Scholarship Foundation News

by Lauren Williams, Scholarship Foundation President

I’m delighted to report that all the paperwork has been transferred from the past officers and signatures changed and so the AFMS Scholarship Foundation is once again open for business! What that means is that I can now deposit your contribution checks and pay the scholarships and other expenses as they arise.

The major need now is for us to find someone who will be our new treasurer. Ideally the person should be a CPA or an IRS auditor. The system is set up as a double entry one, so the candidate should be familiar with that system. Responsibilities include working with the Charles Schwab brokerage reports to determine if any of our holdings need to be replaced, depositing contribution checks, and of course keeping accurate records of our holdings, expenses, and disbursements. The job should not take many hours each month to accomplish - perhaps no more than 1 hour per week at the busiest of times.

If you are interested, or know someone who could fill the position, please contact me. Our Scholarship Foundation awards are an important financial parachute for a dozen graduate students in the earth sciences each year and we definitely need to keep it going.

I’m currently doing the job, but with winter and snow fall here in Idaho, being the Foundation president, and Vice President of ALAA doesn’t leave me much free time to also do the Treasurers job.

A reminder to all the regional Scholarship Coordinators: Until we have a new treasurer, please send your contributions to me at 957 E Elva St; Idaho Falls, ID 83401-2164.

Please contact me at: <slhariur@msn.com> or 208-529-6978.

New Officers?

by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office Administrator

Has your club elected new officers for 2016? If so, we’d appreciate your taking a minute or two and sending us the name, mailing address (snail) and office held so that we can update our mailing records.

We’ll need to have the information for your president, editor, secretary and either liaison or federation representative.

Thanks for helping us keep the lines of communication between your club and the AFMS open.
A Word from the President

by Matt Charsky, President

Resolutions

As you read this article, the holidays and all the trimmings are behind us. So how are we pledging to better ourselves and our lives through our hobby in the New Year? Here are some New Year’s resolutions for you and your hobby. In the spirit of David Letterman, this is our top ten:

I resolve to attend more club, Regional, and American Federation meetings.

I resolve to volunteer for a position (e.g., Officer, Committee Chair, Judge, etc.) in either a Regional or American Federation.

I resolve to put together a showcase for either a competitive or non-competitive exhibit.

I resolve to write an article for either a club, Regional, or American Federation newsletter.

I resolve to visit the www.amfed.org website to better understand the American or my Regional Federation.

I resolve to attend a field trip (either in the good old outdoors or a special indoor exhibit).

I resolve to make a donation to the American Federation Endowment Fund, or my local Regional Federation Endowment Fund, or any type of Educational Fund.

I resolve to write up an individual(s) for Club Rockhound of the Year, or submit an article for the Bulletin Editor’s Advisory Committee, or Web Site Contest.

I resolve to contact an Officer or Committee Chair at either the American or Regional Federation level and see if they need some help.

I resolve to try a new activity in the hobby – take a class at one of the sessions offered at the Federation or Regional level, visit a new club show, go to a symposium, or talk to an expert in the hobby.

Well there you have it – make a change and get involved in the New Year.

I would like to thank both the Austin Gem and Mineral Society (South Central) for hosting the 2015 American Federation Meeting held in Austin, Texas and the Williamette Agate and Mineral Society (Northwest) for hosting the 2016 American Federation Meeting to be held in Albany, Oregon in July.

Finally, in November I had the opportunity to attend the Southeast Federation Annual Meeting in Melbourne, FL sponsored by the Canaveral Gem and Mineral Society. My wife Jean and I were shown “Southern Hospitality” and it was evident that the Southeast Federation is in good hands for 2016.

Till next month.

Matt

Happy Valentine’s Day
Program Competition – Why?
by Doug Moore, AFMS Program Competition Chair

Have you seen any good programs lately at a Club meeting? Was the program produced by a fellow Club member? No doubt, there was a round of applause to show appreciation. Why not encourage the producer to earn even more than applause — by entering the Program Competition? There are real “rewards and recognition” for winners. Cash prizes defray production costs, an award certificate and pin are presented to the winners, and information about all winners is published in newsletters and magazines. But more important, each winning program is duplicated and distributed to the seven Regional Libraries, making the winning programs available to Clubs across the country — giving their members a chance to enjoy and learn from them for many years.

*If the answer to the first question is “no”, perhaps you can borrow an AFMS Winner from your Federation Program Library. There are many excellent programs available.

Of course, not all winners are equal and older programs need to be replaced. We encourage you and/or your Club to produce a presentation and enter the Program Competition. Why not share your interest, your enthusiasm for an aspect of the hobby – so others may benefit from it and you can reap the rewards.

