Always Vigilant!  

by Owen Martin, Safety Chair

In a recent article I mentioned a tactic I sometimes use when conducting safety meetings at work. I mention to the group or class that before I walked into the room I let two five and half foot diamond back rattlesnakes with heads the size of my fist loose on the ground and then closed the door. Then I tell them that they can leave. Everyone thinks I’m joking and yet there is a definite hesitation before anyone starts to get up.

The point being that you should always be vigilant and aware of your surroundings so that those metaphorical snakes don’t reach out strike you.

The discussion exercise that follows is about “safe behaviors” and how we can teach ourselves to recognize hazards in our work environment. Thus we will keep ourselves safer.

In our daily lives most of us have adopted a variety of safe behaviors both in and out of work. Holding the handrail on the stairs, wiping your feet dry before anyone starts to get up.

First things first, speeding home and rolling through stop signs. Something we don’t do in our company trucks! Then on Saturday morning it’s time to weed-eat the lawn, usually in flip flops, shorts and wearing sun glasses. Maybe my favorite is cooking on the stove while barefooted! Nothing like hot oil flying off the stove and landing on top of your foot to ruin a romantic dinner...

AND, we all know how to use PPE (personal protective equipment) and how to keep an eye out for hazards in our workplaces. So I simply want to encourage you to take the same precautions at home as you do at work. Check behind your car before pulling out. Put on safety glasses when mowing. Use ear plugs when using a chainsaw. Use an oven mitt and not a towel when getting something out of the oven. Do these things consciously and yet there is a definite hesitation before anyone starts to get up.

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The Way I See It

by Don Monroe, AFMS President

Some of the messages that I have received lately show me once again that emphasis placed on communication is certainly emphasis placed in the correct spot.

I really do appreciate e-mails, phone calls and letters and wish that I could get a lot more of them. I often feel that one of our shortcomings as a federation is a failure to keep our members informed. As an example I want to tell you about a recent communication from one of my closest friends in AFMS. This person and I had a long discussion about what we should be working on and if we are placing our emphasis in the right place. After we talked a while I called some other folks and we discussed the same issues.

I finally came to the conclusion that many of us need to spend more time reviewing our by-laws and our operating procedures. We have a lot of new people and a lot of people doing new jobs and I am one of them. Almost every day as I talk to our members I see other areas where I need to learn more and, in some cases, need advice from many of you that have been around for a while and can share your experience.

During my short tenure as your president I have concluded the following:
• We have so many good experienced people that we need to consult with regularly.
• Nobody knows it all regardless of how long they have served and in what positions they have served.

To become better we need to communicate and work more closely together. This may sound trite, but I think it is the key.

Don

Endowment Fund News

from R. J. Harris

I’m pleased to announce the addition of two “sellers” for our fabulous Endowment Drawing tickets. They are:

Midwest:  J.C. Moore
  25235 N. IL 97, Cuba, IL 61427
  <JCMoore3rd@gmail.com>

South Central:  John Nash
  737 FM 254 South; Jasper, TX 75901
  <johnnash1937@yahoo.com>

All proceeds from the 2013 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing are deposited in secure, interest bearing accounts. Interest generated from these deposits is used to fund several AFMS programs that benefit our local clubs including the Junior Badge Programs, Judges Training and the Program Library acquisitions.

We’re always looking for additional prizes for the drawing. If you have a piece of jewelry, cabochons, minerals, fossils, books, etc. that you would like to donate, please send your donation to me at:

R.J. Harris
1109 Gunstock Ln
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
<roqfreq@rjharris.com>

Thanks in advance for your donations and for purchasing tickets. The drawing will be held during the AFMS Convention in Jacksonville, FL this coming September.

2013 Judges Training Seminar
by Dee Holland, Chair

Seminar Cancelled!

Due to some unfortunate circumstances, we have cancelled the proposed Judges Training Seminar for 2013. The dates suggested and the hotel expenses were too much to ask participants to bear. It is too late to schedule another location at an earlier date.

Sorry for this setback, but the 2014 Seminar in Ogden, Utah in April is on schedule. More information on this to come at a later date.

