



AFMS Newsletter
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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 63, Number 1 – November 2009
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

WHY CREATE AN ALL-AMERICAN CLUB YEARBOOK?

by John Washburn, All-American Chair

I'm going to mimic a recent television commercial by asking,

“Why create an All American Club Yearbook?”
“Why now?”..... “Why not?”

Here are some answers.

- It would give your club an excellent record of 2009;
- If you've never done one before, it can be a tool to examine your club's strong points and where you need to put more effort in the future;
- If you have put together a book in the past, a comparison of this year to past years can also be an effective tool - what's changed, what's good, what needs improvement, have we been moving in the right direction - all good things to look at and weigh;
- It can pull club members together around a common goal, each adding their own talents and strengths to the project; and most importantly
- It can act as a focal point at your Show or at your meetings to attract potential new members.

In the past, I have written a series of articles for the *AFMS Newsletter* giving hints and suggestions about how you can tackle this project. It is, by no means, a simple task, but it is one that can be done with a plan in mind and with the help of a group of members.

This year, I compiled those articles into a booklet form and took copies to the AFMS Convention & Show in Billings, MT. They were well received. How well? I kept returning to Office Depot to make more copies!

The booklet is called “*An All American Club Yearbook: A Guide for Preparation.*” If you didn't keep a copy of the newsletters containing my articles and are interested in having a copy of the booklet, you can contact me for either an

electronic copy in pdf format, or I can send you a hard copy. You can write to me: John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Road, Rochester, IL, 62563-9220. You can e-mail me: <jrwashburn2@msn.com>. Or you can call me at 217-498-7713. I would welcome the opportunity to be of help to you and your club.



The guidelines / score sheets for the 2010 competition are printed on page 8 of this issue. You can also download them via the AFMS website.

NEW IRS INFORMATION

by Mike Kokinos, CFMS Tax Advisor

The IRS announced new user filing fees for applications for exemption (Forms 1023 and 1024) postmarked after January 3, 2010.

- \$400 if gross receipts are \$10,00 or less over a 4-year period.
- \$850.00 if gross receipts exceed \$10,000 annually over a 4-year period

Cyber Assistant, a web-based software program designed to help 501(c) (3) applicants prepare a complete and accurate Form 1023 application, will become available during 2010. Once the IRS announces the availability of Cyber Assistant. The user fee will change again:

- \$200 for organizations using Cyber Assistant for Form 1023 (regardless of size)
- \$850 all other organizations not using Cyber Assistant for Form 1023 (regardless of size).

IRS will announce when Cyber Assistant is available and the effective date of the user fee change.

The IRS Exempt Organization Unit so far does not

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Always Prepared...Are You Sure?	2
Avoiding Conflicts.....	2
Lillian S. Turner	3
2010 Editors Contest.....	3
Club Rockhounds of the Year.....	4
Will You...or Your Club Help?.....	4
Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions.....	4
Program Competition Rules.....	5
Junior Activities.....	6
Endowment Fund News	6
Judges Training at Wildacres.....	6
Web Site Contest	7
Inter-Regional Field Trips	7
All-American Application.....	8
The President Says.....	10
AFMS Committee Chairs.....	11
ALAA	12



have information on Cyber Assistant such as cost, if any.

Keep in mind Cyber Assistant will only apply to Form 1023.

The IRS website has substantial information available for charities. A new on-line tool will help complete the 2008 Form 990. More important is a mini-course overview of Form 990-EZ. Changes in the filing thresholds make many more organizations eligible to file Form 990-EZ.

The AFMS
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Seven Regional
Federations



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ALWAYS PREPARED! ARE YOU SURE?

A Safety Note by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

I like to think that I am always prepared to make a quick stop at any out crop of opportunity that I encounter in my travels around the country. Rock hammer, bucket, loupe, I usually have all those things with me.

So it was this last month when we were picking up my daughter from a summer camp in central Texas. While waiting to check in at the hotel I spied a beautiful looking road cut about a half mile from the hotel. I wouldn't be able to look at it that night, but on the way back home I was sure I could convince my wife to stop for a few minutes.

The following morning that is exactly what we did. My daughter even thought it looked good so she decided to join me while the rest of the crew stayed in the minivan and listened to the Jonas Brothers or Miley Cyrus. I got pretty excited since within about a minute on the outcrop I found my first loriola echinoid. It was a really cute little one and better than what I was hoping for. My daughter came over to see it and we promptly found 3 more in the next couple of minutes. Things were going really well!

Or so they seemed, but then a few minutes later I heard my daughter scream and she was only about 10 feet away from me so it gave me quite a shock! I was immediately on top of the situation (or so I thought) and discovered that she had just had her first encounter with a baby diamond back rattler. Luckily they scared each other and the snake quickly headed under a rock.

