One of California’s Hidden Treasures
by Cheri George
No. Orange Co. Gem & Mineral Society

When the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society accepted the challenge to sponsor the 2010 CFMS/AFMS Show, they were in almost the same situation as the biblical lad David when he went up against Goliath with nothing more than a simple sling-shot. In case you don’t remember, David slew Goliath. WOW, what a challenge, especially in these trying economical times.

There are some really hardworking people on the 2010 Show committee, not the least of which is our show chairman, Mike Beaumont. In the middle of all this planning hoopla, he and his lady have become the proud parents for the very first time. How exciting!! Mike has a great crew working along with him to plan and make all those little things keep moving along like clockwork.

Those of us on the 2010 Show Committee hope you will all consider attending our show. It promises to be a great time, with lots of displays, demonstrators and other fun things to do. There may even be a few surprises thrown in.

Join us in one of California’s HIDDEN TREASURES, La Habra (right next door to Whittier) for the 2010 CFMS/AFMS Convention and show next June.

June 18-20 2010, Whittier, CA
AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention
Hosted by North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society
So. CA University of Health Sciences Campus
16200 E. Amber Valley Rd., Whittier CA
Hours: 10-5 daily
Mike Beaumont (714) 510-6037
Website: <networking.Wave.com>
click on AFMS 2010 or <www.nocgms.com> or <www.amfed.org>
President’s Message

by Emerson Tucker, AFMS President

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday and that this New Year in a new decade will be an enjoyable one for all of us Rockhounds. Here in Lubbock we had the unusual experience of a White Christmas. The three or more inches of snow created a feeding challenge for our 73,000 winter goose visitors who annually migrate to the playa lakes so they don’t have to put up with the snow and can find lots of grain fields to supply their nourishment. This year the geese should have flown further south to avoid the snow.

As I continue to learn more about the federation I find it interesting to learn that there are over two hundred members who volunteer their time to carry on the many programs that are the important assignments of all the various committees. Elsewhere in the Newsletter you can find the listing of the chairs of these committees. That list is the “tip of the iceberg” as in many committees there is a representative from each of the federations providing support for the programs. Then on the regional federation level and the many clubs within those federations there are many more volunteers working to make their club and the federations a success. How many total volunteers are out there? I don’t know, but I imagine the success of the clubs, regional and national federation is due to the hard work of several thousand volunteers. To me, there is a great group of wonderful people volunteering their time and that in turn makes my job so enjoyable.

Have a successful New Year.

Emerson

National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame

by Steve Weinberger, 2007 Inductee

June Culp Zeitner was a pioneer in many ways. Her contributions to our hobby were numerous, too numerous to list here, but focusing on one of these at this time would seem most appropriate.

In 1987 June founded the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame. Its purpose is to recognize individuals who have, over the years, contributed greatly to various aspects of the earth science hobby.

Nominations may be made at any time, but the consultants (the committee that decides who gets recognized each year) usually vote on them in April. A nominee should be someone who has made outstanding contributions in one or more of the following categories:

- Minerals
- Lapidary
- Metalcraft
- Fossils
- Education

We also have a sixth category to honor those whose contributions were made during their lifetimes, but who are now deceased. It’s called Tribute.

Nominations should include as much information as possible about the nominee and the reasons why he or she should be inducted. Be sure to include the category that you’re making the nomination for, the person’s name, address, phone, and e-mail contact. For the Tribute category, please include contact information for a family member if possible.

Send your nominations to:
Maxine Wilson
Curator, NRL Hall of Fame
23530 263rd Av
Murdo, SD 57559-8025

If you have any questions, please contact either Maxine or me (central_office@amfed.org).

If you have submitted a nomination in the past, but your nominee was not selected (some years we have had many excellent candidates), please resubmit that person’s name and information.

Those selected for induction receive a certificate, a pin, recognition in the AFMS Newsletter, and recognition in the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame in Murdo, SD.

We’re looking for nominations and you can help!
Records Retention

By Mike Kokinos, CFM$ Tax Advisor

With so many clubs having new officers it’s a good time to reprint this excellent article written by Mike several years ago. These guidelines give consideration to reports required by the Internal Revenue Service, the States, and retention of historical records.

In the years I have worked with the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the biggest problem is the loss of records. The losses occur from deaths, fire, resignations, relocations, failure to turn over records by outgoing officers and chairpersons and DESTRUCTION.

Keeping records in an officer or member’s home account for most lost records. It is imperative that a common facility be used that is accessible to all officers and committee chairpersons. Records should be neatly organized and stored in lidded record storage boxes of a uniform size. Permanent records should be stored in a fireproof file cabinet. For non-permanent records, the date of destruction should be noted on the outside of the box. A listing of the contents should be kept both inside the box and a separate listing stored with the association’s current general files.

PERMANENT RECORDS:

- Records of major assets and special payments.
- Membership records
- Newsletters
- Correspondence legal and/or other important papers.

RECORDS TO BE RETAINED 4 – 5 YEARS:

- Bank statements, reconciliations, deposit slips/advices/cancelled checks
- Cash receipts and disbursements records
- Correspondence – general
- Insurance records unless involved in litigation or other problems.

