At last year’s Mother Lode Mineral Society Show in Turlock, California (a must-attend event for anyone anywhere near central California in mid-March), I made my way straight to the Rocks in a Hardplace booth since they always have a great range of educationally oriented materials for the earth sciences (see www.rocksinahardplace.com). Per usual, I wasn’t disappointed and came away with nice specimens and educational rock kits. One item really caught my eye this time: a book rack containing a number of spiral-bound paperbacks accompanied by CDs. They were part of the “Myrna Martin” series, and I walked away with books and CDs for Myrna Martin’s Minerals: Hands-on Science, Myrna Martin’s Rock Cycle: Hands-on Science, and Myrna Martin’s Dinosaurs: Hands-on Activities.

“Who is Myrna Martin?” I wondered, so I went to her web site: www.RingofFireScience.com. Inspired by the eruption of Mount Saint Helens 90 miles from her Oregon home, she crafted a set of lesson plans on volcanoes. By 1998, those lesson plans had evolved into a home-based business she runs with husband Tom and son Brett: Ring of Fire Science Company LLC. Prior to that, Myrna had taught school for over 35 years, so she knew what she was doing when she began developing activity-based earth-science education books. She’s done her job so well, she was named the 2007 Professional of the Year for Science Textbook Publishing by Cambridge Who’s Who. She is now an author, science consultant, and workshop speaker, particularly for homeschooling conventions.

Ring of Fire offers over 30 books (available in print or on CDs), as well as 7 educational sets of rocks and DVDs containing video lessons by the author. Resources are geared to three levels: PreK – 2nd grade, 3rd – 6th grade, and middle – high school. Topics include dinosaurs, earthquakes, volcanoes, the rock cycle, mineral identification, the three rock types, and more. The books are beautifully designed and illustrated, with easy-to-follow instructions for each activity along with “Teacher’s Notes” that fill you in on lesson objectives, how the activity fulfills National Science Education Standards, and vocabulary with definitions. There are also quizzes with answer keys and bibliographies for further reading. I encourage you to check out this wealth of resources for the juniors in your society—for learning, and for having fun!

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**Recognized as the Official Magazine of the AFMS**

**Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions**

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**Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions** from Bob Livingston
FROM THE TOP! by Lauren Williams, President

This year went by rather quickly!

It’s been an honor and privilege to serve as president of AFMS. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support and help that you have given me this the year. Without your individual support the AFMS would not be as alive and active as it is.

Bob Miller left the AFMS in excellent shape for me and as a result, I did not inherit any problems. I hope that I have done the same for Don Monroe. I ask that you give Don all the support and help that you can for his presidency beginning on November 1 and help keep the AFMS moving forward.

Support your local club, your regional federation, the juniors; attend your County Commissioners meetings, NFS meetings, BLM meetings and voice your concerns and the reason why you have those concerns. “Just because I feel” does not carry any weight at those meetings, but having supporting data does. Nothing happens until you do something!

I’ve received lots of help and support from many people, but I especially want to thank Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, Shirley Leeson and Dee Holland and Dr. Robert Carlson. Their support and help kept me on track this year and was invaluable to me.

Be safe! I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Jacksonville or at a local or regional federation show.

Be sure to join A.L.A.A. and have your club join as well. The more members the organization has, the more effective our voice becomes!

Do it!

Do it now!

Lauren

PROMOTE YOUR CLUB IN ROCK & GEM MAGAZINE! by Jim Brace-Thompson, Rock & Gem Contributing Author

Rock & Gem magazine is the “official” magazine of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies—our official magazine! They, and Senior Consulting Editor Bob Jones, have done much to promote rockhounding and rock clubs like those to which you and I belong. As you may know, I’m a regular contributing author to Rock & Gem, mostly with articles for their Rock & Gem Kids section. Recently, Rock & Gem Managing Editor Lynn Varon has initiated a “Club Workshop Series” and is soliciting articles describing how clubs have organized a workshop for their own members and/or for members of their communities. The intent is to provide inspiration and models for clubs that currently lack a workshop space. How did clubs acquire their space? How have they organized it? What sort of equipment do they have? What sort of activities do they provide for club members and/or the general public?

To help Lynn kick off the series, I’ve written three articles describing how the Ventura, Oxnard, and Mother Lode mineral societies of the California Federation have all pursued different models of establishing and maintaining a lapidary workshop. The first article in the series, describing the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society facilities, appeared in the August 2012 issue. Lynn would like to encourage others to send similar articles (and photographs) about their club workshops. For submission details, you can contact Lynn at: Lynn Varon, Rock & Gem, 3585 Maple Street, Suite 232, Ventura, CA 93003, phone (805) 644-3824, ext. 29, email editor@rockngem.com. For the articles I prepared, Lynn asked for 1,000 words, accompanied by at least a half dozen photos showing the workshop in use, along with captions for each photo.

