon approval of the Uniform Rules Committee and the AFMS Board of Directors, those judges who have already qualified to receive their certification will receive AFMS Certified Judge Cards.

You can obtain either the 2009 Update pages or the full version of the Uniform Rules from your regional federation supplies chair or you can download an unofficial version from the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm>.



Now try again...but keep your eyes open!

via the Ammonite, June-July, 1995

**CLYFTON W. BOURNE, SR.**

**JANUARY 10, 1923 – DECEMBER 16, 2008**

Clyf Bourne, was an avid rockhound, photographer, traveler, gardener, singer, father, grandfather and husband. For the majority of us, he was a good friend,; a modest individual who loved people. He died peacefully in his sleep just after returning from the Southeast Federation Convention.



He was born in Massachusetts, served in the U.S. Army during World War II and then worked for General Electric as an electronics technician. Upon retirement, from GE he and Joy (our current AFMS President), purchased Crystal Springs Motel in Towanda, PA which he and Joy ran for

the next 33 years. The property at the motel was extensive, and Clyf enjoyed working in the large vegetable and fruit garden he planted each year in addition to the numerous chores involved in running the motel.

Clyf loved rockhounding and collected in every US state. He did the driving with Joy navigating. and although health problems slowed him down during his last years, he still enjoyed all the local club gem and mineral shows, working in his workshop, and attending various federation activities.

He was the AFMS photographer and EFMLS Conservation Chair at the time of his death. Clyf was rarely without his camera and he became the unofficial photographic historian for his club. Several of the photographs used in this newsletter were taken by Clyf as well. Those attending the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops often were treated to one or more of Clyf's humorous stories or funny songs. What fun they were!

Clyf is survived by his wife, our AFMS President, Joy , his five children, nine grandchildren, a great-grandson plus three sisters as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. A Celebration of Life service was held in Towanda in December.

Contributions in Clyf's memory may be made to either the AFMS Scholarship Foundation through your federation coordinator or to the Eastern Foundation Fund, %Fran Sick, PO Box 5; Dushore, PA 18614-0005. Checks should be made payable to "EFF".

Carolyn Weinberger

**MORE NEW PROGRAMS COMING TO A LIBRARY NEAR YOU...**

(made possible by an Endowment Fund Allocation)

*by Marge Collins, Program Competition Chair*

In addition to "Franklin NJ – Fluorescent Capitol of the World", by Andreas Ruben, the 2008 Program Competition Winner\*\*; each Regional Program Library received six other DVD presentations from AFMS Endowment Fund. *In each, segments can be chosen to fit your time schedule and interests.* All these programs may already be available from your Regional Program Library. Check your Regional Newsletter for details or contact your Program Librarian.



"Silver in No Time" Linda Bernstein demonstrates inter-mediate processes and three dimensional metal clay projects - 57-minute DVD (abba dabba Productions)

"Tumbling Rocks" Mike Wendt shares his expertise to produce an exceptional polish on agates, obsidian, etc. Large tumblers are shown, but most tips and suggestions apply to small tumbler. 64-minute DVD (agate-beach.com)

"Heart of Canyon Country" Utah's National Parks including Natural Bridges, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands, Angel Arch, etc. display geologic wonders. - 45-minute DVD with additional "bonus" segments. (National Park Series)

"Living Rock, An Introduction to Earth's Geology" an easy- to-watch presentation shows how complex geologic processes shaped numerous dramatic landscapes across the of the western U.S. - 57-minute DVD (USGS & others)

"The Best of GeoAmerica – Our Roots in Rock" reveals how geology and history are intertwined. Three segments: "The Black Giant" (oil in East Texas), "Reef Madness" (the Permian Reef in west Texas and eastern NM – including Carlsbad Caverns) and "Mississippi Delta Blues" (New Orleans area) - 53-minute - DVD (ExplorerMultimedia.org)

"Custom Wire Wrap Jewelry" Alice Turner demonstrates ten projects from a basic ring to a complex pendant with prongs. This is the DVD version of Alice's two VHS tapes which earned AFMS "Education Through Sharing" Awards in 1997 and '98. – 187 minute DVD



\*\* Announcement of the 2008 AFMS Program Competition winner was published in the November issue of this publication. Your Regional Program Librarian can also give you more information.