So as I picked her up and hauled her back to the van it dawned on me exactly how "unprepared" I was to make such a stop. My daughter was wearing shorts and flip flops, and I didn't have my medical kit! So I was definitely prepared to hunt, but not my daughter, and definitely NOT to deal with the consequences of something bad happening.

In the future I am going to give a good bit more forethought to my impromptu stops especially if I have my kids in tow and I would strongly encourage you all to do the same. If she had been bitten by that little snake it could have been very bad!

Be safe on your trips and travels, and always consider how you can better prepare for events you may encounter in the field!



AVOIDING CONFLICTS WITH REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

by Bob Livingston, AFMS Show Consultant

We are in a new year and new people -- including me in this role. In order to keep us all on the straight and narrow, please contact me well in advance re your intentions on Convention dates. I am charged by President Tucker in giving it my all to avoid Regional Convention timing conflicts which has happened a time or two in the past.

You may be saying, who gives a darn. Or worse. It is this simple: a majority of AFMS Presidents want to make the rounds and attend every regional convention possible. I know several of our recent AFMS Presidents did a yeomans job in making the rounds!. If, and it is a big IF, your federation accepts a host club with show dates already spoken for by another federation host club, there is no way the current AFMS president can be in both places at once. So your club's miss the great opportunity of having the big man or lady there at your show and convention. In the past, when this has happened it has caused a lot of disappointment. With just a little forethought and planning, this is what we want to avoid. Even more importantly, we want to make sure that a federation who is hosting the AFMS show does not conflict with any other regional show. There is no doubt when that happens, where the president will head and your regional federation president is expected to attend the AFMS meetings as a voting member of AFMS. In addition, those kind of conflicts take away the opportunity for exhibits judges and other core people to sometimes serve in both places.

You can see by this issue of the AFMS Newsletter that we are beginning to fill in the blanks for 2010, 2011 and 2012. It's not too soon to begin talking it up in your federations and getting your host club slotted in. I appreciate the cooperation you will give me in this role.

My preference is e-mails, but if you wish, my snail mail contact is on page 11 of this issue.

LILLIAN S. TURNER

Lillian Turner was one of those "behind the scenes" people whose determination made things happen. Sadly, she passed away on September 27 at the age of 91.



October 2007

Photo: Wendell Mohr

A modest woman, she preferred to remain in the background and as a result, for many, the "rockhound" accomplishments of Lillian Turner are unknown. She was instrumental in getting the postal service to issue two sets of mineral stamps -- best sellers for USPS because the entire inventory quickly sold out and it's rumored that many still remain uncirculated. Until age prevented her from being more active, Lillian continued to work with the Citizens Stamp Advisory Board on trying to obtain additional postal issues. Lillian also donated a sum of money to the AFMS for the establishment of the "Lillian Turner Award" - a savings bond given to the junior having the best competitive display during the AFMS annual convention. She also established a similar award for her local club, the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery Co. MD.

If you've ever visited the Smithsonian, you may have noticed the "Mysterious Diamond", a nearly black stone on display in the diamond case in the gem hall. That stone, which she donated, is about a half dollar in size, but extremely thin. It's mounting artfully hides the fact that it's so thin. In 1987 she was instrumental in obtaining the donation of the 5-carat red diamond, one of the largest such stones known by working with Sydney DeYoung, a Boston jeweler she had met during her travels. Several jade pieces were also donated to the Smithsonian and at least one remains on display in the Geology gallery. She was also friendly with Harry Winston and others, and probably influenced additional gem donations.

Lillian would periodically call my home and we'd chat for 30 minutes or so. She was fascinating to talk with, always sharing some information about her collection of jade, or famous diamond replicas or carved birds. She generously shared parts of these collections each year during the GLMS/MC annual show and always offered to take me on a "personal tour" whenever she and I were at the show together. She loved to regale me with stories about how she had obtained each of the items. She had a connection with Baltimore, my hometown, and loved to talk about its history and museums. We also shared a love of poodles and she never failed to ask about mine. Good memories of a fabulous lady.

She is survived by her son, Dr. Stephen Turner of Winston-Salem, NC, a niece and a nephew. Contributions in her memory may be made to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, % your regional federation chair person.

Carolyn Weinberger
with thanks to Wendell Mohr for some of the information

2010 BULLETIN EDITORS CONTEST

from Linda Jaeger



connect names with faces and share ideas.

Because of the early convention date, your regional federation BEAC chair needs to have the top entries in the regional contest in the hands of AFMS judges no later than March 20. This means

that many of the regional federations will be setting somewhat earlier than normal deadlines...it's a lot of work to have all the entries judged, then results compiled etc. before forwarding the top finalists on to the AFMS judges.

When you receive word from your regional BEAC chair, please consider entering the contest. You'll receive good feedback from the judges...and may well be rewarded with a trophy to recognize all your hard work.



