2014 AFMS Judges Training Seminar Announced

The AFMS is excited to bring you the second “on the road” Judges Training Seminar, beginning Thursday, April 10, 2014 through Sunday, April 13, 2014 in OGDEN, UTAH. This is the last of the authorized seminars to be held. In 2013 there was hope of a seminar, but the dates and prices at the location were far too high to make this an affordable event for attendees.

I think you will be pleasantly surprised to find the Ogden Best Western, High Country Inn has been gracious in giving us the best prices around, for the money. $70. per night for either 2 queens or 1 king, and in addition their ‘on premises’ Jeremiah’s restaurant where the seminars will be held in their conference room will astound you with their meals. They will be providing us with lunch on both Friday and Saturday and that is included in the price of the seminar, $30. BUT, if you want to try their ‘best in the west’ pork ribs or their famous ‘deep dish pies’ feel free. (they are also offering take home to your clubs. An interest in competitive exhibits is growing, be part of the solution. You must have a copy of the 2014 AFMS Rulebook. You can download a copy from the AFMS web site (www.amfed.org) or purchase one from your regional federation supply chair. The updated copy will be available after January 1.

A registration form for the seminar can be found on page 8 of this issue.

Questions? Contact me at <beauholland@centurytel.net> and/or <shirleyleeson@gmail.com>.

2014 Endowment Drawing Kickoff

Greetings from Cuba, Illinois. In case you aren’t familiar with Cuba, we are located just about 25 miles north of Havana (Illinois) in West Central Illinois. I am the AFMS Endowment Fund Chairman for this year. My husband and I were sitting at breakfast during the AFMS Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, and we were joined by Richard Jaeger. I didn’t realize he still had chairmanships to fill. Since my husband, J.C. Moore, is Third Vice-President, we will be going to the convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, next year, so I agreed to give the endowment chairmanship my best effort.

Most of the representatives from the various federations have agreed to again sell tickets for the AFMS Endowment drawing and try to locate some donations for the prizes. I have urged them to get helpers throughout their federations so more of our territory can be covered. I am looking for someone to sell tickets in the Rocky Mountain Federation. The ones who have agreed to sell tickets so far include:

- California Federation
  Colleen McGann
  P.O. Box 224, Santa Clara, CA 95052
  <Colleen.mcgann@hds.com>

- Eastern Federation
  Carolyn Weinberger
  P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
  <editor@amfed.org>

continued on page 3
The AFMS
Proudly Serving
Seven Regional
Officers:

President
Richard Jaeger
<rgnsci@aol.com>

President-Elect
Marion Roberts
<mroberts@bigvalley.net>

1st Vice President
Matt Charsky
<matt2430@comcast.net>

2nd Vice President
Ann James
<amariann113@yahoo.com>

3rd Vice President
J.D. Moore
<jmoore3rd@gmail.com>

4th Vice President
Doug True
<dttruefossils12@yahoo.com>

5th Vice President
Ann Monroe
<annmonroe@windstream.net>

Secretary
Anne Cook
<floatat amfed.org>

Treasurer
Pat LaRue
<plarue@earthlink.net>

Communication is important at all levels in any organization and our rockhound hobby is no exception. The Internet and cell phones have made better communication easier and less expensive to achieve. The newsletters of the AFMS, the regional federations, and the local clubs have always served as the basic means of sharing information. At the local level, clubs used to have telephone committees to pass on important news that could not wait for the next newsletter. Today, much of that is done via e-mail but we shouldn’t forget that many of us have members who don’t use e-mail.

I would hope that each club has someone, or soon will have someone, who maintains a group e-mail list of club members. Information such as changes in meeting times or field trips, rock sales and swaps, member concerns, or other news and events can thus easily be passed on. A telephone committee can still be used for those members who don’t have e-mail. News from other area clubs can also be passed on. For example, in Oklahoma, we just had two clubs which sent out an e-mail inviting members of other clubs to attend one of their field trips.