“Guidelines and Rules” for the 2016 Program Competition are published in this Newsletter on page 4 and on the AFMS website along with “Tips to Develop Programs”. If you want more information or have questions, contact me at:

AFMS Program Competition
c/o Doug Moore, 340 Wilshire Blvd. N., Stevens Point, WI 54481-1242, phone; (715) 345-1055 Email: <steinhund@gmail.com>

Club Rockhounds of the Year

California Federation

Theresa Langhans, a long-standing and active member of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society, is this year’s AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Theresa is well known as our Craft Fair Coordinator and Jackpot of Gems Exhibit Chair. Over the years, Theresa has increased the Craft Fair to a successful two-day affair. RGMS has a great annual “Jackpot of Gems” show and a big part of this is the number of wonderful competition grade exhibits that fill our floor space. Theresa holds a liners class annually and teases us into volunteering for exhibits. Theresa is a valued Society Member and we are proud to honor her.

submitted by Jennifer Rhodes, Director

Stephanie Hagiwara is the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society’s AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2015. Stephanie has taken on many positions. She is our award winning Webmaster, Co-Treasurer, our Publications person, on several committees such as Constitution & By Laws, Tri-Education Committee, as well as a valued Board Member. She always enters educational and informative displays for low shows and the county fair. She made new educational flyers for the club and the public. Stephanie has been a great asset to our club for many years. We thank her and recognize all her hard work.

submitted by Adrian Ruiz, President

The Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club is very proud to recognize two OUTSTANDING ASSETS to our Rockhound Family - CJ & Ray Quitirono. They have both been very active in our Club; CJ has served as Club President, Show Chairman, Program Director and Federation Director. Ray has served as a Director for several years, Publicity Chairman, Refreshment Chairman, Hospital...
The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Digital presentations, or video, relating to the Earth Sciences, are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or “EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” for “commercial” presentations.

- Each program is judged on its own merits.
- Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score. Winners may be asked to make some changes based on judges comments before final version is produced for duplication. (contact Coordinator for details)
- Judging Form and “Tips for Good Programs” are available on AFMS website (www.amfed.org), from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Librarian.

WHO MAY ENTER
Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2016 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter. (Does not apply to “Excellence in Education” entries)

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2016

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES
Class 1 - Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.
Class 2 - Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.
Class 3 - “How To Do It” - techniques/equipment for fossil prep., jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.
Class 4 - “Just for Juniors” - any of the above for/by youngsters.
“Excellence in Education” entries are judged separately.

JUDGING (Judges look for:)
- accuracy of information / educational value
- quality of photographs / visuals
- completeness of story - but not “too much” information
- narration that moves well from one image to the next
- presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
- title, credits and “The End” “slides”

For CD, DVD or VIDEO entries
- amateur entries should not be in DVD format for entry.
- submit a copy preferably in PowerPoint or similar format -without author's credits, for anonymity if possible send entry on a flash drive instead of CD.
- may be ‘live action’ or static “slides”
- integrated audio is preferred but not required for judging, however audio will be added for final version.
- include typed script if there is no audio

35mm SLIDE PRESENTATIONS can be considered, however please contact Coordinator before sending entry.

AWARDS
A $200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (for 95+ points), $100 if score is 94 - 90 points, in Classes 1 - 4. In addition, Winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet.

PROGRAM LENGTH
Adult programs: 30- 40 minutes is optimum
Juniors: 20 minutes suggested maximum

REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION
By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate / transfer their entry to DVD format for the Regional Libraries. Flash drives will be returned after duplication. 35mm slides will be scanned, and returned to producer. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

HOW TO ENTER
Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below.

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:
AFMS Program Competition Coordinator
Doug Moore,
340 Wilshire Blvd. N.,
Stevens Point, WI 54481-1242
phone: (715) 345-1055
email: <steinhund@gmail.com>

Entries must be received by April 15, 2016

2014 ENTRY FORM

I / we submit “_________________________________________”
(presentation title)
in [circle one] Class 1   Class 2   Class 3   Class 4
- or -
“EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION” (for programs produced “for sale”)

Producer(s) __________________________
(your name/s) (include your Office if Club entry)

If Producers are Juniors, parent / guardian name: __________________________

Member of ____________________________________________
(Club name)

Federation __________________________________________

[Your street address]

[city]    [state]    [zip]

Phone ___________________________ e-mail ___________________________

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR SALE? No ___   Yes ___   Cost: __________________________

Mail your entry to:
Doug Moore
340 Wilshire Blvd. N.
Stevens Point, WI 54481-1242
The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society invites you to come see the “Treasures of the Northwest.” The AFMS meeting will be held on Thursday the 28th before the show opens on Friday the 29th. It is being held at the Linn County Fair & Expo Building in Albany, Oregon just off I-5. All meetings and events will take place at the Fair Grounds. We expect to have lots of vendors, over 200 display cases, lectures, silent auction and daily field trips to a local petrified wood local for your enjoyment.

