It’s Time for the All American Club Yearbook Entries!

by Regina Kapta, All American Chair

What is the purpose of your club – what is the mission? This mission is usually stated in clubs charters or bylaws and is seen on club websites and membership materials, but how well is that mission fulfilled? As clubs grow and change, does the mission still fit? Most clubs have a blended goal of promoting the hobby via education, community outreach, attracting new members, and providing a space where our geology interest can be fostered. How well your club accomplishes that mission can be reflected in your AACA yearbook, as it provides an opportunity to look at the big picture – how do the monthly programs, annual shows, junior activities, community involvement and member events satisfy that mission thru the year?

Each yearbook entered is evaluated based on proven facets that grow a club. From junior meetings, and workshops, to shows, publicity and community involvement – all contribute to a club’s growth and ultimate survival. In an age where many other interests compete for our members’ attention, it takes several different approaches to get a person’s interest, keep their interest, and promote active participation. We all need active members, and the challenge of finding them is one of the biggest problems that clubs can face. The AACA yearbook criteria promotes different aspects that are vital to a club’s survival. Each entry begins with 100 points, and judges look to match club activities to those criteria.

The AACA contest is a two-tier competition – the first tier is entry in the Regional Federations’ contest, and the top three entries are submitted to the AFMS level for judging. Check with your regional chairs for their deadline. The deadline for entry in the AFMS contest is April 15, 2016. A copy of the Entry Form for year 2015 is on the AFMS web site.

Please contact me if there are questions, at <rmkapta@comcast.net>.

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I Need Your Help!

by Steve Weinberger, Central Office Administrator

Are your current (2016) officers receiving the AFMS Newsletter? If the answer is NO, please take a moment and send the information to me at <central_office@amfed.org>.

I will need to have the name of your club along with the name, snail mailing address and office held for your club president, editor, Federation Officer (liaison) or Secretary. I’ll update the AFMS mailing list so that your club can be kept up to date on all the latest AFMS news.
A Word from the President  

by Matt Charsky, President

AFMS “Unsung Heroes”

Last month I mentioned some AFMS highlights explaining what we do, believe all AFMS members should be aware of these items. Like other national organizations, AFMS has a lot of folks who work behind the scenes and consistently do their jobs every month. We are most fortunate to have them in their positions. I would like to call them “unsung heroes” and here are a few of them.

*Our Editor who keeps the information flowing among all the Federations;
*Our Central Office who handles the administrative activities of the AFMS;
*Our Treasurer who keeps us financially sound;
*Our Historian who remembers the past and preserves it for us;
*Our Judges and Rules Committees who try to keep our competitions current and fair; and
*Our Exhibitors who diversify our hobby at every Convention.

We also have additional “unsung heroes” conducting our Big 5 contests – BEAC, Publications, All-American, Web-site, and Club Rockhound of the Year. These contests are how AFMS keeps contact with the individual Federations. You see their monthly articles reinforcing participation among the Federations and then you see the culmination of their work at the AFMS Awards Banquet. We are lucky to have them and their talents.

We should not take any of these individuals for granted. If you happen to see them in person, take a minute and thank them for their efforts.

With that being said, we always need a few more individuals to volunteer their talents. AFMS jobs are not that difficult but they are very rewarding. If you or someone you know is interested in being involved in one of the AFMS Committees let me or one of the Officers know about it and we will see how you talents can help us.

Till next month.

Matt

Having Fun: Junior Activities  

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

What Age Is Best for Recruiting Junior Members?

If you’re looking to build a pebble pup and juniors contingent within your club, what are the best ages to target? I’ve been asked that question many times over the years, and I usually give an answer based on gut feelings and informal observation: if you go too young, kids lack the attention span and any activities you attempt to undertake often devolve into babysitting services. Older kids, as they get into junior and senior high school, start having many more demands on their time and attention—sports, music, cell phones and social media, videogames, cars, and chasing the opposite sex. I’ve always suggested there’s that “middle ground” of kids at the elementary school level who tend to have the highest interest in rocks and who will likely form the core of your youth group.

Thanks to the Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society (CVGMS) in California, I finally have some firm quantitative numbers to confirm my gut feeling and informal observations. CVGMS periodically partners with their local Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History for “Science Saturdays” directed at kids and their families. Each year, there’s a different theme and CVGMS members bring specimens and lead activities tailored to the theme. This past year’s theme was “Fossils”.

