Land Closures by Management Decisions
by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

With the slow down in legislative action this election year the Public Land Use (Restriction) bills before congress are mostly on the back burners for the remainder of this congressional session. It does not look likely that much will be happening until after the November election. That does not leave very much time for any action on the bills that have been introduced and referred to the appropriate committees for review and recommendations. If no action has been taken the bills introduced during this session will die in committee and need to be reintroduced during the next congressional session. There is one “unless”, and that “unless” is, if the Land Use Bills before congress are consolidated into one large piece of legislation and attached to some other bill, like what happened in 2008 with the “Omnibus Land Bill Act of 2008”, which made it a federal felony to collect vertebrate fossils on Federal Public Lands, then there would be cause for concern.

This does not mean that all is well for Amateur Rock, Mineral and Fossil collecting on BLM and USFS managed Public Lands. These Federal Agencies, through Congressional Mandate several years ago, must provide to congress a Land Management Plan for all managed land under their jurisdiction. The creation of these plans has been in the development cycle for several years. They have been labeled Resource Management Plans (RMP) and Travel Management Plans (TMP) and through congressional mandate are required to have open public hearings and input from all stakeholders. Included in these management plans are the allowable activities and the designated roads and trails within the managed areas. All roads and trails within the management areas must be identified and publicized. These roads and trails may lead to Rockhound collecting sites. If the road to the collecting site is not on the list of approved open roads the only way to get to the collecting site is by foot. This access battle for open roads has been waged for several years now and some process is being made thanks to a few concerned Rockhounds. There are more dangers to Rockhounds in some of these RMPs and TMPs than roads. One example is in the Bakersfield Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision. This plan is in its final stage of review and is close to approval and implementation. As an example, when this plan goes into effect, it will close the collecting area known as Horse Canyon, near Tehachapi, California. The Horse Canyon Agate is unique. This is the only green tubercular agate in North America. Under this RMP access to this collecting site will be closed and so will collecting of any kind within the area of the canyon under BLM control. This type of language is appearing in many of the Land Management Plans being released for public review and comment before presentation to congress for final approval.

Even though congressional action has slowed, Rockhounding sites are in greater jeopardy of loss through internal Public Land Management review and decisions. With a stroke of the management pen collecting sites and access may be closed in the name of resource protection. It is up to Rockhounds to make their voices heard so collecting sites and amateur collecting on public lands remain a viable hobby now and for future generations to enjoy.

Also in this Issue

All in the Same Boat.......................... 2
S.C.R.I.B.E. Meeting Set.......................... 2
A Safety Note........................................... 3
Having Fun: Junior Activities................... 4
Quick Tips for Editors.......................... 5
Committee Chairs................................. 5
Upcoming Regional Federation Shows........ 5
Web Site Competition........................... 6
AFMS Committee Chairs....................... 7
AFMS Code of Ethics............................ 8
AFMS Land Use Policy.......................... 8
Change of Officers?.............................. 8

It’s Not Too Early!

It’s not too early to begin planning to enter the various contests that your regional federation offers. Top entries from the Web Site, Bulletin Editors, and All American are forwarded from your regional federation to the AFMS for further evaluation and the chance to earn further awards. Watch your regional federation newsletter for rules and dates.

It’s also not too early to start finalizing your entry in the 2013 Program Competition. Remember, winners earn cash awards and copies of the winning programs are donated to each regional federation library. Details for entering will be in the December AFMS Newsletter.
All in the Same Boat

by Don Monroe, President

Functioning as the President Elect of AFMS has given me the opportunity to attend the annual meetings of a couple of Federations and really given me an insight into their activities. I have learned quite a few things and I am very surprised to find out that most of us have similar problems.

All non-profit operations including our federations, as well as churches, clubs, and most of those activities we enjoy share many of the same issues. We are competing for people’s entertainment dollar. At this point in our lives many of us suffer from a shortage of disposable income. In our families there is competition between the various family members for money to do those things that they want to do. In some cases there is a lack of employment opportunity or a shortage of transportation.

To draw a fine point let’s focus on our clubs and our federations. Everywhere I look I see a lack of members. We particularly lack members who are willing to take jobs or positions and work for our organizations. It is not always easy to recruit new people and to attract young people is sometimes nearly impossible. I say this and yet we all feel that the future of our hobby is really dependent on young people.

