**Hello Rockhounds!**

I guess that I need to introduce myself to some of you. Josie Middleton, a Texas native. Minerals are my love. I prefer the thumbnail specimens and miniatures. I have collected minerals since I was six years old. My active Federation is South Central and I have also been a Chair at South Central UR Committee.

I am taking over the Endowment Fund Chairmanship from Bill Pattillo, who realized that time does not allow him to continue. So bear with me, as I get my feet under me and don’t go under with the tidal wave. So wish me luck – it is Time to GET THIS SHOW on the road!

We already have SIX fantastic prizes lined up for the 2010 Endowment Fund Drawing! We should be really appreciative of the generosity and time that all of our Regional Chairs take to make this happen.

Now for prizes 2 – 6:

**Prize #2** is a two inch sphere of Eudialyte. Eudialyte is a fairly scarce mineral that is found in both Canada and Greenland. The sphere was cut by John Rowland and donated by the South Central UR Committee. It stands on a Rosewood stand. Estimated value is $100. (SCFMS)

**Prize #3** is a sterling silver and amethyst pendant and earring set, with chain. The pendant is approximately 4mm oval and earrings are approximately 3 mm ovals. This was donated by Les Pagel of the Victoria Gem and Mineral Society. This wonderful set is valued at $50. (SCFMS)

**Prize #4** is a pear cut amethyst ring set in sterling silver and palladium. The stone is approximately 16.9 mm and the ring is 6.5-7 ladies. Donated by Les Pagel it has a value of $65. (SCFMS)

**Prize #5** is a lovely amethyst cathedral. Measuring 13.5" H x 6.5" W x 2.5" D, it has very good color and would make a very nice addition to some one's home and collection. Most likely Brazilian in origin, it was donated by the Pleasant Oak Gem & Mineral Society and has a value of $120. (SCFMS).

**Prize #6** is a wonderful Chrysoberyl pendant wrapped in 14k gold filled wire. The pendant was cut and donated by Al DeMilo of the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Washington, DC and has an estimated value of $125. (EFMLS).

Tickets for the drawing are $5 each or 5 for $20 and can be purchased from any of your regional "salesperson".

California: Colleen McGann
Eastern: Carolyn Weinberger
Midwest: John Washburn
Rocky Mountain: Richard Jaeger
South Central: Josie Middleton
Southeast: Betty James

Rocky McCall, our stalwart Northwest chair cannot continue so I want to make a plea to have someone volunteer as Northwest Chair so that I can have a full slate of committee members. If you could do this I would greatly appreciate it. Just contact; me at <jcjems55@yahoo.com>.

In addition, we’re still looking to add more prizes to our selection. If you or your club would like to make a donation, please contact me at the above e-mail and send them to me at 2910 Winchester Dr; Round Rock, TX. Please e-mail me when you ship them so I can be home to receive your donation.

See you California, June 2010!
The season of giving is fast approaching. We have lists for family and friends to treat with holiday gifts. Well, how about treating your rock club with a gift? Why not volunteer to head up a small group to put together an All American Club yearbook for your club! What a remarkable gift it would make! The history of your club’s year for 2009 would be a perfect gift of appreciation for all you’ve gained from your club and would make a memorable way for the club to retain a history of this year.

Think about it. With a little effort on your part to organize a group of helpers, and a little time to gather the necessary pictures and documentation for the club’s activities during 2009, you can create a long-lasting and valuable gift. This yearbook can be set out at meetings to remind members of the happy, productive things they’ve done and make guests and new members see what is in store for them ahead.

Think about it. When you have your Show in 2010, if you have a show, this chronicle of 2009 could spark enough interest in your club to garner new members. Exciting field trips, happy social events, and terrific programs can show the general public that you have an active, viable organization.

Think about it. Gathering stories, pictures, and other memorabilia from the past year will bring you and your group of helpers pleasant memories. It could even provoke ideas of how certain events could be made more memorable next year. So, why not add “My Rock Club” to your list of Christmas gift recipients? At the most, it will cost you a little time, a little energy, and will bring great satisfaction and rewards!

Think about it!

A Holiday Gift for your Club
by John Washburn, Chair, All American Award Committee

One of my duties as AFMS Public Relations Chairman is to encourage non-member clubs to become Federation members. However, before I can do so I need to find those clubs.

I know that over the years some clubs, for whatever reasons, have decided to let their Regional and American Federation membership lapse. I also strongly suspect there are other clubs who have never been Federation members. The reasons these clubs have not yet joined us, or have chosen not to continue their membership, are probably as numerous and varied as pebbles on a beach. But whatever their reasons I would very much like to contact them to be sure they understand what the Federations have to offer and talk with them about what they are missing. I might even find a few things we are missing by letting these folks slide through our fingers.

Please, won’t you help me find these non-member clubs. If any one knows of a group who might benefit from joining us I would appreciate it if you would send me whatever information you can about them, especially how I can contact them. It does not matter if they have less than 20 or more than 200 members, if you know of any group with an interest in rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts, geology or any other hobby-related field, I would like an opportunity to talk with them. Internet research can only do so much which is why I am counting on you to send me whatever information you can. It does not matter if it is by snail mail, email or even one of those old fashioned telephone things. Just get the information to me any way you can and I will get to work trying to contact them.

Thanks for your help.

Scholarship Challenge Update
from Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President

Help us meet the challenge!

Remember to mark your Scholarship Foundation donations as “unrestricted”!
If you’re thinking of putting in a competitive exhibit in the next few years, here’s some information that may be useful for you.