And this time, the Museum kept track not only of the number of kids in attendance, but their ages as well. 63% fell into the elementary school bracket, between the ages of 5 and 10. This is approximately the range of kindergarten through fifth grade. 27% were 4 years old or younger and only 10 percent were 11 to 17 (with only 1% of that total being high school age). Thus, if seeking to build up your society’s pebble pups and juniors program, your first stop should be at your local elementary schools, and any recruitment efforts should be targeted first-and-foremost in that direction. Ages 5 to 10—kindergarten through fifth grade—that’s apparently the sweet spot for seeking kids who will find our hobby both interesting and fun!
AFMS Bylaws Committee Recommendation
by Steve Weinberger, Bylaws Committee Chair

In reviewing the AFMS Bylaws to see if anything needs revising, the Bylaws Committee has come up with only one item that needs updating. It’s something we think was only used once in 65+ years, during the Texas hurricane when we had to cancel the convention and vote on important issues by mail.

The Bylaws Committee recommends voting for this amendment at the Annual Meeting in July.

Article V: Meetings; Section 4: In Total War. (The lined-out portion is what we feel should be stricken; the bold and underlined part substituted for it.)

“In the event of the disability and inhibitions of a total war in which the United States or associated nations may be engaged, or in the event of other great national emergencies, the annual meeting of the Board may be held as follows: The President of the Federation shall announce in writing to the Board that due to the existing conditions, the regular ingathered meeting of the Board is impractical, or cannot be held. The President shall call upon the Directors to submit in writing within ninety (90) days to the Secretary of the Federation, all questions, motions or resolutions which they feel should be discussed and/or voted upon, including the nomination and election of officers. Thereupon, the Secretary shall transmit to the Directors all such matters as have been submitted and they shall thereupon proceed to vote by mail upon the same within thirty (30) days. When the majority of such votes are in, the Secretary shall announce the decisions. At the end of the thirty (30) day period, the Secretary shall announce the decisions, provided the quorum has voted. If all votes are in prior to the 30-day period, the Secretary may announce the decisions at that time. The right to question the decision of the President that an annual meeting is impractical or cannot be held is hereby reserved to each Regional Federation. Should such question be registered with the Secretary, it shall thereupon be submitted to the members of the Board in the manner as herein above set forth and it shall thereupon be voted upon as a precedent to the holding of the annual meeting under the conditions as outlined by the President.

Rationale: As it now states, if the voting results are announced when he majority has voted— any additional votes within the 30-day period cannot be counted. Some of the later votes may run counter to the temporary result if cut off early, thus changing the outcome. If we are to adhere to the 30-day period, we should allow all votes to count. If all votes are in before the deadline, the Secretary can announce at an earlier date than the 30 days.

Of course, as in the situation of the Texas hurricane, there was not time to adhere to the 90-day advanced notice, so the AFMS had to improvise in order to conduct business. Realistically, there is no way to spell out, well in advance, details for unplanned emergencies; these have to be decided upon as situations arise.

Some Things to do While at the AFMS Convention
by Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS Editor

There are a number of fabulous places to go and visit while you’re at the AFMS Convention in Albany, OR this July. From what we read, the town of Albany itself has a number of “must see” venues, but there are also numerous other places to visit that are only a couple hours from Albany.

Crater Lake, about 3 1/2 hours south is an amazing site. You can drive around the imploded caldera and view the deep blue water from a variety of angles.

About 3 hours is the rockhounding mecca of Madra with numerous collecting opportunities nearby including the famous Richardson’s Rock Ranch.

About 1 1/2 hours north in Hillsboro is the fabulous Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks & Minerals. The museum is housed in the former home of the late Richard and Helen Rice (she was AFMS President in 1960) where they constructed a gallery to display their own personal collection. From there the museum has grown to become one of the premier institutions in the Northwest.

Many other wonderful places to explore are located within a few hours of Albany as well.

Come and enjoy!
Safety Matters - Master of the Obvious

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

I have, from time to time, been called Master of the Obvious. Well, I have been called a lot worse so I will accept that title. Actually, I kinda like it. Master of the Obvious -- yes, it can work for me. Why is this a topic for a Safety Matters article? I’m glad you asked. I am, after all, more than just a pretty face, which is not one with much movie star potential, especially the photo that usually accompanies these Safety Matters articles.

I do indeed at times try to be a master of the obvious because the obvious is all too frequently overlooked or forgotten in the heat of rockhounding excitement. Permit me to cite some examples of missing the obvious. Let’s say one is furiously digging out that just-visible pocket or vug full of crystal treasures. Is that person aware of the increasing overhang of the dirt and rock over their position? How about the collector who is feverishly hammering that rock outcrop on the wall of a positively sweltering rock quarry. Why is that profusely perspiring person not responding to their body’s plea for water? Indeed if one is feeling thirsty it means the body is already experiencing dehydration. How are those obvious hazards being missed?