NOTE: 2009 Program Competition guidelines & "rules" were published in December. Or see <www.amfed.org> Below the link to the "rules", notice the article with "Tips" which apply to DVD, VHS or slide presentations.

**REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS**

*from Bob Livingston, Convention Coordinator*

Please remember to send me your Regional Federation Convention dates so that we can avoid conflicts.

	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 Berea, 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		AFMS					

## WHERE WILL THE NEXT INTER-REGIONAL ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS BE HELD?

*by Richard Pankey, Inter-Regional Field Trip Chair*



When I was appointed to this job my duties were to lead inter-regional trips and to promote inter-regional trips. Our first trip was to Texas Springs, NV and our trip this year is to Davis Creek, CA, both are in the west. What we need now are trips and events in other parts of the country, between other regions. And as much as I would like to, I really am not able to lead trips west of the Rockies. But I am sure there are many good field trip leaders that could. So who wants to host an Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous?

I have seen trip reports in many Federation newsletters about some really interesting collecting sites. I am sure that there are many places fit the needs and criteria for an inter-regional rendezvous.

A difference between an "Inter Regional Field Trip" and a Federation field trip or a club trip often comes down to who is invited, how the trip is promoted and where it is promoted. The last few years I have received and diligently read several other Federation newsletters and have become aware of a number of field trips and related events that could easily fit the criteria of an "inter-regional trip". By its' nature, an inter-regional field trip is probably bigger than most other field trips and therefore requires more thought and planning. Since the purpose is to attract a broader geographical attendance the collecting opportunity should be for material that is of good quality and good supply, and easily obtainable by both experienced and inexperienced rockhounds. This event can and should offer those attending more than just collecting. It should provide opportunities for socializing and interaction: potluck dinners, happy hour get togethers, and evening campfires. There can be other attractions and activities such as speakers from BLM/Forest Service/local experts, map exchanges and home material swap, special sight seeing attractions like a National Park, and other collecting sights in the area or on the way.

Any regional Federation can and should hold inter-regional field trips and events. This committee will help and support and encourage in any way that we can. At this initial stage I and the committee would like to be involved in the early planning for an inter-regional event to help coordinate publicizing the event and to avoid conflicts in scheduling.

I am glad to support any efforts in planning and developing an inter-regional trip. Contact me with your ideas and questions (e-mails preferred.)



## AFMS 2009 WEBMASTERS CONTEST

*by Phyllis George, AFMS Webmasters Contest Chair*

We are working at a feverish pace to get this new contest up and running. The Webmasters Contest Committee Members (one for each regional federation) are in place, and they are the ones running the Webmasters Contest for their regional federation. The Committee Members receive the entries, they forward the entries to the judges for that region, they receive from the judges the completed score sheets, and they rank the results and award the first-place plaque and the certificates (places one through ten and honorable mention) at the Bulletin Editors' Breakfast at their regional federation's annual show. The first-place entry is forwarded to the AFMS level for judging. Currently the Committee Members are notifying webmasters in their region and the regional newsletter editor about the details of the contest, the due date for entries, and of the schedule for their regional contest.

Members of the Webmasters Contest Committee are as follows:

California Federation (CFMS)  
Merryan O'Neill <mvoneill@comcast.net>  
Eastern Federation (EFMLS)  
Dan Imel <lapidry@aol.com>  
Midwest Federation (MWF)  
Cindy Root <d-root@sbcglobal.net>  
Northwest Federation (NFMS)  
Cheri George <lizardwoman3@yahoo.com>  
Rocky Mountain Federation (RMFMS)  
Phyllis George <pbgeorge4@comcast.net>  
South Central Federation (SCFMS)  
Don Shurtz <don.shurtz@gmail.com>  
Southeast Federation (SFMS)  
Jim Flora <jimflora@alltell.net>

Contact the Committee Member for your region for information about the contest and the deadlines. This information varies by region according to when their annual show is scheduled. Since I had no takers for the RMFMS position, I'm going to fill it myself. The deadline for RMFMS entries to be sent to me is January 15, 2009.