Purpose of the AFMS:

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

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AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair



California Federation

Rob Sankovich has been a member of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society for just a couple years, but it doesn't seem that brief! Rob quickly established himself as a fixture at shows and field trips. Although fossils are his passion, he does wonderful free-form angle-grinding sculpture of gemstone boulders, resulting in award-winning pieces at the county fair and drawing crowds at our show with his demos. He installs great displays of personally collected fossils and jade at our shows and for neighboring clubs and the county fair and entered competition at the 2008 CFMS show. He took up elective office as our co-2nd VP/Field Trips this year and with our neighboring clubs has been an active field trip organizer as part of the "Tri-Club Field Trips" program that has treated us to a trip every month this year. One run by Rob and his wife Deb involved 17 days and 7 collecting sites from California to Montana! He's a valued link between our club and the Conejo club, where he's also involved in field trips, their show, and more! On behalf of VGMS, it's our pleasure to honor Rob with 2009 CFMS Member Recognition.

submitted by Jim Brace-Thompson, VGMS President



Midwest Federation

The Indiana Society of Paleontology (ISP), takes great pleasure in nominating **Philip Zink** as its 2009 Rockhound of the Year. Phil has served the club as President for several years. He also serves as Bulletin Editor and on occasion presents the program. Phil is an active collector, working closely with the field trip chair to arrange field trips. He personally makes sure each individual is notified of all club activities. His untiring efforts in promoting paleontology have contributed greatly to the success of the club.

submitted by Neil O. Snepp, director

WILL YOU – OR YOUR CLUB HELP?

by Marge Collins, Program Competition Chair

Will you – or your Club help?

.....help by entering Program Competition – or by recording the narration for a past winner so it can enjoy a new life as a DVD?



The Regional Program Libraries need a continual supply of new programs – which are very often Program Competition Winners.

So, we challenge you – or your Club - to produce a program and enter Competition. The rules, and guidelines are published in this newsletter on page 5 and on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org).

Older winners are being scanned but need audio. So we need volunteers who can effectively read a script. We'll need a number of people to do this. Will you be part of the team? Could someone else in your Club who is comfortable reading a script be involved? Spread the word. For details, contact the Coordinator below. Narrators will earn "undying appreciation"!

NOTE: If every Club would commit – and follow through - to produce at least one "winner" for Program Competition in the next five years, "everyone" would benefit and there would be a steady stream of great new programs in the Libraries! Today's technologies make it relatively easy.

Questions or comments are always welcome.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

The Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society (MGAGS) takes great pleasure in nominating **Marge Collins** as its 2009 Rockhound of the Year. MGAGS' major activity is sponsoring an annual two day educational seminar at various locations. For many years, Marge has functioned as the Program Coordinator, securing speakers, making up the schedule and making room assignments. She has also worked on publicity and coordinated the numerous other tasks required to put on a successful seminar. She has also demonstrated and taught classes in her field of expertise. Marge has for many years served the MWF as Director of Program Development and Competition. She also serves as Program Chair for the AFMS. Her untiring efforts in promoting the hobby merit the award of Rockhound of the Year.

The Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club takes pride in submitting the names of **Robert (Bob) and Julia Sherwood** as Rockhounds of the Year. Julia has chaired the club's annual show for four years and she was the club's Bulletin Editor for three years. For the past several years she has been working with schools to educate and promote interest in rocks and minerals.

Bob has been our field trip chair for nine years and has actively promoted safety in every trip. He also schedules the dealers for our annual show. This coupled along with many other active members has made this a strong and growing club.

submitted by Chet Smith

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Advisory Chair

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2010	AFMS June 18-20 La Habre, CA	March 6-7 Newark, DE				Nov. 13 - 14 DeRidder, LA	
2011		AFMS July 7-10 Syracuse, NY					
2012		Sept. 16-17 Harrisburg, PA	AFMS August Minnesota				

2010 AFMS PROGRAM COMPETITION RULES



The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Video, digital presentations or slides, relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or "**Excellence in Education**" for "commercial" presentations.

- Each program is judged on its own merits.
- Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score.
- Judging Form and "Tips for Good Programs" are available on AFMS website (www.amfed.org) from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Librarian.

WHO MAY ENTER

Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2010 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter. (Does not apply to "Excellence in Education" entries.)

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2010

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES

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

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

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

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

"Excellence in Education" entries are judged separately.

JUDGING (Judges look for:)

- accuracy of information / educational value
- quality of photographs / visuals
- completeness of story - but not "too much" information
- narration that moves well from one image to the next
- presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
- title, credits and "The End" "slides" where needed, phonetic spelling of unfamiliar words in "script" example: Sault Ste. Marie (SUE saint marie)

For CD, DVD or VIDEO entries

- submit a copy
- may be 'live action' or static slides
- integrated audio is greatly appreciated but not required

For SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

- must be 35mm, in standard mounts.
- should be relatively new originals, though historic slides can be appropriate in some presentations.