If you’d like to participate but are unsure of your writing skills, I’m happy to do the write-up if you’ll send me photos (as electronic attachments) of your workshop and give me a call to provide the basics—you know, the typical journalistic questions of who, what, where, when, how and why. Who are you and your society? What sort of workshop arrangement do you have? Where is it located? When did you establish this arrangement and when is the workshop accessible to club members and/or the general public? How did you go about establishing your workshop? Why would you encourage other clubs to follow a similar model and strategy? My contact info is (805) 659-3577, <jbraceth@roadrunner.com>.

This is a great opportunity to publicize your own club’s efforts while providing inspiration to other clubs seeking to establish a workshop. Let’s all take advantage of this great opportunity and help to spread the wealth of knowledge we’ve all accumulated to assist our fellow clubs!
AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

from Evelyn Cataldo, Chair

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society is pleased to designate Bob & Nancy Hicks as our AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. Bob & Nancy have been members of our club for many years, holding several offices on our Board of Directors and serving on several committees. For many years now, they have hosted a get-together at their home in which they have a pot luck lunch and a rock sale and auction that benefit our club's general and scholarship funds. This event is usually attended by about 50 rockhounds including some from Kansas and Arkansas as well as several Oklahoma clubs. Bob & Nancy have also presented a number of programs at our club meetings and help in the working exhibits at our shows. They help instruct new members in lapidary techniques at our club workshop. Bob & Nancy Hicks are valuable members of our club who seek to promote our club and hobby and to share their knowledge with others.

Richard Jaeger

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society is pleased to designate Stephen Rowlett, who is 16, as our AFMS Junior Club Rockhound of the Year. Stephen is a life-long member of our club. He always helps out at club's rock shows by loading materials from our club storage building and helping with the show set up, pitching in where he sees work that needs to be done. At the show, he assists in the silent auction area and also sells grab bags and runs the wheel game. He has helped out at many rockhound oriented shows in Cushing, OK, which is operated by two of our members. Stephen enjoys field trips and collecting fossils. Stephen Rowlett is a hard working individual who helps our club whenever he can; we are fortunate to have him as a member.

Richard Jaeger
Americans Lands Access Association News

by Dick Pankey, President

ALAA at Minnetonka

When the AFMS/MWF show opened at noon on Friday, July 27th, the American Lands Association was there. ALAA had an information table where we informed everyone who could get to stop and listen about the challenges facing all rockhounds and users of our public lands. We were kept busy because there were many at the show who were concerned and interested in the future of our public lands. One of the first things that attracted people to our info table was the array of bright yellow Rockhound Sticker items we had for sale.

The purpose of the info table was to introduce ourselves and tell people about what is going on with pending regulations and legislation. For greater detail we referred people to the ALAA web site —<www.amlands.org>. Each person who stopped to talk with us was given a copy of the AFMS Code of Ethics.

All Federations are welcome and encouraged to have an ALAA info table at their shows. If any federation or club would like to have an info table at their shows, If any federation or club would like to have an ALAA info table at their shows, if any, we can supply a copy of the AFMS Code of Ethics.

ALAA held its annual business meeting during the show at Minnetonka. This year we were able to schedule the meeting for Saturday afternoon at the show site which was very convenient for us and anyone who wanted to attend. This was a classic business meeting with officer and director reports, election of officers and directors for 2013, approval of the 2013 budget, and old and new business. The detailed minutes will be published in the ALAA Newsletter.

We opened the meeting with a memorial moment to recognize the recent passing of Bill Burns and Howie Whiting. Bill was a founding member of ALAA and served continuously as a director until 2011. Howie was a long time involved supporter and advocate. Thanks to both of these gentlemen for their dedicated service.

ALAA will have new leadership in 2013. Shirley Leeson was elected President, Lauren Williams Vice President, Susy Martin Secretary and Ruth Bailey Treasurer. Tom Noe, Tom Burchard and Dick Pankey were elected directors for a 3 year term and Kim Campbell Erb was elected to fill a vacant director term for the remaining 1 year. Welcome to Lauren, Susy, Tom and Kim.

The next ALAA Business Meeting will be held September, 2013 in Jacksonville, FL.

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.

Americans Lands Access Association
Protecting the Public Lands for the Public

Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA! Annual membership fee is $25.00
Annual membership fee for clubs is $50.00

_____ New    _____ Renewal          Date _____/_____/_____

Please print

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City:_________ State:_______ Zip:____________________
Phone: _______________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________
Club Affiliations:________________________
Hobby Interest: ___________________________

Remit fees to: ALAA
Ruth Bailey
2857 Addison Pl
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.

AFMS Newsletter – October, 2012