Webmasters wishing to enter their Web sites into the contest should download from the AFMS Web site (or from their regional federation's Web site) the contest Guidelines, the Entry Form, and the Score Sheet form. These are in PDF format, and they can be opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader®. Free Acrobat Reader software is available at <[www.adobe.com/products/reader/](http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/)>. The contest information on the AFMS Web site can be found at <[www.amfed.org/web/webmasters\\_contest.htm](http://www.amfed.org/web/webmasters_contest.htm)>.

To enter the contest, the webmaster needs to fill out the Entry Form completely and fill out the information requested in the top part of the Score sheet. These forms can be filled-in on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Note: You need Acrobat Reader version 8 or later to be able to save the forms to your hard drive once you fill them in. Send the two completed forms as e-mail attachments to your regional Committee Member before the due date in your region.

My plan is to have two judges for each regional competition (their scores for each contestant will be averaged) and one judge for the AFMS level. Each

## THE POWER OF POSITIVE ADVERTISING

*by Fran Sick, Public Relations Chair*

Have you given any thought lately to the reasons you enjoy your rock, mineral and/or fossil club membership? What is it that first attracted your attention and continues to keep you involved in this many faceted hobby?



All clubs are not created equal – nor should they be. We all have different interests, and the clubs we choose to join reflect these varied interests. But every club has something special to offer, which makes me wonder why, with the millions of people in the United States, is attracting new members sometimes so difficult. Certainly our membership costs are very reasonable. Our members are some of the nicest people I have ever met. They have a wealth of knowledge which they are always willing to share. We have interesting programs, good workshops, field trips, bus trips and an extensive list of other fun-filled activities. I believe there are hundreds of people out there who would love the hobby as much as we do if we could just get them started. So what's the problem?

Maybe one of the things we need to do better is improve our advertising to reflect a more positive image and give more detailed information about what we offer. Don't just advertise the club show – make it sound so exciting people can't wait to come. Don't just mention the club has a workshop – emphasize that expert instructors make it possible for anyone to learn to make their own quality jewelry – at a very reasonable cost. Whatever your club is doing that you love, others will love it as well if they know enough about it to encourage them to come in the first place.

Whether it be the news media, personal contact or groups we speak to, every contact is a potential membership recruitment opportunity. It is up to us to see that no opportunity is lost. Maybe with just a little more attention to detail at every opportunity we could begin to see the increase in membership numbers which we hope for.

pair of judges probably will be judging two different regions, but they will not be judging their own region. Right now I have a total of eight judges. If I can get seven more judges, each pair would judge the entrants from only one regional federation.

If you are a current (or former) webmaster or are very Web-site savvy, please help make the contest a success by volunteering a little of your time to act as a judge. Read the Guidelines to see what the judges will be looking for on the sites that they judge, and contact me at <pbgeorge4@comcast.net> to help this new contest be a success in its first year.

## LIVE PROGRAMS

by Kitty Starbuck, AFMS Editors Hall of Fame Chair



One of the most common heard questions asked, while cruising around at shows is, "How do you get 'live' programs?" Simple, with a little ingenuity and determination you can find people who are willing to travel and put on a 'live' program. I was told that putting together such a booklet to this effect, "couldn't be done", so a few years ago, (1996 to be exact) I gave it a try...the end result, several programs were put together in a booklet, and each club in Michigan received one. As Neil Snapp was telling everybody at our MWF spring meeting, "After that booklet came out, I was contacted six (6) times for a program!"

This might be an excellent idea for large areas within our Regional Federations - Area Vice Presidents, State Representatives, etc. could work up a good resource to share within their area and can easily be done in all Federations.

=====

Who in your club, or area would be willing and available to do any of the following:

### 1) PUT ON A PROGRAM AT A NEARBY CLUB?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PROGRAM

\_\_\_\_\_

If more than one, list on separate sheet

Distance willing to travel \_\_\_\_\_ miles Fee \_\_\_\_\_

### 2) DEMONSTRATE AT A NEARBY SHOW?

Demonstrate what? \_\_\_\_\_

Distance willing to travel \_\_\_\_\_ miles Fee \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) DISPLAY AT A NEARBY SHOW? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Distance willing to travel \_\_\_\_\_ miles

### 4) WORK WITH JUNIORS? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any ideas, information, or suggestions for juniors?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW TO ACCOMPLISH FILLING THIS OUT?