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

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

AWARDS

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

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

In addition, Winners receive national recognition.

A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet at La Habre CA, June 19, 2010

PROGRAM LENGTH

Adult programs: 30 - 40 minutes is optimum; Juniors: 20 minutes suggested maximum.

REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION

By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate / transfer their entry to DVD format for the Regional Libraries. 35mm slides will be scanned, then returned to producer. Digital entries can be returned after duplication if requested. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

HOW TO ENTER

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

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:

AFMS Program Competition Coordinator
Marge Collins
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
Buchanan MI 49107
phone: (269) 695-4313
email: margaret@qtm.net

2010 ENTRY FORM

I / we submit: " _____ " (title)

in [circle one] Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4

- or -

(for programs produced "for sale") "Excellence in Education"

Producer(s): _____ (your name/s)

Club: _____ [if Club entry]

Federation _____ Your Office _____

_____ [street address]

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

Home phone _____ e-mail _____

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR SALE? No ___ Yes ___ Cost: \$ _____

Mail to: Marge Collins
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
Buchanan MI 49107

Deadline: April 15, 2010

HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING SCHOOL CLUBS

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Program Chair



Three years ago, elementary school teacher Michael Putney from New York state contacted me to tell me he had formed a geology club, the Mineral Minds, and asked if he might use the AFMS/FRA Badge Program, which he had run across on the web. I encouraged him to get a local club within the Eastern Federation to sponsor him. Instead, he took the extra step of submitting an application to join the Eastern Federation as an independent juniors-only club. In the three years since, we've distributed 127 membership badges to kids within Mineral Minds, awarded 200 activities badges, and recognized 8 members for earning their Rockhound badges. A great success by any measure!

In my own Ventura Gem & Mineral Society (VGMS) here in California, member Lowell Foster is also an elementary school teacher and last year started a geology club in his school, with kids from fifth and sixth grade. Via his VGMS affiliation, he was aware of the AFMS/FRA badge program, and starting this year, he's making activities from that program a centerpiece of his school club and has asked if VGMS might serve as a sponsor as a possible intermediary step toward applying to the California Federation as an independent juniors-only club. The VGMS Directors happily approved that request just last night. (Of course, it helps that I'm VGMS President and Lowell is our First Vice President, but still...)

Are there elementary, junior or senior high school teachers in your club or society? Might they be interested in sharing their love of our hobby and avocation with kids in their schools? If so, lend them a hand, and provide sponsorship for a school club. As part of VGMS sponsorship for Lowell's club, we'll be providing rocks, minerals, and fossils from our club rock pile, encouraging members to give the occasional talk or demonstration, loaning club cases for the kids to display at local gem shows and the county fair, and so on. And if you don't happen to have teachers in your club, check around the local schools to see if there's a Michael Putney or a Lowell Foster near you. (Incidentally, Michael and Lowell are now in touch and plan to do bi-coastal rock swaps - a Herkimer diamond for some California serpentine, a New York garnet for a Hauser Bed geode, etc.) Before you know it, you might be having fun!



ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

from Bill Pattillo, Chair

The 2010 AFMS Endowment Fund initiative is underway and we plan on having our drawing during the AFMS Annual Meeting this coming June in LaHabra, CA. Unfortunately, we're off to a slow start and have only received one prize thus far!

You can help by donating a prize. Ideally, we're looking for items that have a value of \$100 or more.... items that will entice others to buy tickets to support the drawing and ultimately the AFMS Endowment Fund. Please contact me if you have something to donate. We'll photograph it and promote your donation in the AFMS Newsletter and on the AFMS website where people can see it in color.

Tickets are being sold now at the same price as in previous years -- \$5 each or 5 for \$20 -- by your regional Federation chair:

California - Colleen McGann, PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052

Eastern - Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

Midwest - John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563

Northwest - open at this time.

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

South Central - Josie Middleton, 2910 Winchester Dr; Round Rock, TX 78665-7804

Southeast - Betty James, 169A Florence Circle; Florence, MS 39073

As was done in 2009, each federation will be guaranteed at least one prize, if there are any tickets sold from that federation. We'll keep the sales by federation separate from one another and draw one ticket from each of the bags, then combine the rest for the remaining drawings.

We're also planning on giving an "extra pull" to the federation that sells the most tickets!

Be thinking about all the good things that the interest from your ticket purchases make possible each year --- the merit badge program for juniors, conversion of the AFMS program library from slides to digital, the Judges Training Program, and more.

Be thinking about how you can help the Endowment Fund grow by making a prize donation!

I'm waiting to hear from you!

Bill Pattillo
619 Wright St
Robstown, TX 78380-3815
361-739-6767 (cell)
361-739-5190 (home)
<bill@rockfoodtable.com>

AFMS CERTIFIED JUDGING COURSE AT WILDACRES

by Suzy Martin

I greatly appreciate the opportunity I was given to attend this course at the Wildacres workshop hosted by Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.

