



AFMS Newsletter
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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 63, Number 5 – April 2010
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

California Dreaming

by Loretta Ogden

All of the members of North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society have been very busy planning and working on the 2010 AFMS, CFMS & NOC Show and Convention. We are all hoping you are planning to come. The show is called Hidden Treasures and when you are here you will experience all the treasures we can find for you.

The field trips we have planned are superb and if you don't have a vehicle we will do our best to match you with one of the locals. All of these trips are planned after the show so you won't miss any of the other activities. There are two different trips to tourmaline mines and also our wonderful and bountiful Mojave Desert. This area is on the list to be closed to us for collecting so now may be your last chance. The exact dates and info are listed below.

Two Tourmaline Mines in Two Days!

June 21st:

The Oceanview - Fee Dig \$50 (this is a \$25 discount per person)

Caravan to the Lake Henshaw Resort (I am working on a group rate reservation for the spaces next to the mine)

June 22nd:

The Himalaya - Fee Dig \$50 (this is a \$15 discount per person)

Fossil Hunters Choice!

June 23rd:

Trip One - Ant Hill - More Strenuous option

Trip Two - Jalama Beach - led by Jon Meredith - less strenuous option

Rock Hound or Tourist?

June 24th:

Trip One - Lavic Siding - led by Jay Valle - More strenuous option

Trip Two - LA County Natural History Museum - led by Dr. Larry Barnes - less strenuous option

The show itself will have over 40 dealers with everything your heart desires and more.

There are world-class speakers lined up for the weekend. Bob Jones of *Rock & Gem Magazine* (the official magazine of the AFMS) and the knowledgeable Walt Wright who we are lucky enough to call a member of our club.

The competition will be fierce and the displays spectacular. The demonstrators are anxious to show you all they do and hopefully spark your interest in something new.

The social activities are measuring up to be loads of fun. I guarantee you have never had a past presidents luncheon like this one. You are going to love it.

The Cracker Barrel on Friday night is going to be a pirate debacle. There will be a treasure hunt, food and good company galore, but be prepared – someone may have to walk the plank!

The awards banquet is going to be a Mexican Fiesta complete with dancers, music and of course the traditional authentic food.

If you've not yet done so, make your motel reservations directly with the host hotel - The Anaheim Park Hotel in Fullerton, CA. Click on the show logo on the AFMS website for details.

Forms for registering for the various other show activities are also on the website with deadlines as follows:

- Meal functions - May 15
- Non-competitive Displays - May 18
- Competitive Displays - June 1

It is our hope that you will enjoy yourselves and take home priceless memories of your time at The Hidden Treasure Show.

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AFMS/CFMS
 2010 Gem Show



Hosted by:
 North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society

Games
 Displays
 Raffle Prizes
 Gems & Jewelry
 Sponsoring:
 La Habra Youth

Fossils
 Kids Room
 Food

Admission: \$5.00
 Children under 14 Free
 (with an adult)

Free Parking

HIDDEN TREASURES

June 18 - 20, 2010
 Fri. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



So. CA University of Health Sciences
 16200 E. Amber Valley Dr. Whittier, CA 90604



Information: 562-330-9874 or 562-330-9875
 or 909-595-0480 - 3090987@noctms.com
 www.nocgems.com

THE AFMS

PROUDLY SERVING
SEVEN REGIONAL
FEDERATIONS



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FROM THE RECTANGULAR OFFICE

by Emerson Tucker, President

I'm a slow reader. I've taken some speed reading courses but they haven't helped much. Throughout the years I've found it a challenge to read all of the technical bulletins, trade magazines, and e-mails related to my industry. Then there are the magazines and books that I like to read for pleasure. So as several gem and mineral newsletter editors started sending copies of their bulletins in the mail to me, I found it an additional challenge in trying to read all of them.

Then a little over a year ago this publication's editor, Carolyn Weinberger, suggested that all of the newsletter editors send their electronic editions to Joy Bourne and me. A few editors immediately started doing this. Over the months many more have done the same. Now I find a lot of newsletters in my in box and that becomes a challenge for this slow reader.