Be sure to either purchase the rules book from your regional supplies chair or download the entire rules book from the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm>, but look specifically at the section of the rules you are going to compete in:

- Division A – Open Division – covers things like gem trees or anything that will not fit in any other division.
- Division B – Minerals
- Division C – Lapidary, cabochons, polished specimens, spheres, and includes faceting, etc.
- Division D – Jewelry and Metalwork
- Division E – Education. How to or Concept
- Division F – Fossils.
- Division G – Petrified Wood and Plant life.
- Division H – Scrimshaw.
- Division I – BEADING – this is new and will be included in the rules book after January 1 - check it out.
- Division UV – Ultra-Violet

The Wildacres Judges Training workshops have been going on since 2003. One person from each regional federation and the AFMS URC chair or representative is invited to attend with the AFMS Endowment Fund paying their tuition. The idea of the workshop is to broaden the general knowledge of and make interpretation of the rules uniform across the country.

Listed below by Region are the people who have gone through training. They can be contacted for help in deciphering the various rules you need to be aware of in order to obtain a good score.

California Federation:
- 2003 – Norvie Enns, URC Chair
- 2004 – Ruth Bailey
- 2005 – Colleen McGann
- 2006 – Dick Freisen
- 2007 – Marion Roberts
- 2008 – Tom Burchard
- 2009 – Cheri George
  - Suzy Martin (in place of the URC Chair from NFMS)

Eastern Federation:
- 2003 – Bill Klose
- 2004 – Merrill Dickinson
- 2005 – Sue MacInnis
- 2006 – Corrine Hummel
- 2007 – Angie Teixeira
- 2008 – Vic Wells
- 2009 – Barbara Sky

Midwest Federation:
- 2003 – Joyce Hanschu
- 2004 – Bill Cook
  - Anne Cook*  
- 2005 – Bob Miller
  - Kathy Miller*
- 2006 – Kathy Miller
- 2007 – Kay Ellen Sharp
- 2008 – Rose Blue
- 2009 – Anne Cook

Northwest Federation:
- 2003 – Barbara Jacobsen
- 2004 – none
- 2005 – Gary Buhr
- 2006 – Rocky McCall
- 2007 – none – due to illness
- 2008 – Lamar Tigler
- 2009 – Doug True

Rocky Mountain:
- 2003 – Jim Hurlbut
- 2004 – Dr. Bob Carlson
- 2005 – none
- 2006 – Dottie Smith
- 2007 – Kay Thompson
  - Jack Thompson as URC representative
- 2008 – Marie Wester
- 2009 – Lee Whiteley

South Central Federation:
- 2003 – Dale Miller
- 2004 – Bill Patillo
- 2005 – Ron Carman
- 2006 – none
- 2007 – none
- 2008 – Linda Northcoate
  - Josie Middleton as URC representative
- 2009 – Ed Gage

Southeast Federation:
- 2003 – Betty James
- 2004 – Flora Walker
- 2005 – Jim Robins
  - Diane Johnson as URC representative
- 2006 – Janie Hand
- 2007 – Henry Vaughn
- 2008 – Buddy Shotts
- 2009 – Reba Shotts

* Paid their own way

If YOU are interested in putting in a competitive exhibit at the AFMS/CFMS show in La Habra, contact Dee Holland: PO Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468 or email: <beauholland@centurytel.net>. You can also download the application at <www.amfed.org>.
Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Program Chair

Year-end Round-up and Encouragement for the New Year

To close out the old year and ring in the new, here are a few statistics on where we’re at with the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. I’m pleased to note that just this week, we’ve hit a milestone: we awarded our 100th Rockhound Badge! This is given to juniors who have earned at least 6 of the 15 badges available through our FRA Badge Program.

It marks a significant achievement and symbolically represents graduation from a ‘future’ rockhound to a full-blown, true-blue rockhound who has invested the time, via hands-on activities, to learn about varied areas of our hobby. An Honor Roll of those who have earned this distinction is posted to the Kids Corner section of our web site (http://amfed.org/fra/honor_roll.htm). In addition, we’ve distributed 1,698 FRA Membership patches and have awarded 2,904 activity badges.

I ask all regional federation newsletter editors and all local clubs to pass this article along and to encourage all clubs to sign their juniors and pebble pits into the FRA program. All you need is one child and one adult interested in encouraging that child’s interest. For full info, click onto the AFMS web site at www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm or contact me (7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003; phone 805-659-3577, email jbraeth@roadrunner.com). I’ll be happy to send a full packet of info to get you started.

I’ve always considered my role as AFMS Juniors Program Chair as that of a facilitator - someone who provides encouragement and strives to provide suggestions and resources. But that encouragement and those resources are for naught unless one hero steps forward - a hero willing to serve as a role model and mentor to pass our encouragement and those resources are for naught.

Contest time – here we go again! Regional Federation contests are in the making. And the next AFMS contest is even earlier than last year, since the CFMS/AFMS show is June 18-20, 2010.

The AFMS web site should be updated by the time you read this, with 2010 contest information available. New this year – for Regional BEACs and AFMS judges, there are fillable control sheets online for you to download and use. Remember that you can also find sample score sheets online at the AFMS website, www.amfed.org, as well as good information on editing a newsletter.

FYI: Some minor changes have been made to the General Guidelines and to the score sheet for bulletins.

Do You OBFUSCATE?

01 fun cat., vt.1. to darken; obscure; hence, 2. to confuse; stupefy; bewilder.

Have you ever begun to read (listen to) something and put it down (quit listening) because it was confusing or hard to understand? I have. It seems like it doesn’t matter what profession we’re in – each has its own “exclusive” language. As a teacher I have seen many things in “educationalese,” which I can usually “translate.” Even so, I found it infuriating to be a parent who had to listen to this mostly confusing language from one of my kids’ teachers.