Course description was "an in-depth look at the AFMS Uniform Rules and how they apply to exhibits". Our panel consisted of representatives from the 7 (seven) Federations and representatives from the AFMS Uniform Rules committee.

Our instructor, B. Jay Bowman read from the manual (line by line) and made sure we ALL understood the meaning of what had been read.

After attending the Uniform Rules Committee meeting in Billings, MT I had a lot of questions. Completion of this course enabled me to understand the subtle points as well as the major concepts in the Uniform Rules. Input from the panel with our diverse representation from all the Federations gave us insight into how the Uniform Rules work in all parts of the country.

Although I am still not an expert on many of the Divisions I feel confident that I can make a significant contribution to any judging team that I am part of. Knowing what the rules say and/or where to find the information is imperative to being an effective judge.

We judged 6 (six) exhibit cases in teams. Each member of the team brought insights through their own experiences. Jay reviewed our score sheets and made comments when necessary. I am working on not being so critical (crowded cases and gaps in liners drive me crazy!).

I believe this course in the Wildacres Workshop setting is a very effective way to learn. The information is very intense and one can only absorb so much information per day.

We are the sum total of our experiences and I thank everyone I came in contact with at Wildacres.



The 2009 AFMS Judging Class at Wildacres
front row: Cheri George, Buddy Shotts, Reba Shotts,
Doug True, Barbara Sky, Anne Cook
back row: Suzi Martin, Jay Bowman, Bill Klose, Ed Gage,
Dee Holland, Shirley Leeson, Lee Whitebay

AFMS 2010 WEB SITE CONTEST

by Phyllis George, AFMS Ad Hoc Contest Chair



The Web Site Contest Committee Members (one for each regional federation) are very busy working on their second year of running the Web Site Contest for their regional federation. Dale Watts is the only new member on the committee, and he is heading up the Rocky Mountain Federation Web Site Contest.

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 Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters 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, editors, and club presidents 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: Merryan O'Neill
<mvoneill@comcast.net>

Eastern Federation: Dan Imel
<lapidry@aol.com>

Midwest Federation: Cindy Root
<d-root@sbcglobal.net>

Northwest Federation: Cheri George
<lizardwoman3@yahoo.com>

Rocky Mountain Federation: Dale Watts
<d.watts@oksoccer.com>

South Central Federation: Don Shurtz
<don.shurtz@gmail.com>

Southeast Federation: Jim Flora
<jim-flora@alltel.net>

Contact the Committee Member for your region for information about the contest and the deadlines for your regional federation. This information will vary by region according to when their annual show is scheduled.

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®.

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. *Important: You need Acrobat Reader version 9 to be able to save the filled-in forms to your hard drive and to modify them later if necessary.* Send the two completed forms as e-mail attachments to your regional Committee Member before the due date in your region.

INTER-REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS

by Richard Pankey, AFMS Ad Hoc Field Trip Committee Chair



The AFMS ad hoc committee for Inter Regional Field Trips was established to promote and conduct interaction between the members of the Federations of AFMS. And when I say members I don't mean the clubs or the officers, I mean the people. The rockhounds! Prior to establishing this committee the interaction between Federations typically only happened at an AFMS combined meeting and show. And this basically has been limited to the Federations' officers and the committees. While the stated purpose of this committee is to hold and promote field trips, I think the scope could be expanded to include rock swaps, seminars, classes, and the like.

A difference between an "Inter Regional Field Trip" and a Federation field trip or a club trip basically comes down to who is invited, how the trip is promoted and where it is promoted. I receive and 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/event". 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.

So far we have held two Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous in the western Federations. These were well attended and were great fun. What we need now is some inter-regional trips/events east of the Rocky Mountains. What we need is for some interested people to step up to organize and host an event. Now is the time to start planning our next Rendezvous or event. I am here to help. Send me your ideas or questions. And we don't need to limit ourselves to one event a year.

Where will our next Rendezvous be and who will host it?

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 pair of judges probably will be judging two or three different regions, but they will not be judging their own region. Right now I have a total of three judges for sure, and possibly another two. I must have at least four more judges, preferably an additional 11 judges. If I can get a total of 14 judges, each pair will 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 <pgeorge4@comcast.net> to help this fledgling contest be an even bigger success in its second year.

And now I have a plea. Someone volunteering to be a judge sent me an e-mail the last day of August or during the first three days of September. I was in the hospital at that time and didn't have an Internet connection to be able to respond (my son had copied my unread e-mails to a laptop computer and brought it to the hospital so I could at least see them). Since returning home I have searched for that e-mail, and I absolutely cannot find it. Would whoever sent that e-mail to me PLEASE contact me again? Your background sounded like you would be an excellent judge, and I would like to add you to my list of judges.