At times I'd like all newsletters to be on paper so I could read them whenever and wherever I want to read them. Then later I open an electronic newsletter and I get a big WOW effect as I enjoy the color in the pictures and the way it is used through the newsletter. I really enjoy seeing the various minerals in color. So there are two worlds out there – the paper editions and the electronic ones. Both have several features in common. One that is always present is the hard work and dedication being done by the editors in putting together a newsletter every month. The other is the articles being submitted by the many writers wanting to share their knowledge or experiences in the rockhounding world.

I have to confess that I don't read every newsletter word-for-word. A few times I don't even read every newsletter. Sometimes I quickly look at the headlines and continue to the next article. Other times I find an article that is really of interests to me so I highlight it or in the case of the electronic papers I copy it to a file and save it. I may also pass the article or the whole electronic newspaper on to other members of our club.

For a few more months I'll still be an officer in the AFMS. Then I'll be out of office. At that time I hope the editors will continue to keep me on their mailing list. I had some misgivings about Carolyn wanting to increase the amount of reading material that I received, but it has turned out to be an enjoyable and educational experience. The electronic and paper newsletters have added a lot to my enjoyment of being involved in the AFMS. Thanks for sending them to me!

Until next time.

Emerson



TOO GOOD TO PASS UP

by Carolyn Weinberger, S.C.R.I.B.E Regional

Spending is down and people are watching their wallets a bit more carefully these days...and looking for bargains too. I've got one that's far too good to pass up, especially if your club has an editor and a bulletin each month.

S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors) is a nifty resource for your club editor and dues are a bargain -- \$6.00 per year!

For that astronomical fee your editor receives four issues of the SCRIBE newsletter sent via e-mail plus, perhaps the greatest resource, a DVD containing hundreds of club bulletins, clip art, cartoons, tips and ideas that can all be used in your own club bulletin! What a wonderful way to enhance your publication....and at that bargain fee of \$6 per year.

Visit the SCRIBE website <scribe.rbnet.net/> to download a sample copy of the SCRIBE newsletter, and obtain an application form.

WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL!

by Dee Holland, Scholarship President

Thanks to the Eastern and South Central Federations for going that extra mile for us and allowing us to reach our challenge goal of \$24,000. This means we can offer our scholarship students for this 2010 Fall semester, \$4000. each.

This isn't the first time the South Central and specifically the Rollin' Rock Club has come through for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation and we can't thank them, all of them, enough for their generosity. The Eastern Federation had a club disband and they sent their treasury to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation thus bringing the total over the needed \$24,000. Any unrestricted donations collected over the total needed will revert to the restricted fund.

Thanks to everyone who was so generous, the students won't even know there was a hiccup in our program.



MEET THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Bob Miller, AFMS President-elect

Hello everyone, this may seem early but the year is passing quite rapidly.

Having been presented the honor of being the AFMS President elect I am sure some of you that I have not met are curious as to who this person is and wonder about some of my background.

I am from South Bend Indiana, the home of Notre Dame for the football fans. I have been a member of my local club, the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, since the late 1960s and also involved with the Midwest Federation. My wife Kathy and daughter and sons families have been active in our local club. Kathy is the present president and we both have been active in the clubs activities for over 40 years. Our grandchildren love the field trips, being able to dig and get dirty along with their grandparents. I've also been active and have served in various board positions within my club.

My involvement with the Midwest Federation grew through competing in the several different competitive exhibit categories through the years. As many of you know when you get involved, You Become Involved. That then turned into several years chairmanship of the uniform rules committee for the MWF and the boundaries committee, which then lead to serving as president of the Midwest Federation from 1996 to 1997. Through this came involvement in the American Federation especially through uniform rules from competing to judging. I was then elected as one of the Regional Vice Presidents of AFMS representing the Midwest Federation and this lead to the present position of President-elect. I've also recently become involved in the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) as a state representative and Director.

I enjoy reading about the activities of your club through your newsletters and hope you add me to your mailing list (electronic copies are welcomed and will help save your club money). I'm always amazed at the knowledge and craftsmanship displayed by club members at various shows via both competitive and non-competitive exhibits.

I look forward to meeting many more of you and hope to see you at the AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention this June in La Habre, California.

HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

Help Contribute to an East Coast / West Coast Rock Exchange

Within the AFMS ranks, we have two unique clubs. Several years ago, Michael Putney began Mineral Minds, a geology club in the local elementary school where he teaches in New York State. He has subsequently chartered his club as a juniors-only club within the Eastern Federation. On the opposite side of the country, Lowell Foster has enlisted the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society (VGMS) in southern California to serve as a sponsor for a geology club he's begun at a school where he teaches, the Marina West Geology Club.

Lowell and I both belong to VGMS, and when he told me about his school club, I put him in touch with Mike, and the two clubs had fun with a rock exchange. They had so much fun, in fact, they're like to ask clubs from across the U.S. to join in and help with a project. They'd like to expose their kids to the different rocks and minerals of our great United States. Thus, they are looking to put together fabulous displays of various minerals from the different clubs associated with AFMS. Their students would research the rocks and minerals they receive as part of the display. Local newspapers would be contacted, giving publicity for the AFMS, as a whole.

Depending on the level of response and amount of participation, we could also foresee preparing an article for a venue such as Rock&Gem magazine. Both Mike and Lowell are asking if clubs could send a rock, mineral, or fossil sample from their local region to both



of their clubs. Their clubs would also interact with each other to compare and contrast, share ideas, and generate a great discussion between East Coast and West Coast kids.

This sounds like one terrific idea to me, and I encourage anyone and everyone to help out. The best way to begin would be to e-mail Mike and Lowell for details: <Mputney2@wacs2.wnyric.org> and <lowellfos@yahoo.com>. Sounds like Mike and Lowell have come up with one neat way of firing kids' enthusiasm about rocks and about their country - all the while, having fun!

Purpose of the AFMS:

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

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

Address corrections and changes
Subscription Information
Distribution Questions

Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter.

These are sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

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"AFMS"

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ALL CHANGES AND QUESTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

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CONTENT - LETTERS

EDITORIAL COMMENTS - SUBMISSIONS
ANY COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE CONTENT OR FORMAT OF THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE

SENT TO THE EDITOR:

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DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION (I.E. APRIL 1 FOR THE MAY ISSUE)

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ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

from Josie Middleton, Endowment Fund Chair

I thought that this month I should do a recap of the fabulous prizes that you could receive IF you hold one of the winning tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund raffle.

Tickets can be purchased from your regional federation chairperson either in person or by mail. If sending for them by mail, be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and name of your club along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your ticket stubs. Deadline for all mail-order tickets will be May 31, 2010 and the drawing will be held during the AFMS/CFMS Convention on June 19.

Tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Checks should be made payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund".

California Federation - Colleen McGann

PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052

Eastern Federation - Carolyn Weinberger

PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

Midwest Federation - John Washburn

107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563

Northwest - open at this time, but you can order tickets directly from me.

Rocky Mountain - Richard Jaeger

3515 E 88thSt; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602

South Central - Josie Middleton

3920 Winchester Dr; Round Rock, TX 78665

Southeast - Betty James

169A Florence Circle; Florence, MS 39073

And here are the prizes you might win --- if you have one of the winning tickets!

Prize #1. This is a lovely sterling silver pendant crafted by Ted Magee and composed of 2 cabochons and one faceted citrine. The pendant measures 4 1/2 inches in length. Although shown on a silver chain, the chain is not included. It has an estimated value of \$125 (CFMS).

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 Federation. It stands on a Rosewood stand. Estimated value is \$100. (SCFMS)

Prize #3 is a sterling silver and amethyst pendent and earring set, with chain. The pendent 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 a 6.5-7 ladies. Donated by Les Pagel it has a value of \$65. (SCFMS).

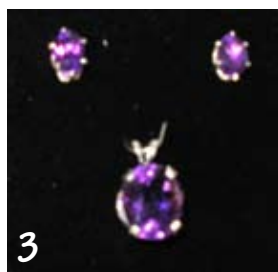
Prize #5 - a lovely amethyst cathedral. Measuring 13.5" H x 6.5" W x 2.5" D, it has very good color and would make a very nice addition to some ones' home and collection. Most likely Brazilian in origin, it was donated by the Pleasant Oak Gem & Mineral Society and has a value of \$120. (SCFMS).