Is there a solution? Do we have any ideas? I must confess that I do not have the answer and I do not see this as a new problem. For years I have pondered these issues, not only in our organizations but in the other activities that we enjoy and want to see prosper. I only have a couple of ideas that I see used at various times in various places.

My first thought is that we need to recruit workers prior to retirement. Observing what has happened to many of my friends I see that as soon as the word gets out that they may retire it is like a feeding frenzy with every organization looking for their help. Often the first vulture that gets there is the one who scores.

My other thought is that we must strongly encourage our members to line up potential successors. We sometimes literally ride our horses right into the ground simply because they do a good job for us and really do not consider that we are not being fair to them. Sometimes maybe we should move our horses around and give them a different job or a change of scenery.

I know that I have not solved any of our problems but maybe I have provoked a little thought.

Don

S.C.R.I.B.E. Meeting Date Set

by Doug Arnold, S.C.R.I.B.E. President

If you are making plans to attend the annual S.C.R.I.B.E. meeting in January on the Saturday during the week of the 46th Annual Q.I.A. Gem and Mineral Pow Wow in Quartzsite, Arizona please be advised that the meeting date has changed.

The dates of the Pow Wow have shifted by one week and are now January 23-27. The S.C.R.I.B.E. meeting which was scheduled for January 19th will now be held January 26th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (MST) at the Senior Citizen Center on Moon Mountain Road just north of Main Street. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Editors are asked to bring copies of their bulletins to share.

S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors) is an international group of current and former amateur lapidary, gem, mineral and earth sciences club editors, writers, webmasters and others. The purpose of S.C.R.I.B.E. is to improve communication and public relations among these clubs, their federations, and other related organizations through involved bulletin editors. It serves as a resource to advise and assist new editors with old ideas and old editors with new ideas for publishing better bulletins.

To have an item placed on the agenda, for more information on S.C.R.I.B.E. or the meeting - send me an e-mail at <oldjasper@verizon.net>.

Not a member? Join S.C.R.I.B.E. and become informed. Visit <scribe.rbnet.net/> to download a member application. Dues are just $6 per year!
A SAFETY NOTE: OF HURRICANES AND HAZARD RECOGNITION

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

This is a summary of the Safety presentation provided at the 2012 SCFMS Editor’s Breakfast in Jasper, TX.

My presentation to the group started with a “safety moment.” Hurricane Isaac was moving into the Gulf of Mexico and we did not know at that time where it would hit or what kind of damage it might cause. As a group we discussed “gassing up,” evacuation plans, evacuation lists, “stay” lists and the potential impact on phones, water, electricity, etc.

<www.ready.gov/> is a valuable resource to help people address preparing for a hurricane.

My follow up discussion was on Hazard Recognition. As a safety professional I work every day with my staff and our field managers on how they and their field personnel identify hazards in our work environment. The goal is to help them identify hazards and then eliminate or control them. In my company we use a document called an FLRA or Field Level Risk Assessment.

The FLRA is designed to improve our behaviors and capability to recognize potential dangers. It does so by using this process when something is new or changes in our work environment: STOP – OBSERVE – IDENTIFY – CORRECT – RESUME.

This is not designed to be a paperwork drill, but is designed to be a tool that helps us improve our hazard recognition skills.

SOOOO, back to a practical example of this from my personal lessons learned.

A couple of weekends ago I was out at our cabin doing some cleanup work. Part of my efforts involved a small burn pile. Another was mowing the grass. I had identified a lot of the risks and was wearing leather gloves, boots, jeans, safety glasses and ear plugs. I had walked the area that I intended to mow, identified a couple of wasp nests to avoid, and then started up the mower. Well mowing in the summer Texas heat can be both physically and mentally exhausting, and when I got close to the fire with the mower I made sure that I was not blowing dead grass and leaves into it because I thought that could blow something away from the pit that could start an unplanned fire. At this point it should all sound like things were going along smoothly and safely. The reality however is that I did not think through the process enough to realize that mowing near the fire could cause another hazard. At some point a few burning embers had popped out of the pit and were smoldering in the grass. When I ran over them they got sucked into the blades, ejected at high-speed and thrown into the air. The result was that a burning ember landed squarely on the crown of my head. I didn’t of course realize this fact until the burning and stinging started [pat pat pat panic panic panic]! Luckily it was small and I got it off my head quickly. It only led to a very minor blister on my head. Hopefully the hair will grow back – I do not need to lose any more!

