I think our people in most of the U.S. are too cold to be thinking of donating prizes or buying tickets for the AFMS Endowment Drawing. Here in West Central Illinois, we have experienced the Polar Vortex and schools, as well as other activities and meetings, have had to be cancelled numerous times due to the extreme cold temperatures. What a winter!

However, Past AFMS President Bob Miller, who is also a past president of the MWF, used this time to come up with a beautiful prize for our drawing. He has donated a necklace of iridescent crystal beads with a beautiful pendant of a 1 1/3 carat blue spinel (syn.). It is mounted in sterling silver. The estimated value is $75. I am not sure that my photo does it justice, but this is a gorgeous necklace. Since the drawing will be this July in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this prize would be a wonderful Christmas gift or it could be held for next Valentine’s Day.

Prize #7 Blue spinel (syn.) pendant set in sterling silver on a crystal bead necklace. This necklace was donated by former AFMS President Bob Miller (MWF). Estimated value is $75.

I have been promised a few more donations, so I am watching the mail for them. Or, go ahead and send me a nice photo and then send the prize. Hopefully, I will have all the prizes by July 1, 2014, so I can pack them carefully for the drive to Tulsa. We could still use some nice prizes from some of the other federations. The MWF has come through with several nice prizes.

I still need someone from the Rocky Mountain Federation to sell tickets for the drawing. Richard Jaeger has done it in the past, but with him being AFMS President this year, we need someone else to step up who gets around the federation and could sell tickets for this drawing.

Please buy tickets from your federation’s representative, or even offer to sell some to help out since it is hard for him or her to cover the entire area of your federation. And, if you would like to buy some tickets, but don’t think you will see the representative, I am sure they would mail your tickets if you send them a check made out to AFMS Endowment Fund and include a stamped self-addressed envelope. Checks should be payable to “AFMS Endowment Fund”.

As you sort through your collection this winter during your time stuck in the house, please look for something to donate as a prize for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing. The proceeds will help fund such things as 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 benefit this. So, when your representative asks you to buy a ticket for the AFMS Endowment Drawing, please pull out a five dollar bill or better yet a twenty dollar bill to help support these efforts of the AFMS.

You can purchase tickets from:
California: Colleen McGann
PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052
Eastern: Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
Midwest: J.C. Moore
25235 No. Illinois 97; Cuba, IL 61427
Northwest: Chris Blickfeldt
236 Tollgate Rd; Boise, ID 83716
South Central: Catherine Rouchon
5845 Winchester Ln; Clinton, LA 70722
Southeast: Jerri Heer
7301 N Howard Av; Tampa, FL 33604

Prizes should be sent to me, Donna Moore at 25235 No. Illinois 97; Cuba, IL 61427.
I really enjoyed reading the February issue of the A.F.M.S. Newsletter; Carolyn Weinberger continues to do an outstanding job as editor of our federation’s publication. I’m really pleased to see the excellent articles that many of our committee chairs are contributing; their interest in and dedication to our hobby is evident. There were a couple of articles on which I wish to comment.

First is the article by our All American Club Chair, Regina Kapta. Last year I believe only three clubs submitted entries for this contest; we need to do better. I know that we have excellent clubs throughout the federation which could win recognition through this contest. As Regina points out, it is time to put your entry together. Hopefully, much of the information you need can be found in your club’s monthly bulletins. Jump in this year and get your feet wet; maybe you’ll only get an honorable mention this year but you will learn what you need to do to achieve a higher score next year. I was in charge of submitting the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society’s entry back in 1994 and 1995 and know how much work goes into doing so. At that time one of the jobs of our club historian was to submit our club’s application for the All American Club Contest. Putting together your entry is much easier if you work on it throughout the year rather than waiting until the end of the year to begin. I would suggest that your club designate a person to put in charge of this project and begin collecting information now to prepare for your entry next year.

The other article I wish to comment on is the one from our Inter-Regional Field Trip Chair, Doug True. What an outstanding job he has done! I had the pleasure of collecting Montana Agates, petrified wood, jasper, etc. from the Yellowstone River gravels and also the outstanding Cretaceous marine fossils back in 1989. My trip was in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Federation Show that year in Bismarck, North Dakota; there was a four day field trip following the show which included stays in Medora, ND and Glendive, MT. I can assure you that these will be field trips you’ll never forget, not only for the quality materials you will collect in beautiful settings, but also for the food, entertainment, and general hospitality you will experience. I was amazed to learn the RV parks and motels in Terry, MT are already full for the field trip. But, as Doug said, you can still make reservations in Miles City, MT.

I’m looking forward to attending the Eastern Federation Show & Convention in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania in late March. This will be my first trip to the Philadelphia area and I hope to take in some of the historical sites along with the show. As always, the thing I am most looking forward to is visiting with friends, and with making new friends, from the Eastern Federation.

