Program Competition Results

by Marge Collins, Chair

A program about Iris Agate is the only winner in the 2010 Competition.

Based on the photographic work and notes of Peter (Pete) Rodewald (St. Croix Rockhounds, MWF), Wayne Sukow (Northern Virginia Mineral Club, FMLS), produced this culmination of Pete’s work to find and capture stunning iris images—what he called “Extreme Iris”—not only from ordinary sources but unexpected ones as well.

Pete’s work has been recognized internationally (including Walter Zenz’ books about agates) and he presented a similar program at the Agate Symposium at Menasha, Wisconsin in 2008, but he did not finalize the presentation before his untimely death in 2009. Fortunately, Wayne had been an advisor and close collaborator, which allowed him to fulfill his promise to Pete to complete the project. (Note: this program is not included in the Wide World of Agates DVDs)

To borrow “Iris Agate” or other programs, contact your Regional Program Library. Details are on the Federation websites and your Federation Directory.

Three other programs were submitted for Competition, one was withdrawn for technical reasons and the other two did not meet judge’s objective expectations.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: Authors / producers of non-commercial slide, video or digital presentations are invited to participate in the 2011 Program Competition. Winners in non-commercial classes receive a cash prize and national recognition. Entrants must be members of an AFMS affiliate Society. Commercial presentations are eligible for AFMS “Excellence in Education” recognition award. Deadline for submission is April 15, 2011.

Details and an updated entry form are available on AFMS website (www.amfed.org) or contact: Marge Collins, Program Competition Coordinator, at <margaret@qtm.net> (Qtm.net) or 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd., Buchanan MI 49107.

HELP NEEDED FOR ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING

by Pam Hecht, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

Time is running very, very short—thus far I have ONLY three (3) items for our AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing for the AFMS Convention in July. I need you to help with this project. With interest rates continuing to be low, we need to build upon the restricted funds so that the interest that can be spent doesn’t drop much more. I’ve believe that last year the fund raised about $5,500—lower than in previous years. I would like to set a goal of $8,000 for this 2011 Endowment Fund Drawing. Yes, the goal seems high, but we all can make this happen!

First I need your support in donations for the drawing - send me an email (steverox@up.net) or give me a call (906)337-2274 to let me know what you’re planning to send. Then, mail me the prize along with your name, club and federation and a description and estimated value of the prize.

Second I need tickets sold - listed below are those from each region that are selling tickets.

Thirdly I need you all to purchase those winning lucky tickets!

Regional Salespersons:

California Federation: Colleen McGann
PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052
<Colleen.mcgann@hds.com>

Eastern Federation: Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<ccrystals2@verizon.net>

Midwest Federation: John Washburn
107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563
<jrwashburn2@att.net>

Northwest Federation: Evelyn Cataldo
99509 Brandon Dr; Kennewick WA 99336
<ecataldo@cblabs.com>

Rocky Mountain Federation: Richard Jaeger
3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
<RjgrSci@aol.com>

South Central Federation: To be appointed

Southeast Federation: To be appointed

Thank you to each of you! As in previous years, tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20.

-Thirdly I need you all to purchase those winning lucky tickets!

Next month we’ll start telling you about the dona-tions we’ve received, so “watch this space”!

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A Late Happy New Year by Bob Miller, President

The holidays have quickly come and gone and I’m sure that by now you’ve had your fill of roast turkey, turkey sandwiches, turkey casserole and that you’re “turkeyed” out by now.

Around our house February brings the winter “doldrums” as everyday routines seem to be the same this time of the year and with limited outside activities (the lawn doesn’t need mowing, outdoor collecting trips aren’t scheduled and I’m not good at skiing... I usually leave three tracks) it is a good time to head for the workshop, dust off the equipment, check the summer collections and get busy with a project.

What to do? I’m sure that your club or federation display case could use some sprucing up or better yet dig out your rule book (available from your regional federation supplies chair or via the AFMS Website) and give a competitive display a try at your next federation show. Please note – the new 2011 rules are now being used so be sure to obtain a copy of the new booklet. We could all use a few pointers to help us improve our skills.

