Call for Entries – All American Club Yearbook!

by Regina Kapta, AFMS Chair

Bonus points now included!

The All American Club Award is given to the individual club Yearbook, reflecting a club’s activities for the past year and credits group activities as well as individual member participation in committees, workshops, and shows. Credit is given for attendance at regional and national shows, participation at meetings, holding office positions on various committees, writing to state representatives, and involvement in ALAA; all these activities create an active club that makes membership worthwhile for everyone. The AACA awards are recognition of these activities, with bronze, silver and gold levels and an overall 1st place gold award.

This year, we’ve highlighted some member activities that will add bonus points in addition to the regular activities usually counted. Participation in the Competitive Display or the Website Competition are eligible for bonus points, and these are also awarded for club members performing as Judges for either the Competitive Display or Website Competition.

Use this February and March as an opportunity to look at what your club has accomplished this past year, pulling in all activities that bring club members together. The more members contribute to the yearbook, the more completely it can serve members together. The more members contribute, the higher the club can rank.

This year’s All American Club Yearbook is on the AFMS web site and also in this newsletter issue on page 10. What does this mean for you? It means that the AACA award is available to club members for their Yearbook entries. The AACA award can help your club rise to a higher place on the membership table, add bonus points to your Yearbook, and as an historical document for the club, as well as an entry in the AFMS contest.

The deadline for entry in the AFMS contest is April 15, 2014. A copy of the Entry Form for year 2013 is on the AFMS web site and also in this newsletter issue on page 10.

What Every Club Should Know About Tax Status (part 2)

by Jon Spunaugle

Even though “Exempt Organizations” generally do not have to pay Federal taxes, there are some circumstances where information returns must be filed annually, and even a few instances where a tax must be paid and Tax forms are filed with the IRS. “Taxes and Tax Return Filing Requirements” imposed on § 501 (a) Exempt Organizations. The current threshold for filing an annual Federal Informational Return is currently (in 2013) gross income of $50,000 or more. Gross income includes: member dues, fund raising activities, donations and any other revenue (including investment and rental income) during the tax year of the Organization. This does not mean a tax is necessarily due, but information about the income and the organization must be filed with the IRS. The form used is usually one of the IRS series, Form 990. It can be as simple as a electronic post card (Form 990 N), or complex as a multpage paper Form 990. If an informational return is due it must be postmarked, or filed, by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the Exempt Organizations business year. Even though most income is not taxable, there are (as always with taxes) some exceptions. In the case of Exempt Organizations there is a possible TAX on “Unrelated Business Income”. The IRS in its Publication 598 “Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations” states it as follows: “...if an exempt organization regularly carries on a trade or business not substantially related to its exempt purpose, except that it (the activity) provides funds to carry out that purpose, the organization is subject to tax

continued on page 4
From My Desk to Yours

by Richard Jaeger, President

I hope that all of you had an enjoyable holiday season and were able to spend time with family and/or friends. Linda and I had a full house at Thanksgiving with our sons coming in from Denver and Nashville and our oldest son and his family coming in from Houston. All of us gathered again in Houston for Christmas. These are the only two times of the year when our family can all be together; it is a tradition to which we look forward.

This can be an interesting time of the year for a rockhound. In the more northern parts of the country, this is the time to engage in lapidary pursuits or perhaps arrange, catalogue, and photograph your collection. If you’re in the desert southwest or other southern regions, this is perhaps the best time of the year for field trips. In Oklahoma, we bounce back and forth between cold and mild periods. If the day is reasonably warm, this is my favorite time of the year to collect fossils. I don’t have to worry about snakes, chiggers, or ticks and the fossils are so much easier to find with the weeds and grass having died down. Wherever you may live, there are aspects of our hobby for you to engage in throughout the year.

I really enjoyed reading the December-January issue of the AFMS Newsletter and want to thank all the people who contributed articles; I’m looking forward to seeing more as the year goes on. I do want to mention the Judges Training Seminar; Dee Holland and Tom Burchard have put a lot of work into arranging this opportunity for us. I am very interested in increasing interest in competitive exhibits as I truly believe they increase the overall quality of shows. When I attended the Midwest Federation Show in Lincoln, Nebraska earlier this year there was a competitive case entered which could not be scored because no qualified judge was available! We need to train additional judges so an occurrence like that doesn’t get repeated. Remember, this year’s seminar is in Ogden, Utah from April 10 to 13. Contact Dee Holland for more information.

Once again, I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you will have a safe and rewarding 2014.

Richard

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

What Would You Like to Know—and Share—About Juniors in 2014?

Although you won’t be reading this until February, it is New Year’s Eve as I sit down to write; therefore, a Happy New Year to one and all. Here’s to another year of having fun! I could start the New Year as usual, telling you what I think about juniors’ activities or guiding you to resources I’ve found. Instead, I’d like to start 2014 on a different note by turning to you, my fellow Federation members. I’ve always found that my best articles are inspired by suggestions or questions e-mailed to me or conveyed in a phone call or over a chance conversation at a Federation meeting or at a local club show.