Richard

From My Desk to Yours

by Richard Jaeger, President

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

A Great Book for Kids – A Great Deal for AFMS!

Darryl Powell of Diamond Dan Publications has done it again! He’s produced a great new publication for kids (and one that should prove helpful to adults, too): a colorful 48-page book entitled Diamond Dan’s Mineralogical Dictionary for Mineral Collectors. It’s not meant to be an exhaustive dictionary (watch for that to come in a year or so), but it should serve to cover most questions a junior member might ask, such as: What’s arborescence? What does foliation refer to? What’s the difference between a hand specimen, a cabinet specimen, a miniature, and a thumbnail specimen? Who was Mohs, and what did he look like? Or, What’s a floater crystal?

The cost of the book is $4 per copy to clubs, societies, and federations, postage included. And if you order in bulk (20 copies or more), the price drops to just $2 per copy plus postage (UPS Media Mail rate). No matter how you slice it, these prices are real bargains! Darryl notes, “The AFMS and associated federations, clubs and societies have been incredibly supportive of my products through the last 20 years. It’s high time to give back. So I have decided to pledge 10 cents of every book sold to go to the AFMS, specifically to the education of the children. The first printing will be 5,000 copies, so the commitment is $500. I will send $100 up front and then payments thereafter on a regular basis based on the number of books sold.” So not only is the $2 a great deal, you’ll be directly supporting AFMS programs for youth with each purchase.

Darryl has sent me copies of the dictionary, and it is a wonderful little book. It’s something I can easily see local societies and clubs purchasing in bulk to distribute to kids in their clubs, to sell in the kids’ booth at a show, and/or to provide to teachers when giving school talks. To learn more or to order copies, contact Darryl by phone or email at (585) 278-3047, diamonddan@rochester.rr.com. The mailing address is Darryl Powell, Diamond Dan Publications, 278 Howland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620. And you can check out his web site at www.diamonddanpublications.net. On the web site, you’ll find a whole lot more than just this one book for helping kids learn—while having fun!
Program Competition – Why Bother?

by Marge Collins, Program Competition Chair

• Do you like to share your “rockhound” interests?
• Do you demonstrate at Shows or other events?
• Have you ever prepared a display for a meeting or at a show?
• Have you presented a program about a special interest at a Club meeting or during a Show?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, Why not take the next step: Enter Program Competition - to share your interest and enthusiasm with viewers across the country?

You ask, why bother? Viewers across the country are waiting to see new presentations. You’ll earn national recognition. A cash award helps to defray the expense of producing a presentation.

A digital camera and computer make this process so much easier! If you have questions a fellow Club member or a friend may be able to help. Or, choose a contact below.

Be sure to use the best images possible - “fuzzy” pictures - whether out of focus or low resolution are counter productive. And when writing your script, remember every professional author has one or more editors. In other words, don’t be satisfied with the first draft. Ask someone to read the script to you. Listen, take notes; and then, re-write as needed. (Again, thank goodness for computers!)

Program Competition “rules” and entry form were published in the February AFMS Newsletter and are on AFMS website <www.amfed.org>. The deadline for entry is April 15th. If you can’t enter this year, start getting ready for 2015. We’re looking forward to your entry. And so are viewers across the country!

For more info contact your Regional Program Librarian (who is one of the judges) or Competition Coordinator: Marge Collins (269) 695-4313 or <margaret@qtm.net>.

AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

Northwest Federation

The Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club of Kennewick, Washington proclaimed Frank and Mary Lou Omstead as their 2013 Rockhounds of the Year. Since 2007, they have housed much of the Club’s equipment and supplies. Many Club workshops are offered each year with the Omsteads hosting the events. Four afternoons per month, members meet at this couple’s home to work and learn from experts with specialized skills, such as cabochon cutting and flint knapping. Since joining the Club in the 1980’s, they have been enthusiastic volunteers at virtually every major Club event and activity in addition to holding many Club offices. Their contributions to renovating the Club display cases and helping at the annual show are especially appreciated. Frank and Mary Lou have friendly, gregarious personalities and help new members to the Club feel welcome and involved.

Rocky Mountain Federation

Anthony Rivera is the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society’s Rockhound of the Year. Anthony is a senior and is preparing for his future career as a police officer. Anthony’s most memorable Kids Club event was at our first Halloween fluorescent night. Anthony arrived late on the dark, moonless night and was guided to the fluorescent area. When the fluorescent light was turned on, Anthony waved his arms, danced a jig and exclaimed, “I’ll never forget this as long as I live.” His favorite field trip destination is Quartzsite, AZ and his favorite stones are fire opal and lapis lazuli. He recently put together a display to raise awareness of the hazards for birds of open-pit mining claim markers. Anthony encourages us if we see this type of mine marker, to prevent more deaths, put a flat rock on top of the opening or fill it with dirt and rocks to the top.