If you have any questions, please contact me at <beauholland@centurytel.net>.
A Word From the President-Elect

by Richard Jaeger, President-Elect

Winter is unique time for rockhounding here in Oklahoma. Field trips are questionable because of the weather, which I'm sure is even more true over much of the country. Still, a field trip in winter has its advantages. Vegetation has died down, making rocks and fossils easier to see. Also, one doesn't have to worry about snakes, ticks, mosquitoes, etc. There is certainly plenty to do indoors. It is a good time to concentrate on lapidary, rearrange or photograph collections, plan for shows, or just brush up on literature.

I was interested to read in the February issue of the AFMS Newsletter about the AFMS Endowment Fund. It looks like we're off to a great start with a number of quality items already having been donated for the drawing. I plan on donating an item myself this year and hope that a number of you will do the same. Buying tickets for the drawing is a great way to support efforts in behalf of our hobby.

I was also glad to see so many clubs recognizing members as the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. This is such a wonderful – and easy - way to honor a member of your club. Hopefully many more of you will do so. And, remember, you can recognize junior members as well.

Personally, I am looking forward to attending the Rocky Mountain and South Central Regional Federation Shows as well as the AFMS Show this year. The highlight of the shows for me is visiting with rockhound friends from around the country.

Club Rockhounds

from Evelyn Cataldo, AFMS Chair

Midwest Federation

The Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society is pleased to honor Mary Gahl as our 2012 Rockhound of the Year. Mary actually deserves huge accolades for a lifetime of achievement in promoting rockhound activities. She has served every position the club offers including show chair many times. She has presided, organized field trips, edited the newsletter, prepared 1000's of bags for children's activities. Presently, she is treasurer and actively participates in every club activity. She is a true inspiration and an amazing source of knowledge. We look to her exemplary leadership to lead us into the future.

submitted by Susan Stanford, Secretary

Northwest Federation

The Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club nominates Chuck Borland as our 2012 Rockhound of the Year. He has been a contributing club member for about 40 years. Chuck always provides excellent displays at our annual gem show and for years has given many informative programs at our monthly meetings. He gives valuable advice on field trips which has helped others find interesting specimens, always helps out with an encyclopedic knowledge of rock identification, and is great at pointing out any special feature on others’ specimens. Chuck has a great sense of humor and he has been a real pillar of support for the club.

submitted by John Usher

Updates Wanted

from the AFMS Central Office

By now, most of your clubs have elected and installed new officers for 2013. Unfortunately, the AFMS Central Office does not know who most of these are!

As a result, issues of the AFMS Newsletter may well be mailed to your 2012 officers and as a result, in some cases, you're club is not getting the information that you and your members need.

In addition, undeliverable newsletters are returned to us...at a cost of 50¢ per issue returned! This is truly a waste of money.

Please help us out by sending the name and mailing address of your club officers to the AFMS Central Office (central_office@amfed.org) asap so that we can update the mailing list as quickly as possible.

Thanks for your help.

Plan Ahead!

2013 AFMS Convention & Show

Sept. 18-22, 2013

Jacksonville, FL

Sept. 18 - Uniform Rules
Sept. 19 - AFMS Annual Meeting & Scholarship Foundation Meeting
Sept. 20-22 - Show
Sept. 21 - Awards Banquet
Sept. 22 - Breakfast with Editors & Webmasters

AFMS Newsletter – March, 2013
Quick Tips for Editors

by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Aids Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing the bulletin 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.

Got Bling?

Recently we had just enough rain with temperatures dropping below freezing to put bling on the trees. Driving toward the sun gave me a view of diamonds sparkling on branches and shiny gossamer threads where electrical lines were supposed to be. Looking up at branches interlaced high above the street left me awestruck. But driving away from the sun, the same trees and lines looked bare and lifeless. Same trees, different perspective.

Our bulletins are our bulletins. How can we “drive toward the sun” so everyone can see the bling there?

Some suggestions:
- Add some color photos, clipart, or black and white line drawings, if possible (80% of the population are visual learners).
- If printing hard copy in color is cost-prohibitive, try publishing a color online version that can be e-mailed to members or accessed by them online.
- Remember to use white space— that space around articles that has nothing in it. It sets off the articles to draw attention to them, and it makes it much easier on the eyes.
- Use at least a 12-pt type size that is easy to read.
- Give titles some “pop” by making them active and concise to draw your readers’ interest. (Ask a question, use a “teaser,” make the title ambiguous or outrageous or funny.)
- "Hide" something in your bulletin every issue and run a contest for readers to find it. Recognize winners at a meeting or award a “traveling” silly prize or give a nice prize.
- Use the spell check on your computer AND have another person (not you) do a read-through to catch errors. We all make typos, and after spending hours on a bulletin our eyes just can’t catch everything!
- Include some articles that paint a mental picture for you as you read. (Again, 80% of the population are visual learners.)
- Variety can add spice, too. Can you include something for everyone? Fossils, minerals, lapidary, kids, poetry, tips?