The Best Western Prairie Inn nearby has agreed to reserve a block of rooms at a discounted rate for those coming to the event. You can call them directly at 541-928-5050 and ask for our group name “NFMS Rock & Gem Show”. This discounted rate and block of rooms will only be held until July 12th so please reserve early.

The Holiday Inn Express (541-928-8820) and the Comfort Suites (541-928-2053) right next to the Fairgrounds do not have rooms reserved, but will provide a discount if you mention that you are there for an event at the Expo building. You will need to ask for the “Expo rate”.

There are also RV parks in the area that are available. There are a few spots at the Fairgrounds you need to contact them directly and mention you are with the rock show. The Knox Butte RV Park (541-928-9033), The Blue Ox RV Park (541-926-2886), The Albany RV & Trailer Park (541-928-8532), and The Albany/Corvallis KOA (541-967-8521) are all close by.

We really recommend that if you are planning to attend that you make sure to get your room in advance because the same weekend is also the multi-day Country Music Festival in nearby Sweet Home and rooms and RV parks tend to fill up.

For your long range planning the Multi-Federation Field Trip is the week after the show out of Prineville Oregon. So come for both events and really see some of the Treasurers of the Northwest.

Janice Van Cura, Show Chair 541-753-2401 <jvancura@peak.org>
NFMS/AFMS Competitive Entry Form  
*Treasures of the Northwest*, Linn County Fair & Expo Center – Albany, Oregon  
July 29 – July 31, 2016

**COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY DEADLINE:** June 29, 2016

All entries may be set up beginning Thursday July 28, 2016 from 9 am to 8 pm.  
All entries must be ready for judging by 8:30am Friday the 29th and may not be removed prior to the close of the show Sunday, July 31, 2016.  
All exhibits must be removed by 5 pm Sunday.

SECURITY WILL BE FURNISHED. TWO GUEST PASSES PER EXHIBITOR WILL BE PROVIDED.

Cases will be assigned space on display bases approximately 40 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and exhibitor should supply a three prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the tables. (Normally 10 feet) If borrowing a case power cords will be provided.

Please complete all information on the entry form and the certification form and mail or email to the competitive exhibit registration chairman for acceptance and acknowledgment. Mail to: **Dee Holland, P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468.** or <beauholland@centurytel.net>.

You must fill out a separate application for each entry. **ENTRY DEADLINE:** June 29, 2016

Refer to the AFMS Rules Updated to January 2016 for Competition. For updated rules, go to: <www.amfed.org>

If you are uncertain as to the correct class or group you should enter or for clarification of the rules, contact **DEE HOLLAND, P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468**.  
Email: <beauholland@centurytel.net>.

LIABILITY: It is mutually agreed that the Northwest and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society shall not be liable to any Exhibitor in whole or part. This includes the property of the exhibitor or the injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submitting this signed application for entry constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

Signature

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**NFMS/AFMS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM (2016 AFMS RULES)**

| NAME ____________________________________________________________________________ |
| ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________________________ |
| PHONE ____________________ EMAIL ____________________________________________________________________________ |
| SOCIETY ____________________________________________________________________________ |

This display is to be entered in (check one)______ NFMS or _____AFMS Direct

EXHIBITOR GROUP: MASTER___ ADVANCED____ NOVICE___ JUNIOR____ SOCIETY____ JUNIOR SOCIETY____

EXHIBIT DIVISION:_________ EXHIBIT CLASS:____

If JUNIOR, give birthdate________________

If Direct Entry, indicate when and where eligibility was earned________________

Do you have your own case?______ Size: Width______ Height______ Depth______

Do you want to borrow a case?______ Cases will be available on a limited basis. Basic size: 4 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft. Liners or risers may or may not be available.

CERTIFICATION FOR EXHIBITORS

I hereby certify that all material in competition by me is my own property, or if Society all material belongs to members of the society. All work except minor findings or otherwise allowed by the rules was completed by me. I have read the current rules and agree to abide by them.

Exhibitors Signature __________________________________________________________

PRINT NAME:______________________________________________________________

Exhibitor’s Society:________________________________________________________

I certify, as an officer of the above named Society, that the exhibitor is a member in good standing of that society, and to the best of my knowledge, is eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to the rules.

Signature:______________________________________________________________

If this is sent email, we need the officer’s email__________________________

Title__________________________ Date:__________________________

BOTH PAGES MUST BE SENT BACK. Be sure and make a copy for your use.
establishing a Work/Shop/Club House for the AV Activity Chairman, Club House Committee and Head Club Chef. They have both been instrumental in establishing a Work Shop/Club House for the AV G&M Club. Both have served at the CFMS level; CJ climbing the Executive Ladder and serving as CFMS President in 2009 and Ray serving as the Endowment Fund Chairman.