Good grief! Aren’t we supposed to be communicating with each other? Doesn’t that mean we want to understand each other?

You might wonder what this has to do with editing and/or writing articles for club newsletters. My point is that we want our readers to understand what they are reading. They don’t finish reading what they don’t understand. If we write for the general public (most of our readership), we need to write for an 8th grade reading level. Job applications and ballot questions used to be written at this level. But do you obfuscate? Stop it! Keep it simple!

Have you read any of the AFMS winning advanced articles? This category is for professionals in the earth science field and for previous winners in the adult articles category. “Advanced Articles” does not mean written in technical terms or with obfuscation. If you check some of the winners, you will see that most of these authors know how to communicate: simply, some with humor, all with knowledge to share.

What is an editor/authors to do? Write it. Come back to it. Read it again. Cut out unnecessary words. Ask someone else to read it. Remove confusing words. Revise. Can your personality still shine through your article? Yes – don’t hide it!

Do you obfuscate? Stop it! Keep it simple!

(One of my references is a good read. Try On Writing Well – The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction by William Zinsser, and enjoy)

References:


Quick Tips for Editors

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: <jbraceth@roadrunner.com> or at home address: 315 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.

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A note on safety in your shop, lab, work room, basement, etc. As a fossil hunter sometimes the thing that I most look forward to and likewise dread the most is getting my “stuff” back to the house.

I may have to use a pressure washer to blast off mud from my fossilized wood or 40 pound ammonites, use some chemicals to clean lime off some invertebrates or maybe use some tools, be they hand or pneumatic, to chip off the tougher crust. Maybe if I’m lucky I found a good “round” of pet wood that I want to cut and polish down at the club. Oooh, and I just found my first agate ever and I don’t even know what I can do to that yet! What ever it is that I do there is almost always some inherent risk in the process. Below is a list of different hazards to consider in the lab.

Eye protection. As I mentioned above power washing is a good example of something a lot of us do that can potentially injure your eyes however certainly not the only thing. Almost every type of prep-work that we practice necessitates eye protection: grinding, polishing, cutting, shipping, sand blasting, soldering, chemical cleaning, etc. Different types of eye protection should be used depending on your activities. For most of us protective glasses are good, however, goggles may need to be worn when using chemicals or when grinding certain materials. As co-worker of mine once said to a lady that liked to just do it on her own while driving, “no matter how advanced modern medicine has become, glass eyes still don’t look real.”

Respiratory protection. Similar in some ways to eye protection respiratory protection can be very important when handling certain cleaning chemicals and when dealing with certain dusts. Asbestos is a common example of a respirable dust that although not inherently toxic can cause cancer, especially with smokers. Other dusts can temporarily clog breathing passages thus impacting, sometimes critically, the body’s ability to get oxygen into the blood. Chemicals can be very bad, too, as the lungs can quickly introduce toxins into the blood. Chemicals can be very bad, too, as the lungs can quickly introduce toxins into the blood. Chemicals can be very bad, too, as the lungs can quickly introduce toxins into the blood. Chemicals can be very bad, too, as the lungs can quickly introduce toxins into the blood.

Chemical safety. The most common chemical accidents usually have something to do with the above mentioned issues and involve acids, soaps, other caustics and solvents. PLEASE READ the safety notes or MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) on all chemicals you may use. Some need to be used in areas where there is good ventilation, others require high-end respirators and still more may necessitate protective clothing. Not common in the shop, but you never know! Also, be aware of the potential danger of mixing chemicals and as a general rule don’t do it. Most of us have probably heard that mixing chlorine and ammonia, two of our most common household chemicals is bad. Essentially the mixing of the two releases chlorine into your air – very bad.

Hearing protection. What? You didn’t hear me the first time? Do you remember the pictures of all the trees blown down in the same direction after Mount St. Helens erupted? Loud noise does the same thing to the ear and much like the trees once the filla (hearing fiber s) are damaged they don’t stand themselves back up. If you think ‘maybe I should be wearing ear plugs’ then it’s usually a good indication that you already answered the question. Electrical and Fire hazards. If your shop is like mine then it can get pretty cluttered. Bottles of flammables may end up next to overloaded electric outlets or boxes of old journals. Cleaning up the clutter has two (or more) benefits by reducing fire hazards and making it more obvious where potential problems exist – like damaged electrical cords or overloaded outlets. Ideally flammable liquids will be stored in a flammables storage cabinet. If you have a pet big sized shop then one of these is a good investment. For most clubs the local fire code will require enough to handle what you have on site.

The hazards involving fire and electrical vary in type and risk level. Having been “grounded” on four different occasions I can tell you that water and electrical cords do not mix! I used to work as a caretaker for saltwater fish tanks and it had it’s challenges... Overloaded plugs can be a problem in our shops. Keep in mind that just because a tool isn’t turned on doesn’t necessarily mean that electricity still isn’t running through it. Fire and smoke are both risks in this situation. It’s safer to keep your equipment unplugged and properly stored when not in use.

For some general rules: Always wear eye protection. Keep your shops cleaned and well organized. Make sure electrical chords are in good condition. Keep reactive things away from each other, be they chemicals, electrical, fire hazards or combinations of each. Don’t mix chemicals. Practice safety in your shops!

As always, if anyone has a safety incident or issue that they would like to share with the organization please contact me at <owenmartin@yahoocommerce>. Thanks!

2009 AFMS Scholarship Students

by Dee Holland, Foundation President

Through the generosity of your contributions, the AFMS Scholarship Foundation was able to award twelve scholarships to graduate earth science students throughout the United States. These students will receive a $2,000 stipend for each of the next two years.

