Thank you - thank you - thank you to everyone who has sent me items for the Endowment Fund Drawing to be held in Syracuse, New York this coming July. Your donations are most appreciated!

But...to make the drawing an even bigger success, I still need more donations! Can I count on you???

Drop me an e-mail or phone call to let me know if you have a donation. My contact information is on page 11 of this issue.

Here are pictures and descriptions of some of the latest donations I’ve received.

Prize #5 is an “underwater” copper crystal specimen from Michigan donated by Bob Barron. Photo and estimated value not yet available. (MWF).

Prize #6 is an “underwater” datolite specimen from Michigan donated by Bob Barron. Photo and estimated value not yet available. (MWF).

Prize #7 is a Datolite specimen from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan donated by Kevin Pozio, Photo and estimated value not yet available. (MWF).

Prize #8 is an Amethyst Cathedral. It was donated by Doug True and has an estimated value of $350. (NFMS).

Prize #9 is a set of polished cabochons made from Willow Creek Jasper, Rocky Butte Jasper, Mexican Crazy Lace Agate, Graveyard Point Agate, Mariposite and Graveyard Point Plume. The donation was made by an anonymous donor and has an estimated value of $125. (MWF).

Prize #10 is a set of polished cabochons made from Jasper, Mexican Crazy Lace Agate, Mookaite Jasper, Prudent Man Plume Agate, Parrot Wing Cryscolla and Mexican Crazy Lace Agate. The donation was made by an anonymous donor and has an estimated value of $125. (MWF).

Prize #11. A lighted centerpiece that has a triangle cut wood base with light in center that emits rotating colors. On top is a crystal cut quartz point which is surrounded by Montana Agate slabs. Designed and crafted by AFMS Past President Dr. Robert Carlson it was donated by another AFMS Past President - Fred Schaefermeyer. It has an estimated value of $50. (EFMLS).

Prize #12 is an Eyewitness Education Book and DVD set entitled “Rocks & Minerals, Expert Files. Donated by Marge & Chuck Collins, the set has an estimated value of $60. (MWF).

continued on page 3
The AFMS
Proudly Serving
Seven Regional
Federations

Officers:

President
Bob Miller
<president@amfed.org>

President-Elect
Lauren Williams
<stilharun@msn.com>

1st Vice President
Don Monroe
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2nd Vice President
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Pat LaRue
<plarue@earthlink.net>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation News
by Dee Holland, President

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce the names of the Honorary Scholarship Foundation Recipients from each of our participating regional federations. These individuals will select a school from which the students who will receive the monetary award is selected.

California Federation:
Dee Holland and Shirley Leeson both past AFMS Presidents

Eastern Federation:
Professor William L Blewett
Univ. of Pennsylvania, Shippensburg, PA

Midwest Federation:
Dr. Michael Wiant
Dickson Mounds Museum Lewistown, IL

Northwest Federation:
Dr. Paul J. Bybee
Utah Valley University, Orem, UT

Rocky Mountain:
Dr. Mike Nelson
Colorado Springs, CO

South Central Federation
William Heierman
Wharton Co. Junior College, Sugar Land, TX

Something wonderful happened this year for the first time. The honoree for the Northwest Federation, Dr. Paul J. Bybee, was the 1990-91 recipient of our Scholarship award. He used the $4,000 grant to further his PhD studies in Paleontology. He now teaches at Utah Valley University. What comes around, goes around. A very gratifying story.

The other “surprise” was the award given by the CFMS to Shirley and me. Words cannot express our gratitude other than to say “thank you” to the CFMS for this honor.

We’ve selected San Diego State University as the school from which our recipients will be selected and we’ll keep you apprised as to the steps we have to go through to find them.

Dee Holland, President
AFMS Scholarship Foundation
beauholland@centurytel.net

Update on IRS Filing Requirements
by Mike Kokinos, CFMS Tax Advisor

Completing Forms 990 or 990-EZ is a chore and usually requires some assistance from professionals. Here is a great Federal Change for the better.

In prior years, only organizations with gross receipts normally less than $25,000 could file the Form 990-N (e-postcard). For the year 2010 and later (filed in 2011 and later), organizations with gross receipts normally less than $50,000 must file Form 990-N (the e-postcard), but may choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Organizations with gross receipts greater than $50,000 but less than $200,000 must file Form 990-EZ or a complete Form 990.
Endowment

continued from page 1

Prize #13. American Mineral Treasures. More than 40 top mineral localities are featured in this hardcover book, American Mineral Treasures. Released to commemorate the historic exhibits at the 2008 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Donated by one of the authors, Bob Jones, the book has a value of $85.00. Bob says he will sign the copy for the winner if they bring it to him at any show he attends, including the 2011 AFMS Convention. (RMFMS)

Prize #14. Pyrite from the Eagle Mine, Gilman, Eagle County, CO. The specimen, originally from the Glenn Allen collection is 2" tall x 1" wide and contains numerous pyritohedral striated sharp faces. Donated by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, it has an estimated value $150. (EFMLS)

Prize #15 is a fabulous beaded necklace crafted by award winning beading artist Cheri George. Entitled “Winter Berries” the necklace is made with seed and delica beads, Czechoslovakian pressed glass leaves with vintage volcano dichroic glass stones. Donated by Suzie Martin, the necklace has an estimated value of $450. (CFMS).