EASY...Take this form with you every time you visit a show. Check with the President, give him/her a form, give a form to each of the demonstrators and displayers, and ask them if they would be willing to demonstrate/display elsewhere, and that you will pick up the form before you leave. You will be surprised at the results you will receive! I learned a long time ago, people WILL NOT VOLUNTEER, but are HAPPY THEY WERE ASKED, and they usually say YES!!!

This is the caption on the front cover...I titled it: HAVE PROGRAM...WILL TRAVEL...!

Print it on HOT PINK paper, IT'S EASIER TO FIND!!!

Put your name, address and phone number on the bottom, in case they wish to contact you.

In view of the economy etc, people are looking for things to do closer to home...and this is a good way to enhance the programs, demonstrators and displays you have at your how. TRY IT, IT'LL WORK!!!

Good Luck

## THE ALAA NEWSLETTER

by Dick Pankey, Vice President, ALAA



The American Land Access Association (ALAA) just mailed out it's first newsletter in a year. If you didn't get one it is because you aren't a member. The main reason for no newsletter this year was the lack of an editor, but that has been remedied. This past year there were major legislative assaults on our right of access to public lands from several "Wilderness" bills and a new entity to be established known as the "National Landscape Conservation System" and the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. Fortunately these bills were pulled at the last minute but we expect them to be re-introduced in the next session of congress even "bigger and badder."

Every society in every Federation of the AFMS should be a member and supporter of ALAA. And we need the individual members to also be involved. Check out the ALAA web site at <www.amlands.org> to learn more about ALAA and to get an application for membership. Your support and involvement is critical in maintaining access to our public lands and our collecting rights. Do it today so that you will receive the next issue of the ALAA Newsletter in March!

## NEW OFFICERS?

by Steve Weinberger, Central Office Administrator

By now, most clubs have elected officers for 2009. Does the AFMS Central Office know who they are?



Please take a minute or two and either e-mail (central\_office@amfed.org) or mail (see address on page 3) a list of your new officers along with their mailing information and of course the name of your club to me.

By doing so you ensure that the correct officials in your club receive the AFMS Newsletter each month so that your members can be kept advised of information that can be of use to them.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Happy Valentine's Day

## A.L.A.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



### AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public



Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA! Annual membership fee is \$25.00  
Annual membership fee for clubs is \$50.00

\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_ Renewal Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

#### Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

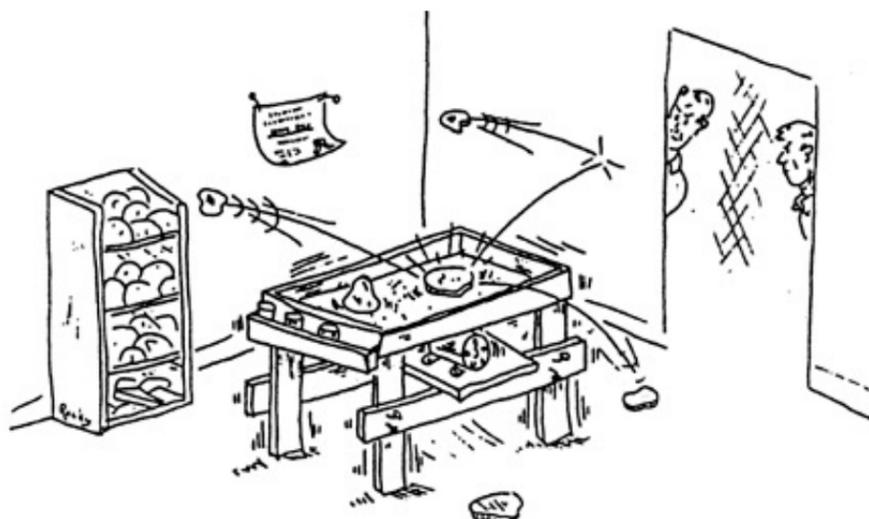
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remit fees to: ALAA  
Norman W. Hanschu, Treasurer  
6607 Sturbridge Lane  
Canton, MI 48187-2638

*The A.L.A.A. is a 501(C)(4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.*

*Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.*



**YOU'RE RIGHT FRANK... YOU HAVE GOT A PROBLEM!**

by Harlan "Rocky" West from T-Town Rockhound, Nov. 1961

## 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.

## WHAT DOES THE AFMS DO FOR YOU AND YOUR CLUB?

by Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS Editor



### **The AFMS Established 1947 Serving Seven Regional Federations**

One of the questions that many people ask from time to time is "What does the AFMS do for me and my club?" Here is a nutshell is a simplified answer.

