Time is Running Out!

Hurry, hurry, hurry. Time is running out for you to purchase your tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund drawing which will be held during the 2009 convention in Billings, MT this July. You could be the proud owner of one of the fabulous prizes donated by rockhounds across the country and you do not have to be present to win!

We’ve added several new prizes and more are on the way. You can see them in “living color” by visiting <www.amfed.org/endow2009.htm>. You really have to see them in color to appreciate their beauty!

Here are the latest that have been added as of press time.

Prize #10 is a Chondrite meteorite. Chondrites are believed to originate in the asteroids that orbit the sun between Jupiter and Mars and contain between 2 and 21 percent iron-nickel metal. The slab is about 5/8” thick and approx. 3 inches in length. Donated by Carl Shugart of the San Diego Mineral Society, we do not as yet have an estimated value. (CFMS).

#11 is a multi-color Guatemalan Jadeite cabochon set as a pendant in sterling silver. Donated by the Dalлас Gem & Mineral Society of Dallas, TX, the pendant has an estimated value of $75. (SCFMS).

Prize #12 is a Smoky Quartz from Petersen Mountain, NV set in a gold-filled wire-wrapped pendant. The necklace was made and donated by Jennifer Rhodes of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society and has an estimated value of $150. (CFMS).

#13 is a vibrant one-of-a-kind off-loom beaded pendant designed and crafted by Mia Schulman of the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Washington, DC. The pendant measures 1 1/2 x 2” and contains approximately 420 tiny colored beads. The pendant is hanging on an 18 inch black corded necklace. The estimated value of this lovely pendant is $120. (EFMLS).

Prize #14 is a spectacular dolphin carving. The smoky quartz dolphins are riding on a milky quartz wave. Created by master carver Kenneth Neaves of Lansing, NC, the piece has an estimated value of $1,200. Sorry, no photo yet, but it will be on the AFMS website shortly.

You can purchase your tickets for the drawing by sending your check, payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund" to your regional salesperson listed below. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your ticket stubs. All requests for tickets must be received no later than July 10, 2009 in order to be included in the drawing which will be held on August 1 during the convention in Billings, MT.

Regional salespersons:

CFMS — Colleen McGann, PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052-0224.

EFMLS – Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

MWF – John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563.

NFMS – Rocky McCall, 8330 272nd St; Stanwood, WA 98292-7430.

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

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

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

We anticipate the addition of more prizes in the next month so visit the AFMS Website for updated information.

Remember; tickets are $5 each of 5 for $20 and the...
- and the field trip season is well underway from Maine to California, and from Washington state to Florida! I have been very pleasantly surprised to see so many lists of scheduled club field trips in the club bulletins I receive. In my opinion, this is what rockhounds should all do - get out there and find your treasure. What you find does not have to be of world class value - the real treasure is the great companionship and fun you experience in the hunting.

Most field trips are sponsored by local clubs or regional organizations, and are led by a local field trip chairman. These individuals are knowledgeable about the area in which the trip is to be held; have taken a safety course, and are prepared to enforce the rules concerning appropriate field trip behavior just in case. And that is all to the good. They can probably identify your finds for you, too. (Especially if you are looking for fossils)

My personal experience is that it was on a mandatory field trip during my undergraduate years that I found my first fossil! I was a math major and only went on the trip because it was a requirement of the University curriculum.

The professor took a bus load of students to the newly constructed US Rt 81 in northern New York state, pulled off at an exit, and told us we were to look for fossils. When we asked him, what they looked like, he told us we were to look for rocks which did not look like the usual run of rock in the area. When I found a rock which appeared especially lumpy, I took it to the gentleman and asked him if it was a fossil, he took a look at it, and said, "My dear, you have found a hormatoma!" Wow, was I excited! That is when I became hooked and although I did not realize it at the time, I became a Rockhound! (I still have that fossil in my collection.) I went on to take every geology course in the syllabus, and wound up with dual certification to teach Mathematics and Earth and Space Science. So, you can see how a life can be changed on a field trip.

Even if you don’t plan to change your life - I highly recommend collecting to you as a super way to spend a summer.