All proceeds from the sale of tickets will be invested in the AFMS Endowment Fund and the interest generated by the principal of the fund is used to augment existing AFMS programs designed to benefit your club.

Tickets for the drawing are $5 each or 5 for $20 and may be purchased from your regional representative listed below.

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
<csscrystal152@verizon.net>

Midwest Federation: John Washburn
107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563
<jwashburn2@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
<jrgjsci@aol.com>

South Central Federation: Joyce Speed
4680 Wisteria St; Dallas, TX 75211
<lispeed2@gmail.com>

Southeast Federation: vacant
Members of SFMS clubs may order tickets from any of the regional representatives.

When ordering, make checks payable to “AFMS Endowment Fund” and include your name, phone number, e-mail and club that you are a member of along with a stamped, self addressed envelope so we can return your ticket stubs to you.

The drawing for the prizes will occur during the Awards Banquet at the AFMS / EFMLS Convention and Show in Syracuse, NY on July 9th. You will not need to be present to win, but it’s always more fun if you are.

Funds from the drawing are deposited in the AFMS Endowment Fund. Interest from the principal is used to augment AFMS programs that benefit you and your club (programs for your regional federation library, badges for the juniors program etc.), so please be generous.

You can view these prizes in color by visiting the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/endow2011.htm>.
Several lawsuits have been filed by various environmental groups against both the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service over their Travel Management Plans. These Travel Management Plans have been going through their development and approval stages for several years and most of them have been released in their final version by the respective government agencies. In most cases the environmental activist groups felt that the government agencies did not do enough to protect the environment to the extent of the agencies own policies and procedures.

One of the long-running dispute centers on a Civil War-era mining law, known as R.S. 2477, which granted rights-of-way across public land until it was repealed by congress in 1976. Existing rights-of-way, however, were grandfathered in and now these environmental activists want most of these roads (Rights-of-way) across our Public Lands closed.

A large number of these roads and trails have been used for years by the Hunters, Fishermen, and Off Road Users and, yes, even Rockhounds use some of these roads to get to our favorite collecting areas or campsites. Congress has enacted legislation requiring agencies responsible for the management of our public lands to establish and implement a Travel Management Plan identifying for the multipurpose usage of roads, trails and access rights-of-ways through the public lands they manage. They must take into consideration the recreational and commercial value of these roads and the environmental impact the roads and users of the roads may or may not have on the public land they manage.

The Environmental Activist Groups have been active for several decades trying to achieve their agenda of having no unpaved roads through our public lands or as they call it “A Roadless Wilderness”, where the only way to gain access is on foot or horseback. This will kill most all Rockhounding as we know it today.

What these lawsuits have accomplished, whether ruling in favor of the OHV users, the Government Agencies or the Environmental Activist Lobby, is allow time to return to the negotiating table and reconsider and replan the usage of these roads across our public lands. Now, we in the Rockhound community have a chance to let our voices be heard and our wishes be known on these matters. If we speak long enough and loud enough and with a unified voice, we may just be able to keep our access roads open to mechanized travel now and for future Rockhounds to enjoy.

It will take several years to redraw the Travel Management Plans, so the fates of our collecting sites are ours to loose. Please get informed and become proactive in the process. A good way to start is to contact your Federation, Federation Director and check often the American Land Access Association (ALAA) Website. The AFMS website <www.amlands.org> and all of the Regional Federation websites can be accessed through the ALAA Website <www.amlands.org>.

Public Lands Travel Management Plans Hits Snag in Courts

Helping Kids with a “Rock Pals” Rock Swap Program

When I was in fourth grade, all the kids in my school were partnered with kids from other schools in towns far and wide to become pen pals in a letter exchange program. Patricia Egoeff of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse contacted me recently to suggest a new spin on this for junior rockhounds, namely, establishing a “Rock Pals” program. Patricia participates in youth activities in her club with her two granddaughters, and that got her to thinking about the possibility of a rock, mineral, and fossil exchange with other youth groups across the country. Via the web-based Bob’s Rock Shop, she found a listing by a gentleman in Louisiana interested in rock swapping. They communicated through e-mail, and Patricia was soon mailing specimens for his club’s youth group of blue calcite and horn coral fossils from her region. She used the flat-rate box available at the post office, and it only cost $10.95. As Patricia says, “Much cheaper than traveling between Louisiana and New York to collect local rocks!” Happy with the specimens Patricia sent, her new Rock Pal is sending her a box of items from his region for the Syracuse juniors.

Increase Your Show Attendance With a "Media Blitz"

Many competing events are generally believed to be the leading reasons for declining attendance at rock and mineral club shows. But no matter what the reason we need to find creative ways to reverse this trend. As I have said before, we need to constantly promote public awareness of our clubs if we want to attract new members. The club show is probably the best opportunity most clubs have to do this, and the four to six weeks leading up to the show are the perfect time to stage your “media blitz”.