Prize #6 is a wonderful Chrysoprase 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).

Prize #7 is a dichroic glass pendant wire wrapped in 14k gold. A donation by Anna Christiansen of the Mother Lode Mineral Society and has an estimated value of \$75. (CFMS).

We are still hoping to add more prizes! If you or your club would like to make a donation, please send your prize contribution to me at:

Josie Middleton
3920 Winchester Drive
Round Rock, TX 78665



A TAXING REMINDER!

from Mike Kokinos, CFMS Tax Advisor

In 2007 the Internal Revenue Service announced a new annual electronic filing requirement for small tax-exempt organizations.

Beginning in 2008, small tax-exempt organizations (almost all our societies) that previously were not required to file returns may be required to file an annual electronic notice. Form 990-N Electronic Notice (e-postcard) for tax-exempt organizations not required to file Form 990 or 990-EZ. This filing requirement applies to tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006.

Last year societies that did not have Federal tax exemption, attempted to file Form 990N. These were rejected even though the EIN (tax identification number) was provided.

The IRS exempt staff originally told me that the EIN master file database would be used for filing the Form 990N. This was not the case. If you tried filing and were rejected, I recommended calling the IRS Exempt Organizations at toll free (877) 829-5500.

If your Society was unable to file for lack of an EIN, you must obtain it first. In some cases, you might not be sure the Society has an EIN. Chances are the Society actually has an EIN. Check with the Society's banking institution. They are required to obtain an EIN before allowing a bank account to be opened.

WARNING

Please make sure Treasurer's and other officers are aware of this new requirement. The new requirement requires the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization that fails to meet its annual filing requirement for three consecutive years. Late filing will not be a problem as it is a new program. Societies using a calendar year should file by May 15. Late filings should be completed as soon as possible

To file, go to the IRS website (irs.gov) do a search on 990-N. It will lead you to the site to file this electronic form.

Those societies with gross receipts over \$25,000 should check filing requirements. In most cases only the Form 990EZ will be required.

URC CHANGES AND MEETING

by Dee Holland, URC Chair

The AFMS Uniform Rules Committee is soliciting changes to the AFMS Rules BOOK. This information must be in to me, as Chair, by May 1st, no later.

The URC meeting will be Wed. June 16th at 1pm at the host hotel, and changes will be on the agenda at that time. Items not on the agenda will be held over for next year.

Send to: Dee Holland, P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468 or email me at: <beauholland@centurytel.net> or <shirleyleeson@cox.net>.

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 e-mail: <ljgrAlg@aol.com> or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we'll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.

When you read this AFMS judging will be in full swing, reading and judging entries for the 2010 AFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest. When I

have received the results, I will send postcards to the top 10 winners in each category. See you at the CFMS/AFMS Show and Convention in California in June!

Abbreviations – Have I found a shortcut to a can of worms?

My husband recently asked me a question about an abbreviation he wanted to use in an article he was writing. I thought, "Gee, abbreviations would be a good topic to research and write about for 'Quick Tips.'" The best thing I can say is: decide on a reasonable style and stick with it.

There are a mountain of different styles to choose from -- some for essays, some for technical writing, some for specific subject areas, some for casual writing. The can of worms I discovered is that none of these styles seem to agree on much of anything.

The most helpful information came from an online site for home schoolers. It gave these basic rules for abbreviation use:

- if you're unsure about using an abbreviation, spell it out every time you use it (for numbers, I'd stick with full spellings for any number

under 10 and use numerals for anything with two or more digits)

- check the dictionary – it's always worth a try

- be consistent with the style you have chosen
- use an abbreviation instead of a contraction (as in "cont." instead of "cont'd." for continued)
- if the abbreviation is only a couple of letters shorter than the actual word you might as well use the whole word¹

- within a reference, use periods with the abbreviations (Vol., 5th ed., p. 41)

The articles we write for our bulletins sometimes need **units of measure**. The numerical part is written with numerals, there is a space between the numeric part and the units, and there is no period after the abbreviation for the units, except when it is in. for inches (to distinguish from the preposition, "in"). Samples: 35 in., 18 g, 79 km²

Numbers that should always be **written with numerals**, not words are: dates, addresses, percentages, fractions and decimals, scores, exact amounts of money, and time of day.