It is desirable to have a section in club bulletins that summarizes information contained in your Regional Federation and AFMS Newsletters. Many club members have little idea of the roll these organizations serve for the betterment of our hobby.

In the past, most clubs received a few exchange bulletins from other clubs. Generally, those were probably seen just by the club newsletter editor and maybe the club president. Now, those newsletters can be forwarded to the whole club membership. Hopefully, we can increase the number of the exchange bulletins being sent this way, and form a closer link between clubs in our region and around the country.

Finally, the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society is looking forward to hosting the AFMS Show on July 11-13, 2014. Plans are well along the way and information should be available on the AFMS Website (Amfed.org) in the near future. Hope to see many of you there next summer.

Since this is the last AFMS Newsletter before the holidays, let me wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a prosperous, healthy and happy new year.

Richard

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

Using Your Entire Village to Help the Kids

Thora Trumbo, Junior Club Leader of the Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club in Washington e-mailed earlier this fall asking me to write an article about the need for more adult club members to be involved in activities and events aimed at encouraging our next generation of rockhounds. As she puts it, whether they realize it or not, each and every club member has something special they can (and should) contribute to their junior members—and not just leftover materials from their rock piles or workshops (although such materials are certainly welcomed and appreciated).

I’m going to quote a paragraph I wrote in the Introduction to the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Manual in a section discussing how to put together a juniors group: “Capitalizing on your existing pool of talent. Every successful youth group I’ve observed has one ‘champion’—one committed individual who brings it all together and ‘makes it happen.’ But don’t depend on just one person. It’s hard to find someone who knows everything about every facet of rockhounding, but in most clubs you find an amazingly diverse storehouse of individual knowledge. One person has an intense love of fossils, another is an expert cab crafter, another has an amazing mineral collection. Start by identifying adults within the ranks of your club’s members and their individual strengths. Then gather commitments! Just one member a month committing to help with a presentation or activity will carry you through your first year. Make it clear that this needs to be a club commitment, not the project of any single individual.”

Again, each and every one of us adult club members has something to offer: rocks or fossils (carefully labeled to say what they are and where they came from), lapidary tricks and advice, a story or photo...
Endowment Drawing

continued from page 1

So far, these are the donations that have been made for the 2014 drawing:

1. A framed Fossil Fish. The framed piece measures approximately 12” x 12”. Donated by AFMS President Richard Jaeger, it has an estimated value of $100. (RMFMS).

2. A Mosasaur Tooth from Khouribga, Morocco donated by MWF immediate past president Dennis Westman. This was obtained on his recent trip to Morocco. The tooth has an estimated value of $50. (MWF)

3. A page of mineral stamps donated by Barbara Sky, MWF Uniform Rules Chairman. The estimated value of this page is $40. (MWF)

4. A Montana Agate that is also a limb cast. This specimen was donated by Jim and Sharon Marburger, Vice President and Newsletter Editor of the MWF. It is an estimated valued of $75. (MWF)

5. A calcite cluster. This specimen was donated by Jim and Sharon Marburger, MWF. It has an estimated value of $20. (MWF)

6. Two 2 pound Float Coppers, a metal tag from the last operating copper mine in the UP and a stock certificate. Donated by Pam Hecht, MWF Past President and former AFMS Endowment Chairman. The donation has an estimated value of $65. (MWF).

There are promises for a few more donations, but I could really use even more to make the pot for the drawing bigger. The list will be updated as I receive items or photos. If you would be interested in donating an item for the drawing, please contact your federation representative or me. We will need a good photo of the item so it can be shown in the AFMS Newsletter and on the website. The item can then be sent to me or brought to the AFMS Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tickets will be drawn before the banquet on July 12, 2014. Winners will be announced at the banquet.

Please support the people who will be selling tickets in your federation. This money goes toward the AFMS Endowment Fund. The interest from monies raised from the Endowment Fund is used for AFMS special projects — the juniors badges, prizes for the program contest copies of which are sent to each federation at no charge, the judges training program, digitizing the old slide programs etc. All seven federations participate in this.

