Take Full Advantage of Resources for Kids

The AFMS offers a free Badge Program via Future Rockhounds of America to help local clubs guide their Pebble Pups and Junior members through 20 areas of our hobby, rewarding them with colorful badges along the way. (See www.amfed.org/ra/ra_badge.htm.) I continue to encourage each and every local society with a Federation affiliation to take full advantage of this free program. It can be used in a group setting during monthly club meetings or to guide individual kids in an independent study or home-schooling sort of way.

But this is far from the only resource available to you! I encourage you to follow the example of Steve Veatch, who oversees juniors in the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club. Steve seeks out and uses every possibility for involving kids. For instance, he encourages them to write articles and poems for publication in their local society newsletters, and many end up in the Rocky Mountain and American Federation bulletin contests. He’s helped his society’s juniors get published in scientific journals and uses other resources, like the National Park Service’s National Fossil Day art contest, science fairs, the Science Olympiad at the University of Colorado, and more.

Like Steve, let’s all seek out every resource available to help fan the interests of kids in our societies. There are the wonderful Diamond Dan activities and publications (www.diamonddanpublications.net), the Mineral of the Month Club, activities via Earth Science Week (www.earthsциweek.org), and more. You’ll also find earth-science related activity books and kits in stores catering to teachers or in mail-order businesses like Edmund Scientifics or Wards. Check ‘em all out—and then, have fun!

Endowment Fund News

I’m extremely sad to report that I have had only three new prizes added to our Endowment Fund Drawing pool this month... and two of them have not yet arrived at my home. All I can tell you about them is that they were donated by AFMS Past President Fred Schaefermeyer. I should have pictures and information next month.

In the meantime, I can share with you a photo of prize #9, a Framed Fossil Fish. Donated by President-Elect Richard Jaeger, it has an estimated value of $100. (RMFMS)

And, we’ve just received prize #14. A clock made from Argentinian Rhodochrosite. Donated by Matt & Jean Charsky, the clock has an estimated value of $100. (EFMLS)

It’s not too late for YOU and YOUR CLUB to donate an item or two to the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing. Just let me hear from you and we’ll discuss how to get your item(s) to me. I’d like to have all donations by May 20th so that they can be publicized in an upcoming AFMS Newsletter and on the AFMS web site.

Please also consider purchasing tickets for the drawing. Cost is $5 each or 5 for $20. All proceeds are deposited in the Endowment Fund account and interest from the funds there is used to fund several programs that benefit you and your club members including the junior badge program and the purchase of video programs that are donated to your federation library.

See the AFMS web site for color photos and a list of the person in each regional federation selling the tickets.

The drawing will be held during the AFMS Convention and Show in Jacksonville, Fl this coming September. You need not be present (but it would be nice to personally give you your winning prize!) to win.
Seven Regional Federations

The AFMS Newsletter – May, 2013

The Way I See It!

by Don Monroe, AFMS President

When I accepted the job as president of the American Federation I really did not know exactly what it would be like. Well, it has been all that I expected and much more. All of what has happened has been good and I have really been surprised by the letters, e-mails and messages that our members have shared with me. Keep them coming! It is really the only way I can know what you are thinking.

Some messages dealt with an issue that is really "close to home". What will happen to our slabs, our equipment, our tools, our books, and our specimens when we are no longer doing the hobby we love? As many of you do, we have "so called mature children" but our offspring really do not have much interest in our hobby. We often encounter situations where our friends and associates are no longer able to continue those activities that have meant so much to them and the disposition of those "things" that have been so important to them are left for others to take care of and, in many cases, dispose of.

I have several times been contacted for suggestions or assistance by relatives of those who have left behind their valuable "stuff". I often do not have a good answer. As a matter of fact my wife and I really do not know what will be the final disposition of our "treasures".

I would like to suggest to each one of you that you please prepare a will or document detailing your desires in this matter. Please don’t dump this problem on your children or surviving relatives. It is not that they will not want to help but, in many cases, they will not know what to do.

Don

A Safety Note: Spring Cleaning!!

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

Down here in the Houston area the weather has started to warm up. Flowers are blooming and bees are buzzing. Similarly many of us have started to do some spring cleaning. Whether in our closets or garages or rock shops keep in mind that there can be many hazards.

Some of the spring cleaning hazards I’ve encountered already this year include:

1. A spilled box of roofing nails. Luckily I saw the box before stepping on one of the nails. On a side note I was barefooted in the garage so “finding” a nail the wrong way would have been quite painful.