JOIN US IN 2010 FOR THE AFMS/CFMS CONVENTION

2010 AFMS/CFMS/NOCGMS
Gem Show & Convention

Los Angeles, California
Nicola & Firevans

Display Cases
Raffle Prizes
Kid's Room
Health Fair
Supplies
Jewelry
Fossils
Gems
Food
SCUHS Open House
& more

HIDDEN TREASURES
June 18-20, 2010
Fri-Sun 10am-5pm
So. CA Univ. of Health Sciences - SCUHS.edu
16200 E Amber Valley Dr., Whittier, CA 90604

Host: North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
Show Chairman: Mike Beaumont (714-510-6037)
Email: diamond.crest@yahoo.com
Dealer Information: Ofelia Warthen (626-330-8974)
Website: NOCGMS.com/Show/
\$5 Parking - \$4 Adult Admission - Children Free
Coupon Info on Website

ALL-AMERICAN CLUB "YEARBOOK" AWARD – APPLICATION FORM

SECTION I - CLUB INFORMATION (NO POINTS AWARDED)

Club Name & Address _____

Date organized _____ Federation affiliation _____

Number of members: Adults _____ Honorary/Life _____ Juniors _____
[Don't combine Honorary/Life with total adults.]

Meeting Place: _____

[Include city, state]

Person filling out form: Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Mission or purpose of the club: _____

SECTION 2 – OFFERINGS TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS (25 POINTS POSSIBLE)

General Meetings: Number of meetings _____ Average attendance _____

Guests _____ Door Prizes: Yes _____ No _____

Programs: *Include a separate list of programs for the year, including topic, speaker, etc.

Board Meetings: Number of meetings _____ Average attendance _____ Guests _____

Officers: *Include a separate list of officers, directors, and committee chairmen.

Junior Meetings or other involvement: Number of meetings _____ Average attendance _____

Guests _____. Explain other involvement.

Adult leader(s): _____

Special Group Meetings (Established groups): Number attending - Cabbing _____ Faceting _____

Metal-working _____ Beading _____ Mineral study _____ Fossil study _____

Intarsia _____ Jewelry making _____ Other _____ [Indicate type.]

Social Events: Number attending - Picnic _____ Banquet _____ Holiday dinner _____

Other (Describe): _____

Show, swap, or public event: Yes _____ No _____ Date(s) _____

Dealers: Yes _____ No _____ # _____ Members attending: # _____

Members working: # _____

Demonstrators: Yes _____ No _____ # _____

Displays: Yes _____ No _____ # _____

Special Features: Club library: Yes _____ No _____ Number of books: _____

Field Trips: Yes _____ No _____ No. of trips in field _____ Other _____

Other clubs invited? Yes _____ No _____ Non-members allowed? Yes _____ No _____

Workshop: Yes _____ No _____ Web site: Yes _____ No _____ URL _____

*Include a separate list of workshops.

Traveling club display (For other club shows, youth groups, schools, etc.): Yes _____ No _____

Do individual members provide displays? Yes _____ No _____

ALL-AMERICAN CLUB "YEARBOOK" AWARD – APPLICATION FORM

Page 2

SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Bulletin: Yes _____ No _____ Bulletin name _____

Editor's name _____

* Include a copy of your bulletin/newsletter..

Meeting notices posted in public places: Yes _____ No _____ Where? _____

Meeting notices published in local media: Yes _____ No _____ Where? _____

Show fliers posted in public places: Yes _____ No _____ Where? _____

Show information published in local media: Yes _____ No _____ Where? _____

Free or paid ads on TV or radio: Meeting notices: Yes _____ No _____

Show information: Yes _____ No _____

Copies of supporting material to include in report: 1) fliers; 2) media articles about the club activities; 3) show ads; 4) show or meeting notices from newspapers; 5) articles copied from club newsletter; 6) other.

SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS AND OTHER CLUBS (20 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served as Federation Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members:

Regional federation: Yes _____ No _____ (*Include a separate list of members serving.)

AFMS: Yes _____ No _____ (*Include a separate list of members serving.)

Members attended a Federation convention or show:

Regional Federation: Yes _____ No _____ # _____ AFMS: Yes _____ No _____ # _____

Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds:

Regional: Scholarship fund: Yes _____ No _____ Endowment fund: Yes _____ No _____

AFMS: Scholarship fund: Yes _____ No _____ Endowment fund: Yes _____ No _____

Members gave programs for other clubs: Yes _____ No _____

*Include a separate list of programs.

Members attended other club shows, swaps, etc.: Yes _____ No _____

Members held joint field trips with other clubs: Yes _____ No _____

Members displayed/demonstrated at other club shows: Yes _____ No _____

Club exchanged bulletins with other clubs: Yes _____ No _____ *Include a separate list.

*Supporting material should include lists of all the above persons, positions, etc, and could include pictures, copies of certificates, reports printed in club newsletter, thank-you notes, etc.

SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools: Yes _____ No _____

*Include a separate list of those given.