Anyone who has an item to donate can mail it to me at Donna Moore, 25235 N. State Route 97, Cuba, IL 61427. Questions can be directed to my e-mail at <mwfsecretary@gmail.com> or my phone 309-789-6501.

Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international goodwill and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Address corrections and changes
Subscription Information
Distribution Questions

Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

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All changes and questions should be sent to:
AFMS Central Office
Steve Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926
cestical_office@amfed.org

Content – Letters
Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor:
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Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e. April 1 for the May issue)

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Conservation & Legislation

by Dr. Mike Nelson, Chair

I was recently appointed by President Richard Jaeger to Chair the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee. At first I debated on accepting the position since land management issues are often contentious among members of rock and mineral clubs. However, I decided to give it my best shot since these issues have long interested me and I serve on both the Kansas and Colorado Public Lands Advisory Committees (as well as International Relations) of the Rocky Mountain Federation. I enjoy the outdoors and love to collect, hike, camp, travel and fish. In addition, I have a passion for writing and editors are kind enough to accept my monthly columns in the Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletter, the Colorado Springs Pick & Pack, and occasional articles in a couple of out-of-state club newsletters. I also enjoy my blog at <www.csmgeologgypost.blogspot.com>. Readers may always contact me at <csrockguy@yahoo.com>.

Lands that are owned/managed by "the government" fall into numerous categories and cannot be lumped together by rockhounds looking for legal places to collect minerals and fossils. The land owners/managers range from the U.S. federal government to states, counties, municipalities, and smaller entities. It seems all have their own particular idiosyncratic collecting rules and it is almost impossible for the rockhound to sort out the regulations as they vary from state-to-state and among the federal agencies. Unfortunately, regulations often vary within a single agency (at least according to their web sites).

The federal government manages several hundred thousand acres of land in the states and in some western states is the major land owner (e.g. Nevada “86%”). The collection of fossils and minerals on these lands has been a source of contention and confusion for many years. Rockhounds want to know "what can I collect, is there a limit on amounts I can collect, and are there some areas off limits to collecting"? In this monthly column I hope to explore the answers to these questions as well as provide timely updates on proposed legislative/congressional actions under consideration. Of course I could use much help from the readership about agency actions in their respective states/areas. I hope this column will have an educational slant as I prefer to work with people and agencies as defined in the 9th point of the AFMS Land Use Policy: 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.

The two largest federal management agencies in the western states are the United States Forest Service (in the Department of Agriculture) and the Bureau of Land Management (in the Department of Interior). The two largest federal management agencies in the western states are the United States Forest Service (in the Department of Agriculture) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The BLM is a major land stakeholder in 10 western states and Alaska. At my last count, the Agency administered ~258 million acres of public land. In my home state of Colorado the BLM manages ~8.4 million acres, including several components of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) -- created in 2000 to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized for their cultural, ecological and scientific values. NLCS areas are congressional or presidentially designated and include: Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, and National Scenic and Historic Trails. In addition to NLCS lands there are other BLM special land designations such as Special Recreation Management Areas, Travel Management Areas, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. In Colorado about one million acres of BLM land is designated as being a part of the NCLC (about one-eighth of total BLM acreage).

In the BLM-managed lands in Colorado, in general, rockhounding is allowed except on developed recreation sites, special management areas, or where otherwise prohibited and posted. The Colorado rules are:

- Mineral specimens, precious and semiprecious gemstones, petrified wood, common invertebrate and plant fossils may be collected on public lands without charge or permit in reasonable amounts as long as the specimens are for personal use and not collected for sale or barter to commercial dealers. For rocks (such as decorative rock), a reasonable amount is defined as the maximum amount which one person can fit in a 5-gallon container in one day.

- For petrified wood, a reasonable daily amount is 25 pounds plus one piece that one person can remove, with a maximum amount of 250 pounds removed in one calendar year. Pooling of quotas to obtain pieces heavier than 250 pounds is not allowed.

