Collecting Sites Closed

Ed. Note: Scott Peters is the Conservation & Legislation chair for the Eastern Federation and ALAA state representative for Pennsylvania. Scott and others are working “behind the scenes” to reopen the sites for organized, planned club trips, but this will take time. Unfortunately he reports that despite the closures, he’s learned that some clubs and individuals are still scheduling field trips to at least one of them - further complicating the process of gaining legal access, even if on a limited basis.

Let this be a warning to all to follow the AFMS Code of Ethics, to always heed quarry and collecting site rules and to not trespass on closed or posted areas. As a rockhound community, we must do everything we can to ensure that private sites remain open.

Collecting Sites Closed

Spring collecting season is upon us here in the northeast and it is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the closing of two well-known collecting sites in Pennsylvania. I have learned from Jeri Jones via the December issue of Rock Buster News, newsletter of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania that the property owner has closed the Rossville malachite/azurite location in northern York County. The site is well known to collectors as it has been well advertised in books and articles since the early 1970’s. From what I understand, the location has become dangerous due to over collecting. If anyone is seen at the site, the owners will notify proper authorities.

The second site that is now closed to collecting is the St. Clair, Pennsylvania, fern fossil location. The fossils found at this location are very detailed white and sometimes yellow plant fossils on black shale. The plants were replaced by pyrite which was later believed to be replaced by pyrophyllite a whitish aluminum silicate. I spoke with a representative of the owners of the property and she informed me that overzealous collectors began bringing in power tools to collect, posting their trips and selling the fossils they collected via the internet. The representative indicated that the owners will prosecute any individuals they find collecting on their property. Currently, the owners will permit school trips to collect at the site. I am in the process of making further inquiries to see if members of mineral clubs can obtain permission to collect for their personal collections, for museum exhibits or for distribution to children at our shows. If I receive any additional information I will pass it along.

Please do not attempt to collect at these locations unless you receive express permission from the owners of the property. You will risk prosecution and may cause the loss of any possibility of reopening these sites.

If you know of any collecting sites that have closed or are in danger of closing, or any laws that may restrict our collecting activities please email me at slipgapdms@aol.com. I will pass that information on in future newsletter so that in that manner we can all be informed about the status of our collecting locations. As always, please remember to collect responsibly.
A Word from the President

by Marion Roberts, President

Here we are working on the halfway mark of our fiscal year, and I am still looking for some feedback and reports from some of the Vice Presidents. I do want to hear from you. Have you contacted your committees, to see if we can assist them or just to let them know we are still here?

I was serious about a lot more contact. Please help me!!! I will be doing my part. Conservation and legislation chairs from all regions, I want to see your input to John Martin (AFMS) Chair for the AFMS publication.

Now, on to a start of our travels. Vivien and I loaded up on Sunday March 22 and were on our way east for the EFMLS Convention in North Carolina when we realized that we had misread and transposed the mileage that we had to travel in order to arrive at the convention on time. As a result, we left one day later than we should have and had to drive extra miles each day. Making a long story short, we arrived in Hickory, on Thursday in the early afternoon. We crossed the states about 18 hours ahead of a storm front (that would spawn tornadoes in Oklahoma), so the trip was a great one. We arrived in 70 degree weather then had the temperature drop to a low of 30 overnight, but are going back in the 70’s again.

We have enjoyed the stay here in Hickory where the show has gone on in real good order. Friday I spent time in the Kids Educational room with a retired geologist, where we explained how geological maps were made and how and for what they were used. I got an education along with some 300 to 400 7th and 8th grade kids. There were five different areas of the Earth Sciences covered in the room, and the kids would circulate to each at 10 minute intervals. I felt this to be a very efficient handling of the crowd.

I am writing this on the road heading west to visit with family and to attend the RMFMS Convention in Ogden later in April. I’ll continue with more details next month.