What topics would you like to see me explore relevant to juniors activities and programs? What issues are of concern to your society when it comes to attracting and involving kids? What burning questions do you have in search of an answer? I’m happy to serve as the “Dear Abby” of juniors programs. On the other side of the coin, what successes have you enjoyed in working with youth? What advice might you offer to other societies and clubs seeking to start or expand a kids’ program? What’s worked well for your club? If you’ve enjoyed great success in establishing and maintaining a kids group, are there any nuggets of wisdom you can share? What magic turns a gem and mineral society into a Pied Piper for kids? (Given that my own society has a record low number of kids as we start the New Year, I myself am extremely anxious to know!) So, the lines are open. Please e-mail (jbraceth@roadrunner.com), call (805-659-3577, evenings, Pacific Time), or write (7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003). Whether by planes, trains, or automobiles, I’m anxious to hear your thoughts so that we can all enter 2014 with ideas for kids having fun!
Inter-Regional Field Trip News

by Doug True, Field Trip Chair

Four Full days of fun, 3 days of fieldtrips! What could be better than collecting near Terry, Montana?

The present plans call for 3 trips per day to the Yellowstone River for 3 days, 2 trips the hunt cretaceous sea fossils and working on one per day to trip for dinosaur fossils. Because our trips are during the dry (fire season) we will be using buses for transportation to the gravel bars on the river plus several autos in case someone needs to return to the park. We will be staggering the trips with 4-5 hours collecting each day. All of our trips will be on a first come first served, sign ups will start on Wednesday July 30 and Thursday morning the 31st. If we need to add more trips for the river or sea fossils we will, but the dino trips might be limited. You will not go back to the same location - each day is a new spot.

We are having a great response to the Terry Fieldtrip and have been getting lots of questions and sign ups. At the time of this printing all of the RV parks in Terry are full (34 spaces). The Hotel/ Motels are full (48 rooms) We have lots of RV dry camping and Tent spaces. But if you want a Motel or RV space you will have to make reservations in Miles City, Mt. about 37 miles away (30 minutes) drive. In encourage you to do that now!

Four Full days of fun, 3 days of fieldtrips. The present plans call for 3 trips per day to the Yellowstone River for 3 days, 2 trips the hunt cretaceous sea fossils and working on one per day to trip for Dinosaur fossils. Because our trips are during the dry (fire season) we will be using buses for transportation to the gravel bars on the river, plus several autos in case someone needs to return to the park. We will be staggering the trips with 4-5 hours collecting each day. All of our trips will be on a first come first served, sign ups will start on Wednesday July 30 and Thursday morning the 31st. If we need to add more trips for the river or sea fossils we will, but the dino trips might be limited. You will not go back to the same location - each day is a new spot.

As you may have noticed our trips will run between 4-6 hours each day since temperatures in August can run between 85-95 degrees (sometimes even higher) and we don’t want anyone getting heat stroke. We want everyone to enjoy all of the fun at the park.

Collecting will be on dry river gravels, sagebrush areas and you could encounter a rattlesnake now and then and some time ticks and except for the river area, always cactus. You need to plan your clothing for the trip carefully. Be sure to include long pants, hats, good shoes, and sun block. Also plan to have lots of water.

When you get back to camp a pool and showers will be waiting for you, a beautiful park with lots of shade and then things start to happen. There will be a welcome potluck on Wednesday evening and some live music after. A time to get to know each other. Plans are to have 2 programs each evening Thursday and Friday. This will be announced in future updates, as we have more speakers than we have time.

There will be a benefit barbeque on Saturday evening (money raised will go to the Cameron Gallery). Beef will be donated by local rancher. The barbeque will be held at the local park in Terry and after that a live band provided by the Terry Chamber of Commerce will play. Sunday will be an open day, a time for a buy-sell-or trade day in the park, a good time to see if any of the locals will bring out some of there Montana Agate etc. There will be a Junior or kids hunt at the river Sunday morning. Kids will hunt the gravel for specially marked agates and they could win great prizes. The Ye old Timers Rock Club has donated two New Turnmills with kits and H&I lapidary donated a reconditioned tumbler with new barrels. More prizes are still to come. On Sunday evening we will have a farewell potluck dinner at the park.

Agate hunting success will depend on three things - the amount of ice on the river this winter (ice jams can run between 4-6 hours each day since temperatures in August can run between 85-95 degrees (sometimes even higher) and we don’t want anyone getting heat stroke. We want everyone to enjoy all of the fun at the park.

This will give you a taste of what will happen in these four days. Watch for future articles for more information and updates. If you decide to join in on the fun I need to know a few things, names of those attending, where you are from, club affiliated, how you are staying, RV Dry Camp, Tent Camping, RV Park, Motel. Everything is free, music, trips, potlucks, programs, bus rides, etc. We will have a donation bucket to help on our expenses.

For more information and to register, contact Doug True at <dtruefossils12@yahoo.com>
Lobbying activities by exempt organizations

This is a more complicated issue. Perhaps a clear explanation is that I have previously attempted to find an explanation that arises from the Texas Law Review published in 1993. It is found on the Internet and printed in 1996. Underlining and bold emphasis is mine.