Happy Hunting!

Joy

Summer Break!

Your AFMS Newsletter staff takes a break during July and August. This year, the support staff - Sir Barkley Bigfoot and Caesar the GoFer, will spend part of their time traveling to Montana for the AFMS Convention in Billings. They’re also looking forward to making the acquaintance of a gorgeous black lab named Bella so they are quite excited.

The next AFMS Newsletter will be the September issue with an August 1 deadline.

We wish you a wonderful summer. We hope to meet many of you in Billings, MT this August during the AFMS/NFMS Convention. Even if you’re not an editor, do plan on attending Breakfast with the Editors so you can support your hard working club members as well as all of the other AFMS/NFMS functions - including announcement of the Endowment Fund prizes, exhibit awards, AFMS Recognition Award etc.

The support staff, Sir Barkley Bigfoot and Caesar the GoFer are gearing up for their trek west as well. Both are excited at the opportunity to meet Bella, a gorgeous (and young) black lab!

Have a productive and safe summer!
Ted's Safety Corner
by Ted Reith, AFMS Safety Chair

Clean Up Your Act — Safely, Please

The lovely, sparkly, near pristine specimens many of us ‘collect’ at rock, gem, and mineral shows hardly ever are found in that condition in Nature. Those who collect ‘in the wild’ will have some cleaning chores in front of them, whether planning to sell those specimens, or add them to a personal collection.

In almost any venture, simple is better than complex, and less hazard is better than more. However, if you truly know the specimen you have and the nature of the surface contaminant, then by all means use complex cleaning methods with hazardous chemicals (if that is the needed methodology), but do so safely.

An important key to any cleaning is to know your specimen and know its contaminant. This means to know each in terms of Mohs hardness and chemical make-up. Hardness will guide one in mechanical cleaning options, while the chemistry will dictate specific cleaning materials.

Cleaning methods, from simple/safe to complex/less safe, may be outlined as follows:

- Soak in or clean under running water; using a bristle brush.
- Same as above, but add a cleaning agent, such as household detergent, to the water. This will help ‘wet’ the surface contaminant and allow it to be flushed away more readily.

- If appropriate, use a brass brush (Mohs 3.5 – 5) or steel dental pick (harder). This is where knowledge of the base mineral hardness is useful. The tool needs to be harder than the contaminant, but less hard than the base material. Of course, test on an obscure area first to confirm suitability.

One very interesting cleaning option I saw is to use Soft Scrub cleaner (ground calcium carbonate in a detergent base) and a battery powered toothbrush. To give credit, the following link provides an excellent write-up: <home page.mac.com/rasprague/PegShop/extras/brush/brush.html>.

Use equipment such as ultrasonic cleaners (good for more fragile specimens) or small sand blasters to remove tough scale on minerals, while following all manufacturer use and safety recommendations.

Use an acid/water solution for those known, hard-to-remove contaminants. Oxalic acid and hydrochloric (Muriatic) acids are typically used for cleaning of quartz. Both are available in hardware stores. Another useful link for specific procedures using acids is at: <www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/john_betts/clean1.html>.

The proper care and handling of acids can be accomplished using applied knowledge. The hazard associated with any acid is a function of the acid type and its concentration (% strength in water). If you put milk on your corn flakes this morning, and used oil & vinegar on your salad for lunch, you just ate two acids. Milk contains lactic acid, and vinegar is a dilute (3%) solution of acetic acid.

Several notes are appropriate regarding the two acids frequently used in mineral cleaning.

Oxalic Acid: Though classified as a weak organic acid, it is much stronger than acetic acid. It’s primary hazard is skin irritation, with greater hazard if taken internally by mouth or breathing (classified as a poison). Recommended protective equipment includes gloves, apron, goggles, and respirator when used in poorly ventilated areas.

Full MSDS info at: <www.jtbaker.com/msds/english.html>.