Marion

Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

More Books for Rockhounds, Young and Old

Last month, I reported on a couple books I spotted at the annual winter convention of the American Library Association intended for young rockhounds. Well, books seem to be something of a theme so far this year. Just yesterday, my local Ventura club here in California received a catalog in our P.O. box from the Gem Guides Book Company, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Their Junior Rockhound & Outdoor Explorer category includes over 135 books. If you’re looking for books as gifts for your own child or grandchild or to add to a club library for all of your junior members, you’ll find the entire range of our hobby represented. Sample titles include True or False: Rocks & Minerals, Experiments with Rocks & Minerals, Emma’s First Agate, Dave’s Down-to-Earth Rock Shop, How to Be a Rock Collector, Julie the Rockhound, Color Your Life with Crystals, Gemstones, What’s So Mysterious About Meteorites, Oh Say Can you Say Dinosaur, The Usbourne Dinosaurs Sticker Book, Earthquakes, Life of a Miner, Caves, Volcanoes, Gold Rush: The Young Prospector’s Guide to Striking it Rich, and much more. You’ll even find the full range of Diamond Dan Activity Books.

Gem Guides serves as both a publisher and distributor for books on all topics rock related—and for all ages, not just kids. Categories for adults include Rocks, Minerals, & Gemstones; Astronomy & Space Rocks; Crystal Healing; Jewelry Crafts; Prospecting & Treasure Hunting; and Regional Interest for outdoor, nature, and travel. They also offer the entire Roadside Geology series, the Geology Underfoot Series, the Gem Trails Series, the Falcon Rockhounding Guide Series, and just about every other rock-related series imaginable. Check them out online at www.gemguidesbooks.com or email or write for their current catalog at sales@gemguidesbooks.com, 1275 West 9th Street, Upland, California 91786. For 50 years, Gem Guides Book Company has been leading us to sources that make learning both interesting and fun!
Some very nice prizes were donated to the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing this month.

#15. Doris Keane has fashioned a pendant from gold-filled wire wrapped around a cabochon of dendritic quartz. The approximate value is $65. (MWF)

#16. Doris Keane has donated a second pendant fashioned from gold-filled wire around a dichroic glass disc made by Julie Whitlatch. The approximate value of this pendant is $70. (MWF)

#17. Matt and Jean Charsky have donated a Mookite Carving from Madagascar. It has an approximate value of $150. (EFMLS)

#18. K.C. Foster has donated a Herkimer “Diamond” pendant with Argentium silver hand made chain. It has an estimated value of $200. (EFMLS)

Prizes can still be donated for the 2015 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing to be held at the Awards Banquet in Austin Texas on October 24, 2015. Send me an e-mail with the photo and description of the donation by May 1, so I can include the description in the June newsletter, which is the last issue until the September issue. You can then bring the prize to Austin or mail it to me.

Please continue to purchase tickets from your regional representative. The tickets are $5 each or $20 for five tickets. If you are not at a show where your representative is selling tickets, you may ask for tickets by mail or e-mail. Contact your federation representative or me. We will be glad to mail your tickets.

Thank you for your support for the AFMS Endowment Fund!

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 mwfssecretarygmail.com or my phone 309-231-2116.

Representatives selling tickets and soliciting prizes

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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 goodwill and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Subscription Information, Distribution Questions: Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

Address corrections and changes
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Subscriptions are $4.50 per year
Remit payment to the AFMS Central Office
Checks should be made payable to “AFMS”

Address maintenance and mailing labeling are the responsibility of the AFMS Central Office.
All changes and questions should be sent to:
AFMS Central Office
Steve Weinberger
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Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
central_office@amfed.org
410-833-7926

Content – Letters
Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor: Carolyn Weinberger
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410-833-7926

Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e. April 1 for the May issue)

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Recruiting a New Editor

Recently a friend contacted me regarding the responsibilities of being an editor of a rock and gem club. Her club was undergoing some political upheavals and she had been asked to consider taking over as the club’s editor. She had no idea, and a lot of misconceptions, about what the job entailed. For that reason she was hesitant to consider the position.