YEARLY ACTIVITIES

One or more members of the Audit/Review Committee should do a year end review at the location where the financial records are maintained. For this review, the original of the year end bank statements, brokerage statements, etc. should be examined. In addition, the first statements of the new year should be examined to verify balances forward. Sampling of actual receipts and invoices should be verified to the entries posted in the financial records.

Receipts and disbursements should be compared with prior years and any material differences verified.

Once the annual non-profit reports are posted for mailing to the Internal Revenue Service and the State where the organization does business, the Audit/Review Committee should review a copy before mailing.

How’s The Challenge Coming?

from Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President

Thanks to the individuals and clubs that have already helped us reach our goal of $24,000. Remember that if we do not reach our goal, we’ll only be able to award a $2,000 scholarship to our students this year, but if we do reach our goal, we’ll be able to increase that to our usual $4,000.

Please mark your Scholarship Foundation donations as “unrestricted”. Once we reach our $24,000 goal, all additional donations will be put into the restricted funds once again.

I KNOW you can help us do this!

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 goodwill and fellowship.

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

Subscriptions are $4.50 per year.

Rental payment to the AFMS Central Office.

Checks should be made payable to “AFMS”.

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All changes and questions should be sent to:

AFMS Central Office
Steve Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<central_office@amfed.org>

CONTENT – LETTERS

Editorial Comments – Submissions

Any communication concerning the content or format of the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor:

Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
<editor@amfed.org>

DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION (i.e. April 1 for the May issue)

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**Upcoming Regional Federation Convention Schedule**

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**Having Fun: Junior Activities**

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Program Chair

**Diamond Dan’s Mini Miners Monthly**

Darryl Powell is creator of Diamond Dan Publications, and is the author of a wide range of fun, educational materials for young mineralogists, ranging from coloring and activity books to “Earth Digger Clubs” activities and patches, mineral note cards and place mats, and more. (See his web site at [http://www.diamonddanpublications.net](http://www.diamonddanpublications.net).) His excellent activities for mineral identification and crystal shapes and models are referenced in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badge program manual, and I’ve written about his terrific resources in some of my prior AFMS columns.

One neat resource Darryl provides is *Mini Miners Monthly*. Now in its third year, it’s the only periodical about minerals written specifically for young collectors. Throughout the year, it brings kids articles about minerals, crystals, and mineral collecting, along with fun activities like crossword puzzles, word searches, cut-and-fold crystal models, and coloring pages. It features interviews with important mineral collectors of our day and suggestions on how to build and take care of a mineral collection. It also welcomes mineral art, photography, and articles sent in by kids themselves!

In 2009, both the Midwest and California federations entered into arrangements with Darryl to subsidize electronic subscriptions of *Mini Miners Monthly* for affiliated clubs and societies with junior members. With the subscription, clubs receive permission to reproduce a reasonable amount of material from each issue (4 or 5 pages) in their newsletters, on their web sites, and/or in club meet- ings with kids.

**A Note on Material Data Safety Sheets**

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

In the good ole USA federal law requires that all chemicals manufactured and/or distributed have a Material Data Safety Sheet or MSDS.

Sometimes they are included with the product, but either way there is always a phone number or website that will provide guidance on how to get an MSDS.

So although in Texas we are just now getting back into “hunting season” most of the rest of the country is wrapping it up since it’s going to be too cold to rock hunt soon. Subsequently a lot of folks will now be spending a lot more time cleaning and prepping their rocks and fossils. Since we have the potential to use a variety of chemicals in our labs, workshops, garages and kitchens, I thought I would take a bit of time to expound on the importance and value of an MSDS.

Generally speaking the MSDS is designed to provide information on physical characteristics and hazards. In more detail they are typically broken down into a standardized format:

01. Chemical Product Name and Manufacturer/ Distributor ID
02. Composition and Ingredients
03. Hazard ID - A key area for notification of risks.
04. Measures
05. Fire-fighting Measures
06. Accidental Release Measures
07. Handling and Storage
08. Exposure Control and Personal Protection
09. Physical and Chemical Properties
10. Stability and Reactivity
11. Toxicological Information
12. Disposal Considerations
13. Transport Information
14. Regulatory Information
15. Environmental Information
16. Other Information

If you are using chemicals, oils, blasting media, cleaners, etc. in your efforts this winter please take the time to gather MSDS’s for these products and review the information contained therein. It can be quite enlightening! And, this information can help you prevent accidents or if there is one how to best respond to the situation.

Subscriptions are emailed to clubs as pdf attachments at a significant discount from the regular electronic subscription price and at an even more noticeable discount from the print subscription price. The California federation itself is paying Diamond Dan Publications directly for electronic subscriptions to its clubs with junior members, and Darryl is then taking care of all the follow up in contacting the individual clubs; in the Midwest federation, individual clubs purchase the subscription (with a choice of either print or electronic, paying a bit more for the print) and then receive either a partial or whole reimbursement from the federation, depending on whether they’ve chosen print or electronic. The important thing to emphasize here is that Darryl is very flexible and easy to work with and is open to different models.