- Invertebrate fossils are the remains of animals without skeletal structures such as insects, crabs, clams, and snails. Vertebrate fossils, which include dinosaurs, mammals, sharks, and fish, or any animal with a skeletal structure, cannot be collected without a special collecting permit.

- Collection and removal cannot be assisted with motorized or mechanized equipment.

- No undue or unnecessary degradation of the public lands is allowed during the removal of rocks, minerals, gemstones, or fossils.

- Other rules and restrictions may be in effect in a particular area. Always check with the local BLM Field Office Web site by phone or personal visit. To avoid trespassing, rockhounds should check with local BLM field offices for locations of existing mining claims.

All of this seems rather straightforward but there will remain a myriad of unanswered questions that will be explored in future columns: are reasonable amounts the same on all BLM-managed lands; can rockhounds drive to all collecting sites; can a rockhound sell collected minerals; can rockhounds purchase decorative rocks; what should a rockhound do if a vertebrate fossil is discovered; will the BLM attempt to institute new rules and curtail the intent of the OPLMA for rockhounds collecting fossils; how does the BLM "post" restrictions on collecting; how can rockhounds become more involved with the BLM?

Until next month, Mike.

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Junior Activities
continued from page 2

album from a club field trip of long ago, a special collection for a show-and-tell, or even just an individual stone cut for a special occasion. If your club has separate junior/member meetings, encourage each adult member to drop in on occasion and keep up with their juniors. To spark your junior’s interest, show interest in them. The more adults invest in the kids, the more the kids will invest back in your club both now and, hopefully, in later life when we’ll be depending on them to keep our hobby alive and vibrant.

One of our most recent badge units in the AFMS/FRA Badge Program is “Reaching Across Generations,” which encourages clubs to pair senior and junior members for sharing and mentoring opportunities. This badge and its activities were developed by none other than a junior member: Erica Nathan of the Coquina Kids in Florida. Senior member John Withey of their host club, the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society took the time and interest in Erica and other junior members to share his wealth of knowledge, experience, and fun stories. When he passed away, the memories of him lived on, inspiring Erica to craft the “Reaching Across Generations” badge in his honor.

You, too, can make such a lasting impression in the eyes of a child. And who knows? Along the way, you may find your long-dormant inner child—and even end up having fun!
Time is flying by and the end of the year is rapidly approaching. All clubs, please take a few minutes and send in your AFMS Rockhound of the Year for 2013. Send your entries to your Federation Chairperson and he/she will forward them to me for publication.

Federation Chairpersons: My computer crashed in September. If you sent me an entry during the first two weeks of September and you do not see your entry published below, please resend the submittal to me.

Thank you and congratulations to our following Rockhounds of the Year.

**AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year**

*From Evelyn Cataldo, Chair*

The club’s major events such as the annual Spring Bling show and the Solano County Fair. During these events and throughout the year, Maggie tirelessly commits to communicating with club members; bringing people together to volunteer. You will find Maggie always on the go and at the wheel; driving events to success. In 2013, Maggie has been a true leader and volunteer; willing and readily available to help in just about everything. If Maggie says she will do it or will be there, she keeps her commitment. In her spare time, you will often find Maggie tapping into her creativity via her love of beading of necklaces, bracelets and rings.

*submitted by Marcia*

**Eastern Federation:**

The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse is pleased to select **Dick Lyons** for our 2013 Club Rockhound of the Year. Dick’s fairness, dedication and patience have well served the club with positions on the Board of Directors and then as Vice-President and President. Dick’s dedication to and promotion of our field trips has been outstanding. He has gathered trip ideas and freely shared those ideas and locations with other clubs, and via his monthly newsletter columns. With our hosting of the 2011 AFMS/EMFLS convention Dick’s organizing skills came to the fore with the successful event. Our ACROY has dedicated many hours to our clubhouse relocation and it’s upgrade. His perseverance has also well served the club in finding its new show location. For all his dedication to the club and his behind the scenes work, we are pleased to call Dick Lyons our 2013 Club Rockhound of the Year.