There are some words that **we should NOT abbreviate** as we are writing: short forms of words (thru, nite – too casual), days of the week, months of the year, people's names (use Charles, not Chas.), and states' names (use Oklahoma, not OK or Okla.).²

Then there are the acronyms. A true acronym is formed by taking the first letter of each word in a phrase and using those initials to form a word that can be pronounced.

If the acronym forms a proper noun (NASA, NAFTA, AIDS) the letters are all capitalized, and there are no periods. If initials form a phrase (a.k.a., e.g., i.e.) they are written in small case letters and include the periods. It helps the reader to see the nouns or phrases spelled out the first time they are used, with acronyms each time they are mentioned afterwards.³



I repeat – be consistent!

Now, about that can of worms – fishing anyone?

References:

¹ Emms, Karrie. "How to Use Abbreviations: Five Basic Rules of Abbreviation Use for Homeschoolers." 26 May 2008. 24 February 2010. <http://homeschool-curricula.suite101.com/article.cfm/when_and_how_to_use_abbreviations>

² "Abbreviations." 24 February 2010. <<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/abbreviations.htm>>

³ Roach, John. "What's up, shorty? – Acronyms and Abbreviation." 4 August 2008. 24 February 2010. <<http://prowritingtips.com/2008/08/whats-up-shorty-acronyms-and-abbreviations/>>

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REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, Show Consultant

Please remember to send me the dates for your upcoming Regional Federation Conventions for 2011 and beyond. Scheduling conflicts between Federations, but especially between a regional and the AFMS Convention are to be avoided and early notification will help to do this.

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2010	AFMS June 18-20 La Habre, CA	March 6-7 Newark, DE	Aug 27-29 Peoria, IL	Sept. 17-19 Hillsboro, OR	April 23-25 Wichita, KS	Nov. 13 - 14 DeRidder, LA	October 16-18 Knoxville, TN
2011	May 13-15 Anderson, CA	AFMS July 7-10 Syracuse, NY	Sept 8-11 Toledo, OH		December Colorado Spgs, CO		
2012		Sept. 16-17 Harrisburg, PA	AFMS July Minnesota				

CONSERVATION & LEGISLATION

by John Martin, Conservation & Legislation Chair

Happenings Around the Country

For Rockhounds who use our National Forests for their collecting the USDA Forest Service is in the process of revising their Resource Management Planning Rule for the 193 million acres of National Forest System land they manage. This is the chance to have our concerns and issues addressed and included in these plans which could have an effect on our collecting in the National Forest for many years to come. If you collect in any of our National Forests and would like to continue you may want to attend one of the national workshops listed below or submit your issues, concerns, desires and any comments to the USFS through the links listed below. The best place to start would be your local US Forest District Office and ask when and where any local meetings are going to be held and where to send comments on the management plan for your local forest area. Below is the press release from the USFS which contains most of the information that has been released thus far.

WASHINGTON, Feb.24, 2010--USDA Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced a series of events to provide opportunities for public discussion on the development of a new Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Rule (planning rule). The Forest Service will host a national science forum, three national roundtables and nine regional roundtables.

Following the meetings, notes will be posted on the planning rule Web site, <www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule> to allow for further feedback. Summaries of the presentations and discussions in the science forum and roundtables, along with the individual comments received during the 60-day formal comment period on the Notice of Intent, will be used to develop the proposed rule and a draft environmental impact statement.

The meetings announced include:

National Science Forum March 29-30 in Washington DC.

National roundtables April 1 and 2, April 20 and 21, and May 11 and 12, 2010, in Washington, DC.

Nine regional roundtables in the following locations:

*Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6), Portland OR on April 6, 2010

*Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), Sacramento, CA on April 6, 2010

*Intermountain Region (Region 4), Salt Lake City, UT on April 8, 2010

*Rocky Mountain Region (Region 2), Lakewood CO on April 12, 2010

*Northern Region (Region 1), Missoula MT on April 13, 2010

*Alaska Region (Region 10), Juneau, AK on April 13, 2010

*Southern Region (Region 8), Atlanta, GA during the week of April 12. (exact date to be determined)

* Eastern Region (Region 9), Chicago, IL during the week of April 28 (exact date to be determined);

*Southwestern Region (Region 3), Albuquerque, NM on April 28, 2010.

