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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

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Carolyn Weinberger, Editor
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It's Not Too Late! For What?....You Ask

by Cheryl Neary, Endowment Fund Chair

The American Federation Endowment Fund is having a drawing for some wonderful pieces. Of course, I am still seeking donations and of course- I am still requesting that you purchase tickets for the event which takes place late in July at the annual Federation convention. The good news is that it is not too late to either donate an item for the drawing. Your donation could be a mineral specimen, piece of jewelry, cutting rough, fossil, important book, finished cabochons, or other related hobby items. Ideally each item should have an estimated value of \$50 or more to encourage your members (and the general public) to purchase tickets.

Just in case you are not aware, the following people are selling the tickets for this event in your Federation as follows:

- California Federation - Colleen McGann
- Eastern Federation - Carolyn Weinberger
- Midwest Federation - J.C. or Donna Moore
- Northwest Federation - Judi Allison
- Rocky Mountain - Delane Cox or Richard Jaeger
- South Central Federation - Joyce Speed
- Southeast Federation - Jerri Heer

Contact information for each of the above is on the AFMS website.

Tickets are only **\$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00**. You can purchase tickets by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the representative for your Federation. You need not be present to win.

So, why the drawing? In case you haven't heard- the money collected is for the AFMS Endowment Fund. The interest from the monies generated is used for the AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training and digitizing slideshows, to name a few. Every club in the Federations benefits from the special projects.

We have some new donations. Unfortunately, I do not have photographs of some of them, but they will be uploaded to the AMFS website by the time you read this article! Besides due to limited space in the newsletter, I am only speaking of the newest donations in the last month.

17 Amethyst Geode from Brazil . Donated by Cheryl Neary it has an estimated value of \$75.00. (EFMLS) ▶



18 Stubby Quartz Crystal (approx. 4 inches) Donated by Cheryl Neary, it estimated value of \$60.00 (EFMLS)

#19- Set of 3 – Obelisks (Rose quartz, Clear quartz) . Donated by Cheryl Neary the group has an estimated value of \$70.00. (EFMLS)

You also have the opportunity to purchase Federation pins. For \$100.00 you receive a full set of the seven Federations, which are the separate Federations each in a different color. Not interested in spending a \$100.00? – You are in luck because you can purchase each Federation with the exception of South Central for \$20.00.

Do I need to remind you to notify your clubs in your Federation of the chance to help the Endowment Fund by either donating a piece – preferably with a minimum value of \$50.00 and not over 5 lbs in weight to facilitate mailing (postage on heavy items is outrageous!) OR by buying tickets!

Thanks to all who have already donated to the Fund!

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Official Magazine of the AFMS

The AFMS

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<matt2430 at comcast.net>



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<emersonet at suddenlink.net>



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A Word from the President

by Matt Charsky, President

"The Gifters"

Because our hobby is so diversified, it is both a curse and a blessing. It is a curse because sometimes it is hard to find the right person in the right part of the hobby to get some advice. But when you finally find the right person, it is truly a blessing to have that person share their gift of knowledge with you.

Believe it or not, we are all gifters in one way or another. We need to share our expertise with other clubs or Federation members but especially with our junior members – the future of our hobby.

So here is my challenge to the AFMS family. At your next meeting, show, or other function, ask someone to tell you about your gift(s) to the hobby – you may be surprised how much you are appreciated and mean to the your club. Next, continue to share your gift(s) with other club members and become your club's point of contact for your particular gift(s).

In the AFMS, we have the same kind of gifters who share their expertise year after year. I thank them for their service and efforts. With that being said, we can always use a few more experts.

On a sad note, we recently lost two of our gifters: Ed Reis, an avid rockhound, former AFMS President, and former President of the South Central Federation; and Jon Spunaugle who loved to facet, former Treasurer of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, former President of ALAA, and former President of the Northwest Federation. If possible, we need individuals to fill their shoes.