California Federation:
Honorary Award Recipients - jeane & Bob Stultz
Students:
Adam Forte – Univ. of California, Davis
Matthew Armentrout – University of California, Los Angeles. He’s in his 3rd year toward a PhD in mineral physics.

Eastern Federation:
Honorary Award Recipient – Dr. Michael Brown, Univ. of Maryland, College Park
Students:
Miriam Galeras – Univ. of Maryland, College Park
Doctoral track towards Ph.D.
John-Luke Henriquex – Univ. of Maryland, College Park
Doctoral track towards Ph.D.

Midwest Federation:
Honorary Award Recipient – Dr. Raymond Anderson
Students:
Thajshwini Rama Rao – Univ. of Iowa
Masters Deg, to be completed Spring 2010.
Shawn Malone - Univ. of Iowa. Ph.D. program

Northwest Federation:
Honorary Award Recipient – David Lopez
Students:
Becky Kowalski - Colorado School of Mines
Golden, CO

Rocky Mountain Federation:
Honorary Award Recipient – Dr. Steven Wade Veatch
Students:
Scott Mathew Smith - Emporia State Univ.
Emporia, Kansas
Janell Thoene - Univ. of Colorado, Boulder

South Central Federation:
Honorary Award Recipient - Jean Wallace
Students:
Rebecca Comeaux – Univ. of Texas at Austin
MS in Geology
Kyle Richard Wacker - Univ. of Texas at Austin
MS in Geology

Accept the challenge! Interest rates are down and as a result the Scholarship Foundation money available for scholarships in 2010 is also down. As a result, we’re planning on awarding only a $2,000 grant to the students selected next year – unless you help us with our challenge.

Mark your contribution checks “unrestricted” before now to the AFMS Convention in June. If we can raise the additional $7,000 needed this way, our next round of students will be able to receive the full $4,000 scholarship grant. Please help!
With the current political climate in Washington today the environmen
tal activists are having a field day with our congress members try-
ing to persuade them to introduce new wilder
ness legislation, and it is working. Here are just
a few of the attempts that are currently taking
place across our great country.

California – Senator Diane Feinstein is introducing the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act which
if enacted will restrict usage of almost 2 million acres of California’s Public Desert Land with the creation of 2
new national monuments, 7 new wilderness areas, and the expansion of Death Valley National Park. Two mil-
lion acres is almost the size of the state of Connecticut! Can you imagine restricting the state of Connecticut to
no roads, no rock fossil, sea shell or mineral collecting? That is what is being attempted for California.

Colorado - We’ve been told that a well financed pro-environmental wilderness bill is coming to Colo-
rado. Called the “Hidden Gems Wilderness,” this will encompass 600,000 acres and close them to all. The
environmentalists are pressuring Congressman Jared Polis to introduce the bill. Please have your members contact Congressman Polis and express your concern. The money to get this bill passed is from big foundation money from Washington, DC. Don’t let outsiders come in and lock up Colorado’s public land.

Montana - A huge wilderness bill is coming to Montana disguised as a Forest Job and Recreation Act. It seems that its true motive is to put Montana land into Wilderness. Jon Tester, Senator from Montana is being urged by the pro-environmentalists to sponsor this bill. The proposed amount of land in this proposal is 677,000 acres. You might want to alert the clubs in Montana and research this information. Contact Senator Tester’s of-
lice locally and ask about the proposed bill. They will try and tell you it’s about forests and jobs – NOT SO!

According to Brian Hawthorne, Blue Ribbon Co-
alition, the bill is strong on wilderness, but doesn’t add
any new recreational areas. This has a lot to do with
forest management and timber logging, but what is
already in place, if put into use would take care of the
problems, according to former Forest Service Planner,
Fred Hodgeboom and now president of Montanan’s for
Multiple Use organization. As the new bill is written
it creates area for new environmental lawsuits to
stop logging on land that has been left susceptible to
forest fires, disease and insect devastation. Most of
the lands are on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Na-
tional Forest. This bill eliminates a lot of existing
recreational opportunities.

Oregon – House Bill 3609 Oregon Marine Reserves.
“Marine Reserve” is an area within Oregon’s Territorial
Sea or adjacent rocky intertidal area that is protected
from all extractive activities, including the removal or
disturbance of living and non-living marine resources,
except as necessary for monitoring or research to
evaluate reserve condition, effectiveness, or impact of
stressors.

This bill will create reserves all along the public
coast of Oregon where it will be unlawful to Collect,
pick, cut, mutilate or remove living or non-living natural
products or dig up or remove any soil, rock, or fossil
materials from the ocean shore. “Natural product”
means living or non-living natural products on the ocean
shore, including marine plants, minerals, shells, rocks, and
sand. The Oregon Coastline is famous as a heavy hunt-
ing ground for Agates, Jaspers, Fossils and Pyrite Cubes. The proposed Marine Reserve will eliminate Rock
hunting that Oregonians have historically done for over
a century along the Rocky Shores of Oregon’s Coast.

Utah - America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act S. 799 &
HR 1925. The American’s Red Rock Wilderness Act of
2009 will designate as wilderness certain Federal por-
tions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau
and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah. This
bill, if enacted, would designate 9.4 million acres of land
managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in
Utah as Wilderness.

The areas considered for closure are:
G Great Basin Areas ~ 2,240,827 acres
G Zion/Moab Desert Areas ~ 160,000 acres
G Grand Staircase-Escalante Areas~1,771,717 acres
G Moab-LaSal Canyons Areas ~ 256,815 acres
G Henry Mountains Areas ~ 444,204 acres
G Glen Canyon Areas ~ 906,466 acres
G San Juan-Arches Areas ~ 520,606 acres
G Canyonlands Basin Areas ~ 689,884 acres
G San Rafael Swell Areas ~ 1,098,773 acres

There is no question that our access to Rock-
hounding sites would be severely curtailed, if not
totally destroyed, by these bills. Sec. 209 withdraws
entry and disposition of minerals, so we can’t pick up
anything anyway.