Pam Hecht the Endowment fund chair would welcome some nice donated items for the drawing to be held at the convention in Syracuse NY this year. Just send them to her (25393 Oak St; Calumet, MI 49913). Be sure to include a description of your donation, your name and address along with your estimate of the value of the item. All proceeds from ticket sales are invested and only the INTEREST is used to fund programs that benefit ALL members. The more the fund has invested the larger the value of the funds that can be used for different AFMS programs.

As I write this it’s snowing again, so I’m off to shovel more snow, again.

Bob

This is just a reminder to all that are interested that the deadline for your regional chair to submit your yearbooks for this year’s competition is April 15th. I have seen articles in the Midwest Federation and the Eastern Federation Newsletters from their regional chairs as to their deadline for submitting to them. Check with your own regional chair to find out when your book is due to them.

As you may recall the format for the yearbook was published in the last AFMS Newsletter and an article about the guidelines with step by step instructions was also mentioned. Those still needing a copy of the guidelines can e-mail me for an electronic copy. Just drop a note to <jrwashburn2@att.net>.

I look forward to receiving your club entry from your regional federation chairperson.

All American Club Yearbook by John Washburn, Chair

New Uniform Rules! from B. Jay Bowman, Chair

The AFMS Uniform Rules Book has undergone a major revision for 2011. Some rules have been deleted, others added and some sections revised to make the rules easier to understand and follow.

Everyone who displays, whether in competition or not, should obtain a copy of the new book in order for you to help you put in a good display. Copies can be obtained from your regional federation supplies chair or, you can download a copy from the AFMS website.

As you prepare your exhibit for either the AFMS / EFMLS Convention in Syracuse this summer feel free to contact me if you have any questions about any portion of the book. My e-mail is <bjbowman@wildblue.net>.

I look forward to seeing your exhibit this coming July at the convention and show in Syracuse.
Having Fun: Junior Activities

Motivating Kids to Exhibit

I’m entering 2011 as President of the California Federation and my presidential theme for what I hope will prove to be my short-happy-reign is “The Year of the Child.” I’m sponsoring a special Outstanding Junior Exhibit award at our annual CFMS Show & Convention this May, where I’ll select what I perceive to be the best junior exhibit whether entered as a competitive or noncompetitive display. I’ll award it with a framed certificate, a $200 cash prize from my own checkbook, and a specimen from my personal collection. While I’ve established this award as one concrete action in keeping with my theme for the year, a bigger reason is to encourage more juniors to create displays for our shows, in general. I’ve seen a decline in junior exhibits; for instance, at our last combined AFMS/CFMS show, we didn’t have a single junior exhibitor, and we’ve seen a number of years when we haven’t been able to give out the Lillian Turner Award for an outstanding junior display at an AFMS show. It’s time we all take action to encourage and motivate our younger members, and one way is by offering rewards and honors, as well as guidance.

Thus, I encourage all local societies to set aside time at one of your monthly meetings to encourage your junior members to participate in your local shows and I encourage all regional federations to promote exhibiting by juniors at your federation shows. Hold a special workshop for kids to talk about the basics of exhibiting and to give them hands-on lessons in arranging specimens in a display case. Get commitments from kids—and their parents—to enter displays, either individually or as a group display put together by several kids. Help them along and stay in touch with them right up through set-up day.

To motivate them, consider a contest with prizes for best first-time exhibitor, best mineral display, best fossil display, best lapidary display, best educational display, and so forth. Prizes could be certificates, ribbons, or fossil specimens, coupons to purchase items from dealers at your show, Rockhound pins and patches available through Frank Mullaney of Rocky Fine (www.rockyfive.net), educational patches and activity books available through Diamond Dan (www.diamonddannpublications.net), etc. There’s also a Showmanship Badge available through the AFMS Future Rockhounds of American Badge Program (http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.html).

