



AFMS Newsletter
 Carolyn Weinberger, Editor
 PO Box 302
 Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Burley, ID 83318
 Permit No. 9

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE
 PLEASE DO NOT
 DELAY

It is AFMS policy that its name and logos may not be used for commercial purposes. Please notify the Central Office of any violations.

A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 4, March 2011
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING NEWS!

from Pam Hecht, AFMS Chair

The excitement is building as we unveil the first of what we hope will be many wonderful prizes for the 2011 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing.

Prize #1 is a Texas Palmwood Sphere made by Jim Matlock of Plainview, TX and donated by AFMS Past President, Emerson Tucker. The sphere is about 3" in diameter and has an estimated value of \$125.00. (SCFMS).

Prize #2 - an Idaho Agate Pendant with a faceted 10ct synthetic blue spinel and wire-wrapped in white gold. It's 5 1/2" long and 1" wide. AFMS President Bob Miller faceted the spinel. Donated by Bob Miller, the pendant has an estimated value of \$60.00. (MWF).

Prize #3 - Watercolor prints (set of 4) with note cards drawn and donated by Susan Robinson. Susan is the wife of George Robinson, Curator of the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Tech in Houghton, MI. The watercolors capture four of the well known historic copper mines of the Upper Pen-

insula of Michigan: Quincy, Central, Caledonia and Phoenix. Included is a package of 4 note cards of her print of Lake Superior Agates on the shoreline of the lake. Susan has signed her prints. Estimated value \$100. (MWF).

Prize #4 is a piece of Float Copper and a Mine Stock Certificate. The specimen is an all natural 5 1/2 lb. piece of float copper from the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan. The stock certificate is from the historic Calumet & Hecla Mines of Calumet, MI. The two items together have an estimated value of \$75.00 and were donated by Pam Hecht. (MWF).

And...there are more which we'll feature next month including

- a copper crystal specimen found under Lake Superior and donated by Bob Barron (MWF)
- a Datolite specimen found under Lake Superior also donated by Bob Barron (MWF)
- a Datolite specimen from one of the mines in the Upper Peninsula donated by Kevin Pozio (MWF)
- an amethyst cathedral donated by Doug True (NFMS).

Want to donate a prize yourself? Send me your donation. If it's too heavy to mail, e-mail me a photo and description and we'll discuss how to

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

From the Top	2
From the President-elect	2
Quick Tips for Editors	3
Endowment Fund Reps.....	4
Safety: Incident Report.....	4
A.L.A.A. News	4



You can see these images in color on the AFMS website!

get it to me in time for the drawing in Syracuse, NY this coming July. My contact information is on page 4 of this issue.

Want to donate a prize yourself? Send me your donation. If it's too heavy to mail, e-mail me a photo and description and we'll discuss how to get it to me in time for the drawing in Syracuse, NY this coming July. My contact information is on page 7 of this issue.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. To order, make your check payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund" and mail it along with a stamped self-addressed envelope to your regional federation representative listed on page 4. Be sure to include your name, address and phone # when placing your order.

With your help and support we can make this a rousing success!

THE AFMS

PROUDLY SERVING
SEVEN REGIONAL
FEDERATIONS



OFFICERS:



PRESIDENT
BOB MILLER
<president@amfed.org>



PRESIDENT-ELECT
LAUREN WILLIAMS
<slharuir@msn.com>



1ST VICE PRESIDENT
DON MONROE
<donmonroe@windstream.net>



2ND VICE PRESIDENT
JUDY BECK
<lbeck@moweryclinic.com>



3RD VICE PRESIDENT
DICK PANKEY
<dickpankey@juno.com>



4TH VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN WEINBERGER
<editor@amfed.org>



5TH VICE PRESIDENT
SUE DALE MILLER
<sdalemiller@bcglobal.net>

SECRETARY
ANNE COOK
<secretary@amfed.org>

TREASURER
PAT LARUE
<bplarue@earthlink.net>

From The Top!
by Bob Miller, President

In February and March here in northern Indiana the days seem to run together with almost daily snow and cloudy weather so if you live in the southern part of the country enjoy some sun for us up here. It isn't without Merritt though because it gives us time in our workplace to check out our summer collections or to start a new project like building a new show case for your club or federation display or cutting those geodes that were found to see what is inside that at the time of opening only you and your god are the only ones who have seen the wonders inside .

I've noticed that there seems to be a decline in competitive cases in some areas in the past few years and hope this isn't an indication that there is less creative activity among the members. I've seen so many talented cases with unique pieces in them which really draw awes from the public when displayed at a show. Keep this in mind while you are in your workplace. Give it a try. It can be fun to do and gives you purpose to work on something new.

I hope your club is planning to send a delegate to both your local up and coming federation show and to the AFMS convention In Syracuse NY this year. Doing so will keep your club informed as to what is happening within the hobby in your area and across the country. It's also a good way to meet new people who share your interests and have a chance to obtain materials from different parts of the country since you'll undoubtedly find dealers who are new to you and whose wares you may not have encountered before.