All through the rock and mineral and fossil hobby passion and excitement exudes through every pore of our being. Those passions sometimes overrule our physical well being. Consider if you will the following situations:

- One awakens early, drives 4 1/2 hours to a dig and once there immediately races up the mountain to the excavation site. There is no rest time, there is no stretching of stiff and cramped muscles, no having a drink of water before heading up-hill. There could easily be problems with this approach to lapidary if ...

- One has been gem grinding for hours and is getting close to where they be want to be in the process ... so very close. They need better visibilit-

ty - the safety glasses are laid to the side, their hearing protection is not comfortable so that too is laid aside. Their front is splashed with water but they are not drinking a drop of water ... so very close to finishing. There could easily be problems with this approach to lapidary if ...

One may be enjoying one’s hobbies in those situations but can you imagine what their bodies are telling them? We all have limits to what we can do. Sometimes we can, with all due consideration and planning, ignore those limits. Sure we can race up the hill with a full pack of rock collecting tools, and we can make our way back downhill with an even fuller pack, but tomorrows aching muscles may pay a price - unless that is we are in good physical shape and are well exercised for the trip.

Being the Master of the Obvious to what one’s body is telling them can be a good thing. Tempering the passion and excitement of rockhounding can be a good thing if it keeps us safe and well. Then again, if one plans, brings their meds, gets plenty of sleep ahead of time, keeps hydrated, exercises modestly yet regularly, dresses appropriately for the hike to the pit, and otherwise masters the obvious needs of the body and the adventure, those masteries become second nature. Having a thing become second nature can take care of ones 1 s first in priority - the health and safety of the body and of the enjoyment of our hobby.

I don’t know about you, but I’m going to enjoy my new title of Master of the Obvious. Take good care of yourselves and the hobby.

Please be safe. Your safety matters.

How Do You Measure Editor Success?

by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair

When bulletin editors get together at federation conventions one of the subjects that gets a lot of discussion revolves around whether or not anyone is reading their bulletin. We wonder if what we think is good material for the bulletin is what our readers think is relevant. Here are a couple of ideas:

This comes from Richard Busch, an editor and the webmaster for S.C.R.I.B.E.: One thing I did every 2 years or so, was to either hand out or include a survey in my bulletin that asked specific questions such as "Which part of the bulletin do you find most interesting or useful?" or "What types of articles do you find unnecessary or just don’t like?" or "If you could change one thing about the bulletin, what would that be?" In my case some of the answers were enlightening. I tended to think about article content; however, I’d also get answers such as "Make the font bigger to make it easier to read."

Something that I borrowed from another club’s bulletin was to start an “Editor’s Quiz”. Near the end of the bulletin, back on page 6 among the various reports, I ask a question for adult members and another for junior members. The answer to the questions can be found in that month’s bulletin, and readers are asked to email their answer to the editor (me) at the email address I list. For example, in a recent bulletin the Junior’s Question was “What brand of ink is most suitable for use with metal etching stamp pads?” and the Adult’s Question was “Which part of the bulletin do you find most interesting or useful?” When bulletin editors get together at federation conventions one of the subjects that gets a lot of discussion revolves around whether or not anyone is reading their bulletin. We wonder if what we think is good material for the bulletin is what our readers think is relevant. Here are a couple of ideas:

What have you done to measure the readership or to poll your club for what they want to see in your bulletin? If you will tell me what works for you, I’d like to share your successes with our editors and club leaders! Email me at <mnelsonair@aol.com>.

Happy Easter

Sunday, May 27, 2016

Happy Passover!

Friday April 22 – Saturday April 30
Rockhounding in California Gets Harder
by John Martin, Conservation & Legislative Chair (afmsclc@antelecom.net)

The recent events in California have turned the world of some Rockhounds upside down with the creating of three new National Monuments in Southern California’s deserts. The presidential proclamations created the National Monuments and within each of the proclamations are the statements “Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of the monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.” This statement includes the Recreational Collecting of Rocks, Minerals and Fossils inside the boundaries of these monuments. Though it is now unlawful to collect in these monuments and goes against the AFMS Code of Ethics and the AFMS Land Use Policy there is still hope that collecting may be restored in some of the 11 million acres of the desert public lands. Included in the proclamations is the requirement to create a National Monument Management Plan which will include inputs from the public and is stated here below.

