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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

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Volume 62, Number 5
April, 2009

MORE PRIZES HAVE BEEN ADDED!

by Dee Holland, Endowment Fund Chair

The list of prizes for the AFMS Endowment Fund drawing keeps growing! This month, we're highlighting four more super prizes that you could own if you hold one of the lucky tickets.

Prize #3 is an clock set into a lovely piece



of amethyst from the side of a geode. The clock is battery operated and easy to read and the crystals on the amethyst are well defined. It is mounted on a wood base. Donated by the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society of Corpus Christi, Texas, the clock has

an estimated value of \$120.00 (SCFMS)

Prize #4 is a 64.7 gram piece of the Sikhotealin meteorite which fell in the Maritime Territory of Eastern Siberia on February 12, 1947. This type of meteorite is classified as III B (coarsest octahedrite iron meteorite.) Total kilogram weight of the witnessed meteorite fall was 23,000 kilograms! Donated by David Gheesling (www.fallingrocks.com), it has a value of \$125.00. (SCFMS).



Prize #5. This lovely Brazilian agate slab is set in a custom crafter wood stand. Designed and made by 2008 EFMLS President Ellery Borow, the slab is translucent. When the lighting is right, it looks like you can see through the slab, but what you are seeing is a reflection of the curved wood at the front of the base. Estimated value is \$150.00. (EFMLS).



Prize #6. This beautiful Intarsia Bolo is handcrafted by Jerry Blimka from the Hells Canyon Gem Club Inc. Lewiston Idaho. Jerry is a well known artist in the Northwest. His work can be seen at many of the shows. Last year in Ontario Oregon at the NFMS show he was awarded the Master trophy for Jewelry Intarsia. Each of his pieces is signed and numbered They are truly collectors items . His work will be on display at Billings MT. This piece shows the 3D dimensions of his work. Set in Sterling Silver and valued at \$850.00. (NFMS).



You can see color photographs of each of these prizes on the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/endow2009.htm>. We've been promised even more prizes and will tell you about them next month.

Tickets for the drawing which will be held during the AFMS/NFMS Convention in Billings, MT on August 1 are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You can purchase them by sending a check payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund" along with a stamp, self-addressed envelope to your regional federation salesperson.

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PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052-0224

Eastern Federation:

Carolyn Weinberger
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APRIL



AFMS Newsletter
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IT'S APRIL! CAN SPRING BE FAR AHEAD?

by Joy Bourne, AFMS President

As I start this message on March 1st, the thermometer says it is still 28 degrees outside - not a good day to go anywhere again! But that is fine with me because I have my workshop classes coming in twice a week, and we always have fun. Besides, I have all these wonderful newsletters to read from clubs all over the Federation - both by e-mail and hard copy format.

What busy, active clubs we have! I am amazed at all the activities going on within your organizations, including excellent programs with outstanding speakers at your meetings, show planning, kids' programs, workshop classes, field trips, pot-lucks and on and on. And, I have really found lots of useful information from the shop tips columns, too.

For example, just this week I learned why our cabs kept popping off the dopsticks at the kids' cabmaking activity at last year's show. We were not being careful about turning off the dop pot when not in use; consequently, the wax lost its sticking power. This year will be different! We are fining anyone who does not unplug it after use!

Thank you to all you editors who include me in your subscription lists. I truly enjoy reading them all.

Looking Ahead to Billings and the AFMS/NFMS Convention.

Although we will not be in Billings until the end of July, this is a reminder that if you're an AFMS Officer, Director or Committee Chair, your annual reports will be due in to the Central Office 60 days prior to the Annual meeting - that means by end of May so they can be assembled printed and mailed to you well ahead of the meeting. And, if you've not already done so, make your motel reservations now. From what I've learned, rooms at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana are going fast. You can download all the convention materials - exhibit forms, pre-registration for events, motel and camping information etc. from the AFMS website <www.amfed.org>. Just click on the show logo on the home page.