I encourage executive committees or boards of all the regional federations to explore such a deal with Darryl for getting *Mini Miners Monthly* to your clubs. (Contact Darryl c/o Diamond Dan Publications, P.O. Box 143, Manchester, NY 14504; (585) 278-3047; <diamonddan@rochester.rr.com>.) When the CFMS decided to explore this, the ultimate goal was to help clubs grow their kids’ programs by providing them with good material to use in their meetings, thus encouraging our children in pursuit of the earth sciences as a hobby and potentially as a career, all while having fun!!

**Upcoming Regional Federation Convention Schedule**

*From Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Coordinator*

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Page 4 AFMS Newsletter – February 2010
Quick Tips for Editors

by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: <LjgrA@aol.com> or at home address: 3513 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.

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. Have you submitted your entries to your regional federation contest?

Important dates for the 2010 contest:

- **February 28, 2010**
  AFMS Judges List to BEACs

- **March 20, 2010**
  Regional entries due to AFMS judges

- **May 1, 2010**
  Judged AFMS entries due to me

- **June 18-20, 2010**
  CFMS/AFMS show in La Habra, CA

- **June 20, 2010**
  Breakfast with the Editors & Web Masters

The AFMS web site has been updated 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.

**Write Some Sparkle!**

There is really no formula for writing great articles, but when we let our personalities shine through our writing we get readable articles that will sparkle. Here are some suggestions for adding pizzazz.

1. **Remember your audience.** Are you writing for kids? For all club members? For a specialized group? Adjust sentence length and vocabulary just for them.

2. **Vary the length of your sentences.** Making some short and some compound. Ask a question to introduce a topic.

3. **Keep paragraphs fairly short.** Reading is easier on the eyes if there is a nice amount of “white space” within and around an article.

4. **Make your reader laugh** by using humor or irony. It’s okay to poke some fun at yourself!

5. **Use the “active voice”** by turning “being verbs” into “doing verbs.”

   Instead of writing Metamorphic rocks **were formed** from the pressure of our hands on colored pieces of playdough, write: We **made** metamorphic rocks by pressing colored pieces of playdough into a “rock” with our hands.

6. **Write as if you were talking to a friend** about the subject. This makes your article “friendly” and easier to read.

7. **Use positives instead of negatives.** Instead of saying I did not remember, say I forgot. Many times the positive is shorter and easier to understand than the negative.

8. **Be specific.** This gives your reader a “mind” picture of what you said.

9. **Leave out repetitions** of the same idea and unnecessary words (i.e., in fact, in other words). A good sentence will get your idea across to the reader in one try. Leaving out unnecessary words keeps the reader from having to hunt for the idea.

10. **Use a short, attention-getting title.** This grabs the reader’s attention by making him curious about your subject. You can start with the title or come up with it after you have written your article.

**References:**


(clipart above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)
California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2010

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduces legislation that would withdraw 1.6 million acres of desert landscapes from public access. The 1.6 million acres is larger than the state of Connecticut and this legislation will close some of the best rockhound collecting areas in Southern California. The proposed legislation, known as the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act, will designate from the Avawatz Mountains near Death Valley to the largest Sonoran woodland in North America along the Colorado River. The legislation would also create two new national monuments—the Mojave Trails (10 miles on each side of Historic US Route 66 from Barstow to Needles) and the Sand to Snow (Establishes national monument covering approximately 161,000 acres of land between Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest in San Bernardino and Riverside counties)—and expand Joshua Tree National Park (Approximately 2873 acres in multiple isolated parcels of BLM land on the northern boundary of the park that abuts residential areas,) and Death Valley National Park (Approximately 37,379 acres, including a narrow strip of land between the southern boundary of the park (31,000 acres known as the "Bowing Alley" and a former mining area 6,379 acres known as the "Crate Area") and the Mojave National Preserve (Approximately 29,221 acres on the northeastern corner of the park known as Castle Mountain.) It will also protect important waterways such as the Amargosa River (Extend the recent wild and scenic river designation 2 miles to include private lands just outside of Death Valley that have just been acquired by the BLM. Additionally, an adjacent 1.4 mile segment of the river would be named potential wild and scenic,). Deep Creek (This would authorize a wild and scenic designation of 20 miles running from the northern boundary of the San Bernardino National Forest down the moun-

tain into the Mojave River.), Holcome Creek: (The bill would authorize 14.5 miles adjacent to Deep Creek), Whitewater River (The bill would designate 24.5 miles of the river in the San Bernardino Mountains). Surprise Canyon Creek (This would protect 7.1 miles of riparian habitat along the western border of Death Valley where a small group was allowed to use this area for "rock crawling") as Wild and Scenic Rivers

Section 14: Prohibited Uses of Donated and Acquired Lands.

This section would prohibit the use of donated or acquired lands for development, mining, off-highway vehicle use (except designated routes), grazing, military training and other surface disturbing activities. (This means Rockhounding) This prohibition would apply to public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area.

