



AFMS Newsletter
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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 68, Number 6 – June-July, 2015
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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

Judges Training for 2015!

by Barbara Sky



Does your Federation need more trained judges? Here is the opportunity to take the training so you can help. Even if you aren't planning on being a judge, these classes help exhibitors learn what makes an exhibit good and everyone can learn to appreciate what is being shown them in the exhibit cases!

The class will be taught by B. Jay Bowman (as previous classes have been). Jay's class is two days of classroom study of the AFMS Rules book and then a day of practice judging at the St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs show, August 14-16, 2015. The Rules book can be downloaded from the AFMS web site (www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm.) **There is NO FEE for this session!** Your cost will be for your room, meals and travel.

The hotel where the classwork will be taught has rooms reserved at \$50.00 plus taxes. You must say that the group is "judges training". The hotel is "The Lodge Hotel & Banquets" and is located at 3551 Penridge Drive, Bridgeton, MO 6304 which is about 5 minutes from the St. Louis airport.. The hotel is not part of a chain so there is no 800 number. The phone is: 314-298-0388. Their web site is <www.thelodgestlouisairport.com>. I hope I haven't reserved enough rooms because I hope folks from all federations will take advantage of the chance. (I think if reservations are made early I can get more rooms!) The rooms are reserved from Thursday, August 13th (since classes start after breakfast on th 14th) through the weekend. I did tell the hotel I wasn't sure how many would stay Sunday night but if you are going to do any St. Louis sightseeing that room rate for Sunday is not easily beaten that near the airport.

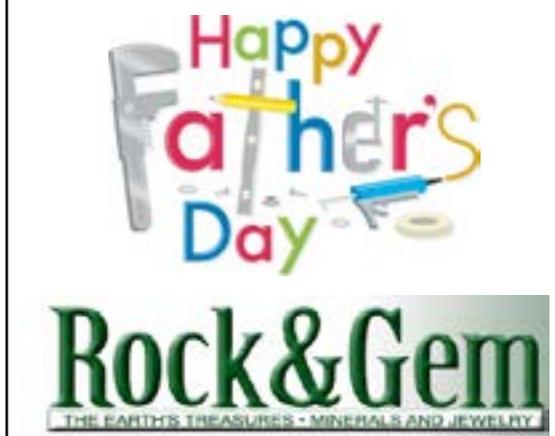
To get to the hotel leave I-270 (St Louis northern beltway) at exit 20c - St. Charles Rock Road - heading north. Just north of the interstate you will see a Quik Trip gas station with a road going behind it. Take a left on that road and then take the first left on Penridge Drive to the hotel on your right at 3551 Penridge Dr. The St. Louis suburb is Bridgeton, Mo 63044. There is also an airport van if time restrictions make flying the travel method of choice.

When you have made your reservation please e/mail me, Barbara Sky, at bskysky@aol.com so I will have a count of those coming.. Please put 'judges training' in the subject slot so I get the message instead it heading off into my Spam file.

The first reservation made (and that fact e/mailed to me at <bskysky@aol.com>) from each Federation will get a stipend from AFMS if they have never attended a class before.

Also In This Issue

A Word From the President.....	2
Rockhounds of the Year.....	2
Junior Activities	3
Gem Capers 2015	4
Rice Museum News.....	4
Upcoming Regional Conventions.....	4
Safety Matters	5
Rockhound Soapbox.....	5
AFMS Committee Chairs.....	7
First Impressions	8
How Knowledgeable Are You?.....	8



Official Newsletter of the AFMS

Summer Break

The AFMS Newsletter will not be published during July and August. Our next issue will be the September issue with a deadline of August 1.

We wish everyone a safe summer.

The AFMS

Proudly Serving
Seven Regional
Federations



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A Word from the President

by Marion Roberts, President

So where were we when we last "talked".....

As you know, in March Vivien and I attended the Eastern Federation show and convention in Hickory, NC. To reiterate, the show and hospitality were superb, and everything was very well organized. My compliments to Baxter Leonard and all the people who worked with him. Vivien and I both enjoyed the weekend and were also happy to see some quality exhibits, both as competitive and non-competitive.

