The Clock is Ticking...Tick...Tock...Tick...Tock
by Cheryl Neary, Endowment Fund Chair

The 2016 AFMS Convention is being held in late July of 2016. So what does that mean to you?

Hopefully, it means you will purchase your tickets (yes, you need to be in it to win it!) before July for the AFMS Endowment Fund drawing!

Why the raffle? 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.

Before the clock runs out – why not Purchase tickets? You can also donate an item or two! Why not both options!

The tickets are $5.00 a piece or $20.00 for five! What a bargain!!

Where can you purchase tickets? Great questions- you can always send me a request for the tickets at my email at <ciervo.neary@gmail.com>. I will send you an email version of the tickets and I will fill in all the details on the original ticket, once I receive the money for the tickets. Or better yet- you can purchase them from your Federation’s representative!

Representatives selling tickets and soliciting donations are as follows for each of the Federations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Colleen McGann</td>
<td>PO Box 224 Santa Clara, CA 95052</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmcgann0009@gmail.com">kmcgann0009@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Carolyn Weinberger</td>
<td>PO Box 302 Glyndon, MD 21071-0302</td>
<td><a href="mailto:editor@amfed.org">editor@amfed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>J.C. or Donna Moore</td>
<td>25235 N State Rte 97 Cuba, IL 61427</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcmoore3rd@gmail.com">jcmoore3rd@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwfsecretary@gmail.com">mwfsecretary@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>Judi Allison</td>
<td>1701 NW 11th St Hermiston, OR 97838</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jall@eotnet.net">jall@eotnet.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain</td>
<td>DeLane Cox or Richard Jaeger</td>
<td>8152 Spanker Ridge Dr Bentonville, AR 72712 3515 E 88th St Tulsa, OK 74137-2602</td>
<td>&lt;delanec3#earthlink.net&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>Joyce Speed</td>
<td>4680 Wisteria St Dallas, TX 75211</td>
<td><a href="mailto:llispeed2@gmail.com">llispeed2@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Jerri Heer</td>
<td>7301 N Howard Ave Tampa, FL 33604-5224</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jheerx6@aol.com">jheerx6@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All pictures are on the website for all of the donations to date.

continued on page 5
AFMS Springs into Action

by Matt Charsky, President

For those of us who live with a distinct change of seasons, spring is the time when we spring into action. If you are fortunate to live in the southeast and southwest, your hobby is in full swing with field trips and outdoor gatherings. Up north, all those hobby-related activities that we could not do in winter are now possible, even the dreaded spring cleaning.

More than I care to admit, I get asked the same question repeatedly – what does the AFMS do? I would like to think everybody reads every page of the AFMS Newsletter and is up to speed on what we do. The following highlights are for those people who might have missed an issue or two.

* Lauren Williams and members of the Scholarship Foundation are working to keep scholarship levels the same and our investments on track for 2016. Individuals and clubs may donate to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation throughout the year.

* The Northwest Federation particularly the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society is working hard as the host club of the next AFMS Convention in Albany, OR from July 27-August 1, 2016! In addition, Doug True is planning an inter-regional field trip around the Convention.

* ALAA (although not officially a part of the AFMS, but affiliated with us through common interests) together with John Martin and Mike Nelson continue to decipher the new U.S. Forest Service collecting rules which are likely to hit clubs whose members collect fossils on USFS land. There is similar ongoing work with the Bureau of Land Management.

* Milestones were reached in Junior Activities by Jim Brace-Thompson – over 10 years of conducting the AFMS/FRA Badge Program, 135 clubs and societies have participated in the Badge Program, and over 10,000 badges have been awarded to juniors. Congratulations!

* Carolyn Weinberger and Shirley Leeson are working on the upcoming AFMS 70th Anniversary Celebration.

* Endowment Fund Chair, Cheryl Neary, is collecting donations now and up to the 2016 AFMS Convention. Individuals and clubs are invited to give donations and to purchase tickets for the drawing.