1. Slide programs for club meetings. The AFMS sponsors a program competition each year and awards cash prizes to the winners. These winning programs are duplicated and given to your regional federation library for free. In addition, commercially prepared programs are also often purchased and given to the federation libraries. These programs may be borrowed - in most cases for a very nominal fee that covers postage and insurance - for you to use for club meeting programs. To date, over 200 programs have been sent to the regional federations for your use!

2. Awareness of federal legislation that may impact the hobby. Through the Conservation & Legislation Committee, clubs are kept informed of pending federal legislation such as the Paleontological Preservation Act or upcoming Omnibus Lands Bill.

3. Bulletin Editors Contest. Your Regional Federation sponsors a contest each year for club editors and authors. Areas recognized are mini, large and small bulletins, technical articles requiring research of references, non-technical articles, feature articles, poetry and articles by juniors. After the regional competition has concluded, the top entries in most categories are forwarded to the AFMS for further evaluation - this time against the top entries from all the other regional federations. Trophies and certificates are awarded each year at the annual "Breakfast with the Editors" get-together during the AFMS Annual Convention. In addition, winning articles are assembled in a booklet that's available for all to share.

4. All American Club Award Program. This program allows clubs to assemble a notebook in which they highlight their activities during the past year. Photographs, newspaper articles, club newsletters etc. allow the club to brag about themselves. Awards are presented each year at the AFMS Convention.

5. Scholarship Awards to Graduate Students in the Earth Sciences. Perhaps one of our most visible programs, the AFMS Scholarship Foundation invests contributions made to it by clubs and individuals and uses the interest from these investments to award grants to a dozen graduate students in the earth sciences each year. Each participating regional federation selects an honorary recipient (college professor or well known individual in the field, etc.) who in turn contacts a college or university having graduate studies. Either

the educational establishment or the honorary recipient, selects the students who receive the awards. Since the first grants were given in 1965, the Foundation has been able to award more than \$1,000,000 in grants.

Clubs gain recognition for their support of the Foundation via certificates awarded each year at the annual AFMS Convention. For each \$1 contributed, clubs are recognized for giving 1%. Certificates are awarded each time a club reaches another 100% level...i.e. \$1 for each member of the club., thus making it possible for a club, regardless of its size, to be recognized for their contributions regardless of the size of the club. A club recognized as being a 300% club would have contributed \$1 for each club member 3 times and a 9,300% club would have contributed \$1 for each club member 93 times. There is no time limit for accumulating the next % level.

6. Inter-Regional Field Trips. The goal of this new program is to bring together collectors from all the regional federation clubs for a collecting activity in a well-known area of the country. The first field trip in 2008 was well attended and plans are now underway for the 2009 extravaganza.

7. Junior Activities. The AFMS, through Jr. Activities chair Jim Brace-Thompson has produced an extensive activity manual for use by club Jr. Activity leaders. In addition, a series of merit badges has been created to give to the juniors in the club programs. Badges are given to AFMS affiliated clubs at no charge. Monthly newsletter columns give leaders new ideas to use with their groups.

8. Uniform Rules. In the earliest days of exhibiting, chaos reigned supreme and it became impossible for show chairpersons to plan exhibit space and for viewers to easily see the displays. Labels, if there were any, were hit or miss and sometimes unreadable. With educating the public the major goal of all exhibits, the AFMS decided to establish a set of rules to set up some guidelines for exhibitors to follow. It was decided to also present awards for displays by exhibitors who wished their displays evaluated by a team of judges - persons knowledgeable in the subject matter of the display.

Over the years, these Uniform Rules have been amended and streamlined and the focus of judging changed from "judging" to "encouraging". In addition, the URC publishes lists of approved names for minerals, lapidary material and fossils to make it easier for the exhibitor and viewer to understand the materials being displayed. Copies of these publications are all available from your regional federation supplies chair.