The moral of the story is two-fold. First although I did stop to consider the hazards and thought I had them covered I did miss something – my hat! Secondly with a little mental exhaustion going on I missed the fact that it just was NOT a good idea to mow near a live fire. Seems pretty obvious now though.

Please take the time to address hazards in places like your kitchens (under the sink), garages, bathrooms, laundry rooms, workshops and club houses. And when you identify a hazard please try to correct the problem or notify those around you that there is something for them to watch out for. We’re all in this together so let’s stay safe.

To wrap things up I wanted to provide some additional information on Hurricane Isaac. By all accounts this hurricane looked to be a small one with low winds that should have lost its punch shortly after making landfall. In reality the storm moved slowly ashore and ended up raining as much as 24 inches or more in many areas in the direct path. This lead to extensive flooding and loss of utilities that affected tens of thousands of people. Many of these people had good plans in place and weathered the storm well. The ones who did not unfortunately saw interviewed on the NEWS way too many times.
What is fluorescence?

Fluorescence occurs when energy from electromagnetic spectrum (which includes radio, microwave, infrared, visible, ultraviolet, x-ray, and gamma rays) cause an item to luminesce. In other words, fluorescence occurs when an object is hit by radiation and it lights up. This occurs with different types of radiation but most commonly with UV radiation. On a molecular level, we see just how the works. Photons (which are tiny light particles) hit the atoms of our object. The atoms speed up as they gain more energy and luminesce.

What is phosphorescence?

Phosphorescence is what powers glow-in-the-dark stuff. It occurs when the object is hit by radiation and retains the energy. This radiation can be any type in the electromagnetic spectrum, but UV and visible are most common for this phenomenon.

Molecularly, this is a pretty amazing process. The photons hit the atoms of our object causing them to speed up and luminesce. Once the photons are no longer hitting the object, its atoms maintain the energy and continue to luminesce.

What are the different types of UV lights?

UV lights are classified by the wavelength of the light which they emit. In the diagram on the right, you can see the types of UV radiation and their corresponding wavelengths.

The most common type of UV light is long wave.

How do you find fluorescent minerals?

There are two main ways to search for fluorescent minerals. The first involves going to a location rich in fluorescent minerals and testing them under UV. The other option is to take a handheld UV light into the field at night and look for what rocks fluoresce.

Creating Fluorescent Minerals: A Kids Activity from the Coquina Kids

Earlier this year, I put out a request. To encourage broader diversity of perspective and ideas within this column, I asked what activities local juniors program leaders have tried with success. What tips, suggestions, and “best practices” might they suggest to help fellow leaders? I noted that I’d love to hear from you and to include a profile of your juniors’ activities and best practices. I’m pleased to report I’ve received my first response! The following comes from Karen Nathan and her Coquina Kids of the Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society in Florida. When I updated and expanded our badge program at the beginning of the year, I included a new unit on Fluorescent Minerals. Karen has been exploring that unit with the Coquina Kids, and suggests the following additional activity for teaching about fluorescence in a fun, hands-on way:

For Halloween this month, our juniors are studying fluorescent minerals. In addition to some education about fluorescent minerals, a video from the Sterling Hill Museum website in New Jersey at http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/visitor/mineralcollect.php, and a display with fluorescent minerals and donated samples, our Coquina Kids are doing an activity that is quick and simple. They are painting simulated fluorescent minerals with glow-paints and then tagging the colors to minerals that cause fluorescence in green, orange, yellow, etc.