I've always known that communication is vitally important, but I've really learned just how important it is since becoming your president. I've quickly learned that the editors of the various club bulletins are a large part of the "glue that keeps this hobby together". How else would we be able to share ideas, tips etc. without them. Which brings me again to say thank you for all of the newsletters that I receive. If I haven't thanked you by e-mail I am sorry, but a virus took my hard drive and I have lost track of who I had sent thanks to.

Information about the 2011 AFMS /EFMLS Convention in Syracuse, NY should be on the AFMS website by the time you receive this newsletter. Just go to the AFMS website (www.amfed.org) and click on the show "flier" on the home page.

Last but not least don't forget to donate an item or buy a ticket from your local representative for the Endowment fund.

Till next time,
Bob



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Lauren Williams

It is time to make our reservations for the AFMS/EFMLS Show and Convention. As a reminder and for the new individuals on the block, when making your reservations with the Host Hotel, deal directly with the hotel/motel that is the show headquarters. When someone makes reservations by blocking-off a group of rooms, he/she is literally sticking out their necks by buying a block of rooms. That hotel/motel then notifies their national office that a block of rooms has been sold. When you call that national office, 1-800-number, their computer says that all of the rooms have been sold and that no rooms are available for those days.

When in fact there are unsold rooms at the host hotel you want to stay at. I have heard people say "we had to find someplace else to stay, I called the 1-800-number and they said that all the rooms were sold! I have seen one club get stuck for paying for empty rooms.

The same goes for meals. We do not know what deals the host club made with the hotel/food vendors. Let the host society know as soon as possible if you cannot make a meeting involving food. I have also seen people have to pay for meals for those who did not show up. This information applies to federation and local clubs meetings and conventions as well. And when you make that reservation make sure that you mention that you are with that show and convention in order to get the room rate.

This convention will mark our 64th annual meeting, and the host club, the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse will be celebrating their Diamond Anniversary. The convention hotel is the Ramada Inn, Buckley Rd, Syracuse, NY and their direct number is 1-315-457-8670. Now if you will excuse me I have to find a registration form and make a phone call to Syracuse, NY.

Lauren

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

by Linda Jaeger, 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: <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 Use Microsoft Publisher

(summarized from Beth Simmons' presentation at the Editor's Workshop in Denver, 9/17/2010)

Beth made a good case for using Microsoft Publisher, and she likes it better than MS Word because of its simplicity! Beth is the editor for the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild.

Nice features:

- provides layout options
- can override layout
- templates specifically for newsletters
- easy and consistent photo insertion
- textboxes can fill in color
- text at the bottom of a column automatically flows to fill the next column
- easy to resize columns
- automatically keeps track of page numbers for you
- back page of the newsletter templates allow for your mailing addresses, logos, etc.
- some templates have built-in headers/footers for dates, name, and page
- spell checker is included
- easy conversion to PDF for electronic transmission
- free trial version is available at <<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/publisher/>>
- full version is about \$180 – well worth the cost, according to Beth

As a follow-up to last month's article, I want to share portions of an email I received from Betty Cain, the RMFMS BEAC.

Steven Veatch, whose workshop presentation I summarized last month, is a juniors/pebble pups sponsor for two RMFMS clubs. One of his pebble pups received a citation for his accomplishments in the earth sciences from the district board of education. Steve was honored to accompany the young man and his mother for the award presentation.

Here are some excerpts from the email:

What a night!! I believe this demonstrates the power and **VALUE of informal education**. This is also one night I will never forget! [Steve]

I [Steve] am continuing to focus on the Lake George Club and expect an enormous amount of commotion when the Egyptian artifact paper is published by the magazine. Please look at the December 12th entry on the pebble pup blog <<http://pebblepups.blogspot.com>>.

This boy [another of the kids Steve mentors] is in the 5th grade and wrote this paper as an exercise, using in-line citations. He is one of my distance pebble pups who lives in Denver. Although I have never met him, he participates with the CSMS pups via the Internet.

I combined the Lake George pebble pups and the CSMS pebble pups last Saturday on[a] field trip to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. I mixed it up with the pups from 10 am until noon. We panned gold (a big hit) and explored the museum. The Florissant Fossil Beds provided me with excellent compasses and magnifying glasses. I made each pebble pup (48 of them, some from Denver) answer a question to get both of these items. Many of the kids continued to stay---some until the end at 3 pm.

I am so fortunate to be able to work with the pebble pups and all the adults that help me make this stuff happen.

Linda's note: And we are very fortunate to have you!

May the luck of the Irish be with you!



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.

Subscriptions are \$4.50 per year
Remit payment to the
AFMS Central Office
Checks should be made payable to
"AFMS"

ADDRESS MAINTENANCE AND MAIL LABELING ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE.