9. Judges Training Program. Established in 2003 as an outgrowth of observations that the Uniform Rules were not being interpreted in the same manner from federation to federation, the Judges Training Program gathers together one individual interested in competitive exhibit evaluation from each federation. During the week-long program, participants review the existing regulations, discuss how each should be evaluated and reach consensus as to interpretation. Participants also "practice judge" displays brought to the workshop and then discuss what they've observed. Marked improvements have been noted since the program was established.

10. Webmasters Competition. With the electronic age upon us, many clubs now have websites of their own. New to AFMS this year is a contest designed to evaluate the endeavors of the club webmasters. The competition, run much like that of the Bulletin Editors, will present awards during "Breakfast with the Editors" at the AFMS Convention each year. More information about this new competition can be found on page 7 of this issue.

11. Club Member Recognition. The AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year program allows each club to recognize and brag about one member or one husband/wife combo each calendar year. In addition, each club may submit information on one junior member per year. Submissions are easy to make - send a 50 word or less paragraph telling why your "Rockhound" is so valuable to your club. Each regional federation has a chairperson who receives the submissions and then passes them on the AFMS. All submissions are published in the AFMS Newsletter so your person (and your club) gets wide publicity.

12. Annual Convention. The AFMS is a union of seven regional federations (CFMS, EFMLS, MWF, RM-FMS, SCFMS, NFMS and SFMS). Each of the regionals is composed of member clubs like your own. The AFMS holds its annual meeting in a different regional federation each year so that people from all parts of the country have an easier (and less expensive) opportunity to attend, display and participate. For 2009 the Convention will be held in Billings, MT and hosted by the Northwest Federation. A show is always held during the Convention week as well.

The AFMS holds its annual business meeting during this convention. Officers are elected, budget established, concerns about the hobby in general are discussed and of course reports given.

Other activities of AFMS during the Convention include a Uniform Rules Committee meeting, Awards Banquet where recognition is made to the All-American Award entrants, Competitive Exhibits winners, Scholarship contributors etc. and "Breakfast With the Editors", an opportunity to present awards for editors and authors and for those individuals interested in club publications to get together. The regional federation hosting the convention also holds its annual meeting during this time with awards also being presented for their competitions during the Saturday evening banquet.

The host federation often also arranges for field trips, museum visits or other activities and of course has a show with demonstrations, dealers and often speakers. An AFMS convention draws individuals from throughout the country and is a wonderful way to renew friendships...or gain new friends.

13. Endowment Fund. Funds donated to the Endowment are invested and interest only is used for AFMS projects including the Jr. Rockhounds Badges, and Slide Program digitization, purchase and awards.

14. The Commemorative Stamp Project is an effort sponsored by AFMS to put the hobby on US postage stamps. The current effort is to get gems used for birthstones accepted, but in the past suc-

*continued on page 12*

## 2009 AFMS COMMITTEES

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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>

Bulletin Editors Advisory  
Linda Jaeger  
<ljalrg@aol.com>

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)

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  
To be appointed

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>

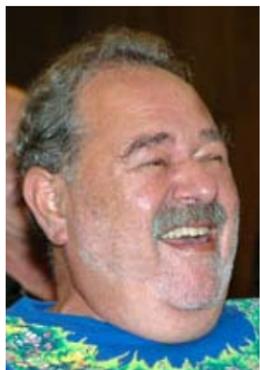
Ad Hoc Competition Study  
Ron Carman  
<rrcarman@centurytel.net>

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

## ROCKHOUND VACATION PLANS

by Reivan Zeleznik, Past President, EFMLS



Most in our hobby aren't aware of all the great resources readily available and handy. Every regional federation has a directory that is distributed to at least their local club presidents and some also send them to club editors and federation liaisons. But very few, if any, bring these resources to regular meetings or events.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to demonstrate faceting at the reopening of Yale University's Peabody Museum on the occasion of the reopening of their newly renovated Mineral Hall. On a lark, I brought along my EFMLS Directory – just in case. More than 1,000 people attended that day and, with my Directory in hand I was able to direct dozens of attendees to local clubs in their area. I was also able to provide information about meetings, activities and contacts.

Twenty years ago I led an Eastern Federation Geology Tour to Southern California. I knew few rockhounds in that area but was able to make most arrangements, visit people and scout sites with the kind sharing that was provided through the California Federation. The 49 Eastern Federation rockhounds were treated to a very successful 15 day trip because of the hospitality of many local hosts in the Barstow, Escondido and Borrego Springs areas. They, with no prodding, held swaps, provided evening programs, hosted field trips, shared food, facilitated access to the best sites and made many friends.