* BEAC Chair, Mark Nelson; Web Site Competition Chair, Dan Imel; and All American Award Chair, Regina Kapta are beginning their work that culminates with award presentations at the 2016 AFMS Convention. Let’s keep them busy.

* AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year is a year round reward program and is always open for submittals. Don’t you know someone who deserves a pat on the back for all they do for their club and hobby?

* Ron Carman and the rest of the Uniform Rules Committee approved several updates to competitive exhibiting at the recent Austin Convention. These updates will take effect for the 2016 competition and can be found on the AFMS website.

* Ellery Borow keeps us up-to-date with field trip safety because in our hobby safety really does matter.

All these activities occur in addition to the day-to-day functions of our Officers and Committee Chairs not previously mentioned.

That’s a quick summary of what we are currently doing. We are blessed to have dedicated individuals who share our same passion for the hobby and we all want the AFMS to spring forward. Let’s support these individuals and thank them for their efforts.

Till next month.

Matt
Having Fun: Junior Activities

by Jim Brae-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

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.


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.poster.contest@gmail.com> (with “Poster Contest” in the subject line). For more information, visit the Midwest Federation website: <www.amfed.org/mwf>

National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame News

by Steve Weinberger, HOF Chair

The National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame was established by June Culp Zeitner in 1987 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their fields over many years, and have further advanced the ideals of the hobby. The complete list can be seen on our website <rockhoudan-dlapidaryhalloffame.org>. The NR&LHoF is currently located in the Pioneer Auto Museum in Murdo, S.D.

In order to be inducted, an individual must be nominated by someone who summarizes the person’s talents and contributions. These names are then presented to the Board of Consultants for their approval. The website has a nomination form which can be used, and additional information may certainly be included. Please send all nominations to the address listed on the form, and be sure to list contact information for the individual nominated as well as your own.

There are five categories in which people can be nominated: Minerals, Education, Lapidary, Fossils and Tribute (deceased.)

There were four inductees for 2015 and congratulations go to the following:

Minerals—James Hurlbut (Colorado)
Education—Steven Wade Veatch (Colorado)
Lapidary—Jerry Call (North Carolina)
Tribute—A. Worth Hobby, M.D. (Georgia)
Safety Matters: Give Yourself a Hand

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Give yourself a hand, or at least a rousing round of applause if you are one of the many folks who makes a concerted effort to take care of one of your most important tools—your hands.

There are many folks who earn their living through constant use of their hands. Even if you are not one of those fortunate folks it is likely that your hands are in constant use. If you think that you are one of the folks who does not use their hands all that much, try going even 1/2 an hour with one hand held behind your back, and then going on about your day. The hand behind ones back suggestion might clearly highlight how much we use our hands. If you are still unsure of the amount of your hand usage, try going even 10 minutes without use of either one. Our hands are important, give yourself some applause if you take care of your valuable asset—hands.

Using my trusted, well worn, and tattered, 15th edition of Gray’s Anatomy I found the Metacarpus, Carpus, Scaphoid, Cuneiform, Ulna, Radius and 22 other bones of the forearm, wrist, palm and fingers. Counting the bones of the right and left hands that’s 60 bones of the body’s 200 or so bones. The hands have a high percentage of the body’s total bone count and ancillary tissues. It behooves us to take good care of these assets. By being good I do not mean just use of an occasional hand lotion. Indeed, hands do not deserve just good care, they deserve great care.

Soon I will transition from winter’s snow shoeing enjoyments to Spring’s bicycle riding pleasures. During that transition I will move from using certain muscle/bone groups to other muscle/bone groups. During that transition I will awaken muscles I have not used in a while. If I do not properly prepare for the transition I will be sore in places. What that demonstrates to me is that I’m not exercising all of me sufficiently well. The same goes for hands. For the hand tasks we do frequently, we keep well exercised, for movements we seldom do, the muscles weaken.

