New Prizes...More Opportunities

by Donna Moore, Endowment Fund Chair

This has been a wonderful week to open the mailbox at our house. Even though the trek to the end of the driveway is often quite chilly, two people have sent prizes for the drawing which despite the chill outside, gave me a warm feeling.

Past AFMS President Emerson Tucker sent three spheres crafted by Jim Matlock (prizes 8, 9 and 10). The spheres measure 10 ½, 9 ½, and 8 ½ inches in circumference. The largest is cream colored, the middle one has bands of brownish red and cream, and the smallest is green with glassy layers. Not very good lapidary terms, but I am waiting on identification of the materials in these lovely spheres. (SCFMS)

Prize #8 is a 10 ½ inch honey onyx sphere. It is cream colored with distinct banding. (SCFMS)

Jasper sphere and has bands of brownish-red intermittent with cream-colored bands. (SCFMS)

Prize #9 is 9 ½ inches African Red River.

Prize #10 is 8 ½ inches in circumference and has green layers with clear layers that appear quartzy. Jim found the rock in a mine in Colorado and "just liked it". (SCFMS)

Prize #11 - Jennifer Haley, 2014 President of the CFMS sent a very nice citrine and amethyst choker length necklace with a sterling silver clasp. The necklace measures 15 inches and has an estimated value of $30. (CFMS)

Prize #12 is a matched pair of polished Quartz geodes from the Dugway Geode Beds, Juab Co., UT. Donated by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, the pair has an estimated value of $100. (EFMLS)

Prize #13 is a Titanite crystal from Druntobel, Vorderrihein Valley, Graubunden, Switzerland. Donated by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, the crystal has an estimated value of $75. (EFMLS)

We now have a representative in each federation to sell tickets, solicit prizes and support our efforts for the AFMS Endowment Fund. Delane Cox has agreed to be the representative for the Rocky Mountain Federation. Her address is 8152 Spanker Ridge Dr., Bentonville, AR 72712, phone 479-254-0894 and her e-mail address is <delaneCox@earthlink.net>. Richard Jaeger will be helping her, so either of them can assist you if you wish to purchase tickets.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to be the representatives in each federation.

Thank you to all who have donated, and to those who plan to donate, I would like to have photos of the prizes as soon as possible so they can be included in the next newsletter article and on the website. My e-mail is <mwfsecretary@gmail.com>, address is 25235 N. State Rte. 97, Cuba, IL 61427, and I can be reached by phone at 309-231-2116.

Remember, if you cannot donate a prize, please buy one or more tickets for the drawing to support the efforts of the AFMS Endowment Fund that contributes "extras" for all our federations. If you don’t see one of the people selling tickets, they will be glad to mail tickets to you if you send them a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your check. The tickets are $5 each or five for $20. Checks should be payable to AFMS Endowment Fund. Maybe your club could buy several tickets, and then if you win something raffle it off again in the club and apply the money to the AFMS Endowment Fund. Win, win!
The AFMS
Proudly
Serving
Seven Regional
Officers:

President
Richard Jaeger
<rjgrsci at aol.com>

President-Elect
Marion Roberts
<mvroberts at comcast.net>

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

2nd Vice President
Ann James
<annmonroe at windstream.net>

3rd Vice President
J.D. Moore
<jcmoore3rd at gmail.com>

4th Vice President
Doug True
<bttruefossils12 at yahoo.com>

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

Secretary
Anne Cook
<secretary at amfed.org>

Treasurer
Pat LaRue
<bplarue at earthlink.net>

From My Desk to Yours
by Richard Jaeger, President

Hopefully by the time you read this article the worst of the winter weather will be well past us.

There are a couple of items I wish address this month.

First is the AFMS Endowment Fund; Donna Moore, our AFMS Chair for this committee has an article elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. Currently, the Endowment Fund supports new programs for the AFMS Program Library, including the program contest, the conversion of older programs into more modern forms, purchase of programs, and distribution of programs to regional federations. It supports the Uniform Rules Committee Judging Seminars (the one this year is in Ogden, Utah) and it supports our junior programs and junior badges. These are all worthwhile, important functions. Donna now has a chairman in each of our seven regional federations. They are working hard to sell tickets and secure prizes for the Endowment Fund drawing to be held at the AFMS Show in Tulsa this summer. A couple of things are combining to make this more challenging than in some years. First, we have a relatively short time gap between the 2013 and 2014 show—less than ten months. Secondly, only two of the regional federations hold their shows before the national show. Please respond by purchasing tickets and/or donating a prize for the drawing. You may get lucky and win, but at any rate you will be supporting our federation in a positive way.