Muriatic Acid: AKA Hydrochloric acid — an extremely strong mineral acid with serious safety concerns. Severe damage can result from tissue or eye contact. Inhaling the fumes or ingestion may be fatal. I’ve used this myself, but wore butyl rubber gloves and apron, face shield, and used oil & vinegar on your salad for lunch, you just ate two acids. Milk contains lactic acid, and vinegar is a dilute (3%) solution of acetic acid.

Several notes are appropriate regarding the two acids frequently used in mineral cleaning.

Oxalic Acid: Though classified as a weak organic acid, it is much stronger than acetic acid. It’s primary hazard is skin irritation, with greater hazard if taken internally by mouth or breathing (classified as a poison). Recommended protective equipment includes gloves, apron, goggles, and respirator when used in poorly ventilated areas.

Full MSDS info at: <www.jtbaker.com/msds/english.html>.

Muriatic Acid: AKA Hydrochloric acid — an extremely strong mineral acid with serious safety concerns. Severe damage can result from tissue or eye contact. Inhaling the fumes or ingestion may be fatal. I’ve used this myself, but wore butyl rubber gloves and apron, face shield, and used outdoors on a non-windy day to minimize inhalation concerns. Typically available commercially from 20 – 38% concentration, you MUST add the acid to water if dilution is needed, never add water to acid. MSDS: <www.jtbaker.com/msds/english.html#6880.htm>.

When using any acid, note that spills or solutions remaining after use should be neutralized with an alkaline material. Some fairly common household items to do that would include soda ash, lime, or baking soda. How do you know when you have enough neutralizer? You can use the old high school chem lab stand-by — litmus paper. Or, get some red cabbage at the grocery, and use the juice as an indicator. At pH 2 (acid), it will be red; at pH 12 (alkaline), it will be greenish-yellow. At neutral pH of 7, it’s blue.

Happy…and safe cleaning.
Having Fun: Junior Activities

Preparing Educational Collections

All local clubs and societies should create and maintain educational collections tied to school standards and scout badges—and to the AFMS/FRA Badge Program! While these can be extensive, with every rock under the sun, they don’t need to be. A lot of learning can be packed into even small, modest collections if they hold just the right rocks.

I encourage you to consider at least four such collections:

1) Earth Processes, the Rock Cycle, & the Three Rock Types. This collection would include specimens of common igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, along with a laminated diagram showing the rock cycle in action. (You can get many colorful rock cycle diagrams by searching “rock cycle” on the web.) To illustrate the rock cycle, I include four specimens: a chunk of igneous granite, which weathers into sand, which consolidates into sedimentary sandstone, which metamorphoses into quartzite.

2) Mineral Identification. Make a laminated chart illustrating the Mohs Scale (again, obtainable from the web), then have specimens that metamorphoses into quartzite.

3) Earth Resources. This is a fun collection to create and always attracts attention. Include common products and the minerals that went into them (laundry detergent/borate minerals, fishing weights/galena, copper pipe/a copper nugget, steel nails/hematite, mercury thermometer/cinnabar, etc.). You can use a small collection for a matching game and as a springboard for kids to think of everyday items not included in the collection.

4) Fossils. A basic collection would include examples of different forms of fossilization (carbonized impressions, molds and casts, replacement and petrification, original materials such as enamel shark teeth, etc.). These can be used to illustrate a discussion about how fossils form and what they are. This collection should also include a laminated geological time scale for a discussion of how the earth and life have changed over the eons. These four collections will take you a long way with most standard earth science curriculum requirements and will help scouts and FRA members earn badges.

Such collections could either be kept in a permanent location for school field trips and visits by Boy and Girl Scouts, or installed in lightweight cases that can be transported to schools or to the regular meeting locations of scout troops. For a permanent location, you might choose a club member’s home or make arrangements for a modest amount of storage space with the local school district, a nearby university or community college, your parks and rec department, a local museum, or public library. My club in Ventura, California, has recently entered into a surprising inexpensive lease with our County Parks Department to rehabilitate an entire ranch-style home to house our club workshop, a meeting/library room, and a one-room museum. We’re creating installed displays accompanied by smaller, hands-on sets of rocks, minerals, and fossils in cloth-lined plastic tubs that will be easy to take out and utilize. Check around your community for similar opportunities, then set up collections for educating while having fun!