The purpose of this is to constantly remind folks of your show and convince them that it is the hottest event in town. Instead of one or two longer messages, short attention getting messages, released as frequently as possible, often will do a better job. People love to win things and even more they love to take home something free, especially if they made it themselves. And parents usually really appreciate their children having a chance to learn something new without it costing a fortune. So highlight these things in your advertising. Break your messages down into short attention getting notices promoting anything and everything special about your show. Highlight only one or two things in each message. Make sure each message clearly indicates the date, time and location of your event and, of course it is always good to give a contact number or website for those who may want more information.

Whether you advertise your show in newspapers, television or radio, posters, flyers, letters sent to schools and other organizations or by any other method, a series of short and exciting messages issued often will help attract and hold the attention of potential future new rockhounds.

Increase Your Show Attendance With a "Media Blitz" by Fran Sick, AFMS Public Relations Chair

AFMS Newsletter – April, 2011
"Gems Along The Erie Canal" – AFMS Show & Convention
by Cathy Patterson, Show Chair

The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse is proud to invite rockhounds from across the country to our Diamond Anniversary Show July 9-10, 2011. If you did not receive a convention packet in the mail you can download all the forms and information by visiting the AFMS website: <www.amfed.org/show2011.htm>

We have many exciting events planned for the show weekend and many opportunities for Federation friends to meet, take care of business in comfort and style, and enjoy all Central New York has to offer. We aim to please!

Our Eastern Federation member clubs would love to see some of the exceptional exhibits folks out west have. We encourage you to bring your competitive and non-competitive exhibits to Syracuse. Please fill out the exhibit form available on the website and get them sent to our club Treasurer as soon as possible so we can accommodate you with a case. First come, first served.

We’ll have some exceptional exhibits from the New York State Museum, the Smithsonian in Washington, and a special exhibit from the Dundas Quarry from Canada. In addition, the dazzling exhibit of thousands of Herkimer Diamonds collected by our own Joe Kapelewski, featured in the 2009 August Rock and Gem Magazine will be on display. You MUST see this!

Guest lecturers from the New York State Museum, the Onondaga Historical Association, the Diamond collector himself, and others, will entertain and educate you about our famous mineral and fossil rich state. You may also try your hand at creating a piece of jewelry at one of our workshops.

GMSS member Lorraine Markley helps a young show visitor at the popular Youth Beading Workshop

This will be a fun filled weekend for all! We will have field trips planned for you. Expect to try your hand at finding those Herkimer Diamonds New York is so famous for. We will also offer other trips. More on those next time.

Before or after the show, and meetings, you may enjoy taking a leisurely ride to our famous Finger Lakes wine country region just over an hour away. At the last AFMS convention in 2004, former AFMS President Bob Carlson took a driving tour of our wineries and was impressed enough that he drove home with a back seat of various wines. There are new ones for you Bob and everyone else to check out. There is even a pretty new cheese trail that follows the wine trail that offers samples and an opportunity to buy some of our stellar, craft, New York State cheeses.

Our over 60 dealers will offer a wide variety of delights for the eye and choices for the pocketbook. We hear at least two dealers are having a fire sale of their inventory as they downsize in preparation for going out of business. So there should be some great deals. Several of our dealers sell self collected, New York State minerals and fossils you won’t want to miss. If you want to go in Wholesale, be certain to bring your proper State Resale number. Please note that checks for the banquet as well as exhibit application forms should be sent to: Lou Budell 2718 Falls Road Marcellus, NY 13108

Our host hotel is the Ramada Inn Syracuse Buckley Road Syracuse, NY 315-437-8670 When calling for reservations ask for the Gem show special price. Your paid reservation includes a delicious, hot buffet breakfast and that includes the BEAC Breakfast with the Editors Sunday morning.

We look forward to greeting you. We wish to make your stay in Syracuse a pleasurable one. Please contact me if you have any questions. Cathy Patterson 315-480-8907 cathypatterson@verizon.net

AFMS Newsletter – April, 2011

Time – More Valuable Than Silver or Gold
by Don Monroe & Linda Behr, SFMS Safety Chairs from The Lodestar, February, 2011

This is a skull and crossbones article but I guarantee you that there will be one interesting, important commodity and none of us know how much we have left. I believe it is a reasonable assumption to say that everyone that reads these safety articles is a member of a lapidary school staff or faculty or at least one rock and gem club and therefore a member of at least one federation. If you have been active in these organizations you have probably seen the passing of many friends and associates. These folks we have lost probably did not really have much warning as none of us have probably seen the passing of many friends and associates. These folks we have lost probably did not really have much warning as none of us have probably seen the passing of many friends and associates. These folks we have lost probably did not really have much warning as none of us have probably seen the passing of many friends. There are new ones for you Bob and everyone else to check out. There is even a pretty new cheese trail that follows the wine trail that offers samples and an opportunity to buy some of our stellar, craft, New York State cheeses.