Rethinking the Internal Revenue Code's Treatment of Legislative Activities, "71 Tex. L. Rev. 1269 (1993), by Miriam Galston..." In addition to requiring organizations that engage in lobbying to register and report on their activities, the Act provides that IRC 501(c)(4) organizations that engage in lobbying are not eligible to receive Federal funds as an award, grant, or loan.

Debate concerning further, non-tax legislation continues. Nevertheless, as Miriam Galston has noted in Lobbying and the Public Interest:

"Rethinking the Internal Revenue Code's Treatment of Legislative Activities," 71 Tex. L. Rev. 1269 (1993), the primary vehicle for regulating organizations' legislative activities is the Internal Revenue Code. In her article, Professor Galston observes that the Code creates four separate and very different regulatory regimes regarding lobbying. Id at 1275-81.

The first regime, which applies to IRC 501(c)(3) public charities, permits these organizations to lobby so long as they do not devote a "substantial part" of their activities to attempting to influence legislation. This system has two subsets, which employ different tests of substantiality. The older, enacted in 1934, applies facts and circumstances criteria to determine whether a substantial part of an organization's activities is devoted to influencing legislation. The newer was introduced in 1976, by the enactment of IRC 501(h) and IRC 4911. IRC 501(h) provides that certain public charities may make an election and have their lobbying activities governed by expenditure tests in lieu of being subject to the IRC 501(c)(3) substantial part" test. If the expenditure limits are exceeded, a tax under IRC 4911 will be imposed or, if the limits are exceeded by 150 percent over a defined period, exempt status will be lost.

The second regime applies to IRC 501(c)(3) private foundations. Under this regime, any expenditures incurred for lobbying activities are treated as taxable expenditures under IRC 4945(d)(1) and subject to the tax imposed by IRC 4945(a). Part 4 discusses this topic.

In Part 4 the author points out that Private Foundations are also subject to the "substantial part" of their activities rules in attempting to influence legislation as well as addressing other situations.

The third regime involves other federally tax-exempt organizations. Outside of IRC 501(c)(3), there is no specific provision of IRC 501(c) that restricts lobbying activities. Consequently, the only limit imposed on the lobbying activities of non-IRC 501(c)(3) organizations is that the lobbying activities must be germane to the accomplishment of the organization's exempt purpose.

As a result, the organization's sole activity in support of its exempt purpose may be lobbying without jeopardizing its tax exemption.

The fourth regime concerns the lobbying expenditures of businesses. These rules are set forth in IRC 162. Until recently, this was not a subject that particularly concerned exempt organizations. Now, however, because of the lobbying disallowance provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA 1993), exempt organizations also must consider the provisions that disallow deductions for lobbying by businesses. Part 6 discusses this topic.

In Part 6, the author, Dr. Galston goes on to point out that under current law, businesses can not deduct as a business expense, contributions or dues paid to exempt organizations that are involved in lobbying activities. IRC 162 (e).

Lastly, on the issue of can a 501(c)(3) Exempt Organization have a relationship with a 501(c)(4) Lobbying Organization, the answer is yes, in fact this is a rather common occurrence. So long as the organizations are kept separate, the separate activities of a 501(c) (4) lobbying organization will not jeopardize the related 501(c)(3) Organizations exempt status. This was an important factor in the legal action "Regan v. Taxation with Representation of Washington (461 US 540 (1983)), in which the Supreme Court upheld the prohibition on substantial lobbying. Case Law also relates to the definition of "Substantial" and comes from two legal actions. In the first (Haswell v. the United States, 16.6% to 20% over a four year period as a level of activity was deemed to be substantial. In another case 5% was deemed to not be substantial. (Seasongood v. the Commissioner). However, organization activity can be more than just dollar figures and so the overall amount of activities is subject to the facts and circumstances as it relate to "substantial".

Where to get help and answers to your questions.

There are several IRS Publications that have a wealth of information on Exempt Organizations. IRS Publication 557 Tax Exempt Status for Your Organization is a valuable source of information for all Exempt Organizations. Also IRS Publication 4221-NC, Compliance Guide for Tax Exempt Organizations (other than 501 (c)(3) Public Charities and Private Foundations) is a helpful guide. Both are available free from the IRS and are found on the Internet at www.irs.gov. If your organization is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity you will want to order Publication 4221-NC instead. The IRS has a phone number dedicated to answering Exempt Organization questions at 1-800-829-5500.
The purpose of this competition is to recognize and reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated clubs across the country. Digital presentations, or video, relating to the earth sciences, are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or “EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” for “commercial” presentations.

* Each program is judged on its own merits.
* Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score. Winners may be asked to make some changes based on judges comments before final version is produced for duplication. (contact Coordinator for details)

* Judging Form and “Tips for Good Programs” are available on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org), from AFMS Coordinator or from your Regional Program Librarian.