The Roseville Rock Rollers are proud to honor Florence Brady as our AFMS 2015 Club Rockhound of the Year. Florence has been involved in every aspect of our society for 17 years. As Secretary and Membership Chair for 13 years, she seamlessly handled the large growth of our society. Florence contributes to our annual shows success by tackling much of the organization required in lining up an army of workers and supervising admissions. She has also served as secretary for the area clubs’ Co-op for shared field trips. The Roseville Rock Rollers are proud to have a member as valuable and dedicated in our Society as Florence Brady.

submitted by Teresa Johnson, President

The Pasadena Lapidary Society is proud to recognize Jared Nishimura as our 2016 AFMS Junior Rockhound Of The Year! Jared is a very active member of PLS, proving his dedication to the betterment of the Society by his willingness to assist wherever needed. He regularly attends the general meetings and field trips. At workshops he is mastering his polishing techniques and he teaches the use of the Genie machine to new junior members. He has presented at the monthly program meeting. Jared is a valuable part of the Kids Activities part of our annual show. At the 2015 CFMS Show his cabochon case received special recognition! Jared reads the bulletin every month and frequently wins the bulletin’s Junior Quiz Question contest.

continued on page 9
Rockhound Soapbox

by John Martin, Conservation & Legislation Chair

Grass Roots! Those two words are now the most important words in the Rockhound vocabulary at this point in time. Without the grass roots effort of Rockhounds, Fossil and Mineral Collectors collecting areas will soon be swallowed up in Wilderness, National Monuments, and Environmental Study Areas and maybe even by Wind and Solar generating facilities. The Rockhounding Organizations do not have the financial resources, personnel or legal representation needed to wage the struggle contrary to the groups opposing open access to public lands. These opposing groups advocate the closing of access to collecting areas whether in the US Forest System or the BLM. The only way to keep collecting areas open is with grass roots effort by all Rockhounds that may collect or have collected in these areas of concern. The voice of the Rockhound needs to be heard and as loud as possible. If our voices are not heard in the location where the Rules, Regulations and Legislation are taking place the voices will not be heard and if we are not heard we, the Amateur Collectors of rocks, minerals and fossils, will lose access now and for future Rockhounds.

DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS
(From the Wilderness Act of 1964)

"(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

USFS and BLM Public Lands which have roads (Logging, Recreational, access to collecting sites, grazing access, etc.), Mines (Active or inactive), Transmission lines, Microwave, Communication and cell phone towers, do not meet the definition of a wilderness area as defined in the statement above. Man has left his imprint on the land and therefore it can no longer be considered as a wilderness or wilderness study area by their own definition. (The full text and additional reference may be found on the ALAA Website <www.amlands.org/6652/index.html> near the bottom of the Active Access Issues page).

Here are some Grass Roots thoughts that may help.

Tell all of the city and county officials how much tax money they will lose if the wilderness is created and withdrawn from the tax rolls. Remind the Forest Service and BLM that it is against the law to include roads and active mines in a wilderness area. You collect there, that makes it an active mine. Tell the Forest Service or BLM how many members are in your club and how many members from your area that uses the mine. Numbers speak so do not be afraid to mention them. Use dollars to estimate the cost lost to restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores will lose. Remind the sheriff that he is the legal law officer and that only he can arrest people. If you have the resources or funds send a fact sheet by mail to everyone in the counties where the wilderness is proposed, especially the property owners who will share their property lines with the wilderness. Send speakers to other service clubs and present your view. Have a booth or table set up at other public events or gatherings like your Rock Show and hand out your information. Get other organizations involved. Remind your club members that if they do not do it then who will. And when a Closure Activist says that ‘studies show that . . .’ call their bluff and demand that they show proof of that study, and do not ever let them off the hook. They made the statement now make them prove it.

Within the Rockhound Community the American Federation has the Conservation and Legislation Committee; <afmsclc@antelecom.net>. Regional Federations may have a Public Lands Advisory Committee (PLAC) and the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) <info@amlands.org www.amlands.org> all may be able to assist you in making your voices be heard. No matter how one looks at it, saving your collecting areas for future Rockhounds will require a well organized Grass Roots effort.

Having Fun: Junior Activities

Midwest Federation Youth Poster Contest:
Amazing Agates

As they’ve been doing the past few years, the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (MWF) is sponsoring a poster contest open to kids throughout the U.S. The deadline for entries is April 15, and winners will be announced at the MWF Convention in South Bend, Indiana, on August 20, 2016. I encourage you to spread the news via your local newsletters and at your monthly board meetings and membership meetings. This year’s theme is “Amazing Agates,” and here are the details:

Sponsor: The Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio
Theme: “Amazing Agates” – a poster illustrating any type of agate, what it looks like, and where it can be found.