The second item concerns the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. I have known for several years that many clubs and individual rockhounds have a misconception of how this works. Each club in the AFMS can designate one individual or one couple to be their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year; in addition they may designate a junior member to be their AFMS Club Junior Rockhound of the Year.

The common misconception is that this is a competition where a club’s nominee is placed against nominees from other clubs for the honor. That is not the case, there is no competition involved. This is a great way to honor someone in your club each year. Just type up a paragraph on how the individual or couple has served your club and submit that to your regional chair for this committee. It will then be printed in your regional federation newsletter and will also be forwarded to Evelyn Cataldo, our AFMS Chair, for publication in the AFMS Newsletter. You will also receive a certificate honoring the person or couple you have designated for this honor. Every club in the AFMS has dedicated rockhounds worthy of recognition; please take advantage of this simple method to do so.

The AFMS / RMFLMS Convention and show is fast approaching. The theme is Rocks & Gems of the Indian Territory. In addition to the usual AFMS and Rocky Mountain Federation meetings, the A.L.A.A. (American Lands Access Association) and S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors) will be having get togethers during the weekend and everyone is invited to attend. What a wonderful way to find out what these two organizations do for you and your club. Information and registration forms can be found on the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/show2014.htm>.

Richard

What Every Club Should Know About Tax Status -- Addendum
by Jon Spunaugle

When I agreed to write the above article, I had ordered a copy of the IRS Publication 557 "Tax Exempt Status for Your Organization" to be sure I had the most up-to-date information in writing the article. Unfortunately I did not receive the copy I requested until February of 2014, after the article was printed in the AFMS Newsletter.

In that IRS Publication there is a paragraph on page 11 entitled "Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Tax Exempt Organizations". In this paragraph it is pointed out that small exempt organizations, like most clubs that are members of the AFMS and its Regional Federations, must file a form 990N each year even if their gross annual revenues are under $50,000. In this section it goes on to point out that "...ANY ORGANIZATION THAT FAILS TO MEET ITS ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE YEARS WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOOSE ITS 'TAX EXEMPT STATUS'. To regain exempt status they will have to re-apply.

Exceptions to this rule are: churches, organizations included in a group return, Private Foundations (they file a form 990PF), and Form 990 and 990EZ filers.

Thus if your club is a qualified "Exempt Organization" you must file the Electronic Form 990N each year if you have any revenue at all, which includes dues. The due date of the filing is the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the clubs tax year.

The form 990N is an electronically filed return that requests the following information: 1. The organization Name and Address; 2. Its internet website address (if any) 3. Its taxpayer ID - 4. The name and address of a principal officer; 5. The organization annual tax year; 6. Verification that the organization gross receipts are normally $50,000 or less. 7. Notification if the organization has terminated.

Sorry I did not have this information when the article was written.

Richard

AFMS Newsletter – April, 2014
Greetings to each and everyone of you.

As your president elect, I feel that it is time to introduce myself to all who do not know me yet and say hi to those that do. I am Marion Roberts from the California Federation and live in Modesto, CA. which is in the north central San Juaquin Valley, just 70 miles south of Sacramento. I was a very young transplant from north east Missouri, where my family farmed.

I was CFMS President in 2005, a Society Federation Director since 1997 or 98, and I'm still an active director. I have been an active instructor, committee member and chair of our Earth Science Program since 2001. I taught faceting for five years at Camp Paradise and was Chief Cook and bottle washer for 6 years at Camp Zzyzx.

I'm 81 years of age with, as my doctor says with a 105 year old body, but have a 30 year old mind. I love all areas of the Lapidary Arts, and mostly learning and trying new things. I'm a very strong advocate of education and competition as a learning tool.

It is now time for me to get acquainted with each and all of the committee chairs for familiarization reasons as well as to prepare a budget and assemble our working unit for the 2015 year.

Since I was not trained on a typewriter my wife Vivien puts everything on the computer for me after I write it. I do prefer to talk to everyone in person, but will use the phone as an alternative due to distance between here and everyone else. I will attempt to contact you in the early evening. If this does not work for you, please let me know, and I will call at your best time. My phone number is 1-209- 538-0197 or e-mail <rmroberts1@comcast.net>.

I wish you all good hunting and good creating and am looking forward to meeting and seeing you at a CFMS show or this July in Tulsa.

Marion

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If Your Club Does Field Trips on Forest Service or BLM Public Lands, You Need to See This

by Shirley Leeson, President, ALAA

Back in December I attended a meeting of a sub-committee for the California BLM Desert Advisory Council. At that meeting the BLM Field Manager introduced a proposal that would change forever the way rockhounds use the public lands for field trips.

Because of space, I’m asking you to go to <www.amlands.org> and click on the left side under Newsletters. Click on the 1st Quarter 2014 Newsletter. You will find this proposal along with my thoughts, as well as those of Kim Campbell Erb, who currently is serving as chair for this committee.

This could be coming to your area soon….if and when it does be prepared to act. Attend the meetings and tell those in charge, rockhounds come under ‘recreation, casual use/casual collecting’.

Second, unfortunately we have a number of ALAA applications floating around with wrong PO box number and wrong zip code.

The correct PO Box for ALAA is: ALAA, PO. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154. Please go to the application on the left side of the website and download a current, correct application and join us.

………we need you now more than ever.
Public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), part of the Department of the Interior, are concentrated in the western states, essentially the mountain west from New Mexico, Colorado, South Dakota to the Pacific Ocean. The United States Forest Service (USFS) is part of the Department of Agriculture and manages lands spread across most of the U.S. Both agencies manage lands for multiple uses; however, there are major agency differences that were explained in last month’s column. As noted, the confusion about collecting rocks and minerals is that the agency has no authorities for the disposal of minerals and rocks off of USNF land other than under the Mining Laws and 228 other mining regulations (this is my opinion as I read federal regs). Therefore, each federal forest is sort of left to itself to develop appropriate collecting guidelines; unfortunately, they often differ among forests, even among forests adjacent to each other. My advice to prospective collectors is always to: 1) check the USFS district websites: 2) stop in for a friendly visit with the district office; and 3) participate in ongoing activities that allow public comments (such as travel management plans, or plans calling for establishment of Wil- derness Areas.

The first point noted above seems the most simple—just search the web for USFS rock and mineral collecting. Well, that phrase is easy enough to process; however, the results are far from being adequate. There are many personal opinions that show up, some horror stories, and different forests advertising their rules; however, anything close to official “national” policy seems readily unavailable. The closest that I could come to anything resembling policy was written by John Nichols, Forest Geologist, Ouachita National Forest, in 1997: Rockhounding, Mineral Collecting, and Our National Forests “ unofficial” advice and observation for the mineral enthusiast looking at National Forest land.”<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ouachita/learning/nature-science/?cid=fsm9_039812>

Mr. Nichols noted that many developed and undeveloped opportunities exist on USFS lands to collect rock and mineral specimens. As examples, the Beaverhead National Forest in Montana, the St. Joe in Idaho, and the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma, all have developed public mineral collecting locations. Many National Forests provide information on general specimen locations within the Forest and on Forest policy and rules for the rockhounding and mineral collector. For example, the Chugach National Forest in Alaska, the Wallowa-Whitman in Oregon, and the Prescott in Arizona are Forests with histories of placer gold mining and as such these Forests offer informative materials on panning for gold.

Some rockhounds collecting on USFS lands may intend to sell the specimens they remove, or to significantly disturb the ground surface. If so, these collectors and rockhounds must become cognizant and aware of the many mining laws and regulations governing these activities. As I understand the Federal regs (and sometimes that is a stretch), a rockhounder becomes a miner when there is significant surface disturbance, or when they sell the minerals collected. This is certainly a gray area (think of Colorado amazzone collected by rockhounds and listed for sale at all the rock shows) and surfaced within the last year as Colorado mineral collectors were featured on the TV show The Prospectors. Are these Prospectors rockhounds or are they miners (Joe Dorris is certainly a miner and has appropriate permits)? I am uncertain about results of ongoing completed law suits or penalties.

The mining laws are designed primarily for commercial type exploration and production operations, and require the operator to submit mining plans for reviews and approvals. Under mining laws the minerals must be removed with the least impact to other resources, and the disturbed lands must be reclaimed (including reseeding and/or replanting) by the operator when mining is completed. However, mining laws may offer certain advantages and rights to rock and mineral clubs and individual collectors that are willing to take the risk and work of claiming and reclamation. As noted, this is a very fuzzy area.

So, where do USFS officials get their “authority” to manage rockhounding activities? Among the easiest to understand are: 1) The Organic Act of 1897: and 2) The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The former provides authority to “…make such rules and regulations and establish such service as will...regulate their occupancy and use and to preserve the forests thereon from destruction.” Accessing federal minerals, including rockhounding, seems an important “use” of USFS lands.

Mr. Nichols also noted that, in most cases, surface collecting of minerals (essentially picking up minerals and rocks) does not “significantly” impact (disturb) other Forest resources. But, he does advise contacting the District Ranger and explaining what is planned if a rock and mineral club is collecting on USFS lands. Is this contact necessary? I really don’t know and will leave this chore up to the discretion of collectors. I do know that unprofessional rockhounds in the Colorado Springs area have caused much trouble by digging (with only shovels) large holes and then failing to fill such excavations upon leaving the field. And, if I were collecting minerals, even surface collecting or pounding on rocks, and planned to sell such minerals, I would contact the local District Ranger and ask questions about policy. My other comment is visit the District office prepared with whatever published collecting rules and regulations you can locate (even some from adjacent Forests), be courteous and “nice,” and ask to see a ranger if the person behind the front desk seems uncertain about existing reg and rules.

Till next month, Mike

Conservation & Legislation by Mike Nelson, Chair

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<th>Public Lands</th>
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<td>USFS and BLM</td>
<td>Mike Nelson, Chair</td>
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Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions from Bob Livingston, AFMS Show Coordinator

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>California Federation</th>
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Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Activities Chair

Midwest Federation Youth Poster Contest: Birthstones

As they’ve been doing the past few years, the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (MWF) is sponsoring a poster contest open to kids throughout the U.S. The deadline for entries is June 1, and winners will be announced at the MWF Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, on October 18, 2014. I encourage you to spread the news via regional federation newsletters, local newsletters, and at society meetings. This year’s theme is “Birthstones,” and here are the details:

Sponsor: The Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (Illinois)

Theme: “Birthstones” – a poster illustrating one or more Birthstones that interest you.

Eligibility: Children in 1st through 8th grade.

Contest Rules:

All entries must be presented on paper 12 inches by 18 inches.

- Include name, address, age, and school grade of the participant on the back of the entry.
- No three-dimensional posters accepted.
- The title may be on the front or back of the artwork.
- List the Birthstone/s and why you chose the one/s you did.

All entries become property of MWF and the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society.

- Artwork on posters can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other medium that is not three-dimensional.


- Awards: Each grade level will have winners. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will also receive a prize.

- Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2014.

- Send to: Carole Harp, 9611 Breckenridge Road, Rochester, IL 62563.

- Questions? Contact Carole Harp at the address noted above, or send an email (with “Poster Contest” in the subject line) to quirkyquiller@gmail.com. Further information may be found on the Midwest Federation website: www.amfed.org/mwf

AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

from Evelyn Cataldo, AFMS Chair

California Federation

The Board of Directors of the El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society has chosen Emily Gudeman as their first Junior Rockhound of the Year. Emily is a high school freshman and is very involved in both the junior and adult club activities. Emily has earned the AFMS “Future Rockhound of America” badge. One of her Fair exhibits earned “Best of Show.” She frequently contributes articles to our newsletter about junior meetings, field trips and other activities. One of her articles, “Minerals in My Home,” received first place in both the CFMS and AFMS bulletin competitions. In addition, Emily assists with getting our newsletter mailed each month. Way to go, Emily!

Eastern Federation

The Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) is happy to select John Weidner as our club’s Rockhound of the Year. John joined our club about a year ago and, from the beginning, has shared his knowledge, time, and enthusiasm for minerals with us. He and his wife, Susie, are regular attendees at our monthly meetings, and as one of our members so aptly stated, John “brings a lot of energy and interest in areas that many of us haven’t been as strong in.” Specifically, John organized and led several field trips, held at Northern Virginia Community College, where he is an instructor, about “thin sections.” Each session was well-attended, educational, and extremely interesting. Despite the high level at which John is able to perform and teach, he is equally able to bring any given subject to a level where all in attendance are able to understand. His amiable personality, and willingness to give of his time to ensure that such learning experiences are available to members and guests, speaks to his community-mindedness and generosity of spirit. For all of these reasons and more, John Weidner is a valued member of MSDC and the unanimously-supported choice for Rock Hound of the Year.

Respectfully submitted,
The MSDC Executive Board

AFMS Convention News

The 2014 AFMS / RMFMS Convention will be held this coming July 9 - 13 in Tulsa, OK and from all the preliminary reports we’ve received, attendees are in for a treat.

Tulsa is the second largest city in Oklahoma and the 46th largest in the U.S. First settled between 1828 and 1836 by the Cherokees, the city houses two world-renowned art museums, as well as professional opera and ballet companies. The area also has a major concentration of art deco architecture. The Tulsa Port of Catoosa is the most inland river port in the U.S. with access to international waterways and the city is the home to two Universities - Oral Roberts and the University of Tulsa.

This year’s show will include many working demonstrations, special exhibits, competitive and non-competitive exhibits, many dealers from around the country, and an expanded children’s area with many rock related activities. Programs will be presented throughout the show, door prizes will be given away every hour, and there will be a continuous silent auction. We hope to have field trips in conjunction with the show if we can finalize the arrangements.

The headquarters hotel for the convention will be the Hilton Garden Inn at 4518 East Skelly Drive, Tulsa OK. The room rate will be $89.00/night for a king or queen room, $119.00/night for a suite and breakfast is included. To make reservation you may call 918-878-7777 or go to the website at: <hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/T/TULMDG1-ROCKS-20140707/index.jhtml>.

You can download all the convention forms by visiting the AFMS website <www.amfed.org> and clicking on the show header on the home page.

Deadline for making all reservations is June 16, 2014. Addresses for mailing competitive and non-competitive entry forms as well as convention registrations (including the banquet and all officers luncheon) are on the respective forms.
Safety Matters – Talk Time
by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

You’ve read about it, heard about it, and talked about it. There are laws governing it, and it has a lot of people thinking about it. In our busy traveling hobby we need to be aware of it because we travel to meetings, travel to club outings, travel to digs and field trips, we travel to shows and rock shops — and back. All that traveling should give us cause to think a great deal about it. Perhaps you have surmised the nature of the “it” mentioned here. The “it” is mobile phone, cell phone use while driving.

We are a traveling society and a traveling hobby. After all, the rocks don’t often come to us — we go to them. It is a natural desire to use our travel time to good advantage keeping in touch with our busy lives. As soon as we divert some of our attention from driving to communication, we officially enter multi-tasking land.

There are a good many folks who feel they are able to multi-task along with the best of them. Well, I’ve read survey after survey, study after study and it seems as though, even under the best of circumstances, perhaps as many as 2% of drivers exhibit a small bit of multi-tasking ability. In general, even though some may have some small modicum of ability to multi-task, even the best of us are not good enough at it to do so while driving!

Let’s mention some modern distractions as we attempt to multi-task while driving:

1. Some of us interact with devices during text to speech, and speech to text interfaces – this is a distraction.
2. Talking on a hand’s free device, whether in the phone or built into the car, is a distraction.
3. Talking on a hand held device is a distraction.
4. Texting while driving is a distraction.
5. Listening to an audio book while driving is a distraction.
6. Simply listening to a radio program is a distraction, although not quite on par with the other five distractions listed above.
7. Knitting, reading the newspaper, reading a book, shaving, doing ones nails, cleaning ones eyeglasses; and yes, I personally have witnessed folks doing all of these as they have passed me on the highway are all, yes, you guessed it – distractions.

Any effort at multi-tasking adds another task onto the already complicated task of driving. Driving involves sensing how the vehicle is handling. Driving keeps us aware of vehicle noises and surrounding noises such as those from emergency vehicles. Driving requires monitoring optical effects – glare and reflections. Our brains are already full of driving needs when we are behind the wheel. Driving with additional distractions is just something we don’t do well. As we add distractions such as taking our eyes off the road while texting or pressing a speed dial number, or focusing on an important conversation, or fumbling with a seat adjustor, or fusing with the A/C unit buttons simply adds too much for our brains to handle well.

There are accidents we sometimes see ahead of time — and thus offers us time to process. Seriously – sometimes we will monitor a fast car coming up behind us zipping from lane to lane as it races to save a few seconds on the commute home. Sometimes ahead of us we will see a car not–all-that-far-enough pulled into the emergency lane with cars swerving around it – at high speed. Sometimes we will see a line of brake lights ahead of us as we approach a lane (or two or three) of road bottleneck. All these things give us a few moments of precious time to react.

It is often the case however, when the time we have to react is a 1/2 second, or maybe even a full one and 1/2 seconds. What if, however, that 1/2 second occurs when we have our eyes down or side cast while texting, or fumbling with a seat adjustor button? Sometimes that 1/2 second contains a life saving or life risking decision and it would be nice to think our brains were clearly focused on the driving tasks during the precious small amount of reaction time wouldn’t it.

Another serious consideration to texting and other distractions is that there are altogether too many of such distracted folks on the road, and so we, as good rockhounds and drivers, need to be ever vigilant and on the watch for such drivers. Certainly you would not want to pay the price for someone else’s distraction.

Because we have a traveling hobby yet we still need to be safe and stay in contact we might ask – what is a person to do and still stay in touch? Some possible solutions – share the driving so that there is a passenger who can be responsible for some of the communicating. Pull over where it can be done legally and safely to stop and talk. Let the phone do what it was designed to do and take messages – they are very good at that. If you have a field trip caravan, have a designated communicator in each vehicle. You can do this; you can be safe.

By all means make an effort to be aware of your state’s laws on using cell and mobile phones. Know not just your own state’s laws, but the laws of the states through which you will be passing. Even if your area permits some cell and mobile phone use while driving, please do so safely and avoid becoming distracted – it’s just not worth the horrific price some people have paid for the talking time.

Please be safe – it’s an interesting (yet distracting) world out there!

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow free and possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the “Public Image” of recreational collectors.

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2012-13. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club
Regina Kampa
<cgmc at comcast.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Evelyn Cataldo
<cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries
Bob Carlson
<illegitimusnoncarborundum at inbox.com>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Bulletin Editors Advisory
Linda Jaeger
<jgiralg at aol.com>

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr at erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
Mike Nelson
<csrockguy at yahoo.com>

Endowment Fund


Photography
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret at qtn.net>

Publications
Ron Carman
<rrcarman at centurytel.net>

Public Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Safety
Ellery Borow
207-547-3154

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy at verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
B. Jay Bowman
<bj at wildblue.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
<secretary at amfed.org>

Ways and Means
Don Monroe
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Putting Some Rumors to Rest
by Steve Weinberger, Chair, National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame

The National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame is an organization started by June Culp Zeitner to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of mineralogy, lapidary, jewelry, paleontology and education.

June worked with Mr. Dave Geisler in Murdo, South Dakota and Dave was and is graciously willing to house the Hall of Fame in his museum, the Pioneer Auto Show (www.pioneerautoshow.com). He has done so for many years without charge. For this we are most grateful.

Some of you may have been contacted by a relative of June’s indicating that he might buy the collection which was the accumulation of items sent by inductees for exhibit. In addition, numerous rumors about the Hall of Fame have been forwarded to others and appeared in some club bulletins. I’d like to clarify the situation and put these rumors to rest.

Since the Hall of Fame is a separate corporation, no one may purchase, de-accession, sell, give away, etc. anything belonging to the Hall of Fame without the consent of the corporation and it’s Board of Consultants.

June established the Hall of Fame with a Board of Consultants (a group of people from the various regions of the U.S.) The Board is charged with among other things, receiving nominations and selecting inductees based on the nominations received. The Board continues to do the work of the Hall of Fame with Maxine Wilson, a friend of June’s, administering the secretarial duties until her death two years ago.

Mr. Geisler, June’s relative and the Board are all on the same page, namely seeing that the Hall of Fame continues and can be exhibited for all to see. To this end we are all working to do just that.

There was perhaps a misunderstanding on June’s relative’s part because he thought June’s collection, purchased by Mr. Geisler several years ago and housed at the auto museum, were one and the same.

Although the AFMS is not officially connected with the Hall of Fame, the process of nominating individuals has always been closely related in that all regional federation clubs or club members may submit nominations along with substantiating documentation as to why the nominee should be considered. The more information we receive, the easier the selection task is for the Board. You may go to the Hall of Fame website <rockandlapidaryhalloffame.org> to get directions, nomination forms, history, a list of inductees, and additional pictures of the Hall of Fame.

I hope that this answers some of the questions that have been raised and puts the rumors about the demise of the Hall of Fame to rest. Should anyone have further questions or concerns, please contact me directly at <ccscreystals2@gmail.com>.

Again, I thank Mr. Geisler for his extreme generosity over the years. I also encourage you to visit his Pioneer Auto Show in Murdo, SD. It’s right off Interstate 90 – when you see the huge green car outside you are there.

AFMS Code of Ethics

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “image” of rockhounds everywhere.