*submitted by Cathy Patterson*

**California Federation:**

The San Gorgonio Mineral and Gem Society designated **Loretta Rinaldi** as our 2013 Rockhound of the Year. President Bert Grisham writes, “I have known Loretta for 22 years. She is the most dedicated, hard-working person I have ever met. She comes early to every meeting to get the room ready, making coffee, setting out supplies, receiving the food and keeping it warm; and then stays to clean up and put everything away. She comes to Indio, California and keeping it warm; and then stays to clean up and put everything away. She comes to Indio, California and keeping it warm; and then stays to clean up and put everything away. She comes to Indio, California and keeping it warm; and then stays to clean up and put everything away.”

*submitted by Evan Day*

**Northwest Federation:**

The Spokane Rock Rollers honor **Mike Shaw** as our 2013 Rockhound of the Year. Mike donates countless hours to the Spokane Rock Rollers. This year he served as First Vice-President and Show Board Chairman in addition to Field Trip Committee Chair and Workshop Supervisor. Mike maintains all equipment, as he has for many years. Mike quickly ad happily assists all members and prospective members with answers to questions regarding equipment usage and rock-hounding skills. His special skills include traveling demonstrations to school and scout groups. Mike’s contributions have made 2013 a successful and fun year. Thank you Mike!

Blaine and Kay Berry are members of the Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society and are our Rockhounds of the Year for 2013. Kay joined in 1970, becoming thoroughly involved. Blaine joined in 1988, following their marriage. He loved camping but it took him four years to really enjoy rock hunting. He told everyone he was Kay’s “Pack Mule”, but once the “Rock Pox” bug bit him, he was hunting with the best of them. They have been Field Trip Leaders for over 15 years. Both have been Board Directors, served on Gem Show committees and teach rock education classes at schools. Kay has served as President and all offices except Treasurer. She has been Program and Membership Chair, presented programs, and taught silversmithing classes. She was Bulletin Editor for four years and won awards from the NFMS and AFMS. She served as a Competition Judge and a Judge for the CFMS newsletter contest. Blaine served as Vice-President, faithful supporter and donated rocks for the show.

*submitted by Frank Mullaney*

**The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society honors Raul Barraza and Maria Flores (a couple) as our 2013 Rockhounds of the Year. Raul and Maria are enthusiastic members, helping out with our club in many ways. Both regularly attend our monthly membership meetings and participate in our monthly Workshop Day at he clubhouse. As our CFMS Show approached, Raul helped tremendously with the publicity. After our CFMS Show, we received the following note from the Co-chair of the Kids Booth: “Paul and Maria need extra kudos. They were there at the Kids Booth the whole time, all three days and did several jobs.” Most recently, they volunteered to help in whatever ways may be needed with the Gem & Mineral Division at the Ventura County Fair. Raul and Maria go above and beyond helping our club, they deserve to be our Club Rockhounds of the Year.

*submitted by Robert Sankovich, President*

It is our pleasure to proclaim Herb Beckman of the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society of Anaheim to be our Rockhound of the Year 2013. Over his many years with our club, Herb has served as President, First Vice-President, Director and chaired more committees than anyone could count. At our annual show, Herb shares his love for the beauty of cabochons and the lapidary arts. But what Herb has done that creates a warm place in each of our hearts is teach generations to cut rocks and create cabochons. Herb is truly a perfectionist when it comes to creating cabochons. He has been running our shop for many years freely giving his time nearly every Thursday night and Saturday afternoon. Herb enthusiastically shares his knowledge of gems and minerals including collection locations. Herb is truly an ambassador for rockhounding to everyone he meets and for this reason he is our Rockhound of the Year.

*submitted by Kim Campbell Erb*


Happy Holidays

Happy Hanukkah
What Every Club Should Know About Tax Status!
by Jon Spunaugle, retired IRS Tax Specialist and Instructor

In addition to his work with the IRS, Jon is a Past President of the Northwest Federation and Treasurer of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

Tax issues, like all aspects of the U.S. Tax Code, are complex and getting more so by the year. This is true for Rock Clubs and Societies, as it is for individuals and businesses.