I know that many clubs are, or will, face this same situation. Becoming an editor can be very intimidating! You, as an officer, or involved member of your club, can be in a position to make the job easier. To do this you need the help of proficient editors who can be of help to your new editor. **Now there is help available!**


This Guide covers what new editors are looking to know:

- the roles and responsibilities of a rock club editor
- how to get started
- what skills an editor should have
- access to editing and publishing tools
- budgeting for a bulletin
- participating in bulletin exchanges
- editor resources
- developing a first bulletin
- publication and distribution

This New Editor Guide is available for free, for a limited time, at the S.C.R.I.B.E. web site: <scribe.rbnet.net>. Best of all, club directors can request that their new editor become a member of S.C.R.I.B.E. at this web site and reimburse the $6 a year membership fee. This gives their new editor contact with a network of very proficient editors throughout North America, access to award-winning articles, poetry, humor and information. They can get a mentor to work them through the technical details. They can be **THE BEST editor in their federation!**

If I can be of any help to your club or to your editor, just ask! You can reach me at <mnelsonair@aol.com>.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

By the time you read this, two of our seven regional federations will have already held their annual conventions with two more on the immediate horizon in May and June. I hope that as many of you as possible can attend at least one of these annual affairs, especially that of your own federation. Attending the meetings gives you an insight on how your organization works and most definitely will give you a chance to get to know the “movers and shakers” better. It’s always fun to put a face to a name and have a chance to talk with these hard working, but fun and dedicated people.

Please remember to let me know the dates as soon as you plan your 2016, 2017 and beyond conventions so that we can get them on the calendar and avoid conventions on the same dates.

<table>
<thead>
<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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>June 12 - 15 Lodi, CA</td>
<td>March 27-29 Hickory, NC</td>
<td>May 23-24 Wheaton, IL</td>
<td>April 10-12 Ogden, UT</td>
<td>July 16-18 Cody, WY</td>
<td>AFMS October 23-25 Austin, TX</td>
<td>November 6-8 Melbourne, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Sept 14 - 16 Placerville, CA</td>
<td>October 21-23 Rochester, NY</td>
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<td>AFMS July 27-August 1 Albany, OR</td>
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Club Rockhound of the Year

**Eastern Federation**

The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, Maryland recognizes **Mark Dahlman** as our 2015 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. With any large job in the club, Mark is consistently the one who steps forward. Within two years of joining, Mark was President where he took the initiative to rejuvenate our AFMS Futures Rockhounds of American (FRA) program for juniors. Participation skyrocketed to over 40 enthusiastic youth members. During his Presidency, he led many organizational improvements, which still remain in effect. Next Mark managed and improved the club show. He then became our FRA Advisor where he promoted creativity to the program. Today, Mark still inspires us with his calm, measured approach to all he does for the club. We are greatly appreciative of all his effort to support the club.

**submitted by Holy McNeil**

Quiet, dedicated and reliable are all terms that describe the Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Societies’ Rockhound of the Year, **Earle Pfetzing**. Earle has been the recording secretary for years, readily agreeing to continue in the job for another year each time he’s asked. His minutes are well taken and accurate - always! He stays late every month and helps clean up the venue - usually pushing a broom or mop to ensure that the floor is spotless. When it’s time for our annual club show, or that of another area club to have their show, Earle is always the first to sign up to work the Chesapeake information booth. He works well with visitors, gladly and cheerfully giving out information about the club and our meetings. We commend Earle for his dedication to the club and for being our “Rockhound of Gibraltar”!
Most of us are flattered to be asked to serve on a Board, or to be nominated for a top position on a club or federation executive. It’s a way to serve fellow members, to perhaps initiate changes you feel will improve the federation, and to enjoy the company of others who share a common interest.