On the national front the Clean Water Restoration
Act of 2009, (S. 787) , will treat, as ‘waters of the United
States’, those features that were treated as such pursu-
ant to the regulations of the Environmental Protection
Agency and the Corps of Engineers in existence before
the dates of the decisions referred to in paragraph,
including–

(A) All waters which are subject to the eb and
flow of the tide;

(B) All interstate waters, including interstate
wetlands;

(C) all other waters, such as intrastate lakes, rivers,
streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sand-
flats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows,
playa lakes, or natural ponds.

(D) All impoundments of waters of the United
States;

(E) Tributaries of the aforementioned waters;

(F) The territorial seas; and

(G) Wetlands adjacent to the aforementioned
waters.

What this basically means that if enacted will
put all ponds, streams, seasonal mud holes on public
and private land under the
control of the Environ-
mental Protection Agency
(EPA) and not the private
property owner.

Also of interest to
Rockhounds is the Hardrock
Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009, (H. R. 699) which
was introduced to the House of Representatives on
January 27, 2009. This Bill will modify the requirements
applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands,
consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining
claims, and for other purposes. It will impose limitation on
patents (Claims), require a royalty be paid for the
removal of minerals, add or increase hardrock mining
claim maintenance fees, effect of payments for use and
occupancy of claims. All of these actions may have nega-
tive effects on Rock Clubs or Societies which currently
hold or may be trying to file claims on BLM, Forest, or
other public lands.

What can we as rockhounds do? Use the internet,
e-mail, Fax, or the US Postal Service to contact both
your state and federal elected officials and let them
know what your concerns are regarding the closure
and withdrawing of public land from public usage. Support
and join organizations like the Blue Ribbon Coalition,
<www.bluerail.org>, American Land Rights Associa-
tion, <www.landrights.org>, AMERICAN LANDS AC-
CESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA) <www.amlands.org>,
These groups are fighting to keep our Public Lands
Open to all Public Users. Please support and use the
American Federation of Mineralogical Society and your
Regional Federation of Mineralogical Societies, they have
information and resources that can help in all aspects
of Rockhounding.

If anyone hears of new or pending legislation in your
state or Regional Federation please feel free to contact
me with the pertinent information and I will attempt
to investigate and disseminate the information to those
who may be affected. I can be contacted at <webmas-
ter@amlands.org> or through the AFMS Website.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION AFFECTING ROCKHOUNDS
By John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair
2010 WEB SITE CONTEST IS OFF AND RUNNING
by Phyllis George, Ad Hoc Web Site Contest Chair

A Web Site Contest? What for? This contest exists to help webmasters enhance their club Web sites. The goal is to increase the interest of the general public in the gem and mineral hobby, to gain new club members, and to serve as a source of current club information for their members. The first place winners at the regional federation level will serve as mentors for these various clubs by giving the webmasters encouragement and friendly constructive criticism on what they are doing right and where they need to improve.

I hope everyone reading this will encourage their club’s webmaster to enter the contest. Their Web site will be better for having gone through the process of being judged.

So how does a club Web site enter the contest? The webmaster needs to download a copy of the following three documents: 2010 Entry Form, the 2010 Score Sheet, and the 2010 Score Sheet Guidelines. These forms are all PDF files, and they can be filled out on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Fill out the one-page Entry Form completely, and fill out the top part of the Score Sheet on both pages. When finished, e-mail both forms to your regional federation Contest Committee Chair no later than that federation’s due date.

The Score Sheet Guidelines document goes through every item on the score sheet and explains what it is and why it’s important. EVERY club webmaster (and every contest judge!) should read the Guidelines document closely. These guidelines can help all webmasters tune up their Web site even if they decide not to enter the contest.

These contest files should be available on your regional federation’s Web site, and they’re also available on the AFMS Web site <www.amfed.org/products/web/ website_contest.html>. Make sure you’re reading the 2010 version of these files. Also make sure that you have installed a free copy of Adobe Reader 9 so you can change some of your filled-in answers later if necessary. Adobe Reader 9 is available at <www.adobe.com/products/reader/>. Later if necessary. Adobe Reader 9 is available at <www.adobe.com/products/reader/>.

The first place regional federation winners will receive a plaque, and in addition they will receive something that is far better than a plaque. The first place winners will each have their sites forwarded to Wes Lingerfelt, the man who is judging at the AFMS level. Wes will give the regional first place winners the benefit of his wisdom, his extensive Web experience, and his knowledge of what works and what doesn’t. He will analyze each of the sites forwarded to him, and he will give useful feedback on what is being done well and how each site can be improved.

Wes has an extensive background: his father was a jeweler for over 50 years so he grew up in that environment. He was in the US Navy for four years, was an aerospace engineer with ITT Corp for 30 years working on ballistic missile systems and multiple telemetry-associated projects—the most recent being as a monitor for the U.S. Air Force during new systems development. He is a member of the Orcutt Mineral Society (OMS) of Santa Maria, California and currently is the Treasurer for both the OMS and the CPMFS. He is a dealer of handcrafted lapidary products and is a specialist in silver and goldsmith and jewelry repairs. In 2002 he was inducted for metal craft into the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame. He developed and maintains his company Web site and the OMS Web site. For the last two years he has been a paid judge for the lapidary entries at two California County Fairs: Kern County at Bakersfield, CA and Ventura County, Ventura, CA.