During the awards banquet we met the two AFMS Scholarship recipients, both from the University of North Carolina. Amanda Stone is working on her doctorate and is studying the possible uses, effects of and disposability of the highly mineralized deep water from oil and gas rich shale fracking. She gave us a very good presentation describing her goals and what she is doing. The other student, Aikin Small is working on his masters degree. He is studying the effects of contamination of water and sediments in rivers, caused by the highly mineralized water from fracking. These young adults both gave outstanding and easy to understand presentations.

To conclude the banquet, I had the honor of installing the upcoming EFMLS officers.

After leaving Hickory we drove to Branson, Missouri for short visit with a granddaughter and great granddaughter; then on to Leavenworth, Kansas to visit another granddaughter. Leaving Leavenworth on our way to Moab, Utah, we ran head-on into a storm with snow flurries, and some rain, but not bad enough to slow us down. In Moab we visited with a daughter and explored a bogg agate site near her home and near Arches National Pike.

From there our trail led us towards Ogden, Utah where we attended the Northwest Federation show. Again we saw some very nice displayed and were both privileged to be judges for several competitive displays (as we were in Hickory, NC). Like Hickory too, the awards banquet in Ogden featured a bar-b-que, but this one was quite different from the North Carolina variety. My compliments to both chefs.

I'm still working on my efforts to improve and expand our communication. If you're an AFMS regional Vice President, please contact your committees and committee chairs. If you're not an AFMS regional VP, how about contacting someone from another club (someone outside your general comfort area), look at their website and club bulletin and get to know someone new.

Until Next Month,
Marion

AFMS Rockhounds of the Year

from Evelyn Cataldo

Eastern Federation

The Rochester Lapidary Society is pleased to honor **Liliya Greggo** as Junior Rockhound of the Year 2015. As a fourth grader, Liliya formed a lunchtime rock group. She then approached the school's director for the Gifted and Talented program to propose a formal group to include more children. The result of her efforts is Ro-Ro, an active two hour per week program for 4th and 5th grade students interested in rocks and minerals. A leader, Liliya has done presentations and displays within the school and for the RLS Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. She won a prize and ribbon in the Midwest Federation Youth Poster Contest for 2014. She has earned many badges and the Rockhound patch in the AFMS FRA program. Best of all, she communicates her enthusiasm to others as she continues to build her own knowledge and collection.

submitted by Frank Rakoski, Secretary

Rocky Mountain Federation

Stan Strike is the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for Shoshone Rock Club of Powell, WY. Stan was President of the Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society for the last three years. His quarterly reports in the Jade State

continued on page 3



Having Fun: Junior Activities: The Indoor Field Trip

By Jim Brace-Thompson

Our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program offers a badge on Field Trips, and one of the suggested activities is “The Indoor Field Trip.” Not all field trips need take place in the great outdoors—although that’s certainly to be desired in this day-and-age when kids spend far too much time indulging in indoor distractions with electronic toys. In some places, all the hard work of searching, collecting, and cleaning rocks, minerals, and fossils has already been done and the results are just waiting for you to see. Take your kids on a trip to one such locality, namely, a science or natural history museum.

Museums large and small, international or local, are terrific places for kids. It’s probably childhood trips to the Field Museum in Chicago—along with outdoor field trips sponsored by the Illinois State Geological Survey—that fanned my interest in the earth sciences. After my family moved to Maryland, I especially remember a behind-the-scenes visit in none other than the Smithsonian, where I saw row after row of cabinets with shelves that seemed to stretch for miles, all brimming with fossils.

Indulging in a little indoor distraction with electronic toys, myself, I came across a web site offering the “Top 10 Kid-Friendly Museums.” Some of these are art, baseball, and air-and-space museums, but the list also had some fine natural history museums: the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, the Exploratorium in San Francisco, and the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia. The web is a great place to locate the nearest museum for your club’s kids. For instance, just a few seconds after typing “Natural History Museums” into the Google search engine, I found a long list of sites.

Once you locate a museum near you with displays of rocks, minerals, and fossils, call in advance to arrange a group tour. Many museums will assign a guide or docent to escort you and your kids when such advance arrangements are made. When calling, be sure to check into the possibility of a “behind the scene” tour in addition to the public displays, and your kids, too, can be awed by rows of cabinets stretching for miles, making the tour both informative and fun!