Certainly you never expect that to get into any kind of trouble with the government. But if you are involved in a not-for-profit organization, you may be more vulnerable than you realize.

This is not a reason to refuse a nomination. There are many reasons to accept, including to give back to a group you support, to take your turn when others have devoted years to service, and for the close friendships that often arise as a result of sharing decisions.

There’s also a logical benefit to consider. Serving in an elected position raises your profile within the group as well as to outsiders. It looks good on your LinkedIn page or other social media, and adds to your credibility when applying for a job or being selected for an award.

I am not a lawyer or an accountant, but I’ve had a great deal of experience with not-for-profit organizations, helping to write a Constitution and by-laws, and serving on various committees with strict reporting rules. I want to encourage you to run for office, but also know what’s involved, and how to protect yourself.

There are several key things every organization should do to avoid having their not-for-profit status questioned by the IRS (or Revenue Canada), and to ensure the smooth running of annual meetings.

The key is transparency. As long as everything is out in the open, with full information available to members and carefully documented, there should no problems.

Keep in mind that intention doesn’t count. A treasurer can’t claim he or she was trying to learn a new accounting program, or the recording secretary was sick, or one Board member thought someone else “was supposed to do that.”

Danger Signs

I’ve heard them all. There was the agm where I was serving as Parliamentarian (a term used for someone who sits beside the chair of an annual meeting to remind the Chair and members about rules for conducting the meeting), and there were no minutes of the previous agm because the secretary who took them had a computer crash.

Guess what? That’s no excuse. She should have rewritten them from her original notes, and promptly sent copies to the President and V.P. to ensure that there would always be a copy available, no matter whose computer acts up.

At a recent agm for a national organization, the treasurer’s report contained no sub-totals, no indication that if one added up all the expenses and subtracted that total from the income, there was a serious deficit, and even a line at the bottom showing a healthy bank balance. Huh?

And another large, national organization I used to belong to had a crisis just before the holidays. The top three executive members began to hide things from the rest of the Board, who resigned en masse when they discovered there was no money to pay office staff, rent was overdue, and the organization was essentially bankrupt!

So here are a baker’s dozen of the most important rules to follow:

1. The secretary has to take minutes of every board meeting. If he/she can’t be there, someone else has to do this. It’s never necessary to record every discussion, but key items on the agenda should be listed, with any decisions made.

Even if the board decides to “look into this further,” or to “postpone this to the next meeting,” or to “put this on the agenda for the agm,” this information needs to be documented. Board meetings do not usually have formal motions, and unless your by-laws specify otherwise, votes can be by show of hands and don’t have to be recorded. But decisions must be noted, and if the Board deals with a difficult issue, it’s wise to record the number of votes for and against.

It’s important for the minutes to include full names of all Board members in attendance, and who chairs the meeting if the actual President or Chairman can’t.

The Annual Meeting

2. Minutes of an annual meeting need to be more detailed. They should follow the agenda, include the full wording of any motion, the name of the mover and seconder, and how many voted for, against, or abstained. Details of any discussion aren’t necessary, but any key objections should be noted, especially if the motion is defeated or amended. Keep in mind that minutes are a permanent record, so it’s important to use full names. You may think everybody knows that Bud is James Smith, but the minutes need to specify James (Bud) Smith.

3. Check your by-laws to see if a quorum is required for an annual meeting. If a certain proportion of members have to be in attendance, it’s important that someone actually count those present, give that number for the secretary, and ensure that a full quorum remains in the room for every vote. This is often not necessary for small organizations, but check the by-laws to make sure!

Your by-laws should also specify whether non-members can attend the meeting. Most organizations allow this, but the Chair needs to make it clear that only members can vote.