Committee Chairmen:

Make notes of what your committee has done this year in anticipation of your annual report to the convention. Be sure to let President-Elect Emerson Tucker know NOW if you do not plan to continue as chairman for next year. Poll your members to see who will repeat next year, and who will need to be replaced. Check your finances. Will you require more funding next year - or less funding? No guarantees, but we will try. Emerson will also need this information right away.

Enough for now. See you next month (if the Good Lord's willing and the creek don't rise.)

Joy

WHERE ARE THEY?

by Steve Weinberger

The USPS now requires that we ask for "Address Service" on our newsletter mailing. March was the first month we've done this with some interesting results. Of the 2,000+ newsletters that are mailed, approximately 50 were returned showing that the recipient had moved. Fortunately, forwarding notices had not yet expired, so we were able to correct the mailing list for these individuals --- at a cost of 50¢ per address.

Another 20 were returned as "non-deliverable, forwarding notice expired". Unfortunately a few of these were marked "recipient deceased" so of course I've deleted them from the list.

Quite frankly, I need your help with two things. First, look at the names on the list in the next column and if you have a correct address for these people,

send it to me so I can resume their receipt of the newsletter. Second, if you've not already done so, please send me the names and addresses of your new officers so the mailing list remains current.

Non-deliverable:

Ted Ferguson, Lakewood, CO
Cristy Holder, Princeton, LA
Trish Kohler, Durham, NC
Pearl Loder, Egg Harbor Twtnshp, NJ
Bill Lyon, Ada, OK
David Macseoinin, Akron, OH
Arvil Marrion, Pfafftown, NC
Kathy Morris, Tryon, NC
Robert Murphy, Pocatello, ID
Kay Myers, Newport, OR
Dick Parks, Vancouver, WA
Bob Pevahouse, Concord, CA
Wayne Pound, Frederick, CO
Robert Smith, Inverness, FL
Lynn Thomson, Nutley, NJ



INTER-REGIONAL ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS

by Richard Pankey, Inter-Regional Field Trip Chair

The Davis Creek/Lassen Creek area of the Modoc National Forest in north-eastern California is truly a unique and beautiful place. And for rockhounds its most unique feature is OBSIDIAN! It is abundant and great quality. It is easy to find and collect. It comes in a wide variety of colors, sheens and shapes. And best of all our rendezvous will be held there in late May. If you like obsidian, if you like rock collecting, if you like meeting other interesting rockhounds join us for this Inter-regional Rockhound Rendezvous, May 20th to the 25th, 2009.

Now is the time to get your name on the sign up list. Sign up early and bring some friends. We are relying on the bulletin editors and field trip chairmen to help get the word out about this unique adventure. The two-page Field Trip flier is available on the AFMS and CFMS websites. This flier has all the details about the trip, directions to our campsite and other useful information.

There were two activities mentioned in the flier that I would like to explain in more detail. On Friday and Saturday afternoons we will conduct our Tailgate Displays. We will have rockhounds from all over the western United States that I am sure have collected some unique and interesting material from their home area. Bring along some specimens to show and share at the tailgate display. This will also be a good time to conduct the "map exchange". Map exchanges are easy – to get a map you have to give a map. Before you leave home prepare a good, detailed map of a good, unique or little known collecting area that you are familiar with. The map should be a detailed hand or computer drawn map with accurate mileages, GPS coordinates are very desirable, and be sure to note collecting site details and campsites where appropriate. Bring along as many maps as you would like to receive. I plan to bring 100 copies of my map. I am sure there will



Rainbow Obsidian
Lassen Creek, CA

be a lot of informal exchanges of collecting sites, GPS info, and sharing of great places to go and see. 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.

We have arranged for several knappers to demonstrate and teach various knapping techniques. If you are already a knapper, beginner or experienced, bring along your tools and join the "Knapp-In."

Although we are camping in a National Forest it is best that we bring in our own wood for our campfire. If everyone would bring some firewood we should have enough for a campfire each night. And don't forget about the happy hours and the 2 potluck dinners.

This trip is open to members and guests of all of the Federations of the AFMS, but I expect most of the attendees will be from the Northwest and California Federations. Everyone who agrees to adhere to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics, abide by the direction of the field trip leaders, and practice safe rockhounding is welcome to attend.