AFMS Club Rockhounds

California Federation

The Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society, happily recommends Gary Levitt as our outstanding Rockhound of the Year. Gary has used his leadership to organize field trips for rock hunters in various rock clubs. He is currently a member of three different clubs and helps these clubs share their activities. He is happy to share his experience with the newbies in the club and frequently makes arrangements for our club programs. As if this isn’t enough, Gary is also in charge of planning of our tailgate show. Rockatomics salutes Gary Levitt as our Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by Gordon Ralph, Vice President

Rocky Mountain Federation

Our club, the Olathe-Shawnee Mission Gem and Mineral Society, located in Olathe Kansas, takes great pleasure in nominating Sigurd and Marilyn Ross as Rockhounds of the year for 2009. They have been in the business of operating a rock shop in California for over 40 years and when they retired to Kansas formed our club and led it as president for many years. Sig is a certified gemologist and has grown our club from a dozen members to over 40 at present. He and Marilyn work side by side to share their knowledge with our club members and he still gives classes to all who desire in cabochon making and silver casting. They also have provided their home since the beginning for our monthly meetings. Marilyn continues to lead our Future Rockhounds program for our 12 junior members.

submitted by John Robinson, President

In 1973 Ray and Lolly Nyce joined the Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society after his job moved to Hill Air Force Base. They also joined Min. Soc. of Utah, Timpanogos, Cache Valley, Wasatch and continued on page 6

AFMS Newsletter - June-July, 2009

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

Here is an up-to-date listing of the confirmed regional federations conventions. Note the change in date and venue for the 2010 AFMS/CIFMS Convention and the addition of the 2011 AFMS/EMPMLS Convention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Convention</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td>San Jose, CA</td>
<td>Apr 17-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td>Olathe, KS</td>
<td>June 18-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td>Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>July 14-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continued on page 6
If you plan on visiting the National Forest be aware that you cannot trust the information on their “web sites” or in their brochures as Forest Service law enforcement officers use a different set of rules, regulations, and interpretations than the ones published. These inconsistencies are probably the result of poor coordination within the departments of the National Forest and if you have ever attended any of the public forums they conduct, you know just how poorly organized they are. Unfortunately, Forest Service officials and Federal Judges invariably side with the law enforcement officers no matter how inconsistent or corrupt the circumstances may be.

Dick Pankey, President of ALAA, informed me of a pending case which is very typical of what can happen that occurred in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest located in northern Georgia. The victims in this case are Dr. Madden, MD, and his fiancé, who were rock-hounding in compliance with the Forest Service directives, but criminally charged anyway. I believe this is an important enough example that all of our members should be made aware of the problems they could encounter when visiting in “our” National Forests. Permission was granted by the victim, Dr. Madden, to use his very well written account of the circumstances, which unfortunately is very typical of a number of other similar cases being adjudicated in the SFMS area at the present time.

E-Mail received from Dick Pankey:

A couple of weeks ago I received this article. It was written by a rockhound from Georgia. He first contacted me in early February. We have exchanged e-mails, had telephone conversations and he has provided me with other information regarding collecting in Georgia National Forests and the charges against him and his fiancé. He has begun collecting rockhounding/collection regulations and information from BLM and FS offices around the country. So far much of the information is sketchy and vague. Written regulation and pamphlets most often don’t exist. What I have found out is that although the laws allow for collecting on BLM and FS land each district can establish their own management plan based on their interpretation of the law and the ranger/enforcement officer enforces the management plan based upon their interpretation. And these vary wildly!

So we have undocumented, inconsistent regulations, enforced by people based upon their ideas and agendas, so THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU.

Dick Pankey, President, ALAA

THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU

On November 1, 2008, my fiancé, Dori, and I were criminally charged with collecting Staurolites on U.S. Forest Service land. Local collectors have been going to this location to collect Staurolites for over 30 years. Our friends, Tonya and Barry, informed us of the location in Blue Ridge. We visited this area four (4) times in the summer and fall of 2008. The Staurolites we found on the surface were mostly poor quality. However, just a few inches under the surface using a scraper we found much better quality ones. We used hand tools including a scraper and a small pick, and we were very careful not to damage the site. We did not dig more than 6 or 7 inches and completely filled in our holes and raked the dirt to ensure the site looked undisturbed.

