This month I am writing about some of the things we like to do and why we should assess the potential for unintended consequences to our actions.

Recently I was offered a unique opportunity to hunt for fossils at a ranch near the Texas-Oklahoma border. At the last minute I grabbed a local fossil hunting buddy, and we headed out. From a safety standpoint, we double checked with the owner to see what was in the area that we would need to keep an eye on. The answer, not to our surprise, was rattlers, hogs, and scorpions. One of the ranch hands escorted us out to the exposure to start the hunt. My friend and the ranch hand decided to make a quick circuit of the area, and they shot four larger Western Diamondback rattlers (4–5 footers) in about 15 minutes. At the time this all seemed to be okay to me, especially since we figured that the owner would appreciate our clearing out the snakes from a safety standpoint. Unfortunately, that was definitely NOT the case. The owner was a good bit put off by this action and stated that in 25 years of working the ranch, the snakes would come and go, but they had never bothered each other. He did not approve.

In retrospect, it would have been good to ask the owner how he would like us to address any such safety issues that we encountered on his property. Instead we left him with a bad taste in his mouth and me with uncertainty about the potential to make visits in the future.

Similarly some of my more hardcore fossil hunting buddies made a trip to far West Texas last year to hunt for dinosaur bones. Everything was cleared with the land owner, who was well aware that most of the fossils on the property were marine in origin. Well my friends had done their research pretty well and knew exactly what they were looking for, and sure enough they found the femur of a hadrosaur!

They spent hours prepping the bone for removal and soon recovered it successfully. After returning to Houston and completing their prep and preservation of the bone, they did what they thought was a good thing to do and sent the owner several pictures of the bone. Unfortunately at that point the owner really liked what he saw and decided he wanted it back. There was a big stink including the threat of legal actions, but the bottom line is that this particular ranch is no longer available to my friends for fossil hunting. As the old saying goes, “no good deed goes unpunished.” In this particular case, my friends discussed in significant detail with the owner exactly what their intentions were and made sure that the owner was okay with everything they planned to do. Despite the owner’s prior approval, once he saw the “goods” come out of the ground, he changed his mind!

Perhaps there is not much that could have been done in this second case, but in these types of hunting situations, we need to be aware that “things change,” and that we need to consider if there is the potential for unintended consequences.

**The Law of Unintended Consequences – A Safety Note**

*by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair*

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**Inter-Regional Field Trip**

*by Doug True, Chair*

Due to circumstances and conditions beyond my control, the 2012 Inter-Regional Field trip scheduled for 13 - 15 has had to be cancelled.

We plan on rescheduling the same trip for June, 2013.
Proudly Serving Seven Regional Federations

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FROM THE TOP!
by Lauren Williams, President

Communications! Communication is not just you writing about something. That is just the first half of it. Communication is not finished until who you want to read it, reads it. Communication is when your local club president writes their monthly message telling you something about the hobby in general or when you’re program chairman writes and tells you about the upcoming meeting program and reviews the previous months. Of course if you do not read them, then there was no communication.

Every club should have a bulletin. This is how the club communicates with its members and by reading their club bulletin, how individual club members know what is going on in their club. For a historian, this is vital. A club newsletter should not be just for a single individual or group of individuals to dictate their point of view, the other members of the club paid their dues also.

Every club editor needs to forward on to their regional federation the appropriate bulletins and bulletin articles for competitive competition. And the regional federation needs to forward on to the AFMS the appropriate same bulletins and articles for inclusion into the AFMS contests.

Bulletins should be sent to your newspapers and political officials who you need support from for getting space at a park or a meeting room, etc. A good PR program means that you keep trying to expand your space by letting others know who you are and what you are doing, especially when a federation is coming to town. Your club’s bulletin is your club’s voice to the rest of the world.

Every club bulletin should have a section about their federation and the AFMS so that the individual club member knows what is going on at the regional and AFMS federation level.

If you’ve not yet done so, make your reservations for the AFMS/MWF Convention and Show (A Celebration of Agates) in make Minnetonka, MN this July. Information and registration forms can be found on the AFMS web site.