AFMS Rockhounds

continued from page 2

Newsletters kept rock clubs of Wyoming updated and informed. Under Stan’s tutelage, a new web site for Wyoming Clubs was announced in 2013, and the WS-MGS became an IRS 501 (c)(3) in 2014. Stan is also a club member of the Cody 59’ers and was President of the Cody 59’ers in 2011 when they had their first rock show in twenty-five years. Since joining the Cody 59’ers Club and Shoshone Rock Club, Stan has learned lapidary techniques to saw, tumble rocks and make cabochons and has shared his information with club members. His friendly and pleasant demeanor and enthusiasm has increased the Cody club membership.

submitted by Linna Beebe, Secretary

The Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society proclaims **Ed and Jaen Rupprecht** as its AFMS Rockhounds of the Year. The Rupprechts have been involved in the rockhounding and lapidary hobby for many years. Belonging to the clubs preceding SNGMS and then SNGMS, Jaen held the offices of Treasurer, Vice-President, Federation Director and Class Coordinator; Ed was on the Board of Directors, Field Trip Chair and Shop Foreman. Jaen pitches in and helps with anything going on at SNGMS. Ed

teaches cabochon making, identifies rocks, helps with field trips and loans items from his collection for exhibits. He and Jaen have contributed to the Rock Stars and Pebble Pups club and the education outreach programs of SNGMS; even hosting the kids in their backyard for a rock hunt. We are proud to have them as Lifetime Members of our club.

submitted by SNGMS Membership

The AFMS Junior Rockhound of the Year for the Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society is **Sydney Davis**. Sydney would like to have a career in geology. In the meantime, she is absorbing every piece of information about rocks and minerals and related subjects and shares it with her schoolmates, teachers and other children in our Rock Star/Kids Club program. She is creating a display of fossils, including dinosaur bone, for our May show. She shares rocks with other children to interest them in the science of geology. Sydney’s excitement about the world of rocks and minerals is so contagious she makes learning fun.

submitted by SNGMS Membership



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.

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Gem Capers 2015



This year, the Austin Gem and Mineral Society's annual show, **Gem Capers 2015** will proudly be hosting the American Federation and South Central Federation conventions and show. Included in the weekend are meetings, judging, talks, and field trips as well as the annual meeting of A.L.A.A. and S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors). These organizations' activities will begin on Wednesday, October



21st. The talks will be open to the public for the price of admission and will include topics such as Central Texas pegmatites, mineral preparation, and North American diamond mining by Charles Kirkpatrick. Please see the Gem Capers website for a detailed schedule at <www.gemcapers.com>. The dates for the mineral show are **October 23rd-October 25th, 2015** at the Palmer Events Center in Austin, TX. This year's theme is pegmatites.

Photos from prior Gem Capers can be found at <www.austingemandmineral.org/Album/Past_Shows/index.html>.

The show itself will include over 30 vendors selling jewelry, beads, gemstones, mineral specimens, fossils, spheres, meteorites and lapidary equipment. There will also be a cabochon cutting contest and an SCFMS and AFMS display case competition.

The show and many events will be held at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78704. Hours for the show are:

Friday, October 23 - 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday, October 24 - 9 am - 6 pm

Sunday, October 25 - 10 am - 5 pm
Admission is \$8 per adult (seniors 60+ - \$7). Children 13 - 18 are \$2 each and those 12 and under are free. Multiple day tickets are available when registering in advance.



In addition to competitive and non-competitive exhibits, special exhibits will include the popular "touch table" of rocks and fossils and an "illumination station" containing fluorescent minerals.

There will be a silent auction Saturday and Sunday as well as demonstrations such as stone faceting, wire wrapping, capping, fossil cleaning and polymer clay. There will also be numerous activities for children. Friday, October 23 is Youth Education Day with field trips to the show from various schools sponsored by Silicon Labs.

Hourly doorprizes will be awarded to visitors on Saturday and Sunday (must be present to win) plus a grand prize will be awarded on Sunday to one lucky paying show visitor (the winner need not be present). This year's Grand Prize is a floor sized globe with semi-precious stone inlay.

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Proceeds of the show support the society as well as provide scholarships for students in the Earth Sciences. For more information about the AGMS, please visit our club website at <www.austingemandmineral.org>.