“Non Profit” vs “Exempt Organization”

First of all we need to separate state tax situations from federal tax situations and designations. Most, if not all, AFMS member Clubs & Societies are likely “non-profit” organizations in their respective States. This generally means they are not subject to the taxes levied in their States and may have certain exemptions from tax in their State and perhaps other benefits. Also recognize that since I am not qualified to talk about various State Laws, Accountants, Attorneys and State Officials are the best source of information in this area. In the area of Federal Tax Law, I am IRS trained and generally knowledgeable about the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules and regulations regarding “exempt organizations”.

“Incorporation”

I would assume that most “Rockhound” organizations have filed corporate forms with their respective States and are “corporations” incorporated in their State. If not, they likely should consider it in order to have liability protection as well as non-profit recognition in their State. I think it best to see an attorney in your state, if you are not incorporated and need to file the papers with your State, though a competent member of the club may get the forms and do the filing. Very small clubs may not need to go to the expense of incorporating.

“Tax Identification Number”, TIN.

Very likely the rock club/society has also obtained a Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN) which is a 9 digit number (xx-xxxxxx) assigned by the IRS upon receiving an application or form requesting the number. All banks require this number from the club/society when they open a club/society bank account. An IRS TIN number, if needed, can be obtained from the IRS web site <www.irs.gov>

“Exempt Organization” status with the IRS

Generally, to be recognized by the IRS as an “exempt organization” a club or society must file a form requesting “exempt” status. However, if the organization’s annual revenue is not more than $5,000 and continued revenue is less than the prevailing threshold, they were not required to file the form, but did have to follow the rules and regulations of a 501(c)(3) organization. When the form was filed, the IRS would process the required applications and send back a “Letter of Recognition” informing the club/society/Federation, of the application approval for 501(c)(3) “Charitable” or “Educational” or “Religious” Organization, or a 501(c) 4, “Social Welfare Organizations”; or a 501(c)(7) “Social and Recreational Club” Organization. Therefore, it is not a surprise if a small club or society does not have a “Letter of Recognition” in its files if its gross annual income including dues, has remained below the $5,000 threshold. There is a IRS fee for obtaining the determination letter. (see IRS Form 8718).

It is also important to know that the IRS, some years ago, sent out a request to the last known address of all the Exempt Organizations on its records requesting a information form be filed. In instances where no information form was received or filed, the IRS canceled the exempt status of the organization. It is not surprising that address issues and mail forwarding problems led to many Rock Clubs not receiving this notice.

Any rock clubs that are uncertain of their status with the IRS can write or call the IRS to learn their current status. Needed in the letter or call is the TIN number and the club name and address. The inquiry should be made by a current club officer. The phone number is (800) 829-5500. The mailing address to use is Internal Revenue Service, TE/GE, EO Determinations Office, PO Box 2508, Cincinnati, OH, 45201. If a letter of Recognition was issued, a copy of that form would also be helpful. Also the IRS web site <www.irs.gov> has a search engine where you can put in the Club/Society TIN, official name, and state location and possibly find your organization. However, don’t panic if you can’t find it in this IRS Publication 78 search engine. The information you put in must match exactly for it to verify.

Difference between 501(c)(3) and other designations under IRC 501(a)

Perhaps the most important and perhaps singular difference between the 501(c)(3) Charitable or Religious or Educational Organizations and the other designations, is that donations and dues to these Exempt 501(c)(3) Organizations may be tax deductible in a donors tax return. In all other 501(a) designated organizations, only non-tax deductible donations can be made, i.e., 501(c)(4) Civic Leagues and Social Welfare Organization; and 501(c)(7) Social and Recreational Clubs. There are several other types of Exempt Organizations but they do not, by definition, fit the general activities of Rock Clubs, Societies or Federations and won’t be discussed here.