And for those of you in the Eastern Federation, especially folks within driving distance of Syracuse, New York, don’t forget that a combined AFMS/EFMLS show is fast coming your way! July 7-10 is just around the corner, and we’d sure like to see the Lillian Turner Award (a savings bond for the best Jr. exhibit) make its way into a deserving junior exhibitor’s hands this year. So please get out there and come up with ways to encourage more kids to make the leap by guiding them along, by making exhibiting rewarding—and by making it fun!

AFMS/EFMLS Convention News

from Lou Budell, Convention Treasurer

The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, sponsors of the big AFMS / EFMLS Combined Convention and host for the annual Syracuse Gem & Mineral Show to be held the week of July 6 - 10 is pleased to announce that do to some last minute retirements, there are still a few dealer booths available. The show itself will be held July 9-10 with set-up on Friday, July 8.

We have 4, 5 and 6 table booths available in the retail section and 4 (or more) table booths available in our wholesale section. All tables are 8’ in length. The show will be held at the NY State Fairgrounds in an air-conditioned building.

If any dealer is interested, please contact Lou Budell <labudell@windstream.net>, as soon as possible.

New Programs for Libraries

by Marie Collins, Program Competition Chair

In addition to the Program Competition Winner, described on page 1, the following DVDs have been purchased with funding from AFMS Endowment Fund. They will be available for use of clubs and their members from the Regional Libraries.

- *Jewelry Workshop* by Nanz Aalund (Silversmithing - Intermediate Level)
  - Metal Bead Bracelet (16 minutes)
  - Tutorial included with DVD
  - 3 Twisted Square Wire projects (16 minutes)
  - Helpful Hints (8 minutes)

*continued on page 8*
Quick Tips for Editors

By Linda Jaeger, Bulletin Editors’ Advisory

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

Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.

How to Write an Award-Winning Article

(summarized from Steven Wade Veatch’s presentation at the Editor’s Workshop in Denver, 9/17/2010)

Write about what interests you.

Before you start writing, choose: the purpose of your article, your target audience, and what style of writing you want to use. Make your writing concise.

Once you have your idea, ask yourself the questions who? what? where? when? how? and answer them for your readers.

Make an outline.

It should have “three acts”: an opening, the body of the article, and a closing. The opening should create interest in your subject. The body will cover your subject and answer the questions mentioned above. Your closing is the most important part – make it short!

Use the outline to focus and narrow your subject. Decide how to present your ideas: Chronological order! Big picture to individual parts? Putting the parts together to come up with the big picture? Flesh out your article by adding details.

You will also need to consider a title. Make it eye-catching so your reader wants to continue reading.

Research your subject by checking references at the public library, observing activities, analyzing visuals, using a search engine like Google on the Internet, and making notes from all. Dependant information from the Internet may have .edu, .ppt, or .pdf in its web address. It is a good idea to verify your research in more than one place. Be sure to include your references with your article!

Once you actually begin writing, use action verbs to create visual images for your reader. Action verbs are words that do something. Ask yourself if a person can do that. (giggle, split, reach)

Whatever style of writing you use should be clear, precise, and concise. Sentences need to be fluid – they read smoothly and easily. Each paragraph covers one idea and leads into the next paragraph. Write the way you talk!

To create more interest in your article, add tables and/or photographs that support your ideas. Tables and photos also break up the space on the page and make it easier on the eyes to read the article.

After writing your first draft, let some time pass before you start to revise. Perhaps a different word sounds better here or there. Maybe sentences or paragraphs need to be moved around. Feel free to use your newsletter editor as a sounding board and as a resource for checking spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Steve’s basic writing plan:

The Beginning – clear, clear, clear!

The Middle – interesting, interesting, interesting!

The End – short, short, short!

Steven Wade Veatch is a member of both the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club. He is an adjunct professor in geology and paleontology for Emporia State University, has taught many seminars for kids and adults on how to write science articles, and has won numerous trophies from RMFMS and AFMS in the Adult Articles Advanced category.