Undoubtedly, many of you have suggestions you can add to these. Bottom line: What’s the perspective on your bulletin? Can readers see the bling there, as if driving toward the sun? Are they awestruck or excited about something each issue?

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

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston, Convention Coordinator

As we move into our Regional and AFMS Convention season, I’d like to thank the various federation committee chairs for keeping me in the loop about their scheduled conventions.

In looking at the schedule for 2014 and 2015, there are still a number of conventions that have not set their convention dates. Please be aware that it’s important to avoid scheduling more than one convention at the same time so that your AFMS President and perhaps other officers can attend.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
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<td>May 31-June 2</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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AFMS/SFMS 2013 Annual Meeting
September 18th-22nd
Sponsored by the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society, Inc
http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org/ A 501(c)(3) not for profit organization

All AFMS and SFMS meetings will be hosted at:
Marriott, Jacksonville, 4670 Salisbury Road
Jacksonville, FL 32256, 904-296-2222 or 1-800-962-9786
(Mention AFMS meeting for $82 room rate. Offer Expires August 5, 2013.) (This rate is good from Sep 15th to 25th)

AFMS Uniform Rules - Wednesday 7pm
AFMS Annual Meeting – Thursday 9am
AFMS Scholarship foundation- After Annual Meeting

You are invited Thursday Night to Hanna Park at the beach. Star Gazing with Northeast Florida Astronomy Society members and Telescopes (Saturn will be spectacular!) Cook out provided by Host society JGMS.

JGMS Annual Show and Sale Starts – Friday 1pm
SFMS Cracker Barrel Meeting – Friday 7pm
SFMS Annual Meeting – Saturday 9am
ALAA Meeting – Saturday 2:30pm
Awards Banquet – Saturday 6pm
Editors and Webmasters Breakfast – Sunday 9am

40+ retail dealers, Fantastic exhibits and speakers from around the country. See the NASA Moon Rock, Lectures on near earth bodies, meteorites, demonstrations, workshops, hourly door prizes, silent auctions and more. Enjoy the Annual Jacksonville Gem Show!!!

Heavens and Earth
Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society,
25th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and Sale
September 20-22, 2013 Morocco Temple
Workshop Opportunities

Several of our regional federations host a variety of workshops where various aspects of our hobby are taught to enrollees. Fees are normally moderate and include lodging and meals plus the opportunity to take one or more classes taught by excellent volunteer instructors. Here is some information that might be helpful for you in planning to attend one or more of these.

Southeast Federation

Associated with the hosting of the AFMS show and convention, SFMS has made special arrangements to schedule their second Wildacres Workshop immediately following the convention. The workshop is scheduled for September 23-29. Check-in will be Monday afternoon with departure after breakfast on the following Sunday. Classes are open to all members of any regional federation club. The cost is $350 per student (double occupancy) and includes room, meals, and instruction.

The Wildacres Retreat is a beautiful facility located on the top of a mountain close to the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. It is an easy one day drive from Jacksonville so you can attend the convention, leave Monday morning, and arrive in time for check-in Monday afternoon.

We will be offering 4½ day classes on the following topics: Cabochons, Casting, Faceting/Open Studio, Fused Glass, Kumihimo, Resin Jewelry, Silver Cold Connection, SilverSmithing, and Wire Wrapping. Additionally, Jay Bowman will be offering a Judging class for people interested in competitive exhibiting. Thursday is a half day of classes with an afternoon visit to Beech Mountain. Field trips are offered for people who do not want to go into town.

Evening hours will offer other educational programs, a really fun campfire on one evening, an auction, and a show & tell on the final evening. Detailed descriptions of each of the classes, registration forms, and information on our other 3 workshops can be found on the Internet at: <www.nwfmws.org/> and click on the Zzyzx or Camp Paradise tabs. Workshops activities will be offered for people who do not want to go into town.