We have discussed a lot of information, so I suspect this is enough for the first installment. We looked at some definitions, tax status and other important issues for Rock Clubs and Societies to understand in this article. In my next article I will deal with the acceptable and unacceptable activities of Rock Clubs and Societies, when Federal tax and information returns must be filed, and when they are due, and where you can find help on exempt organization questions.

To be continued in the next AFMS Newsletter

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston, AFMS Coordinator

Here’s the latest information I have on upcoming Regional Federation Conventions. Once your Federation selects a date and location, please be certain to forward that information to me for inclusion on the calendar.

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<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>
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<td>May 30 - June 1 Pomona, CA</td>
<td>March 29-30 Plymouth Mts, PA</td>
<td>Oct. 18 - 19 Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>August 15-17 Hermiston, OK</td>
<td>AFMS July 9 - 13 Tulsa, OK</td>
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<td>May 23 – 24 Wheaton, IL (Chicago area)</td>
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<td>Sept. 14-16 Placerville, CA</td>
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## AFMS Committees: 2013–2014

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>
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<tr>
<td>All American Club</td>
<td>Regina Kapta</td>
<td>cigmc at comcast.net</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
<td>Evelyn Cataldo</td>
<td>cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com</td>
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<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td>editor at amfed.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boundaries</td>
<td>Bob Carlson</td>
<td>illegitimusnoncarborundum at inbox.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td>editor at amfed.org</td>
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<td>Bulletin Editors Advisory</td>
<td>Linda Jaeger</td>
<td>jjgralg at aol.com</td>
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<td>Bylaws Revisory</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td>central_office at amfed.org</td>
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<td>Central Office Administrator</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td>central_office at amfed.org</td>
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<td>Commemorative Stamps</td>
<td>Wendell Mohr</td>
<td>wmoohr at erols.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation and Legislation</td>
<td>Mike Nelson</td>
<td>csockguy at yahoo.com</td>
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<td>Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Financial Investment</td>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td>slharuir at msn.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
<td>shirleyleson at cox.net</td>
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<td>Inter-Regional Field Trip</td>
<td>Doug True</td>
<td>dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com</td>
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<td>Judges Training Seminar</td>
<td>Dee Holland</td>
<td>beauholland at centurytel.net</td>
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<td>Junior Programs</td>
<td>Jim Brace-Thompson</td>
<td>jbraceth at roadrunner.com</td>
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<td>Long Range Planning</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
<td>donmonroe at windstream.net</td>
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<td>Name Badges</td>
<td>Frank Mullaney</td>
<td>rockyfiv at aol.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominating</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
<td>donmonroe at windstream.net</td>
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<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Ron Carman</td>
<td>rrcarman at centurytel.net</td>
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<td>Past President’s Advisory</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
<td>donmonroe at windstream.net</td>
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<td>Photography</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td>central_office at amfed.org</td>
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<td>Program Competition</td>
<td>Marge Collins</td>
<td>margaret at qtm.net</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
<td>Ron Carman</td>
<td>rrcarman at centurytel.net</td>
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<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Bob Jones</td>
<td>jonesb52 at gmail.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Ellery Borow</td>
<td>207-547-3154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Show Consultant</td>
<td>Bob Livingston</td>
<td>gemguy at verizon.net</td>
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<td>Uniform Rules</td>
<td>B. Jay Bowman</td>
<td>bjbowman at wildblue.net</td>
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<td>URC Eligibility Files</td>
<td>Anne Cook</td>
<td>secretary at amfed.org</td>
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<td>Ways and Means</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
<td>donmonroe at windstream.net</td>
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<td>Website/Webmaster</td>
<td>Marty Hart</td>
<td>webmaster at amfed.org</td>
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<td>Web Site Contest</td>
<td>Dan Imel</td>
<td>lapidry at aol.com</td>
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<td>AFMS Scholarship Foundation</td>
<td>Dee Holland, President</td>
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<td>Richard Jaeger, Vice President</td>
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<td>Cheri George, Secretary</td>
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<td>Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer</td>
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AFMS Judges Training Seminar Registration

Thursday April 10 – Sunday, April 13, 2014
Ogden, Utah, Best Western High Country Inn
1335 W. 12th Street, Ogden, UT 84404-5417
Phone: 801-394-9474 FAX 801-392-6589
Deadline: March 25, 2014

This program/seminar is for judges and exhibitors, sponsored by the AFMS
This is the last of three authorized seminars to be held in different Regions each year, and set up
in conjunction with a local club and their show. In 2014 at the AFMS meeting in Tulsa, I will ask for an
extension of this program.