Members gave talks or demonstrations to local groups: Yes _____ No _____

*Include a separate list of those given.

Members maintained displays at local public sites: Yes _____ No _____

*Include a separate list of sites.

Members maintained a booth, or an activity, at a local event: Yes _____ No _____

*Include a separate list of events.

Members donated materials to school, nursing home, etc.: Yes _____ No _____

Members active in local affairs: Yes _____ No _____

Supporting material for the above should provide details for these items, and could include pictures, thank you cards, letters and certificates of appreciation, reports from club newsletter, etc.

THE PRESIDENT SAYS...

by Emerson Tucker, AFMS President



I've just returned from the Rocky Mountain Federation meeting hosted by the Chaparral Rockhounds in Roswell, NM. I found their meeting interesting and enjoyed seeing the interest displayed by the members of both organizations. I found the same thing happening while attending the Billings show, too.

This reminded me of my first major project as the president-elect for the AFMS. That was, in my mind, the chore of getting committee chairs lined up for this year. Well, what I thought would be a chore turned out to be a very enjoyable experience. There are about thirty-five committees that I needed to contact so I set up a spreadsheet to help me keep track of whom to call and when I should probably make that call. As I made the calls I was greeted so many times by the enthusiasm of the present chair and that person wanting to continue on building toward a goal that would be good for the federation.

That enthusiasm should become infectious to anyone that associates with them. I appreciate both those willing to continue and the new ones that have joined them. To me the AFMS is a group of wonderful people that are sharing together a hobby known as Rockhounds.

Till next time.

Emerson

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

ALL-AMERICAN CLUB "YEARBOOK" AWARD - APPLICATION FORM

Page 3

SECTION 6 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS (10 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served on governmental agency committees: Yes _____ No _____

**Include a separate list of those who served.*

Members provided comments on governmental agency proposals, etc: Yes _____ No _____

**Include a separate list of proposals and participants.*

Members contacted congressional representatives regarding legislation affecting access to sites, and collecting from same: Yes _____ No _____

**Include a separate list of representatives contacted and legislation.*

Club or members supported access/collecting lobbying organizations (such as ALAA): Yes _____ No _____

**Include a separate list of organization(s).*

Supporting materials should include details for all of the above items, reports from club newsletter, and should include copies of correspondence.

SECTION 7 - OVERALL FORMAT AND PRESENTATION - (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

This section evaluates the entry on neatness, organization, grammar, spelling, and overall presentation of material

SCORING AND AWARDS

Gold All-American Club Award: 90 - 100 points (average of three)

Silver All-American Club Award: 80 - 89 points (average of three)

Bronze All-American Club Award: 70 - 79 points (average of three)

Honorable Mention: Less 70 points (average of three)

Instructions for completing the entry form:

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

2. The document should have six (6) sections, divided with the numbers 1 - 6, with the Entry Form in section 1 and the supporting documentation for each of the other entry sections following the appropriate divider. There is no restriction on the number of pages in any one section, **PROVIDED THE TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS DOES NOT EXCEED 100 PAGES.**

3. When filling out the entry form, mark all appropriate blanks and entry numbers, or other information where requested. Assemble requested supporting materials and lists following the appropriate section divider and insert photos and other graphics following the typed information.

4. All requested material is **for the year 2008.**

5. Deadline for submitting to the AFMS chairman is **April 15, 2009.** * **Check with your regional chairs for their deadlines.**

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.

2009–10 AFMS Committees

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2009 - 10. 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>	Financial Investment Lauren Williams <slhaaruir@msn.com>	Safety Owen Martin <owenmartin@yahoo.com>
AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Loretta Ogden <donogden@aol.com>	Historian Shirley Leeson <shirleyleeson@cox.net>	Show Consultant Bob Livingston <gemguy@verizon.net>
AFMS Newsletter Carolyn Weinberger P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 <editor@amfed.org>	International Relations Bob Jones <jonesb52@gmail.com>	Uniform Rules Dee Holland (see Judges Training)
Boundaries John Wright <osjbw@datasync.com>	Judges Training Seminar Dee Holland <beauholland@centurytel.net>	URC Eligibility Files Anne Cook <secretary@amfed.org>
Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame Kitty Starbuck <greenstone@iserv.net>	Junior Programs Jim Brace-Thompson <jbraceth@roadrunner.com>	Ways and Means Marve Starbuck <greenstone@iserv.net>
Bulletin Editors Advisory Linda Jaeger <ljalrg@aol.com>	Long Range Planning Joy Bourne <cscsprings@epix.net>	Website/Webmaster Marty Hart <webmaster@amfed.org>
Bylaws Revisory Steve Weinberger <central_office@amfed.org>	Name Badges Frank Mullaney <rockyfiv@aol.com>	Ad Hoc Web Site Contest Phyllis George <pgeorge4@comcast.net>
Central Office Administrator Steve Weinberger P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 <central_office@amfed.org>	Nominating Joy Bourne (see Long Range Planning)	Ad Hoc Competition Study Ron Carman <rrcarman@centurytel.net>
Commemorative Stamps Wendell Mohr <wmohr@erols.com>	Parliamentarian Dee Holland (See Judges Training)	Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip Dick Pankey <dickpankey@juno.com>
Conservation and Legislation John Martin <smartin@antelecom.net>	Past President's Advisory Joy Bourne (see Long Range Planning)	AFMS Scholarship Foundation Dee Holland, President (see Endowment Fund) Emerson Tucker, Vice President Ruth Bailey, Secretary Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
Endowment Fund Bill Pattillo <bill@rockfoodtable.com>	Photography Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)	
	Program Competition Marge Collins <margaret@qtm.net>	
	Publications B. Jay Bowman <bjb@wildblue.net>	
	Public Relations Fran Sick <ednfran@epix.net>	