The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups & Earth Scholars have named Jack Shimon as their Rockhound of the Year. He was the first five year old allowed to join the Pebble Pups. Even at that young age, Jack already had a very good understanding of rocks, fossils and other earth sciences. He often dictated newsletter articles about new finds, a field trip or even summer vacation to his mom, Julie. Now that he’s gotten to the ripe old age of eight and is in the third grade, he writes his own articles. Jack has a boundless curiosity about the workings of Nature and researches his questions until he is satisfied with the answers. Jack has earned many awards and accolades during the last three years that he’s been a Pebble Pup. His awards are for articles, artwork and poems. We know that he will continue to be a surprising "gem" as he continues his studies and adventures in rockhounding.

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 good will and fellowship.

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

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Any communication concerning the content or format of the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor: CAROLYN WEINBERGER
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410-833-7926
<editor@amfed.org>

DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH
PRECEDING PUBLICATION (i.e., April 1 for the May issue)

Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes provided credit is given this publication and the author. For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.
My last two AFMS columns in December and February focused on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a federal agency administered by the Department of Interior, and their rules concerning the hobby collecting of minerals. I am somewhat familiar with the BLM regulations since: 1) I have collected (mostly fossils and with permits) on BLM lands since the late 1960’s; 2) the BLM lands are centered here in the west where I live and collect; 3) I recently finished a multi-year term on the Royal Gorge Resource Advisory Committee (BLM: RAC). In Colorado rockhounds seem to have a solid and good relationship with the BLM. My advice for collectors has always been—talk to the local BLM office.

Of course the other major player in the federal land management arena is the United States Forest Service (USFS), an agency of the Department of Agriculture. Both the BLM and the USFS are multi-use agencies and are different from more single-use agencies like the United States National Park Service (part of the Department of Interior) where a national park or monument is designated to protect and preserve “something”—an ecosystem, dinosaur fossils, a historic building, etc. The USFS is active in protecting resources but also in providing for resource extraction (timber cutting, petroleum drilling, personal Christmas trees, etc.), as well as recreation.

The USFS manages the resources on about 193 million acres in ~155 national forests and 20 national grasslands located, by my count, in 42 states and Puerto Rico. Tongass National Forest in Alaska is the largest forest at 16,576,303 acres while in the lower 48 Tulelake National Forest in California-Nevada comes in at 3,238,284 acres. The USFS also manages the small 743 acres of the Choctawhatchee National Forest in Florida. California has 18 forests while Kansas has a single national grassland.

As with portions of the lands managed by the BLM, rock, mineral and fossil collecting on USFS holdings are a mixed bag. What should be, at least in my opinion, a simple straightforward set of regulations following uniform guidelines established by the USFS, has turned into a hodgepodge of rules. The problem with this variety of regulations is that amateur rockhounds often get confused when moving from one National Forest to another and their collecting habits in “Forest A” may be illegal in next door “Forest B.” And, according to scuttlebutt I read in club newsletters and on the Internet, some Forest Service officers are unfamiliar with collecting regulations.

However, I cannot place the entire blame on our friends at the USFS since the agency has no legislated authority for the disposal of minerals and rocks coming from USFS land other than those specified in the various mining laws and their 228 mineral regulations (this is my opinion as read federal regulations). This is the reason why many Forest Service officers will state that recreational mining (rockhounding) does not exist on agency lands—all collecting is “just mining”. What the agency needs is some legislated authority (such as the Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 2009) to allow casual collecting opportunities for rockhounds other than such regulations defined in the various mining laws. Although by definition, casual collecting (on various USFS sites) is “rockhounding” for personal use and does not include collecting for commercial use and sale, federal regulations (as I understand) still requires authorization under the agency’s 228 mineral regulations (my count, maybe a plus or minus a few). The USFS does have formal “locatable mineral” regulations that allow for the collecting of rocks and minerals for research and information gathering purposes, and for making a discovery on a mining claim. And, it is my understanding that without a mining claim, rocks and minerals may not be removed from agency land for commercial purposes. The USFS also manages “withdrawn areas” where any collecting is prohibited unless for research, information, and educational purposes, or on a government verified valid claim, and in all cases this collecting requires Forest Service approval of an operating plan. I will not even delve into the procedures of getting a permit for a mining claim, filing a Notice of Intent for significant excavation work, etc. That sort of thing may require the advice of an attorney!