Steve has a special place in his heart for rock club juniors, and he sponsors both pebble pups and the 12-17 age group. If you are interested in some quick tips on close-up photography, check out his blog at: <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/2010_08_01_archive.html>.

Conservation & Legislation News

By John Martin, Chair

By now the 112th Congress has been seated and has been in session for about a month. Even though the 111th congress failed to pass the second “Omnibus Land Management Act,” S.303 “America’s Great Outdoors Act of 2010” and as S.2921 “California Desert Protection Act of 2010” died in committee the battle for public land access is not over.

We did not accomplish any “Wins” this year, rather the legislation restricting the use of public lands was put on the back burner only to be reintroduced under a different title or attached to other legislative actions in this new congressional year. The environmental activist lobby has vowed to start their efforts anew with more vigor and determination than was exerted last year.

If the Rockhound Community just sits by as the environmental lobby takes action we will eventually discover that all of our collecting sites have been added to more wilderness and our access roads and trails have been closed to travel except by foot traffic. The restrictive legislation is not only affecting the western states, but it is now being proposed in several legislative acts on the eastern seaboard and some midwestern states as well. As the new congressional year marches forward the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee will be doing their best to keep on top of the issues and trying to keep the Rockhounding Community advised of the changing conditions.

As the new legislation becomes public and our collecting areas become at risk once again, it will take the combined effort of the Rockhounding Community as a whole to make a difference and let our voices be heard in Washington and your state capital. This will be the only way to keep our Public Lands and our collecting areas open to all public users now and for future generations of Rockhounds.

We can not do it alone, we need your help, so when it becomes time to contact your elected officials please consider taking a little time and send that email, fax of make that phone call. To find your elected legislator and to see what the latest legislative activities are, the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) Website is a good starting point (www.amlands.org).

For more information or advice on Conservation and Legislation please contact the Committee Chair. My contact information may be found on the AFMS Website (www.amfed.org).
Safer Collecting and Some Things to Make You Think!

By Andrew Brodeur, Connecticut Valley Mineral Club

We go to some fairly remote places and the more remote they are the more you need to be thinking about the moves you are making and staying safe, no mineral specimen is worth and injury in the field! In my opinion the most dangerous places we go as a club are the Chester emery Mines, Shaft 10 in Hardwick and the Loudville Lead Mines. Chester has steep, rough terrain, you are quite a distance into the woods and there is NO CELL PHONE CONTACT! Shaft 10 has similar hazards as well as snakes and if you fall there, you are going for quite a rough ride all the way to the bottom. Loudville, dangerous…?… Yes Loudville has a certain amount of danger, mostly the distance away from the road and a couple rough spots depending on where you go there.

I think the most valuable thing you can know when you go out collecting is know where you are, sounds funny doesn’t it? How many times have you headed out on a field trip following the trip leader and the only concern is not losing sight of his vehicle or the guy in front of you, you get to the location and off you go. If something happened to you or another person and you needed help, could you tell a rescuer or emergency person where you are and how to get to you?? KNOW WHERE YOU ARE!!!Location, Street, and Town, three very simple and very important things that will allow help to get to you faster. You should also notice some landmarks on your way in, this will also help you tell people how to get to you. When you dial 911 from a cell phone it doesn’t always go to the closest police station, it may go to the closest State Police Barracks and it may be in a different town. If you can’t tell them how to get to you, you have just lost precious time and you just added being lost to the problem, and your rescuers have to try and figure out where you are and get you out too!

If you need help, you need to know what to tell the people, what is your emergency?? The type of injury, what is being done for them in the field, how far in the woods, adult, child, male, female, HOW BIG ARE THEY?? These are all important things for the rescuers to know, getting somebody out of a rough remote location isn’t just a 2 man job in fact it could take a dozen or more rescuers to get one person out of a bad situation. If you don’t have a cell connection and you need to send another person for help, they will have to know all of the fore mentioned things to get help and to lead them back to the location to help the injured person. If you can send 2 people on this mission its better just in case something happens to one of them. They should try to get to the car as fast as possible WITHOUT getting hurt in the process. Try to make a mental note of the closest house or store as you drive in to the site just in case you need to go for help and a phone.