*Region 2 will host additional meetings on April 14 in Cheyenne WY and April 21 in Rapid City, SD.

Webcasting may also be available for selected meetings; please check the planning rule website, at <www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule>.

To encourage widespread participation the Forest Service is using new media tools in conjunction with the public meetings. Please visit <blogs.usda.gov/usdablogs/planningrule> to participate in the Forest Service web-based planning rule blog.

It's your Forest, use it the way you want, so get your comments in as soon as you can.

Now on to the BLM report.

The Bureau of Land Management has the responsibility to manage the public federal lands through out this country. Most of the land under their management control lies in the 13 western states. At the top of the list right now is proposed legislation to turn 13 million acres of this public land into some form of wilderness area or new national monuments. Both of these designations will put a real damper on our ability to have access to collecting areas within these closed areas. Some examples of these proposals are in California and is titled California Desert Protection Act of 2010, S-2921 and if enacted will create nearly 1.6 million acres of new wilderness and National Monuments in the southern California desert area. These new designations will have a large impact on Rockhounding in Southern California because many of the prime collecting sites lie within the boundaries of this proposed legislation. Central California is having its own problems also. The area known as Clear Creek has been a favorite collecting area for more than a hundred years, where you can collect Serpentine, the California State Rock, Actinolite, Jade and other related rocks and minerals. It is also the only area in the world where Benitoite, the California State Gem Stone, has been found. The Clear Creek Management Area is about 40 miles wide and 75 miles long and has been closed to all human contact for the last several years do to a questionable EPA report of Asbestos contamination. There are now hearings being conducted on the future of this area and several California Gem and Mineral Society members have been involved in these discussions and meetings and have been able to provide useful input in trying to get this area open once again for recreational uses including Rockhound Collecting.

Utah is under attack with the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009, S. 799 and H. R. 1925, which includes 58 separate areas within the state. That's a total of 2,596,500 Acres of Utah that could disappear as collecting areas, and all of this is in just one of the bills being proposed for Utah. Currently

this bill is still in committee and has yet to be acted upon.

There is currently a proposal to create an additional 4,989,800 acres of Federal Public Lands into National Monuments. Some of these areas are:

San Rafael Swell, UT an area 75 miles by 40 miles; Montana's Northern Prairie, MT – 2,500,000 acres; Lesser Prairie Chicken Preserve, NM – 58,000 acres; Berryessa Snow Mountains, CA – 500,000 acres; Heart of the Great Basin, NV; Otero Mesa, NM – 1,200,000 acres; Northwest Sonoran Desert, AZ – 500,000 acres; Owyhee Desert, OR/NV; Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, CA (Expansion); Vermillion Basin, CO; Bodie Hills, CA; The Modoc Plateau, CA (Several Million Acres);

Cedar Mesa region, UT; San Juan Islands, WA Bristol Bay, AK; Teshekpuk Lake, AK – 22 mile wide lake on AK's North Slope; Red Desert, WY; Alpine Triangle, CO – 25,000 acres; Upper Missouri River, MT – Between Fort Benton to Fort Peck Dam; Pioneer Range, Idaho – 140,000 acres; John Day River, OR Upper Green River Valley, WY; National Historic and Scenic Trails (Multiple States)

While some of these proposed National Monuments may not have any collecting areas and some may be needed to preserve and protect environmental, cultural, and historic areas these monuments are proposed to be created by executive order and NOT going before congress for debate and/or public input at an estimated cost to the American Tax Payer of \$2,383,260,000.00.

We welcome your inputs and comments.

The AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee has set up an E-mail Address <afms-conservation@antelecom.net> that can be used to advise the committee of new and pending legislation that may have an effect on our ability to enter, collect and enjoy Rockhounding in any of the 7 Regional Federation areas. The e-mail address may also be used to ask questions or voice concerns over issues that involve our collecting hobby. When e-mail is received at this address it is also received by the members of the committee so that all members have access to the information and can respond in a timely manner with appropriate answers or guidance.