Casual collecting of common rocks and minerals is not authorized by the USFS but is usually/often overlooked by the agency—maybe, but do not take my word for it! Otherwise, “rockhounding” may require a permit (sometimes free) for personal collection and use. But again, any collection for commercial use would require a permit—and I presume this would mean selling collected specimens at a local club show. And finally, petrified wood is treated as a mineral (not as a fossil) but has its own collecting rules and regulations, partially reproduced below:

Title 43 -- Public Lands: Interior
(a) Persons may collect limited quantities of petrified wood for noncommercial purposes under terms and conditions consistent with the preservation of significant deposits as a public recreational resource.

Sec. 3622.4 Collection rules.
(a) General. The authorized officer shall control the removal without charge of petrified wood from public lands using the following criteria: (1) The maximum quantity of petrified wood that any one person is allowed to remove without charge per day is 25 pounds in weight plus one piece, provided that the maximum total amount that one person may remove in one calendar year shall not exceed 250 pounds. Pooling of quotas to obtain pieces larger than 250 pounds is not allowed.

Next month I will try and examine the rules and regulations on various USFS lands scattered across the country, and they appear confusing. Some forests completely ban collecting while others are more lenient. Some allow collecting but do not allow tools of any kind—this regulation would seem to “outlaw” rock hammers. And to really get confusing, some forests seem to differentiate between USFS public domain lands that have been owned by the federal government since the “beginning” (was it “taken” from the Native Americans?), and acquired land that was purchased from previous owners. Evidently different rules apply to these two types of USFS lands. But again, collectors should confer with the local USFS offices as agency employees are trying to do their best without any sort of a mandate to dispose of causally collected rocks and minerals. And most importantly, do not trust my words as any final definition of the laws!

Till next month, Mike.

The Rockhound Soapbox
by John Martin, CFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

This year is going to be a very important year for all of us. It is a midterm election year and will have a major impact on Rockhounds and Amateur Rockhounding across the country. This is a great time for all Rockhounds to become politically involved. I am not talking about the political party system or what side of the political aisle on which you may be sitting. This is the time to speak up for your rights as an American Rockhound.

Over the 10 years I have been involved with the CFMS-Public Lands Advisory Committee and the AFMS Legislation and Conservation Committee, I have studied and read nearly every proposed piece of legislation affecting the use and access of our Public Lands held in trust for the citizens of the United States of America by the BLM and the USFS Land Managers. The one thing they all have had in common is no mention of Rockhounds or Amateur Rockhounding as a Recognized Recreational Activity. After further research into this political oversight I discovered other forms of recreational activities on our Public Lands that are recognized. These included Hiking, Camping, Hunting, Fishing, Swimming, Skiing (Water and Snow), Bicycling, Snowmobiling, Motorcycling, OHV traveling and even mining. Not one word is mentioned about ROCKHOUNDING or Rockhounding being a recognized recreational activity on public lands.

It is now time for a change and we, the American Rockhound, must now speak up with the loudest voice we can and proclaim our right to be Amateur Rockhounds and take our rightful place along side of all the other Recognized Recreational Activities. This year I am challenging all American Rockhounds, all seven regional federations and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies to become proactive in the process, get politically involved and to exercise your right to be recognized as a Recreational Activity. Each and every one of your elected officials at the national and state levels needs to be contacted and request they add Amateur Rockhounding in any new and pending legislation as a recognized recreational activity. Contact your Local Public Land Managers and request they include Rockhounding in the Land Management Plans being implemented by current Public Land Managers. Now is the time to raise our voices in a united spirit and proclaim our rights as American Rockhounds.

What are Rockhounds and Rockhounding:

Read the Rockhound Soapbox in next months AFMS Newsletter.
What Does the AFMS do for You and Your Club?

by Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS Editor

The AFMS Established 1947
Serving Seven Regional Federations

One of the questions that many people ask from time to time is "What does the AFMS do for me and my club?" Here is a nutshell is a simplified answer.

1. Slide programs for club meetings. The AFMS sponsors a program competition each year and awards cash prizes to the winners. These winning programs are duplicated and given to your regional federation library for free. In addition, commercially prepared programs are also often purchased and given to the federation libraries. These programs may be borrowed - in most cases for a very nominal fee that covers postage and insurance - for you to use for club meeting programs. To date, over 200 programs have been sent to the regional federations for your use!

2. Awareness of federal legislation that may impact the hobby. Through the Conservation & Legislation Committee, clubs are kept informed of pending federal legislation such as the Paleontological Preservation Act or upcoming Omnibus Lands Bill.

3. Bulletin Editors Contest. Your Regional Federation sponsors a contest each year for club editors and authors. Areas recognized are mini, large and small bulletins, technical articles requiring research of reference, non-technical articles, feature articles, poetry and articles by juniors. After the regional competition has concluded, the top entries in most categories are forwarded to the AFMS for further evaluation - this time against the top entries from all the other regional federations. Trophies and certificates are awarded each year at the annual "Breakfast with the Editors" get-together during the AFMS Annual Convention. In addition, winning articles are assembled in a booklet that’s available for all to share.