Eligibility: Children in 1st through 8th grade.

Contest Rules:
• All entries must be presented on paper 12 inches by 18 inches.
• Include name, address, age, and school grade of the participant on the back of the entry.
• No three-dimensional posters accepted.
• The title may be on the front or back of the artwork.
• List the name of the agate, a brief description of what it looks like, where it is found, and why you chose it.
• Artwork can be in pen, ink, crayon, magic marker, paint, or any other artist’s medium.
• All entries become property of MWF and the Summit Lapidary Club.

Scale of Points:
Originality and Art Work – 30 points.
Design – 25 points.
Title – 25 points.

Listing of Agate type, what it looks like, where it is found, and why you chose it – 20 points.

Awards: Each grade level will have winners. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will also receive a prize.

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2016.

Send to: Poster Contest, 617 Wooster Road W., Barberton, OH 44203.

Questions? Email <SLC.youth.postercontest@gmail.com> (with “Poster Contest” in the subject line). For more information, visit the Midwest Federation website: <www.amfed.org/mwf>.
AFMS Website Competition

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

Competition is at two levels, as is done with the bulletin editor’s competition. There are regional competitions in all seven regional federations and the top entries in each region are forwarded to the AFMS level for judging. The purpose of the judges at the regional level is to serve as mentors for these various clubs by giving the webmasters encouragement and friendly constructive criticism on what they are doing right and where they need to improve.

Please encourage your webmaster to enter the competition. While it’s always nice to win an award, the real purpose is to give feedback to encourage improvements in your club web site that will benefit your club.

How does your webmaster enter? The webmaster needs to download a copy of the following three documents from the AFMS website (www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm) the 2016 Entry Form, the 2016 Score Sheet, and the 2016 Score Sheet Guidelines. Once downloaded, two of the forms are fillable PDF files, and can be filled out on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Please fill out BOTH the one-page Entry Form completely, and top part of the Score Sheet on both pages. Please don’t fill in the scores as one person did in the past – that’s the judges’ job. When finished, e-mail both forms to your regional federation contest committee chair no later than your federation’s due date.

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

These contest files are available on the AFMS Web site <www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm>. Make sure you’re downloading the 2016 version of these files. Also make sure that you have installed the most recent version of Adobe Reader so you can change some of your filled-in answers later if necessary. The newest version of Adobe Reader is available free at <www.adobe.com/products/reader/>. You may also use alternate products, such as Nitro Reader.

The top regional federation winners will have their entries forwarded to Wes Lingerfelt, the man who is judging at the AFMS level. Wes will give the regional first place winners the benefit of his wisdom, his extensive Web experience, and his knowledge of what works and what doesn’t. He will analyze each of the sites forwarded to him, and he will give useful feedback on what is being done well and how each site can be improved.

Thank you, Wes, for agreeing to participate in our contest, for giving our regional winners the benefit of your hard-won wisdom, and for helping us achieve our goal of having rock and gem club web sites that are as good as they can be. All the contestants participating at the AFMS level will receive a certificate signifying their rank, and the first place winner will also receive an AFMS first place plaque.

The results of the various regional Webmaster Contests will be announced at the annual meetings of the regional federations during their Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. The results of the AFMS and NFMS Web Site Contest will be announced during the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters during the AFMS Convention on July 30 in Albany, OR.

Note: There are plans in the works to revise the competition score sheet to make it current with today’s web technology. The regional committee chairs and I will be reviewing suggestions for changes before the 2017 competition. Please send me any changes you would like to see included in our discussions. My e-mail is <lapidry@aol.com>.

Regional Federation Deadlines and Contest Chairs:
CFMS - Merrann O’Neill
<mvoneill@comcast.net>
Deadline: TBA
EFMLS - Dan Imel
<lapidry@aol.com>
Deadline: March 1, 2016
MWF -
Currently open
NFMS - Cheri George
<lizardwoman3@yahoo.com>
Deadline: TBA
RMFMS - Robert Johnson
<rmfms.web.contest@gmail.com>
Deadline - January 1, 2016
SCFMS - Don Shurtz
<don.shurtz@gmail.com>
Deadline - February 7, 2016
SFMS - Jeff Ursillo
<bnmjeff@aol.com>
Deadline - March 1, 2016

Why I enter the AFMS Website Contest
by Stephanie Hagiwara - 1st place 2013 & 2011 AFMS Website Contest