Thank you, Wes, for agreeing to participate in our contest, for giving our first place regional winners the benefit of your hard-won wisdom, and for helping us achieve our goal of having rock and gem club Web sites that are as good as they can be.

All the contestants participating at the AFMS level will receive a certificate signifying their rank, and the first place winner will also receive an AFMS first place plaque. The top three will also receive animated gifs for placement on their sites as a symbol of the site’s excellence.

The results of the various regional Webmaster Contests will be announced at the annual meetings of the regional federations during their Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. The results of the AFMS and CPMFS Webmaster Contests will be announced at the AFMS/CFMS/NOCGMS joint Show & Convention (June 18–20, 2010) in La Habra, California during the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. Hope to see you all there!

New Officers? Let Us Know
by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office

Many of our clubs elect new officers at this time of the year and the AFMS Central Office needs to know who these good folks are.

Please take a minute to send the Central Office the name and address of each of these people. Be sure to include the office they hold and the name of your club.

You can send the information to me via e-mail at <central_office@amfed.org> or via good ‘ol USPS at PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

By doing so you’ll ensure that the proper club officers receive the AFMS Newsletter each month and can therefore keep your club members up-to-date on important related matters.

Thanks for your help.
June Culp Zeitner February 7, 1916 – October 11, 2009

The “First Lady” of rockhounding has died at the age of 93 after a lengthy illness. Probably best known through her monthly articles in Lapidary Journal and Rock & Gem Magazines, June Culp Zeitner was also the author of ten books, the recipient of both the AFMS Recognition Award (2003) and Carnegie Mineralogical Award (2005), a frequent speaker at club shows and federation conventions and one of the best boosters for our hobby.

Born in Michigan, one of five girls, her father insisted that each receive a college education – something rare at that time. In 1937 she moved to Mission, SD where she began her career as an English teacher and later became superintendent of the local high school. It was in Mission that she met Albert Zeitner whom she married. Albert’s family owned a hardware store and natural history museum in Mission and June soon was “hooked”. Early in their marriage, the couple set off on a one-year cross-country trip to visit several collecting sites. That trip turned into a 30-year adventure during which they visited almost every locality. June turned her adventures into books (numerous “Gem-Trails” volumes, Gem and Mineral Materials for Cutters, Collectors and Jewelers, etc.).

June also wrote a monthly column for Lapidary Journal in which she answered questions about the hobby from readers. Later she wrote articles about her adventures in Rock & Gem Magazine. Arthritis and failing health forced her to give up the monthly column about three or four years ago.

Indefatigable, she was instrumental in founding the State Stone Program, encouraging each state to adopt an official gem, mineral and fossil. She was responsible for heading up the AFMS 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Smithsonian and obtaining at least one polished cabochon from every state to display on a giant birthday cake. These were on display in the gem hall until the renovation in 1997. She was also honored as “The First Lady of Gems” in 1976 by the International Gem Show and crowned with a custom made tiara that included one gem from each of the states during a ceremony at the White House.

June’s idea of honoring notables in the hobby resulted in the establishment of the “Rockhound Hall of Fame”, now housed in Murdo, SD. Nominations from the rockhound community each year result in the selection of an individual to honor in the field of lapidary, minerals, fossils, metalcraft, education and tribute (deceased). June herself was inducted in 1993 for her work in education.

Much of June’s personal collection of rocks, gems and minerals is on display at the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City, SD, at the Black Hills Museum of Natural History and Black Hills Institute in Hill City, SD and at the Rockhound Hall of Fame in Murdo, SD.

Many in the AFMS community have countless stories to tell about June. Kitty and Marve Starbuck met June via the Midwest Federation and instantly became friends. When hunting for agates in South Dakota, June would put them in contact with a friend who would lead them to a favorite collecting spot. It was Kitty’s idea to begin a “card shower” for June when she became quite ill a few years ago. June’s sister reported that all those cards from all over the U.S. really helped perk June’s spirits.

On a personal note, June was a friend. I first met her at an AFMS Convention about 25 years ago...I was editing my club bulletin (still am) and after seeing my name on my badge, came over to introduce herself and comment about the bulletin. We immediately became friends and she would send me various tidbits to include from time to time. Over the years we saw one another at succeeding conventions and in Tucson and exchanged “newsy notes” at holiday time. In 2003 when the AFMS decided to create the Recognition Award, June was the overwhelming choice to receive the first one. She was not present when the award was presented, so Steve and I decided to drive home from the convention in California via Rapid City and present it to her personally. It was a very hot summer day and we had our dog with us. Knocking on her door, we had no idea if Barkley would be welcomed or not, but he was. We had invited June and her sister to lunch and when it was time to leave for the restaurant, June insisted that he remain in her home and was delighted to see him looking out the front window as he heard our car return. After that her phone calls always began with “and how’s my little dog?” What a font of knowledge she was! What a good friend to so many. She’ll be missed!

Contributions in June’s memory can be made to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, % of your regional federation coordinator. Remember to mark your check “unrestricted” if you wish your contribution to go towards the challenge of raising the additional $7,000 so the next group of students can receive the full $4,000.

Carolyn Weinberger

Inter-Federation Field Trip News

by Doug True, Field Trip Coordinator

The 2010 Inter-Federation Field trip will be to Blue Forest, Wyoming and will be held Memorial Day weekend. The dates to remember are May 29 - 31.

Blue Forest is a well know collecting location in southwestern Wyoming with a large area in which to collect petrified wood. Some great material is found here every year. We will plan to dry camp in the collecting area, indulge in a potluck one evening and follow that with a swap session. As this plan develops more information will be posted.

If you have some input or suggestions please e-mail Doug True/ NFMS Fieldtrip chairman at: <dtruefossils@yahoo.com>.