If a person can’t get up on their own after an accident, don’t move them! If they aren’t alert to PERSON, PLACE or TIME and other everyday things they should know, they shouldn’t be moved. These are signs of a serious head injury and moving them could be very dangerous. Keep them warm, dry, and awake. If the person is unconscious try and place them on their left side so if they vomit, they don’t aspirate it into their lungs. It would be a shame to get them out alive only to have them die of a respi- ratory infection a week later. If you have the option of staying with the injured person and calling or sending another person for help, you should do just that, getting the person and all your gear out of the woods and driving them to a hospital yourself wastes precious time in them receiving the critical care they may need, LEAVE IT TO THE PROS!

If you are collecting either alone or in a group, there is some information that should be shared before you go out. If you are going out alone or in a group, tell people where you are going and what time you plan on being back, if they are more than an hour over due you should be making a phone call to the local or state police so they can see if their vehicle is still where they planned on going. If you are leading a group, you should know who is a diabetic or allergic to bees just in case there is a problem and do they carry their meds with them? Is there anybody with you that has first aid kit or any medical training? Don’t take unnecessary chances look up before you settle down to do any collecting, are you sitting under a hanging dead branch or tree? Use your head and eyes and be aware of your sur-roundings, know where you are and what’s around you. Don’t be afraid to tell the person near you if they are in a bad spot, you may see something they don’t. With just a little knowledge and planning you can make your collecting trips much safer for yourself and others in your group, nothing can put a damper on a great day faster than an injury or incident that might have been preventable. Have fun, be safe and come to the next meeting with a good story about your collecting trip.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston, Convention Coordinator

Here’s the latest listing of upcoming Regional Federation Conventions that I have thus far. In order to avoid conflicts of dates between the regions, please be certain to send me your upcoming convention dates and location as soon as you know them. Please note: we cannot publish individual club show information in this publication. Instead, contact your own regional federation with that information.

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New Officers?

by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office

If you’ve not already done so, please take a moment to send the AFMS Central Office the name and address of your 2011 officers so we can update the AFMS mailing list.
AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

from Loretta Ogden

California Federation

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society has selected Mary Hicks as its recipient for the Education Through Sharing Award for 2010. Mary epitomizes what a recipient of this award should be and do. She is an involved and active member of our society as an officer/committee person and as a doer. She has excellent time management and organizational skills that she shares with our society.

Mary graciously opens her home where she has taught a variety of jewelry and bead classes. She regularly presents programs and slide talks at our monthly educational meetings. Mary takes a collection of rocks and minerals and gives “rock talks” at local schools and youth groups providing not only information but makes sure each child gets a rock to take home. She always has a display case at her open house and workshop.

Mary is very active in the life of our society attending field trips as well as our social functions. She has held several offices and committee positions and has just completed three terms as our president. Show time is a busy time for Mary where she runs the raffle, prepares lunch and dinner during set-up, runs the membership table, serves as show treasurer and a few other odd jobs.

submitted by Betty Parsley, President

We are pleased to name Ismael Sanchez the Bakerfield Mineral Mites 2010 Rockhound of the Year. Ismael has been not only a tireless in his efforts on behalf of kids. He has put together one of the largest youth groups within the Federation, which is now the only independent kids-only club in CFMS. He generously gives out specimens from his own rock pile and sponsors workshops and field trips, including an annual camping trip to San Simeon with rock collecting in the hills and fun on the beach. He has enrolled the club in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badge program, and many of the kids have earned all 15 badges; in fact, 223 badges have been awarded, including 17 Rockhound badges. He also advises and encourages kids to enter displays in the Kern County Fair, where many earn ribbons for the quality of their collections and lapidary work. In these ways, and so many more, Ismael richly deserves the title, Rockhound of the Year, for work that will endure through his inspiration and example for our next generation!