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

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

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

Club Rockhounds
continued from page 7

Eastern Federation

The Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club is very proud to announce their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Honoree Fred Haynes. Since joining the club two years ago, he has taken on the editing of a, top to bottom wealth of information, newsletter. Fred has organized trips, helped with the Gem Fest Show, is the club’s photographer and helps with identifying mineral and fossils. He promotes the club wherever he goes. Fred has been in the mineral field most of his life (well maybe not in the field, but certainly chiseling a rock wall somewhere). Fred has brought a wealth of knowledge to our club. This award is an acknowledgment for his past, present and future of fun together.

submitted by Glenn Weller, President

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Rockhounds of the Year

Northwest Federation

Craig Prier is the 2015 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year from Oregon Agate and Mineral Society. He has been involved in so many aspects of the club that he can answer most any question. During his 2011-2012 Presidency, he was a pivotal part of reestablishing a positive working relationship with OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry) and educating the OMSI staff on the OAMS role from the beginning of the museum. His leadership for two years as show chairman produced very successful shows. He has been a trusted lapidary teacher and advisor to those interested in exhibiting. His craftsmanship and displays of his ‘Rock Stars’ have earned him several prestigious awards. Craig is a major asset to OAMS.

The Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club (Montana) announced that its AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2015 is John Czyzewksi. A long-time Club member, John has volunteered to serve as a Trustee of a significant collection owned by the club since 1947, has set up and managed our first Clubhouse, rehabilitated donated lapidary equipment for the shop, served on numerous project teams, solicited volunteers for Club officer positions, sorted and prepared specimens for Club auctions, and has been an amazing collector of mineral specimens at Montana-area dig sites this year. He has been known to light a small fire to melt through the snow and ice so that he can prospect and dig at sites in the winter!

Rocky Mountain Federation

The AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year for the Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society are Dean and Ruby Shafer. The Shafers are our only remaining original club members. They helped start the club in 1968 and have been very active ever since. Dean has served in most of the leadership positions including president and Board of Directors. Dean has also served the Rocky Mountain Federation as Stamp Chair for many years. Ruby has been very active in the club and can be counted on to be working at every rock show. Dean is the club’s “go-to” member when a rock needs to be identified. He is very fond of field trips and either leads or goes on most of them.

Tooele Gem & Mineral Society of Tooele, Utah would like to honor Geri Lawrence as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2015. As our newsletter editor for the past three years, Geri has done a phenomenal job. Our newsletter has never looked better nor had as much information and exciting material. She came up with creative ways to encourage members to read the newsletter by donating prizes to be given away to those that brought the newsletter’s completed word search to our meeting. She submitted articles about family rockhounding trips and provided pictures and information about their finds. Geri has also helped with our website by uploading photos.

Editors and the All American Club Award

by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair

For a lapidary society or club to achieve the status of an All American Club it needs to be a step above average. The AFMS seeks to help clubs in North America achieve this status by creating the All American Club Award. For a club to reach this status and be awarded a level of achievement a club needs to submit an application. The application is in the format of a Yearbook - either printed or in PDF format. All of the criteria that a club needs to enter and win an award are clearly spelled out in the application and is on the AFMS web site. The judges will read each individual club’s Yearbook the yearbook and look for a club’s activities for the past year, including group activities, individual member participation, workshops and shows. Credit is given for attendance at regional and national shows, participation at meetings, holding officer positions on various committees, writing to state representatives, and involvement in ALAA - all these activities 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.

Your club’s bulletin editor is the prime person to lead or assist in the effort to make your club an All American Club. You can view the Yearbook is a type of historical record of a club’s members and activities. The editor is a type of historian, reports on the club’s members, meetings, shows, community and government involvement, specialty groups and photos highlighting the club’s activities. It is important that an editor gathers photos, advertising, flyers, displays, shows and such. Encourage your members to send your editor all photos taken from a field trip, show or other event. Whenever possible, have them send photos in digital form. Otherwise, have the editor or a member of the bulletin committee scan them into digital format. Let’s have all of our clubs enter the All American Club Contest this year!

Tip: Sending lots of photos the easy way.

Email provides tend to limit the size of attachments to emails. Mine is about 25mb. This only lets me send three or four photos at a time. I have recently learned of a free service that allows a person to send up to 2GB of photos or data! It is called WE TRANSFER and you can use it by typing: www.wetransfer.com. Skip the offer to upgrade to 10gb, accept their cookie terms, and you are there! You just copy and past up to 2GB of photos, type in the email of the recipient, your email, a message and click “Transfer”. That’s all there is to it! Now your editor can receive lots of great photos of your club’s activities during the year and your club is on its way to becoming an All American Club!

Reminder to Federation BEACs - the deadline for 2015 articles, bulletins, features, poetry and special publications to be submitted to AFMS is April 1, 2016. You will be mailing your submissions directly to the judges this year. A list of AFMS judges will be sent to you in January. Some federations are using February 5th as a date for receiving submissions from their editors.

