Endowment Fund Drawing: Last Minute Prize Donations

by Donna Moore, Chair

The 2015 drawing for the 25 prizes for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing is very near. It will take place in Austin, Texas on Saturday, October 24. Do you have your tickets so you might be the lucky person to win one of these or the previous 22 prizes?

Prize #23 Agate slab with stand donated by the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. Approximate value $125. SFMS

Prize #24 An 11 pound piece of Sodalite with an approximate value of $60. Donated by the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club. SFMS

Prize #25 A 22 pound piece of African Bloodstone. Donated by the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club. Approximate value is $135. SFMS

Prize #26. An Amethyst Spruce gem tree crafted and donated by Jerri Heer. Approximate value is $50. SFMS

Prize #27 Dogwood Blossom gem tree crafted and donated by Jerri Heer. Approximate value is $50. SFMS.

You can see these and all the other prizes in color by visiting the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/AFMS_Endowment_Fund_Drawing.pdf>.

Thank you to everyone who donated the now 25 prizes and to those who purchased tickets for the drawing. Results will be in the December AFMS Newsletter.

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Coming Next Month...
...Results of all the AFMS Convention Awards

BEAC, All-American, Website, Programs, Competitive Displays, AFMS Recognition Award, etc.
Who Is This Guy?  

by Matt Charsky, President

If you have attended one of the recent AFMS Conventions, you might have seen me in several Vice-President positions and in the President-Elect position. If not, you might be wondering who is the new AFMS President?

Professionally, I am a geologist with a degree from the University of Rochester (NY). I did my field work at Boston University (MA). Right out of college, I worked for an oil service company, Core Laboratory, and traveled throughout the Gulf Coast and offshore. My job was to run a field lab during oil and gas exploration. Next, I joined the Federal Government and was employed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission implementing the Natural Gas Policy Act. I spent the remaining part of my Federal career with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency implementing the Superfund Program. My focus was to protect human health and the environment, oversee the cleanup of groundwater resources, and draft policy.

From an AFMS perspective, I have served as 1st VP, 2nd VP, 5th VP, and of course President-Elect, and I have attended many AFMS Conventions throughout the United States.

From a regional Federation perspective, I have held various offices and committee chairs within the Eastern Federation – President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Nominating Committee Chair (6 years), Convention Advisory Chair, Show Coordination Chair, and a member of the Past-President Advisory Council. I also served on the Wildacres Functioning Committee, Area Representative Advisor, Bulletin Editor Advisory Committee Judge, and Auctioneer. I received the EFMLS Citation Award in 2010.

On the local club level, I was President of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Washington, DC for 7 years and performed many of other functions to further the hobby and relationships with other clubs.

As you might expect, my focus in the hobby is on minerals and crystals. I started collecting minerals in upstate New York. When I worked in the Gulf Coast I field collected in Arkansas and Texas. I have also had the opportunity to collect in Colorado and Utah. Today, I stay in the Mid-Atlantic region, primarily Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

I have been fortunate to have had assistance from many people in the Eastern and American Federations. Without these individuals I would not be serving the AFMS in this position.

The AFMS has an experienced crew of committee chairs who are excited about serving for another year. They are ready, I am ready, let’s go! I look forward to working with each of you. If any Officer, Executive Board Member, Committee Chair, Regional Officer, or local club member has a concern with or suggestion on how to improve AFMS, let me know and I will see what we can do about it. Throughout my career, I have solved a lot of problems and tried to spend my time in any position productively.

So this article does not get too long, let me stop here by saying that in my December article, I will share with you about what I learned in the multiple AFMS positions and how I see AFMS progressing into the future.

Till next month.

Matt
Start Your Plan for the All American Club Yearbook!
by Regina Kapta, Chair. <rmkapta@comcast.net>

The All American Club Award is given to the individual club Yearbook that highlights a club’s activities for the past year, including group activities, individual member participation, workshops and shows. Credit is given for member attendance at regional and national shows, holding officer positions on various committees, writing to state representatives, involvement in ALAA, and junior programs and workshops - activities that reflect an active club that makes membership worthwhile for everyone. The AACA awards are recognition of these activities, with bronze, silver and gold levels and an overall 1st place gold award.

Take a look at what your club has accomplished this past year, and give credit where credit is due! The more members contribute to the yearbook, the more completely it can serve as an historical document for the club. Start now to canvas members for documentation, letters, flyers or other materials to fill in some gaps just might make the difference between a good club and a great Club Yearbook entry.