Quick Tips for Editors
by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing in the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by e-mail: <LJfgrAlg@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.)

Make the World Go ‘Round!
I bet you know people who really make your world go ‘round. They’re the ones who have a smile and an encouraging word for you on sight, in e-mail or on the phone.

They’re the ones who listen with an open mind and never get nasty when things go a different direction from their preference. They’re flexible. They offer praise and constructive criticism as appropriate. They share knowledge, tips, connections . . .

They’re the folks who bring everyone together, whether “everyone” is a member within a club, a federation, or the general public. Sometimes this is called “networking.” It gets things done efficiently: rock shows happen, education takes place, we make good friends! It’s good business.

Editors --- are you “making the world go ‘round”? How about all you club members out there? And officers at every level --- is this your role, too? Let’s help each other!

Or are you the guy whose actions and words create division? Come on! Play nice! It’s lots more fun that way!

As I make my little editorial statement above, our AFMS judges are looking over the AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest entries from the regional federations. As these judges complete score sheets and offer comments, they try to do exactly what I mentioned above by using PEP: praise, encouragement, and praise.

I hope they “make your world go ‘round” when your entries are returned to you. And THANKS for entering!
New Edition of the AFMS/FRA Badge Manual and Safeguarding Children

I'm pleased to report I've finally completed my latest update and revision of the Badge Manual for the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. This includes five new badges covering Special Effects (magnetism, asterism and cat's eye, double refraction, crystal phantoms, etc.), Fluorescent Minerals, The World in Miniature (miniature, thumbnail, and micromount minerals and fossils, and sand collecting), Reaching Across Generations (encouraging kids to partner and work with seniors in their clubs—a unit suggested and designed by a junior), and Maps. I've had some youth leaders ask me if I could send them the new badge units and just the updated pages for older units. However, I've made revisions throughout the manual. I found recommended web sites had evaporated into the ether and needed to be replaced where possible, I added activities here and there based on suggestions from clubs using the program, I've modified other activities, I've added additional info to tables, etc., etc. So it's best if you simply download an entirely new manual from the AFMS web site. But in doing so, be sure to have an ample supply of paper on hand: it comes to 223 pages, in all! I've also printed a limited number of hardcopy manuals for anyone who absolutely can't access it electronically.

Another change to the manual involves advice on safeguarding children. I didn't address this at all in the first edition of the manual in 2004. One youth leader subsequently advised that I should say something, so a few indirect words were included in the Introduction to the second edition in 2008. However, since then, many people have advised that this point needs strong emphasis. If starting a youth program in your local club, you should select youth leaders who are well known by all for sound moral values. The vast majority of adults are moral, reliable, responsible, and eager to help as best they can in efforts to educate and nurture our kids in a positive, wholesome environment. Regrettably, though, one very unfortunate aspect of the world in which we live is that there are some who would abuse the natural trust of children and who should not be left alone with kids. Some societies require background checks for any members volunteering to work with kids, and this is a good policy to explore with your own club board.

Still, even with all that, we see stories in the news every day about trusted priests who abuse, or incidents such as the Penn State football program scandal, so the second point emphasized in the new manual is the importance of having multiple adults on hand when working with kids, including parental involvement. Always have multiple adults, and, as a group, prevent any sort of abuse, whether physical, sexual, mental, emotional, or verbal. Any obvious or even suspected abuse should be reported and dealt with through proper legal authorities.

For further guidance on this issue, I recommend all Federation-affiliated society board members and youth leaders read the excellent and thorough "Youth Protection" section on the web site of the Boy Scouts of America: <scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>. This is one aspect of working with kids that can be difficult to discuss, but it's a discussion that absolutely must be held within any club or society endeavoring to start and/or maintain a youth program. The safety of our youth is paramount!

A Celebration of Agates

In just a few short months the town of Minnetonka, MN will be alive and buzzing with the excitement of hosting the combined AFMS and MWF Convention and show. Minnesota is agate land and the club is sponsoring an agate symposium, a show with top-notch dealers who will sell a wide variety of agates and other cutting rough, jewelry, fossils and minerals. The dates for the show are July 27-29. The AFMS meetings will be held July 26 and 27.