Who May Enter:
Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2014 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter. (Does not apply to “Excellence in Education” entries)

Deadline for entry: April 15, 2014

Classes for Entries:
Class 1 - Educational, about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.
Class 2 - Field Collecting, showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.
Class 3 - “How To Do It”, techniques/equipment for fossil prep., jewelry, metal work, carving, facetting, other lapidary, etc.
Class 4 - “Just for Juniors” - any of the above for/ by youngsters. “Excellence in Education” entries are judged separately.

Judging (Judges look for):
- accuracy of information / educational value
- quality of photographs / visuals
- completeness of story - but not “too much” information
- narration that moves well from one image to the next
- presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
- title, credits and “The End” “slides”

For CD, DVD or Video entries
- amateur entries should not be in DVD format for entry.
- submit a copy preferably in PowerPoint or similar format - without author’s credits, for anonymity, if possible send entry on a flash drive instead of CD.
- may be “live action” or static “slides” integrated audio is preferred but not required for judging, however audio will be added for final version.
- include typed script if there is no audio

35mm slide presentations can be considered, however please contact Coordinator before sending entry.

Awards:
A $200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (for 95+ points), $100 if score is 94 - 90 points, in Classes 1 - 4. In addition, Winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet at Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 12, 2014

Program Length:
Adult programs: 30- 40 minutes is optimum
Juniors: 20 minutes suggested maximum

2014 Program Competition Entry Form

I / we submit “ __________________________________________ “
(presentation title)
in [circle one] Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4
or - “EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” (for programs produced “for sale”)
Producer(s) ________________________________
(your name/s) (include your Office / Club entry)
[street address]
[city]                      [state]            [zip]
Home phone __________________________    e-mail ______________________________
Member of ________________________________
(Club name)
Federation ______________________________________________________________________
Member of ___________________________________________________________________
Home phone __________________________    e-mail ______________________________
Is this program for sale? No________  Yes__________    Cost:_$____________
Mail your program and this application to:
Marge Collins
AFMS Program Competition Coordinator
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
Buchanan MI 49107
phone: (269) 695-4313
e-mail: margaret@qtm.net

Reproduction/Duplication:
By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate / transfer their entry to DVD format for the Regional Libraries. Flash drives will be returned after duplication. 35mm slides will be scanned, and returned to producer. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

How to Enter:
Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below.

Direct questions and entries to:
Marge Collins
AFMS Program Competition Coordinator
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.
Buchanan MI 49107
phone: (269) 695-4313
e-mail: margaret@qtm.net
The submissions listed below were all received for 2013. We’d like to congratulate all of them in addition to those previously honored during the year.

We’re now into a new year. The ledger has been wiped clean and every AFMS affiliated club can once again submit the name of an individual or couple who have seriously contributed to their club plus the name of a junior member for recognition on these pages as well as recognition in your regional federation newsletter.

I know that every club has at least one person or couple who continues to make a difference in the club. These are the folks who are always there, who take on a myriad of tasks, whether it be teaching, holding an office, editing the club bulletin, helping at the club show, developing activity programs, or whatever. Why not take a few minutes to recognize their good deeds?

Send your submission about your Club Rockhound of the Year to your regional ACROY representative and then...watch these pages!

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 has well served the club with positions on the Board of Directors and then as Vice President and President. His dedication to and promotion of our field trips has been outstanding. He has gathered trip ideas and freely shared them with other clubs and with the membership through his monthly bulletin columns. With our hosting of the 2011 EFMLS/AFMS convention Dick’s organizing skills came to the fore with the successful event. Dick has dedicated many hours to our club house relocation and its 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.

The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County’s 2013 Rockhound of the Year is Holly McNeil. Holly created our Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) program out of whole cloth. She developed activity programs and lessons for each of the topics that the FRA group studied. She brought in distinguished speakers to enlighten the group as well. Holly solicited minerals from members so that each class-attending child received a mineral for their collection. In many cases, the minerals were relevant to the subject of the month. Throughout her five year stewardship, she built the FRA program to include over 40 students. During our annual show, Holly, her students and their parents staff the positions at the Mini-Mine, Give Away, Touch Table and Knowledge Hunt. They explain properties of minerals, identify rocks and give away specimens.

Larry Hoskinson and Leslie Neff have been members of the South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society for over 20 years; holding many club offices and chairing the club show for nine years while reminding us that the purpose of the show is to educate others about a hobby we love. Leslie and Larry also present programs, organize library lapidary/mineral displays, teach and demonstrate, and lead club trips. They have been instrumental in establishing and funding raise for three annual geology scholarships for El Camino College. The SBLMS is proud to name these extraordinary members as our 2013 CFMS Education Through Sharing and AFMS Rockhounds of the Year.

The Pasadena Lapidary Society is pleased to recognize Jonathan H. North as our 2013 Education Thru Sharing and AFMS Rockhound of the Year. Shortly after joining, Jon volunteered and served as a Board Director and served as President in 2009 and 2010. Jon volunteered as a shop steward and provided lapidary instruction on every alternate Thursday night for over three years. Faithfully, he spent his time at the shop teaching lapidary, identifying materials and keeping the shop up and running. Jon has served as our Show Exhibits Co-Chair and Chair since 2007. In addition to his volunteer work with the Roseville Rock Rollers, Jon is a member of and served as President, Vice President, Web Master, CFMS Director and Exhibits Chair for the Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society. Jon represents the finest in the spirit of education and sharing.

