It is AFMS policy that its name and logos may not be used for commercial purposes. Please notify the Central Office of any violations.
A Word from the President
by Marion Roberts, President

Greetings to all from what they call “Sunny” California, but we have a very different opinion in that we have seen the sun for a very few hours in the last month. Here in the San Joaquin Valley we have been drenched in fog and a dreary overcast. Everybody’s mood becomes a bit on the down side as the wet cold is body saturating.

As I write this, I hear on the news that folks in the Northeast just had a major blizzard that dumped a few feet of snow. I do hope you all were well prepared and as you read this that you have come through it in good order.

Vivien and I are well into our preparations to make our first trip across country to Hickory, North Carolina for the EFMLS Convention and Show, and take in the NFMS Convention in Ogden, Utah on the way back to California. We do have relatives in Missouri and Kansas so will take the opportunity to visit both shows a little early so we can be of help if needed. I also hope it will give us a chance to visit more with members of each of the Federations. Here again is another opportunity to interact and communicate on every level in place of just taking in the Show. If it sounds as if I am harping on the subject of communication, believe me (I am). I am thoroughly convinced that it is a necessity in being a cohesive organization.

To end this message I want to thank the A.F.M.S Vice Presidents for their efforts as I have received my first report and am looking forward to information from all. Keep in mind, my phone and my time is open to anyone with ideas, suggestions or complaints, but with these bring along also solutions.

Marion

Another Great Prize Added
by Donna Moore

Slowly, but surely, we are compiling a nice group of prizes for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing to be held on October 24, 2015, in Austin, Texas. This month I have one new prize to add.

# 13 – a gold brachiated red jasper pendant set in silver has been donated by Betty Cain from the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club in Lake George, Colorado. The approximate value is $75. RMFMS

Tickets for the drawing are available from your federation representative. Five dollars will get you one chance, twenty dollars will get you five tickets. You may also get tickets from me.

Hopefully, those of you going to Tucson will find some nice prizes to donate to the AFMS Endowment Fund. You may do this through your federation’s representative or you may send the item straight to me at Donna Moore, 25235 N. Il Hwy. 97, Cuba, Il 61427. If there is a question, you can e-mail me at mwfssecretary@gmail.com. My phone is 309-789-6501. I also appreciate any nice self-collected specimens, as well as lapidary work you might have done. Preferably donations should be valued at approximately $50 or more.

There are also some of the United States pins left that I would be glad to send you for a donation of $100 or $300. They are pictured in the article in the December 2014/January 2015 issue of the A.F.M.S. Newsletter on page 4. You can download the issue at www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm.

Federation representatives selling tickets and soliciting prizes:
California Federation – Colleen McGann
P.O. Box 224 Santa Clara, CA 95052
<kmcgann0009@gmail.com>

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
<jcmoore3rd@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
<jheerx6@aol.com>
**Having Fun: Junior Activities**

By the Numbers

When I’m making a school visit, students often ask questions like, “What are the 10 most valuable gemstones?” or “What are the 10 rarest minerals?” For whatever reason, we’re all fascinated by numbers and lists, for instance, the Forbes 500 or achievements made in the first 100 days of an American Presidency. Here are some books you may want to consult to satisfy the curiosity of your junior members about rocks in a numerical way:

Albert B. Dickas, 101 American Geo-Sites You’ve Gotta See (Mountain Press Publishing Co., 2012). This book highlights spots with interesting things to say about geological history with at least one site reported for each of our 50 states. Whether it’s a meteorite crater, a volcano, or a petrified forest, there’s one near you and your club’s juniors.

Eric Chaline, Fifty Minerals that Changed the Course of History (Firefly Books, 2012). Rocks, metals, and gemstones have been used in creative ways throughout recorded history and prehistory. Without flint, where would our caveman ancestors have been? Without the discovery of how to produce steel and aluminum, where would our current society be? Find out—then share the knowledge with your junior members.

Chris & Helen Pellant, 1000 Facts on Rocks & Minerals (Sandy Creek, 2004). From What is a rock to What is my birthstone? to How do volcanoes form? and How are rocks used in my home?, this little pocketbook answers it all in plain-and-simple language.

Douglas Palmer, A History of Earth in 100 Groundbreaking Discoveries (Firefly Books, 2011). From the discovery of the earth’s oldest rocks, the piecing together of evidence of an asteroid that did in the dinosaurs, and the totally unexpected discovery of “hobbits” living alongside our human ancestors on the island of Flores, teach your club’s juniors how unexpected discoveries can change the way we think about earth history.

Paul D. Taylor & Aaron O’Dea, A History of Life in 100 Fossils (Smithsonian Books, 2014). Richly illustrated with huge photographs and text on facing pages, this provides a primer on life through the ages that’s understandable for both adults and juveniles. The photos alone (of specimens from the Smithsonian collection in the U.S. and the National History Museum in London) make this a great visual learning experience.

By the way, a word of caution. In this day-and-age of the Internet, kids think that anything and everything resides on the Web, and if they need a fact, they just need to Google. PLEASE—speaking as someone who works in academic publishing (full disclosure)—disabuse them of this notion! I’ve just now tried Googling various “Top Ten’s” (top ten rarest gemstones; top ten most deadly minerals; top ten oldest fossils), and all I can say is: “Ya get what ya pay for!” The resulting hits are all over the map. You are led to literally thousands of sites, some of dubious origin and authority, leaving you wondering just to trust. While the Web may be free and convenient, that doesn’t make it right. Given that the web is easy to populate by anyone with an uniformed opinion, there’s an awful lot of plain crap out there. Use this as one way to teach informational literacy and how to evaluate one’s sources. Don’t just make it fun—make it educational!

**AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year**

With over 500 clubs affiliated with the American Federation, my box should be flooded each month. Sadly though, I only received one submission this past month. Come on folks, let’s get those thinking caps on and those typing fingers limbered up and send me the information about your club’s rockhound of the year now. One individual or couple per club per year, plus one junior member allowed...and our editor will be delighted to have to add more pages to the newsletter in order to be able to print them all!

Northwest Federation

Johnie Pitman has been the guiding light of the Panorama Gem and Mineral Club of Colville, WA since it was founded in 1996. He was President from 1998 till 2013 and our Treasurer since 2013. When other officers were not available, he did their jobs too. He has a unique style of leadership. Everyone is welcome and made to feel a personal friend. Until 2010, he was Show Chairman, handling all arrangements in spite of working full time as a chemist. Johnie was instrumental in setting up scholarship programs in all our area schools. He works tirelessly to secure scholarship funding via our silent auctions, raffles and annual shows. He represents our club and our future as rockhounds.

*submitted by Bob Bristow*
AFMS Code of Ethics

<header>
  • 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.
</header>

AFMS Conservation

<header>
  Do you need information on a Rockhounding issue?
  Do you have a Rockhounding issue that needs attention?
  Can the Rockhounding issue be answered by the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee?
</header>

<header>AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee</header>

I hope you’ll notice that our calendar for 2015 is now filled with the addition of the Southeast Federation Convention and Show this November in Melbourne, FL. We’re now awaiting dates from four federations for 2016 and all for 2017. Please send me that information as soon as it’s available so we can fill them in on the calendar.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

<header>from Bob Livingston, Convention Coordinator</header>

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
<th>South Central Federation</th>
<th>Southeast Federation</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>June 12-15&lt;br&gt;Lodi, CA</td>
<td>March 27-29&lt;br&gt;Hickory, NC</td>
<td>May 23 – 24&lt;br&gt;Wheaton, IL</td>
<td>April 10 - 12&lt;br&gt;Ogden, UT</td>
<td>July 16–18&lt;br&gt;Cody, WY</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td>October 23-25&lt;br&gt;Austin, TX</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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