submitted by Ron & Dolores Millard

The Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club would like to nominate John Holt and Jean Kahn as Rockhounds of the Year. This is their first year in a rock club. Working as a team the two of them have made a big dream come true for our club while having an impressive impact of promoting the earth sciences in our county. One of our members donated her rare collection of rocks and fossils to the local museum many years ago before she passed away. These specimens were locked in the vault since that time. John and Jean convinced the local museum to exhibit the rare collection. They were allowed to unwrap and display the collection. The exhibit has been on display for six months. Part of the collection will be made into a traveling on loan exhibit so that other museums can share it. They volunteer their time taking trunk shows of geology, fossils, rocks and Indian artifacts which touch the lives of about 2,000 children annually.

submitted by Jennifer Hasley
Napa Valley Rock & Gem Club President

As president of the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, it is my pleasure to present Donna and Larry Knappet as the 2010 Rockhound couple of the year. This dedicated dream team travels across America collecting, classifying, and presenting rocks and minerals purely for the education and enjoyment of kids and adults alike. With membership spanning years and each holding numerous offices, it is hard not to be impressed to know that it’s just the beginning. Their accomplishments include grant writing for book donations, adding a homemade touch and creative twist to kid’s activities, the Rock Box project which touches all schools and libraries in Ventura county, and running both the education and kid booths at our annual show. And don’t forget all the displays that they do! Nothing is too big or too small for this tough duo. We are very lucky to have them as part of our club and community.

submitted by Betty Parsley, President

The Valloge Gem and Mineral Society has selected Dan and Cyndi Wolke as our Rockhounds of the Year 2010. Since joining the club over six years ago they immediately began serving the club and the community. They have both held positions on the Board for several years, Dan as President and Cyndi as Secretary. Since joining the VGMS the two of them have together helped double the club membership through their community outreach with generous and loving spirits. Dan and Cyndi are valuable members of the VGMS and much appreciated! Thank you Dan and Cyndi!

submitted by Carolyn Weinberger

Eastern Federation

The Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore is most fortunate to have among its members Richard Hoff. An extremely talented metalsmith and lapidary, Richard is always there to help the club. He served several years as our program chair bringing in unusual and knowledgeable speakers, on our Board of Directors and as Corresponding Secretary. He’s always involved with our annual show, helping with set-up and take-down and then manning one of the kids activity booths for the entire run of the show, and he always assists with the club displays at InterGem shows - he’s the person who brings back all the demo equipment and showcases etc. after working a stint at the booth. Richard truly deserves to be recognized as one of the Guild’s “unsung heroes” for his contributions.

submitted by Carolyn Weinberger

Southeast Federation

The Imperial Polk County Gem, Mineral & Fossil of Auburndale, FL nominates Gene Burgefield as their Rockhound of the year. Gene is Assistant Manager of the club workshop with open workshop and classes three times a week when he teaches most classes. By July 1, he had logged 4,504 hours teaching. He also directs and worked with volunteers putting a new roof on the workshop and rebuilt two large saws and the cabling machines. He also laid out the dealer spaces for the show. Gene is the President’s alternate and attends most Federation meetings. He is the first to volunteer when there is a job to be done at the club. He is very worthy of the title Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by Joe and Addie DePietro, Florida State Directors.

Midwest Federation

Steve and Edna Nelson have been active members of the Mt. Hood Rock Club from the first day they joined. Steve has filled such roles as President, Vice President, Dealer Chairman, Shop organizer and trainer of the shop hosts. Edna has served as Federation Director, Membership Chair, Kitchen help at shows, Federation Endowment Fund Chair and Treasurer for the Portland Regional show. They both also spend most of the show weekend at the demonstration tables showing/teaching the public about our hobby and Steve usually sits guard duty at night. Steve is an accomplished lapidary and has contributed to multiple Society cases over the years. Edna is a skilled Wire-wrapper and teacher. Both Steve and Edna give hundreds of hours volunteering every year with our show, the regional show, and the Northwest Rockhound Retreat.