The Roseville Rock Rollers are pleased to recognize Holly Meacham for our 2013 AFMS Rockhound of the Year. Shortly after joining, Holly volunteered and served as a Board Director and served as President in 2009 and 2010. Jon volunteered as a shop steward and provided lapidary instruction on every alternate Thursday night for over three years. Faithfully, she spent his time at the shop teaching lapidary, identifying materials and keeping the shop up and running. Jon has served as our Show Exhibits Co-Chair and Chair since 2007. In addition to his volunteer work with the Roseville Rock Rollers, Jon is a member of and served as President, Vice President, Web Master, CFMS Director and Exhibits Chair for the Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society. Jon represents the finest in the spirit of education and sharing.

Vivian Kuhl has received the CFMS Education thru Sharing Award and been proclaimed the AFMS Rockhound of the Year for the Contra Gem & Mineral Society. Vivian served as the Education Chairperson previously and continued to seek out class topics for the club even after she no longer held the post. She has helped to plan and has taken part in “beading weekend get-aways” that included club members and has always been willing to share her vast knowledge in jewelry making and the lapidary arts.

Vivian has been fighting cancer this year but still attended as many club events and meetings as possible; while still actively and enthusiastically promoting the club to potential new members whenever possible. Vivian has always supported our shows, adding to displays, since becoming a member and is a great asset to our club.

The Pasadena Lapidary Society is pleased to recognize the contributions of Linda and Mark Nelson. Linda serves as our club’s Secretary and Treasurer. She and Mark designed our club’s logo shirts and hats and introduced the treasure wheel to our annual show. Linda is the proof-reader for our club bulletin and Mark, who created the club’s first web site, is our Membership Chair. Four years ago, Mark became bulletin editor and through his efforts the bulletin has achieved state and national recognition and our membership has doubled. Linda and Mark led the work parties that wired and insulated the new workshop and lead our annual food drive for the local food pantry. They give generously of their time and talents to build membership, participate in meetings and field trips. The Pasadena Lapidary Society is proud to name Mark and Linda as our 2014 Rockhounds of the Year!

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Perhaps you have heard the expression “Wear the right mask for the task at hand.” Then again perhaps you may not have heard of it seeing’s how I just made it up. Because it rhymes, it may be more memorable as a safety message. Catch phrases are handy for making a safety guideline a rememberable guideline. What the expression “wear the right mask for the task” is meant to convey is the message that for many rockhounds, silver and goldsmiths, lapidary tasks and so on, wearing a specific for the task mask may be advisable.

Rockhound tasks often involve being in an area of dry, wind-blown dust. For such situations a simple, properly fitted, dust mask would be suitable for protecting the lungs from air-born dust.

Silver and gold smithing operations may also involve dry dust such as when using rouge or polishing powder to finish a piece of work. Smithing tasks may also involve fumes from soldering and pickling operations. A dry dust type of mask would not offer suitable protection to the lungs from the detrimental effect of soldering fumes. Masks providing protection from harmful fumes would be a more appropriate choice. Even under the best of circumstances where a suitable ventilation system is being used during soldering operations, wearing a mask for protection from vapors may be advisable.

Lapidary tasks, on the other hand, usually involve the need for lung protection from the presence of wet dust. Wet dust requires a different type of mask – one that catches the dust but does not block the flow of air to the lungs. A standard dry dust mask would rapidly clog and be rendered useless when used in a wet dust environment. Another common material used in lapidary tasks is the mixing and application of epoxy resins. Epoxies, as I’m sure you have noted from reading the safety labels, emit volatiles that are harmful if inhaled. Labels on epoxies usually stress using the product in a well-ventilated area. If the usage is in an area not all that well ventilated, a mask suitable for epoxy vapors may be used.

Were one to look in any reasonably complete safety equipment catalog, one would find a bewildering array of safety masks made by numerous vendors and suitable for every imaginable task. No brief safety article can mention all the various products available for rockhound, smithing and lapidary tasks but catalog sales representatives could easily offer mask guidance for your particular needs. Even in modestly equipped hardware and building supply stores one may be able to find masks suitable to the task at hand.

The takeaway message in all this discussion is that your lungs are important and need to be protected. There are numerous safety masks which can offer that protection. The trick is to choose the mask which fits the task. Actually, a similar statement may be made for many rockhound tasks - use the right hammer and chisel, select the right safety goggles, wear the right footwear, choose the right gloves, and so on.

Being safe involves making good choices. Please be informed, please be safe.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

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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>
<th>South Central Federation</th>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>May 31-June 2</td>
<td>June 1-2 Smithtown, NY</td>
<td>April 6 - 7 Lincoln, NE</td>
<td>August 9–11 Butte, MT (75th AFMS Anniv.)</td>
<td>May 17-19 Sandy, Ut</td>
<td>August 17-18 Bossier City, LA</td>
<td>AFMS Sept. 20-22 Jacksonville, FL</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>March 28-29 Hickory, NC</td>
<td>May 23 – 24 Wheaton, IL (Chicago area)</td>
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<td>AFMS October 23-25 Austin, TX</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Sept. 14-16 Placerville, CA</td>
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AFMS Endowment

Did you know that all monies collected via the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing project is invested? Not one penny of the money collected is spent.