We, on occasion, do bad things to our hands. I have had days when I’m using my rock hammer so much that, at the end of the day, my fingers have frozen in the curl of my hammer handle. When I pull the hammer from my hand my fingers stay frozen in the curl—that is not a good sign. What I should have done would have been to change activity and hand finger position frequently over the course of the day.

One other way we are bad to our hands is, and this is a really bad one that I have seen innumerable rockhounds do, hold a rock in one hand and, using the rock hammer held in the other hand, strike the rock. This activity sends shivers down my spine when I think of all the small bones in the wrist being whacked by a hammer. After all, just about all of the striking force goes through the rock and into the bones and connective tissues of the hand. Just ask any orthopedic surgeon what they think of such an activity and I’m sure you will get an earful of commentary about the un-wiseness of the act.

Next, for hand calamities, we see the all-too-common near misses of the hammer aiming for the end of the chisel. Ever seen one of those? They are not pretty—and I’m not talking about the resultant air turning a blueish color. Hands do not have an easy life!

What is a hand to do? Yes, lotion for hands is important, give yourself some applause if you take care of one of your most important tools—your hands. A helping hand to share a load, or relieve a stress is indeed good for hands to maintain sensitivity, grip, epidermal integrity and so on.

Other general hand maintenance guidelines include watching out for too many repetitive motions, avoiding shocks to the delicate hands and fingers, and taking a break from heavy hand usage tasks. I have even seen issues with too firm a grip for too long a time with hands holding on to dop sticks being used by those dedicated cabbers among us. When tackling a big job, ask for a hand. A helping hand to share a load, or relieve a stress sure can help keep our hands healthy.

With proper maintenance our hands can last a lifetime—and that is good for the hobby as well as the individual. So, please keep up the good work and give yourself a hand for a job well done. Be safe, stay safe.

Upcoming AFMS and Regional Conventions

from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

<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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<tr>
<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</td>
<td>April 22 –24 Wichita, KS</td>
<td>May 7-8 Lubbock, TX</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>AFMS Ventura, CA</td>
<td>May 6 –7 Brainerd, MN</td>
<td>May 19-21 Hamilton, MT</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Federation</td>
<td>South Central Federation</td>
<td>Southeast Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
<td>Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL</td>
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Endowment Fund

continued from page 1

#2  Tigers eye Gem Tree donated by EFMLS
Wildacres Instructor Suzie Milligan of New York. Estimated value: $25.00 (EFMLS)

#3  Tigers eye Bolo tie & matching pendant donated by the Huffman’s of Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value $85.00. (EFMLS)

#4  Amethyst cluster from the Reel Mine, North Carolina donated by Jake Cline of Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value: $125.00. (EFMLS)

#5  Framed Wyoming Fossil Fish: Diplostomus donated by Richard Jaeger, President of RMFMS. Estimated value $110.00 (RMFMS)

#6  Black Tourmaline Specimen: Afghanistan donated by Jean & Matt Charsky, President of AFMS. Estimated value $250.00 (AFMS)

#7  Pair of Fossil Coral (Agatized Coral) Tampa Bay, Florida (form an old collection), donated by Jean & Matt Charsky, President of AFMS. Estimated value $35.00. (EFMLS)

#8  20-inch Seed Bead Necklace donated by Jean & Matt Charsky, President of AFMS. Estimated value $35.00. (EFMLS)

#9  Polished Carnelian – Cabinet Display, Chandler Mt., OR donated by Jean & Matt Charsky, President of AFMS. Estimated value $35.00. (EFMLS)


#11  Sterling Silver Wire-wrapped Cultural Pearls surrounding stone donated by Judi Allison of Hatrockhounds and Lakeside Gem & Mineral Clubs. Estimated value $35.00. (NFMS)

#12  Gold wire wrapped Unakite (Syria, Va Rose River Masson Co.) pendant donated by Baxter Leonard of Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club (CVGMC). Estimated value $65.00. (EFMLS)

#13  Gold wire wrapped Honey Quartz pendant donated by Harry Polly of CVGMC. Estimated value is $60.00 (EFMLS)

#14  Gold wire wrapped Mt. View Jasper pendant donated by Harry Polly of CVGMC. Estimated value $60.00. (EFMLS)

Visit the website at <www.amfed.org> to see the pictures of all the beautiful donations that you can only win if you are in it!!!