It will not do any good to write to our California senators but, we might find a sympathetic ear in some of the other 49 states or in the House of Representatives. If we value our rockhound hobby in Southern California we must act soon or the only way we will be able to enjoy our public lands and deserts is by buying pictures of the Desert from those supporting this bill. Write your elected officials and voice your opinion and concerns.

The United States is a large area and legislation is being proposed in all of the Regional Federations covering all 50 states. As legislation is being proposed and introduced in any of the AFMS Regional Federations it becomes imperative that this information gets disseminated to all the members of all the Regional Federations as quickly as possible. The AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee has established an email address that can be used to get information to the committee about proposed legislation, or answer questions or Concerns in the most expedient manner. Please use the following address to inquire about legislation issues, questions or concerns about legislation matters, and most important to notify the committee about proposed or introduced legislation that involves Rockhounding in your area of the country. The committee will research any questions, concerns and pending legislation and try to return an answer in a timely manner.

AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee
<afms-conservation@antelecom.net>

Thank you for your time and effort in these important matters.

AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

The Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society submits Norbert (Norb) Kinsler as our rockhound of the year. Norb has been a great asset to our society for a number of years. He has held many responsible offices, especially when others were not able or willing to do so. He held the office of president two times in a row, Show Chairman at least four times, once while he was president, and also field trip vice president. He is currently on his fourth term as show chairman. In addition he has displayed at our show every year and has taken care of getting food for our members and dealers at the show. During his terms of office as president regularly stressed the importance of the American flag and the deeper meanings of the Pledge of Allegiance. At our regular meetings he always helps out with our refreshments, coming in early to bring fresh bottled water for our coffee and punch. His thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! Therefore please allow me to do the honor of submitting Norb for our rockhound of the Year.

submitted by Kay Hans, 2009 President

I would like to nominate Jay Vallee as the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society's Rockhound of the Year. Jay has been, and continues to be an enormous asset to NOCGMS. He currently holds the office of club Secretary and Field Trip Chair, a position in which he does most of the planning for our trips. Additionally he contributes many hours helping with set up and tear down for our club’s annual show and is a regular demonstrator during it. He is always willing to help members, answer questions, and hold training demos. Jay also helps his wife each month in coordinating refreshments for our meetings. In all in Jay, is a super club member, leader and active participant in many key areas of the NOCGMS and we're proud to recognize him as our Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by John Erikson

The Reno Gem and Mineral Society would like to nominate Pat and Jim Seifert for our 2009 Rockhounds of the Year. Pat and Jim have been active members since 1971, working tirelessly at our local show, with the Board and as Committee Directors. Jim has taught Lapidary, hosted Open House, lead field trips, He has been Show Chairman, Dealer Chairman and Board Member. He set up our table skirting and storage system. Jim does research for our club and has often provided our meetings with excellent speakers. Pat is our Sunshine Director. She has orga-

ized and directed our Jackpot of Gems and Raffle for six years, helped Jim with the show skirting and a Board member for nine years. They are invaluable members that care and it shows in their continued participation.

submitted by Jennifer Rhodes, Federation Director

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Joanne Caskey has been a member of Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society (CCM&GS) since 2004. Since she and her husband Terry joined, she has made quite an impact on the club. Once she settled in, she did not hesitate to volunteer to be Education Chair. She held this position for three years, 2005 through 2007. During this time she organized many classes, some of them held in her and Terry's home in Concord. Joanne started and continues to support a monthly beading get-together, yes again hosted by her. She has continued to suggest and give classes for the club, helping the current Education Chair. Joanne also volunteered to be the hostess of many of the Board of Director meetings, relieving members from driving all the way out to Antioch to my home. Recently, Joanne Caskey volunteered to be the club’s Vice President of Field Trips. Keeping the club successful is easy with members like Joanne. Joanne Caskey is nominated for the 2009 Education through Sharing recognition for CCM&GS.

submitted by Mary Hicks, President

Dorothy E. Fleming

The Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia wishes to recognize the contributions that Susan and Ed Fisher have made over the years. For several years Susan worked nearly full-time to catalog, price, and care for thousands of minerals generously donated to the club by two of our elderly club members. She and Ed stored the specimens, repeatedly turned their garage into a club store, and managed and staffed MSDC tables at other club shows. In addition, they are keen analysts regarding club needs and operations, including Susan’s timely review of operating expenses and Ed’s annual leadership in nominating officers. Susan creates superb programs for meetings – and feeds us, too. They bring perspective, humor, clarity, kindness, expertise, wisdom, and common sense that enrich every aspect of our club.

submitted by Betty Thompson, Secretary

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AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

continued from page 6

for the All-American Club Competition the past two years. Wayne was instrumental in working out an arrangement with Oral Roberts University for us to have a four-room club workshop at the university which can be used both by club members and students. There is much more that I could mention but suffice to say that Wayne Mouser is an important member of the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society who deeply cares about the well being of the club and its members.