Take advantage of the guide that is on the AFMS web site written by John Washburn. “An All American Club Yearbook: A Guide for Preparation.” This gives an explanation of each section, and what judges look for in rating the entries. It also highlights areas that are usually the weakest for many clubs and offers suggestions to improve those areas, as well as hints and tips for organizing the book.

Remember, some highlighted activities will be awarded bonus points, such as participation entries in Competitive Displays, utilization of the FRA junior program, and for club members volunteering as Judges for any of the AFMS sponsored contests.

The deadline for entry in the AFMS contest is April 15, 2016. Check with your regional chairs for their deadline. A copy of the Entry Form for year 2016 is on the AFMS web site <www.amfed.org/AACA.htm>.

Having Fun: Junior Activities
by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair. <jbraceth@roadrunner.com>

One More Time: Ideas for New Badge Activities – And for the 2017 AFMS Show!

As I’ve noted in past columns, I started our AFMS/Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program in 2004 with the idea that I would update it with new badges and/or activities every four years. Since then, we’ve gone from 9 badges to 20 with lots of tweaks and new activities in between thanks to ideas I’ve receive from juniors leaders across the country. 2016 will mark my Fourth Edition of our Badge Program, and I welcome your ideas. Already, I’ve received many that I’m now working to incorporate. But I always welcome more. Please send me your ideas (either for new badges or for new activities for existing badges) at <jbraceth@roadrunner.com> or by calling 805-659-3577. To see what we currently offer, go to <amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm>.

In addition, I’ve recently volunteered to serve as the Juniors Activities Chair for the 2017 combined California/American Federation of Mineralogical Societies show and convention that will take place in my own hometown of Ventura, California in June of 2017. If you have ideas for kids’ activities for the booth I’ll be assembling, I’d love to hear from you! Please contact me at the email or phone number I’ve provided above. Here’s to expanding our Badge Program in 2016 and to a great 2017 show and, as usual, to having fun!
Quite a few folks know I write safety articles for the AFMS News and several other newsletters. So, it was no surprise when a fellow came up to me at a local gem and mineral show and posed a question and a concern about field trip safety. His question pertained to a trip to a working mine and how to approach a matter of safety that was, to his way of thinking, different from that of the mine owner’s point of view.

The fellow had seen a situation at the mine that he thought could have been more of a safety hazard than had the miner owner’s representative. It is possible that the owner’s representative may not have noted the potential of the hazard, or may perhaps not have noted the hazard itself. The owner’s representative certainly did not know the physical abilities of the club members attending when judging a potential hazard. So, in effect, the instance was one where the fellow, a club officer, thought a situation was more hazardous to his club’s members than did the mine owner’s representative.

It is rather unusual, given operating equipment, mine workings, owners stocks, and the biggy -- company insurances, that a club officer wished to impose greater safety limits than those required by the mining company. This is not an issue faced by many field trip leaders, so, how does one approach an issue involving the hazard potential of any one particular situation? Even though instances such as this are seldom faced by field trip leaders, I’m a firm believer in having a plan for every situation. So here are some considerations:

1. Safety is, above all, paramount.

2. The field trip is usually at the request of the club, not the miner owners.

3. Mine and quarry workers are specially trained to stringent safety guidelines. Such workers are ever watchful and constantly monitor safety issues in their work areas. Club members on the other hand, are generally not trained to evaluate every potential safety issue in a working mine. Members are usually only given the site/mine specific instruction thought necessary for the area of collecting.

4. Of several sets of safety guidelines can be applied to a situation, the strictest set of rules should be utilized. Member safety must be paramount.

5. Field trip leaders of the club should be aware of club member’s weaknesses - who is likely to dehydrate faster than the others, who has a heart condition, who might have frailties needing to be monitored more than the rest, who might have balance issues, and so on. True, folks have to ultimately be responsibility for themselves but things such as dehydration can sneak up on person, even a responsible person. Trip leaders need to be ever watchful, it’s part of the job description.

6. Safety precaution lectures by mine representatives, as I have personally witnessed on numerous occasions, consist of an arm I hand wave indicating stay away from (an arm wave for) “there” or you can collect over (an arm wave for) “here”. And, oh, it is also necessary to wear your hard hats, safety shoes, gloves and goggles at all times. While those guidelines are good for most folks, there are those few who tend to want to stretch the limits of “there” or “here”. My own preference is to have a more distinct or physical barrier between “there” and “here”. Barriers can include wooden stakes and flagging, fences, a line of boulders, or painted lines on the ground. It’s harder for wanderers to ignore a distinct or physical limiter.