Our over 60 dealers will offer a wide variety of delights for the eye and choices for the pocketbook. We hear at least two dealers are having a fire sale of their inventory as they downsize in preparation for going out of business. So there should be some great deals. Several of our dealers sell self collected, New York State minerals and fossils you won’t want to miss. If you want to go in Wholesale, be certain to bring your proper State Resale number. Please note that checks for the banquet as well as exhibit application forms should be sent to: Lou Budell 2718 Falls Road Marcellus, NY 13108

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We look forward to greeting you. We wish to make your stay in Syracuse a pleasurable one. Please contact me if you have any questions. Cathy Patterson 315-480-8907 cathypatterson@verizon.net

Time – More Valuable Than Silver or Gold
by Don Monroe & Linda Behr, SFMS Safety Chairs from The Lodestar, February, 2011

If we really think about the important things in life, we must include family, friends, neighbors and all of those folks that mean the most to us. For many of us we must include our children, our grandchildren and maybe even great grandchil- dren. When we think about all of these we must be realistic about whether or not these offspring will continue the hobby we love. Unfortunately I must place myself in the category of those who are concerned about this issue. There is not an easy answer to questions about the future of our hobby. We must get those that we love interested in our hobby and that is not always easy since modern families are often scattered about the country. We must try!

Beyond all of the important things we have talked about we must place time. Time is our most important commodity and none of us know how much we have left. I believe it is a reasonable assumption to say that everyone that reads these safety articles is a member of a lapidary school staff or faculty or at least one rock and gem club and therefore a member of at least one federation. If you have been active in these organizations you have probably seen the passing of many friends and associates. These folks we have lost probably did not really have much warning as none of us do and this makes it imperative that we spend our time wisely. If there is a place you wish to visit or friends you want to see, do it now!

It is not pleasant to contemplate the end of one's life but it is a fact that we must face. Have a will and if it is not up-to-date, then get it revised. Plan for the disposition of your "stuff." Make sure that those who are left behind to "clean up your mess" know exactly what you want to have done. Be sensitive to the desires of those who are important to you because I have never known of a will that did not have something hurtful in it usually because the deceased did not think.

If there are things to be disposed of, consult your heirs. You may feel that this is a truly morbid article but I guarantee you that there will be one or more readers who will appreciate it.

Genesee Valley, master flint knapper, Dana Klein, shows a young show visitor the ancient craft of making an arrowhead.

GMSS member Lorraine Markley helps a young show visitor at the popular Youth Beading Workshop

Be Safe – Be Well
by Don Monroe & Linda Behr, SFMS Safety Chairs from The Lodestar, February, 2011
Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip
by Doug True, Chairman

May 27 – 30, 2011
Hampton Butte, OR

The Northwest and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies are hosting an Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Central Oregon over Memorial Day Weekend 2011 for Petrified Wood, Agate and Obsidian!! And all AFMS society members and guests are invited.

Directions: From the South – Traveling east or west on US 20 turn north on Van Lake Rd. (mile marker 52) go north approximately 16 miles Watch for camp signs as you approach Camp Creek road. Road is a maintained gravel road.

Directions: From the North – Driving from Prineville, Oregon go east on highway 380 to mile marker 44, turn south (or right) on Camp Creek road and drive south until you get to the junction of Van Lake Rd. Watch for signs ( all but the last several miles are paved)

Facilities: The campground is a large pasture. This is a “dry camping” area and with porta potties. It can accommodate all sizes of motorhomes and trailers and is also very good for tents. You will be camping on private property and need to follow some basic rules, No off road except camp area, no cutting of fire wood and NO ROCK COLLECTING ON THE RANCH. If you have questions check with camp host.

Collecting Trips: The organized collecting trips will start on Friday morning. All trips will leave at 8:30 AM, SHARP ???, from the campground. We will be running a maximum of 50 collectors to three separate locations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You will have to sign up each day on a first come first served. THREE TRIPS WILL BE LEAVING FOR THE THREE LOCATIONS EACH OF THE THREE DAYS.

Schedule:
Thursday, May 26
Arrive at camp:
Welcome potluck dinner and get together with camp fire.

Friday, May 27
Daily Field Trips
#1 Hampton Butte
#2 Paulina Area
#3 Camp Creek Area.
Evening: BLM * Talk on Geology of the Area
USFS * Newly Discovered Calderas
Camp Fire -

Saturday, May 28
Daily Field Trips
#1 Hampton Butte
#2 Paulina Area
#3 Camp Creek Area.
Afternoon and Evening: Rock Swap, Wood identification by Walt Wright.

Sunday, May 29
Daily Field Trips
#1 Hampton Butte
#2 Paulina Area
#3 Camp Creek Area.
Evening: All Rendezvous Potluck Dinner and Camp Fire

Monday, May 30
Daily Field Trips
Glass Butte, Open Day you may go to any of the collecting areas

Tuesday, May 31
Break camp to head for home or other adventures.

Plan on several potluck dinners, and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good material.

Please notify one of the Federation leaders early, (listed below), but no later than May 20th if you plan to attend. E-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share, trade or sell.