4. The treasurer needs to provide a full, detailed, written report. This should include the sources of all revenue, and details about every

continued on page 6

SIDEBAR:

IRS info: http://www.irs.gov/uac/New-room/

The IRS requires most tax-exempt organizations to submit an annual information report, the Form 990 and its relations, which includes a significant amount of financial reporting. The report requires tax-exempt NPOs to complete:

* an object revenue & income statement, with particular categories specified (e.g. salaries, postage, rental revenue),
* a balance sheet, with particular categories specified (e.g. cash, accounts receivable),
* a statement of functional expenses, in which all expenses are allocated to either program services, fundraising, or operations, and
* a support schedule that details the organization’s sources of revenue, with particular categories specified (e.g. charitable donations, membership fees, investment income).
expenditure except minor and routine office expenses. When in doubt, include more information rather than less. The report needs to include sub-totals, a plus or minus balance, and a notation about any additional funds the organization is holding in reserve or has invested. This report has to include full contact information. “$1,652 to Jimmy for transportation” will raise a red flag to the IRS, if not to members!

It is standard for an outside auditor to check the books. Often he or she will provide a letter saying a formal audit has not been performed, but the report seems to be in order.

5. Notice of the annual meeting needs to be sent to all members in advance. By-laws usually indicate the lead time necessary. This notice should include a call for nominations and the nomination procedure, which usually includes the requirement that nominees be paid-up members, and that no one can nominate someone without obtaining their consent to run. It’s always best to handle this in advance, but many organizations allow nominations from the floor at the meeting. Unless this is specified in the by-laws, the Board may decide not to allow this, but must notify members of that when announcing the meeting and asking for nominations.

Members always have an option to nominate their executive. No Board can present a new executive as already determined without any consultation with the membership.

6. It’s helpful to include the agenda for the agm, along with any reports (including minutes of the past agm) included in the print or electronic package. The more reports delivered in advance, the better. But print copies of the treasurer’s report should be available at the meeting.

Conducting the Meeting

7. There are various different sets of rules for conducting an annual meeting, but I use (and recommend) a modified version of Robert’s Rules. These include:

8. Every motion requires a seconder, and must be voted on. In case of an issue that generates a lot of discussion, no one can speak more than once until all speakers have been heard. This ensures that everyone has a chance to speak, and there are no back-and-forth arguments between speakers. The mover of the motion does get to speak again at the end, just before the vote.

9. The Chair cannot speak to a motion, so if he (or she) feels it’s important to explain something, he has to “vacate the chair” and turn it over to someone else for the brief period of the discussion. This should be noted in the minutes.

10. If discussion goes on too long, anyone can “Call the Question” from the floor. The Chair can never do this; it has to come from a member. Calling the question means all discussion stops and the vote is taken immediately. If the motion is defeated, it cannot be raised again. So it’s better to offer an amendment rather than to cut off debate like this. But it can be useful at a large meeting when members feel new speakers keep repeating points that have already been made.

11. An amendment follows the same rules as a motion, but has to be accepted by the mover of the original motion before it can be debated and voted on. Some amendments are minor and may generate no discussion at all. If an amendment is accepted, the amended motion is then voted on immediately.

The minutes need to record the complete wording of the initial motion, as well as the complete wording of the amended motion.

12. The actual number of votes for, against, and abstentions for every motion need to be recorded in the minutes. It’s important to be able to look back in past minutes to see if a crucial motion was passed by a small margin, as a future Board may decide to revisit that issue.

Voting for the new executive generally takes place at the very end of the meeting, by secret ballot. A trusted non-member can be enlisted to count ballots. In one organization I belong to, the wife of a former President who has remained on the Board as our Corporate Secretary does this. The actual count for each candidate is given to the Secretary for the minutes, but usually only the outcome is announced to the meeting, to save any embarrassment.

13. A motion to adjourn is required, but it doesn’t need a seconder, and is never debated. Often the Chair asks for a motion to adjourn, indicating the meeting is over.

Our organizations would not exist without volunteers, and everyone should offer to take a position on the executive (or in some other responsible role) every so often, so that the same people aren’t always in charge.