To download a registration packet, competitive and non-competitive exhibit forms, show schedule and hotel information, go to <www.amfed.org/show2015.htm>. The advanced registration deadline is September 1, 2015.

The Rice NW Museum News

from Julian Gray, Executive Director

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals has been named as an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. This mark of distinction signifies the achievement of a goal long held by the Rice Museum's originators, according to co-founder Sharleen Harvey. "Being a Smithsonian Affiliate confirms that our museum has the high caliber required to assist our schools and community in earth science education. It assures that visitors and supporters of the museum can have confidence in the quality and content of the exhibits, plus enjoyment in viewing fine minerals, fossils, meteorites, and lapidary specimens."

Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums and other educational and cultural organizations in order to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources.

The long-term goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to facilitate a mutual relationship among Affiliate organizations and the Smithsonian Institution to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across the United States.

The new relationship between the Rice Museum and the Smithsonian will bring great things to museum visitors in the Pacific Northwest. Not only will the Rice Museum be able to borrow objects and exhibits from the Smithsonian's collections, but the Museum will also gain opportunities to collaborate on research projects and to sponsor exciting programs from renowned visiting scholars.

"We expect the Affiliation to serve our community well," explains Julian Gray, Rice Museum executive director. "It will help us increase awareness of our excellent museum and attract more visitors to the area, allowing more people to experience our own world-class exhibits, events, and educational programs."

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2015	June 12 - 15 Lodi, CA	March 27-29 Hickory, NC	May 23-24 Wheaton, IL	April 10-12 Ogden, UT	July 16-18 Cody, WY	AFMS October 23-25 Austin, TX	November 6-8 Melbourne, FL
2016	Sept 16 - 18 Placerville, CA	October 21-23 Rochester, NY		AFMS July 27-August 1 Albany, OR			

Safety Matters

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Dangers That Lurk in the Dark...

...and in the light can be present in many of our rockhound activities. Think of the avid field collector using power tools to drill holes in rocks so that they can be split using feathers and wedges - what a dust cloud is raised!



Think of the lapidary artist using her home-made machine with all its exposed drive belts and pulleys - both just waiting to grab a loose long sleeve cuff.

Think of some kids in a quarry hammering on a rock - with sharp, splintery, rock shards spraying in all directions.

All the situations just described have obvious dangers - inhaling rock dust; catching clothing, hair and fingers in equipment pinch points; sharp shards damaging eyes, etc. While those situations harbor obvious hazards, other situations may not be so obvious as hazards.

Let's think of that avid field collector once again. To arrive at his work site he may have taken a short cut and walked across a small stream. Well, take it from one who knows, wet rocks can be very, no make that extremely, slippery. Falling and getting wet may not be all that serious, but falling and breaking a bone most certainly is.

Soldering on that silver pendant may produce a striking work of art; however, the flux and pickling fumes could be highly toxic.

Wandering around a famous quarry to collect fluorescent minerals after dark one may see incredible treasures. What one may not see are the holes of unknown depth. Even a very shallow hole may cause one to lose one's balance - especially after dark.

Another commonly ignored and often under appreciated hazard is not keeping one's fingers in view. Reaching over an edge to grab a hand hold? One's out of sight fingers could find not a hand hold, but instead, a very unwelcoming critter hiding there out of sight. And not being able to see one's fingers as one holds a rock on that slab saw is just asking for pinch point trouble.

Putting your fingers in a hole to pull out the treasures therein? Again, take it from one who knows from experience, there could be something besides treasures in that hole, pocket, vug, cavity or crack. There could well be something that bites stings, etc. inside.

Rockhound Soapbox

by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation

Fossil Collecting in National Forests

Rules and Regulations for the collecting of fossils on USFS managed lands have had a significant change for the Rockhound and Casual Collector effective May 18, 2015. The final ruling by the US Department of Agriculture for the National Forest Service has been released and is now listed in the Federal Register. This rule making process has been in work since the passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act on Paleontological Resources Preservation. Below is a summary of the USDA/USFS Final Rule:

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA or Department) is implementing regulations under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 paleontological resources preservation subtitle (the Act). This rule provides for the preservation, management, and protection of paleontological resources on National Forest System lands (NFS), and insures that these resources are available for current and future generations to enjoy as part of America's national heritage. The rule addresses the management, collection, and curation of paleontological resources from NFS lands including management using scientific principles and expertise, collecting of resources with and without a permit, curation in an approved repository, maintaining confidentiality of specific locality data, and authorizing penalties for illegal collecting, sale, damaging, or otherwise altering or defacing paleontological resources."