In addition, numerous displays - both competitive and non-competitive - will be on hand for your viewing and learning pleasure. Book signings are also planned!

The AFMS/MWF Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday evening and Breakfast With the Editors and Web Masters on Sunday morning. All are encouraged to attend these enjoyable events.

Details and registration materials can be found on the AFMS web site at <www.amfed.org/show2012.htm>.
AFMS Scholarship Honorees Announced

by Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President

It’s my pleasure to introduce you to the AFMS Scholarship Honorees for 2012. You will know many of these names. This year, except for one regional federation, all the honorees are rockhounds and known throughout the U.S. for their activities within the rockhound community.

California: Jim Brace-Thompson
Known for his successful Junior Program via the AFMS and Immediate Past President of CFMS.

Eastern: Carolyn and Steve Weinberger
Known for their work both at the EFMLS and AFMS. Steve is a Past President of EFMLS, and AFMS. Carolyn has been editor of EFMLS and AFMS for centuries... and are also involved in the famous EFMLS Workshops at Wildacres.

Midwest: Judith and John Washburn
Known for their work in the Midwest and John’s work as All American Chair. Both are Past Presidents of MWF.

Northwest: Jon Spunaugle
Known for his work for the NFMS and the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. John is a Past President of NFMS, AFMS Scholarship Foundation and ALAA.

Rocky Mountain: Dr. James Kirkland
Dr. Kirkland is with the Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, UT

South Central: Paul and Margaret Good
Paul and Margaret have been the duo SCFMS Editor/Assistant Editor, since their move to Texas many years ago. They put educational exhibits in schools and libraries throughout the state.

As soon as the honorees select their schools and students we will bring this information to you. Remember: each Honoree will choose a school and two graduate students in Earth Science, Geo-Science, or Geology, and each student will receive $4000. for the coming 2012 Fall Semester.

Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Coordinator

Here is the updated listing for the Regional Federation Conventions as we know them to be scheduled. It’s important for all regional federations to check this calendar and to notify me as soon as your convention dates have been confirmed so we can avoid conflicts in scheduling. Note that in 2013 both CFMS and EFMLS will hold their conventions on the same weekend – an unavoidable conflict due to availability of show venues and other federation activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
<th>South Central Federation</th>
<th>Southeast Federation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>May 31-June 2 Ventura, CA</td>
<td>June 1-2 Plainview, NY</td>
<td>April 6 - 7 Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>August 16-18 Butte, MT</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td>Sept. 20-22 Jacksonville, FL</td>
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Endowment Fund Tickets!

Fifteen new prizes have been added to the already stellar line-up for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing. All proceeds from ticket sales are invested and the interest from these investment is used to help fund various AFMS programs. In 2012 these include funding for the badges used in the Junior Rockhounds program and the digitization of the slide programs that are given to the regional federation libraries at no charge by the AFMS.

Unlike the cost of most things we buy today, the Endowment tickets have not risen in price and remain $5 each or 5 for $20! But you have to be the holder of a ticket in order to have any chance of walking home with a prize!

Endowment fund “agents” from whom you can obtain tickets are:

- California - Colleen McGann
  PO Box 224, Santa Clara, CA 95052
- Eastern - Carolyn Weinberger
  PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
- Midwest - J.C. Moore
  25235 No. State Route 97; Cuba, IL 61427
- Northwest - Chris Blickfeldt
  236 Tollgate Rd; Boise, ID 82716
- Rocky Mountain - Richard Jaeger
  3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
- South Central – Pam Hecht
  25393 Oak St; Calumet, MI 49913
- Southeast - Pam Hecht
  25393 Oak St; Calumet, MI 49913

Good luck!
I’m just overwhelmed by the generosity of our donors. We have 15 new prizes to share with you this month. The value of the donated items for the drawing is now at $7,230!