submitted by Richard G. Jaeger

I am nominating Emily Robbins as the AFMS Junior Rockhound of the Year for the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society. Emily is 17 and a junior in high school. Emily joined our club in 2006 and has been active ever since. She has exhibited and worked at our shows, at Tulsa Kid’s World, and at Gem Faire in which we participate. She has also displayed rocks in our club case at the Tulsa City/County Library. She worked for three years as an intern at the Geoscience Center which was a museum run by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists whose director is one of our club members (they closed in June). They did Earth Science Enrichment programs with school groups from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. Several of our club members were volunteers for the museum. Emily has also helped with other members of our club in presenting rock related programs to elementary schools. Outside of our club Emily has participated in the Tulsa Geological Society and in 4-H geology projects. Emily is a valuable member of the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society and fully deserving of this award.

submitted by Richard G. Jaeger

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society nominates Richard Dorsey as the club’s “Rockhound of the Year” award. He has worked to help make the club better. On countless occasions he has helped with the building and parking lot maintenance. He always show up to work parties, whether it is for the general club or the show committee. Richard has served as a board member and always been a trooper at the club’s “Gem Capers Show” each year, serving as our showcase chair. This award could not go to a nicer guy.

submitted by Brian Wetzig.

Zeb Pike is the Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society’s Rockhound of the Year. He is always ready with a program that is of interest to the majority of the club members. He always brings items for the auction following the Club meeting to help raise money for the Club. He always provides materials for the silent auction at the Club Show in August. His health in the past couple of months has prevented him from attending a meeting or two and has kept him from the work committees but he is deserving due to his interest and work previously done for the Club.

submitted by Richard D. Jaeger

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continued from page 8

Midwest Federation

The Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society takes great pleasure in nominating Roger and Leora Laylin as Rockhounds of the Year for the Year 2009. Roger is a past president and for many years has served as Show Chairman. As such, he coordinates all the sub-committees in the many facets required for a successful show. He provides physical space for sorting, storing, and pricing materials for the club table and hosts several work days each year. He is an active field collector and assists in operating the club library. Leora has served as Club Librarian, maintaining an excellent resource for the membership. She previously served as newsletter editor for many years and provides support for the annual show in numerous ways. They richly deserve this award.

submitted by Milt Gene, President

Wayne Mouser

is the Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society’s Rockhound of the Year for the Year 2009. John has been a Bozeman club member for 15 years and has served in several offices in the Bozeman and former Yellowstone Clubs. He is currently our President. His leadership by example includes: leading annual field trips to Crystal Park and Cedar Creek; exhibiting at all club meetings; club shows and NFMS Federation shows; teaching adult education classes on Rocks & Minerals; and at elementary schools in Livingston, MT. His efforts make him a true asset to our club and our hobby.

submitted by Irene Wendel

Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club of Bozeman, Montana, nominate

John Usher as their 2010 Rockhound of the Year. John has been a Bozeman club member for 15 years and has served in several offices in the Bozeman and former Yellowstone Clubs. He is currently our President. His leadership by example includes: leading annual field trips to Crystal Park and Cedar Creek; exhibiting at all club meetings; club shows and NFMS Federation shows; teaching adult education classes on Rocks & Minerals; and at elementary schools in Livingston, MT. His efforts make him a true asset to our club and our hobby.

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submitted by Irene Wendel
Lobbying – Not Always a Threat

by Mike Kokinos, CFMS Tax Advisor

Some societies have been reluctant to join or donate to ALAA due to concerns about affect on their nonprofit status. ALAA was organized under I.R.C. Section 501(c)(4) to lobby against closures to collecting and geologically interesting areas. ALAA is active not only to attempt to influence legislation, but to participate in regulations interpreting or implementing legislation. This article is to ease concerns regarding support of ALAA and direct and grass roots lobbying by each society.

This article only applies to tax exempt mineral and gem societies exempt from tax under I.R.C. Section 501(c)(3).

Background:
The Internal Revenue Service requires an organization’s organizational documents to, include among others, two important statements:

“No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation”, and “the corporation shall not participate in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.”

We are concerned here with no substantial activities attempting to influence legislation.

The portion dealing with political campaigns is an absolute. Failure to observe the restriction will lead to revocation of the tax exemption.

What is lobbying?

Grass Roots
Any attempt to influence any legislation through an effort to affect the opinions of the general public or any segment thereof.

Direct Lobbying
Any attempt to influence any legislation through communication with any member or employee of a legislative body or with any government official or employee who may participate in the formulation of legislation.

Exclusions to attempting to influence legislation

- Making available the results of nonpartisan analysis, study, or research.
- Examining and discussing broad social, economic, and similar problems.
- Appearing before, or communicating with any legislative body that might affect the existence of the organization, its powers and duties, its tax-exempt status, or the deduction of contributions.

Also excluded are communications between an organization and its bona fide members about legislation or proposed legislation unless these communications directly encourage the members to urge nonmembers to attempt to influence legislation, as explained above.

Substantial Part Test

Whether an organization’s attempts to influence legislation, i.e., lobbying, constitute a substantial part of its overall activities is determined on the basis of all the pertinent facts and circumstances in each case. The IRS considers a variety of factors, including the time devoted (by both compensated and volunteer workers) and the expenditures devoted by the organization to the activity, when determining whether the lobbying activity is substantial.