Included in the Final Rule are definitions important to Rockhounds and **Casual Collectors** of

Working at that club show or workshop? A simple tester found at most hardware or electrical supply stores can be used to check those outlets, extension cords and power strips. While circuits can either work or not work, there are additional issues such as poor, faulty or missing grounds, reversed polarities and non-functioning GMCI's that are not so noticeable with just a glance.

Always keep in mind the potential of hidden dangers lurking in our rockhound hobby. Keep in mind that it is not just the dark of night that harbors hidden hazards, although night is when the monsters come out isn't it?

Please be safe with what you do and keep in mind the potential hidden dangers, as well as the not so hidden dangers lurking just around the corner.

Your safety matters!

fossils on USFS Managed Lands. Some of these new definitions from the federal register and the Final Rule are as follows:

*"The term **casual collecting** restates the definition contained in **16 U.S.C. 470**. To be considered **casual collecting**, the activity means all of the following: Collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate or plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools, resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth's surface and other resources. The Department considers that in establishing the term **"casual collection"** rather than **"amateur collection"** or **"hobby collection"** or **"recreational collection"**, the Act intended that **casual collection** reflect the commonplace meaning of **"casual"**. The commonplace definition of casual includes the elements **"happening by chance; not planned or expected"**, **"done without much thought, effort, or concern"**, and **"occurring without regularity"** (**"casual"** Merriam-Webster.com.2014. <www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/casual > (4 March 2014)).*

*Consequently, the Department considers that **casual collecting** would generally be happenstance without intentional planning or preparation. Development of criteria for reasonable amount and negligible disturbance reflects, in part, the view of **casual collecting** as an activity that generally occurs by chance without planning or preparation. Further, the Act has established that an individual engaging in casual collecting activity in accordance with applicable conditions, in an area which has not been closed to casual collection, does not require a permit or other approval from the Department. Consequently, it is clear that the lack of Department decision space concerning such casual collection performed by an individual reflects that the Act intended that reasonable amount and negligible disturbance criteria established for casual collecting would be below levels that would otherwise require an evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Collection of amounts and/or land disturbance at levels that would require a NEPA evaluation would require a permit".*

*"The term **common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources** clarify the types of paleontological resources that may be casually collected in accordance with the Act and these final regulations. This final definition incorporates the plain meaning of common, which means plentiful and not rare or unique. The final definition also incorporates a geographical factor of wide-spread distribution, which means that the resource is distributed over a relatively large geographical area. This final definition also clarifies that not all invertebrate and plant paleontological resources are common; some*

continued on page 6

are not common because of their context or other characteristics and, therefore, are not eligible for casual collection. The determination of whether invertebrate and plant fossils are common or not common will be made by the Authorized Officer using scientific principles and methods in accordance with § 291.9(c)."

"The term **fossil** means any remains, traces, or imprints of organisms that have been fossilized or preserved in or on the Earth's crust. In informal usage, the term fossil tends to be used interchangeably with the term paleontological resource. However, under [16 U.S.C. 470](#) and these final regulations, a fossil may not necessarily be a paleontological resource. Remains, traces, or imprints of organisms (that is, fossils) are only considered paleontological resources under the Act and these final regulations if they are: (1) Fossilized, (2) of paleontological interest, and (3) provide information about the history of life on earth. Therefore, paleontological resources are fossils that have paleontological interest and provide information about the history of life on earth. An example of a fossil that may not be a paleontological resource because it lacks paleontological interest and provides negligible information about the history of life on earth would be an isolated, unidentifiable fragment of an otherwise common invertebrate fossil that was eroded from its native geologic occurrence and subsequently found in a stream bed far from its point of origin."