Did you know that the interest from the Endowment Fund principal is what’s used each year to fund a variety of AFMS programs?

Did you know that because of the Endowment Fund, the AFMS has been able to continue funding these programs without having to raise dues?

Does your club borrow programs from your Regional Federation library to use at meetings? Many of these programs are copies of the old slide programs given to the federations by AFMS. The cost of digitizing these older programs is funded by the Endowment Fund interest.

Does your club have an active juniors program? Is the program utilizing the AFMS badges? The cost of making and distributing these badges is covered by the Endowment fund interest and as a result, clubs are asked to pay nothing.

These are just two of the programs that your purchase of a ticket (or tickets) for the 2014 AFMS Endowment Fund drawing can help to continue. Kids are our future in the hobby, so the juniors program with the badges as rewards for achieving certain goals is important. Clubs, especially those in smaller areas, often use programs provided their federation by AFMS. You and your club members benefit!

So, bottom line, when you are asked to purchase a ticket for the Endowment Fund, or asked to make a donation, say “yes”. You’ll benefit, your club and junior members will benefit, and perhaps you’ll win one of the fabulous prizes as a thank you.
Quick Tips for Editors

by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Club Publications Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing the AFMS Newsletter or something related, send it to me by email: <ligrAlg@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.

My article below is reprinted from the February 2008 AFMS Newsletter:

Who and What Get Capital Letters?

Recently I received a request from an editor asking for clarification on capitalizing names of rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Generally speaking, rock and mineral names are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence, are given in a list of names, or are written as part of a specific format — such as on a label for a competitive case according to the convention required by AFMS.

Even minerals that are named after a person are not capitalized in general usage. The correct spelling of the person’s name would be used, but no spaces and no capital letters at the beginning of the middle of the name as applied to the official name of a mineral. Some examples are: goethite, mcnearite, joesmithite.

Names of rocks or minerals are not capitalized (sandstone, quartzite) unless they refer to a proper name (such as Dox Sandstone, Troy Quartzite).

When writing the scientific names of fossils, the genus name is capitalized, the species name (if known) is lowercase, and both names are italicized. An example is: Favosites sp. If you use a typewriter and do not have the capability to italicize, you must underline: Favorites sp. Note that in this example “sp.” is used for the species name because it is not known, and the “sp.” is not italicized or underlined.

Names of fossil phyla, classes, orders, and families are capitalized but are not italicized. Examples: Ammonoides, Mollusca, Arthropoda. If these are used informally as English nouns or adjectives, they are not capitalized (examples: ammonites, mollusks, arthropods).

Names of geologic eras, periods, epochs, and formations are capitalized: Paleozoic Era, Jurassic Period, Miocene Epoch, Green River Formation.

If you need a really quick reference, you can always look up the word in the dictionary!

References:


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

All American Entry Form

continued from page 10

SECTION 7 - OVERALL FORMAT AND PRESENTATION
- (20 POINTS POSSIBLE)

This section evaluates the entry on neatness, organization, grammar, spelling, and overall presentation of material.

SCORING AND AWARDS

Gold All-American Club Award: 90 - 100 points (average of three)
Silver All-American Club Award: 80 - 89 points (average of three)
Bronze All-American Club Award: 70 - 79 points (average of three)

Honorable Mention: Less 70 points (average of three)

Instructions for completing the entry form:

1. Each entry is to be submitted as a single document, limited to a maximum of 100 pages (one- or two-sided), including text and graphics. A loose leaf notebook or a scrapbook are suitable binders.

2. The document should have six (6) sections, divided with the numbers 1 - 6, with the entry form in section 1 and the supporting documentation for each of the entry sections following the appropriate divider. There is no restriction on the number of pages in any one section, PROVIDED THE TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS DOES NOT EXCEED 100 PAGES.

3. When filling out the entry form, mark all appropriate blanks and entry numbers, or other information where requested. Assemble requested supporting materials and lists following the appropriate section divider and insert photos and other graphics following the typed information.

4. All requested material is for the year 2013.

5. Deadline for submitting to the AFMS chairman is April 15, 2014. Check with your regional chairs for their deadlines.

New Uniform Rules
from Ron Carman, Publications Chair

The 2013 revisions to the AFMS Uniform Rules are now available from your Regional Federation supplies chair via or download from the AFMS website.

Updates were made to Divisions A (Open Division), F (Fossils) and I (Beading & Beadwork).

In addition, a few updates were made to the Mineral Classification List.

These new Uniform Rules are in effect as of January 1, 2014 and will be in use for judging at all regional federation shows.
In the December 2013 AFMS Newsletter I attempted to provide information about collecting rules on “normal” lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the BLM. This agency manages several million acres of public land in the western section of the U.S.—perhaps ~258 million acres. What I did not get accomplished was to write about all of the “special designation” lands that are sort of lumped together under the BLM management. Many of these have special collecting rules and certainly most have special travel regulations that might not allow rockhounds unrestricted travel to collecting sites.