“For purposes of the care and management ... the Secretary, through the BLM, shall within 3 years of the date of this proclamation prepare and maintain a management plan for the monument and shall provide for maximum public involvement in the development of that plan including, but not limited to, consultation with tribal, State, and local governments.”

This is the only chance to preserve your rights to collect Rocks, Minerals and fossils on your public lands. What is happening and has happened in California could happen in your region or state at any time. In order to continue and ensure the hobby of self collecting of rocks, minerals and fossils is preserved now and for future generations the time has come to be aware of legislation and land management process issues that will affect how you collect in the future. Every Federation, Club/Society and individual needs to become proactive in the Land Management Process and make sure your voice is heard in order to protect your right to engage in the hobby of self collecting of rocks, minerals and fossils which has become known as Rockhounding.

If you know of any actions that would limit your ability to self collect rocks, minerals or fossils on public lands please let your Federation PLAC Representative or the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee know so the issues may be investigated and a possible course of action formulated.

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.

Upcoming Regional Conventions
by Bob Livingston

Here are the dates we have for the upcoming Regional and AFMS Conventions. As you know the dates for your regional convention, please let us know.

Several of you have enquired about adding your local show to the calendar. Unfortunately, with over 500 affiliated clubs throughout the country, space does not allow us to do this. Your best venue for advertising your club show is your regional federation newsletter -- just contact your federation show coordinator, or if there is none, your regional federation editor.

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<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 July 27-July 31 Albany, OR</td>
<td>April 22 –24 Wichita, KS</td>
<td>May 7-8 Lubbock, TX</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>AFMS Ventura, CA</td>
<td>May 6 –7 Brainerd, MN</td>
<td>May 19-21 Hamilton, MT</td>
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<td>November 18-20 Marietta, GA</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL</td>
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News from A.L.A.A.

Each year during the annual Quartzsite gem and mineral shows, the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) holds an annual meeting followed by a joint ALAA-BLM cleanup event.

The ALAA meeting was well attended with rockhounds, OHV enthusiasts and local miners on Friday, January 22nd at the Quartzsite Community Center. It was an informative meeting with speaker Mike Hunerlach, recently retired geologist from the U.S. Forest Service. His talk explained some of the laws, rules and regulations of rockhounding with in the US National Forest System. Also explained were parts of the Mining Law of 1872, how it is interpreted today and how that affects collecting on USFS managed Public Lands. His talk also included how copies of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 36 - Parks, Forests and Public Property and Title 43 Public Lands: Interior Department are handy to have if while collecting on Public Lands and you encounter a BLM or USFS Officer.

The Fourth Annual Quartzsite ALAA-BLM Cleanup was Sunday, January 24, 2016. It began at 10:00 am MST and lasted for about 2 hours. The location was west of Quartzsite, AZ., at the Dome Rock Road off-ramp from I-10 on the south side of the road. We are delighted that so many took the time to help!

Participants included rockhounds from Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California and Arizona met the challenge and removed over a ton of trash from an area of your Public Lands. The clean up activity has become a yearly activity by ALAA members and rockhounds visiting the Quartzsite area during the month of January. Over one ton of trash was collected and removed from this area of your Public Land.

Endowment Fund News - New Prizes

In addition to the stellar prizes already pictured and announced in previous issues of the AFMS Newsletter, I’m pleased to tell you about two new donations for our Endowment Drawing.

#15 is a Scolecite on Stilbite mineral specimen from a quarry near Amadragar, Maharashtra State, India donated by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger. The specimen has an estimated value of $70. (EFMLS)

#16 is a Wulfenite and Baryte mineral specimen on Mimette from the San Francisco Mine, Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico. Donated by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, it has an estimated value of $60. (EFMLS)

Monies raised from the sale of drawing tickets is invested in the Endowment Fund principal where it draws interest. Only the interest from these investments is used to help fund various AFMS programs including Junior Activities with its variety of badges that kids enrolled in club sponsored junior activities can earn and receive at no charge.

Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20 and may be purchased from your regional federation representative by sending your check, payable to “AFMS Endowment” along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope or seeing them in person at your regional federation convention, local shows or club meetings.

Regional representatives are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</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> <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; <a href="mailto:rjgrsci@aol.com">rjgrsci@aol.com</a></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>
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Tickets remain at $5 each or 5 for $20 and the drawing will be held at the Awards Banquet during the AFMS Convention at the end of July in Albany, Oregon. You need not be present to win.