4. All American Club Award Program. This program allows clubs to assemble a notebook in which they highlight their activities during the past year. Photographs, newspaper articles, club newsletters etc. allow the club to brag about themselves. Awards are presented each year at the AFMS Convention.

5. Scholarship Awards to Graduate Students in the Earth Sciences. Perhaps one of our most visible programs, the AFMS Scholarship Foundation invests contributions made to it by clubs and individuals and uses the interest from these investments to award grants to a dozen graduate students in the earth sciences each year. Each participating regional federation selects an honorary recipient (college professor or well known individual in the field, etc.) who in turn contacts a college or university having graduate studies. Either the educational establishment or the honorary recipient, selects the students who receive the awards. Since the first grants were given in 1965, the Foundation has been able to award more than $1,000,000 in grants. Clubs gain recognition for their support of the Foundation via certificates awarded each year at the annual AFMS Convention. For each $1 contributed, clubs are recognized for giving 1%. Certificates are awarded each time a club reaches another 100% level...i.e. $1 for each member of the club, thus making it possible for a club, regardless of its size, to be recognized for their contributions regardless of the size of the club. A club recognized as being a 300% club would have contributed $4 for each club member 3 times and a 5,300% club would have contributed $1 for each club member 93 times. There is no time limit for accumulating the next % level.

6. Inter-Regional Field Trips. The goal of this new program is to bring together collectors from all the regional federation clubs for a collecting activity in a well-known area of the country. The first field trip in 2008 was well attended and plans are now underway for the 2009 extravaganza.

7. Junior Activities. The AFMS, through Jr. Activities chair Jim Brace-Thompson has produced an extensive activity manual for use by club Jr. Activity leaders. In addition, a series of merit badges has been created to give to the juniors in the club programs. Badges are given to AFMS affiliated clubs at no charge. Monthly newsletter columns give leaders new ideas to use with their groups.

8. Uniform Rules. In the earliest days of exhibiting, chaos reigned supreme and it became impossible for show chairpersons to plan exhibit space and for viewers to easily see the displays. Labels, if there were any, were hit or miss and sometimes unreadable. With educating the public the major goal of all exhibits, the AFMS decided to establish a set of rules to set up some guidelines for exhibitors to follow. It was decided to also present awards for displays by exhibitors who wished their displays evaluated by a team of judges - persons knowledgeable in the subject matter of the display. Over the years, these Uniform Rules have been amended and streamlined and the focus of judging changed from "judging" to "encouraging". In addition, the URC publishes lists of approved names for minerals, lapidary material and fossils to make it easier for the exhibitor and viewer to understand the materials being displayed. Copies of these publications are all available from your regional federation supplies chair.

9. Judges Training Program. Established in 2003 as an outgrowth of observations that the Uniform Rules were not being interpreted in the same manner from federation to federation, the Judges Training Program gathers together one individual interested in competitive exhibit evaluation from each federation. During the week-long program, participants review the existing regulations, discuss how each should be evaluated and reach consensus as to interpretation. Participants also “practice judge” displays brought to the workshop and then discuss what they’ve observed. Marked improvements have been noted since the program was established.

10. Web Site Competition. With the electronic age upon us, many clubs now have websites of their own. Relatively few to AFMS is a contest designed to evaluate the endeavors of the club webmasters. The competition, run much like that of the Bulletin Editors, will present awards during “Breakfast with the Editors” at the AFMS Convention each year.

11. Club Member Recognition. The AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year program allows each club to recognize and brag about one member or one husband/wife combo each calendar year. In addition, each club may submit information on one junior member per year. Submissions are easy to make - send a 50 word or less paragraph telling why your “Rockhound” is so valuable to your club. Each regional federation has a chairperson who receives the submissions and then passes them on the AFMS. All submissions are published in the AFMS Newsletter so your person (and your club) gets wide publicity.

12. Annual Convention. The AFMS is a union of seven regional federations (CFMS, EFMLS, MWF, RM-FMS, SCFMS, NFMS and SFMS). Each of the regions is composed of member clubs like your own. The AFMS holds its annual meeting in a different regional federation each year so that people from all parts of the country have an easier (and less expensive) opportunity to attend, display and participate. For 2014 the Convention will be held in Tulsa, OK and hosted by the Rocky Mountain Federation. A show is usually held during the Convention week as well. The AFMS holds its annual business meeting during this convention. Officers are elected, budget established, concerns about the hobby in general are discussed and of course reports given.