It is my belief that lobbying activities that do not exceed 5% of time and expenditures are exempt from lobbying as being insubstantial. The 5% was established in a court case. I sincerely cannot conceive of a society that would come even close to a 5% of time devoted or expenditures made for lobbying. This would be the position given to the IRS if questioned.

Affect of legislation on the organization

In the alternative, the position could be taken that the legislation would affect the existence of the organization, its powers and duties or its tax-exempt status. That is the ability to collect material used in educational activities.

Summation

Relying on the insubstantial lobbying activities, our Societies should be able to publish articles in their newsletters regarding legislation and include asking members to write to legislative bodies in opposition or support of legislation. Using the affect of legislation on our societies can be argued but it might be the weaker position.

Sources:
- IRS Publication 557
- IRS article The Law of Tax-Exempt Organizations, Bruce R. Hopkins, Seventh Addition.

On the Mend

from Ye Olde Editor

Three of our AFMS stalwarts have recently had some medical problems. Fortunately, all are mending rapidly and well.

As you may recall AFMS Past President Joy Bourne took a tumble in mid-October and broke her pelvis and cracked some ribs. Since her home is right in the snow/ice belt of northern Pennsylvania, she’s moved to her son’s home in Massachusetts for the winter. She’s mending well and can now move around quite well with the aid of a walker. Her new e-mail is joybourne5@gmail.com. Mail can be sent to her at her Pennsylvania address (see page 11) – it will be forwarded.

Secretary Anne Cook suffered a mild stroke in early December. After spending a few days in the general hospital section she was moved to a rehab area where we hear she’s making amazing progress. Plans are for her to continue her rehab at home. (She will probably be at home by the time you read this).

All American Chair John Washburn spent time in the hospital following surgery to repair herniated discs in his neck. He’s now at home going through an extensive rehab program. All reports are that he is in a weaker position.

In addition, Fran Sick, our Public Relations chair will have knee replacement surgery by the time you receive this issue. Fran says she doesn’t expect to be doing a lot of running for the next few weeks as she goes through the mending and rehab process, but she’s planning on being at the EFMLS Wildacres Workshop in mid-April!
The following “Silver Bullets” are the first of a series of articles being published by CFMS Membership Chair, Elizabeth Myers. We’re sharing these ideas with everyone in the hopes that they will give your club some ideas.

If you want to **grow your society**, what are the tools that your society uses to promote itself? Consider these:

- **Newspaper advertising** – In the “Classified” section of your local newspaper, do you have an ad in the “Meetings” portion reflecting the date, time and location of your monthly meetings? Does it list a contact telephone number?

- **Telephone** – Does your society have a designated, locally listed telephone number to call for questions and information? This could be tied to an answering machine, with a member responsible for returning calls. The cost per month is very reasonable and provides a lot of “stature” and “stability” to your organization.

- **Handouts** – What sort of handouts do you have to distribute to someone who may be interested in joining (or just learning more about) your society?

- **Postcards** – You can make your own “Got Rocks?” postcards which are pre-addressed to your society’s mailing address. All that’s needed is the “sender’s name, address and telephone number and a postage stamp. With permission, these postcards can be left at libraries, chambers of commerce, and/or select businesses (such as rock shops).

- **Displays** – Would your local library, community center or county offices allow you to display rocks, gems, fossils and other items in their foyers?

- **Internet** – Do you have a website? Is it updated regularly?

- **Subscriptions** – How about contacting your local library and donating a subscription to Rock and Gem Magazine (or other such publication)? The library would greatly appreciate the donation; your society would receive the recognition; and new readers could be introduced to rockhounding.

- **Replies** – How do you respond to “inquiries” about your society? Consider sending an “acknow-
edgment letter” thanking the sender for their interest, a copy of a recent society newsletter, an application for membership (with a return envelope) and some literature (e.g. tri-fold, bi-fold, etc.) and inviting them to attend an upcoming general membership meeting.

These are just a few ways that “growing” societies continue to expand their membership.

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**Show Your Support!**

Several people have come up to me recently and asked if I know where they can buy one of the impressive multi-colored U.S. map pins that they have seen several people wear on their show vests. As chairperson of the AFMS Endowment Fund Committee, I’m pleased to tell you that I’m the person to contact in order to obtain one.

The pins are designed to recognize outstanding individual financial contributions to the AFMS Endowment Fund. In the past few years they have been available only during the annual AFMS convention shows. What was formerly a once-a-year chance to show your support for the American Federation, has now been extended to an every day - 24/7 opportunity for all!

The pins, specifically, are:

1. The AFMS V.I.P. pin: A geographically-correct map of the seven regional federations of AFMS, executed in 7 different colors of enamel, one for each region, on a gold background. The pin measures three and a half inches wide by two inches tall with a half-inch Alaska attached to the NFMS corner of the pin by a two-inch gold chain. Colors chosen for the regional federations’ territories are: NFMS - green, CFMS - dark blue; RMFMS - chocolate brown; MWF - purple; EFMLS - red and SFMS - powder blue. and

2. The gold with the 48 contiguous states outlined in white enamel, “Fellow of the A.F.M.S.” pin, together with a special gold certificate of recognition, signed by the current A.F.M.S. president at the time the contribution is received. This pin is approximately the same size as the VIP pin with a white background and gold lettering.