Thank you to all who have donated to the cause, either by sending me items or by purchasing tickets. Remember, all proceeds from the drawing go into the AFMS Endowment Fund and the interest from these invested funds is what’s used to help with special AFMS programs that benefit you and your club.

I truly appreciated your generous support!!!

Prize #24 is a Chinese Picture Rock. Measuring approximately 3 3/4” in diameter, it comes mounted on a wooden stand. Donated by Marge & Chuck Collins it has an estimated value of $50. (MWF)

Prize #25 is a 4” amethyst sphere donated by the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. It has an estimated value of $125. (SFMS)

Prize #26 is a Lake Superior Agate that’s been wire-wrapped by Don Reed in 14/20 rolled gold and Argentum silver. Donated by Bonnie & Don Reed it has an estimated value of $135. (MWF).

Prize #27 is a Tumbling Mix Set that includes a 5lb bag of mixed rock for tumbling and a book written by Steve Hart (autographed) with award winning instructions on how to tumble stones. Donated by Steve Hart and Cindy Root it has an estimated value of $100. (MWF)

Prize #28. This is a set of 5 DVD’s record- ed at the 2010 MWF Convention in Peoria, IL by Bixler Video Productions. Titles of the programs in the set are: Mazon Creek Fauna by Dr. Merrill Foster, PhD; Keokuk Geodes by Ed Wagner, Homer the Triceratops by Michael Henderson, Illinois Fluorite Story, Part III by Dean Stone and a bonus DVD from ISGS, Danville’s Fossil Forest by Scott Erick. Donated by John and Judith Washburn, the set has an estimated value of $80. (MWF).

Prize #29 - Rocks & Minerals Magazine, Vol. 86, 2011 (all 6 issues). Donated by Rocks & Minerals Magazine the set has an estimated value of $120.

Prize #30 - a Montana Agate pendant wire-wrapped in gold filled wire by Don Kelman. Donated by Cindy & Don Kelman, it has an estimated value of $145. (MWF).

Prize #31 is a black Brevue Jasper pendant cut and mounted in sterling silver by Greg Hayes of the Thursday Night Pastry Tasters & Flintknappers group of Lewisville, ID. It has an estimated value of $50 (NFMS).

Prize #32 is a pair of Spencer Opal earrings cut and mounted by Greg Hayes of the Thursday Night Pastry Tasters & Flintknappers group of Lewisville, ID. The set has an estimated value of $50. (NFMS).

Prize #33 - A Spencer Opal pin, cut and mounted by Greg Hayes of the Thursday Night Pastry Tasters & Flintknappers group of Lewisville, ID. It has an estimated value of $50. (NFMS)

Prize #34 - a Spencer Opal pendant cut and mounted by Greg Hayes of the Thursday Night Pastry Tasters & Flintknappers group of Lewisville, ID. The pin has an estimated value of $75. (NFMS)

Prize #35 is another Spencer Opal pendant cut and mounted by Greg Hayes of the Thursday Night Pastry Tasters & Flintknappers group of Lewisville, ID. It has an estimated value of $200. (NFMS)

Prize #36 - a flintknapped obsidian letter opener with a 10” blade. Knapped by Tom Strong of the Thursday Night Pastry Tasters & Flintknappers group of Lewisville, ID, it has an estimated value of $90. (NFMS)

Prize #37 - a flintknapped Ohio Flint letter opener that’s 5 1/2” long. Knapped by Tom Strong of the Thursday Night Pastry Tasters & Flintknappers group of Lewisville, ID, it has an estimated value of $45. (NFMS)

Prize #38 - a flintknapped obsidian point that measures 8 3/4” long and 3” wide. Knapped by Greg Hayes of the Thursday Night Pastry Tasters & Flintknappers group of Lewisville, ID, it has an estimated value of $100. (NFMS)

You can see these and all the other prizes in color by visiting the AFMS web site <www.amfed.org/endow2012.htm> or by downloading this and past issues of the AFMS Newsletters <www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm>.