Please fill out the application below and return to:
Dee Holland, AFMS Judges Training Chair
P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________________

CITY ____________________________________________STATE_____________

ZIP________________

EMAIL______________________________________________________________________________

REGIONAL FEDERATION_________________________________________________________________

CLUB/SOCIETY _______________________________________________________________________

DIVISION YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
OPEN_______   MINERAL_______   LAPI DARY_______   JEWELRY_______   EDUCATION_______

FOSSIL_____   PETRIFIED WOOD_______  SCRIMSHAW_______  BEADING_______   UV_______

YOU MUST HAVE AN AFMS RULES BOOK, updated to 2014

CLASS SCHEDULE
Thursday evening, 7pm:   Welcome at Hotel, High Country Inn
Friday & Saturday 9 – 5:  CLASSES (Lunch on Premises at Jeremiah’s)
Sunday Morning 9am:  Weber County Fairgrounds, 100 North 1200 West, Ogden, UT
Evaluation of exhibits:   Evaluation of the program immediately following

There is a $30.00 charge for the class for everyone and  includes lunch Friday and Saturday.
Checks payable to:  Dee Holland and this must accompany the registration

If you are staying at the hotel, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATION
Two Queen or One King room, $70. including tax, etc per night
Tell hotel it is the AFMS Judges Training Seminar.

I’m bringing an exhibit for evaluation_______

Clearing Up Misconceptions
by Shirley Leeson, President

At the recent meeting of AFMS in Jacksonville, Florida I had several people come to me and say “we’d like to
belong to ALAA but we don’t want to risk losing our non-profit
status.” Our past ALAA
president, Jon Spunaugle will address this confusing issue
in the series of articles
in the coming issues of the AFMS Newsletter.

I want to make this crystal clear, ALAA does not
support members of Congress from either party,
nor candidates for those offices. Our interest is in
keeping access to public lands open and making
sure those lands are multiple-use for all. If we ask
you from time to time to write YOUR legislature, and
offer you a sample letter as example of what
is needed, this is not lobbying.
At the Jacksonville meeting ALAA launched a
membership drive, giving all Officers, and Chairmen, and many in the audience of both the AFMS
and Southeastern meetings, the 3rd Quarter ALAA
Newsletters and our new ALAA brochure. It is
hoped all will take them back to their respective
regions and clubs and promote ALAA.

With that out of the way I’d like to ask you to
put the following events on your 2014 calendar:
Starting with the ALAA Quartzsite meeting, Friday
January 24, 7pm at the Quartzsite Alliance Church,
720 West Desert Vista.

The Second Annual ALAA Desert Clean-up will
be Sunday morning 8am – 12 noon at Gold Nugget
Road, exit 26 going east on I-10. Bring: Sturdy shoes
and gloves, sun hat, long broom handle with nail
to pick up trash under bushes.

We will have a booth and meetings at the fol-
lowing regional shows:
–California – Pomona, California May 30 – June 1
–Rocky Mt/AFMS Tulsa, Oklahoma July 9 – 13
–Northwest – Hermiston, Oregon August 15 – 17
–AFMS Inter-Regional Field Trip, Terry MT – July
31 – Aug 3. ALAA will have a road clean-up on one
of the days during this event.

We are working on some very interesting and
important ideas that we will bring forth in the com-
ing AFMS Newsletters.

Join us on any and/or all of these events. It’s
exhilarating to be involved.

Shirley Leeson, ALAA
<president@amlands.org>
P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468