At this point I must apologize that my pictures do not really do any justice to the pieces. As I was taking a few pictures of the specimens, all I could think of is the week I spent at Wildacres in the mountains of North Carolina with the EFMLS and the guest speaker was Jeff Scovil. During the week he presented us with wonderful lectures on how to probably shoot the pictures of minerals- it is very time consuming! I was trying my best – but I am no Jeff Scovil- so again- the pieces are absolutely gorgeous!

Additionally, there are pins, which are being sold for the AFMS Endowment Fund. For $100.00 you receive a full set of seven federation pins, which are the separate federations in different colors, which can be placed together to form the mainland of the U.S. with the addition of Alaska. There are only a few of these pin sets available – so do not delay if interested! Or, I have extra pins of all federations except the South Central for $20 for the single federation.
2015 AFMS Scholarship Recipients

by Lauren Williams, Scholarship Foundation President

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation was established as a means of giving monetary assistance to graduate students in the earth science field. Monies are collected from donations given by AFMS affiliated clubs and individuals and deposited into secure investments. The interest generated from these investments is what is used to award scholarships each year.

Each of the six participating Regional Federations selects its own Honorary Award Winner who then selects the two students and/or schools. Students selected currently receive a single $4,000 educational grant. Should the original student selected not use all the funds, another student may be selected by the Honorary Awardee.

Here are the 2015 Honorary Recipients along with the students they selected and their field of study (where known). These students form quite an impressive group!

California Federation
Honorary Awardee: Norvee Enns Past CFMS President
Students -
  Kirsten Saur PhD, University of Nevada, Reno, studying formation of continental crust
  Stephen Angster PhD, University of Nevada, Reno, studying Nepal earthquakes

Eastern Federation
Honorary Awardee: Dr. Scott Hippensteel, UNC Charliee
Students -
  Richard Eustace Aiken Small MS, UNC Charlotte, studying foramina in water treatment
  Amanda Stone PhD, UNC Charlotte, studying physical geology education

Midwest Federation
Honorary Awardee: Professor Dale Gnidovec, Orton Geological Museum
Students -
  Dale Wright MS, The Ohio State University
  Celina Cole MS, The Ohio State University

Northwest Federation
Honorary Awardee: Evelyn Cataldo, Past President NFMS
Students -
  Kent Allen MS, Central Washington State University, studying Salmon river prehistoric floods.
  Brian Ostrom MS, Central Washington State University, studying Crescent harbor stratigraphy

Rocky Mountain Federation
Honorary Awardee: Dr. Brian Tapp, Geology Chair, University of Tulsa
Students -
  Whitney R. Campbell MS University of Tulsa, studying isotopes and trace elements in shale
  Stacy R. Trowbridge MS University of Tulsa, studying Ontong Java plateau petrology and morphology

South Central Federation
Honorary Awardee: Linda J. Simpson
Students -
  Ruby Saldana, MS, Texas A & M, Kingsville, studying soil and food relationships
  Elia O. Gil, MS, Texas A & M, Corpus Christi, studying geosciences education

Please continue to send in your donations to the Scholarship Foundation. As you can see, your contributions do make a difference. Please mail them to your regional federation Scholarship Foundation Coordinator.

AFMS Code of Ethics

◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.

◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

◆ I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

◆ I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

◆ I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

◆ I will leave all gates as found.