On November 1, 2008 Officer Mike Tipton of the USFS approached us. We did not attempt to hide ourselves because we had no idea we were doing anything wrong. He stated he had set up a video camera at the site and had been watching us. This was very alarming to us. I assured him if he had approached us that first time and explained that the Forest Service did not wish us to collect here, we would have politely left and never returned. He will attest to the fact that we were cooperative. He even complimented us stating we were “not like most of the individuals he deals with.”

Officer Tipton approached us and asked us what we were looking for. We told him we were looking for Staurolites. He did not know what Staurolites were, but informed us we needed a mining permit to dig for any type of mineral. He told us any Staurolites we find are government property. Next he confiscated our scraping tools, knap sack and bucket. He separated us and read me my Miranda rights. At this point he asked me if I would allow federal agents to search my home in Rome for any other federal property. When I said “no” my interview was over. Evidently he tried to obtain a search warrant, but was unsuccessful. Officer Tipton repeatedly inquired as to whether we sold rocks. I told him I have never sold minerals and Staurolites have only intrinsic value. In the past there have been locations in Blue Ridge (Hackney Farm) that have allowed individuals to collect a bucket of them for $5.00.

On January 11, 2009, Officer Tipton gave us a courtesy call. He stated we are being charged criminally with 261.9(a) destroying a natural feature or property of the United States ($250.00 fine) and 261.9(b) removing a natural feature or property of the United States ($250.00 fine). These are criminal misdemeanor offenses and can result in a criminal record. I strongly feel the section we are being charged under is both vague and does not address the important point that we were collecting minerals. Mineral collecting is generally allowed on most U.S. Forest Service lands including public domain lands and acquired lands. Unfortunately, each individual Forest Service can now make the rules (on acquired lands) dictating the rules for rock hounding and Georgia has one of the most restrictive policies. Under this charge it appears we are vandals or even worse thieves. I told Officer Tipton I was considering going to court. Five days later when I received my ticket it had doubled to $400.00 for each offense for a total of $2000.00.

In conclusion, I feel strongly we took the utmost care to treat this land with care. We spent at least 15-20 minutes each time to leave the ground looking undisturbed. I feel the US Forest Service in Georgia is treating mineral collectors like criminals. Mineral collecting has in the past been considered a wholesome and educational activity. In other states, the US Forest Service has been much more responsive to working with mineral collectors and even encourages collecting. I am saddened that in Georgia the US Forest Service is now considering it a criminal offense. Thank you for the time you spend considering this matter. (Signed) Robert Madden, M.D.

Note: This is the Federal Code that Dr. Madden was charged with violating. The specific items in the charges are underlined and in “Bold” print.

36 CFR 261.9 - Property.
TITLE 36 - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY
CHAPTER 11 – FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PART 261 –PROHIBITIONS
subpart a – GENERAL PROHIBITIONS
261.9 – Property

The following are prohibited:

(a) Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States.
(b) Removing any natural feature or other property of the United States.
(c) Damaging any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.
(d) Removing any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.
(e) Entering any building, structure, or enclosed area owned or controlled by the United States, which building, structure, or enclosed area is not open to the public.
(f) Using any pesticide except for personal use as an insect repellent or as provided by special-use authorization for other minor uses.
(g) Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, or property.
(h) Removing any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, property.
(i) Excavating, damaging, or removing any vertebrate fossil or removing any paleontological resource for commercial purposes without a special use authorization.
(j) Excavating, damaging, or removing any cave resource from a cave without a special use authorization, or removing any cave resource for commercial purposes.


(Note: This excerpt is from Page 2, Official Web Site of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest)
Walt Wright, Botanist, Ecologist and Paleobotanist has given talks on petrified wood for over 30 years. He has taught seminars and classes on wood identification with discussions of ancient habitats and paleogeography since 1992. Walt has identified specimens in Museums and University collections from all over the world.