Don't forget to register to attend the AFMS Annual Convention in Albany, OR this July hosted by the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society. For further information contact the Show Chair at <jvancura@peak.org>.

Till next month.

Matt



AFMS / NFMS Show News – July 29 - 31, 2016

by Janice Van Cura, Show Chair

July will soon be upon us. Remember to sign up for display cases and pre-registration for events. The forms were in the February AFMS newsletter which is available on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm) if you have misplaced your copy. The food is going to be great at the banquet and so will the company so sign up and come join us. Pre-registration deadlines are at the end of June.



During the show there will be a silent auction all three days, so you can have an opportunity to "go collecting" some Northwest material. In addition there is an oral auction on Sunday to support the NFMS. There are always some great items in this auction that you can take home as a souvenir.

If you have any questions give us a call or email.

Janice Van Cura, Show Chair

541-752-4556, <jvancura@peak.org>

Start Your Best Year TODAY

by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair

This new year brings a lot of opportunities for lapidary club editors! I trust you all have submitted your excellent 2015 bulletins to your Federation BEAC for judging, with articles, poetry and drawn illustrations. If you have any questions, contact your federation's Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Chair (BEAC). They are there to help you!

Here are my suggestions for bulletin improvement:

1. Go to the AFMS Web Site: www.amfed.org
2. Scroll down to and click on: Bulletin Editors' Contest
3. Click on and read each of the items listed under: AFMS contest Guidelines
4. Click on and read the Fillable Score Sheets section on: Bulletins

If you make sure that your bulletin looks as attractive as it can be and has the best chance of getting all of the points in the score sheets - you are a winner! Not only will you be a winner with your Federation and the AFMS, but you will be a winner with your club members!

But you have to start TODAY to enter the 2017 contest for 2016 bulletins. Read the rules - they are your key to a better bulletin! Read exchange bulletins - they are your secret for great articles and tips for improving your format! Save lots of photos, newspaper clips, anecdotes, and stories by your members - these are Gold!

Don't forget to enter the AFMS All-American Club Contest! The material that you assemble in order to enter the judging becomes your club's Yearbook! Whether you enter electronically or in binder or scrapbook format, you can take it to your local printer and have them print and bind several copies that you can show with pride at shows, meetings and community events!

If I can answer any questions or offer any help, please let me know. Email me at <mnelsonair@aol.com>.



Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

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AFMS Central Office
Steve Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<central_office@amfed.org>
410-833-7926

Content – Letters
Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor: Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
<editor@amfed.org>
410-833-7926

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Edward O Ries 1921 – 2016

Ed Ries, 1996 AFMS President passed away on March 11, 2016 at his home in Lubbock, Texas. Born in Kansas City, MO, he served in the military during WW II. After the war he attended Texas Tech University where he obtained his architectural degree a field in which he was employed for over 30 years. Among his many accomplishments was designing and building the home that he and his family lived in.

An avid rockhound, Ed was a member of the Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society, serving as president for three terms. He was later elected president of the South Central Federation where he served two terms and eventually president of the AFMS.

As AFMS President, Ed was involved in helping to plan some of the activities for the Federation's 50th Anniversary celebration which occurred a year after he left office.

In 1985, Ed established the South Central Federation Endowment Fund, serving as its chairman until his death. Ed was a fabulous raiser of monies for the Endowment!

He is survived by his children Gary, Gaila and Glen, eight grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. His wife Lois passed away in 1995.

Contributions in Ed's memory should be directed to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation % of your regional federation coordinator.



Safety Matters – Terribly Toxic Treasures

by Ellery Borow, Safety Chair

Tightly tucked toward the top of our trinket trunks are treasures too toxic to touch, tempting us though as they tease our thoughts .

Yes, tis true! Tossed throughout our treasure trunks are things that are toxic to the touch and taste, even in this totally tantalizing, yet tranquil, task of teaching there are terrors taxing my task.