This not only spreads out the time required and the responsibility, but also ensures that the group doesn’t fall into a rut, always doing things the same way because the “leader” doesn’t want anything to change.

The same is true of newsletter/bulletin editors. Their decisions should also be transparent and they need to be open to suggestions from members. But those who criticize or want things to change have to be willing to take over the responsibility.

Any organization is only as strong as its volunteers, and will only stay out of trouble if they follow these few simple rules.

Barbara Florio Graham has assisted a wide variety of authors, sole entrepreneurs, and businesses define their brand and create a full promotional platform. The author of three books, including Five Fast Steps to Better Writing and Five Fast Steps to Low-Cost Publicity, she has written for hundreds of newspapers and magazines, contributed to 39 anthologies in four countries, and has been a regular contributor to SCRIBE for more than a decade. Barbara’s books, courses and services are described on her website: http://SimonTeakettle.com.

Have You Updated Your Club Information?

by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office

Many thanks to those clubs that have already sent us their 2015 list of officers. Now we’re waiting to hear from the rest of you!

In order to continue sending your club the latest information from the AFMS, we need to have the name and mailing address for your club President, Federation Director or Secretary and Editor. We want to keep our lines of communication open with you, so please e-mail (or snail mail) the info to me at <central_office@amfed.org> as soon as possible.

On another note: several clubs have asked that information about their local show be listed in the AFMS Newsletter. Unfortunately, space does not allow us to do that. Please be sure to send that information on to your regional federation newsletter where it will be published.
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
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AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Evelyn Cataldo
<cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries
Bob Carlson
<illegitmusnoncarborundum at inbox.com>

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

Bulletin Editors Advisory
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Bylaws Revisory
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Central Office Administrator
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Commemorative Stamps
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Conservation and Legislation
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Endowment Fund
Donna Moore
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Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
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Inter-Regional Field Trip
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Judges Training Seminar
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Junior Programs
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Long Range Planning
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<donmonroe at windstream.net>

Name Badges
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<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
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Parliamentarian
Ron Carman
<rrcarman at centurytel.net>

Past President's Advisory
Richard Jaeger
<rjgrsci at aol.com>

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<central_office at amfed.org>

Program Competition
Doug Moore
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<bjb at wildblue.net>

Public Relations
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<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Safety
Ellery Borow
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Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
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Uniform Rules
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<rrcarman at centurytel.net>

URC Eligibility Files
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<secretary at amfed.org>

Ways and Means
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<rjgrsci at 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
AFMS Judges Training

by Barbara Sky and Donna Moore

The Midwest Federation (MWF) is hosting an AFMS Judges Training session at the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs Show in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 14-16, 2015. Jay Bowman will be teaching the class which will be held at an area hotel, then judging will take place at the show on Sunday, August 16.

Anyone who would like to become an accredited judge is welcome to participate in this training class. It has been approved as the AFMS training session for this year. Your cost will be for your room, meals and travel.

The class site motel has not been firmed up, but MWF Uniform Rules Chairman Barbara Sky is working on a place that is reasonable priced and not too far from the club show site. If you are interested in attending the training class, please contact Barbara so she will be able to give the hotel an idea of how many rooms we need to reserve. She can also get back to you with the details. This is open to anyone from any federation, not just the MWF.

Jay’s class is two days of classroom sessions, which involve going over the AFMS Uniform Rules, which can be downloaded from the AFMS Website (www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm), then a day of practice judging at the local show. You must bring the current rules book with you to the training class. It is a time commitment, but if your federation is like the MWF, the number of trained judges has dwindled.

Barbara Sky can be reached by e-mail at <bskysky@aol.com> by phone 636-207-8766 or by mail at 25 Roland Ave., Winchester, MO 63021-5259. Donna Moore can be reached at <mwssecretary@gmail.com> or by phone 309-231-2116, if Barbara isn’t available.

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 collecting 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.

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.