7. It’s one thing if the owner’s representative gives a field trip leader the safety specifics and then that person, in turn, passes the parameters on to the club members. It is quite another when the representative gives the specifics to everyone present at the same time. These are very different approaches in one important respect. If the mine representative passes the specifics to just the trip leader, the leader is then able to pass even more restrictive guidelines on to the members. If the members are given the specifics directly by the mine representative and then the club field trip leader wants to impose even more restrictive guidelines, it is possible that members may want to know why the additional restriction were imposed by the trip leader. More stringent restrictions may be difficult to explain to members -unless a clear case is made as to why. Such a why talk may not be understood by members, or even by the mine representative. There has to be good level of confidence in the field trip leader’s judgment if additional restrictions need to be applied, and accepted by members. With human nature being what it is, there will always be members who want to stretch the mine representative’s hand wave of “there” and “here 11”.

8. What happens if a field trip leader sees the need to impose greater restriction? Might the company see it as a calling into question their judgment? Might the company see such a judgment as a need to perhaps rethink their allowing field trips to their facility? Such instances certainly call for communication -communication indicating that the field trip leader knows the additional needs or abilities of the members, communication indicating that the field trip leader understands the collecting interests of the members, communication indicating the need to keep any wandering folks to tighter designated areas, and so on. Good negotiation skills, good communication skills, good safety backgrounds and judgements, good people skills are important in such instances.

9. One helpful guide in deciding limits is the clubs own field trip guide. Your club does have a field trip guide doesn’t it? An actual printed guide can help make a case for “No” meaning “No”. Case closed, end of story. A generalized written field trip safety guide can be helpful. It is also helpful to have some specialized guidelines that may be applied if necessary - especially in instances when implementing additional site restrictions based on the judgment of the field trip leader(s)

10. Speaking of judgment, let’s say a member sees a collecting treasure just a foot or two on the other side of the line where collecting is not permitted. The member, by rights, should not just walk across that limit line by those two feet and pick up the treasure. That said, it might be possible to seek permission from the owner’s representative to reach over those two (or three, or four or so) feet over the line. One should always be aware of the potential problems with any over-the-line collecting. The key is to try and avoid jeopardizing future trips -- or collecting on any slippery slopes.

There are numerous possibilities and pitfalls with any added restrictions. First and foremost is putting club member safety first --even if the field trip leader has to be the tough guy. All the official positions in a club have club constitutional or by-law or other governing club document authority, therefore field trip leaders should be no less so authorized to do their job --after all, safety rules.

Be safe, you deserve no less. Please mind your field trip leaders.
2016 Editors Contest

by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair <mnelsonair@aol.com>

I ended my first year as your AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair with a real appreciation for the talent among our clubs! The top rated bulletins, special publications, poetry and articles are really good!

You all are aware that I am a big supporter of the bulletin exchange program. I read all of the bulletins sent to me and file them so that I can refer to them for articles to use in keeping my own bulletin interesting. As I read some of the top rated material sent to the AFMS I noted something that I need to share with all editors and club officers: There is material being included in club bulletins out there that is even better than that submitted to AFMS! For some reason editors don’t submit information for competitive judging - perhaps because they don’t think that theirs will measure up against those of other, larger clubs. In asking the CFMS BEAC, Terry Vasseur, how the submissions were going to his federation’s contest, he responded that he gets very few - considering how many clubs are in that federation. My advice to editors and club officers is to take bulletins, articles, poetry and such and submit them to your region’s federation for judging! Because the 2016 AFMS Convention is in July this next year the deadline dates will be earlier than this year.

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

CFMS: Terry Vasseur <wookman@dsextreme.com>
EFMLS: Mary Bateman <mbateman500@gmail.com>
MWF: Celia Tiffany <celiatiffany@aol.com>
NFMS: Ronna Watkins <4ronna@gmail.com>
RMFMS: Beth Simmons <cloverknoll@comcast.net>
SCFMS: Kimberly Brannon <kimberlyarts@hotmail.com>
SFMS: Mark Easterbrook <asgardsgc@earthlink.net>

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

What is a Direct Entry?

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

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

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

AFMS Guidelines and Score Sheets

We have the AFMS guidelines and score sheets available on the AFMS web site. Please review these. Guidelines and score sheets may have changed, and all the online forms are undated so they can be used year after year. If your regional federation uses the same rules, categories, and score sheets as AFMS, please feel free to download and use the forms from <www.amfed.org>.

Format for submitting entries

Editors are encouraged to submit their bulletins and articles in the same way that they are submitted to their members - in black-and-white, all or partial color and so on. If they are sent out via email, they must be submitted as a print version.

NEW! Electronic Format Required

In addition to a printed submission, all entries must be submitted in electronic PDF format to the federation BEACs and to the AFMS.