Here’s a quick overview. You’ll need the following materials: non-fluorescent rock samples (preferably dark), glow paints from a local craft store (yellow, green, orange, pink, blue), paper plates, sponges cut into small square pieces, recycled applesauce containers (for display and transport home), and a UV light. Plus a bunch of kids! Place a small dab of each glow-paint on a paper plate for a palette. Have kids gently dab sponge squares into the different paints, then onto their rocks. Turn out the lights and use a UV flashlight or a black light to see the newly created fluorescent rocks glow! (Remember SAFETY when viewing with a UV lamp and tell kids not to look directly into the light.) Have kids identify the minerals from a key provided. (Give your kids a printed key listing the following: green = willemite; orange-red, red, pink = calcite; blue = hydrozincite, diopside; powder blue = microcline; yellow = norbegite; pale yellow to blue = scheelite; powellite; violet to purple = hardystonite; orange, yellow & blue = sphalerite.) Remind kids this is a general guide and that colors and minerals may vary.

My thanks to Karen for sharing her activity. This sounds like one neat way of teaching about fluorescent minerals in a hands-on way that’s truly fun!
Quick Tips for Editors

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

(The article below is a reprint from the 12/2007 AFMS Newsletter.)

THEMED ISSUES

Are you having fun editing your newsletter? Have you considered occasionally publishing a themed issue? Maybe something that goes along with a holiday or an issue that looks at one subject from many different perspectives?

We receive a number of exchange bulletins from other clubs, and as I write this it’s not yet Halloween. I can’t help but think of the October newsletter I looked at yesterday – what a treat for the eyes and my sense of humor! The paper was a pleasant orange with a scary-looking Halloween font in black, and the first article I saw was about “devil’s toenails” (a fossil, if that’s not your bag). There were several other clever Halloween-related titles that belonged to rock-related topics, as well as some appropriate clipart. What fun! (And you can still include Federation News and other items required for editors’ contests.)

How about an issue on dinosaurs? Any found in your state? Specimens at a local museum? How about an issue on dinosaurs? Any found in your state? Specimens at a local museum? Or at the clipart on the SCRIBE CDs. Know anyone who has carved a dino out of soapstone? Done any beadwork related to dino? Made dioramas of the Cretaceous or Jurassic periods? Talked to kids’ groups about dinosaurs? Photos of club members on a field trip to a dig or museum?

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. You can take almost any subject and explore the same types of questions I asked/answered above. Voilà! You have a themed issue.

So, are you having fun yet? Are your readers having fun? Let’s make our readers open that newsletter the minute they get it!

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

Committee Chairs

Page 7 shows a list of AFMS committee chairs for the coming year. While most of those who served in 2011-12 continue, there are a few changes.

All-American chair John Washburn has retired after admirable service as chair for the past seven years. He is being replaced by one of his judges – Regina Kapta. Those in the Midwest Federation know Regina well. She’s the wife of current Midwest Vice President and Credentials Chair Tony Kapta, and the current Public Image & Courtesy Chair.

Pam Hecht, the Endowment Fund chair for the past two years has also retired and we wish her well. Her replacement is RJ Harris, immediate past president of the Eastern Federation. RJ is already beginning to accept donations for the 2013 Endowment Fund drawing to be held during the AFMS Convention in Jacksonville, FL this coming September.

The highly successful Web Site Contest also has a new chairperson - Dan Imel who is replacing Cheri George. Dan is the current Eastern Federation webmaster as well as editor of his club bulletin and editor for S.C.R.I.B.E. Dan has plans to implement some minor changes for the coming year. See his article on page 6.

Jim Robinson, AFMS past president (2006) is the new Uniform Rules chair. Jim will preside over the URC meeting at the AFMS Convention in Jacksonville, FL this coming September.

Switching positions this year is past president Lauren Williams who becomes chairman of the Nominating Committee, Past Presidents’ Advisory and Long Range Planning committee as well as the Ways & Means committee.

Contact information for all can be found on page 7 of this issue.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

Here is the listing of upcoming regional federation conventions that we have on the calendar thus far.

While I know that it’s not always possible, please try and avoid conflicts as this puts a burden on AFMS officers and exhibit judges who may wish to attend each of the regional federation conventions.