Please notify your respective Federation leader early, but no later than May 16, if you plan to attend; e-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. Don't wait – do it now. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over the west, and all of the Federations of the AFMS, to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share.

Come join us for a great Inter-Regional Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

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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
Subscription Information
Distribution Questions
Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

Subscriptions are \$4.50 per year
Remit payment to the
AFMS Central Office
Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

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CONTENT – LETTERS
EDITORIAL COMMENTS – SUBMISSIONS
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JOIN THE FUN AT THE NFMS/AFMS CONVENTION AND SHOW

BILLINGS MT

JULY 28 – AUGUST 2, 2009

INFO AT <WWW.AMFED.ORG>



2009 AFMS/NFMS FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE - BILLINGS, MONTANA

by Doug True, NFMS/AFMS Show Chairman

An important part of every show and convention are the fieldtrips that allow collectors from all over the country to collect different materials, to come together, enjoy and make new friendships. Montana is just the place for this to happen, wide open country and a large number of things to collect. All fieldtrip participants will be asked to sign a waiver releasing the AFMS/NFMS and the Billings Gem and Mineral Club from all liability, and that you will abide by all rules set down by fieldtrip leaders and by all state and Federal laws regarding collecting on public lands.

August 3, 2009 Monday :

The first trip will leave from the Holiday Inn at 8:30 a.m. and travel 75 miles south to the western slope of the Pryor Mountains (1 1/2 hrs) You should pack a lunch and bring plenty of water as it will be warm and there are no stores in the area. You will also need a rock pick, collecting bag and a good pair of boots. The material



to be found at this location is the rare Bear Canyon Black & White Fortification Agate. This location is known mostly by locals and has not produced much material until last summer when a new area has been discovered. This trip should produce some great material. Besides fortification agate, one can find partially hollow nodules with quartz or calcite crystals. You might be lucky enough to find a section of crinoid stem, also found in association with the agate.

We are going to skip over Tuesday August 4. We will address these trips at a later date.

August 5, 2009 Wednesday:

A few modifications have been made to this trip. The trip will be collecting Montana Agate, petrified wood, jaspers, agatized coral, etc on the Yellowstone River, just NE and downstream of Miles City, Montana. You will be taken to some exposed gravel bars on the river. High water is usually down by this time and collecting can be exciting. Everyone will meet at the



Wal-Mart in Miles City and leave on trip at 1 p.m. It will take about 30 minutes travel time to this collecting area. To get to Miles City from Billings take I-94 east travel to Exit 138, turn left on Haynes Ave, travel north approx. 1/2 mile and Wal-Mart will be on your right. (1 p.m. time was established for those leaving from Billings in the morning) Motel 6 (406) 232-7040, if you don't mind train sounds the Red Rock Hotel (406) 234-5382 Great prices, Meadows R.V.Park (406) 234-3013 It should be warm, so bring plenty to drink, Rock bag and a screwdriver are great for collecting (leave your rock hammer in your car, many great agates have been ruined by a hammer)

For those who are going on to Glendive for the Thursday fieldtrips, you can spend the night in Terry,

Montana, about 40 miles from Glendive.

Terry Oasis RV, (406) 635-5520.

About \$17.00 per night

Diamond Motel (406) 635-5407, \$38-40.

Or if you drive to Glendive for the evening.

Green Valley Campground (406) 377-4156

<grnvally@midrivers.com>

El Centro Motel, downtown

(406) 377-5211

Best rates in town and clean rooms.

August 6, 2009 Thursday:

Two trips are scheduled: One will be hunting the Yellowstone River Gravel bars for Agates, Petrified wood, jaspers etc, and traveling SE of Glendive to the Hell Creek Formation, Cretaceous Period, looking for Petrified wood, Fig leaves, pine cones (**Note that this formation also has fossil bone which cannot be collected on public lands**).