It’s not too late for you to donate a nice piece of jewelry, faceted stone, fossil, book, mineral specimen or other hobby related item for the Endowment Drawing. We do ask that your donation be limited to 5 lbs in weight to facilitate ease in mailing should the winner not be present at the banquet. If you have something to donate, contact me at <ciervo.neary@gmail.com> so we can make arrangements for getting the prize to me. It would also be great if you could furnish a good color photo of your donation that we can use in the newsletter and on our website.
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
<MNelsonnair 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
<slhariur 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
<slhariur at msn.com>
Matt Charisky, Vice President
Tom Burchard, Secretary
Lauren Williams, Acting Treasurer
Club Rockhounds
from Evelyn Cataldo, ACROY Coordinator

California Federation
The Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society congratulates Katie Slighnam on being our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Katie joined our club in 2004 and became treasurer in 2006, marking ten years in that capacity. She has been our contact point with the Fairgrounds to set up our annual show and with the City of Marysville to put up our street advertising. In the last few years she has taken on more and more of the responsibility of Show Chairman, contacting dealers, and helping to set up our show. She has entered showcases of some of her favorite crystals and petrified wood and has a favorite crystals and petrified wood at various local shows. Katie is a hard worker, a good representative of our club, and well qualified for this honor.
submitted by Inez Berg, Federation Director

Eastern Federation
The members of the American Fossil Federation have selected Tim Miller as our 2016 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Tim, an active charter member for 26 years, is serving his 21st consecutive year as our Education Coordinator. We honor Tim for his service, his outreach to the general public, his development of “Fossil Finds” at local elementary schools, as well as his trips and lectures with college students. Tim has, in addition, provided fossil exhibits at libraries, donated specimens to schools and museums, and co-authored scientific papers. Our members are proud of Tim as the recipient of the 2006 “Each One Teach One” award and are pleased to have him as a valued member of our club.
submitted by Betsy Hallman, AFF Secretary

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.

Do remember that every regional federation member club may recognize either one individual member of one couple as their AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year during each calendar year. Each club may also recognize one junior member as well. Send your submissions to your regional “ACROY” chair along with a brief (100 words or less) paragraph telling why you’re honoring your persons or persons.

Jon Spunaugle

To those who knew him, Jon was larger than life. He used his background as an IRS agent to look at things from a different perspective and to occasionally answer questions about IRS regulations for local clubs. Analytical and a stickler for detail, it was Jon who uncovered discrepancies in the funds of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation that led to the resignation of a man who embezzled thousands of dollars from the Scholarship Fund and provided the proof that ultimately led to the conviction and partial repayment of the funds by this individual. Jon made sure that this could never happen again by spearheading changes to the Foundation bylaws, operating procedures and annual financial reviews now conducted by an outside and independent agency.

Sadly, Jon succumbed to cancer on March 5th while in hospice care at the home of his daughter. His family was at his side and his grandson, an opera singer, sang as he passed on.

Jon was President of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 1991-92 and also President of the then fledgling American Lands Access Association, the independent legislative voice and affiliate of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. While balancing both jobs, Jon took on the infamous (for rockhounds) Max Baucus’ Paleontological Resources Protection Act, S 3107. Jon, through his many Washington State contacts was able to secure an opposing bill that brought attention to what was occurring and subsequently the “Baucus” bill died in the Senate.

Jon was the Treasurer of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation from about 2003 to his diagnosis of cancer in 2015. He spent time researching all the earlier recipients of the Scholarships and wrote about them in the AFMS Newsletter from time to time. He also served as AFMS Regional Vice President from the Northwest in 2015 and was involved in both the Northwest Federation Endowment Fund and Washington State Mineral Council.

On the lighter side, Jon enjoyed faceting and was involved with the Inter-Mountain Faceters until the organization was dissolved. Members included Ed Romack (AFMS President, 1992) and the late Richard Glismann, Carl Unruh, and several others. A subgroup, the Dare Devil Faceters became famous for their extraordinary large faceted stones.

Jon was also a barbecue chef of extraordinary talents and many times during the Northwest Federation shows shared those culinary talents with his many friends throughout the rockhound world.

We mourn the loss of a great light, but know he is with his wife Sandy who was taken way too early in their marriage and who he never forgot.

Those wishing to send cards in Jon’s memory may send them to his daughter, Anna Cooper, 12624 NE 6th Pl, Kirkland, WA 98030.

Those wishing to make monetary contributions in Jon’s memory should direct them to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, % either your regional Federation Scholarship Coordinator or % Lauren Williams, 957 E Elva St, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Checks should be made payable to “AFMS Scholarship Foundation”.

Go with G-d, Jon, ....you deserve it.

Shirley Leeson, AFMS Historian