Come join us for a great Inter-Regional Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Doug True (NFMS)
<dttruefossils@yahoo.com>
406-670-0506

Richard Pankey (CFMS)
<rdickpankey@juno.com>
925-439-7509

General Information

Central Oregon is known for petrified wood, agate and thunder eggs. This Rendezvous will be to the Hampton Butte green petrified wood area, the Paulina area for pink, green and blue lumpy casts and to Glass Butte for a big variety of obsidian. Trip logs will be available to 8 to 10 other nearby sites for agate, thunder eggs, jasper and petrified wood for self guided collecting trips. These trips will include: Muary Mtn. jasper, Bear Creek petrified wood, Eagle Rock dendritic/moss agate, Ochoco thunder eggs, and several other petrified wood and thunder egg sites.

Daily Field Trips:
All trips will leave at 8:30 AM (Pacific Time), SHARP from the campgrounds. Assemble at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day’s trip. High clearance vehicles recommended to collecting areas.

All participants are requested to read and sign a Waiver of Liability.

We will divide up into small groups, each group going to a different site each day. Everyone will be able to collect at least once at each site. There will be a sign up sheet each day for each site.

There is float collecting and digging. Bring the following tools: rock bags, rock hammer, shovel, small picks, hoe, rock scoop, spray bottle, safety equipment and what ever else you usually bring. High clearance vehicles highly recommended to collecting sites. We will help arrange rides for those who need them.

Gas and supplies can be purchased in Prineville and at Post located on Highway 380 mile marker 25. E

Motels;
Best Western, Prineville Inn, (541)-447-8080,
Stafford Inn, (541)-447-7100,
Econolodge (541) 447-6231

RV-Parks -
Crook County RV Park. (541) 447-2599,
Lake Shore RV, (541)-447-6059

We will have a welcome potluck dinner on Thursday evening and the all Rendezvous Potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Bring food to share and your own plates, eating utensils, tables and chairs. Bring your favorite beverages and snacks to share for Happy Hour each afternoon. We will try to have a campfire each evening so bring firewood.

Bring rocks and specimens, etc. from your favorite home collecting area to show and swap at the tailgate display. This will be a good time to swap maps, GPS readings and information about your favorite home collecting areas.???

There are a lot of other rockhounding opportunities within 100 miles of our Rendezvous site: sunstones, opal, petrified wood, other obsidian sites, geodes and more. The Rendezvous is a good way to start your summer collecting tour.

Attention Federation Directors, Field Trip Leaders and Bulletin Editors:
Please announce this trip at your meetings and publish it in your newsletters. Please make copies of this 2 sided flier and give it to interested club members to get the word out early so people can start planning for this special field trip and get together.
Have you submitted the name and brief information about one of your members yet? Doing so is easy. Just tell us in about 75 - 100 words why the individual or couple in your club should be recognized. Then, e-mail or mail your information to your regional federation chairperson.

Each club may submit the name of one individual or one couple per calendar year. Additionally, each club may also send in the name of one junior member who they wish to recognize. Submissions may be made by any member of a club, but acceptance is based on “first come, first recognized” so don’t delay. All submissions will be recognized in a future AFMS Newsletter as well as your regional federation newsletter.

This month we’re pleased to share with you the information from three of our affiliated clubs about their “Rockhound of the Year”. Rockhound of the Year. Ruth has done an absolutely phenomenal job with assisting the club in countless ways. To name just a few of Ruth’s accomplishments - Ruth established and maintains club databases for meeting minutes, field trips, membership and finance. Ruth is the club’s bulletin editor and webmaster. She is starting and coordinating a junior membership program, helps with the annual show in numerous ways, and produces slide shows of the club’s activities. Ruth has prepared the new membership “Welcome” packet, designed and prepared club volunteer T shirts, and chaired club picnics and rock swap activities. Ruth truly deserves to be the Club Rockhound of the Year.

Submitted by members of the club

California Federation

Cathy Phalen has assisted Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society for many years prior to joining us four years ago. She is an active member, chair to our Kitchen and Refreshments and have won several “Favorite Case” from the public for her beautiful and educational display cases.

She is an absolute gem to us and is always the first to come up with good solutions and ideas. She created a wonderful board of gems and minerals for our Earth Science Room. She contributes to the well being of our society by being friendly, helpful and willing to educate the public about earth sciences. I feel she should be recognized for all her hard work and can-do attitude.

Submitted by Carol Corden, President

Eastern Federation

The Penobscot Mineral and Lapidary Club would like to submit its Secretary, Ruth Siebert, to be Rockhound of the Year. Ruth has done an absolutely phenomenal job with assisting the club in countless ways. To name just a few of Ruth’s accomplishments - Ruth established and maintains club databases for meeting minutes, field trips, membership and finance. Ruth is the club’s bulletin editor and webmaster. She is starting and coordinating a junior membership program, helps with the annual show in various ways, and produces slide shows of the club’s activities. Ruth has prepared the new membership “Welcome” packet, designed and prepared club volunteer T shirts, and chaired club picnics and rock swap activities. Ruth truly deserves to be the Club Rockhound of the Year.