Parts of this area are private land and you may collect bone there. This time of year can be warm, so bring lots of water, a hat, and be ready to hike. Both trips will leave at 9 a.m. from the K-Mart Parking lot just across from the intersection of Highway 16 & West Bell St. (Bus I-94) For those that would like to do both areas, a switch will be made at 2p.m. those in the fossil area will be taken to River and the agate collectors can go to collect fossils. NOW are you confused? I am!

August 7, 2009 Friday:

This trip will leave from K-Mart at 9 a.m., we will go south east to the Pierre Shale Formation, Cretaceous Period, to collect ammonites, scaphites, nataloids, various bivalves and snails. The best tools for this trip are a heavy hammer, eye protection, small bags and wrapping material for your specimens. We will be breaking up mudstone concretions. Note: If this area is wet from a thunderstorm, the fossil trips will be modified.



For those that would rather look at or hunt agate you might like to take a drive north on I6 to Savage, Montana and visit Tom Harmon at Harmon's Rock Shop. You will see some of the finest Montana anywhere and you might even get him to point you toward a gravel bar to hunt more rock!!

You might note that on all of the fieldtrips you may come upon a Rattlesnake or a Tick, so keep your eyes open. Be safe and have fun.

More on field trips next month.

FIELD TRIPS IN MONTANA

by Doug True and Larry Field

BE PREPARED, SAFE AND HAVE FUN!

Plan on comfort and self preservation as you should on any field trip by coming prepared for:

- Weather extremes ranging from thunderstorms to extreme sun (hat, fluids, sunscreen, jacket etc.)
- Troublesome plants and animals such as ticks, snakes, cactus, etc. (insect repellent, protective footwear, long sleeves. etc.)
- Heat and it's effects, including protection from giardia (safe fluids, ice, clean water etc.)
- Remote locations, exertion (folding chair, reliable vehicle, food and emergency equipment.)
- A selection of collecting equipment (rock hammer, pick, gloves, safety glasses, collecting bags, spritz bottle, storage container and packing material, individual sandwich bags for small or fragmented specimens and swapping material)

We ask that if you pack it in, YOU pack it out. Help us keep our collecting locations open.

Now! Are you are ready for some Montana hospitality? After the Bear Canyon Agate and the Hysham fossil Hunt you are invited to a Potluck and swap, we will furnish Hamburgers and Hot Dogs cooked on the spot. Bring chips, watermelon, canned items, cookies etc. Bring eating utensils, chairs, and bring some trade items, things that if you didn't have, you would want, quality gets quality. Join us for a fun and relaxing time to share and build new friendships.

Until next month...

REAL HEADLINES!

from Bill Rinker

These actually appeared in various newspapers around the country.



"Alton Attorney Accidentally Sues Himself"

"County to pay \$250,000 to advertise lack of funds"

"Caskets found as workers demolish mausoleum"

"Utah poison control center reminds everyone not to take poison"

"Federal agents raid gun shop, find weapons".

"Statistics show that teen pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25"

"Army vehicle disappears"

An Australian army vehicle worth \$74,000 has gone missing after being painted with camouflage.

WORDS OF CAUTION

by John Wright, RPG, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

Back in October 2008, I planned to write about "Conflict Stones" sometimes better known as "Blood Stones", but decided that the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act was a much more immediate problem. My "crystal ball" indicates that by the time this article appears the Omnibus Package which also includes the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act will more than likely be history and I can move on to other matters of concern that you will probably appreciate more since its just an advisory and you will not be asked (heaven forbid) to exert yourself to do anything.

Numerous items are banned from being imported into the United States, i.e. cocaine, opium, etc., but I want to concentrate on things that pertain to us rockhounds. Most of us are well aware that importing ivory or ivory products into the United States has been banned for a couple of decades. Until recently there were very few restrictions on importing gemstones, precious metals, or fossils, if these properties were declared, documented properly, and the appropriate tariffs paid. Well, this is quickly changing as one vocal segment of our population has suddenly decided that the methods used to mine and manufacture jewelry items are cruel and inhumane (yet they are more than quick, ready, and proud to wear exquisite jewelry when in the limelight). They also want to apply the same rules being forced on us here in the United States to fossils obtained in others areas of the world.