◆ I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

◆ I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

◆ I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

◆ I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

◆ I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

◆ I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

◆ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

◆ I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

◆ I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

◆ I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

◆ I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “Image” of rockhounds everywhere.
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
<rmkapta 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
<<smartin 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**
Lauren Williams, President
<slharuir at msn.com>
Matt Charsky, Vice President
Tom Burchard, Secretary
Lauren Williams, Acting Treasurer
AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year

California Federation

Dan Wolke is the 2015 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for the Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society. Dan is a strong supporter of our Society. He is a Shop Foreperson and covers the shop on a routine basis and keeps the shop running well. In addition, he expands the membership’s accessibility to high quality lapidary specimens. For several years, Dan has managed the vendors for the VGMS Spring Bling; one of the most important jobs for the success of our show. Dan provides ambassador services for our club through his many contacts, participation in other club shows and his participation in other club rockhound trips. He also provides guidance to new Board Members based on his many years spent on the VGMS Board.

Eastern Federation

The Lapidary & Mineral Society of Central Connecticut (L&M MSCC) pleased to announce that Bob Reynolds has been selected as our Rockhound of the Year. Bob is a prolific speaker and has given over 30 presentations on minerals, fossils, and meteorites at schools, clubs, senior centers, fairs and other public events in 2015 alone. He frequently hands out copious amounts of mineral and fossil specimens to school children and teachers at his own expense and from donations he receives from others. Bob also enthusiastically volunteers in club activities and provides educational displays at schools and libraries as a valuable community outreach activity for our club. He is a great ambassador for the L&M MSCC and the Geosciences in general. Bob eagerly shares his knowledge with students and the public. We congratulate Bob for a job well done.

submitted by Tom Benedict, President

Northwest Federation

The Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society is proud to proclaim Bill and Linda Stonecipher as our AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. Bill and Linda have been active members of the club since 1991. Bill has served as President. Linda served as Secretary for ten years, oversees club insurance needs and maintains the history of club membership. They are active in producing our annual Show, store our club trailer, and store our extensive rock inventory. Bill has written for our Newsletter, is auctioneer for our annual rock sale and coordinates the monthly raffle for support of Junior activities. Bill and Linda are always willing to provide help wherever needed. The Club is fortunate to have them as lifetime members.

submitted by John Stanley, President

Rocky Mountain Federation

In recognition of her many donations and volunteer hours in 2015, the Mineralogical Society of Arizona declares Lynne Dyer their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Her numerous hours of service as Treasurer and assisting Membership helped drive society initiatives. Her cheerful and knowledgeable presence volunteering at the MSA booth at the Flagg Gem & Mineral Show and Earth Science Day as “The Rock Talker”, presented a positive face for the public on behalf of the MSA. Lynne’s participation in earth science education and outreach events promoting the hobby and society is truly inspiring.

The Cañon City Geology Club commends Cindy Smith for her service to help grow our club to over 270 members. She is a past board member and as Program Chairman she was instrumental in developing and hosting interesting and educational geology and paleontology programs. Cindy helped the club gain its non-profit status, secure grants, helped with club audits, initiated the club website, and promoted the club through a variety of public relations efforts. She developed and led many outstanding field trips as well as designed classes. One class in particular, a Fossil Boot Camp, teaches introductory level fossil education to all ages. For her dedication, we are grateful and proud to have this dynamic and deserving lady as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year.

Southeast Federation

The Middle Tennessee Rockhounds of Nashville Tennessee recognize Marty Hart as our 2015 AFMS Club Rockhound of he Year. Marty has been a faithful member of the club for 20+ years, and is always involved. He serves on the Board and does all types of “in-house” tasks such as taking pictures at meetings for the newsletter, producing permanent nametags and membership cards for members, helping with the annual swap/cook-out and the fundraising auction. In the larger arena, Marty has been President of the MTGMS club, SFMS Tennessee State Director and has been webmaster for the AFMS. Marty is always willing to pitch in and is a fun and dedicated rockhound. From his computer skills to his flint knapping, the Mid – Tennessee Rockhounds love Marty Hart!

submitted by John Stanley, President

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the “Public Image” of recreational collectors.

The deadline for the next AFMS Newsletter is March 1