We will be using the same General Guidelines, Categories and Fillable Scorecards as in 2015 and can be obtained online at http://www.amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm. Beginning this year, Editors will be required to submit one disk (or WeTransfer file) which contains PDF files of all entries.

Stan Stroke is the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for the Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society. Stan has been the President of WSMGS since 2012, assisted with the accomplishment of receiving an IRS 501 (c3) designation for the organization, helped start a new state website in 2013, and has regularly submitted articles and other information to the newsletter. Stan has often spent time taking school children on field trips. He was instrumental in building a large tumbler to polish stones for use at the 2015 Federation Show. Stan is a generous, deserving person and we are proud to have him as a member.

submitted by Linna Beebe, Secretary

Does your club have an MVP who you would like to recognize on these pages? Each AFMS affiliated club may submit the name along with a short recap of why that person is being recognized to your regional federation ACROY representative. One individual or couple and one junior member may be honored in this way each calendar year.

Can you think of an easier way of saying a public “thank you” to these Most Valuable Players in your organization?
Rationale:
Internet web pages are public documents welcoming the outside world to the organization and linking Officers and members to sources of information. Guidelines are required in the construction of Internet web pages to ensure that information on the pages is appropriate for any Internet user from within the community and around the world to access. Web pages should support the chartered aims of your organization.

In producing web pages, the following goals should be considered:
1. Introducing outside visitors to the organization and/or Committees and its programs,
2. Fostering communication of information between the organization and the community,
3. Sharing the club’s successes with the world.
4. Linking Web users to good information resources, and
5. Providing top-quality, family-friendly content that is appropriate to and in compliance with the mission statement, educational goals and objectives of your organization.

Posting Requirements:
1. Organization Webmaster: The setting up of a home page shall have a Webmaster appointed by the Board of Directors. The Webmaster shall assist the Board in ensuring that these guidelines are adhered to and that the content of the web pages meets the Board's approval. The Webmaster is the only person in the organization authorized to upload files to the web server. The Board must review and approve the changes made to website after posting of any modified content.

2. Club Home Page: The home page shall be located on the Board approved hosting server. If the organization has additional web pages on one or more sites on external web servers, then the home page shall provide direct links to all sites. All web pages must conform to these guidelines regardless of the location, whether on the approved web server or an external web server. All pages shall indicate the date of the last revision.

3. Content of Web Pages: The content of all web pages must be consistent with the educational aims of the organization and with the policies and spirit of the club’s Board of Directors. Prior permission must be obtained before any club members’ personal information is posted on the Internet web pages. (A good guide to follow is those provided by the AFMS Website Contest)

4. Communication Links: No web page content may allow people accessing the page to contact any club member directly as a matter of default unless allowed under paragraph 3 above. Communication with respect to the content of any page must be directed to the Webmaster of the organization. All website pages must include a “mail to:” link to the Webmaster.

5. Advertisements: Club web pages may contain small acknowledgments of club partnerships or sponsorships. Web pages may provide links to partners or sponsors’ web pages. A special section or page may be devoted to the sale of lapidary items donated to the organization.

6. External Links: All links connecting to external sites must be approved by the organization Webmaster, and are subject to final approval by the Board; this includes separate member web pages hosted on external servers.

7. Identification of Junior Class Members: For a junior member first name and/or picture and/or information about the junior to appear on any web page, the Webmaster must obtain parental permission on an Internet Information Release Form. This form is provided to the parent/guardian in the Club enrollment package. This form must be renewed each year. Only number, topic, event or first name may be used to identify junior member work. A junior’s full name or email address may NEVER appear on a web page. Junior work may include but is not limited to; web pages, artwork, graphic design, written documents, multimedia presentations, projects, etc. File names for pages and images should be checked to ensure that juniors’ names do not appear there, e.g., marysmith.gif, jimjpaull.html. Permission must be obtained from any Club member prior to displaying his/her photograph or information.

8. External Member Web Pages: External member web pages will promote learning and must be consistent with the educational aims of the organization. The creator of the page is responsible for the content of any external links. The page must adhere to the rules above for posting of junior member work. I encourage lapidary related web pages to be linked from the Club’s site. Contact the Club Webmaster with the appropriate site address or files for uploading to the Club’s site.

9. Personal Home Pages: It is not permitted for personal home pages for Club members to be linked from the Club’s web site unless they are related to the Club’s mission. Junior Members may create “content” pages under the supervision of the Webmaster, but not personal pages about themselves. Similarly, members may create pages that are educationally oriented. Linking to a juniors’ or members’ personal (non-mission) page on an external site is not permitted.