<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>May 31-June 2</td>
<td>June 1-2</td>
<td>April 6 - 7</td>
<td>August 16-18</td>
<td>May 17-19</td>
<td>August 17-18</td>
<td>Aug 20-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ventura, CA</td>
<td>Plainview, NY</td>
<td>Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>Butte, MT</td>
<td>Sandy, Ut</td>
<td>Bossier City, LA</td>
<td>Jacksonville, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plymouth Mtg, PA</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>Hermiston, OK</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Green River, UT</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I'd like to introduce myself as the new AFMS Web Site Chair. For those of you who don’t know me, I’ve been the editor for SCRIBE, an organization for newsletter editors, for almost 11 years. The editor of my own club newsletter since 1995, the webmaster for the EFMLS since something like 1999 and have been the EFMLS Web Site Chair since the competition moved up to all regions four years ago. Now, enough on credentials… let’s get to the reason I’m writing this.

The AFMS Web Site competition was started in 2009. This is the fourth year of the competition at the American Federation level. The original concept of the competition was started by the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies in order to improve the quality of club websites, increasing the effectiveness of the ever growing world of the internet in attracting new members to our area of interests in the gem, mineral and fossil community and the local clubs and to keep members up to date on current and planned club activities. We wish to thank the SCFMS for their efforts in starting the competition.

Competition is at two levels, as is done with the bulletin editor’s competition. There are regional competitions in all seven regional federations and, new for 2013, the top THREE entries in each region will be forwarded to the AFMS level for judging at the American Federation level. Prior to this, only the top entry from each region was forwarded. I’ve been in contact with the AFMS judge, Wes Lingerfelt, and he and I both agreed that the level of quality of the entries had improved dramatically in the last three years and that it was fairer to include the top three, since scores are frequently very close.

As an example, for my own region, the EFMLS, I had to ask one of the judges to break a tie for first place this year. I had two entries that, when the scores from the two judges were combined, had exactly the same score.

The purpose of the judges at the regional level is to serve as mentors for these various clubs by giving the webmasters encouragement and friendly constructive criticism on what they are doing right and where they need to improve. If the web site is sent to the AFMS level, our AFMS judge, Wes Lingerfelt, will give a more in-depth appraisal of the website. Please encourage your webmaster to enter the competition. While it’s always nice to win first place and receive a plaque, the real purpose it to give feedback to encourage improvements in your club web site that will benefit your club.

How does your webmaster enter? The webmaster needs to download a copy of the following three documents from the AFMS website (www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm) the 2013 Entry Form, the 2013 Score Sheet, and the 2013 Score Sheet Guidelines.

These forms are all fillable PDF files, and can be filled out on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Fill out the one-page Entry Form completely, and fill out the top part of the Score Sheet on both pages. When finished, e-mail both forms to your regional federation contest committee chair no later than your federation’s due date.

The Score Sheet Guidelines document goes through every item on the score sheet and explains what it is and why it’s important. EVERY club webmaster (and every contest judge!) should read the Guidelines document closely. These guidelines can help all webmasters tune up their web site, even if they decide not to enter the contest.

These contest files should be available on your regional federation’s Web site, and they’re also available on the AFMS Web site <www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm>. Make sure you’re downloading the 2013 version of these files. Also make sure that you have installed the most recent version of Adobe Reader so you can change some of your filled-in answers later if necessary. Adobe Reader 10 is available free at <www.adobe.com/products/reader/>.

The first place regional federation winners will receive a plaque, and, in addition, will receive something that is far better than a plaque. The first place winners will each have their entries forwarded to Wes Lingerfelt, the man who is judging at the AFMS level. Wes will give the regional first place winners the benefit of his wisdom, his extensive Web experience, and his knowledge of what works and what doesn’t. He will analyze each of the sites forwarded to him, and he will give useful feedback on what is being done well and how each site can be improved.

Wes has an extensive background. His father was a jeweler for over 50 years so he grew up in that environment. He was in the US Navy for four years, was an aerospace engineer with ITT Corp for 30 years working on ballistic missile systems and multiple telemetry-associated projects—the most recent being a monitor for the U.S. Air Force during new systems development. He is a member of the Orcutt Mineral Society (OMS) of Santa Maria, California and currently is the Treasurer for both the OMS and the CFMS. He is a dealer of handcrafted lapidary products and is a specialist in silver and goldsmith jewelry repairs. In 2002 he was inducted for metal craft into the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame. He developed and maintains his company Web site and the OMS Web site.