In order to qualify, an individual’s single contribution of $100 will entitle the contributor to receive one of the V.I.P. pins. Individuals who make a $500 one-time gift will receive the “Fellow of the A.F.M.S.” pin, and the special gold certificate of membership in the Fellows, signed by the AFMS president.

If this sounds like a good deal to you, and you would like to have one or both of these uniquely-AFMS pins, your contribution will be gratefully received, and your pin will be sent to you by return mail. We have a limited number of each of these pins, and pins will be sent in order of receipt of pins, for as long as they last.

Please make your $100 or $500 check, or money-order, payable to “AFMS Endowment Fund” and send it to:

Josie Middleton, Chair
2910 Winchester Dr
Round Rock, TX 78665
AFMS Endowment Fund

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**AFMS Newsletter – February 2010**

**Promoting Your Society**

by Elizabeth Myers from CFMS Newsletter, January 10

The deadline for submission of articles for the March AFMS Newsletter will be Monday, January 25th.
Coal

No one knows for sure who first discovered that the black, brittle rocks found in outcrops would burn and could be used for fuel. The earliest recorded mining of coal took place in China 10,000 years ago. Coal outcrops were mined in Great Britain during the Bronze Age, 2000-3000 BCE (Before Common Era), and the Romans used it across their empire. In the Americas the Aztecs used it for heat and also fashioned hard coal into ornaments.

The use of coal didn’t really take off until the Industrial Revolution, however, up until then most mining was done by taking advantage of seams of exposed coal or digging shallow surface mines to obtain it. The Industrial Revolution changed that when coal began to be in great demand as the fuel to power steam engines used in manufacturing, and later, coal-fed steam engines were built for the railways and steamships.

Because of the great demand for coal, new mines were opened up that went deeper into the earth. These mines continued to be the main source until the twentieth century, when open pit strip mining became popular, but at an environmental cost.

What exactly is coal? It has been defined as a sedimentary rock of organic origin and is composed of the remains of plants that lived and died millions of years ago in swampy regions. Their remains were buried, and over the course of millennia, they were compacted, and through a process called coalification were turned into one of five grades of coal.

The first grade, peat, is the accumulation of partially decayed organic vegetative matter. It is the lowest grade of coal and burns with only about half the heat value of high grades of coal. Lignite, the next lowest rank, is often called brown-coal and has a high percentage of volatiles. It also contains a lot of moisture and is mainly used in production of electricity where mines are close to the power plants.

The next two grades are related and sometimes hard to tell apart. Sub-bituminous coal is a grade that is between lignite and bituminous coal. It is used mostly as fuel for steam-electric power generation. Bituminous coal is a soft grade of coal and is also used as fuel in steam-electric power generation. It is also used for heat and power applications in manufacturing, and to make coke, an altered form that is used as fuel and as a reducing agent in smelting iron ore in a blast furnace.

The highest grade of coal is also the best and is known as anthracite. It has the highest carbon content and contains the fewest impurities of all coals. It burns the cleanest and is primarily used for residential and commercial heating. From the late 1800s until the 1950s, it was the most popular fuel for heating homes and other buildings in the northern United States. Many can still remember when the coal wagon would deliver a supply to the home.

Coal was first mined in the state of Kansas near Fort Leavenworth and in Cherokee County in the 1850s from shallow, open mines. Several of these shallow coal mines were opened up in the southeast part of the state shortly before and after the Civil War to provide fuel for the railroads, since coal was less bulky and provided more energy than wood. The room and pillar method was introduced in Cherokee County in 1874 by the Scammon brothers from Illinois, and within a few years underground mining became the preferred method of mining in the state. Peak years for production were 1917 and 1918, with about 7.25 million tons produced each of these years.

In the early 1930s open pit strip mining again became popular, and numerous mines were opened up throughout southeast Kansas. During the 1960s and 1970s Big Brutus became a fixture near West Mineral and was the second largest coal shovel in the world. It was shut down due to high operating costs; it costs twice as much to operate as the coal it produced was worth.

The mines in the region continued to operate until the last one was closed down in the 1980s, after regulations and environmentalists made it more cost effective to import coal rather than to mine it. One of the issues with the open strip mines was that they left deep ditches and high ridges. Before land reclamation laws were enacted, this land was abandoned and left to grow back to trees and brush while the trenches filled with water. In the 1990s a couple of coal mines were reworked and worked on a limited basis. The only bituminous coal mines still in operation today are very small, and they are found in Bourbon, Crawford, and Linn counties.