Please use this e-mail address to voice your concerns or questions. We will try our best to give a timely response.



INTER-REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS

by Richard Pankey, Chair



There are two Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous planned for 2010. In the Dec-Jan AFMS Newsletter Doug True from the Northwest Federation announced a trip for Blue Forest petrified wood in southwest Wyoming over Labor Day weekend. This is a well known and classic petrified wood collecting area with distinctive and easily recognized material. My wife and I have wanted to collect there since we became rockhounds and it looks like this is the year that we are finally going to get there. There is more than just petrified wood in this part of Wyoming so plan to visit some other sites before or after the Blue Forest experience.

The other trip is to New Mexico for AGATE. Last week Yonis Lone Eagle from the Rocky Mountain Federation sent me his flyer for AGATE Rendezvous 2010 that will be held August 28th to September 6th. During this 10 day outing you will have an opportunity to collect many different agates, geodes, jaspers, obsidian and more. People who have attended previous AGATE Rendezvous had great praise for the material collected and for the trip organization. In addition to the outstanding collecting there are several museums, a county fair, 600-year-old petroglyphs, rock shows and lots more to see and do.

Details for both of these trips will be available in future AFMS and other Federation newsletters. What better way to start and end the summer than to spend these holidays at an Inter-Regional Rendezvous with a bunch of rockhounds at two great collecting areas.

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

A difference between an "Inter Regional Field Trip" and a Federation field trip or a club trip often comes down to who is invited, how the trip is promoted and where it is promoted. The last few years I have received and diligently read several other Federation newsletters and have become aware of a number of field trips and related events that could easily fit the criteria of an "inter-regional trip". By its nature an inter-regional field trip is probably bigger than most other field trips and therefore requires more thought and planning. Since the purpose is

JUST DO IT!

by Loretta Ogden, ACROY Chair

It is easy to honor you club member. All you need is a computer and a person. Just send me a short paragraph (100 words or less) about that person stating why they deserve to be Rockhound of the Year to me at <donogden@aol.com/loretta>.

Here are two that I've received this month.



Midwest Federation

Every now and then, a couple comes along that fits so well together that it is difficult to differentiate them individually and they are thought of as a pair. The Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club is enriched by having **Ernie Confer and Madelyn Anderson** as members. Although one of this pair has held office in the past, their work behind the scenes has helped this club grow and function smoothly for a number of years. Not only have they accepted duties with a cheerful attitude when drafted, they have also volunteered countless hours in ensuring our club and shows run efficiently and successfully. Without being prompted, they have improved our Spin-and-Win setup, have upgraded, bagged and identified specimens for Spin-and-Win and the grab bags, as well as storing the materials left over from year to year. Like others, they have kept our badge prizes boxes full with finds from their numerous winter western field trips. Their boundless energy making and distributing signs and doing the show advertising has greatly enhanced our attendance at our annual show. Their dedication has not gone unnoticed. We are proud to have them as members of our club and as our Rockhounds of the Year.

submitted by Dorothy Hess, Treasurer



South Central Federation

The Waco Gem & Mineral Club is honoring **Joe Linkous** as its 2010 Rockhound of the Year. Joe and his wife, Alice, have been members only slightly more than a year, but in that time, Joe has made a major contribution to our workshop. After receiving instruction on the machines and procedures, Joe began cleaning the shop and maintaining and repairing machines, usually on his own initiative.

The workshop has been no one's hands-on responsibility in the past, so the club is especially grateful that Joe has volunteered to do these jobs; he has seen the need and has fulfilled it, not expecting reward or praise.

submitted by Mary Massirer, secretary and editor

to attract a broader geographical attendance the collecting opportunity should be for material that is of good quality and good supply, and easily obtainable by both experienced and inexperienced rockhounds. This event can and should offer those attending more than just collecting. It should provide opportunities for socializing and interaction: potluck dinners, happy hour get togethers, and evening campfires. There can be other attractions and activities such as speakers from BLM/Forest Service/local experts, map exchanges and home material swap, special sight seeing attractions like a National Park, and other collecting sights in the area or on the way.

