Kicking Off the 2015 AFMS Endowment Drawing

by Regina Kapta, AFMS Chair

The 2014 Endowment Fund Drawing took place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and all the prizes should have been delivered by now. We had some very nice donations for prizes, and a lot of people stepped up and bought tickets to support the AFMS Endowment Fund. Thank you for your support. And thank you to those who picked up prizes to deliver at the banquet in Tulsa. That helped save the cost of mailing the items.

So, here we go on the 2015 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing. I have four prizes so far, with hopefully many more to come. The same representatives are selling tickets and soliciting donations in each federation as last year (see list below), plus, a couple of other people are selling tickets to cover other parts of their federations. It was such fun to meet several of the representatives in Tulsa to put faces with the names I'd dealt with last year. Now I know who I am e-mailing when I send out messages about the endowment fund. They all have tickets to sell, so please support the fund again this year. Tickets remain at $5 each for $50. The 2015 drawing will take place shortly before the awards banquet in Austin, Texas on October 24, 2015.

In the meantime, the donations will be shown on the AFMS Website, <www.amfed.org> as well as in the AFMS Newsletter.

Prize #1: Copper pieces, mine tag, and stock certificate donated by Pam Hecht. Estimated value is $65. MWF (Photo is of similar donation in 2014, which will soon be updated to the actual items being donated this year.)

Prize #2: Howelite and onyx agate necklace and earrings. Donated by Sharon Rogow, crafted by Betsy Oberheim. Estimated value is $75. CFMS

Prize #3: A large agatized coral head donated by the Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society. It was from an old collection of Withlacoochee River coral donated by a member who passed some years ago. The value is estimated to be at least $100. SFMS (This one is larger than the one given last year.)

Prize #4: Phareodus encaustus (fossil fish) from the Eocene Period, Green River formation, Kemmerer, Wyoming. This was donated by J.C. and Donna Moore with an approximate value of $65. MWF.

Prize donations should be related to our hobby as a specimen, a lapidary item, handcrafted jewelry, or other item. We ask for items that have an estimated value of at least $50. And, items that aren’t too heavy would be really nice. I hate to have to spend a lot of money mailing prizes after the convention. That eats into the profits from selling tickets. To see examples of prizes that have been donated in the past, go to <www.amfed.org/endow2013.htm>.

Anyone who has an item to donate can mail it to me at Donna Moore, 25235 N. State Route 97, Cuba, IL 61427. or you may contact the sales representative from your federation. Questions can be directed to my e-mail at mwfsecretary@gmail.com or my phone 309-231-2116.

Representatives selling tickets and soliciting prizes:

California Federation – Colleen McGann
P.O. Box 224 Santa Clara, CA 95052
<kmcgann0009@gmail.com>

continued on page 3
A Word from the President
by Marion Roberts, President

Greetings! As the new AFMS President, allow me to introduce myself to you. I served as President of the California Federation in 2005, and have been director of the CFMS lapidary and jewelry "camps" for several years. I've also served as AFMS 4th and 1st Regional Vice President and last year, I was your President-elect.

I am very competitive with most everything that I do. My major competitor is myself and I'm always wanting to improve even if the result is only minutely better. My hobbies consist of all areas of lapidary, woodwork and wood turning, building replicas of old sailing ships and bowling.

I worked as a maintenance mechanic for most of my working years. I retired on doctors orders in 1992 and became busier than I was all my working years.

Now, down to the present. I have for a long time, felt that inter-communication is lacking in a large way. I know that this is a subject that has been emphasized many times before, but I am hoping that with different people and an approach that I have not seen used before -- or maybe it has, but before my time.

First, I am asking all of our AFMS Regional VP's to initiate contact with their respective committees at least twice within their term in office. While in contact, I will ask them to encourage these chair people to contact the regional federation chairs of their committee to find out what's going on and to share information about the AFMS program that they are responsible for. If there is no other accomplishment, just familiarity can bring understanding, and possible good useable information for either one of the committees. Much of this contact information needs to be relayed to myself and the President-elect. The incoming President will be able to use this to help compose his or her committees, which is a large project in that we are dealing clubs and individuals within the U.S. and with four time zones.

In closing for this month I want to commend the Tulsa Society and Richard Jaeger for an excellent show, great competitive area and meetings held in a very efficient manner.

Until Next Month,
Marion

From My Desk to Yours... One Last Time
by Richard Jaeger, AFMS Past President

I have enjoyed serving as AFMS President this past year and have appreciated all the support I received from the AFMS Committee Chairmen and from the officers of our Regional Federations. So many of you were good about communicating and always helpful when I had questions. I especially want to thank everyone who contributed articles from publication in the AFMS Newsletter. Marion Roberts has an equally qualified group of officers with which to work and will have a successful upcoming year.

Attending the various Regional Federation shows, and being able to renew old friendships and make new ones, was perhaps the highlight of the year for me. As I write these words, I still have the Midwest and Southeast Federation Shows to attend and I am very much looking forward to those. We had an excellent AFMS Convention in Tulsa this July; it was really pleasing to see thirty-two competitive exhibits along with excellent attendance at the Cracker Barrel, Awards Banquet, and Breakfast with the Editors & Webmasters.

The 2015 AFMS Convention and Show will be held in Austin, Texas in conjunction with the South Central Federation Show. They are already hard at work planning for that function and looking forward to extending their hospitality. Make plans to attend.

I've been hoping that you have a successful year of rockhounding and health ahead of you. Work within your clubs to increase membership, to expand opportunities for your members to participate in our hobby, and to reach out to your communities with educational activities.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your AFMS President for the 2013-2014 year.

Richard
Having Fun: Junior Activities
by Jim Brace-Thompson, Chair

Looking to Our Next 10 Years with the FRA Badge Program: Seeking Your Help & Suggestions

In September, I noted that this Fall represents the 10th anniversary since the start of our AFMS FRA Badge Program. In fact, it was right about now, ten years ago, that I mailed out the very first activity badge to a junior member. I’ve since passed out more than 3,000 membership patches, awarded nearly 9,000 activity badges, and have even seen some of our earliest participants grow up and head off to college as geology and earth science majors.

When I unveiled the Badge Manual, my plan was to expand and/or update it every four years. We started in 2004 with a membership patch, 9 badges and a Rockhound badge. In 2008, I added 6 more badges and a Rock Star pin. Starting 2012, we arrived at our current set of membership patch, 20 activity badges, Rockhound badge, and Rock Star pin. 2016 is just 15 months away, so—if I’m to stay true to plan—it’s time to start thinking about revisions for our next update.


As I gear up for a Fourth Edition of the Badge Manual, I welcome your ideas, experience, and creativity. Is there a broad area of our hobby and avocation I’ve missed that is ripe for an entirely new badge? Are there new activities we might add to existing badges? (For instance, the initial set of activities for our Fossils badge lacked anything on dinosaurs—an omission that was fixed thanks to suggestions from local club leaders who were using the program with their kids.) Have you tried any of the web addresses included in the Manual intended to lead to additional sources of information and activities and, if so, do you have suggestions for new websites to incorporate? Have any of the web addresses expired? Are there additional books, videos, and other resources we might recommend to go along with any of our badge units? Are there ways we might use our AFMS website to support aspects of the Badge Program? I welcome ideas large and small—any and all! Please send your thoughts to me via snail-mail, e-mail, or phone: 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003, jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577.

Here’s to crafting the next update to our Badge Manual—and to at least another ten years of having fun!

Endowment Drawing continued from page 1

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

Midwest Federation – J.C. Moore
25235 N. State Route 97 Cuba, IL 61427 <jmoores3rd@gmail.com>

Northwest Federation – Chris Blickfeldt
236 Tollgate Rd. Boise, ID 83716 <grumpies@q.com>

Rocky Mountain – DeLane Cox
8152 Spanker Ridge Dr., Bentonville, AR 72712 <delane3c@earthlink.net>

South Central – Catherine E. Rouchon
5845 Winchester Lane
Clinton, LA 70722 <rouchonc@starband.net>

Southeast
Jerri Heer
7301 N. Howard Ave.
Tampa, FL 33604-5224 <jerix6@aol.com>

At Least Mark Your Calendar!

The 2015 AFMS Convention and Show will be hosted by the Southeast Federation from October 23 – 25. While details are still in the planning stages, why not mark your calendar now and plan on attending.

There’s lots to do in Austin. It’s the capital of the state, the 11th most populous city in the U.S. and has numerous museums including the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library containing papers and memorabilia from our 36th President.

Featured activities for the convention include meetings of the Uniform Rules Committee, ALAA, SCRIBE, and of course the business meeting of AFMS. In addition, the awards banquet on Sat-urday evening and Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters are a wonderful way for all to socialize and congratulate winners in the various competitive programs.

Watch the AFMS website and these pages in late spring for details and registration information.

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

by Linda Jaeger, 2014 BEAC 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: ljaeger@amfed.org 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.

2015 CONTEST INFORMATION – ALREADY!

Important dates for regional BEACs:

- May 1, 2015 – AFMS Judges List to all BEACs
- June 1, 2015 – entries due to AFMS judges
- July 13, 2015 – judged entries due back to AFMS – BEAC Chair
- October, 2015 – AFMS Show & Convention in Austin, TX

Regional BEACs run the bulletin editor’s contest for their regional federation. The dates above are for you to use to determine the dates & deadlines for your regional contest, so you will be able to send entries to AFMS on time. As of this date, these are the regional BEAC chairs:

- CFMS: Terry Vasseur <wookman@dsxterme.com>
- EFMLS: Mary Bateman <mbatemal1@verizon.net>
- MF: Celia Tiffany <celiattfany@aol.com>
- NFMS: Ronna Watkins <dronna@gmail.com>
- RMFMS: Beth Simmons <cloverkroll@comcast.net>
- SCFMS: Kimberly Brannon <Kimberlyuart@hotmail.com>
- SFMS: Mark Easterbrook <asgardgrd@earthlink.net>

After the regional BEACs run their regional contests, they send their top three winners in each category to the AFMS judges for the appropriate categories. BEACs – you must send clean copy (unmarked by regional judges) and attach an AFMS Score Sheet to each entry. Regional score sheets are sometimes not the same as the AFMS ones. Not attaching an AFMS Score Sheet to entries creates a huge amount of extra work for the judges! Please be considerate!

What is a Direct Entry?

In the AFMS contest the first place winner of each category is prohibited from entering the same category for the following two years. This gives everyone a chance to win a first place trophy, instead of one person winning year after year.

Most of the regional federations have the same rule.

To give authors and editors who won first place in their regional contest, but not first place in the AFMS contest the same year, a chance to compete at the national level when they are ineligible for their regional contest, AFMS created the “direct entry.” BEACs – a direct entry to AFMS must be someone who is ineligible for your regional contest category because of winning first place in one of the previous two years. You MAY NOT just pick two more entries to send to AFMS!

Club editors –

If you have author or editor entries that are ineligible for your regional contest because of being a first place regional winner one of the previous two years, you can submit that work as a direct entry to AFMS, but you must send it to your regional BEAC with a note to enter it as a direct entry to AFMS. Direct entries to AFMS must go to the regional BEAC first; then the BEAC submits those entries to AFMS with the designation of “direct entry.”

AFMS Guidelines and Score Sheets

We have the AFMS guidelines and score sheets available on the AFMS web site. Do not let the 2011 date fool you. Guidelines and score sheets have not changed since 2011, and all the online forms are undated so they can be used year after year. If your regional federation uses the same rules, categories, and score sheets as AFMS, please feel free to download and use the forms from <www.amfed.org>.

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

INTRODUCTIONS!

Beginning November 1, 2014, your AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair will be Mark Nelson. Mark is from California, is an award-winning editor, and is familiar with the AFMS contest and guidelines. Mark’s contact information is: <mnelson@comcast.net>. Please welcome him to this job and be willing to help as a judge or committee member when he asks!

AND INTROSPECTIONS!

During the past seven years I have had the privilege of attending the AFMS shows in each of the seven regional federations. Thanks to all of you who have worked to put together and host the breakfast for the editors and web masters in each federation! This has been a fascinating, educational, sometimes frustrating, but always worthwhile experience.

We have gone from a completely paper and pencil contest to one where the forms and guidelines are available in digital format. Part of the winning articles and poetry have been uploaded to the AFMS web site, and as soon as Linda can get the remaining years of winning entries formatted and uploaded, the winning entries from 2011 to present will be archived and available to you for reprint without cost. Before 2011 the winning articles and poetry were in hard copy for cost, and then on CD for cost.

My thanks also to the people who have mentored me along the way in this job: Kitty Starbuck, who preceded me, Judy Washburn (MWF), Phyllis George (SCFMS), Ruby Lingelbach (RMFMS), Pauline Price (RMFS), and Carolyn Weinberger (EFMLS). Kudos to all of these ladies, especially Carolyn, whose brain I picked quite frequently!

Happy editing to all! --- Linda

The All American Club Award

by Regina Kapta, Chair

The AFMS Club Award program is a way for your club to record their accomplishments that have been achieved during 2014. Basically, to enter, your club needs to assemble a yearbook following the guidelines printed on page 8 of this issue. Included in the book should be copies of your club bulletin, photos and newspaper clippings showing club activities as well as information about meetings, activities of members, etc. Putting together a booklet is an excellent way for each club to take stock about what’s going well and what could use some improvement for the coming years. Judging is divided into two segments – clubs having 50 or fewer members and clubs having more then 51 members.

The entries will then be forwarded to the AFMS for further evaluation with the results announced during the banquet at the AFMS Convention in Austin, TX this coming October. Judging is divided into two segments – clubs having 50 or fewer members and clubs having more then 51 members.

Please note, that you may submit your entry as an actual booklet or in digital format via a CD, DVD or flash drive.

I’m looking for a mailbox full of entries this year!
AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

by Evelyn Cataldo, AFMS Chair

Year-end is fast approaching and if your club has not sent in its AFMS Rockhound of the Year for 2014, it needs to be done now. Submissions need to be in prior to December 31st. This is a great way to recognize that special person or couple that go the extra mile to make your club successful. Don’t forget that, in addition, you can also recognize a special junior member.

California Federation
The Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society recognize Dennis and Linda Gibbs as our 2014 Rockhound Couple of the Year. Linda has been our Vice-President, on the Board of Directors and for the past four years our Membership Chair. She has arranged for outstanding guest speakers from the local community, museums and universities. This year, she created a newcomers orientation class to tell new members about our society, the CFMS and the AFMS. Dennis is a retired educator and has been our field trip leader for the past two years. He has been a catalyst in improving the quality and quantity of our field trips by researching what members want and keeping the website updated on upcoming trips. Both Dennis and Linda fully embrace our club’s charter to promote earth sciences in the community through educational meetings and field trips. We’re glad to call them members.

Rhonda Hansen and Donna Miller are relatively recent members of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society. After joining, they eagerly jumped in to help out, taking classes and participating in field trips. They are both on the Board of Directors, recycle aluminum cans for the Society and have led field trips. They have exhibited at our local meetings and at our annual shows. They participate in our artisan shows selling a wide variety of items and demonstrating skills learned from the Society. More that this, they have smiles on their faces for everyone. They are the epitome of our description of “Rockhound of the Year”. We consider it an honor to name Rhonda and Donna as RGMS 2014 Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by Jennifer Rhodes, CFMS Director

Eastern Federation
The Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore wishes to recognize one of our relatively newer members, Joe Gehring for his hard work and dedication to the club. In April, 2014 the building where our meetings and workshop were located fell victim to a massive flood with 18” of water and mud inundating our space. Although the landlord did some clean-up work in removing much of the mud and left over standing water, Joe spent hours over the next week removing tools and supplies from cabinets and powerwashing and mopping the floor to remove all the mud and water. Primarily through Joe’s efforts, our workshop was able to reopen for classes and meetings just 3 weeks after the flood.

Joe also spends both days working at our annual show running the Genie and slab saw so visitors get an opportunity to learn the art of stone cutting. He manages the maintenance of our workshop equipment, quietly brings refreshments to most meetings, volunteers to talk with visitors whenever we do a community outreach and so much more. The Guild is most fortunate to have Joe as our member and we thank him for his dedication and hard work.

submitted by Carolyn Weinberger

Northwest Federation
The Mt. Hood Rock Club is pleased to announce that it has chosen Lee & Elizabeth Boerner as the Rockhound of the Year for 2014. They joined our club in 2008. Lee has been a Board member for three years and he has been the major support for the equipment in our shop. He has spent many hours in the shop repairing and rebuilding sanders, grinders and saws to assure they were available for use. This work was performed over about three years. This year, we had to move our lapidary shop to a new location and Lee and Elizabeth took control and made sure the move was organized and complete. Now they are the central figures for setting up the new shop so that it can work in the most effective manner. For their dedication and support, we choose them for this award in 2014.

submitted by Linda Gentry, President

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

by Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

The Southeast Federation is the last to hold their annual meeting and convention in 2014. The event will be held November 7-9 in Pascagoula, MS.