I want to thank Linda Jaeger for her organized mind and work habits. The material which she passed on to me was so well organized that it made a tough job much easier to understand when it came to getting the material for the 2015 bulletin contest was put together.

I also wish to thank our AFMS judges for their time and expertise, and Gary Raham, Claude Bolze, Alan Hukill, Hutch Brown, S.C.R.I.B.E. and the others who provided suggestions for improving the judging criteria. If you are a new editor who would like to work with a mentor to help you improve your bulletin, or if you an editor with have a question or a suggestion about editing, writing or something related to the bulletin contest, send it to me by email: <mnelsonair@aol.com> or to my home address: 1475 Paseo Maravilla, San Dimas, CA 91773-3908. If I cannot find an answer to your question we’ll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.

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, cigerettes, 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 of 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.
2016 Endowment Fund Drawing Kickoff
by Cheryl Neary, 2016 Endowment Fund Chair <ciervo.neary@gmail.com>

Matt Charsky, our new AMFS president asked me if I was willing to fill the position of Endowment Fund Chair. Donna Moore has a new position in our Federation and I can only hope that I can fill her shoes in this position. Donna has been gracious enough to offer her services at the Austin, Texas October Convention (since I will not be able to attend the Austin Convention – not that I did not want to- only I could not convince my boss that I needed more time off from my job) to find representatives at the convention who may agree to sell tickets for the Endowment drawing and also try to find donations for the prizes.

My duties as Chair officially begin November 1st. Unfortunately, at the time of the writing of this article I do not know who the Federation’s representatives are, except for the Eastern Federation, since Carolyn Weinberger graciously accepted the position. Hopefully, by the December edition, all Federations will have the volunteered representatives and you will all know!

However, since Matt asked me and I accepted in August, I was able to get a jump on it- so to speak! I had attended the 2nd session of Wildacres hosted by the EFMLS and I am happy to report that I received two donations from teachers- and two more on the way from other participants!

Now for the challenge to you! The 2016 convention will be held in July. That means, I need donations as soon as possible so that I can post them to the website, so that you all have a chance to see what you can possibly win!

Needless to say, you cannot win anything unless there are donations – so please consider being a donor and buying tickets from your Federation’s representative for the other great donations we will get! Please either notify your representative or me of your intent to donate an item. Please, send a photo of the item and include your name, clubs’ name and your Federation, as well as the value of your donation. Let’s make it fun! The Federation that donates the most items will win a special prize to be determined. Next I request that you purchase tickets from your representative- who will be announced next month, along with the price of the tickets.

Why the drawing? The money collected is for the AFMS Endowment Fund. The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, to name a few.

Please contact me via email at <ciervo.neary@gmail.com> or via cell phone @ 516.449.5341 (texts work the best) to let me know of your intentions to donate. The item can be shipped to my address, which I prefer or brought to the 2016 Convention in Oregon.

The Donations to date are as follows:

#1 Soapstone Sculpture Bear. Donated by EFMLS Wildacres Instructor- Sandy Cline of Canada. (You can visit his website to see the other incredible work of his at <www.sandycline.com>.) The bear is approximately 7.5 x 4.5” and has an estimated value of $250. (EFMLS).

#2 Tigers eye Gem Tree Donated by EFMLS Wildacres Instructor Suzie Milligan of New York. The tree is a druzy Quartz on matrix and measures 7.5” high. Estimated value is $25. (EFMLS).

#3 Tigers eye Bolo tie & matching pendant Donated by the Huffman’s of the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value to be determined and photo to follow when completed. (EFMLS).

The Rockhound Sticker
by Dick Pankey

The Rockhound Sticker™ was developed to promote rockhounding and help rockhounds identify one another. Since its introduction in the summer of 2002 it has created great interest and can be seen throughout the United States and Canada. However, many rockhounds still are not aware of it and its benefits and still do not have one of their own. The objective is for all (or at least most) rockhounds have and display the Rockhound Sticker.

Although the Rockhound Sticker™ is trademarked, permission is granted to publish it and use it on club bulletins and other club publications as you would your Federation and AFMS emblem. I hope that you would use it in your club bulletin and share it with your members. Just click on one of the stickers above, copy and paste into your bulletin. It can be resized and formatted with the “Format Picture” drop down menu.

Below are some phrases I have used as a space filler, with and without a picture of a sticker, in newsletters and bulletins. Use as you need or make up your own.