"The term **fossilized** as used in the definition of paleontological resources means preserved by natural processes, such as burial in accumulated sediments, preservation in ice or amber, replacement by minerals, or alteration by chemical processes such as permineralization whereby minerals are deposited in the pore spaces of the hard parts of an organism's remains. This definition is adapted from the definition of fossilization in the American Geological Institute's Glossary of Geology (Fifth Edition, 2005, ISBN 0-922152-76-4)."

"The term **negligible disturbance** as used in the definition of **casual collecting** clarifies that casual collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils may only result in little or no change to the land surface and have minimal or no effect on other resources such as cultural resources and protected or endangered species. **Disturbance caused by powered and/or large non-powered hand tools would exceed the "negligible" threshold and would no longer be casual collection.**"

"The term **non-commercial personal use** as used in the definition of casual collecting clarifies the types of use allowed under casual collection, and means uses other than for purchase, sale, financial gain, or research. Research, in the context of these regulations, is considered to be a structured activity undertaken by qualified individuals with the intent to obtain and disseminate information via publication in a peer-reviewed professional scientific journal or equivalent venue, which increases the body

of knowledge available to a scientific community. Common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources collected for research purposes is not personal use and would need to be authorized under a permit in accordance with §§ 291.13 through 291.20. Exchange of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources among casual collectors would be permissible as long as such resources were collected in accordance with the Act and the final regulations.

"The term **non-commercial personal use** as used in the definition of **casual collecting** clarifies the types of use allowed under casual collection, and means uses other than for **purchase, sale, financial gain, or research**. Research, in the context of these regulations, is considered to be a structured activity undertaken by qualified individuals with the intent to obtain and disseminate information via publication in a peer-reviewed professional scientific journal or equivalent venue, which increases the body of knowledge available to a scientific community. Common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources collected for research purposes is not personal use and would need to be authorized under a permit in accordance with §§ 291.13 through 291.20. Exchange of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources among casual collectors would be permissible as long as such resources were collected in accordance with the Act and the final regulations."

"The term **reasonable amount** as used in the definition of casual collecting quantifies the maximum amount of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources that could be removed from National Forest System lands. **A person may remove up to 100 pounds in weight per calendar year, not to exceed 25 pounds per day.** Development of this reasonable amount criterion reflects, in part, the view of casual collecting as an activity that generally **occurs by chance without planning or preparation.**"

"On National Forest System lands, the following are not paleontological resources for purposes of the Act or this part:

(1) Mineral resources, including coal, oil, natural gas, and other economic minerals that are subject to the existing mining and mineral laws;

(2) **Petrified wood as defined at 30 U.S.C. 611 and managed under 36 CFR 228.62 unless determined under paragraph (b) of this section to be a paleontological resource;**

(3) Geological units, including, but not limited to, limestones, diatomites, and chalk beds."

A paleontological resource may only be collected from National Forest System lands in accordance with the **casual collecting provisions** in §§ 291.11 and 291.12, or in accordance with a permit issued by the Authorized Officer as identified in § 291.13.

Casual collecting is allowed without a permit on National Forest System lands where such collection

is consistent with the laws governing the management of those lands, the land management plans, and where the lands in question are not closed to casual collection.

It is the responsibility of the collecting public to ensure that they are **casually collecting** in an area that is open to casual collection, and that the materials they collect are subject to casual collection.

Paleontological resources collected on National Forest System lands, including common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources subject to casual collecting, **cannot be sold**. Sale of these paleontological resources is a violation of [16 U.S.C. 470-5\(a\)\(3\)](#) and § 291.27(a)(3) and **may subject the violator to civil and criminal penalties**.

The provisions in §§ 291.28 through 291.35 do not apply to any person with respect to any paleontological resource which was in the lawful possession of such person prior to the date of enactment of the Act.

These are but a few of the new rules and regulations pertaining to Casual Fossil Collecting on Public Lands Managed by the US Forrest Service. The complete set of rules and regulations set forth in the Final Rule can be found at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-17/pdf/2015-08483.pdf or see the ALAA Website www.amlands.org for more information.

In conclusion the rules have changed. Casual Collecting is allowed, where Casual Collecting is allowed. No permit is required for Casual Collecting. Casual Collecting allows 25 pounds of material per day and 100 pounds of material per year. Casual Collecting allows hand tools only. Casual Collecting allows for minimal surface disturbance, (Fill in any holes when finished). Casual collecting material is for personal use only and may not be sold.