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)

Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes provided credit is given this publication and the author. For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.

ENDOWMENT FUND

continued from page 1

You can purchase tickets for the Endowment Fund Drawing from the person representing your federation by sending your check, payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund", along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope for returning your tickets stubs. Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number for notification if you're one of the lucky prize winners. The winners will be announced during the AFMS/EFMLS Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 9th in Syracuse, NY.

California Federation

Colleen McGann, PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 93536. <Colleen.megann@hds.com>

Eastern Federation

Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302. <cscystals2@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@cbtabs.com>

Rocky Mountain Federation

Richard Jaeger, 3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602. <Rjgrsci@aol.com>

South Central Federation

Joyce Speed, 4680 Wisteria St; Dallas, TX 75211. <llispeed2@gmail.com>

Southeast Federation

Currently no representative, but if you're a member of an SFMS club, send your requests to:
Pamela Hecht- AFMS Chair
15523 Oak St; Calumet, MI 49913. 906-337-2274 <steverox@up.net>

NEWSLETTERS AND E-MAILS

by Dick Pankey, President, American Lands Access Association

Two months ago I received my copy of the October-December American Lands Access Association Newsletter and read it cover-to-cover. Our editor, Jay Valle, puts out a very informative newsletter for our members. The articles come from many sources – the officers, members and articles from the internet and others who share our goals of protecting access to public lands. This Newsletter is mailed to all individual members and to the listed representative of all member societies. Our Newsletter is also posted on the ALAA web site – www.amlands.org for everyone and anyone to read. And I hope that many of you will take advantage of this "free" service. If you like what you see then maybe you will join ALAA and support our goals and mission.

We dodged a legislative bullet in December. In the realm of legislative and regulatory activity things move slowly then on short notice or no notice at all they move at lightening speed. As I talked about in the December AFMS Newsletter there was concern that the many Land Use Bills would all be rolled into an Omnibus Bill and rushed through the lame duck Congressional session. The Congress got very involved with the other issues and it appeared that there would not be time or the will to address the Land Use Bills. We were wrong. The log jam broke and an Omnibus Land Use Bill was introduced and did come to a vote in the Senate. It was a compilation of additions to National Parks and National Heritage Areas, and some miscellaneous small bills. It was not the Americas Great Outdoors Initiative and several other large wilderness

bills and national monument bills that are currently under consideration. Even with very short notice we were able to send out an alert to all ALAA members who had given us an e-mail address. We had time and many of us took the opportunity to e-mail our Senators and Representatives with our stand on this Bill. Fortunately the Senate rejected this bill and Congress adjourned without taking any further action on any Land Use Bills. We dodged the bullet but we need to be proactive and see that legislation is conducted properly and not railroaded without due consideration.

When things happen quickly we need to be able to react and respond quickly. Quarterly and even monthly newsletters are not timely enough for us to communicate the issues and mount a response. We need every member to supply a current e-mail address; this is especially important for society members. Society members needs to have a person with an email address to be their contact person so we can send them important and timely communications and alerts. It is important that this person not only receives information but also passes it along to the rest of your society's members and that this person be an advocate for action. If you haven't done so already, when you renew your membership for 2011, be sure to send in your e-mail address and other contact information.

And while you are at it be sure to check out the American Lands Access Association web site – www.amlands.org.

Be an involved member!

SAFETY: INCIDENT REPORT: LAB EXPLOSION

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

One of the largest SCFMS clubs recently had an incident that resulted in an explosion inside the club's building.

The explosion occurred on a Saturday morning and was caused when a torch being used in the jewelry room ignited gas that was leaking from a butane recharge canister about the size of a typical spray paint can. Although about a dozen members were in the building, there was only one in the jewelry shop. The force of the explosion primarily vented upwards through the false ceiling and for the most part destroyed the panels when they rained down into the room. Luckily the individual in the room was not hurt by either the blast or falling debris, and the explosion did not result in a fire.

Subsequent analysis of the incident resulted in the following recommendations:

1. Properly secure all flammable materials used in the building. This includes acetylene bottles and aerosol cans.
2. Verify that all fire extinguishers are periodically inspected or changed out.
3. Review adequacy and effectiveness of emergency exit and egress paths.
4. Define a procedure for the use of open flame equipment.

It was determined that although an explosion had occurred, there was a significantly greater risk of a fire potentially occurring in the building.

My recommendation to all our member organizations is to look at their own facilities, review the recommendations above, and ask for help from their local Fire Marshall if necessary.

The last thing we want at one of our clubs is an explosion or fire that results in injury, death, or destruction of the building.

Thanks!

AFMS ANNUAL CONVENTION "GEMS ALONG THE ERIE CANAL"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6
TO SUNDAY, JULY 10

SHOW JULY 9 - 10

SYRACUSE, NY

HOSTED BY THE
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE