AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year
from Evelyn Cataldo, Chair

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the following new “ACROY” honorees for 2014. There is still time for you to add your honoree to the list provided I receive the write-up from your regional chair no later then December 31. I’ll be watching my mailbox!

California Federation
Dick and Mary Pat Weber of the Conejo Gem & Mineral Club are our 2014 Rockhounds of the Year. Both are geologists and have been members of CGMS for more than 17 years. Both have served as Board members, Dick was President for four years and Mary Pat was Programs Chair for a number of years. They have provided outstanding programs for our club and other clubs. They always help at our Gem Show with Mary Pat as Dealers Chair and Dick as Exhibits Chair and Silent Auction Chair in addition to providing excellent exhibits. They also put in award winning exhibits at the Ventura County Fair Gem & Mineral Hall. Dick and Mary Pat go above and beyond helping our club.

submitted by Robert Sankovich

The Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society has proclaimed Ed Austin as our 2014 Rockhound of the Year. Ed has been a devoted, longtime shop foreman. He is very dependable and gladly volunteers to open up the shop at a moment’s notice. Ed is an active club member who is always willing to share his knowledge of lapidary and volunteers to repair and clean the shop equipment. In 2014, Ed Austin’s shop coverage has been nothing short of phenomenal. Ed has been a key player in providing coverage for other Shop Foremen who have experienced life challenges this year. Ed’s exceptional volunteering efforts and attendance has provided another successful year at the VGMS’ rock shop. Thank you Ed for everything you do.

submitted by Tina Anderson, President

Eastern Federation

The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse is pleased to announce the team of Keith and Dorothy Gilmer as our 2014 Club Rockhounds of the Year. Keith has been an award winner as our Bulletin Editor for six years. As Chair of our Exhibits Committee he has consistently set up excellent exhibits at our annual show. Both Keith and Dorothy lecture and volunteer at our show. At our picnic, Keith serves as grill master and Dorothy as food coordinator. A few years ago, Dorothy led our club to best entry honors in the All American Club Yearbook program. The Gilmers are a dedicated couple who the Society deeply appreciates.

submitted by Cathy Patterson

The Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club would like to honor David & Jill Brandon as our Rockhounds of the Year 2014. David has served as VP and President plus helping with many club projects such as T-shirts, posters, delivering and sorting rocks, etc. He is always ready to lend a hand with any project. Jill has been secretary and currently taking over as treasurer and, like David, is always helpful. David is very active in the EMF and is Regional Vice-President of the Eastern Federation. They are both wonderful assets to our club!

submitted by Nigist Sisay

Gary Hall is one of our current Vice-Presidents and is the Water-Oak Gem and Mineral Societies’ 2014 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. In addition to being a master of microscopy work, he patiently answers lapidary questions from the public while demonstrating various lapidary arts at our annual show. Year after year, his educational efforts are appreciated by our club and by the visitors to our show. Gary is well deserving of the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year honor.

submitted by Ellery Borow, President

Dr. Stanley Painter is the 2014 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year honoree for the Kennebec Rocks and Minerals Club. During his long time membership in the club, Doc has served in various officer positions, put on club programs, helped with almost all aspects of the club’s annual show, served on most of the club’s committees, and so much more. To this day he continues to organize exhibits and lend his expertise to all aspects of the club’s ongoing programs. We appreciate all Doc does to help support the club.

submitted by Ellery Borow

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The Penobscot Mineral and Lapidary Club honors the dynamic do of Bill & Ruth Siebert as its 2014 AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. Ruth is Secretary, Webmaster, EMF Liaison and Editor. Bill authors bulletin articles, is a Field Trip Guide, and helps in the lapidary shop. One gets the impression of how much their efforts support the club; but as they say, “Wait, there’s more!” Wherever one looks, Bill and Ruth are there to lend their substantial talents to the task at hand. Their time and efforts in supporting the club and its activities is greatly appreciated.

submitted by Ellery Borow

Northwest Federation

The Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society has selected Arland Stark as its 2014 Rockhound

continued on page ___
Marion's Message

by Marion Roberts, AFMS President

I find it a bit difficult doing a really relevant message in that we actually write them a full month in advance of the actual date you receive them. I will do my best to keep from boring everyone to death.

This message is being written just two days ahead of my deadline, due to a rather rough two weeks of a bad case of bronchitis that kept me out of it in a big way, as I have a tendency to sleep off any temperature. I can say that I am well on the mend.

Vivien and I have had the opportunity to travel to shows in areas different from our own, such as Hermiston, Washington, Billings, Montana, Jacksonville, Florida, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as well as our home shows here in California and in each we see the similarities, yet again there is always some differences. Some are subtle, and some are very noticeable. I am one who thinks it would be really great, as well as the fact that it could be even enlightening, for more people to take in a different Federation show at least a few times. I am also convinced that this kind of interaction would bring the workings of the Federation, including the A.F.M.S a closer understanding and function more understandable and helpful.

We are definitely planning to come and be a part of each Federation show in the 2015 year and we look forward to seeing old friends and meeting a lot of new ones.

Until February enjoy the Holidays, be warm, eat well, and add something to your rockhound collection.

Marion

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

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of the Year. Arland joined the club in 1970 and held the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Show Chair and Field Trip Leader. As Field Trip Leader, several of his trips were written up in Rock & Gem magazine. He has served on the Board of Directors for many years and is currently serving as the club Parliamentarian and an advisor to the Board of Directors. Arland is eager to share his knowledge and enjoys teaching the lapidary arts.

The Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society of Walla Walla has named Jack Edwards as its 2014 Rockhound of the Year. Jack, a former NFMS President, has served the club in the past as President, Vice President, Show Chair and Shop Foreman. Jack and his wife Charlene have been avid rockhounds and collectors for many years and are always willing to share digging locations and knowledge with club members. Jack’s spheres of various materials are always a favorite display at the club show. Jack’s knowledge of club procedures and the routine running of a club are greatly appreciated.

Jim Urbaniaik is the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society’s 2014 Rockhound of the Year. Jim’s long list of accomplishments include being our 2014 President and increasing membership by 20%, starting an intra-club rock exchange, setting up the club’s social media, obtaining outstanding speakers for meetings, and developing a program about rocks and minerals for the blind and vision impaired. Jim has been published in Rock & Gem and was instrumental in getting Oregonite and Josephinite recognized as Oregon Twin Minerals. Currently Jim is an advisor to the Rice Museum, is a liaison to OMSI and is getting more involved with the ALAA. We are fortunate to have Jim as a member.

Rocky Mountain Federation

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society is pleased to designate Finis Riggs as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Finis has served as our Show Chairman for the past four shows. This year we hosted the joint AFMS/ RMFMS Show and Finis did his usual excellent job. He has helped promote competitive exhibits at our show and has entered exhibits of cabochons. He serves as one of the coordinators for our club workshop, helping many members learn various lapidary arts. He has served on our Board of Directors for several years and is ready to take on a job when asked. Finis seeks to promote our club and hobby. We are thankful to have him as a member.

submitted by Richard D. Jaeger

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society is pleased to designate Austin Grayson, who is 14, as our AFMS Junior Club Rockhound of the Year. Austin has been a member of our club for about three years. He...

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jrs. Program Chair

Children Need Not Apply??

Within the past few weeks, I've had three experiences that can only be characterized as disturbing for anyone with an interest in mentoring kids and encouraging them in our hobby. The first was reading a club bulletin publicizing an upcoming field trip and extolling all the great stuff that would be found—only to conclude with the notice: “no children allowed.” The second was a trip to an honest-to-goodness mom-and-pop rock shop while visiting relatives in another state. Embazoned on the door was a notice that absolutely no kids under 8 were allowed inside, and even kids 8 to 16 had to be accompanied by an adult. The store turned out to be closed that day so I couldn’t learn the reason behind these restrictions, but it wouldn’t have mattered had they been open. My wife Nancy said that with a sign like that, she wouldn’t have gone in even if they were offering a fire sale at 90% off. Finally, in a newsletter article announcing an upcoming club trip, the notice was made, “Unattended children will be sold as slaves.”

This last example was, no doubt, tongue-in-cheek to underscore the need for parental supervision, but still, even if in jest, it exudes an attitude toward and about kids that is less than welcoming. In the past, I’ve heard of clubs that didn’t want to use our AFMS/FRA Badge Program because they didn’t want kids mucking about in the club workshop or underfoot at club meetings.

I don’t know if this can be characterized as a trend, but spotting three examples in under two months has made it especially noticeable.

AFMS Club Rockhounds

Continued from page 3

always helps at our shows with the silent auction and other areas as needed. He also helps with loading and unloading for our show set-up and tear-down; he particularly likes to assist some of our older members. His main interest as a rockhound is collecting minerals and fossils. The thing he probably enjoys the most is the fellowship within the club. Austin is a hard working individual who helps whenever he can; we are fortunate to have him as a member of our club.

Submitted by Richard D. Jaeger

No AFMS January News

There is no AFMS Newsletter published during the month of January, so don’t spend time watching your mailbox for it. Everyone needs a break in order to properly celebrate the holidays, and your AFMS editorial staff is no exception.

Deadline for the February issue will be January 1, 2015.

In the meantime, we hope all of you enjoy a happy holiday season and a very happy and healthy new year.
Endowment Fund Update

by Donna Moore, Chair

The AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015 in Austin, Texas. You have plenty of time to contact your federation representative to buy tickets so you can be one of our winners at the AFMS/SFMS Convention Banquet. Tickets are still $50.00 each or five for $200.00.

At the recent MWF Convention, I received a donation for the drawing. Item #5 is a Tampa Bay Coral pair donated by Barbara Sky, MWF Uniform Rules Chairman. The pair is about six inches long and two and a half inches wide. The estimated value is $50. (MWF)

Your federation representative is hoping there will be several donations from your federation. They will be glad to receive them or prizes can be sent directly to me. If you plan to attend the convention in Austin, you are more than welcome to save the postage and bring the prize with you to give it to me there. Just e-mail me a picture of the item with a description and an estimated value so it can be included in the next article in the AFMS newsletter.

Also at the MWF Convention, I received the donation of a piece of AFMS history. It is a metal AFMS Emblem to fasten to an automobile bumper or trunk lid. It is 4" wide and 5" long. This special item will be auctioned off at the banquet in Austin. I have not seen anything quite like this and hope it will raise some interest before the auction. The donor is Ed Peterson, long time Central Iowa Mineral Society member. I have no idea what the value of this item might be. If anyone remembers these or bought one at some time, I would love to know about when they were sold and what the price was.

And, finally, there are pins, which were sold for the AFMS Endowment Fund. The first ones have separate federations in different colors, which can be placed together to form the mainland of the U.S. with the addition of Alaska. These sell for $100 for the full set of seven federation pins. I have eleven sets of these. Or, I have extra pins of all federations except the South Central for $20 for the single federation.

Safety Matters – The Trouble With Research

by Ellery Borow, Chair

I have a bone to pick with research. Take coffee and caffeine for example. At one time research seemed to indicate it was bad for us. Later, additional research indicated it may be good for us (or at least not quite as bad as previously thought.). Now I’m hearing that it is once again bad for us (or bad in some instances). Well, what is one supposed to do?

Research has for quite some time indicated that, during our long season of holidays, around this time of year, there are more accidents in one’s home, more health related issues, more traffic accidents, and so on. There is an old joke about the fact that most traffic accidents happen within a few miles from home. As the joke goes, the solution to the traffic accident problem is to simply move several miles away. Anyway, research once indicated this time of year was more problematic for accidents, not it seems to indicate that such is not the case. What is one to believe?

No matter what research indicates, I’m a firm believer in, no matter what, if any, holidays one celebrates this time of year, it behooves one to stop, think, and act to insure ones safety.

It is perhaps a good idea this time of year, especially with many folks planning more family related activities, to perform some safety checks around the home. Consider changing the batteries in those smoke or carbon dioxide detectors; have fireplaces, furnaces, chimneys, heat pumps, and wood stoves serviced; have your vehicle checked for the upcoming winter driving season; establish and practice a family evacuation plan in case of emergency.

With food playing a big part in many festivities this time of year, consider making sure foods are thawed, washed, prepared and cooked per instructions on the package. Don’t leave cooking food unattended. Quickly refrigerate leftovers. Use designated drivers when advisable. And, for the smokers among us, ensure all smoking materials are completely extinguished and check for embers in furniture and trash containers.

Trimming a tree or putting up decorations? There are a great many one, two or three step stools out there that offer no hand hold protection. Consider a step stool that offers grab bars for balance. We are not all well trained and graceful ballet dancers. In my case, think graceful as a baby elephant seal, waddling across a beach - not a pretty sight believe me.

Consider checking out electrical circuits and chords. Repair or replace as needed. All cords should be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) rated and exterior cords should be waterproof. Be safe and try to keep from leaving decorative lights on when one is away from home. Ornamentation should be fireproof and kept away from small children and pets. Carefully monitor the use of candles and keep them away from combustible materials.

There are dozens and dozens of additional safety considerations to mind during this busy season of holidays. This gist of this article is however, to get one thinking safety. Sure, ha a lotta fun this time of year, but be safe in the process. Great, accident free holidays give one more time to enjoy the things we like to do best - such as lapidary work, and planning digs and field trips, and trimming specimens, and enjoying shows, and collecting fossils, and...

Please be safe and keep your family and friends safe. You don’t really have to move several miles away to be safe. Have a great and safe season of holidays.

Conservation & Legislation

by John Martin, Chair

I want to thank Mike Nelson for his tour of duty as the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies – Conservation and Legislation Committee Chair and for his informative articles through the year. I also would like to thank Marion Roberts for his forethought and his appointment of me to the Conservation and Legislation Committee Chair for 2015.

Since my first association with the committee in 2009, I have noticed that it appeared to be a one person committee. A committee, by definition, is not a single person. It will be my goal during this term to revive the Conservation and Legislation Committee process and have a balance of articles and reports from all seven regional federations.

There are some conservation and/or legislative actions that may affect the collecting of rock, mineral and fossils in each of the regional areas. This information is important to all federation members and needs to be disseminated so reasonable actions can be addressed. Over the next several months I will be contacting all seven of the Regional Federation’s Committee members establishing a true working Conservation and Legislation Committee. My attempt is to establish an empowered working Conservation and Legislation Committee which will be able to compile and report on all issues that may have a negative or positive impact on issues affecting Federation Members in their activities. I will support a proactive attitude of committee members and encourage them to investigate and become involved in local and regional issues and to report these issues through the regional federation newsletters and bulletins.

I look forward to working with all the Regional Federation committee members to bring Conservation and Legislation awareness to all of the AFMS membership.
The AFMS Website Competition

by Dan Imel, Chair

The AFMS Web Site competition was started in 2009. This is the sixth year of the competition at the American Federation level. The original concept of the competition was started by the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies in order to improve the quality of club websites, increasing the effectiveness of the ever growing world of the internet in attracting new members to our area of interests in the gem, mineral and fossil community and the local clubs and to keep members up to date on current and planned club activities. We wish to thank the SCFMS for their efforts in starting the competition.

Competition is at two levels, as is done with the bulletin editor’s competition. There are regional competitions in all seven regional federations and the top three entries in each region are forwarded to the AFMS level for judging at the American Federation level.

The purpose of the judges at the regional level is to serve as mentors for these various clubs by giving the webmasters encouragement and friendly constructive criticism on what they are doing right and where they need to improve. If the web site is sent to the AFMS level, our AFMS judge, Wes Lingerfelt, will give a more in-depth appraisal of the website. Please encourage your webmaster to enter the competition. While it’s always nice to win first place and receive a plaque, the real purpose it to give feedback to encourage improvements in your club web site that will benefit your club.

How does your webmaster enter? The webmaster needs to download a copy of the following three documents from the AFMS website (www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm) the 2015 Entry Form, the 2015 Score Sheet, and the 2015 Score Sheet Guidelines.

Two forms are fillable PDF files, and can be filled out on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Please fill out BOTH the one-page Entry Form completely, and top part of the Score Sheet on both pages. Please don’t fill in the scores as one person did in the past — that’s the judges’ job. When finished, e-mail both forms to your regional federation contest committee chair no later than your federation’s due date.

The Score Sheet Guidelines document goes through every item on the score sheet and explains what it is and why it’s important. EVERY club webmaster (and every contest judge) should read the Guidelines document closely. These guidelines can help all webmasters tune up their web site, even if they decide not to enter the contest.

These contest files are available on the AFMS Web site <www.amfed.org/web/ website_contest.htm>. Make sure you’re downloading the 2015 version of these files. Also make sure that you have installed the most recent version of Adobe Reader so you can change some of your filled-in answers later if necessary. The newest version of Adobe Reader is available free at www.adobe.com/products/reader/. You may also use alternate products, such as Nitro Reader.

The first place regional federation winners will receive a plaque, and, in addition, will receive something that is far better than a plaque.

Regional Federation Chairs are listed below. They will notify their federation clubs when their submission deadline is. Contact them individually if you have questions about the regional contest.

California Federation:
Merryanne O’Neill <monneill@comcast.net>
Eastern Federation:
Dan Imel <lapiday@aol.com>
Midwest Federation: Currently open
Northwest Federation:
Cheri George <lizardwoman3@yahoo.com>
Rocky Mountain:
DeLane Cox <delane3@earthlink.net>
South Central
Phyllis George <pgeorge4@comcast.net>
Southeast
Jeff Ursillo <bmnjeff@aol.com>

The first three place winners will each have their entries forwarded to Wes Lingerfelt, the man who is judging at the AFMS level. Wes will give the regional first place winners the benefit of his wisdom, his extensive Web experience, and his knowledge of what works and what doesn’t. He will analyze each of the sites forwarded to him, and he will give useful feedback on what is being done well and how each site can be improved. Wes has an extensive background. His father was a jeweler for over 50 years so he grew up in that environment. He was in the US Navy for four years, was an aerospace engineer with ITT Corp for 30 years working on ballistic missile systems and multiple telemetry-associated projects—the most recent being as a monitor for the U.S. Air Force during new systems development. He is a member of the Orcutt Mineral Society (OMS) of Santa Maria, California and currently is the Treasurer for both the OMS and the CFMS. He is a dealer of handcrafted lapidary products and a specialist in silver and goldsmith and jewelry repairs. In 2002 he was inducted for metal craft into the National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame. He developed and maintains his company at the AFMS level will receive a certificate signifying their rank, and the first place winners will also receive an AFMS first place plaque.

The results of the various regional Webmasters Contests will be announced at the annual meetings of the regional federations during their Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters.

Why I enter the AFMS Website Contest

by Stephanie Hagiwara

1st place 2013 & 2011 AFMS Website Contest

The short answer is impartial feedback. I have received valuable suggestions from the Judges. Participation in the contest has not only made the Website stronger, it has given the Board an opportunity to discuss what we value as a club. For example, I asked the Board’s advice on what we consider to be the “Benefits of Membership.”

Participation in the Contest has resulted in my visiting some of the winning websites. Seeing other sites generated ideas on what would add value to the end user. It is the reason we have the “Rockhound Code of Ethics” on our Field Trip page.

At the local level, it is easy to forget that our Regional and National Federations are a resource we can be using. My advice for anyone building a Club Website or Facebook page is to use the AFMS Website Contest Score Sheet as a base checklist of information to include. The reality is, it never would have crossed my mind to enter the Website Contest, if it wasn’t at the suggestion of the Club’s Federation Director. It is not necessary to enter the Contest to use the information. However, the Judges feedback has been worthwhile for me.
New DVD’s For Your Regional Program Library

by Marge Collins

Two informative programs suitable for any audience and four How-To presentations suitable as an introduction for metal smiths and jewelry makers from beginners to advanced techniques are included in this group that will be available from your Regional Program Library. They were purchased with funds made available from interest from the AFMS Endowment Fund.

Eyewitness – Rocks & Minerals – 35 minutes
(based on book of the same name)

This is a fast-paced interesting presentation of how rocks provide a record of our planet’s slow but constant changes. You’ll see graphically how minerals are essential for our way of life, how they influenced entire civilizations and even caused wars through the ages.

Suitable for any audience – juniors or adults.

Eyewitness – Volcano – 35 minutes
(based on book of the same name)

Although volcanoes (and earthquakes) are thought to bring total destruction, their long term effects are quite the opposite – even in a short time new life springs up in fertile soils and later mining operations remove minerals and gems that form in igneous rocks. Again a fast paced presentation with dramatic graphics that illustrate the processes of igneous part of the Rock Cycle.

Suitable for any audience – juniors or adults.

Intro to Lost Wax Casting – 45 minutes
(a Rio Grande production)

The age-old process of creating a model then reproducing it in metal is fascinating. This brief presentation starts with a look at the history of this essential technique then explains how a model is made, “invested” in special plaster and then “burned out” leaving a void that will be filled with molten metal. Many tips and a section about problem solving are also included.

Probably best for a special interest audience however, a general audience will gain an appreciation for this basic technique for some jewelry makers.

Easy Electroforming for jewelry – 40 minutes
(an Interweave Production featuring Denise Peck, editor of Step by Step Wire Jewelry Magazine)

Eight projects are used to demonstrate all the techniques used to take “found” and organic objects and create unique jewelry. The steps to prepare and finish copper pieces – including any findings needed to make them wearable.

Probably best for a special interest audience however, a general audience will gain an appreciation for this somewhat new technique that can be done in a home workshop.

Stone-On Stone Setting – 50 minutes

How you can securely layer one stone on another is demonstrated step-by-step including how to drill stone so that you can make unusual but secure settings. Pioneering jeweler Michel Boyd also explores how to make a bezel for any type of stone, use of texture and layering varied metals.

Best for a special interest audience.

Bezel Gemstone Setting – 22 minutes
Based on Robert R. Wooding’s booklet

See step by step how to set faceted stones in a bezel instead of prongs. Clear close-up images demonstrate the process including alternatives and finishing.

This technique does use specialized equipment but offers a very secure way to set precious stones.

Best for a special interest audience.

To borrow any of these (or other programs) later this fall, contact your Regional Program Library.

From our Home to Yours...

Here’s wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

Steve, Carolyn
Sir B arkley B igfoot and Mocha Latte
Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2014-15. 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@comcast.net>

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

AFMS Newsletter
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<editor@afmed.org>

Boundaries
Bob Carlson
<illegitimusnoncarborundum@inbox.com>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor@afmed.org>

Bulletin Editors Advisory
Mark Nelson
<MNelsonair@aol.com>

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
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Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@afmed.org>

Commemorative Stamps
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<wmohr@erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
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Endowment Fund
Donna Moore
<MWFSecretary@gmail.com>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slharuir@msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleen@cox.net>

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

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

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

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

Name Badges
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Nominating
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<rjgrsci@aol.com>

Parliamentarian
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Past President’s Advisory
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Website/Webmaster
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Web Site Contest
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<lapidry@aol.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Judges Training)
Marion Roberts, Vice President
Cheri George, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
Quartzsite, or "Q" as it's often called is a small sleepy town in western Arizona near the Nevada border. The town population rises from about 3,700 residents to well over 1 1/2 million during January and February when the snowbirds arrive. The town and area around it is truly a rockhounding paradise.

Several activities occur in "Q" during late January. First is the legendary series of rock and mineral shows that abound throughout the town. Campers set up tables around their RV's, the town holds a formal show, and a few other promoters also host shows. You can find almost anything associated with rockhounding!

As a result of the popularity of "Q", two important activities occur there during the end of January. Here's the schedule...we urge you to try and attend if you're in the area.

Thursday, January 22 – 7 pm
Ye Olde Timers' Auction
Sr. Center on Shadow Mountain Rd

Friday, January 23 - 7 pm
A.L.A.A. meeting
Quartzsite Alliance Church, 720 Desert View Blvd.
Speaker: BLM Field Manager John McDonald
will speak on LaPosa Land Management

Saturday, January 24: - 9 am
SCRIBE Meeting (editors and authors)
Sr. Center on Shadow Mountain Rd

Sunday, January 25: - 8 am - 10 am
1-10 at Tom Wells Rd., W. Quartzsite

If you're in town and can attend any or all of these events your time will be very well spent...and you'll have fun at the same time.

Important Quartzsite Events
from Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

Quartzsite Alliance Church, 720 Desert View Blvd.
Speaker: BLM Field Manager John McDonald
will speak on LaPosa Land Management

If you're in town and can attend any or all of these events your time will be very well spent...and you'll have fun at the same time.

Lolo National Forest – An Update
by Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

If you or your club had thoughts of a field trip, or if this was on your personal "bucket list" here is a warning about LOLO NATIONAL FOREST, close to Lolo Hot Springs, on the border of western Montana. The collecting site is CLOSED and will remain in effect until rescinded.

I bring this important information to you because the area is being patrolled by the Forest Service Patrol Unit and the local Sheriff's Department. There are penalties and fines.

This area has been a favorite collecting site for quartz crystals going back many years before the Forest Service had jurisdiction. This is one of those "land transfer" deals.

Unfortunately, rockhounds have not lived up to the AFMS Code of Ethics and the place looks like a WWII war zone. Let me be frank here, many of those were commercial entrepreneurs who were 'out for a buck', but we're all painted with the same dirty brush.

In speaking recently with the Forest Service Office that oversees the area we were informed that the closing was because of concern for the public safety, not animals, but humans. It seems the soil is granite in nature with only a little topsoil, with the removal of the overburden the topsoil is either washed away or blown away, leaving the granite material. This is susceptible to cave ins or undercutting.

We have begun preliminary work with the Forest Service office out of Missoula and will keep you informed as to any progress in the re-opening of this area. In the mean time, stay out or face the consequences...

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 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.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions
from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

With the exception of the Southeast Federation, all the regional federation conventions for 2015 have been scheduled. We're now working on 2016 and will fill in the calendar as we receive word on the dates of the various conventions. Please be cognizant of what's already scheduled so you avoid conflicts – having two conventions on the same weekends poses problems for exhibitors, vendors, competitive exhibit judges and AFMS officers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Convention Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Federation</td>
<td>June 12-15</td>
<td>Lodi, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Federation</td>
<td>March 27-29</td>
<td>Hickory, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwest Federation</td>
<td>May 23 – 24</td>
<td>Wheaton, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest Federation</td>
<td>April 10 - 12</td>
<td>Ogden, UT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Federation</td>
<td>July 16-18</td>
<td>Cody, WY</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Central Federation</td>
<td>October 23-25</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeast Federation</td>
<td>July 27-Aug. 1</td>
<td>Albany, OR</td>
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