Submitted by members of the club

Rocky Mountain Federation

I would like to submit Kevin Green as the rockhound of the year for the McCurtain Gem and Mineral Club of Idabel, OK. He attends our meetings regularly and usually has specimens to show that he has collected that month from our area. He is especially interested in petrified wood and constantly collects from sand bars on the Red River. He enjoys wire wrapping and furnishes items for door prizes at the meetings.

He assists in setting up our annual show. He loads and unloads the cases from our storage building, sets them up, arranges the electrical connections, and works wherever needed. He attends the entire week of our show and is especially helpful and knowledgeable as a guide through the exhibits for the school students and other visitors.

He is a very valuable member and worthy of being our rockhound of the year.

Submitted by Doris Perkins, Program Chairman

Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston, Convention Coordinator

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<td>April 5 - 7 Long Island, NY</td>
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AFMS Newsletter – April, 2011
Learning to use your camera’s macro feature will open up a whole new world in your photography. Also, macrophotos will give you something new—a very different perspective. Photos are also essential to a good newsletter article. Compact cameras can shoot remarkably good close-up photos depending on the quality of the camera. But, there are several things you need to be aware of in order to take good macro images.

1. Turn on the macro mode by pressing the flower icon (make sure the icon appears in your LCD viewfinder). This setting allows you to bring the camera lens closer to the subject.

2. Compose your shot and press your shutter button halfway down to lock in the exposure and focus. This may take a few seconds, and usually you will see a green light. Now depress your shutter button all the way down to record the shot. If you know how to use manual focus then set your camera on manual focus and focus on the part of the subject you want. If you are indoors, set your subject on a plain background. I use different colors of construction paper. If the specimen is light, put it on a dark piece of construction paper. If you are working with a dark specimen you should put it on a light piece of construction paper.

3. Lighting is important. I like to take my outdoor macro photos on the porch. We have a nice table out there that works just fine. If the sun is bright, you may have to go back indoors and use electric lights on little stands. Avoid incandescent lights; they can create a harsh light and create a strange hue. In the winter I take my pictures inside near the picture window. Light coming in from a cloudy day can work. You will just have to experiment. I try both ways, indoors using natural light, and then artificial lighting that I have.

4. Use a tripod to limit camera shake, which becomes more of a problem the closer you get to the specimen. Getting a small, inexpensive tabletop tripod from WalMart is key. Until you buy a tripod, you put your camera on a stack of books. Place your specimen on a stack of books across from the camera. Tilt the specimen up, put a piece of construction paper of the appropriate color behind it, and then another book behind the construction paper to keep the tilt going.

5. Always use your camera’s self-timer. This limits camera shake and vibration when pressing the shutter button. The self-timer is a delayed shutter release that records the image after all vibrations have subsided and eliminates the problem of pressing the release which would cause a slight motion. Check out your manual to see how it works on your camera. Once you press the button down to take a picture, do not touch or lean on the table. Just a slight vibration can ruin a close-up image. Here are some examples that two pebble pup groups worked on in order to write an article about ancient Egyptian beads made out of semi-precious gemstones. The following Egyptian artifact images were made through a microscope by Pikes Peak area pebble pups.

6. Experiment with your flash. It is not always necessary to use your flash but, it can reduce or eliminate shadows—a real problem for macro photographers. Try shooting where bright light is available to fill the shadows. I take a few pictures without the flash, and then a few with the flash. It costs nothing to take a number of images until you get the right one.

7. Fill the frame. Get as close as you can to your subject.

8. Get comfortable and relax. Enjoy what you are doing! You are creating a whole new way to look at your mineral and fossil world. Be sure to take multiple shots, play with the lighting, move the subject around, and try different things. This way we will get your ultimate close up.

Now it’s Linda speaking again. I e-mailed Steve to get permission to reprint the photography article from his blogspot. When he e-mailed his permission back to me, he also included an exciting bit of information about an article his pebble pups put together on the Egyptian beads. Their manuscript has been submitted and accepted for publication in an international magazine. Fantastic for a group of Pebble Pups and their sponsor!

With photographs becoming an increasing part of our newsletters each month, it may be time to consider adding a photography category to our bulletin contests. What do you think?
**SyRacuse ConvEntion ScHEdule**

**Wednesday, July 6**

Noon: Convention Registration. Ramada Inn, 1305 Buckley Rd. Syracuse Registration and welcome bag may be picked up at the Ramada.

2:00 pm – AFMS Uniform Rules Meeting

Ramada Inn

**Thursday, July 7**

8:00 am – Convention Registration - Ramada Inn

9:00 am: AFMS Annual Meeting - Ramada Inn

AFMS Scholarship Foundation Meeting immediately following the AFMS meeting

Ramada Inn

12:30 PM

Presidents’ Luncheon summer picnic on the patio - Ramada Inn. You need not be an officer to participate!