•Promote rockhounding – Proudly display your Rockhound Sticker
•Use the little Rockhound Sticker on envelopes when mailing to other rockhounds, your elected representatives and to governmental agencies.
•Promote rockhounding. Display your sticker. Great for Juniors activities.
•Use anywhere, anytime to let people know that you are a rockhound.
•Use the Rockhound Sticker on your car, truck, trailer and motorhome. It is a great way to identify yourself and promote rockhounding
•The sticker lets everyone know you are interested in collecting rocks, minerals, or fossils and you are willing to talk about collecting.

Please help get the word out. Help promote Rockhounding and the Rockhound Sticker. Contact me with questions or for more information at <dick-pankey@juno.com>.
Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2015-16. 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
<rmkapt at comcast.net>

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

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries
Bob Carlson
<illegitimusnoncarborundum at inbox.com>

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

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

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr at erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
<<martin at antelecom.net>

Endowment Fund
Cheryl Neary
<ciervo.neary at gmail.com>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slharuir at msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson at gmail.com>

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

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

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

Long Range Planning
Marion Roberts
<mvroberts1 at comcast.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
Marion Roberts
<mvroberts1 at comcast.net>

Parliamentarian
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Past President’s Advisory
Marion Roberts
<mvroberts1 at comcast.net>

Photography
Steve Weinberger
<central_office at amfed.org>

Program Competition
Doug Moore
<steinhund at gmail.com>

Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<bjb at wildblue.net>

Public Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Safety
Ellery Borow
207-547-3154

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy at verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
Dee Holland
<beauholland at centurytel.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
<abcook6 at juno.com>

Ways and Means
Richard Jaeger
<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)
Matt Charsky, Vice President
Cheri George, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
Update on the Modoc Obsidian Collecting Area

Ms. Leeson,

Earlier this summer I approved a new policy and plan to manage the collection of obsidian from the four approved areas in the Warner Mountains. The old policy had been in place since 1992. Primarily due to the increased demand and use of the approved areas by commercial obsidian collectors there was a need to review the old policy and make needed changes. This review was conducted under the requirements of the NEPA and included public involvement. We did the best we could with public involvement but it was not possible to get the word out to everyone who has used or had an interest in obsidian collection. Over the years there have been hundreds of users from a diverse audience. We sent out information about the NEPA review to many of the clubs we were aware that used the areas, published notices in the local paper, and put information on the Forest’s webpage.

Actually the change from 500 pounds to 100 pounds per personal use certificate occurred several years ago and my recent decision just affirmed that change. That change was made by my predecessor on the advice of the Forest’s minerals specialist. There was a concern with some unsafe collection practices, such as tunneling, and it was thought that a reduced collection limit would allow for better management of the collection areas.

Yours has not been the only question about the collection limit associated with personal use. I appreciate the fact that many collectors come from a considerable distance and because of that need to collect enough material to last for at least a few years. I have told others that I want to see if the 100 pound collection limit is effective in meeting management objectives before I consider any changes. The limit is part of the collection plan which is subject to a review every year and can be changed by me. I appreciate your question and interest in obsidian collection. I would like to hear additional feedback as that will help inform any modifications to the collection plan.

I also want to let you know that while there is the 100 pound limit per personal use certificate, there is no limit on the number of certificates that can be issued to an individual. And there is no limit per group, so each member of a party can be issued a certificate. It is also possible to get certificates issued by mail which would allow more than one certificate to be issued to an individual. As I stated before the reduction in collection amount per certificate was made to allow for better management of the resource. If I find this is not effective and there are better ways to achieve our goals I am willing to make changes to the collection plan.

Thank you again for your inquiry. I value hearing from people like you.

Timothy Davis
District Ranger, Forest Service
Modoc National Forest, Devil’s Garden/ Warner Mountain Ranger Districts
530-233-8812; <tedavis@fs.fed.us>
225 W 8th St; Alturas, CA 96101
Caring for the land and serving people

Upcoming Regional Federation Shows

As you can see, we’re already getting confirmed dates for 2017 and 2018 and I’m pretty sure that 2016 will be all scheduled by the time you read the December AFMS Newsletter.

Please keep in mind that we try and avoid conflicting dates for our regional conventions. Please keep the already scheduled dates in mind as you plan your own regional federation convention and be sure to notify me as soon as your dates and locations are set so we can add them to this calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>October 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>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Sept 16-18 Placerville, CA</td>
<td>October 21-23 Rochester, NY</td>
<td>August 19 – 21 South Bend, IN</td>
<td>AFMS July 27-August 1 Albany, OR</td>
<td>April 22 –24 Wichita, KS</td>
<td>November 6-8 Melbourne, FL</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>AFMS Ventura, CA</td>
<td>May 6 –7 Brainerd, MN</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL</td>
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