Well, enough of these terrible, Thesaurus taxing “t’s” . The message this month is a mention that there are dangers lurking among our mineral treasures and what to do about that. Think for a moment, if you will, about the chemical compositions of some of the minerals we collect - autunite, arsenopyrite, cinnabar, betafite, thorite , cuprosklodowskite, malachite, even beach shells for the jewelry we make have within them chemistries that, under certain conditions of working, handling, or storage, can present concerns about their part in maintaining our health. Think of the conditions in which we find our mineral treasures -- conditions that hide biting, stinging insects, or rash-causing plants, or offer precarious physical conditions which may impact ones health.

Our hobby is associated with great joys but also has within it certain dangers with which we should exercise substantial care and caution. There are minerals that should not be touched with bare hands and fingers. There are minerals that should not be worked dry. There are minerals that produce slivers that, oh so easily, penetrate the skin. There are minerals of a radioactive nature as well. Each of those situations requires certain protective measures.

We encounter many specimens of fauna and flora along the way as we walk to our favorite collecting localities. Many of those same fauna and flora are ones which bite, sting or scratch us. Some things just lay in wait to dig into our delicate hides, or scratch and

tear us. We don’t usually encounter hiding tigers or crouching dragons on our trips but those pesky little eight and six legged things sure can mess with our enjoyments.

What is a body to do to protect oneself? Glad you asked! We have a hobby based on sharing, giving, and teaching! Most of the hobby’s enthusiasts out there, ones I’ve met over the years, follow those practices in all ways. There are folks in our clubs who have all manner of experiences with our hobby’s related dangers and hazards. What I would like to offer here is a thought for your consideration. I would like to offer a suggestion that we encourage our members with the most experience to share, give, and teach not just about their knowledge with rocks, minerals, and fossils, but, also share, give, and teach what they have learned about being safe -- safe mineral handling, safe storage, safe caring and feeding of our treasures, safe traipsing on quarry roads, safe avoidance of biting insects and so on.

I’d like to broaden the sharing approach of our hobby to all things safety. Indeed, if your club does not have a safety coordinator, I would recommend your investigation of the benefits to your club with having a dedicated safety person. And, if you already have such a dedicated person in your club, I applaud your forethought! If you have a safety coordinator making safety a fun, interesting, and a learning experience, you are well ahead of the safety curve!

Please be safe, and think safety. Also, please mind those legless critters as well, after all, we all have a place on this Earth and we need to be mindful about sharing it with them.



Club Rockhounds of Year

from Evelyn Cataldo, ACROY Coordinator



California Federation

Quentin Stanley from the Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society is certainly a great asset as our 2015 AFMS

Junior Club Rockhound of the Year. This enthusiastic rockhound has been a member since 2014. His attendance is the highest in our group. His collection grew so quickly, we already had to supply him with a second box and he has earned three badges. He gave two presentations this year; Sulfur in January and Ruby in September. He did a great job presenting Copper to the adults in March. At the gem show, he happily works at whatever station that is required of him. He is a joy to have at our July Bingo and August Rock Hound game meetings because of his exuberance.

submitted by Teresa Johnson, President

The Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society of Oroville, CA proclaims **John Scott** as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. John began collecting during the 5th grade when he kicked up a piece of agatized petrified wood while walking home across a field. The field owner invited him to join the El Cajon Club. By age 14, he had read many books on mines and had started mining tourmaline; eventually selling enough to buy a motorcycle. John served as club Vice President for two years and is acting Show Chair. He is an invaluable resource – identifying rocks, tirelessly answering questions, helping with machinery, coordinating our annual show and being a Rockbound extraordinaire.

submitted by Lisa Elliott, Secretary

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2016	Sept 16-18 Placerville, CA	October 21-23 Rochester, NY	August 19 – 21 South Bend, IN	AFMS July 27-July 31 Albany, OR	April 22 –24 Wichita, KS	May 7-8 Lubbock, TX	November 18-20 Marietta, GA
2017	AFMS Ventura, CA	October Bristol, CT	May 6 –7 Brainerd, MN	May 19-21 Hamilton, MT			
2018			Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL				