AFMS Recognition Award Presented

by Don Monroe, Chairman

One of the duties of the AFMS Immediate Past President is to chair a committee charged with selecting an individual who has served the AFMS “above and beyond” the normal call of duty. The 2014 award was presented during the banquet at the Tulsa, OK convention this past July and reads as follows:

“The recipient of the AFMS Recognition Award for 2014 has been AFMS Treasurer since 2005 when she agreed to fill the position left vacant by the death of Toby Cozens. After assuming the office, her first hurdle was that of transferring accounts and funds from Washington State to California. This task was complicated by various unique state and bank policies that made it difficult to remove funds from some institutions in Washington and open accounts with multiple signators (living in multiple states) in California. Pat doggedly pursued the process and was successful in making the transfer.

Her next hurdle was in reorganizing the bookkeeping process from that used by Toby to one that both she and the AFMS accounts auditor felt comfortable with.

In the years since, Pat has skillfully managed the AFMS funds generating monthly reports to the AFMS President, President-elect and Central Office so all are aware of expenditures made by the various officers and committee chairs. She insists on meticulous record and receipt keeping by both officers and committee chairs when submitting vouchers for reimbursement of expenditures and promptly pays all bills when requested.

During the past year the AFMS auditor (a CPA familiar with 501(C)(3) organizations) retired from practice, so Pat requested input from others within AFMS in finding a replacement. The transition from old to new occurred seamlessly.

In addition to her duties as treasurer, Pat also holds the position of CFMS Executive Secretary/Treasurer, a job that keeps her quite busy also. She is the only person who has served as CFMS President twice – once in 1996 when she was elected and once again in 2000 when the elected president suddenly had to resign. Not surprisingly, she handled both “tours of duty” successfully.

The AFMS is indeed fortunate to have someone who works as diligently for the AFMS. I’m delighted to present the 2014 AFMS Recognition Award to

Pat LaRue

Also In This Issue

From My Desk to Yours.................... 2
Quick Tips for Editors..................... 3
Club Rockhounds of the Year............... 4
URC Committee Report................... 5
Editor’s Hall of Fame Inductees........... 5
Upcoming Federation Conventions.......... 5
Web Site Contest Results................ 6
Competitive Exhibit Results.............. 6
Conservation & Legislation............... 7
Safety Matters............................ 8
All American Club Awards................. 8
Editor’s Contest Results................ 9
AFMS Meeting Minutes.................. 13
Endowment Drawing Winners.............. 14
AFMS Committee Chairs................ 15
Junior Activities........................ 16
After School Clubs...................... 16
AFMS Code of Ethics.................... 16

Nine year old Kaleigh Brock not only won a trophy for her display, but also won the Lilian Turner award.
From My Desk to Yours by Richard Jaeger, President

Probably most every president of most every organization has talked about the importance of communication. I mentioned communication in an earlier message, but was speaking primarily of sharing and passing on information between the AFMS, regional federations, and individual clubs. In my last message, I mentioned that I had been surprised by being asked to intervene in disputes involving rockhounds with each other, with their clubs, or with their federations. Many of the disputes, in fact, resulted from misunderstandings due to people failing to effectively communicate.

When you are contacted by someone, please respond in a timely fashion. Now, in many cases, that means as soon as possible. Other questions may require you to do a little searching before you reply. Sometimes you get a communication which is unpleasant or even rude; in that case it may be best to ponder for a day or two rather than responding hastily. I know that is true for me.

On the other hand, when you contact someone and don’t get a reply in a timely fashion, don’t give up or get mad. Perhaps the message didn’t get through to the other person or perhaps the person fully meant to respond but forgot. For example, when I made out my budget for the AFMS last summer, I sent an e-mail to all the committee chairmen asking if the amount budgeted for them the previous year was reasonable. Eventually, I got responses from all but two people. But, I had to make more than one attempt in several cases. Some individuals who had not responded to an e-mail readily responded when I gave them a phone call. In some cases I found that either the e-mail address or phone number I was using was incorrect. No one had purposely refused to respond; they just hadn’t gotten the message or had misplaced it. So, if at first you don’t succeed, try, try again. And everyone remember, if all else fails, there is still the US mail.

I have thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed the articles by Mike Nelson, the Chair of the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee; they have been most informative. I was particularly intrigued by his references to “Rockhounding, Mineral Collecting, and Our National Forests” written in 1997 by John Nichols who was the Forest Geologist of the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma. John and I were both participants in a two day workshop in 1995 in Oklahoma City which resulted in the Oklahoma Geological Survey Publication: “Rockhounding and Earth-Science Activities in Oklahoma”, [Oklahoma Geological Survey Special Publication 96-5, 1996], Kenneth S. Johnson and Neil H. Suneson, Editors.

The co-sponsors of this workshop were the OGS, the Gem & Mineral Clubs of Oklahoma and the Omniplex Science Center. Participants included many rockhounds, past RMFMS and AFMS Presidents, several honorary AFMS Scholarship Awardees, the BLM, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, other state government agencies, conservation groups, universities, and museums. The publication contains the seventeen papers which were presented, including the one by my wife Linda and me on “Fossil Collecting, Preparation, and Display”.

One of the highlights of the workshop was a panel discussion “Rockhounds’ Rights Versus Government Regulations on Collecting Minerals and Fossils”. In rereading the transcript of this discussion and the other articles in this publication, I think it can be said that John Nichols ideas expressed in his publication were, in part, shaped by the proceedings at this workshop. How wonderful it would be if this kind of workshop could be duplicated in other states. I know, it’s easier said than done, but think about it.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the just concluded AFMS/RMFMS Convention held this past July in Tulsa, OK. I truly enjoyed meeting so many people from across the country as well as from the Rocky Mountain Federation. The event was hosted by my own club, the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society and from all the comments I’ve heard, everyone who attended had a fabulous time. I cannot thank the members of the club enough for the enthusiasm and hard work they put into the convention.

Quick Tips for Editors
by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair

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

Congratulations are in Order!
What a wonderful AFMS/RMFMS show we had in Tulsa this year! Editors, author, and web master awards were presented at the annual Breakfast with the Editors and Web Masters. If you were there, you already have your awards. If we missed you this year, your awards have been mailed to the editor of your club, or they may have been picked up by a representative from your club or regional federation. The complete list of winners is elsewhere in this AFMS Newsletter.

Congratulations to all of you! Just being top three in your regional federation and having your work submitted to the AFMS contest is an accomplishment. Keep in mind that in the seven regional federations that comprise the AFMS there are approximately 640 clubs with about 53,000 members total. In my "okie accent," let me say that y'all are at the top of the heap!

What Makes An Editor?
Under the AFMS umbrella we have three types of editor positions:

Editors of local clubs keep their members informed of all club activities, club reports, regional and American Federation news, and provide educational articles, hints, and tips, and fun stuff (like poetry or puzzles) that meet the needs of their club. Local editors are part of the glue that holds clubs together. So if someone calls you "Elmer," ... consider it a compliment. Local editors could be elected or might be appointed by the president or board of directors of the club.

Editors of the regional federations are kind of like the old-fashioned telephone operators who connect everyone in their federation to a party line, plugging all the wires in the right places so everyone can hear. If you are with the younger generation, think "conference call." Within the seven regional federations associated with AFMS, two regions elect their editors and the other five appoint their editors who serve at the pleasure of the Federation president. The federations depend on these editors to help make federation business run smoothly. They print correct information, officer reports, committee reports, show announcements, regional federation activities, AFMS activities, and other items of importance/interest to member societies in a timely manner and without political comment. Regional editors help everyone work together as a team and are team players themselves. They are knowledgeable about their federation. Some regional editors include educational articles in the newsletter, but some federations consider the regional newsletter to be a vehicle for federation business only. The intent of the regional newsletter is up to each federation in accordance with their operating procedures. Like all committee appointments, the AFMS Newsletter is the giant switchboard in the sky with connections to each regional federation and every local club. The AFMS editor prints all things related to AFMS business: officer reports, committee reports, safety information, show information, contact information for officers and committee chairs, collecting information (remember ALAA, BLM), and accolades for individuals and societies. He/she also sends out timely reminders to AFMS officers and chairs about important deadlines. And like our other types of editors, the AFMS editor acts as a glue to hold us all together, promotes the interests of our hobby, and works as a team player. The word "divisive" is not part of the vocabulary.

These excerpts from our AFMS editor, Carolyn Weinberger: "... the editor [every editor!] must be task oriented and good at keeping deadlines, ... knowledge of spelling (not text speak) and correct grammar (not TV tense change or present day only occurrences) are important as well. ... It's also important that the editor has an understanding of the federation and the good sense to not print inappropriate or items of a political nature or opinion that would most certainly offend some readers."

And these three thoughts from your AFMS BEAC Chair (me):

Being an editor is all about good communication. All of the editor descriptions above list things that make good communication happen. We also need to remember that good communication involves listening attentively to others in addition to speaking through print.

Editors know what their job is, they do THEIR job, they help when asked, they do NOT overstep the bounds of their position to do everyone else's jobs, and they do NOT tell others how to do their jobs. Editors DO respect differences and act as the glue that holds us together.

Are YOU feeling like glue? May I call you "Elmer?"

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)
California Federation
Allen Altaffer is and has been a dream come true for the Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society. As club shop foreman, Allen has diligently mended and maintained our equipment in safe working order for many years. He cheerfully offers his help and knowledge to anyone who asks. His expertise in shaping and polishing rocks is unparalleled. For the last five years, Allen has provided all the case favors for our show. Allen also runs the silent auction at the show. Allen slices the end off all the rocks and polishes a face so that you can see the finished product! Allen puts in hundreds of hours for our auction and stands quietly by never seeking recognition. If presented with a question or task, Allen looks at the project and quietly says, “Well, let’s see what we can do.”

Rocky Mountain Federation
Frank and Eloise “Elgie” Rosenberg, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society’s Rockhounds of the Year, serve on the CSMS Board of Directors; Elgie as editor of Pick & Pack and Frank as member-at-large. The Rosenbergs serve as CSMS Librarians and belong to the CSMS Crystal and Lapidary subgroups. Elgie is beginning to learn jewelry making and Frank enjoys taking pictures of club activities for the newsletter. Both have chaired the club’s Silent Auction for the past several years; raising money for scholarships and education. Elgie and Frank are volunteers at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The Rosenbergs have collected from coast to coast in this country as well as in Canada, Labrador, New Zealand and Spain.

Ciena Higginbotham is the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club’s outstanding 2014 Junior Rockhound of the Year. Ciena attends the club regularly and has brought new Pebble peps to the meetings. She has continually met deadlines on articles about our hobby for six months. With each article, she has been assigned a project of original artwork to go with the article. She has been published many times in the local newspaper. For 2014, Ciena is being considered as an artist-in-residence at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. If chosen, it will be the first time a teen has held this prestigious position in the National Park Service. We are proud of Ciena and her dedication to the hobby.

The Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society declares Bill Spence our AFMS Rockhound of the Year for 2014. He has been our PLAC Chairman since 2009 and has become the point person for our area’s rock and mineral collecting clubs; keeping us aware of the latest issues involving California Public Lands. Bill has played a key role in the reopening of the BLM Clear Creek area. As an outspoken advocate he researched the issue, attended forums, organized letter writing campaigns, kept in contact with the local and state BLM offices, made numerous phone calls, spoke at ALAA meetings and convinced BLM staff to attend local club meetings to hear the opinions and concerns of the Bay Area rockhounding community. Thank you Bill for your dedicated service to all California rockhounds and mineral collectors.

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society is honored to name Marjory Heeney as their 2014 Rockhound of the Year. Although Marjory may not go out to hunt rocks like the rest of us, she does buy many, many of our grab bags throughout the year. She enjoys giving these bags to children and adults, and most of the time, she does not even know the people! Marjory enjoys seeing their reaction when they discover the different types of rocks and fossils inside the bags. She talks to the adults about the educational values that children and adults can receive by joining the club. Marjory is a “Great Ambassador” for the Topeka Gem & Mineral Society.

The Lake George Gem & Mineral Club has selected Bob Carnein to be our 2014 AFMS Rockhound of the Year. At the present time, Bob is helping start a Pebble Pups club in Canyon City. With Bob’s literary help, many of the Pebble Pups’ written works have been published locally and internationally. Bob is a retired professor of geology and helps Steven Veatch, an active professor of geology, plan field trips and the learning curriculum for each club during the academic year. Bob spends time photographing, identifying and cataloging collections at the Cripple Creek District Museum with the goal of having the collections available online. Bob serves as a science fair judge for the Lake George Charter School. Bob is a true blessing to the hobbyists of both clubs.

We, the Delvers Gem & Mineral Society, honor James Donahue to be our first Junior AFMS 2014 Rockhound of the Year. James and his family are great outdoor people. He is 17 and has been collecting, prospecting, camping and doing lapidary for 10 years. He enjoys cutting and polishing rocks and making cabs. James is also a musician in a jazz band, teaches electronics to younger students and is the Drum Major. He is now a senior in high school and wants to go on to college to study electrical engineering. James is a great person and a pleasure to have in our club.

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society is honored to name Marjory Heeney as their 2014 Rockhound of the Year. Although Marjory may not go out to hunt rocks like the rest of us, she does buy many, many of our grab bags throughout the year. She enjoys giving these bags to children and adults, and most of the time, she does not even know the people! Marjory enjoys seeing their reaction when they discover the different types of rocks and fossils inside the bags. She talks to the adults about the educational values that children and adults can receive by joining the club. Marjory is a “Great Ambassador” for the Topeka Gem & Mineral Society.

Northern Federation
West Seattle Rock Club names Mike Wall as their Rockhound of the Year. Joining the club in February of 1999, within a couple of months he volunteered to be the editor of our club newsletter, the Petroglyphs. That is 15 years of putting out an award winning newsletter and keeping the club membership informed of activities at all levels of our rockhounding hobby.

Mike and his family find time for field trips (near and far); volunteers at our annual show - setting-up, taking down, putting in an 8 foot display case; puts together our club membership directory; and is a silent volunteer in many other areas.

Our membership is honored by Mike Wall's commitment to the West Seattle Rock Club.
I would like to apologize to everyone involved in the judging in Tulsa for leaving them in a slight bind by departing for the hospital. Thanks to everyone who showed concern about my health and particularly thanks to Lisa and Dave Waynment for driving me to the hospital and staying with me until my son got there. (Jay was kept for observation until discharge Sunday evening. He’s home and doing quite well).

The AFMS Uniform Rules Committee met during the Tulsa convention and voted to change the following:
• Division C, Subdivision CF (Faceting), rule 12.1, section a: 3mm was changed to 4 mm
• Page S-1-5-2011, rule 4.4 Exhibitor Groups, section B (Advanced Exhibitor Group) was changed to read “An exhibitor who has been awarded one blue ribbon/trophy must compete as a master if he/she wishes to in the same class again.”
• Page C-6-2013, Division C, rule 9.5: add “Coatings such as oils or various resins in place of polish in all classes calling for polish may still have bees wax on the carvings.”
• Division C, Subdivision CF (Faceting), rule 12.1, section a: 3mm was changed to 4 mm
• There were also some changes made to the Mineral Classification list.

These changes will go into effect on January 1st 2015.

Editor’s Hall of Fame – New Inductees Announced
by Carolyn Weinberger

The AFMS Editor’s Hall of Fame is the brain-child of Shirley Leeson who in 1985 decided that it was time to recognize and honor the hard working, dedicated editors and publishers of our clubs and federations. A lengthy cadre of inductees was made during the editors breakfast in Boise, ID with the intention of adding editors each year.

Soon it became obvious that editors from other federations were not going to attend conventions outside of their own federations in great numbers and it was always disappointing to not be able to see their smiling faces as their names were announced so the Hall of Fame committee decided to change the format and only make inductions to editors who served within the federation hosting the annual AFMS Convention. Thus for example, during the 2013 convention, editors from the Southeast were honored and during 2014 those from the Rocky Mountain Federation were honored.

Nominations for recognition are accepted by the HOF chair several months prior to the convention (SCFMS is up to bat for 2015). Once these have been received the chair confers with other Hall of Fame inductees to determine who will be selected.

General considerations for recognition include length of service as editor, quality of publication and overall value of the bulletin to the club. Important is inclusion of federation (regional and AFMS) information in the publication.

It was a pleasure to announce and award certificates of induction to the following editors in the Rocky Mountain Federation:

Bob Carnein
LGMC News
Lake George Gem & Mineral Society

Cheryl Christensen
The voice
El Paso Mineral & Gem Society

Delane Cox
Rock, Pick & Chisel
NW Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

Sue Ogden
Hourglass News
Enid Gem & Mineral Society

Ed Vos
Rimstones Review
Payson Rimstones Rock Club

Carolyn White
Quarry Quips
Wichita Gem & Mineral Society

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions
from Bob Livingston

Only two more regional federation conventions remain this calendar year -- Midwest in October and Southeast in November and the calendar for 2015 is almost complete. To avoid conflicts in dates, please inform me as soon as you have your dates for 2015 and beyond and we’ll post them on the calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Federation</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>May 30-June 1</td>
<td>Pomona, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Federation</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Oct. 18-19</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Federation</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Aug. 15-17</td>
<td>Hermiston, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Federation</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>July 9-13</td>
<td>Tulsa, OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central Federation</td>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Aug. 9-10</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Federation</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Nov. 7-9</td>
<td>Pascagoula, MS</td>
</tr>
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2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 12-15</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>March 27-29</td>
<td>Hickory, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23-24</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Wheaton, IL (Chicago area)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16-18</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>Cody, WY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>October 23-25</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
</tr>
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</table>

2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 14-16</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2014 Website Contest Results  
by Dan Imel, AFMS Chair

The good news is that the 2014 website contest gave our judges quite a task! It appears as if websites and web masters are getting much better in producing these important and informative pieces of public relations about their clubs. The bad news is that we only had 15 websites forwarded from the regional federations for the AFMS contest. I would hope that next year many more webmasters take the opportunity of entering their regional federation competition and that the AFMS judges have a full contingent (21) of websites to evaluate.

As announced during Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters at the Tulsa, OK convention, the 2014 results are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Webmaster</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Federation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jeff Ursillo</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gemandmineral.cc">www.gemandmineral.cc</a></td>
<td>Gem &amp; Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches</td>
<td>SFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Donn Ullery</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westseattlerockclub.org">www.westseattlerockclub.org</a></td>
<td>West Seattle Rock Club</td>
<td>NFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gordon C. Gallagher</td>
<td><a href="http://www.austinpaleo.org">www.austinpaleo.org</a></td>
<td>Paleontological Society of Austin</td>
<td>SCFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Don Shurtz</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pogmc.org">www.pogmc.org</a></td>
<td>Pleasant Oaks Gem &amp; Mineral Club of Dallas</td>
<td>SCFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kendra Scherrer</td>
<td><a href="http://www.SRMGS.org">www.SRMGS.org</a></td>
<td>Santa Rosa Mineral &amp; Gem Society</td>
<td>CFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Joel Johnstone</td>
<td><a href="http://www.agmc.info">www.agmc.info</a></td>
<td>Albuquerque Gem &amp; Mineral Club</td>
<td>RMFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mary McLaughlin</td>
<td>centralbrevardgems.org</td>
<td>Central Brevard Rock &amp; Gem Club (CBRGC)</td>
<td>SFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ken Casey</td>
<td><a href="http://www.delminsociety.org">www.delminsociety.org</a></td>
<td>Delaware Mineralogical Society</td>
<td>EFMLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bradley Grant</td>
<td><a href="http://www.baltimoreminalso.org">www.baltimoreminalso.org</a></td>
<td>Baltimore Mineral Society</td>
<td>EFMLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorables Mention</td>
<td>Dina Barron</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org">www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org</a></td>
<td>Lowcountry Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>SFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Flannigan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cigma.org">www.cigma.org</a></td>
<td>Clear Lake Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>SCFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Loeffler</td>
<td><a href="http://www.peaktopeak.com/jeff">www.peaktopeak.com/jeff</a></td>
<td>North Jeffco Gem &amp; Mineral Club</td>
<td>RMFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harry Nichandros</td>
<td>ccgms.org</td>
<td>Contra Costa Mineral &amp; Gem Society</td>
<td>CFMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caspar Voogt</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org">www.mineralogicalsocietyofdc.org</a></td>
<td>Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia</td>
<td>EFMLS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AFMS Competitive Exhibit Results  
from Jay Bowman, AFMS URC Chair

Interest in competitive exhibiting was quite high during the July Tulsa, OK AFMS/RMFMS Convention. Ron Carman presented trophy awards to the following exhibitors:

- **Trophy #1** - Virgil Richards - 98 pts  
  Open Division, Geographical Specialties  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #1** - Diane Weir - 98 pts  
  Open Division - Gem Trees  
  Chaparral Rockhounds

- **Trophy #1** - Julia Allande - 99 pts  
  Open Division - Minerals  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #2** - Michael Shaw - 92.6 pts.  
  Minerals, Any Size  
  Stillwater Mineral & Gem Society

- **Trophy #4** - Dottie Smith - 94.67 pts  
  Cabinet Sized Minerals  
  Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society

- **Trophy #5** - Donald Hines - 97.2 pts  
  Restricted Minerals  
  Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #6** - Paul Otto - 95.3 pts  
  Miniature Minerals  
  Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #8** - Linda Jaeger - 90.46 pts  
  Thumbnail Minerals  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #9** - Jack & Kay Thompson - 98.7 pts  
  Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter

- **Trophy #16** - Denver Gem & Mineral Guild - 97 pts.  
  Carvings (Society)

- **Trophy #17** - Leon Reeder - 92 pts  
  Cabochons 1  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #18** - Finis Riggs - 97.5 pts  
  Cabochons II  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #21** - Ben Thomas - 99 pts  
  Specialized Lapidary  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #28** - Martin & Linda Dougherty - 97.5 pts  
  Educational II  
  Prescott Gem & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #28** - Denver Gem & Mineral - 94 pts  
  Educational II (Society)

- **Trophy #29** - Liz Thomas - 100 pts  
  Educational III  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #30** - Paul Otto - 97 pts.  
  Educational IV  
  Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #31** - Lainey Faust - 97.5 pts  
  Educational V  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society

- **Trophy #32** - Julia Allande - 97 pts.  
  Fluorescent Minerals  
  Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society
Past newsletter columns generally have focused on collecting (rocks, minerals, fossils) regulations associated with land managed by the two largest federal agencies—the Bureau of Land Management (BLM: Department of Interior) and the United States Forest Service (USFS: Department of Agriculture). However, there are other federal agencies that manage large tracts of land, for example, the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR: Department of Interior) and the Corps of Engineers (CoE: U.S. Army, Department of Defense).

The BoR is one of the largest land managers in the western U.S. but probably is under the radar of most rockhounds, and agency seems to have very few rules and regulations governing the collecting of rocks, minerals, and to a lesser extent fossils—at least readily available to the public. The agency, established in 1902, has built and manages a large variety of dams, power plants, and canals from the Great Plains (North Dakota south to Texas) to the Pacific coast. Dams range in size from small, non-power plant dams in the Great Plains to Grand Coulee Dam in the Pacific Northwest and Hoover Dam in the southwest. The agency wholesales water to more than 31 million people and their irrigation water helps provide resources for 60% of the nation’s vegetation. The 53 power plants annually generate enough electricity to serve 3.5 million homes. They are big time players in the western U.S. land-management arena.

I have read the agency manual several times and still have failed to locate much information about collecting of interest to rockhounds. One of their objectives, stated in the Mission Statement is: Managing Reclamation’s facilities…protect and/or enhance conditions for fish, wildlife, land, and cultural resources. I find nothing about managing the stuff that interests rockhounds. Sometimes the agencies like to stick rocks and minerals and fossils under cultural resources; however, their manual reflects nothing about those interests.

However, when all else fails head to the Code of Federal Regulations and try to navigate through the pages. Here BoR rockhound stuff is located under Natural and Cultural Resources. §423.29 Natural and cultural resources. (a) You must not destroy, injure, deface, remove, search for, disturb, or alter natural or cultural resources or cultural resources...

(c) You must not drop, place, throw, or roll rocks or other items inside, into, at, or down, caves, caverns, valleys, canyons, mountainsides, thermal features, or other natural formations.  If you must not possess a metal detector or other geophysical discovery device, or use a metal detector or other geophysical discovery techniques to locate or recover subsurface objects or features on Reclamation lands,

OK, there it is, in black and white—you may not collect rocks and minerals on lands managed by the BoR, nor throw rocks down mountains, nor use a metal detector. You can participate in many activities on BoR land, including several that seem detrimental to the environment; however, do not disturb the rocks! I also assume these statements cover gold prospecting and panning.

But, the Code §423.29 seems not to cover fossils! This was not an oversight in the Code since the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, allows casual collecting...of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth’s surface and other resources.

So, collecting common invertebrate fossils and plants is “generally OK” on BoR land but just don’t pick up the rocks. But, what if you picked up a concretion containing an ammonite (plus barite and calcite crystals)? How would that play out? I honestly believe that some land managers are as confused about the regulations as are the rockhounds. Life could be so much better if only a few qualified rockhounds were allowed to participate in the writing, more likely rewriting, of the rules.

The Bureau of Reclamation manages several reservoirs in western and central Kansas, my home state. All are small non-power plant lakes and many were built as either flood control and/or irrigation projects: Keith Sebelius Lake (Norton Dam), Cedar Bluff Reservoir, Webster Reservoir, Kiwin Reservoir, Waconda Lake, Lovewell Reservoir, Cheney Reservoir. So, I decided to test the waters about collecting and wrote to the Great Plains District of the BoR asking about collecting fossils at Cedar Bluff Reservoir where exposures of fossiliferous Cretaceous marine rocks are quite common. Somewhat surprisingly, I received a very quick and through answer:

Please be aware that Reclamation’s regulations do allow the agency to close areas to certain activities for security reasons or to protect certain resources. It is possible that Reclamation could close an area to all paleontological collections if it is deemed necessary to protect rare or important specimens. No lands in Reclamation’s Great Plains Region are presently closed to collection (except lands around dams or other facilities that are closed to public access), but such closures are possible in the future. You should contact the appropriate Reclamation Area Office to assure that areas are not closed to collection.

In summary, the Bureau of Reclamation manages thousands of acres of land in the western one-half of the country. Their land seems off limits to collecting rocks and minerals but rockhounds may go after the common plants and invertebrates. In almost every BoR-managed area, parts or all of the dams and powerhouses are unavailable for visitation. And, the BoR may use their authority to require special use permits for groups of collectors. And finally, the BoR is “as directed by the Act [PRPA]...[is] in the process of developing implementing regulations” for fossils. I presume they are waiting to see what happens with draft regulations proposed by the USFS. As usual, vertebrate fossils, including ichnofossils such as tracks, are off limits to collectors. Interested readers should see: www.usbr.gov/cultural/fossil.html.

I always encourage readers and rockhounds to contact the local Bureau of Reclamation offices before collecting. This column should never be taken as the final decision about collecting!

Till next time. Mike

Oklahoma Native American Mike Pahsetopah, his wife Lisa and daughter Heaven performed during the Awards Banquet during the AFMS/RMFFS Tulsa convention.
Some Notes and Safety Tips on Using Oxalic Acid by Duane Leavitt

One often reads about and sees reference to oxalic acid (wood bleach) in publications when the topic of cleaning minerals is discussed. This chemical, while an excellent cleaner for some types of minerals, poses some serious health risks which are not widely understood and can be confusing when considered in light of other acids that are sometimes used for cleaning purposes.

Oxalic acid, chemically H$_2$C$_2$O$_4$, is an organic acid, which means that it contains, among other things, the element carbon. At room temperature it is a white, crystalline, odorless, solid looking a lot like granular sugar in physical appearance. It melts at 101 degrees C and will vaporize at around 150 degrees C.

When we look at oxalic acid, strictly as an acid, we find that as acids go it is quite weak. Acid strength is measured by how much hydrogen acids give up in water solutions; a convenient measure of this is what is known as the Ka value, ionization constant value, of the acid. In a standard water solution oxalic acid has ionization constant (Ka) values of 0.0054 (primary) and 0.0000523 (tertiary). Compare this to Ka values of hydrochloric acid, Ka: 1; and nitric acid, (primary) and 0.0000523 (tertiary). Ka: 0.0000523 (tertiary). 

Unlike neutralized hydrochloric, muriatic and nitric acids, the products of “neutralized” oxalic acid are STILL poisonous - they just are no longer acidic. Oxalate compounds of any nature are still a threat to your health.

People wishing to use oxalic acid can do so successfully and safely provided they incorporate the following procedures into their mineral cleaning:

1. Always use long-sleeved rubber gloves, a splash proof apron, and full eye/nose protection when handling either dry oxalic acid crystals or oxalic acid solutions.
2. Avoid heating solutions of oxalic acid...it will work cold, it just takes longer.
3. Keep containers of soaking specimens covered so that acid vapors stay inside the container. Lids should NOT be airtight.
4. Rinse any specimens cleaned with oxalic acid with copious amounts of water and test with pH paper to ensure that all acid is gone. A post treatment bath in dilute (household) ammonia or sodium bicarbonate solution is a good idea.
5. In the event of a spill removed affected clothing immediately, rinse affected areas with copious amounts of water, rinse and wash affected clothing. If there is any doubt as to the severity of the exposure seek medical help immediately.
6. Small amounts of used solutions of oxalic acid can be disposed of by the following method:
   1. Neutralize the solution with sodium bicarbonate or sodium hydroxide; TEST with pH paper to make sure it is neutral (or slightly basic).
   2. Dilute the solution from step 1 above, 20 fold with water (example, to 1 pint of neutralized acid solution add 20 pints of water.
   3. Pour solution 2 down the drain with plenty of cold water. This disposal technique is identical to Flynn Scientific disposal technique 24A (Flynn, 2006).
   7. Read up on cleaning techniques (Cleaning and Preserving Minerals by Richard Pearl is a good place to start) and educate yourself about techniques, materials and alternatives.

Numerous articles have been written about the use of oxalic acid for cleaning and preparing mineral specimens. The trouble with most of the articles I’ve read has been that a good deal of the important safety information has been left out of them. In fact, most of the articles never even mention the very important matter of its toxicity. This month I’m turning over the Safety Matters column to Duane Leavitt. Duane is a chemistry teacher, mineral collector and contributor to the Mineralogy of Maine Volume II, published by the Maine Geological Society.

Safety Matters - Oxalic Acid Precautions

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

All American Club Awards

We had four entries in the All American Club program this year. There were two from the Midwest Federation – one from Lincoln, Nebraska (Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club) and one from Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Wisconsin Geological Society). The third and fourth books were from the Northwest Federation – the Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club from Kennewick, Washington, and the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society in Portland, Oregon.

The Awards to the clubs for 2014 were:

Bronze Medals
Wisconsin Geological Society
with an average score of 72.3

Oregon Agate & Mineral Society
with an average score of 79.6

Silver medal
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club
with an average score of 89.6

Gold medal
Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club
with an average score of 91

All four were excellent entries that were well organized and had documented activities in the categories. The clubs did a wonderful job putting these books together. I hope more clubs will see the value of creating a club yearbook. It’s a perfect way to salute individual member efforts and the club’s involvement in their communities. These award winners are great examples of active, involved clubs. An active club can benefit everyone in our hobby.

I want to thank the judges for their time and effort going thru the books carefully so nothing was missed, and the clubs received full credit for their efforts. I also want to thank the regional chairs that encouraged participation in this program, as without the local and regional promotion, there would not be a national level award program.

Submissions for the year 2014 will be accepted after January 2015, with the deadline of April 15, 2015. The rules for competition will be published in either the October of November AFMS Newsletter.

Dates for your regional competition will be published in your regional federation newsletter.

I would encourage clubs to enter. Whether you win the gold medal or not, assembling the yearbook is a perfect way of taking a look at how your club is doing, and also a way to get some feedback from the judges on how you could improve what you do. I encourage you to start saving articles and photos of your club activities now.
The 2014 AFMS Editor’s Contest culminated at Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters during the AFMS/RMFMS Convention in Tulsa this past July. From my perspective, the contest was a success and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing those smiling faces as editors picked up their awards.

A huge round of applause must go to our judges who carefully reviewed each of the entries sent them and wrote comments and suggestions to each of the editors. I know that this is a labor of love for each of them. Standing up for recognition are:

- Terry Yoschak, Mini Bulletins
- Mike Wall, Small Bulletins
- Dan Imel, Large Bulletins
- Carolyn Weinberger, New Editors
- Celia Tiffany, Adult Articles
- Claude Bolze, Adult Articles, Advanced
- Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Articles (all ages)
- Phyllis George, Written Features
- Gary Raham, Drawn Features
- Terrell William Proctor, Poetry
- Alan Hukill, Special Publications

And here are the results:

**I. Original Adult Articles**

1. *Fourmarierite*  
   by Michael Pabst  
   Micromineralists of the National Capitol Area (EFMLS)

2. *Mineral Handling Etiquette*  
   by Josie Middleton  
   Austin Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)

3. *Introduction to Crinoids*  
   by Marty Signwing  
   McPherson Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)

4. *Fossil Group Field Trip to Florissant*  
   by Joyce Price  
   Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (RMFMS)

5. *Making a Cabochon*  
   by Forrest Settle  
   Clackamette Mineral & Gem (NFMS)

6. *Extinction Events: New Evidence*  
   by Matthew Luban  
   Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (SFMS)

7. *Labeling and Cataloging Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils*  
   by Stephen Johnson  
   Mineralogical Soc. of the District of Columbia

8. *My Favorite Gem and Mineral, Sphene, aka Titanite*  
   by Michael Graham  
   El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society (CFMS)

9. *Creating Cabs Cures Cabin Fever*  
   by Sue Hogge  
   Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

10. *Iron Pyrite*  
    by Don Shurtz  
    Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas (SCFMS)

**Honorable Mention**

- *Crater of Diamonds State Park*  
  by Judy Beck  
  McPherson Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)

- *Nuts!*  
  by Clay Williams  
  El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society (CFMS)

- *The Wild World of Wire-Wrapping*  
  by Mary Boesdorfer  
  Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

- *Barite or Baryte?*  
  by Fred Plesner  
  Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC (SFMS)

- *Back to School!*  
  by Jim Reynolds  
  Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

- *Why Join a Club?*  
  by Yuriy Krushelnytskyi  
  Clackamette Mineral & Gem (NFMS)

- *The First Rackhounds of Our Spirit Coast*  
  by Ralph Bishop  
  Clackamette Gem & Mineral Society (CFMS)

- *Geologist Corner: Alaskan Yellow Fever*  
  by Russell Wheeler  
  Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)

- *Goethite: Mineral of Many Faces*  
  by Mike Nelson  
  Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (RMFMS)

**III. Original Adult Articles Advanced**

1. *The Organic Gems – Amber, Ammolite, Coral, Ivy, Let and Pearls – Part II*  
   by Dr. David Babulski  
   Georgia Mineral Society (SFMS)

2. *Spectral Analysis of Woodbury, Tennessee Fluorescent Calcite Geodes*  
   by Lawrence Skelton  
   Wichita Gem & Mineral Society (RMFMS)

3. *Pioneer Mineral Collectors of the Crystal Peak Area, Florissant, Colorado: Tracking the Footprints of A. E. Foote*  
   by Andy Weinzapfel  
   Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

4. *The Colors of Fluorescence, Part I*  
   by Robert Beadle  
   Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (MWF)

5. *Green Gold – Mayan Jade*  
   by Vivien Gornitz  
   New York Mineralogical Club (EFMLS)

**Honorable Mention**

- *The Best T. Rex in the World*  
  by John Neal Immega  
  Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)

- *The Nature of Earth: Origin of the Universe*  
  by Antonio Peso  
  Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (MWF)

- *The Miner and Jade*  
  by John Anderson  
  Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

- *The World’s Newest Birthstone*  
  by Bob Carnein  
  Lake George Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)

- *The Wild World of Wire-Wrapping*  
  by Ed Wagner  
  Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

- *The Miner and Jade*  
  by John Anderson  
  Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)

- *10. The Nature of Earth: Origin of the Universe*  
  by Antonio Peso  
  Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (MWF)

- *Back to School!*  
  by Jim Reynolds  
  Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)

- *Why Join a Club?*  
  by Yuriy Krushelnytskyi  
  Clackamette Mineral & Gem (NFMS)

- *The First Rackhounds of Our Spirit Coast*  
  by Ralph Bishop  
  Clackamette Gem & Mineral Society (CFMS)

- *Goethite: Mineral of Many Faces*  
  by Mike Nelson  
  Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (RMFMS)

- *The Miner and Jade*  
  by John Anderson  
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- *The World’s Newest Birthstone*  
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- *Goethite: Mineral of Many Faces*  
  by Mike Nelson  
  Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (RMFMS)

- *10. The Nature of Earth: Origin of the Universe*  
  by Antonio Peso  
  Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (MWF)

**continued on page 9**
**Presidential Pet Pebble**  
by Wayne Mills  
Orcutt Mineral Society (CFMS)  
From: Ore-Cutts, 2/13

**Some of the First American Fossils to be Figured in Scientific Literature**  
by Albert J. Robb, III  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)  
From: The Backbander’s Gazette, 10/13

**Losing My Marbles Over Travertine**  
by Gene Stirm  
Kern County Mineral Society (CFMS)  
From: The Pseudomorph, 12/13

**Plate Tectonics**  
by D.W. Webb Varnum  
Reno Gem & Mineral Society (CFMS)  
From: The Conglomerate, 3/13

**V. Junior Articles – Under age 12 (4 entries)**

1. **Fossil Fest**  
by Asas Husain (age 10)  
Paleontological Society of Austin (SCFMS)  
From: Paleo Footnotes, 1/13

2. **Phosphorescing Diamond**  
by Douglas Poy (age 11)  
Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society (MWF)  
From: The Pick & Dop Stick, 9/13

3. **Obsidian**  
by Seth Manchee (age 11)  
McPherson Gem & Mineral Society (RMFMS)  
From: The Pick & Dop Stick, 7/13

4. **Agates**  
by Shannon Kosman (age 8)  
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (RMFMS)  
From: Pick & Pack, 12/13

**VI. Junior Articles – ages 12 to 17 (4 entries)**

1. **Opportunities for Self-Collecting: Where Can You Go?**  
by Susan Reimer  
Northern Virginia Mineral Club (EFMLS)  
From: Rock Buster News, 4/13

2. **A Brief Note: Who Was “Rogers” of Mount Rogers, Virginia?**  
by Andrew D. Thompson  
Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia (EFMLS)  
From: Mineral Minutes, 11/13

3. **Woodworking Enhances Rock Collecting**  
by Ciena Higginbotham  
Lake George Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)  
From: The Clackamette Gem, 8/13

4. **Collecting Septarian Nodules**  
by Paolo Sanchez (age ?)  
Pasadena Lapidary Society (CFMS)  
From: Rock Buster News, 4/13

5. **Mosasaurs**  
by Mitchell Murphy (age 16)  
McPherson Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)  
From: The Post Rock, 8/13

**VII. Written Features, Top 10**

1. **Slab Happy**  
by Neal Immega  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)  
From: The Backbander’s Gazette, 8/13

2. **Archeology Meeting Minutes**  
by Garth Clark  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)  
From: The Backbander’s Gazette, 9/13

3. **President’s Message**  
by Fred Ott  
El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society (CFMS)  
From: Petroglyphs, 9/13

4. **60th Annual HGMS Show**  
by Chris Peek  
Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)  
From: The Backbander’s Gazette, 12/13

5. **Rediscovery of a Legendary Topaz Occurrence in El Paso County, Colorado**  
by Bob Carnein  
Lake George Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)  
From: LGGMC Newsletter, 9/13

6. **Nemaha River Field Trip (4/5/13)**  
by Carrie Burkhart  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (MWF)  
From: Pick & Shovel, 5/13

7. **I Remember Howard Thielbar . . .**  
by Ann Ringdahl  
Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)  
From: The LOESS Bulletin, 3/13

8. **A Brief Note: Who Was “Rogers” of Mount Rogers, Virginia?**  
by Andrew D. Thompson  
Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia (EFMLS)  
From: Mineral Minutes, 11/13

9. **Woodworking Enhances Rock Collecting**  
by Ciena Higginbotham  
Lake George Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)  
From: The Clackamette Gem, 8/13

10. **Novacek: Fossils and Camels**  
by Susan Reimer  
Northern Virginia Mineral Club (EFMLS)  
From: The Post Rock, 3/13

**Honorable Mention**

- **A Bit of History in Honor of the CMGC 50th Anniversary**  
  by Beth Heesacker  
  Clackamette Mineral and Gem (WFMS)  
  From: The Clackamette Gem, 8/13

- **Opportunities for Self-Collecting: Where Can You Go?**  
  by Sue Marcus  
  Northern Virginia Mineral Club (EFMLS)  
  From: The Mineral Newsletter, 4/13

**IX. Drawn Features (5 entries)**

1. **Artwork for Poetry Chapbook**  
by Steve Yeatch  
Lake George Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)  
From: LGGMC Newsletter, 9/13

2. **Scratch Board**  
by Isabella Brandon  
Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club (EFMLS)  
From: Rock Buster News, 4/13

3. **Victror, Colorado: The City of Mines**  
by Ciena Higginbotham  
Lake George Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)  
From: LGGMC Newsletter, 9/13

4. **Quartz Cavern**  
by Avery Deemer  
Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club (EFMLS)  
From: Rock Buster News, 8/13

5. **Pencil Drawing**  
by Hannah Finley  
Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club (EFMLS)  
From: Rock Buster News, 4/13

**X. Adult Poetry**

1. **On the Rocks**  
by Otis Kidwell Burger  
New York Mineralogical Club (EFMLS)  
Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Club, 5/13

**Discovery Park of America, a Major Attraction in Tennessee**  
by Carol Lybanon  
Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (SFMS)  
From: MAGS Rockhound News, 8/13

**Youth Outreach**  
by Susy McMahan  
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (MWF)  
From: Pick & Shovel, 11/13

**Wire Wrapping Workshop in West Point... It’s a Wrap**  
by Clarice Turner  
North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society (SFMS)  
From: The Nugget, 10/13

**President’s Message**  
by Joyce Anderson  
Lake County Rockhounds (CFMS)  
From: The slate, 5/13

**Junior Rockhounds Update**  
by Garrett Allen  
Reno Gem & Mineral Society (CFMS)  
From: The Conglomerate, 9/13

**continued on page 10**
November 2014

XII. New Editors

2. The Rockhounder
Kristen Lolmaugh, Editor
Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)
From: The Backbender’s Gazette, 2/13

3. The Rock Bag
Brian L. Miller, Editor
Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)
From: LGGMC Newsletter, 6/13

4. Sparky’s Crystals
by Helen Padgett (age 7)
Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia (EF)
From: Mineral Minutes, 10/13

5. A Meteor and the Sun
by Caleb Bickel (14)
Lake George Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)
From: LGGMC Newsletter, 6/13

6. Owl’s Howl
by Paul Berthelot
Orcutt Mineral Society (CFMS)
From: Ore-Cuts, 4/13

7. My Way
by Edward Clay
Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)
From: The Backbender’s Gazette, 2/13

8. Wonders of Tonopah, Nevada
by John Dolman, Jr.
El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society (CFMS)
From: Petroglyphs, 8/13

9. Jingle Bells
by Carole Harp & Mary Boesdorfer
Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (MWF)
From: The Backbender’s Gazette, 2/13

10. The Windmill
by Charles Wooldridge
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (MWF)
From: Pick & Shovel, 5/13

11. The Stone
by Jacqueline Barnhardt
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club (MWF)
From: Pick & Shovel, 5/13

12. The Age of Fishes
by Teddy Reeves (age 11)
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (RMFMS)
From: Pick & Pack, 6/13

XI. Junior Poetry, Top 10 (7 entries)

2. The Age of Fishes
by Teddy Reeves (age 11)
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (RMFMS)
From: Pick & Pack, 6/13

3. Hope
by Noelle Skubal age (13)
Houston Gem & Mineral Society (SCFMS)
From: The Backbender’s Gazette, 6/13

4. Without Rocks
by Mei Poy (age 13)
Chicago Rocks & Minerals Club (MWF)
From: The Pick & Dop Stick, 10/13

5. Naracoorte
by Zach Sepulveda (age 15), Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (RMFMS)
From: The Backbender’s Gazette, 11/13

6. Sparkly Crystals
by Helen Padgett (age 7)
Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia (EF)
From: Mineral Minutes, 10/13

7. A Meteor and the Sun
by Caleb Bickel (14)
Lake George Gem & Mineral Club (RMFMS)
From: LGGMC Newsletter, 6/13

8. Highlites
by Julia Koller, Editor
Littleton Gem & Mineral Club
Littleton, CO (RMFMS)

9. The Red Stick Rockhound News
Cheryl Duplechain, Editor
Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society
Baton Rouge, LA (SCFMS)

10. The Slate
Liga Sequiera, Editor
Lake County Rockhounds
Hidden Valley Lake, CA (CFMS)

XIII. Mini Bulletins, Top 10 (5 entries)

1. Chips & Chatter
Don Shurtz, Editor
Pleasant Oaks Gems & Mineral Club of Dallas
Richardson, TX (SCFMS)

2. GCLFS Newsletter
Jim & Judy Budnik, Editors
Greater Cincinnati Lapidary & Faceting Society
Goshen, OH (MWF)

3. The Emerald News
Carl Ross, Editor
Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club
Gastonia, NC (SFMS)

4. Paleo Footnotes
Erich Rose, Editor
Paleontological Society of Austin
Austin, TX (SCFMS)

5. Cache Rock & Gem Club
Anita McCollum, Editor
Cache Rock & Gem Club
Brigham City, UT (RMFMS)

XIV. Small Bulletins

1. Rockhound Ramblings
Mark Nelson, Editor
Pasadena Lapidary Society
Pasadena, CA (CFMS)

2. Crack ‘N Cab
Keith Gilmore, Editor
The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY
Syracuse, NY (EFMLS)

3. The Mountain Gem
Linda Behr, Editor
The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
Franklin, NC (SFMS)

4. The Conglomerate
Mike Seeds, Editor
Baltimore Mineral Society, Baltimore, MD (EFMLS)

5. Rock-N-Rose
Don Shurtz, Editor
East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
Tyler, TX (SCFMS)

6. The Mineral Mite
Kathy Hrechka, Editor
Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area
Washington, DC (EFMLS)

continued from page 9

continued on page 11
Communicate! from Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS Editor

Are you sharing your club bulletin with your Federation officers and with the AFMS officers?

If you answered “no”, my question to you is “why not?” Now that most editors use computers and have e-mail, the cost to your club of sending copies of your monthly club bulletin to an exchange list is zero...nada...zilch.

The process is simple. If you’ve not already set up an address book via your e-mail program for bulletin exchanges, set one up. The process is relatively easy, takes but a few minutes to do and generally only needs occasional tweaking as editors and/or officers change. Be sure to add both the AFMS and your regional federation president, vice president, and editor to the list.

If you already have an address book for exchanges, just add the officers mentioned above to it.

Why? Your elected officers want to keep in touch with your club. We can’t always visit every club across the country or in the region, but we can get to know you vicariously by reading your club bulletin. I can’t tell you how many acquaintances I’ve made by reading those valuable club bulletins nor can I begin to tell you how much I’ve learned over the years.

So do it now! Add your AFMS officers and Regional Federation officers to your address book and keep those lines of communication open and flowing.
The 67th annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies was held on July 10, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was called to order at 9 AM by president Richard Jaeger, with all voting members either present or represented. Doug True gave the invocation, and Marion Roberts led the pledge of allegiance. Memorial tributes were given by Richard Jaeger and presidents and other officers of the regional federations. A moment of silence followed. Greetings were given from Richard, then Diane Weir, president of the host Rocky Mountain Federation, and then Liz Thomas, representing the host Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society. Richard then had all those present stand and introduce themselves.

Anne Cook, secretary, reported that all members of the Board of Directors were either present or had substitutes representing them, so that there was a quorum. Tom Burchard moved that the rules of the meeting be adopted; it was seconded and passed unanimously. Ann James moved the adoption of the agenda; it likewise was seconded and passed unanimously. Richard announced that Ron Carman would serve as parliamentarian. Marion Roberts moved the acceptance of the minutes of the 2013 meeting, which had been published in the AFMS newsletter and again in the packet for the meeting; it was seconded and passed. The officers’ reports were then considered. Those of the president, president-elect, all five regional vice presidents, and secretary were in the packet, and that of the treasurer, Pat LaRue, was available in copies, including those given to all voting members.

The directors’ reports were then considered. Jennifer Haley, (represented by John Martin) California Federation president, had a report in the packet, and Tom Burchard, CFMS vice president, had his report on the table. Eastern Federation president Hazel Remaley and vice president Merrill Dickinson had reports in the packet. Midwest president Tony Kapa had his report in the packet; vice president Jim Marburger had no report. Northwest Federation president Don Innis had a report in the packet; vice president Warren Rood was represented by 2nd vice president Hidemi Kira who had no report. The Rocky Mountain Federation’s president and vice president, Diane Weir and Jeri House, both had reports in the packet, as did John Nash, South Central Federation’s president; South Central’s vice-president, Virginia Adian, had no report. Southeast Federation president James Darnell distributed his report and vice president, David Wayment had his in the packet.

All committee chairs except Name Badges and Past Presidents Advisory had reports in the packet, although some had additional comments to make. Steve Weinberger, for the central office, asked if there was objection to sending out the packets next year via e-mail. Only one member had an objection, so Steve said that next year the packets would go out by email. Donna Moore reminded those present that she was still selling raffle tickets for the endowment fund.

Dee Holland, for the scholarship fund, told those present that there would be a live stone auction at the banquet. Jay Bowman said that there would be minor changes in the Uniform Rules, which would be detailed in the newsletter and on the web site. The report of the web site contest was on the table. After all the committee reports, a 15-minute break was taken. Then Carolyn Weinberger spoke for herself and Shirley Leeson about the 70th anniversary booklet that is planned in 2017. Under new business, Marion Roberts presented the revised 2014-15 budget, and answered several questions. John Martin moved that it be adopted; the motion was seconded and passed. The officers for 2014-15 were presented by nominating committee chair Don Monroe. They are

President: Marion Roberts (CFMS)
President elect: Matt Charsky (EFMLS)
1st Regional Vice President: Virginia Adian (SCFMS)
2nd Regional Vice President: J.C. Moore (MFMs)
3rd Regional Vice President: Jon Spunaugle (NFMS)
4th Regional Vice President: Ann Monroe (SFMS)
5th Regional Vice President: Judy Beck (RMFMS)
Treasurer: Pat LaRue (2 year term)

Anne Cook, secretary, is in the middle of a 2 year term which will end in 2015. There were no additional nominations and slate was duly elected by unanimous consent.

Richard said that the central office contract expired this year and needed to be extended; J.C. Moore moved that Steve Weinberger continue to serve, and it was seconded and passed unanimously. Ron Carman told everyone that next year’s convention and annual meeting would be in Austin, Texas, October 23 to 25, 2015. It was announced that John Washburn and Fred Schaefermeyer, both of whom were unable to be at the meeting because of health problems, sent greetings to all.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Submitted by

Anne Cook
Secretary

Note: Those wishing to have a copy of the AFMS packet of reports should send an e-mail to the AFMS Central Office (central_office@amfed.org) no later than November 1.
Endowment Fund Drawing Winners

by Donna Moore

The 2014 AFMS Endowment Drawing is now history. Thank you so much to those who donated prizes and those who bought tickets. It was a fun affair when I announced the winners at the banquet in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Several lucky winners were there, and got to take their prizes home with them. If you won, your prizes should be arriving in the mail soon, unless they have already arrived.

Three tickets were first drawn from each federation, then the tickets were all combined and the rest drawn from the combined group. Those marked (AFMS) had only the person’s name and were claimed at the banquet, so we didn’t know where the winners were from.

We had representatives selling tickets and accepting prize donations in each of the seven federations. California Federation sold $445 in tickets. Eastern Federation sold $940 in tickets. Midwest Federation sold $630 in tickets. Northwest Federation sold $190. Rocky Mountain sold $830 in tickets. South Central sold $445 in tickets. Southeast sold $225 in tickets. That brings the total for ticket sales this past year to $3,685.

With a longer selling period this coming year (mid-July through mid-October), we hope to sell even more tickets. I have already had three prize donations for the 2015 drawing and hope to have more coming in very soon. They will be in the newsletter article for October.

The ticket sales along with sales of Endowment pins and direct donations brings our Endowment Fund donation total to $4,545.00.

Well done! and thank you to everyone who donated prizes, money or bought tickets.

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<tr>
<th>Prize #</th>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Donated By</th>
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<td>Ed Matson (EFMLS)</td>
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<td>Mosaic Tooth</td>
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<td>All American Club</td>
<td>Regina Kapta</td>
<td>cigmc at comcast.net</td>
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<td>AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year</td>
<td>Evelyn Cataldo</td>
<td>cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com</td>
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<td>AFMS Newsletter</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
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<td>Boundaries</td>
<td>Bob Carlson</td>
<td>illegitimusnoncarborundum at inbox.com</td>
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<td>Bulletin Editors Advisory</td>
<td>Linda Jaeger</td>
<td>ljgralg at aol.com</td>
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<td>Mike Nelson</td>
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<td>slharuir at msn.com</td>
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<td>Shirley Leeson</td>
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<td>Inter-Regional Field Trip</td>
<td>Doug True</td>
<td>dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com</td>
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<td>Dee Holland</td>
<td>beauholland at centurytel.net</td>
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<td>Jim Brace-Thompson</td>
<td>jbraceth at roadrunner.com</td>
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<td>Long Range Planning</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
<td>donmonroe at windstream.net</td>
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<td>Frank Mullaney</td>
<td>rockyflyv at aol.com</td>
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Having Fun: Junior Activities

Reflecting on the 10th Anniversary of our Badge Program & Thanking Our “Super Users”

After a year or two of constructing activities, working out logistics, a lot of research and writing, and winning approval and funding from the AFMS, I initiated our AFMS/FRA Badge Program in 2004 with the release of the first Badge Manual and a set of 9 badges kids could earn. (Up until then, all we had was a Membership Patch to give to kids in affiliated societies, along with occasional ideas and encouragement for their leaders.) Every four years, I’ve updated the Badge Manual and gradually added new activities and badges such that we now offer a Membership Patch, 20 Activity Badges, a Rockhound Badge for kids earning at least 6 Activity “BADGES,” and a Rock Star Pin for kids earning the full set of badges.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of that official start date, so how are we doing? 135 clubs and societies across the U.S. have signed up for the program at one time or another. In some instances, it’s just been to get their pebble pups affiliated with an AFMS/FRA Membership Patch. In other cases, it’s been to help the children of a single active family. Most often, we’ll see a spike in activity in the first year, a tapering off the second year, and perhaps no further communication after that. I’m not saying that’s bad—that’s just the natural flow of things, especially when working with kids. The problem with kids is, they grow up! Thus we see constant ups and downs with junior memberships.

However, a few select “Super Users” of our Badge Program have managed to counter the trend, and from what I’ve observed, it all comes down to a single champion for the kids—someone who has made a long-term commitment, shows energy and enthusiasm, and keeps those fires burning, attracting new kids even as other kids grow older and move on. This month, I wish to honor those “Super Users” by singling out societies that, over the years, have awarded over 200 FRA activity badges each to their pebble pups and juniors: Bakersfield Mineral Miles (CA), Mother Lode Mineral Society (CA), Woodland Hills Rock Chippers (CA), Colorado Springs Mineral Society (CO), Flatirons Mineral Club (CO), Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society’s Coquina Kids (FL), Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club (NM), Mineral Minds (NY), Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club (NC), Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club (PA), Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society (TX), Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club (WA), Rocky Trails Junior Club (WA), and Whidbey Island Future Rockhounds (WA).

Other clubs (for instance, Roseville Rock Rollers (CA), Summit Lapidary Club (OH), or the “MOOKS” of the Gem, Lapidary, & Mineral Society of Montgomery County, Maryland) haven’t reached the 200-badge level but still run active, vibrant kids’ programs. So while these clubs and others are not yet “Super Users,” they’re still super in my book!

These societies have used the program in a variety of ways—as part of normal club activities with meet-

ing and activity times set aside for the kids, as part of a school program affiliated with a local club, as an independent juniors-only club, as an annual “summer camp” program—but again, it all comes down to that central dedicated leader. It’s to those great folks that this month’s column is dedicated: Thank you each for inspiring kids and keeping it fun!

After School Clubs

Reliable, safe, after school child care is a constant need for many (if not most) families today. Religious and civic organizations have identified this need and have responded with after school programs and have found great success in connecting with their communities. This need presents an opportunity for our mineral societies and clubs to also connect with the community—and in the process, grow the participation in our organizations.

To be successful, “out of the box” thinking is necessary. Friday nights from 7 to 9 won’t work. Tuesday or Thursday (or any other school day) from 3 or 3:30 to 5 is the necessary time slot. Very few clubs have a building or room in town. But, you could very well develop an arrangement with a local church or civic organization (like the VFW or American Legion) or the local school. As partners you can provide this service to the community. Our clubs can provide the programming and the partner organization can provide the space.

For many years I worked at a church that had an after school program. With good communication and partnership with the school district, arrangements were made to have the children dropped off at the church. In time, there were so many children, the school had a special bus for the kids and they dropped off a busload every Thursday afternoon. Imagine a bus load of kids dropped off to you at the local Parish center to enjoy an afternoon of mineral fun?! Imagine the adults who might very well also begin to attend your evening meetings and field trips?! Imagine inspiring dozens of children in science and earth science topics every single week?!?

Our mineral clubs and societies have been traditionally adult-oriented groups and family-oriented groups that gather together during a “family time” once a month. We compete with literally hundreds of new opportunities for children and families. Successful organizations, like successful businesses, are the ones that adapt to changing times and seek opportunities to provide goods and services for specific needs.

Please consider developing an afternoon mineral club in your community. You, in partnership with your community’s other organizations and the school district can provide meaningful, safe, and fun experiences for your neighborhood kids.

Thank you, as always, for your dedication and commitment….both to our hobby and our children.

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.

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Page 16
AFMS Newsletter – September, 2014