Other activities of AFMS during the Convention include a Uniform Rules Committee meeting, Awards Banquet where recognition is made to the All-American Award entrants, Competitive Exhibits winners, Scholarship contributors etc. and “Breakfast With the Editors”, an opportunity to present awards for editors and authors and for those individuals interested in club publications to get together. The regional federation hosting the convention also holds its annual meeting during this time with awards also being presented for their competitions during the Saturday evening banquet.

The host federation often also arranges for field trips, museum visits or other activities and of course has a show with demonstrations, dealers and often speakers. An AFMS convention draws individuals from throughout the country and is a wonderful way to renew friendships...or gain new friends.

13. Endowment Fund. Funds donated to the Endowment are invested and interest only is used for AFMS projects including the Jr. Rockhounds Badges, and Slide Program digitization, purchase and awards.

14. The Commemorative Stamp Project is an effort sponsored by AFMS to put the hobby on US postage stamps. The current effort is to get gems used for birthstones accepted, but in the past suc-

continued on page 6
What Does AFMS Do?

continued from page 5

cess has gained printing of 2 sets of mineral stamps and 1 set of fossil stamps. (See page 12 for more).

15. Public & International Relations - sharing the hobby with those not affiliated with any club and with others outside the United States as well as getting the word out about your club and its activities.

16. AFMS Website. Provides a convenient place for all clubs and their members to obtain information about the AFMS with links to the regional federation websites. Included on the AFMS website is information about the upcoming AFMS convention, contests, officer information, manuals produced by AFMS and current and past issues of the AFMS Newsletter. Links are also provided to other hobby related activities, including club websites (your club needs to contact the AFMS webmaster and forward the URL information to him for inclusion).

In addition, the AFMS provides space for all regional federation websites at no charge to the regional federation. Currently the Eastern, Midwest, Northwest and Southeast Federations have taken advantage of this offer.

17. The AFMS Newsletter. Published 10 times per year, the AFMS Newsletter is sent free of charge to the President, Editor and Secretary or Federation Representative of your club so they can be kept up-to-date on current AFMS activities and concerns. It is our hope that those receiving the newsletter share issues with the club membership via their own newsletters and at meetings. It is imperative that clubs inform the AFMS Central Office of their current cadre of officers so that the lines of communication can be kept open.

As you can readily see, your regional federation membership dues in the AFMS provide many services to your club. We encourage you to take advantage of as many of them as you can.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

by Bob Livingston, Convention Coordinator

There is just one more regional federation - Southeast - that has not forwarded the dates for their 2014 convention. I’ll post it as soon as I hear from them.

You’ll notice that we’ve added a new regional convention to the AFMS calendar. The Eastern Federation will hold their “big do” the weekend of March 27-29, 2015 in Hickory, NC. That makes three federations that have already confirmed and scheduled their conventions for 2015. I’m sure that the other federations will be notifying me of their planned dates shortly.

As I’ve been saying here almost each month, it’s important that we do not schedule more than one regional federation convention on any given weekend so that the AFMS president has an opportunity to come and visit during the convention weekend. It’s especially important that no other regional convention is scheduled at the same time as the AFMS convention since regional federation officers are required to attend the AFMS Directors meeting and obviously cannot be in two places at once.

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<td>May 23 – 24</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Plymouth Mtg, PA</td>
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<td>Wheaton, IL (Chicago area)</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Sept. 14-16</td>
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<td>Placerville, CA</td>
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Treat Your Editor (or Yourself)

by Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS Editor

Editors are the glue that holds our clubs together.

Without our hard working editors, club bulletins would be nonexistent and members would not easily learn of upcoming club activities, news of members or gain a broader view via educational articles pertaining to our wonderful hobby. Editing a club bulletin is a time consuming process; one that usually goes unrecognized by the membership. Most editors find the task most rewarding - why else would so many continue as club editor year after year after year.

There is an organization out there designed to help club bulletin editors. It’s called S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors). Its purposes are to:

• improve communication and public relations among gem and mineral societies, their federations, and other related organizations through involved bulletin editors and
• to advise and assist new editors with old ideas and old editors with new ideas while giving all editors a share in all ideas for publishing better bulletins.

Now that’s a mouthful!

S.C.R.I.B.E. publishes four newsletters a year and each is jam packed with useful articles, hints and tips that editors can use in their own club bulletins or learn something from. (One recent issue, for example, had a wonderful article on fluorescent minerals and another on often misspelled words.)

Membership in S.C.R.I.B.E. is a very reasonable $6 per year ($8 for dual membership) and includes the four yearly newsletters plus an annual CD-Rom that’s jam packed with newsletters, newsletter articles, clip art and other useful items for your editor to use in your club publication. Membership is truly a bargain and you don’t have to be an editor to join!