A few notes of interest:

• the elevation in this area is between 6-7000 feet
• the nights can get cold and the wind can BLOOOOW.

• One of the best ways to find the petrified wood in this area is by probing with a steel rod. If you do not have one, you have time to make one now. This process will save you a lot of digging.

I will be in contact with the BLM and will update all rules and restrictions in the next few months.

Make your calendar now and plan to join us for a great weekend.
North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society Presents...
Welcome to Hidden Treasures!

by Michael Beaumont, 2010 AFMS/CFMS Show Chair

Once every seven years, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) join forces with a local host society, North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society (NOCGMS) to provide the general public with an opportunity to participate in a gem show that transcends the ordinary and to facilitate meetings that allow these groups to socialize and to conduct business.

For those who may not be aware, this show has become the show that almost never was. The Orange Belt Mineralogical Society, based in San Bernardino, was originally scheduled to be the host for a show in Riverside. Because of circumstances beyond its control, this organization was forced to give it up. In February, 2009, NOCGMS began discussions with CFMS. At the 2009 CFMS Gem Show and Convention in San Jose, NOCGMS was officially recognized as the new host of this show. With limited time for show development, NOCGMS responded quickly and decisively to concurrently organize a team of volunteers, obtain a location and develop the details. The theme of “Hidden Treasures” is a multi-faceted concept that engenders the quality, variety, talent, tenacity and responsiveness of not just the members of NOCGMS, but also the local community that has made this special event possible.

This show will have much to offer. Southern California is one of the tourist capitals of the world. Here you can find Disneyland, Knott’s Berry Farm, Hollywood and Universal Studios. The geologic variety available surpasses almost any other region. There are beaches, mountains, deserts, rivers, dry lake beds and numerous exposed outcrops. La Habra is a small city in a large metropolis. We have leveraged the talents, skills and efforts of many volunteers to bring you special speakers, dealers, kids’ room, display cases, silent auction and much more.

On behalf of NOCGMS, City of La Habra, Southern California University of Health Sciences (SCUHS), La Habra Area Chamber of Commerce, AFMS, CFMS and numerous community volunteers, I want to welcome you to Orange County’s Northern Star, the City of La Habra. Once you visit Southern California and the 2010 AFMS / CFMS Gem Show and Convention, you will truly understand appreciate these “Hidden Treasures.”

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair

I thank everyone who sent in information about club members for the honor of Rockhound of the Year. I would bet we have some proud people out there.

You can still get your member in for 2009 by sending it to me before December 1, 2009. It is such an easy and practical way to tell someone how much you care. Doing so even costs less than a Hallmark card! It is free if you email me your write up. One hundred (100) words or less is all it takes.

Figuring out which hundred words to use is the hard part because most people have more than a thousand words that can be said about them. So condense it and get it on the way right away.

While you are at it you can send me your choice for 2010 too. I am sure the editor would love to have a year’s supply by January.

Remember…every AFMS affiliated club can submit the name of one individual or one couple per year. In addition, each club may submit the name of one junior member per year.

Let me hear from you soon.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston

Here are the dates and locations of the 2010 and beyond Regional Federation Conventions that have been sent to me thus far. As soon as you have the dates and locations for your upcoming conventions PLEASE send them to me for inclusion in this calendar so that we can avoid conflicts. Remember that your Federation president and vice president are directors of the AFMS and are therefore required to attend the AFMS convention each year. In addition, your AFMS president would like to be able to visit your federation show and having more than one convention at the same time prevents that from occurring. My contact information is on page 11.

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The Collecting Cycle
by Betty Thompson
Min. Soc. of the Dist. of Columbia (EFMLS)
2009 1st Place Winner - AFMS Adult Poetry

Minerals come in many forms (like boulders, chunks, and dust) and, within each, we know well lurk beauties that we must search for; at both site and sale; pay for, with our sweat or cash; show off, at our various clubs; and take home, to display or stash.

Year on year, our treasures grow and still we keep collecting, drawn by lovesickness that leads to learning and reflecting and grateful membership in clubs where experts generously share clues to the earth’s unfolding in minerals complex and rare.

Then comes the day we look around and wonder what to do with our accreted holdings, our mineralogical zoos that far surpass our storage space and would really stump our heirs. How to pass on the joys we’ve found? What to do with our wares?

Aha! A club – a show – a table! That’s one way that we are able first to display and then to sell minerals that we’ve loved well. And if we’re past the days when we want to spend our own energy to organize and price and cart our collection to the mineral mart, a lucky club could be quite grateful if we offer them some crates full of what we’ve reaped – so they can sow new seeds that help others to grow a love of what the earth has done and of deep forces that have won such beauty and complexity, which give much joy to you and me.

(Dedicated to generous MSDC members Sue and Fred Dhyse, Jennie and the late Paul Smith, and Joyce and the late Richard Hronik.)

HARD ROCKERS
by Vern Ricker
Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club (MWF)
2009 2nd Place Winner - AFMS Adult Poetry

A rock is only rock, to some who see a rock, to others it’s a worthless thing, laying askew. But on the scent of our treasure, many a person just strolling by would see only stones, which there lie, or buried forever in some slime. As our homes have grown full, our collection to the mineral mart, the smart ones and snowbirds would see only stones, which there lie, or buried forever in some slime.

A rock may be an amalgamation of earlier rock with heat and time. Missing the rock’s intrinsic value, many a person just strolling by would see only stones, which there lie, or buried forever in some slime. As our homes have grown full, our collection to the mineral mart, the smart ones and snowbirds would see only stones, which there lie, or buried forever in some slime. As our homes have grown full, our collection to the mineral mart, the smart ones and snowbirds would see only stones, which there lie, or buried forever in some slime.