Do remember that if you are interested in possibly winning one of the first 4 prizes (the lapidary equipment) you must designate which one you want your ticket. All non-marked tickets will be entered in the random drawing.

Want to purchase tickets? Contact your regional federation endowment “agent” (see list on page 4) and send them your check, payable to “AFMS Endowment Fund” along with a stamped self-addressed envelope. Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20.

And of course, you can’t win if you don’t have a ticket!
Some text is missing from the image.
AFMS COMMITTEES: 2010 – 2011

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2011 – 12. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club
John Washburn
<jrwashburn3 at att.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Evelyn Cataldo
<cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries
Marion Roberts
<myroberts at bigvalley.net>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Bulletin Editors Advisory
Linda Jaeger
<ljal at aol.com>

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr at erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
<afms-conservation at antelecom.net>

Endowment Fund
Pam Hecht
<steverox at up.net>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<president at amfed.org>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson at cox.net>

International Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Inter-Regional Field Trip
Doug True
<dtruefossils at yahoo.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland
<beauholland at centurytel.net>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<jbraceth at roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Bob Miller
<kanbrock at att.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
Bob Miller
<kanbrock at att.net>

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland
<beauholland at centurytel.net>

Past President’s Advisory
Bob Miller
<kanbrock at att.net>

Photography
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret at qtm.net>

Publications
Ron Carman
<rccarman at centurytel.net>

Safety
Owen Martin
<owenmartin at yahoo.com>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy at verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
Anne Cook
<secretary at amfed.org>

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

Ways and Means
Bob Miller
<kanbrock at att.net>

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

Web Site Contest
Cheri George
<lizardwoman3 at yahoo.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Judges Training)
Lauren Williams, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer

AFMS Newsletter – May, 2012
Uses of Gold

by Adriana Yamanaka (age 12) from Strata Data, December 2010.
Fourth place winner in the 2011 AFMS Junior Article Competition

Gold is useful and can be used in many different ways. Gold is also very valuable. Gold is considered a precious metal. In this article, you will learn the uses of gold and why it is treasured the way it is.

There are many uses of gold. One main use of gold is for jewelry. Gold is used for rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and watches. People all throughout history have used or worn jewelry. They have used it in ancient times such as Egyptian times and way back in history with the Mayas, Incas, Aztecs, Tainos, and the Conquistadors. Next, we find out how they used gold in everyday things.

As I said, gold is used in everyday materials. Gold is used in small amounts for sophisticated electronics devices such as cell phones, calculators, personal digital assistants, GPS, computers, and TVs. In dental work, gold is used for crowns, fillings, bridges, and other orthodontic appliances. In the U.S., we also have a coin called the Golden Eagle. All in all, gold is very valuable. Gold is considered powerful, useful, and valuable it really is! Wouldn’t you love to own gold? Now you know how powerful, useful, and valuable it really is!

References:
Geology.com
ALDOCCAN Ancient Egypt

In conclusion, gold is used for many things all over the world. From the U.S to Spain to Egypt, gold is amazing. People used it then and still use it now. Wouldn’t you love to own gold? Now you know how powerful, useful, and valuable it really is!

You Can Tell a Rockhound

by Betsy Oberheim, from Rock Buster News, September 2010
1st Place Winner 2011 AFMS Adult Poetry Competition

You can always tell a rockhound
His neck is burned bright red,
A bag at his side, he searches wide,
A baseball hat on his head.

You can tell that he’s a rockhound
His car is caked with mud,
It’s riding low, cool places to go;
He’s got crystals in his blood!

You can always tell a rockhound
There’s often a kid by his side,
Staring down and searching the ground
Plucking geodes from banks where they hide.

He’s creating another strong rockhound
As the youngster cries out with glee;
He holds up a stone, and never alone,
A camaraderie binds them you see.

So you can always tell a rockhound;
A teacher, a friend, and a pop.
A love he shares, and no one dares
Tell them ever to slow down or stop.

For once you become a rockhound
It’s a love that you need to share
Take a kid along, one hardy and strong
’Cause that bag gets too heavy to bear!

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 F.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.