In 2002 restrictions were placed on importing gemstones and minerals from Myanmar (which used to be Burma) because of the inhuman way in which the people were being treated by the country's military regime. The 2002 restrictions were changed to a complete total ban effective October 1, 2008. This ban means that gemstones and jewelry items originating in Myanmar (rubies, sapphires, jadeite, etc.) can no longer be imported into the USA even if the actual jewelry was made in another country.

Items falling within this restriction must have documentation proving they were obtained prior to the implementation of the law or that the origin of the item was other than Myanmar. Since approximately 90% of the world's gem quality natural rubies come from Myanmar this law is effectively going to shut down their availability in the United States. Yangon gem sellers dismissed the sanction against their government as a symbolic gesture unlikely to have much impact on their lucrative trade. "Our buyers are almost all from China, Russia, the Gulf, Thailand, India and the European Union, and we can barely keep up with their demand," said Theta Mar of Mandalar Jewelry, a store in the museum gem shop located in the capitol of Myanmar.

The thing you need to be aware of is that efforts are well under way in the US Congress to have these same restrictions placed on a variety of gemstones and minerals from other countries in the world. I wonder how many of us still have the receipts for the jewelry items we purchased many years ago that might fall into the restricted categories. At the present this will not be much of a problem unless you travel out of country and happen to take along some of your jewelry or maybe find some really outstanding buys you can't live without while abroad. Coming back into this country could present a real challenge.

I've often heard that an elephant is a mouse built to government specifications and now with the current trend towards political correctness, I fully expect to see these efforts at restricting gemological imports grow into a real monster. Will these embargoes which penalize our citizens in order to punish other governments with whom we disagree work? Not really – just like the restrictions on rubies from Myanmar, with the Americans and a few European consumers out of the picture, buyers from other countries will be more than happy to take advantage of a great opportunity. Who will loose? Unfortunately, we Americans citizens will.

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

by Loretta Ogden

California Federation



The Yucapia Valley Gem & Mineral Society nominates **Frank Fitch** as its Rockhound of the Year. As president, He led the Society into a period of major growth by creating a very friendly, helping atmosphere at the meetings and at the shop. This positive atmosphere further encouraged other members into greater participation. Under his leadership, the Society's membership grew 50 percent. Frank has been an active field collector and volunteered to be the field trip chairman for the last two years. Frank also shared his experiences in the field by presenting two programs on collecting sites at our regular meetings. In addition to all of his duties as President, Frank volunteered to be a silver fabrication instructor to help relieve the load on another shop instructor. He has conducted 8 classes in 2008 and many more planned for 2009.

submitted by Janice Torres, Vice President



Have you considered submitting one of your members (or couple) for this recognition? If you've answered "no", then the question becomes, "why not?".

Doing so is easy. Just send the name of a member of your club who deserves to be recognized along with a brief (50 -75 word) paragraph telling what your person has done to deserve recognition. Please remember that if you are using the latest version of "Word", save the document as a "doc" before sending it. Those with older versions of "Word" cannot open documents saved in the newer versions.

REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

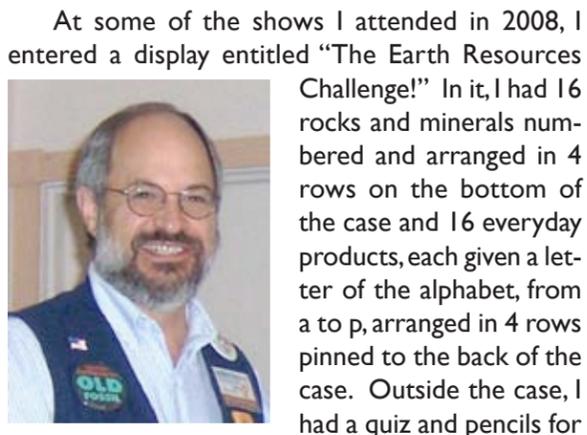
from Bob Livingston

Here is the latest information we have on the Regional Federation Conventions. As soon as your federation sets the date for its convention, please let me know so that we can avoid having 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. 2 - 3 Roswell, NM	Oct. 10-11 Temple, TX	
2010	AFMS Aug. 5 - 10 Riverside, CA					Nov. 13 - 14 DeRidder, LA	
2011							