Don’t miss the chance to attend one of the two seminars Walt will be presenting during the show. Sign up now as there will be limited space (35 per session).

Both of the programs will be different and will cover various aspects of wood identification, how does petrification take place, geology and the earth.

Friday July 31, (3 hour class) Cost $20.00, Sunday August 2, (4 hour class) Cost $25.00

Quick Tips for Editors
by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair

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

BREAFKAST with the EDITORS

The NFMS/AFMS show and convention will be upon us before we know it. Breakfast with the Editors will be Sunday, August 2, in the host hotel. If you will be at the show (we hope so!), be sure to join us for the breakfast and presentation of awards. Everyone can attend. Our editors are the key to good communication within our hobby, and they deserve to be honored each year!

This year the awards for the AFMS Webmaster Contest will be presented at the Breakfast with the Editors. Our webmasters are also deserving of accolades for great communication, especially since so much of the general population uses the Internet! Webmasters are key to informing the rest of the world about our hobby and increasing membership.

In addition, we may be seeing some of our Canadian editors at the breakfast. What an opportunity to compare notes – with them as well as with other editors we don’t usually see!

WINNING ARTICLES BOOKLETS/CDs

There will be a limited number of Winning Articles Booklets available at the show, as well as a greater number of CDs containing the same material. Both are “editor friendly,” making it easy for editors to reprint the winning articles in their bulletins. We still have a few copies of the Winning Articles Booklets and CDs from the 2008 contest, which will also be available at the show.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION FORM  -  WOOD SEMINARS

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
E-mail: ____________________________ for class confirmation

Send Registration and payment to: 2009 Show Committee Debbie MacDowall 6125 Linch Circle Shephard, Montana 59079
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All American Club</th>
<th>Shirley Leeson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Washburn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shirleyleeson@msn.com">shirleyleeson@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
<td>Bob Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loretta Ogden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jonesb52@gmail.com">jonesb52@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
<td>Dee Holland    (See Endowment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:editor@amfed.org">editor@amfed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wright</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:cosjbw@datasync.com">cosjbw@datasync.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson (See Historian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitty Starbuck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:greenstone@iserv.net">greenstone@iserv.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editors Advisory</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson (see Historian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Jaeger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ljgralg@aol.com">ljgralg@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bylaws Revisory</td>
<td>Dee Holland    (See Endowment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:central_office@amfed.org">central_office@amfed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Office Administrator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(see Bylaws Revisory)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commenorative Stamps</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendell Mohr</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wmohr@erols.com">wmohr@erols.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and Legislation</td>
<td>Marge Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret@qtm.net">margaret@qtm.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>B. Jay Bowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dee Holland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjb@wildblue.net">bjb@wildblue.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Investment</td>
<td>Fran Sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ednfran@epix.net">ednfran@epix.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historian**

Shirley Leeson

**International Relations**

Bob Jones

**Judges Training Seminar**

Dee Holland (See Endowment)

**Junior Programs**

Jim Brace-Thompson

**Long Range Planning**

Shirley Leeson (See Historian)

**Name Badges**

Frank Mullaney

**Nominating**

Shirley Leeson (see Historian)

**Parliamentarian**

Dee Holland (See Endowment)

**Past President's Advisory**

Shirley Leeson (see Historian)

**Photography**

Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

**Program Competition**

Margaret Collins

**Publications**

B. Jay Bowman

**Public Relations**

Fran Sick

**Safety**

Ted Rieth

**Show Consultant**

Bob Livingston

**Uniform Rules**

Barbara Jacobsen

**URC Eligibility Files**

Anne Cook

**Ways and Means**

Marve Starbuck

**Website/Webmaster**

Marty Hart

**Ad Hoc Webmaster Contest**

Phyllis George

**Ad Hoc Competition Study**

Ron Carman

**Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip**

Dick Pankey

**AFMS Scholarship Foundation**

Dee Holland, President (see Endowment Fund)