Thank you, Wes, for agreeing to participate in our contest, for giving our top three regional winners the benefit of your hard-won wisdom, and for helping us achieve our goal of having rock and gem club Web sites that are as good as they can be. All the contestants participating at the AFMS level will receive a certificate signifying their rank, and the first place winner will also receive an AFMS first place plaque. The top three will also receive animated .gifs for placement on their sites as a symbol of the site’s excellence.

The results of the various regional Webmaster Contests will be announced at the annual meetings of the regional federations during their Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. The results of the AFMS and SFMS Web Site Contest will be announced during the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters during the AFMS Convention this September in Jacksonville, FL.
Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2012-13. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All American Club</td>
<td>Regina Kapta</td>
<td>&lt;cigma at comcast.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
<td>Evelyn Cataldo</td>
<td>&lt;cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td>&lt;editor at amfed.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundaries</td>
<td>Marion Roberts</td>
<td>&lt;myroberts at bigvalley.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td>&lt;editor at amfed.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editors Advisory</td>
<td>Linda Jaeger</td>
<td>&lt;ljgralg at aol.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bylaws Revisory</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td>&lt;central_office at amfed.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Office Administrator</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td>&lt;central_office at amfed.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commemorative Stamps</td>
<td>Wendell Mohr</td>
<td>&lt;wmohr at erols.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and Legislation</td>
<td>John Martin</td>
<td>&lt;afms-conservation at antelecom.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>RJ Harris</td>
<td>&lt;rooqfreq at rjharris.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Investment</td>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td>&lt;silharuir at msn.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
<td>&lt;shirleyleeson at cox.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Bob Jones</td>
<td>&lt;jonesb52 at gmail.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Regional Field Trip</td>
<td>Not yet confirmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges Training Seminar</td>
<td>Dee Holland</td>
<td>&lt;beauholland at centurytel.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Programs</td>
<td>Jim Brace-Thompson</td>
<td>&lt;jbraceth at roadrunner.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Range Planning</td>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td>&lt;silharuir at msn.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name Badges</td>
<td>Frank Mullaney</td>
<td>&lt;rockyfiv at aol.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating</td>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td>&lt;silharuir at msn.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Dee Holland</td>
<td>&lt;beauholland at centurytel.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President’s Advisory</td>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td>&lt;central_office at afmed.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Competition</td>
<td>Marge Collins</td>
<td>&lt;margaret at qtm.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>Ron Carman</td>
<td>&lt;rcarman at centurytel.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Owen Martin</td>
<td>&lt;owenmartin at yahoo.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Consultant</td>
<td>Bob Livingston</td>
<td>&lt;gemguy at verizon.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Rules</td>
<td>Jim Robinson</td>
<td>&lt;&lt;jimhrobinson at att.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URC Eligibility Files</td>
<td>Anne Cook</td>
<td>&lt;secretary at amfed.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ways and Means</td>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td>&lt;silharuir at msn.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website/Webmaster</td>
<td>Marty Hart</td>
<td>&lt;webmaster at amfed.org&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Site Contest</td>
<td>Dan Imel</td>
<td>&lt;lapidry at aol.com&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Scholarship Foundation</td>
<td>Dee Holland, President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(see Judges Training)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lauren Williams, Vice President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruth Bailey, Secretary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**AFMS Newsletter – November, 2012**

**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.

**AFMS Land Use Policy**

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the “Public Image” of recreational collectors.

---

**Change of Officers or Address?**

*by Steve Weinberger, Central Office Administrator*

Has your club elected new officers? Are your President, Editor and either Federation Director (Liaison) or Secretary receiving the AFMS Newsletter each month?

Please let the AFMS Central Office know of any changes in address or club personnel so that we can continue to send you the AFMS Newsletter each month and help you keep informed about important items such as pending legislation, junior activities, safety notes, etc.

Doing so only takes a minute or two via e-mail (central_office@amfed.org).

Unfortunately we are still having too many copies returned to us as “undeliverable” due to people moving or closed post office boxes. Remember that bulk mail does not get forwarded, but we do get assessed 50¢ for every newsletter returned to us by the post office. The only recourse we have when this occurs is to delete the contact from the mailing list --- and sometimes, if all copies are sent to the same address, all copies to a club are removed.

So please, take a moment and let us know the name of your club, and name of the president, editor, federation director or secretary as well as the snail mail address for each.

Keep informed! Keep your club informed!