HAVING FUN: HIGHLIGHTING EARTH RESOURCES FOR KIDS

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Activities Chair



At some of the shows I attended in 2008, I entered a display entitled "The Earth Resources Challenge!" In it, I had 16 rocks and minerals numbered and arranged in 4 rows on the bottom of the case and 16 everyday products, each given a letter of the alphabet, from a to p, arranged in 4 rows pinned to the back of the case. Outside the case, I had a quiz and pencils for folks to match the mineral to the everyday object that was made from it. Kids who completed the quiz were awarded a free tumble-polished stone from a "Pirate's Treasure Chest."

This has proven to be a popular display, and I've had clubs ask if I could list the "ingredients" I used so that they might make one of their own. Here goes: kaolinite and a ceramic mug; copper nuggets and a section of plumbing pipe or pennies; crystals (quartz, aquamarine, tourmaline, peridot) and faceted gemstones; hematite and steel nails; galena and a lead fishing weight; coal and a model of a factory with a smoke stack (purchased at a model train store); talc and talcum powder; sulfur and matches; bauxite and an aluminum can; halite and salt; a borate mineral and laundry detergent; cinnabar and a mercury thermometer (these are hard to find nowadays!); pumice and Lava brand soap; fluorite and fluoride toothpaste; limestone and a photo of a building made from limestone blocks; and garnets and sandpaper.

I encourage all clubs to put together a collection like this because it can serve as a valuable educational resource. If you're using the AFMS/FRA badge program with your pebble pups and junior members, such a collection will help your club's kids earn their Earth

Resources badge. In addition, the collection comes in handy if your club helps Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts earn their earth sciences merit badges or loops. And it's a fun, informative display for school presentations.

The minerals and products I included in my display are just a few of many possibilities. To get still more, turn to the web site of the Mineral Information Institute, or the MII, at www.mii.org. Hit the "For Teachers" tab at the top of the page, then scroll down to "Packets for Download" and click on "Everyday Uses of Minerals - Our Dig a Little Deeper Series" Teacher Packet #3. To the left will be a series of ready-made packets with info and activities of all sorts to illustrate to kids the mineral sources of many everyday objects.

One MII packet I especially like is "How Many Minerals Does it Take to Make a Light Bulb?" Well, per the MII sheet, the bulb is soft glass made from silica, trona, lime, coal, and salt. The filament is made from tungsten. The lead-in-wires are made of copper and nickel. Tie wires are made of molybdenum. Wires contained in the glass stem press are made of a combination of a nickel-iron alloy core and a copper sleeve. The fuse is made of nickel, manganese, copper and/or silicon alloys. Support wires are made of molybdenum. The button and button rod are glass, made of the same minerals as the bulb, plus lead. The heat deflector is made of aluminum (from bauxite ore). The base is made of brass (copper + zinc) or aluminum. And finally, the bulb is filled with a gas that's usually a mixture of nitrogen and argon. All this in a little light bulb. Who woulda thunk it?

So to dramatically illustrate to kids just how many minerals go into their everyday life, you can prepare a full collection and display as I described above, or you can look no further than a single light bulb! It's a bright idea for educating while, as always, having fun!

A.L.A.A. NEWS

by Dick Pankey, President, ALAA



In the last 2 months ALAA has seen a lot of change. In January we were saddened with the passing of Norm Hanschu, our treasurer for many years. Norm handled our finances and our membership. The passing of Norm Hanschu has left a hole in ALAA, but for the time being it is being filled by his wife, Joyce, our Secretary, and Marv Starbuck, our past president. Please give them your support and help.