Visit the S.C.R.I.B.E. website (scribe.rbnet.net) to obtain more information and to find a membership application. Treat your club editor to a membership...and while you’re at it, why not treat yourself too. I doubt if you’ll be disappointed.
## 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>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All American Club</td>
<td>Regina Kapta</td>
<td>1483 # Wood St; Decatur, IL 62521</td>
<td>217-233-1164</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cigmc@comcast.net">cigmc@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
<td>Evelyn Cataldo</td>
<td>99509 Brandon Dr; Kennewick, WA 99336</td>
<td>509-628-0170</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cataldoevelyn@yahoo.com">cataldoevelyn@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td>P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302</td>
<td>410-833-7926</td>
<td><a href="mailto:editor@amfed.org">editor@amfed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundaries</td>
<td>Bob Carlson</td>
<td>1585 Los Pueblos, Los Alamos, NM 87544</td>
<td>505-662-5534</td>
<td><a href="mailto:illegitimusnoncarborundum@inbox.com">illegitimusnoncarborundum@inbox.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editor’s Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td>P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302</td>
<td>410-833-7926</td>
<td><a href="mailto:editor@amfed.org">editor@amfed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editors Advisory</td>
<td>Linda Jaeger</td>
<td>3515 E. 88th Street, Tulsa, OK 74137-2602</td>
<td>918-481-0249</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ljgral@aol.com">ljgral@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bylaws Revisory</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger</td>
<td>P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302</td>
<td>410-833-7926</td>
<td><a href="mailto:central_office@amfed.org">central_office@amfed.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Office Administrator</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commemorative Stamps</td>
<td>Wendell Mohr</td>
<td>9509 Emory Grove Rd; Gaithersburg, MD 20877</td>
<td>(301) 926-7190</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wmohr@erols.com">wmohr@erols.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation and Legislation</td>
<td>Mike Nelson</td>
<td>645 Popen Valley Dr; Colorado Springs, CO 80918</td>
<td>719-522-1808</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cssrockguy@yahoo.com">cssrockguy@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund</td>
<td>Donna Moore</td>
<td>25235 No. Illinois 97; Cuba, IL 61427</td>
<td>309-789-6501</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MWFSecretary@gmail.com">MWFSecretary@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Investment</td>
<td>Lauren Williams</td>
<td>957 E. Elva St, Idaho Falls, ID 83401-2164</td>
<td>(208) 529-6978</td>
<td><a href="mailto:silharuir@msn.com">silharuir@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
<td>PO Box 23; Tendoy, ID 83468-0023</td>
<td>(619) 460-6128</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shirleyleeson@cox.net">shirleyleeson@cox.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-Regional Field Trip</td>
<td>Doug True</td>
<td>2622 Broadwater; Billings, MT 59102</td>
<td>406-670-0506</td>
<td><a href="mailto:truefossils12@yahoo.com">truefossils12@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Judges Training Seminar</td>
<td>Dee Holland</td>
<td>PO Box 23; Tendoy, ID 83468-0023</td>
<td>208-756-2394</td>
<td>619-460-6128 <a href="mailto:bea@centurytel.net">bea@centurytel.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Programs</td>
<td>Jim Brace-Thompson</td>
<td>7319 Eisenhower St., Ventura, CA 9003-2511</td>
<td>(805) 659-3577</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbrace@roadrunner.com">jbrace@roadrunner.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Range Planning</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
<td>350 Lapidary Lane, Young Harris, GA 30582</td>
<td>706-379-9662</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dmonroe@windstream.net">dmonroe@windstream.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name Badges</td>
<td>Frank Mullaney</td>
<td>5705 Begonia Drive, San Jose, CA 95124-6535</td>
<td>(408) 266-1791</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rockyfly@aol.com">rockyfly@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominating</td>
<td>Don Monroe (see Long Range Planning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Ron Carman</td>
<td>209 Smokey Mountain Dr; San Marcos, TX 78666</td>
<td>512-754-6687</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rrcarman@centurytel.net">rrcarman@centurytel.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President’s Advisory</td>
<td>Don Monroe (see Long Range Planning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Competition</td>
<td>Marge Collins</td>
<td>3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd, Buchanan, MI 49107</td>
<td>(269) 695-4313</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret@qtm.net">margaret@qtm.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>Ron Carman</td>
<td>209 Smokey Mountain Dr; San Marcos, TX 78666</td>
<td>512-754-6687</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rrcarman@centurytel.net">rrcarman@centurytel.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Bob Jones</td>
<td>PO Box 25846, Scottsdale, AZ 85255</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jonesb52@gmail.com">jonesb52@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Ellery Borow</td>
<td>PO Box 47, Waterville, ME 04903-0047</td>
<td>207-547-3154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform Rules</td>
<td>B. Jay Bowman</td>
<td>191 Bowman Rd, Ponca City, OK 74604</td>
<td>580-761-5966</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjb@wildblue.net">bjb@wildblue.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>URC Eligibility Files</td>
<td>Anne Cook</td>
<td>(see info on page 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ways and Means</td>
<td>Don Monroe (see Long Range Planning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website/Webmaster</td>
<td>Marty Hart</td>
<td>4935 Olivia Dr, Antioch, TN 37013-3570</td>
<td>(615) 331-2690</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webmaster@amfed.org">webmaster@amfed.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Site Contest</td>
<td>Dan Imel</td>
<td>4 Lanary Park; Fairpoint, NY 14450</td>
<td>585-223-7198</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lapidry@aol.com">lapidry@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS Scholarship Foundation</td>
<td>Dee Holland, President</td>
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<td></td>
<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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Moving on is what folks do in our busy society and in our busy clubs. Sometimes in our clubs a treasurer or president or editor may hold their position for years and years. In most instances, however, after serving faithfully for a few years, a person is ready to move up, ease down, slide over, or simply move on.