It looks like Vertebrae Fossils are NOT allowed to be collected on USFS Managed Land. The "Club Fieldtrip" planed to the fossil beds is NOT considered "Casual Collecting" under the new rules and regulations and may require a permit. (Permits are only issued for scientific and educational purposes and to institutions or graduate Paleontologists.)

When Rockhounds and Casual Collectors venture into the National Forest and stumble across a collectable fossil, just remember there are new rules and regulations under which you may pick up that fossil and keep it for your private collection. Also remember these new rules and regulations became law on May 18, 2015.

"Happy Rockhounding and Enjoy Your Public Lands".

AFMS Committees: 2014–2015

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>	Financial Investment Lauren Williams <slharuir at msn.com>	Publications B. Jay Bowman <bjb at wildblue.net>
AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Evelyn Cataldo <cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>	Historian Shirley Leeson <shirleyleeson at cox.net>	Public Relations Bob Jones <jonesb52 at gmail.com>
AFMS Newsletter Carolyn Weinberger <editor at amfed.org>	Inter-Regional Field Trip Doug True <dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com>	Safety Ellery Borow 207-547-3154
Boundaries Bob Carlson <illegitimusnoncarborundum at inbox.com>	Judges Training Seminar Dee Holland <beauholland at centurytel.net>	Show Consultant Bob Livingston <gemguy at verizon.net>
Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame Carolyn Weinberger <editor at amfed.org>	Junior Programs Jim Brace-Thompson <jbraceth at roadrunner.com>	Uniform Rules Ron Carman <rrcarman at centurytel.net>
Bulletin Editors Advisory Mark Nelson <MNelsonair at aol.com>>	Long Range Planning Don Monroe <donmonroe at windstream.net>	URC Eligibility Files Anne Cook <secretary at amfed.org>
Bylaws Revisory Steve Weinberger <central_office at amfed.org>	Name Badges Frank Mullaney <rockyfiv at aol.com>	Ways and Means Richard Jaeger <rjgrsci at aol.com>
Central Office Administrator Steve Weinberger <central_office at amfed.org>	Nominating Richard Jaeger <rjgrsci at aol.com>	Website/Webmaster Marty Hart <webmaster at amfed.org>
Commemorative Stamps Wendell Mohr <wmohr at erols.com>	Parliamentarian Ron Carman <rrcarman at centurytel.net>	Web Site Contest Dan Imel <lapidry at aol.com>
Conservation and Legislation John Martin <<smartin at antelecom.net>	Past President's Advisory Richard Jaeger <rjgrsci at aol.com>	AFMS Scholarship Foundation Dee Holland, President (see Judges Training) Marion Roberts, Vice President Cheri George, Secretary Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
Endowment Fund Donna Moore <MWFSecretary at gmail.com>	Photography Steve Weinberger <central_office at amfed.org>	
	Program Competition Doug Moore <steinhund at gmail.com>	

First Impressions

by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair

When I was an apprentice air conditioning mechanic one of my instructors told a story of an older building with two rooftop air conditioning units. The service company had two mechanics who each had an hour to perform preventative maintenance on one of the two old, faded, air conditioning units and the employer wanted to make an impression on the building owner. The first mechanic spent the hour tightening the belts, oiling the motors, cleaning the coils and such - until it worked perfectly! The second mechanic spent the hour smoking, drinking coffee and painting the outside cabinet of the unit - never bothering to check the operation of the unit. When the owner came to check on the work of the two mechanics he looked to see the first unit, old, faded and a little rusty. Then he saw the second unit - bright and shiny! He fired the first mechanic and gave all of his business to the second mechanic! My instructor explained that it is not enough to give care to what is unseen, but also to what is visible to the first impression, and I've carried this analogy with me ever since.



This is a lesson that we, as editors, can use! We need to use a "first impression" reaction of our bulletins to our advantage. As we compose our bulletins, let us think - "What can I do to make the visual impact of this bulletin better than last year's - or last month's?". Here are six easy-to-do ideas.

Impact of the first page (cover). This is your most important page. This is what is going to determine whether a reader opens it and gets interested, or sets it aside. Use color and make it not only interesting, but a teaser to what is to be found inside!