This difficult economy notwithstanding, many of us rockhounds still plan to vacation away from home this year. Why not tap into a resource at a location that is not familiar? This can be an opportunity to collect, visit local museums, make new friends and broaden your experiences. And, it can cost little more than a phone call or a letter.

I suggest:

- local club presidents and editors bring their directories to every meeting,
- editors print this article in their monthly newsletters. It is not enough to just mention this at a meeting because usually fewer than 1/4 of all members attend,
  - for trips beyond the local federation territory, use the AFMS web site. Link to the regional federation of interest and get local club information for your area of interest. Attend a meeting or workshop. Meet fellow collectors or lapidaries. Develop an exchange program with your home club.
  - and if you go, bring along swapping material. A generous gift to someone who has helped can sometimes open doors that were closed. On one occasion I had leftover Connecticut specimens. Rather than drag them back home I visited a local museum in Phoenix and gave them to the mineral curator. Magically, I was ushered into the back room vault and given access to marvelous unseen specimens. It was worth it!

Use your imagination to put these untapped resources to use for your pleasure, knowledge and outreach. But the name of the game is, 'share'.

## COMMEMORATIVE STAMP COMMITTEE NEWS

by Wendell C. Mohr, Commemorative Stamp Chair

Usually the majority of the following year's stamps are finalized in November by the United States Postal Service. This year, as of this writing, the USPS has only announced the 2009 commemorative stamp program subjects through mid-February. Gemstone stamps are not among the issues revealed at this point.

Sooooo..... We need to go on the premise that we must continue to advocate our proposal. Who are we talking about? All of you who are reading this article as well as the many folks that you can influence to write to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, the body who make the recommendations for stamps to the Postmaster General. If you are associated with one of the regional federations, take up the challenge to get the message out to your member clubs. Publicize the project in your newsletters. If you are a key officer in any club in any federation, please help get the message out to your club members to make repeated requests to the USPS. (Persistence pays, so make repeated requests). To whom do you make the pitch?

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
Stamp Development, United States Postal Service  
1735 North Lynn St, Room 5013  
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

See <[www.amfed.org/stamps.htm](http://www.amfed.org/stamps.htm)>, recently revised, for helpful material to use for publicity.

Many thanks to the new AFMS President, Joy Bourne, for her continued endorsement of the "Gemstones on Stamps" project. She took promotional material and an exhibit to the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society's 2008 Annual Meeting and Show hosted by the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society in Nashville, TN., December 13 & 14, 2008. Her husband Clyf took this picture just days before he passed away, showing Lewis Elrod with the promotional pitch exhibit and fliers. She tells me, "The display was very well received."



## WHAT AFMS DOES FOR YOU...

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cess has gained printing of 2 sets of mineral stamps and 1 set of fossil stamps. (See page 12 for more).

15. International Relations - sharing the hobby with those not affiliated with any club and with others outside the United States!

16. Public Relations - getting the word out about your club and its activities.

17. AFMS Website. Provides a convenient place for all clubs and their members to obtain information about the AFMS with links to the regional federation websites. Included on the AFMS website is information about the upcoming AFMS convention, contests, officer information, manuals produced by AFMS and current and past issues of the AFMS Newsletter. Links are also provided to other hobby related activities, including club websites (your club needs to contact the AFMS webmaster and forward the URL information to him for inclusion).

In addition, the AFMS provides space for all

regional federation websites at no charge to the regional federation. Currently the Eastern, Midwest, Northwest and Southeast Federations have taken advantage of this offer.

18. The AFMS Newsletter. Published 10 times per year, the AFMS Newsletter is sent free of charge to the President, Editor and Secretary or Federation Representative of your club so they can be kept up-to-date on current AFMS activities and concerns. It is our hope that those receiving the newsletter share issues with the club membership via their own newsletters and at meetings. It is imperative that clubs inform the AFMS Central Office of their current cadre of officers so that the lines of communication can be kept open.

As you can readily see, your regional federation membership dues in the AFMS provide many services to your club. We encourage you to take advantage of as many of them as you can.