4:30 pm

Cracker Barrel (social hour)

Erie Canal Park, Camillus NY

The park offers narrated boat rides up the canal to the unique, newly restored aqueduct. Also on site is Sim’s Store Museum that combines the old-fashioned charm of an 1856 canal store and museum complete with exhibits, early photos, maps of the canal with models of locks, aqueducts and canal boats. The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse will provide light refreshments. Some may take the boat ride and others may want to walk the tow path trail or just relax under the pavilion.

**Friday, July 8**

8:00 am

Convention Registration – Ramada Inn

10:00 am

show set up at fairgrounds

7:00 pm

EFMLS Annual Business Meeting

Ramada Inn

**Saturday, July 9**

10:00 am

“A gems Along the Erie Canal 45th Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show”

NYS Fairground

2:00 pm

EFMLS Endowment Fund Auction - Fairgrounds

6:00 pm

EFMLS/AFMS Awards Banquet Social Hour

Ramada Inn

7:00 pm

Awards Banquet - Ramada Inn

Special guest speaker Bob Jones, Sr. Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine.

**Sunday, July 10**

8:00 am

Breakfast With the Editors and Webmasters - Ramada Inn

10:00 am – 4 pm

Show at New York State Fairgrounds

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**45th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, and Bead Show**

**Gems and Minerals Along the Erie Canal**

Combined AFMS and EFMLS 2011 Annual Convention

Sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, Inc. – www.gmss.us

**45th Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show**

July 9-10, 2011 Saturday – Sunday

New York State Fairgrounds  Syracuse, NY

**AFMS Annual Meeting – Thursday**

AFMS-EFMLS Cigar Social Board Meeting – Thursday

AFMS Awards Banquet – Thursday

**EFMLS Annual Meeting – Friday**

Huge show at the NY State Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday

EFMLS Auction – Saturday

**Election – Saturday**

Awards Banquet – Saturday Night

Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters – Sunday morning

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**AFMS Newsletter – April, 2011 Page 9**

**FeedBack**

by Ye Olde Editor

In the December, 2010 AFMS Newsletter I expressed my amazement that when visiting various club websites, I found that some of them did not include copies of the club bulletin for the public to read. My feeling was (and still is) that the major reason for having a club website is to tell the public about your club and that the club bulletin is one effective way of doing that.

Although I didn’t specifically ask for feedback, and although my inbox wasn’t flooded, I did hear from a dozen of you - some agreeing with my stated opinion and others giving reasons why they do not include the publication there.

Those agreeing with my point of view (the majority of those who wrote) all indicated that the club had benefited by increased membership as a result of their websites and almost all the visitors to the meetings came with copies of the downloaded bulletin in hand; they liked what they read and wanted to come to the meeting as a result.

What was most interesting were those who wrote to tell me why the club does not include the bulletin on their website. Reasons included:

• “It’s too much work for our webmaster to have to go and add the issue each month.”

• “What we put in our newsletter is for our members only.”

• “We don’t want others to know the phone numbers of e-mails of our officers”.

• “No one would ever read it so we don’t bother.”

The one response I did receive that has some merit was from a club that has lots of field trips per month during collecting season. Many of these trips are “members only” and are to “not always open” localities. My correspondent said that they stopped putting the information on the public website because non-member collectors were showing up at the dig site and this was creating problems for the trip leaders. This is, in my view, a valid reason for keeping the bulletin private. No one wants to be faced with an adversarial situation at a trip site and, as organized clubs, we need to know who’s on the trip so that we can adequately police ourselves so the sites will not be shut down because of the actions of one or two.

What’s interesting, and disconcerting at the same time, are the other reasons. My own club just redesigned our site with the help of one of our tech savvy members. Our webmaster, who incidentally knew nothing about websites and web maintenance up until a month ago, works a full time job in addition to everything else in her life, is able to post items to the website in only a few minutes. (You might want to check out her work at <gemcuttersguild.com>.)

Thanks to all who sent me feedback. You’ll notice I left off the names of my correspondents and their clubs so as not to embarrass anyone.

Come and say hello when you’re at the Breakfast with the Editors in Syracuse!
Instead of asking what the American Lands Access Association can do for you, it's time for all to start asking: “What can I do to help ALAA?” The problems facing rockhounds are too big for one or two people to solve alone; the fact is we need everyone's help to keep rockhounding alive.

We hear the same question all the time; “What’s ALAA going to do about...?” The answer is “...YOU are ALAA!”

It's very simple. If you bring a problem to ALAA, we will help you find the answers, and coordinate a response, but then you have to be responsible and take the lead in that battle and therefore be part of the solution. We can accept nothing less.

We're still learning how to fight these battles. The organizations that are trying to end access to our forests and deserts have had at least 40 years to organize their attack, and educate their members. We've just getting our feet wet in the arena of public opinion, and we need everyone's expertise and everyone's experiences to help win this battle.

These days rockhounds are getting involved in all areas of the government, in all issues that can involve rockhounding activities. We must be aware that issues like clean water and watersheds, pollution, dust and other topics you might not even equate with rockhounding, gold panning, or metal detecting will greatly affect all our members. Make sure to read your local newspapers for these issues, and where they are being discussed. You may see a report on local TV news that will alert you to meetings that might be of concern to you as a rockhound. Watch for public notices from government agencies as well. Then, get involved!