Our 2015 calendar is almost completely filled and dates for conventions in 2016 are starting to come in. Please let me know as soon as your regional federation has selected its location and dates for the coming years so that we do not have conflicts in dates. Your AFMS officers try and attend as many of our regional federation meetings as possible so conflicts present problems for them.

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Wagholi, Puna District
Maharashtra, India

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.

So now it’s your turn! Do you know of someone who should be considered for inclusion in the Hall of Fame? If so, take a few minutes to submit a nomination. Include the name, address and contact information for yourself and for your candidate. Include a nice write-up on why you believe your nominee should be included (what has he or she done for the micromount hobby?). All nominations will be considered. Send nominations to Quintin Wight, HOF Coordinator at <qwight at sympatico.ca>.

Nominations Sought – Micromounters’ Hall of Fame
from the Baltimore Mineral Society

Micromounting is the study of minerals that need some form of magnification to be properly viewed. Traditionally, the small specimens are preserved by placing them in a small plastic box (often 7/8” x 7/8”) and mounted on a black coated cork, whisker or brush bristle so they appear to be floating in air when viewed with a loupe or microscope. These smaller mineral specimens are usually well formed and free of “dings” compared to their larger and showier counterparts and most of the newly discovered minerals are only available as small specimens.

The known history of micromounting goes back to the 1870’s when two gentlemen, George Fiss and the Rev. George C. Rakestraw each assembled a collection of these tiny minerals. Soon after, as microscopes improved and became more available, others also began collecting and building collections.

In 1976, the Baltimore Mineral Society founded the Micromounters Hall of Fame as a way to recognize and honor these individuals and those who subsequently have made outstanding contributions to the hobby of micromounting and the field of mineralogy in general. Two members are inducted into the HOF each year during the annual Paul Desautels Micromounter’s Symposium held in Baltimore during October. As of this writing, seventy individuals have been recognized. The 2014 inductees are Dr. Carl A. Rilling and Steve and Carolyn Weinberger. You can view the complete list on the Baltimore Mineral Society website (www.baltimoremineralsociety.org).

To be considered for induction in the Micromounter’s Hall of Fame an individual should have one or more of the following qualifications:

a. have a worthy and substantial collection of micromounts which is preserved and available to others for study.

b. be the author of a regular micromount column in recognized mineral publications for a period of fifteen or more years.

c. be the founder of a micromount symposium that continues annually for fifteen or more years.

d. be involved with photomicrography, building a library of such images and sharing them at symposia, mineral shows and club meetings for a period of fifteen or more years.

e. give talks, demonstrations, programs and courses at micromount symposia, mineral club meetings and similar educational functions for a period of fifteen or more years.

f. be the founder of a mineral club that has promoted micromounting for twenty years of more.

g. have made regular contributions to the health and growth of micromounting for twenty or more years.

To do this, you must have been a member of a micromounter’s organization for at least ten years.

To be considered for induction in the Hall of Fame, a candidate must have made at least two of the following contributions:

The AFMS Newsletter – November, 2014
America The Beautiful – The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Passes

Many of our federally administered national parks, wildlife refuges, forests and other lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation require an entrance fee for you to use them. If you’re a frequent user, consider purchasing an annual (or lifetime) pass to help mitigate your costs. Here’s what’s available (fees subject to change for 2015):

**Annual Pass**
- $80 per year (12 months from date of purchase)
- Available to everyone
- Can be obtained in person at any federal recreation site, online (store.usgs.gov/pass) or by calling 1-888-275-8747.
- Non-transferable

**Free Annual Pass for U.S. Military**
- Available to U.S. military members and dependents in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Also available for Reserve and National Guard members.
- Must be obtained in person at a Federal recreation site showing a Common Access Card (CAC) or Military ID (Form 1173).

**Senior Pass**
- $10 Lifetime pass
- For U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or older.
- May be obtained in person at a Federal recreation site or through the mail using the application form found at (www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm).
- The cost of obtaining an Access Pass through the mail is $20. Applicants must provide documentation of age and residency or citizenship.
- May provide a 50% discount on some amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services.
- Generally does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessioners.

**Access Pass**
- For U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities.
- May be obtained in person at a federal recreation site or through the mail using this application form. The cost of obtaining an Access Pass through the mail is ten dollars ($10) for processing the application (the Pass is free). Applicants must provide documentation of permanent disability and residency or citizenship.
- May provide a 50% discount on some amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services.
- Generally does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessioners.

**Volunteer Pass**
- Free
- For volunteers with 250 service hours with federal agencies that participate in the Interagency Pass Program.
- Contact your local federal recreation site for more information about volunteer opportunities or visit Volunteer.gov.

**NOTE:** Golden Access and Golden Age Passports are no longer sold. However, these passes will continue to be honored according to the provisions of the pass.

The five agencies that participate in the Interagency Pass Program are:
- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation

You can find answers to frequently asked questions about a specific type of pass at <www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>

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**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 freest 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.
All American Club "Yearbook" Award – For Year 2014

SECTION 1 - CLUB INFORMATION (No: POINTS AWARDED)

Club Name & Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Date organized ______________________ Federation affiliation ________________________________________________________________________

Number of members:   Adults________________ HoNo:rary/Life ________________ Juniors__________________

[Don’t combine HoNo:rary/Life with total adults.]

Meeting Place: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________________State:  _________________________Zipcode:  _______________________________

Person filling out form: Name____________________________________________________________

Address:__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City___________________________________ State____________________ Zip __________________________________

Phone: (_______) _____________________ E-mail________________________________________________________________________________

Mission or purpose of the club:____________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

SECTION 2 – SERVICE TO MEMBERS OR GUESTS (30+ POINTS POSSIBLE)

General Meetings:

Number of meetings_______ Average attendance______ Guests______ Door Prizes: Yes::  __________No::__________

Programs: *Include a separate list of programs for the year, including topic, speaker, etc.

Board Meetings: Number of meetings_________ Average attendance________

Officers: *Include a separate list of officers, directors, and committee chairmen.

Junior Meetings: Number of meetings_____________ Average attendance______________

Adult leader(s):_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Bonus: Separate junior workshops or events other than meetings? ______________________________

Special Group Meetings (Established groups): Number attending:

Cabbage _______  Tumbling _______  Carving _______  Flint Knapping _______  Faceting _______  Metal-working/metalsmith _______  Beading _______

Mineral study_________ Fossil study_______  Intarsia_______  Jewelry making ______

Other_____________________________________________________________  [Indicate type.]

Social Events: Number attending  Picnic__________  Banquet__________  Holiday Dinner _________

Other (Describe):______________________________________________________________

Club hosts Show:  Yes:_________ No:___________ Date(s) _____________________________________________________

Dealers:  Yes:_________ No:___________ #__________________ Demonstrators:  Yes:_________ No:___________ #__________________

Members working at show: #__________________ Members attending: #__________________

Member Displays: #__________________ Junior Displays: #__________________

Bonus: Competitive Displays by members?  Yes:_________ No:___________

Special Features: Club library:  Yes:_________ No:___________ Number of books:________________

Yearbook committee or Website committee:  Yes:_________ No:___________

Lapidary studio/workshop (supported by and available to members):  Yes:_________ No:___________

Field Trips:  Yes:_________ No:___________ No: of trips in field _______  Other trips (museum, shows)___________________

Other clubs invited? Yes:_________ No:___________ No:members allowed?  Yes:_________ No:___________

Workshops: [beading, lapidary skills, jewelry, etc] :  Yes:_________ No:___________

*Include a separate list of workshops.