submitted by Richard Jaeger
Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

Rocky Mountain Federation

It is my pleasure to nominate Aaron Rowlett as the AFMS Junior Club Rockhound of the Year for the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society. Aaron is 17 and a senior in high school. Aaron and his family have been members of our club for many years. He always participates in our Gem & Mineral Shows where he helps load and unload materials from our club storage shed and pitches in all day during setup wherever he sees that help is needed. He has worked in the club booth, the silent auction area, and at the demonstrating exhibits; he has also demonstrated at the Oklahoma City show. He has helped repair and clean club electrical equipment and club display cases. One of our club members, Richard Dodrill, has a museum in Cushing, OK and Aaron has spent many hours working over there; he even helped repair the roof. He has made many gem trees, rock animals, and magnets for prizes for our wheel game. He is always cheerfully ready to help the club in any way he can. Aaron is a valuable member of the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society and fully deserving of this award.

submitted by Richard Jaeger
Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

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AFMS Committees: 2010 – 2011

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2010 – 11. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with

All American Club
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<jrwashburn2@att.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Loretta Ogden
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AFMS Newsletter
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Kitty Starbuck
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Bulletin Editors Advisory
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Bylaws Revisory
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Commemorative Stamps
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Conservation and Legislation
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<smartin@antelecom.net>

Endowment Fund
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Financial Investment
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Historian
Shirley Leeson
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International Relations
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Inter-Regional Field Trip
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Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland
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Junior Programs
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<jbraceth@roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Emerson Tucker
<emersont@suddenlink.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv@aol.com>

Nominating
Emerson Tucker
(see Long Range Planning)

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland (See Judges Training)

Past President’s Advisory
Emerson Tucker
(see Long Range Planning)

Photography
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret@qtm.net>

Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<bjbowman@verizon.net>

Public Relations
Fran Sick
<edenfran@epix.net>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Endowment Fund)
Bob Miller, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer

Safety
Owen Martin
<owenmartin@yahoo.com>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
B. Jay Bowman
(see Publications)

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
<secretary@amfed.org>

Ways and Means
Marve Starbuck
<greenstone@iserv.net>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart
<webmaster@amfed.org>

Web Site Contest
Phyllis George
<pgeorge4@comcast.net>
New Programs for Libraries
by Margie Collins, Program Competition Chair

- Wonderful World of Agates Symposium
  5 DVDs (each program is less than 30 minutes)
  Disc 1 -- Mexican Agates, Germany: recent finds, Banded agates, Agate formation
  Disc 2 -- “Lakers”, U.S. Thundereggs, Thunder egg host rocks, Mining agates & jaspers
  Disc 3 -- Australia agate hunt, More about “Lakers”, Robt. Proctor Keynote speaker (69 min.)
  Disc 4 -- Sweetwater agates, Mexican “coconuts”, Agates close-up, Fairburns
  Disc 5 -- Ribbon cutting, Tribute to June Zeitner, Agate exhibits from around the world

- Introduction to Intarsia, by Phil Magistro
  DVD 26 min.
  1997 AFMS “Excellence in Education” Winner
  With basic lapidary skills, precision and patience, you can create striking cabs using precisely cut stones of different colors assembled in a geometric pattern.

- Intricate Intarsia, by Phil Magistro
  DVD 40 minutes
  1998 AFMS “Excellence in Education” Winner
  Beginning where “Introduction …” leaves off, this presentation gives detailed instructions for a more complicated cabochon size mosaic.

Modern Earth Science: An Introduction
(each segment is 20 minutes or less)
Part 1 A brief tour of the history of the earth sciences
Why is it that the study of the earth’s crust — geology — is one of the newest of the earth sciences compared to others such as astronomy?
Part 2 Meet working scientists involved in a variety of ventures around the world. What are the questions they hope to answer? Also what projects and investigations are likely in the future?