For more information about the workshop and class descriptions, visit the EFMLS web site <www.efmls.org> and click on the Wildacres tab. You’ll find class descriptions and a registration form as well.

California Federation

The CFMS offers two week-long workshops - one in spring starting March 31 at Zzyzx in the Mojave Desert near Baker, California and the other in September at Camp Paradise, located in the Plumas National Forest near Clipper Mills, California.

At Zzyzx many participants bring their RV’s and use them rather than the rustic, dormitory style rooms. All restrooms and showers are located in separate building at the center and are communal. Classes being offered this spring are Lapidary, Beading, Precious Metal Clay, Silver Fabrication, Wire Art, Alternative Casting, Soft Stone Carving, Scrimshaw, Faceting, Field Trips and Knapping.

Tuition for the week is $375 per person ($550 less if you use you own RV) and includes all meals and instruction. As with the Eastern and Southeast workshops, addition materials fees may be charged by the instructors.

Information on the fall workshop at Camp Paradise has not yet been announced, but costs and classes offered should be similar to Zzyzx.

For information on either workshop and application forms, visit the CFMS web site <www.cfmsinc.org/> and click on the Zzyzx or Camp Paradise tab on the left hand side.

Northwest

The Northwest Federation holds a one-week workshop at the Camp Hancock Field Station which is about halfway between Antelope and Fossil, Oregon. The week long workshop costs $270 which includes rustic lodging and all meals. RV camping is available. In addition to the workshop registration, a $45 per person fee is imposed.

Classes being offered this year at Camp Hancock are Lapidary, Basic Faceting, Silversmithing, Intarsia, Wire-wrapping, Beading, Casting and Doublets and Triplets.

For more information about the workshop and a registration form, visit the Northwest Federation web site <http://www.amfed.org/nfms/NwRock-HoundRetreat.asp>

Weather rustic or modern, you will learn a lot at any of these workshops. And, you’ll have lots of fun at the same time in the company of folks who have the same love for the hobby as you have.

Don’t wait though…registration in all is limited.

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 Committees: 2012 – 2013

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.

All American Club
Regina Kapa
<cgmc at comcast.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
<ljalag 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
RJ Harris
<roqfreq at rjharris.com>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson at cox.net>

International Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Inter-Regional Field Trip
Doug True
<dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com>

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

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

Long Range Planning
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland
<beauholland at centurytel.net>

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Greetings, from your new President!

The year is just beginning and ALAA (American Lands Access Association) has had two successful events. First the Annual ALAA meeting in Quartzsite, Arizona. And second, the 1st Annual ALAA/BLM Roadside Clean-up just outside Quartzsite.

ALAA has a new membership chairperson. Colleen McGann of California has taken on the new position of membership. Our Treasurer, Ruth Bailey had been doing both jobs for a number of years and we thought we’d give her a break and cut down her workload. So go to <www.amlands.org> and get your application to join ALAA or just use the one found elsewhere on this page.

It was only a couple of years ago that ALAA was on its last legs. ALAA was tired and worn out. With a new group of gung-ho members we have done great things. But we can’t do it alone so we’re asking you to give us a second chance and re-join. Take a look at our web site (www.amlands.org), it’s awesome. Make it a favorite and check it out frequently. We’re working on a Facebook page and other exciting new ideas as well.

We’ve been working with some off road people who have taken the time to give us a primer in working with the Forest Service and the BLM. If you remember, many of you wondered out loud, why you should join ALAA because most of the public lands were in the west..... If you go to Google and drop in Department of Agriculture “Forest Service” you’ll find there are National Forests in almost all states and it includes National Grasslands. If you happen to have one that you enjoy then you will want to know about the Travel Management Plans for each individual federal forest.

Please don’t confuse them with State Forests, this is a whole other kettle of fish and you have to check your own states for information. I can tell you that in the state of California, most state forests and state parks you are not allowed to collect rocks or anything else.

Watch for an ALAA meeting in the Northwest at Kennewick in April. We’ll have another meeting in California in May.

More on all these exciting meetings and events in the coming issues of AFMS Newsletter. Have questions? Contact me at <president@amlands.org>.

American 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: _________________________________________
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Do you wish to receive the ALAA Newsletter by e-mail _____ or snail mail_______?

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