Perhaps the best known of the BLM “special designation” lands are the Wilderness Areas (WA). The “wilderness” designation came about in 1943 by Scouting leader John Muir, when he convinced Congress to pass the “Muir Amendment” into law the National Wilderness Act. This legislation created a category of federal land to insure long-term protection of natural landscapes. The Wilderness Act is well known for its succinct and poetic definition of wilderness:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

The BLM manages 221 WA in 10 western states (none in Alaska, Hawaii, and Wyoming) with a total acreage of ~8.7 million acres. However, there actually are in excess of 680 WA designated in the U.S. covering ~106 million acres in 45 states (none in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Connecticut, and Rhode Island). These areas, other than BLM sites, are managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service. Currently, about 2.5% of the land in the lower 48 is designated as Wilderness Areas. For a complete list of sites see www.wilderness.net.

In a familiar state, Colorado, the BLM manages five WA: Black Ridge Canyon Wilderness (75,550 acres on the northwest flank of the Uncompahgre Plateau); Dominguez Canyon Wilderness (66,280-acre expanse located within the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area); Gunnison Gorge Wilderness (14 miles of the Gunnison River); Powderhorn Wilderness (northern San Juan Mountains); and the Uncompahgre Wilderness (north-central San Juan Mountains). However, Senator Udall has introduced recent legislation (November 2013) to add Browns Canyon as a Wilderness Area. This latter site is along the Arkansas River near Buena Vista and seems to have the support of the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies manage about 38 other official WA in Colorado. Most are managed by the Forest Service although the Park Service is responsible for Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Great Sand Dunes, Indian Peaks (with Forest Service), Mesa Verde, and Rocky Mountain National Park. It is easy to observe that sites managed by the Park Service are adjacent to established national parks. Fish and Wildlife manages, with the Forest Service, Mount Massive.

So, here is the question—can a casual rockhound collect “common fossils” and minerals on land designated as WA? That is a question difficult to answer in many areas. First of all, lands designated as national parks and monuments do not allow collecting activities without a permit (and they are difficult to obtain). So, the WA managed by the Park Service do not allow collecting. Likewise for the Fish and Wildlife Service—collecting on lands managed by the agency. That leaves rockhounds with the BLM and Forest Service.

The State office of the Colorado BLM states on one brochure: You may casually collect specimens of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources without a permit on most BLM public lands. Certain BLM lands are also closed to casual collecting of fossils. You must check the land use plans or the local BLM office for these types of lands.

Note there is no wording about all of those areas designated as WA. However, another Colorado BLM brochure states: Rock collecting and gold panning are generally permitted on public lands, except for certain designated areas, such as wilderness areas. So, I would speculate that rock collecting is not permitted in WA, at least in Colorado.

What about California where the BLM manages ~15.2 million acres of land. The California BLM office states: Rockhounding and recreational mining are permitted activities on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The usual rockhound materials, including agates and stones, may be collected in reasonable quantities for hobby use. Note the statement “administered by the BLM.” The statement would seem to indicate that WA in California managed by the BLM allow collecting by rockhounds.

I also checked one of the local field offices, as suggested by the state office. The Needles office stated: Non-commercial/non-barter collecting is allowed within BLM Wilderness. However access is limited to hiking and horseback, vehicle use in wilderness is prohibited. So, there it is—collecting is allowed in Wilderness Areas—at least in the Needles area. The other California field offices did not provide specific information.

What is a confused rockhound to do? Trying to find information about rockhounding on BLM lands in Oregon is very trying, to say the least. I did locate one statement: Target shooting, rock hounding, vending, and the use of paint ball guns are prohibited within the Oregon Badlands Wilderness. It appears that neither the state office nor the regional offices pay much attention to rockhounding as a valid recreational activity—at least according to the web sites: The BLM public lands in Oregon and Washington offer unlimited recreation opportunities. On more than 15 million acres of public lands, visitors can picnic with family and friends... explore the remote wildlands...hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and boating are just some of the many activities to enjoy on your public lands. Is not rockhounding an important recreational activity?

In Nevada the BLM states: In wilderness areas only surfacing collecting [of minerals or common invertebrate fossils] is permitted. Now, that statement is “straight forward, clear and understandable” and perhaps should be a model for other states!

I am trying to emulate my favorite private eye, Guy Noir, where: one man is still trying to find the answers to life’s persistent questions. Why can’t rockhounds collect on WA in all states? Will rockhounds be able to collect on newly designated WA? Why is rockhounding listed with camping and fishing etc. as an important recreational activity on BLM lands? What is a Wilderness Study Area? The list gets longer!

Please remember - do not take my interpretations as law; check with local BLM offices.

Until next month.

**New Officers?**

from the AFMS Central Office

So that we can keep the AFMS mailing list up to date, and this publication coming to the correct individuals in your club, please take a moment and send the Central Office the listing of your 2014 officers. Our e-mail is central_office@amfed.org.