- Dinosaur Collection (National Geographic) 5 DVDs
  Each segment is 20 minutes or less
  "Sea Monsters’ Life in shallow Cretaceous seas including areas now in Kansas
  "Dinosaurs Decoded" Revolutionary theory develops when new evidence is found
  "T-Rex Walks Again" New facts are revealed when replica of juvenile is made
  "Bizarre Dinosaurs" Lesser-known unusual dinosaurs – are they “dead-ends”?
  "Dino Anatomy" A mummified dinosaur reveals a wealth of information

To borrow any of these (or other programs) contact your Regional Program Librarian.

Commemorative Stamp Committee
by Wendell Mohr, Chairman

As I sat down to write this article I found that the United States Postal Service had just announced the 2011 stamp program. See for yourself at <http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2010/pr10_125.htm> and share my disappointment that birthstone stamps are not among the selection endorsed by the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee and approved by the Postmaster General. At least the 2011 stamps seem to me to be more colorful than many in 2010. But none are as beautiful and colorful as birthstone stamps would be.

We cannot stop working now. I remind clubs that material is available to support our efforts on the AFMS web site at <http://www.amfed.org/stamps.htm>. Use it! At <http://www.amfed.org/2010Petition.pdf> you will find a petition form for use in requesting members and guests to sign to request birthstone stamps. If you will pass them around at meetings that will be quite effective.

However, I have gotten feedback and have had personal experience that at shows the petitions are less than fully effective. To simply have these forms out on a table is not enough. People are just too anxious to see the exhibits, go to the demonstrations, or make a bee line directly to the dealers. They will take time to pick up announcements of upcoming shows in your area but will not sign a petition simply left out there.

So I am suggesting that you have your hospitality folks, greeters, or ticket sellers at the least ask attendees directly for a signature. You could even require a signature on the petition before eligibility for any door prize registration or forms for collecting information for a mailing list for next year! That would be a very strong way to go.

All the USPS 2011 commemorative stamps for first class postage are now designated as “forever” stamps. Let’s work hard to assure that birthstone stamps are forever!

Make A Nomination!

from Steve Weinberger

Last month I gave you an overview of the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame. This month I’d like to encourage you to send in a nomination!

Surely you know of at least one person whose contributions would merit their inclusion in the Hall of Fame.

Take about 15 minutes and write a paragraph or two telling why you believe your candidate should be included in the Hall of Fame. Give as strong an endorsement of the accomplishments of your person as you can including any awards won. Include dates if you have them, but these are not absolutely necessary.

Examples of awards won might include AFMS or Regional Federation competitive exhibit trophies, Rock & Gem “Craftsmen of the Month”, author of a book or more (include titles), selection as AFMS Honorary Scholarship Awardee or recipient of AFMS Scholarship, etc.

Remember that those making the selection do not necessarily know your candidate(s), therefore paint as complete a picture of the person and his/hers accomplishments as you can.

Nominations should be mailed (or e-mailed) to Steve Weinberger, <cccyystals2@verizon.net> or PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

Be sure to include your name, address, phone and e-mail address along with the same information for your nominee. Deadline for receiving your nomination is March 30, 2011.

Then sit back and wait to see if your nominee is selected for 2011. Information on nominees not selected is held over for consideration in future years.

Club Rockhound of the Year
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North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society of Tupelo, MS nominates Robert Marshall as their Rockhound of the Year. Robert began collecting “pretty rocks” in the quarries around Philadelphia, PA as a child and later around Tucson with his young family. When Robert and his late wife Ruby, moved to Jackson, MS they joined the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society where Robert attended workshops and learned much of the lapidary arts. When Robert retired, he and Ruby moved to North Mississippi and joined the nearest club which was located in Huntsville, AL. They also traveled extensively to visit shows and attend field trips to such places as the copper areas in the west and other mineralized areas.

Robert and Ruby are founding members of the North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society where he continues to work to support the club. He holds workshops, teaches young people, shares rocks and his lapidary talents, leads field trips and does programs. NGMS is happy to nominate Robert Marshall their Rockhound of the Year.