THE ALAA MEETING AT BILLINGS

by Dick Pankey, President, American Lands Access Association



For the Pankeys, this was an "interesting" summer. In case you didn't hear, our trailer was totaled about 110 miles from home and 2 and a half hours into our 5 week trip to Yellowstone NP and the AFMS Show/Meeting in Billings, MT. Our trip was cancelled!! Nobody was hurt nor even shaken up. and nobody else was involved in our event, but we ended up with a totaled trailer and a smashed up truck.

I was very disappointed that I missed all the events at Billings, especially the ALAA meeting. A **big thank you** goes to VP Shirley Leeson for stepping up to run the meeting and get the many items on the agenda accomplished. The approval of the revised Bylaws and implementing the new OP's are significant accomplishments for ALAA's structure and workings. Dee and Shirley did an excellent job on the Bylaws and Operating Procedures.

We held our first election in 2 years. Congratulations to our Officers and Directors and thank you for accepting your positions and committing yourself to the goals and mission of ALAA. Thank you also for having faith in me and electing me your President. I look forward to serving and to working with all of you.

Be ready for action. The challenges and the needs are great. The opportunities for us, for ALAA, to make a difference are there for us to seize. We are a national organization and our Officers, Directors, and members, are from throughout the US. All of our Officers and Directors and members need to be involved and need to be active. We want your ideas. We need your support and participation.

To meet our goals and mission, we are focusing on membership. Not only numbers, but with involvement. I encourage potential members to join now rather than wait until December to join for 2010; we revised the dues structure to allow for new member dues paid after July 15th to be considered as paid in full for the following calendar year. If you know of individuals or societies who are waiting to join ALAA tell them that there is no reason to wait. Join NOW and become part of the team.

When it comes to legislation affecting our public lands things seem to move slowly, slowly with no apparent activity for a long time and then, when we tend to become complacent, the legislation is put onto the fast track. Monitoring and communicating status and needed action are very difficult.

At this time the ALAA newsletter is only published every three months. If we wait for the newsletter it will probably be too late to respond and take action. E-mail is a great way for rapid and

inexpensive communication. ALAA is setting up an "e-mail tree" so that we can quickly and effectively get the word out about pending legislation or regulatory activity that require the response of our members. If you have an e-mail address make sure that you provide it to our treasurer so that you may be included in the "e-mail tree."

Another great source of timely information is the ALAA web site – <www.amlands.org>. It is full of a lot of great, up-to-date information and is a major communication source between newsletters. I would recommend that all members check it out at least once a week for the latest news and information. It is also a great source of information about ALAA and includes the last few issues of our newsletters. If you know of someone interested or that should be interested in ALAA refer them to our web site.

The ALAA Officers and Directors are:
Officers:

Dick Pankey, President
<dickpankey@juno.com>
Shirley Leeson, Vice President
<shirleyleeson@cox.net>

Anne Cook, Secretary
<secretary@amfed.org>
Ruth Bailey, Treasurer
<Rba51825@att.net>

Directors:

Bill Burns, Monterey Park, CA
<isnbll@aol.com>
Bob Carlson, Los Alamos, NM
<drobotcarlson@yahoo.com>
Evan Day, Brigham City, UT
<joanday@sisna.com>
Norvie Enns, Reno, NV
<Nve5103@charter.net >
Dee Holland, Tendoy, ID
<beauholland@centurytel.net>
Jim Hurlbut, Denver, CO
<jfhu@earthlink.net>
Bob & Kathy Miller, South Bend, IN
<kanbrock@aol.com>
Dean Stone, Effingham, IL
<stonerocks@hotmail.com>
Jon Spunaugle, Washougal, WA
<jonspe@comcast.net>
John Wright, Ocean Springs, MS
<osjw@datasync.net>

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 Affiliation: _____

Hobby Interests: _____

Remit fees to: ALAA
Ruth Bailey
2857 Addison Place
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c4) 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.