Over the next few months I will be talking more about the considerations and planning for an "Inter-Regional Field Trip". If anyone has any thoughts or ideas about what we should consider when holding a trip, please send me an e-mail.

I'M NOT A MIND READER!

by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office

There is no way that I can know who your new club officers are unless you tell me.

Pleeeeeeeeeeeeee, take a moment or two and e-mail (or snail mail) me the name and address of each of your officers. Be sure to include the office each holds and the name of your club.

Send them to me at <central_office@amfed.org> or at my postal address: PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302. Sooner is far better than later otherwise your new officers will not be receiving AFMS information --- and with all the legislative action going on, this can be critical for you and your members especially where favorite collecting sites are being threatened.

Thanks for helping keep our lines of communication open.

CALL TO ACTION

by Dick Pankey, President, ALAA



Just about everyday I get e-mails about legislations and regulations that affect rockhounding and access to public lands. Most of the legislation deals with establishment of new, proposed Wilderness creation and new, proposed National Monuments. The Bureau of Land Management and the National Forest Service are constantly changing and update their management plans. Generally the last thing mentioned in these e-mails is a request to write letters or e-mails to your Representatives or Senators for legislation or the affected BLM or FS office.

Right now here in California there are several issues that need our attention and involvement. First is one piece of legislation – the California Desert Conservation Act. This is a proposal for several National Monuments, new Wilderness areas and more that will affect access and collecting in a number of historic and prime collecting areas. The BLM office in Hollister, CA is developing a new management plan for the Clear Creek Management Area. And all Forest Service Districts are beginning the process of revising their regulations that govern how the agency prepares Forest Plans. Known as the “Planning Rule,” these regulations will be the driving force behind how the agency develops, amends and revises their Land Use Plans. This affects all National Forests in the US. The Hard Rock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009 was introduced in the House and Senate last July. This bill affects the Land Claims process. The Forest Service has announced its plans to eliminate the 50% discount at National Forest campgrounds that has traditionally been available to holders of lifetime Senior and Access (permanent disability) passes. These are just examples, the tip of the iceberg, of what the future hold for rockhounds and people that use and recreate on public lands.

I tell you this not to be a bearer of “doom and gloom” but to let you know the challenges we face and what could happen if **YOU** don’t pay attention and if **YOU** don’t or won’t get involved and participate in the legislative and regulatory process. And how can you get involved? Read the alerts and articles from ALAA, BRC, AFMS and CFMS to get informed. Then take action - write letters to your Congressmen and to the Regulators. If you want to go above and beyond - attend meetings, share what you know with others and get them involved.

My objective is simple: inform you of what is happening and to get you to write a letter or e-mail expressing your feelings or position on legislation or regulation. Letters and e-mails are effective and have an impact, especially with

the BLM and FS. It is easy to get started. Sign up for the ALAA or Blue Ribbon Coalition Alert list to learn what is happening. Read articles about pending legislation and regulations in newsletters and newspapers or go on-line and read the proposed legislation and regulations (get informed). Discuss what you learn with friends and other rockhounds and decide how the legislation and regulations will affect you (get involved). Then write a letter or e-mail. They don’t have to be eloquent or a legal/scientific presentation, or long. Just send a short, one page letter about how you felt about or will be affected by the legislation and regulations (participate).

Rockhounds have a great tool to use when writing to our elected officials: the **little**

Rockhound Sticker™. (For information on obtaining these stickers, contact me). The use of this bright yellow sticker with a rock hammer on our correspondences attracts attention and immediately identifies it as being from an interested rockhound. The more that it is used, the more it will be recognized and remembered, and the more impact it will have. Wide spread use of the little Rockhound Sticker will add continuity to our message and show that we are a coordinated force not just random individuals.

Your letters and e-mails are important to the future of rockhounding and our access to our public land. Get informed, get involved, and participate.

A.L.A.A. Membership Application

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

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

Annual membership fee for clubs is \$50.00

_____ New _____ Renewal Date ____/____/____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Club Affiliations: _____

Hobby Interests: _____

Remit Fees to: ALAA

Ruth Bailey

2857 Addison Place

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 amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.