A rock may become a precious stone, or you may find an ancient bone. Perhaps the rock found is something new and now some call it just a lowly rock. A rock may become a precious stone, or you may find an ancient bone. Perhaps the rock found is something new and now some call it just a lowly rock. A rock may become a precious stone, or you may find an ancient bone. Perhaps the rock found is something new and now some call it just a lowly rock. A rock may become a precious stone, or you may find an ancient bone. Perhaps the rock found is something new and now some call it just a lowly rock.

A rock is only rock, to some who see but that’s not the case, for you and me. We collect, study, and cherish our find then share it with others, of like mind.

Federation Websites

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) <www.amfed.org>
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) <www.cfmsinc.org>
Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) <www.amfed.org/efmls>
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies (MWF) <www.amfed.org/mwf>
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) <www.amfed.org/nfms>
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) <www.rmfmns.org>
South Central of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) <www.scfms.net>
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) <www.amfed.org/sfms>

A Rock Is A Rock Is A Rock
To Rockhound Friends – Everywhere
by Terry Proctor, Houston Gem & Mineral Soc.
2009 3rd Place Winner - AFMS Adult Poetry

Rock is a rock is a rock, isn’t it? But that all depends, c’mon admit it. Once created as a building block, some call it just a lowly rock. A chunk of Earth’s early creation often now mixed with variation.

Your rock may be a mineral piece, or something commercial from a lease. Fire born of an explosive eruption or new formed, of old rock corruption. A rock may be an amalgamation from subduction or sublimation of earlier rock with heat and time or buried forever in some slime. Many a person just strolling by would see only stones, which there lie, missing the rock’s intrinsic value as a worthless thing, laying askew.

A rock may become a precious stone or you may find an ancient bone. Perhaps the rock found is something new and now it will be named after you. A rock is only rock, to some who see but that’s not the case, for you and me. We collect, study, and cherish our find then share it with others, of like mind.

An Update on Joy
from Carolyn Weinberger

Our 2009 AFMS President Joy Bourne took a bit of a tumble in mid-October while working in her garden. She has a cracked pelvis and a few cracked ribs. She also knocked her head in the fall pretty well too. Since she’s unable to walk steps, and her home has lots of steps, she’s spending the winter months with one of her children in New Hampshire.

If you need to contact her or would like to send cards, just send the mail to her home address and they will be forwarded to her.

Mend quickly Joy!

Happy Holidays!
### 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.

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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<td>All American Club</td>
<td>John Washburn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrwashburn2@msn.com">jrwashburn2@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Rockhounding of the Year</td>
<td>Loretta Ogden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Fbriktr1@aol.com">Fbriktr1@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:editor@amfed.org">editor@amfed.org</a></td>
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<td>Boundaries</td>
<td>John Wright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:osjbw@datasync.com">osjbw@datasync.com</a></td>
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<td>Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Kitty Starbuck</td>
<td><a href="mailto:greenstone@iserv.net">greenstone@iserv.net</a></td>
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<td>Bulletin Editors Advisory</td>
<td>Linda Jaeger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ljgralg@aol.com">ljgralg@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>Bylaws Revisory</td>
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<td>Wendell Mohr</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wmohr@erols.com">wmohr@erols.com</a></td>
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<td>John Martin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smartin@antelecom.net">smartin@antelecom.net</a></td>
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<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>Jose Middleton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcgems55@yahoo.com">jcgems55@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Investment</td>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shaaruir@msn.com">shaaruir@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>Historian</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shirleyleeson@cox.net">shirleyleeson@cox.net</a></td>
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<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Bob Jones</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jones52@gmail.com">jones52@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Judges Training Seminar</td>
<td>Dee Holland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beauholland@centurytel.net">beauholland@centurytel.net</a></td>
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<td>Junior Programs</td>
<td>Jim Brace-Thompson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:braceth@roadrunner.com">braceth@roadrunner.com</a></td>
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<td>Long Range Planning</td>
<td>Joy Bourne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cssprings@epix.net">cssprings@epix.net</a></td>
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<td>Frank Mullaney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rockyflyv@aol.com">rockyflyv@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>Marge Collins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret@qtm.net">margaret@qtm.net</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:bjbowman@wildblue.net">bjbowman@wildblue.net</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:owenmartin@yahoo.com">owenmartin@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Bob Livingston</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gemguy@verizon.net">gemguy@verizon.net</a></td>
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<td>Emerson Tucker, Vice President</td>
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<td>Ruth Bailey, Secretary</td>
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<td>Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer</td>
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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.

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the “Public Image” of recreational collectors.

Last Words

By Bill Pattillo, former AFMS Endowment Chair

Sadly, I have had to step down as AFMS Endowment Fund chair. When I agreed to take on the chairmanship, I didn’t realize that my travelling would become an obstacle for my doing a good job. Being away from home three or four weeks at a time makes it difficult to receive prizes, answer correspondence and keep up with the various tasks required of the position. And curating the Rock Food Table which Lois and I take to many shows each winter takes a lot of time too.

Fortunately, Josie Middleton has agreed to take over the position and her first article appears elsewhere in this issue. I know that you will support her endeavors just as you supported mine...and Joy and Dee before me. Keep on sending in those prizes for the drawing and purchasing the tickets so we can raise funds for the Endowment and keep our projects going. It truly is a worthy function of the American Federation.

I want to thank all the people who helped me, while I had the short tenure of Chairperson of the AFMS Endowment Fund. Thank you to Dee Holland, Shirley, Leeson, Marty Hart and Carolyn Weinberger. Without your help, I could not have done what little I did.

See you at a Gem Show with the Rock Food Table. I’ll probably have Endowment Drawing tickets to sell too.

Bill

Happy New Year