Another issue was that waste piles left behind contained massive amounts of iron pyrite. Pyrite is iron sulfide, and when it is exposed to water and oxygen it undergoes a chemical reaction that produces sulfuric acid; water, soil, and the areas surrounding mines that are polluted with sulfuric acid become unfit for agriculture and other uses. Today a concern is sinkholes, which are the result of abandoned mines collapsing and leaving large, gaping holes in the earth. These can swallow up buildings or equipment and seem to occur especially after heavy rains.

The other type of coal used in Kansas was lignite, and mines were opened up during the 1850s in the Cretaceous Age Dakota Formation in north central Kansas. Small mines were opened up mainly in Cloud, Ellsworth, and Republic counties, but are no longer worked today.

Coal mines in Kansas are being looked at again as a source of coal bed methane, a source of natural gas that can help ease the rising energy costs and reduce the state’s dependence on importing this energy from other places.

References:

Updates Needed
from Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office
By now your club has probably elected and installed officers for 2010. Please, don’t keep their names and contact information a secret!

Take about 2 minutes and send the name, address, office for your president, federation director (liaison), secretary and editor to the AFMS Central Office so that the current mailing list can be updated and your new officers can start receiving the AFMS Newsletter.

The cost of doing this is a whopping “0” if you send the updates via e-mail to <central_office@amfed.org>.

Thanks for your time and interest in keeping your members informed.
### 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.

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<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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<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
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<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
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<td>Financial Investment</td>
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<td>Judges Training Seminar</td>
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<td>Junior Programs</td>
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<td>AFMS Scholarship Foundation</td>
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<td>Emerson Tucker, Vice President</td>
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<td>Ruth Bailey, Secretary</td>
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Apathy, Ignorance or Just Don’t Try

by Dick Pankey, President, ALAA

Did the title get your attention; pique your curiosity? Please read on!!

Being President of the American Land Access Association is a great experience and a great challenge. And I am glad I took it on. It is also a great learning experience; learning how our government and its agencies work and don’t work. Trying to learn how we can participate, contribute and have an effect on what happens with laws and regulations. Everyday I get emails telling about the assaults and threats to access and use of our public lands. These basically fall into two categories: 1) new/proposed legislation and 2) new/proposed regulations. I get the BRC Alerts. I get the ALAA Alerts and proposed legislation from John Martin and his sources. I get forwarded alerts and articles from related watchful organizations/activists, and from concerned rockhounds. I get questions from concerned and interested rockhounds and ALAA members asking “do I know about this” and “what is ALAA doing about this.”

Frankly, this is very overwhelming. The challenges are so great and they seem to come so fast. There is so much to do; so much that could be done. But what, how, who?

John Martin is doing a spectacular job of learning about proposed legislation, getting copies of the bills and the legislation, and best of all communicating and sharing these with the rest of us. This information is spread around in e-mails and in articles in Federation and society newsletters. The word is getting out. But is it being listened to; is it being acted upon?

Over the last few months I have been invited by a number of societies to talk about ALAA and the issues at their meetings. I have already given presentations to 2 societies. Unfortunately time and travel constraints limits my availability to societies in my part of California. I also have an opportunity to meet people and talk about the issues at shows, field trips, society meetings and wherever I can find people to listen. Most people will listen politely with a “Yea. Uh Uh.” But I don’t think they are really listening to me. Others seem to hear that there is a problem; that there is a threat, but that is as far as it goes. But thank goodness there is that occasional person that “gets it.” They are fired up, asking questions and offering help. But for some reason they don’t take the next step – ACTION.

Ignorance – don’t know about or understand the challenges and assaults on our access and use of our public lands, they don’t pay attention to the messengers nor try to get informed. Apathy – may know about the challenges and assaults but just don’t care; its not my responsibility; someone else will take care of it. Just Don’t try – don’t know what to do or how to do it; don’t know how to get involved; or maybe they have given up. ALAA can help with Ignorance and Just Don’t try, but Apathy is a major obstacle that is harder to overcome.

There is a fourth group and they are the ones who do get involved. They read the alerts and articles, they get informed; and best of all they take action – write letters to their Congressmen and to the Regulators, they attend meetings, they share what they know with others and get them involved. These are the people that give me hope, that keep me going. Did you see yourself here? Which group? What is it going to take to move you from group 1, 2 or 3 into group 4.

What we need is more group 4 people. ALAA membership is growing and that is a good thing. With over 49,000 members and 640 societies in the AFMS our potential for membership is great. While big numbers are great, involved membership is the objective. How to be an involved member, how to be an involved rockhound:

Become informed about proposed legislation and the legislative process.

Become informed about proposed regulations and the regulatory process for BLM and the Forest Service.

Write letters, send e-mails, make phone calls attend meetings to let your congressmen and the regulators know what you think and what you want.

Share what you know and what you did with others and get them involved.

The assault on our access to public land is great. Now is the time to stand up and be counted. We will help you?

“Protecting the Public Lands for the Public”

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AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

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

_____ New _____ Renewal Date _____/_____/_____

Please print

Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

Phone: ____________________________

E-mail: ____________________________

Club Affiliations: ____________________________

Hobby Interest: ____________________________

Remit fees to: ALAA

Ruth Bailey
2857 Addison Pl
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as a charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.