We’ll need the name, address and office held for each officer plus of course the name of your club.

We appreciate your keeping us informed so we can keep you informed!
SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS AND OTHER CLUBS (20+ POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served in Federation as Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members: Regional Federation: Yes _______ No _______
AFMS: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of members serving.

Members attended a Federation convention or show: Regional Federation: Yes _______ No _______
AFMS: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of members serving.

Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds: AFMS: Scholarship fund: Yes _______ No _______
Endowment fund: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of members serving.

Supporting material should include details for all of the above items, reports from club newsletter, and should include copies of correspondence.

SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Other_____________________________________________________________  [Indicate type.]
Members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools: Yes _______ No _______
Dealers: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of those given.
Members maintained displays at local public sites: Yes _______ No _______
Member Displays: #_________
*Include a separate list of sites.

dealers:  Yes______ No______ #________  Demonstrators:  Yes______ No______
*Include a separate list of those given.
Members maintained a booth, or an activity, at a local event: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of those given.
Members working at show: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of those given.
Members active in local affairs: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of those given.

Supporting material for the above should provide details for these items, and could include pictures, thank you cards, letters and certificates of appreciation, reports from club newsletter, etc.

SECTION 6 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS (10 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served on governmental agency committees: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of those who served.

Members provided comments on governmental agency proposals, etc: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of proposals and participants.

Members contacted congressional representatives regarding legislation affecting access to sites, and collecting from same: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of representatives contacted and legislation.

Club or members supported access or collecting lobbying organizations: Yes _______ No _______
*Include a separate list of organization(s).

Supporting material should include details for all of the above items, reports from club newsletter, and should include copies of correspondence.
# 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All American Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boundaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Office Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commemorative Stamps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation and Legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Investment</td>
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<td>Long Range Planning</td>
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<td>Name Badges</td>
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<td>rockyfly at aol.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parliametarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President’s Advisory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
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<td>Safety</td>
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<td>Show Consultant</td>
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<td>Uniform Rules</td>
<td>B. Jay Bowman</td>
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<tr>
<td>URC Eligibility Files</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ways and Means</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website/Webmaster</td>
<td>Marty Hart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Site Contest</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Scholarship Foundation</td>
<td>Dee Holland, President (see Judges Training)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Jaeger, Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheri George, Secretary</td>
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<td>Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer</td>
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Usually, when you speak of Public Lands you immediately think of the Western States. But almost every state has National Forests or Grasslands. And all Forest Service and/or BLM has a mandated 'travel management plan' they must implement.

Here is an example of just one of the areas I'm speaking of:

ALAA within EFMLS – Forestry Management Plan:

Alabama
Conecuh, Talladega, Tuskegee and William B. Bankhead National Forests

Florida
Apalachicola National Forest
Ocala National Forest
Osceola National Forest

Georgia
Chattahoochee – Oconee National Forests

Kentucky
Daniel Boone National Forest
Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

Maine
White Mountain National Forest

Mississippi
Bienville, Delta, Desoto, Holly Springs, and Homochitto National Forests
Tombigee National Forest

New Hampshire
White Mountain National Forest

New York
Finger Lakes National Forest

North Carolina
Croatan, Nantahala, Pisgah, and Uwharrie National Forests

Pennsylvania
Allegheny National Forest

South Carolina
Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests

Vermont
Green Mountain National Forest

Virginia
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

West Virginia
Monongahela National Forest

And this doesn’t include the State Forests and Parks. I don’t know the status of your State Parks for collecting rocks, minerals and invertebrate fossils, but in California, this is not done.

Let’s take North Carolina for an example. How to find where in the process the travel management plan is...go to ‘google’ or ‘bing’ or the search engine of your choice and type in: Pisgah National Forest Management Plan.

This is what you will find:

**Sample Need for Change Ideas. Then Think About Your Own Ideas**

The October 5th Need for Change Public Workshop will be structured around the following eight topic areas:

1. Lands, Special Uses, Minerals and Energy
2. Vegetation
3. Wildlife
4. Soil, Water, and Fisheries
5. Cultural Resources and Areas of Tribal Importance
6. Recreation, Scenery, Facilities, Human Health and Safety
7. Wilderness and Other Special Designations
8. Roads and Trails

There ARE Public Lands East of the Rockies by Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

For each topic, participants will write their ideas about how the revised forest plan needs to change from what the 1987 Plan currently says. At this meeting, we will identify the elements of the current forest plan that you feel should be considered for change during revision. We will not be drafting new plan language.

The following pages are examples of Need for Change statements, to help participants start thinking about structuring their own statements at the meeting. The following examples also provide some background information about the subject and something about related management direction in the 1987 Plan, to put the examples in context. (this was too long to recreate here, you’ll have to go to the page and see what they have to say)

If you want to be included in the final plan, you must participate. That means attending meetings and voicing your opinions with follow-up comments. You can see above how the Forest Service looks at redistribution of resources. If someone doesn’t attend these meetings, rockhounding as we’ve known it is gone. And by the way, MINERALS in the #1. topic, doesn’t mean rock hunting.