Impact of the last page (address page) is the first page that readers see when the mailed bulletin arrives at the members' home - and nearly as important as the cover page. Make it one they will want to open and read. Use the return address section (above the fold) to add a photo to highlight a gem or item that is inside. Use the area below the fold for a calendar or other interesting piece.

Use color! Many of our clubs both mail and email their bulletins. In either format, bulletins are more interesting if they are in color! Even if you print them in black and white, the color photos will be a nice gray-tone, while the emailed versions will be in great full color!

Print for impact. If you print and mail your bulletins, print your bulletins on 80 lb gloss paper and watch your articles and photos jump!

How Knowledgeable Are You on Public Lands Policy?

by Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

Have You Ever Wondered How the Planning and Decision Making Comes About?

Recently in researching an old article by the late Bob Cranston, Secretary of ALAA in 2003, I ran across an article about "A Conservationist's Guild to BLM Planning and Decision-Making, Using FLPMA and NEPA to Protect Public Lands. It was written by Erik Schlenker-Goodrich of the Wilderness Society. You can download this Guide, it's about 135 pages, but it's enlightening in showing how the Wilderness Society works to **protect** Public Lands.

Here are highlights of some of what is in the Guide:

- Basic questions and answers on Public Lands Advocacy. (pages 1 – 4)
- A map to citizen participation in the BLM planning and decision-making, with emphasis on how to leverage place-based information to force the BLM to take conservation-oriented action consistent with the law. (pages 5 – 11)
- The Legal Landscape: Preservation, Conservation and Exploitation of the Land. This includes descriptions of various conservation units managed by the agency. (pages 12-15)
- The BLM's Core Policy Framework, a detailed overview of general mission and core obligations of the BLM. (pages 16 – 38)
- Collecting Information: Inventories, Monitoring and Evaluations. (pages 39 – 49)
- Planning and Decision-Making – How the BLM develops plans and how the agency subsequently puts those plans into practice. This deals with the BLM's comprehensive resource management planning process. (pages 50 – 89)
- NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, one of the most important environmental laws ever enacted. (pages 90 – 117)
- Appeals, Protests and Litigation, which outlines your options to challenge decisions with the BLM's planning and decision-making process breaks down and results in potentially illegal decisions. (pages 118 – 135)

If you or someone in your club would like to research this enlightening Guild, I'm sure you will find it interesting, at the least. To me, it's like going in to a child's bedroom, and seeing a special item on a high shelf. It's to look at, but out of the child's reach to touch it. Much like the Wilderness we have out here in the west. You are not adult enough to be trusted with this, so you can only look at it and we will show you in pictures what is there.... The problem is, who is going to see all this beauty that has been locked away? At my age and with my health problems, I certainly won't be able to hike into any of these areas – many of them are thousands of acres, so this basically shuts me out. Is this fair? You decide....

Let ALAA Know If You Encounter Access Problems

American Lands Access Association has been blessed with members and FRIENDS who have rallied to our side . . . it doesn't get any better than that.

There are still numerous problems involving rockhound access cropping up all over the country and we need your help to identify them, so please notify ALAA and get involved. Together we can try to do something to preserve our access to rockhound hunting sites. Nothing is better than having people in the local area take the lead on publicizing road closures, sites closures, etc. These are the people close to the problems, and sometimes that person is YOU.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE, so let ALAA know how we can help and support you. We are all volunteers, some with lots of time to work to solve problems and others with limited time, but you all are a part of this vast puzzle and we need you.

—Excerpted from ALAA Newsletter (Jan.-Mar., 2015). ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

Make it easy to read. Print your bulletins on 11x17 paper. It is easy to read and to print. You won't need to staple stitch the issues as you assemble the pages.

Put Your Stamp On It. - Finally, use an interesting commemorative stamp to mail your bulletins. Choose an interesting stamp and take advantage of the event the stamp commemorates - the Civil War, Minerals, or use an interesting stamp that is attractive of itself!

Tip: Did you know that Office Max offers non-profit groups special rates for photocopying? These rates are significant and available for the asking! Debbie Berresford, of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Society, shared this tip at the 2015 S.C.R.I.B.E. meeting in Quartzsite, Arizona. Thanks for the tip, Debbie!