Club maintains an active Website:  Yes:_________ No:___________ URL: ______________________________________________

Traveling club display (For other club shows, youth groups, schools, etc.):  Yes:_________ No:___________

Bonus: Members performed as judges for Bulletin Editor’s contest, Competitive displays or Website competitions?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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SECTION 3 - PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Bulletin: Yes:_________ No:_________  Bulletin name ____________________________________________

Editor's name ____________________________________________________________________________

Club Website: Show information posted : Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Meeting information posted : Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Workshop information posted : Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Meeting Notices posted in public places: Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Meeting Notices published in local media: Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Show fliers posted in public places: Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Show information published in local media: Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Free or paid ads on TV or radio: Meeting Notices: Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Show information: Yes:_________ No:_________  Where? ________________________________

Copies of supporting material to include in report: 1) fliers; 2) media articles about the club activities; 3) show ads; 4) show or meeting notices from newspapers; 5) articles copied from club newsletter; 6) screens shots from web; 7) other.

SECTION 4 - SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL FEDERATIONS, AFMS AND OTHER CLUBS  (20+ POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members served in Federation as Officers, Committee Chairs or committee members:

Regional federation: Yes:_________ No:_________  (*Include a separate list of members serving.)

AFMS: Yes:_________ No:_________  (*Include a separate list of members serving.)

Members attended a Federation convention or show:

Regional Federation: Yes:_________ No:_________  #__________

AFMS: Yes:_________ No:_________  #__________

Members supported Federation scholarships or endowment funds:

AFMS: Scholarship fund: Yes:_________ No:_________  Endowment fund: Yes:_________ No:_________

Other support for regional federations? (explain) _______________________________________________________

Members gave programs for other clubs: Yes:_________ No:_________  *Include a separate list of programs.

Members attended other club shows, swaps, etc: Yes:_________ No:_________

Members held joint field trips with other clubs: Yes:_________ No:_________

Members displayed/demonstrated at other club shows: Yes:_________ No:_________

Club exchanged bulletins with other clubs: Yes:_________ No:_________  *Include a separate list.

Bonus: Bulletin Editor is a member of Scribe: Yes:_________ No:_________  *

Supporting material should include lists of all the above persons, positions, etc, and could include pictures, copies of certificates, reports printed in club newsletter, thank-you notes, etc.

SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS (15 POINTS POSSIBLE)

Members gave talks or demonstrations at local schools: Yes:_________ No:_________  *Include a separate list of those given.

Members gave talks or demonstrations to local groups: Yes:_________ No:_________  *Include a separate list of those given.

Members maintained displays at local public sites: Yes:_________ No:_________  *Include a separate list of sites.

Members maintained a booth, or an activity, at a local event: Yes:_________ No:_________  *Include a separate list of events.

Members donated materials to school, nursing home, etc: Yes:_________ No:_________

Members active in local affairs: Yes:_________ No:_________

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

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

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

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

Members contacted congressional representatives regarding legislation affecting access to sites, and collecting from same: Yes:_________ No:_________

*Include a separate list of representatives contacted and legislation.

Members supported access/collecting lobbying organizations like ALAA: Yes:_________ No:_________  *Include a separate list of organization(s).

Bonus: Club is member of ALAA: Yes:_________ No:_________

Supporting materials should include details for all of the above items, reports from club newsletter, and should include copies of correspondence.
SECTION 7 - OVERALL FORMAT AND PRESENTATION - (10 POINTS POSSIBLE)

This section evaluates neatness, organization, grammar, spelling, and overall presentation of material

SCORING AND AWARDS

Gold All-American Club Award: 90 - 100 points (average of three)
Silver All-American Club Award: 80 - 89 points (average of three)
Bronze All-American Club Award: 70 - 79 points (average of three)
Honorable Mention: Less 70 points (average of three)
Bonus +1 point for each

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ENTRY FORM:

Each entry can be submitted either as
A) single document, limited to a maximum of 100 pages (one- or two-sided), including text and graphics. A loose leaf Notebook or a scrapbook are suitable binders, or
B) one pdf file with bookmarks to indicate sections, with maximum page count of 100 pages. This can be emailed or mailed on a flash drive or burned to CD.

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

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

4. All requested material is for the year 2014.

5. Deadline for submitting to the AFMS chairman (rmkapat@comcast.net) is April 15, 2015. Check with your regional chairs for their deadlines.

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 Kapta
<rmkapta 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
Mark Nelson
<MNelsonair 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
John Martin
<srmartin at antecom.net>

Endowment Fund
Donna Moore
<MWFSecretary at gmail.com>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<silharuir at msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleson at cox.net>

Inter-Regional Field Trip
Doug True
<dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland
<beauholland at centurytel.net>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<jbraceth at roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Don Monroe
<donmonroe at windstream.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfly at aol.com>

Nominating
Richard Jaeger
<rjgrsci@aol.com>

Parliamentarian
Ron Carman
<rrcarman at centurytel.net>

Past President’s Advisory
Richard Jaeger
<rjgrsci@aol.com>

Photography
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Program Competition
Doug Moore
<steinhund at gmail.com>

Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<jbj at wildblue.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
Ron Carman
<rrcarman at centurytel.net>

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

Ways and Means
Richard Jaeger
<rjgrsci@aol.com>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart
<webmaster at amfed.org>

Web Site Contest
Dan Imel
<lapidry at aol.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Judges Training)
Marion Roberts, Vice President
Cheri George, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
We all know of a variety of groups that we believe make a difference in our lives. We may belong to several including our local gem and mineral clubs, religious groups, scouting or other youth groups, fraternities and sororities and athletic clubs.

Two other organizations exist that can and do make significant contributions to our lives and our hobby. Do you belong to either?

The first, SCRIBE is designed to help club bulletin editors and authors with their monthly task of informing members about club activities and sharing useful educational articles. SCRIBE stands for "Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors" and was founded to:

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

Dues are a whopping $6 per year or $8 for dual membership. For that humongous sum, members receive four issues of the organization newsletter SCRIBE containing numerous helpful articles, a yearly DVD that contains a compilation of newsletters, articles, and clip art to assist both old and new editors. Members also receive a membership roster designed to enable easy contact between members.

The business of the organization is conducted during an annual meeting. In 2015 the meeting will be held in late January in Quartzsite, AZ and a second meeting will be held in October during the AFMS Convention in Austin, TX. Beginning in 2016 all annual meetings will be held during the AFMS Conventions, thus giving more editors, authors and those interested an opportunity to participate.

Not a member? I urge you to join. Why not treat your club bulletin editor to a membership as a thank you for all the hard work being done on behalf of the club? Visit the website <scribe.rbnet.net/> for an application and further information.

The second organization is ALAA - the American Lands Access Association. Founded in 1992, ALAA is a 501(c)(4) organization whose purpose is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

Over the years, ALAA has become an organization that is present wherever there are hobbyists and recreational users of our public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state and federal level.

From defeating the Vertebrate Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 1992 ("Baucus Bill") in 1992 to coordinating massive public protest to the proposed US Forest Service rules (withdrawn) and the Bureau of Land Management’s RS (Revised Statutes) 2477 Rights-of-Way (rewritten), the ALAA has earned the respect of public officials from Washington, DC to state capitols across the country as the voice of the amateur and recreational users of public lands. The association has also formed working relationships with many other organizations fighting for private property rights and multiple use of public lands including the Blue Ribbon Coalition as well as treasure hunters, metal detectorists, fishing and hunting enthusiasts, and mining and timber interests. With this network of contacts, the Association reaches into every State and into every Congressional District in the country on a national level. That network provides a swift and effective response to issues brought to our attention.

Membership is ALAA is $25 per year for individual members and $50 per year for clubs. Like similar organizations, the number of members does have an impact on discussions about proposed legislation so it's important for both you as an individual and your club as a whole to join.

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American Lands Access Association
Membership & Renewal Form
Please print all information

Member/Contact Name: ___________________________________________________________
Organization Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________
        City: ____________________________ State:_________ Zip: _____________________
Mailing Address (if different from above) _____________________________________________
        City: ____________________________ State:_________ Zip: _____________________
Phone: ________________________ E-mail:____________________________________________
Member Signature: ________________________________________________________________
Send completed form to with dues to: American Lands Access Association
c/o Membership Chairman, PO Box 54398; San Jose, CA 95154
Dues are: $25.00 for individual/couple   $50.00 for a club or society
Make checks payable to ALAA
New Member __________Renewal _______Amount Enclosed:_______________
ALAA is a 501 (C)(4) Educational, non-profit organization dedicated to keeping public lands multiple

by Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS Editor