With all the many moves possible in a club, an outgoing president would hand the incoming officer “the files”. The departing editor hands the new editor “the files”, the departing treasurer passes “the files” to the newly elected treasurer. I’m sure you see the pattern emerging here. The wealth of experience and history of the club is passed on, added to, and continues helping to grow a club with its accumulated wisdom.

In growing a club, matters of safety are important in keeping a club on the path of growth. A club’s new safety chair (hopefully your club indeed has a safety chair) deserves the same path to growth. They deserve to be handed “the files” from the outgoing chair.

No doubt every club would have in its safety files both specific to their club safety materials, and general to the hobby guidelines. General safety items in the file might include items such as the AFMS Safety Manual, a regional organization’s safety guidelines, or perhaps a binder containing years of AFMS or regional federation newsletter safety articles, and maybe an accumulation of various safety tips. Club specific safety files may include such things as a list of supplies and equipment included in their first aid kit (you do have a first aid kit don’t you?), a list of specific safety guidelines for your club’s digs and field trips, your club’s lapidary and jewelry workshop MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets), or perhaps a list of safety articles from past issues of your club’s very own bulletin.

A full safety file should include every bit of a club’s accumulated wisdom, knowledge, and experience available to you. There could be many “who” lists included within a safety file as well. Who in the club has completed club-sponsored first-aid or CPR training? Who has the specific OSHA, MSHA training required to visit some area mines, quarries and pits? Who has received training sufficient to instruct at a clubs lapidary or jewelry workshop? Who has responsibility to maintain the first aid kit?

Why, there may be a plethora of information in a clubs safety library. All that information could weigh up to be quite a large bundle. Having a bulging safety file is all well and good but who is going to read all that information? For the information to be valuable and useful a truly dedicated club safety chair would most likely want to be familiar with all of the information – after all, part of their charge is to help the club members be as safe as they can be. Any truly dedicated safety chair will also be diligent in passing on that file to a new safety chair when the time comes to be moving on.

If your club has just recently established the brand new position of safety chair, it is easy to start one’s own safety file. Other area clubs, state and regional organizations, and the AFMS Safety Manual may all be good sources of information. There is also this “new thing” called the Internet that has a wealth of good safety articles – you just have to do a bit of surfing.

With long term club safety chairs, when your time comes along for moving up, or over, or just on, please help make sure the accumulated safety wisdom in the club also moves on to the new safety chair.

Please be safe and use proper lifting techniques when picking up those heavy safety files.

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regard less of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “image” of rockhounds everywhere.

Help Us Keep You Informed!

by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office

Each AFMS affiliated club is supposed to receive three (3) issues of the AFMS Newsletter each month. Normally the club president, editor and either federation director or secretary are the recipients, but occasionally (if one or more of these positions is held by the same person or another member of the same family) we mail a copy to the club vice president or perhaps the treasurer.

The list is updated each year to reflect changes in club officers, but unfortunately, we don’t always receive the information, so our list becomes out of date. We annually use the regional federation directories for updates, but these arrive in our mailbox months after new officers are installed by their clubs. We’ve not received information from the federation since 2011 (and a good bit of that was incorrect) so we know that the mailing to those clubs probably isn’t reaching the correct officers. In some cases addresses have been deleted because they’ve been returned by the postal service – at a cost to AFMS of $5.00 per copy!

Here’s where you can help. Take about 5 minutes and send me an e-mail (central_office@amfed.org) listing the name of your club, and the name, address and office for each of the individuals named above. We’ll then have current mailing for you and can keep you informed about what’s happening in the AFMS and beyond - things that can help your club or be of interest or importance to your members.

I’ll be watching my inbox. Thanks