Joy Bourne, Vice President

Rush Bailey, Secretary

Arlene Burkhalter, Treasurer
The California Federation just completed its annual show and meeting hosted by the Santa Clara Valley G&MS. It was a great show. And there was something else there this year – a meeting of the American Land Access Association. Typically ALAA holds one meeting a year, always in conjunction with the AFMS Show and Meeting. So this is something new for ALAA. The meeting was held Saturday afternoon following the Directors’ meeting and lasted about an hour and a half. We had good attendance and a lot of interest. 28 people attended including Vice President Shirley Leeson, Directors Bill Burns, Ruth Bailey and Dee Holland, web masters John and Suzy Martin and me. About half the group was ALAA members and the other half wanted to be members.

The main purpose of the meeting was to create interest in ALAA and recruit new/more individual and societal members. The objective was to introduce ALAA – What we are, what we do and how we do it. The ALAA slogan: “Protecting the Public Lands for the Public.” pretty much says what we do. The purpose of the Association is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collectors, 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. Involving people is what we do and how we do it. ALAA promotes legislation, responds to legislative proposals, participates in the legislative process and participates in the land management process. To accomplish these goals we attend meetings, get to know officials and get involved, and write letters and e-mails.

Shirley Leeson gave us the background and history of ALAA. In 1991, the President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies appointed a select committee to recommend ways to make the Federation more effectively responsive to the political challenges of increasing regulation and decreasing access to public lands that State and Federal Land Management agencies were imposing on amateur fossil and mineral collectors. The committee recommended that the AFMS form a separate 501(c) (4) organization whose primary purpose would be to promote the amateur collectors’ interests in present and proposed policies, rules, regulations and legislation with State and Federal land managers, elected officials and legislators. In compliance with that recommendation, the AFMS directors voted to establish the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) in July 1992 at their convention in Brunswick, Ohio. The Association is a 501 (c)(4) (non-profit) organization which means that all moneys raised by the association can go toward lobbying activity.

Dee Holland talked about the Blue Ribbon Coalition and our association with it. The Blue Ribbon Coalition is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving responsible recreational access to public lands and waters. We want to keep your land open for use, whether you recreate on a mountain bike, snowmobile, motorcycle, personal watercraft, ATV or four-wheeler, horse, or your hiking boots. Today, the Blue Ribbon Coalition is a respected national recreation group that represents over 10,000 individual members and 1,200 organization and business members, for a combined total of over 600,000 recreationists nationwide. ALAA joined the BRC in 2006. The BRC has an outstanding system to monitor legislative and regulatory activity and an e-mail alert system to notify its members and call them to action.

Our webmasters John and Suzy Martin talked about the ALAA web site and plans for the future. The web site is extremely important because it can provide instant information and respond to rapid changes with the legislative or regulatory process. Our web site provides an easy way to let the public and interested people know about us and what we are doing.

We concluded the meeting by inviting individuals and societies to become members of ALAA and become involved and participate in our efforts. The easiest way to become a member is to get the membership application off of the web site or out of the AFMS Newsletter. Several people had questions about the affect of a society’s membership on the society’s tax exempt status. Mike Kokinos, the CFMS Tax Advisor, told me that the subject of lobbying is very complex. Being a member of ALAA would be so insignificant it would not affect charitable exemptions.

The law does not prohibit membership in ALAA by a charitable organization. Mike is going to research and write an article addressing this in the near future.

I am personally inviting every society, in every Federation to join The American Land Access Association. The yearly dues for a society are only $50.00. I invite them to not only join but to get involved and participate in the process to keep our public lands open to the public. I am also inviting all individuals who believe and support the purpose and objectives of ALAA to join as an individual member and become involved and active. Individual membership is $25.00 per year. For more information about ALAA go to our web site <www.amlands.org>.

This was the first meeting of ALAA at a Regional Federation meeting. I encourage ALAA directors and interested members in the other federation to plan and hold a meeting to introduce and promote ALAA during their Federation’s meeting. Contact me with questions and for details for holding a meeting of ALAA.

With your help, ideas interest and participation ALAA will have the strength and the voice to accomplish our purpose of “Protecting the Public Lands for the Public.”