2. Spilled pesticides in the garage. This wasn’t much of a problem this time, but concentrated pesticide liquids can release toxic fumes into confined spaces like garages, closets or cabinets.

3. Expired chemicals and deteriorated containers. I was prying the lid off a rusted paint can and the screw driver (wrong tool) went through the lid. Luckily it didn’t go through my hand. My next door neighbor was opening a can of paint thinner and when she opened it the liquid “sloshed” and splashed on her face. Missed her eyes though!

4. Filled up my old weed eater with gasoline and oil and fired it up. Well it wouldn’t start so I set it down in the garage and went out to mow the yard. When I came back to the garage it was filled with gas fumes. Apparently the hose from the fuel tank had gotten brittle over the winter and had broken. All the gas leaked out and filled the garage with stinky and potentially flammable fumes.

5. Moving winter clothes around in the closet... one of the hangers broke and snapped back almost hitting me in the face.

OK - these are just a few hazards I’ve encountered in the past few weeks. I’d encourage you to be careful in your spring cleanups. Good lighting, the “right” tool, proper lifting techniques, use of gloves, safety glasses, boots, etc. And don’t forget to read the labels on your chemicals so that you know how to use them and store them.

Be safe and I’ll talk to you all again soon. Happy Spring!

Don Monroe

AFMS Newsletter – May, 2013
AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

MARY GAHL has been named Rockhound of the Year by the Rock River Gem & Mineral Society of the greater Rockford, IL area. Mary has been a member of the various clubs that have existed in the area since the 1980’s. She took part in the planning to combine the clubs. Mary has served as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Show Chairperson, Newsletter Editor and Treasurer, which she continues as this year. She plans field trips and fills fish pond bags by the hundreds. Mary has shared her knowledge of rocks and minerals with many through the years. She is a true rockhound at heart!

submitted by Wilma
Rock River Gem & Mineral Society

LINDA JOHNSTON, our 2013 Rockhound of the Year. 2012 was a difficult year for the club. Our building had a leaky roof and unresponsive landlord among other problems. Linda stepped up and demanded a change in members and leadership. Due to her take-charge attitude, holding actions were finally accomplished. She formed a Steering Committee to help lead us going forward; and continues to lead the Committee in 2013. Thank you Linda for enriching our Club.

AFMS Newsletter – May, 2013

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.

submitted by Jennifer Rhodes
Director RMGS & CFMS

The Pasadena Lapidary Society is honored to have the remarkable CAROLYN DUNCAN among our members and name her as our Rockhound of the Year. Having developed a love of rocks in her early years, she was frustrated by what she considered “those lying rock maps” and an inability to identify collected specimens.

Upon joining the club and with the help of members, she learned to identify her specimens. She contracted “Rock Fever”! Carolyn became adept at polishing, cabochon making, glass fusion, silver-smithing, wire wrapping, form folding, tube setting and silver fusing. She shares her skills by teaching other club members.

Inspired by his consistent sharing of interests in earth science, the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society is pleased to honor TONY CHARLTON as our Rockhound of the Year. Over the years, Tony has supervised lapidary workshops and given presentations at junior and general membership meetings and for other societies. He has led many field trips and is known for his displays. His fossil, crystal and mineral displays are exceptional. Tony shares at meetings by bringing samples of what he has collected and jewelry he has made. Tony was our Lapidary Chairperson for several years and in 2013 serves on the Board of Directors as 2nd Vice President.

submitted by Bob Graton, President
Here is the latest information I have received on upcoming regional federation conventions. We encourage you to attend as many as possible, but certainly the convention of your federation. All are associated with a show and afford you a chance to visit with friends - both old and new - and get an inside glimpse of how your federation operates and what it does for you and your club members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Ventura, CA</td>
<td>May 31-June 2</td>
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<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Smithtown, NY</td>
<td>June 1-2</td>
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<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Lincoln, NE</td>
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<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Butte, MT</td>
<td>August 9-11</td>
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<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>Sandy, Ut</td>
<td>May 17-19</td>
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<td>South Central</td>
<td>Bossier City, LA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Jacksonville, FL</td>
<td>AFMS Sept. 20-22</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>Plymouth Mtg, PA</td>
<td>March 29-30</td>
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<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
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<td>Hermiston, OR</td>
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<td>Tulsa, OK</td>
<td>AFMS July 9-13</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>AFMS</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 the:
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 1:30pm
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