Here's some things you can do to prepare yourself:
- Research the problem! Find those who are responsible, whether it's a government or state agency, and when meetings will be held.
- Use your computer as a research tool. You'd be surprised what you can learn by doing a search on Google.
- Find out why and how this problem developed.
- Look for solutions, or compromises.
- Be articulate.
- Be concise, and spend time refining your message.

Sometimes you'll find help and solutions from organizations and associations outside the rockhound community. There are many organizations who are working on multiple use of public lands. Reach out to them and ask if they are having the same problems, and what they are doing about these issues. Road closures, ambiguous or incorrect interpretations of the regulations at the management level, and many forest and desert issues have organizations that are working hard to combat these problems and can use our help.

Bring your concerns to your City Council or County Board of Supervisors. Be prepared to speak at Forest Service or BLM hearings. State Fish and Game Departments. Federal Fish and Game regulations may have an impact on rockhounding, so be armed and prepared to speak on behalf of rockhounds everywhere.

Although it can be intimidating to speak in public...YOU CAN DO IT! Prepare fully, know your subject, and be articulate and concise. Have a handout of your points, and leave it with whomever organized the meeting. Sing up for their mailing list, and get business cards from all important people in the room. Ask to speak to them about the issue at a later date, and the best way to contact their office. Look for people with like concerns, and don't be afraid to ask for help. You don't have to stand alone, instead you can bring friends with you. Let them know there are a large group who care about the issue. But:

Never go into a meeting with a chip on your shoulder.

Be friendly and attentive to what others have to say.

You're the one who's going to make the difference, and ALAA is here to help.
### AFMS Committees: 2010 – 2011

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<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<td>Bob Miller, Vice President</td>
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<td>Ruth Bailey, Secretary</td>
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**AFMS Newsletter – April, 2011**
I received an e-mail today that, for me, epitomizes the biggest challenge of the American Lands Access Association - Participate or Standby and Watch and I would like to share it and my response with all of you.

The e-mail: "RE: the Feb. 26th e-mail - More on California OHV Issues"

This will be interesting to see how Robust or Feeble ALAA and the other Off Road Organizations are at influencing State Legislators on any issue. I’ll be watching to see the outcome.

The Ranting Rockhound"

My response:

"The Ranting Rockhound,

Unfortunately you didn’t sign your name and I don’t recognize your pseudonym, but I will respond to your e-mail anyway.

Instead of standing passively on the sidelines watching to see what others are going to do for you, my suggestion and recommendation is for you to get active and involved. Unlike most of the conservationist/preservationist groups that are trying to eliminate or at least greatly restrict recreation on our public lands, the American Lands Access Association is not highly funded and does not have a paid staff to do the work that is needed to affect legislation and regulations.

ALAA functions and accomplishes its goals and objectives through the efforts of dedicated, involved volunteers. It is up to each rockhound, it is up to each ALAA member, it is up to each person that want to continue using and recreating on our public lands to participate in the legislative and regulatory process.

Ranting Rockhound, please don’t stand by and watch. Get active. Get involved. It is easy: write letters (or e-mails or phone calls) to your legislator telling him your concern and what you would like to see happen. Tell your friends and other rockhounds about your concerns and the issues; involve them in your efforts.

If you need help or if you have any questions on how to get involved and what to do, please contact me.

Dick Pankey
Rockhound Advocate*

When it comes to the future use of our public lands which one are you? A participant or a "standby-and-watcher"? Over the last 2 years I have written several articles for our AFMS and other newsletters about being an involved member. Today I am modifying that a little bit. I want more than just the ALAA people to be involved; I want all rockhounds involved – to be a participant in our future. The easiest way to be an involved rockhound is to write letters, send e-mails and make phone calls to your legislative representatives and to the regulators. Educate yourself about the issue then communicate your concerns and what you would like to see happen. Then, as I told The Ranting Rockhound, involve others in your efforts.

For those of you with the time, the skills, the interest, the concerns and the desire to do more, there is a lot more that ALAA could do if we had the people to do it. Some examples: organizing letter writing campaigns; analyzing proposed legislation and regulations to determine the affect on access and rockhounding, then making recommendations for action; establish a working relationship with a BLM or USFS district and participate in Land Management Planning; write articles on land use, access and recreational issues that affect public lands; or become an ALAA State Representative for your state and work with local societies in your state to educate them and involve them in our goals.

There are several ways to get started: pick an issue, legislation or regulation learn about the issues then start writing letters and e-mails; contact an ALAA officer, director or State Rep and offer your help; join or get your society to join ALAA then keep you society informed with the issues and get them to participate in letter writing and activities to protect our Public Lands for the Public.

Learn about the issues, learn about ALAA and learn how to participate. The easiest way to get started is to check out the American Lands Access Association web site – www.amlands.org."

Be an involved member Rockhound!

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**AFMS Code of Ethics**

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources. I will observe the "Golden Rule" will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.