In January Bob Carlson announced his resignation as President of ALAA. Based on our bylaws I am pleased and proud to become ALAA's President. Starting last year and soon to resume this year there is a ferocious legislative assault on our rights and access to our public lands. Now is the time for a strong, proactive ALAA to take the lead and mobilize the support and participation of all of our members and all members of the AFMS. I look forward to being a proactive, involved president and I am counting on your active and involved participation and support.

I am appointing Shirley Leeson to fill my vacant position of Vice President. She has accepted the appointment. As most of you are aware she and Dee have been a vital link in monitoring legislative activity and advising us on what is happening.

Our next annual meeting will take place during the NFMS/AFMS Show and Convention in Billings, MT this summer. I hope all of you will be there. This will be an important meeting for ALAA. In addition to election of 3 directors and election of officers, I hope this will be a time of planning and reinvigoration of ALAA.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act was passed by the Senate. As of today (March 1, 2009) it is unknown if it was introduced in the House and it has not been considered nor voted on. It is never too late to let your Congressman know your feelings. **Do it now!**

I look forward to and I am counting on your participation and support. For your convenience, a membership application can be found on page 8 of this issue.

Officers:

President - Richard Pankey
Vice President - Shirley Leeson
Secretary - Joyce Hanschu
Treasurer - currently vacant

Directors:

John Alf	Ruth Bailey
Bill Burns	Dr. Robert Carlson
Dee Holland	Jim Hurlbut
Bob & Kathy Miller	Jon Spunaugle
Dean Stone	Howie Whiting

Editor:

Jay Valle

ENDOWMENT DRAWING

continued from page 1

Midwest Federation:

John Washburn
107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563

Northwest Federation:

Rocky McCall
8330 27th St NW; Stanwood, WA 98292

Rocky Mountain:

Richard Jaeger
3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602

South Central Federation:

Bill Pattillo
619 Wright St; Robstown, TX 78380-3815

Southeast Federation:

Bill Waggener
1909 Moores Mill Rd; Atlanta, GA 30318-1309

Remember that this year we'll put all of your regional federation tickets in a bin and pull one ticket from that bin so that someone in every federation has a chance to win at least one of the prizes! After the initial drawing, all remaining tickets will be pooled together and the other prize tickets will be drawn.

Fund raised from this drawing will be invested and the interest used for future AFMS projects such as reproducing programs that are given for your use to your federations library, etc.

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

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Boundaries

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Bulletin Editors Advisory

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Steve Weinberger
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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@cox.net>

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

Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws)

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@comcast.net>

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

REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE

by Fran Sick, Public Relations Chair



You may recognize the title of this message as the motto of a certain telephone company, but it would also serve very well as a motto for public relations.

One of the primary ways we foster good relations with people we hope to attract to our membership is by building strong relationships within our regional communities. We must be known as good neighbors who support local organizations and institutions. In order to do that it may be necessary to refocus our attention away from our own interests, initially at least, and reach out to volunteer our services and help to others. If we want people to become involved in our organizations we need to be involved in theirs as well.

Many of our clubs are very well aware of this. Just a few examples are the many ways they support local artists' or educational endeavors, help with charitable fund raising events, become involved with schools and other youth and adult groups, participate in the "adopt a highway" program, (which by the way provides great advertisement in the form of road signs acknowledging their commitment.) I suspect these are the clubs who are not too concerned about attracting new members because their service to others just naturally attracts people.

It is only natural to focus attention on our own interests and concerns. But if all the advertising we do, wonderful club shows we sponsor and other efforts we make to attract members is not working as well as we would like, maybe we should try making ourselves more approachable by doing whatever we can to make our clubs easily recognized as a vital part of our communities. This may not be as hard as it

sounds. Many club members may already be involved in local undertakings, in fact this is undoubtedly true for most clubs. And if they are, why not find out what they are doing and tap into these resources which are already in place, put forth a little extra manpower or other service, and in doing so make your club a recognized supporter.

Businesses recognize community support as one of the most important things they do to establish good will and respect in the areas they serve. If it works for them it should also work for us. Give it a try. Reach out and touch someone, make sure that someone knows you are representing your club and that you welcome new members and guests.

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
Joyce Hanschu, Secretary
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.

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.