10. Respecting Copyright: Copyright must be respected. The author of the web page must not use copyrighted materials without permission. This includes icons and “buttons”, images, background watermarks, sounds and video.

11. Claiming Copyright: The author for his/her own original work may claim copyright.

Style Guide:
(The following items are suggestions - not mandatory, but recommended.)

1. Avoid “Under Construction” signs on a home page; construct the page before placing it on the Web. If UNDER CONSTRUCTION graphics are necessary, please do not keep them on any page longer than four (4) weeks.
2. The date of the last update to the page should be clearly identified for page viewers.
3. Images should be displayed with width and height set. Large images should be avoided. The use of informative graphics makes for a more lively and colorful website.
4. Pages should accommodate a variety of browsers, including text-only browsers when feasible. Avoid making pages that require unusual plugins.
5. Pages should be checked for spelling and proofread before they are displayed.
6. Internal documentation should be maintained along with the source code. It should consist of the author’s name (guardian’s name may be more appropriate if author is a junior), and creation and revision dates. Any unusual content or styles should be noted. Written permission authorizing the use of any copyrighted material must be maintained.
7. Facilitate travel through your web pages. Provide hypertext links wherever possible. Keep URLs as simple as possible.
8. Avoid using a hosting service by a private individual under a non-owned Domain name.

Restrictions: Club Members are precluded from:
1. Posting, linking to or sending any transmissions or files constituting or encouraging conduct that would constitute a criminal offense, giving rise to civil liability, or otherwise violating any local, state, national or international law, including without limitation the U.S. export control laws and regulations.
2. Posting or transmitting any information or software that contains a virus, worm, malware, cancelbot or other harmful component.
3. Uploading, posting, publishing, transmitting, reproducing, distributing or participating in the transfer or sale of any information, software or other material obtained through the Internet which is protected by copyright or other proprietary right or derivative works with respect thereto, without obtaining permission of the copyright owner or rightful holder.
4. Abusing or fraudulently using the Web Posting Service in any way not specifically set forth above. Additionally,
5. Chain letters are not allowed to be posted.
6. Irresponsible postings that result in complaints to Club Administration will result in posting privileges being disabled.
7. Illegal postings, such as harassment, pornography or copyrighted software or other data (such as mp3 sound files) are grounds for immediate termination of the user’s web-posting privileges.
On Saturday, November 7, 2015 John & Susy Martin and Kim & Jay Erb met at the home of Shirley Leeson in La Mesa, CA to load and move over 50 years of historical documents including newsletters and items of historical value from the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Lands Access Association from Shirley’s garage and house to a storage facility in Lancaster, CA. Don George joined us for the unloading and filling of the storage unit.

There were 3 file Cabinets, a dozen or so plastic tote boxes and a dozen more file boxes. Shirley has been the official Historian for these organizations for the past several decades (she continues as AFMS Historian) and has done a wonderful job of keeping these records.

There is still material to re-locate but that is another trip. She has now passed the torch to others to continue the historical archiving of these organizations. Thank You Shirley for your years of dedicated and careful work.

The van was loaded with all the totes and file boxes while Kim’s truck hauled the file cabinets. Shirley looks happy to see all the records moved from her house and Susy knows who will be looking after them for awhile. There still remains the complete collection of Rock & Gem and Lapidary Journal magazines to relocate.

Left - Boxes of documents as they were neatly stored at Shirley’s home before the move.
Middle - the fully loaded van
Right - the documents in their new storage container. (AFMS materials on the right)

History on the Move

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

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<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
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<td>Sept 16-18 Placerville, CA</td>
<td>October 21-23 Rochester, NY</td>
<td>August 19 – 21 South Bend, IN</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td>April 22 –24 Wichita, KS</td>
<td>May 7 – 8 Lubbock, TX</td>
<td>Nov. 18-20 Marietta, GA</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>May 6 –7 Brainerd, MN</td>
<td>May 19-21 Hamilton, MT</td>
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Internet

Penalties and Disciplinary Actions for APP Violations:
Violations of the Internet Posting Policy (IPP) are treated as violations of the Club Operating Regulations and qualify the offender for any and all appropriate actions and punishments as set forth in the Operating Regulations, including suspension and/or expulsion of membership. Conclusion: The above covers most of the necessary items to keep a Club and its Webmaster out of difficulty but always err on the side of safety. The Club newsletter and Internet postings are valuable tools; however, they can be used by bad people as well. There have been cases where a club advertised an extended field trip (say to Quartzsite) and returned home to find their lapidary treasures carried off by burglars. Newsletters are a good way to entice visitors and new members, but be wise about putting out specific information about your plans. Another recommendation is to make sure that your club has Officers and Directors insurance that also covers your Internet. In this day and age, you can’t be too careful.