Minerals and fossils and Jewelry – Oh My!
by Cheryl Neary, AFMS Endowment Chair

We’re off to the convention, a wonderful time to be.
Because, because, because, because, because ...
The AMFS Endowment Fund drawing prizes are a sight to see!

We will be picking the lucky winners at the banquet on Saturday night. But have no fear you not be present- but you need to be in it to win it! So contact your Federation’s representative and purchase tickets

The cost is $5.00 or 5 for $20.00 (what a bargain!) 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- just to name a few! Every Federation club benefits from the special projects.

The newest donations are as follows:

#20 - Dolomite specimen donated by the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value $25.00 (SFMS).

#21 - Peacock Marble Vase approximately 6” tall and 7” wide. Donated by Martha Miss and Sandy Fuller dba “Rock Biz” from Cottage Grove, Minnesota. Approximate value is $99.00 (MWF).

#22 - Petrified Wood (Indonesia) Approx. 14” long x 3” wide donated by Tom Cacciagno of Lost World Fossils. Estimated value is $35.00 (EFMLS)

#23 - Baltic Amber and sterling silver earrings and pendant donated by Joyce and Delbert Speed. Estimated value $250.00 (SCFMS)

#24 - Swarovski Pendant and Earrings Set, Crystal and a “gem” pen. Donated by New York Mineralogical Club, Inc. Est. Value $85.00
Mid-Year Accomplishments by Matt Charsky, President

At the half-way point of the AFMS fiscal year, I would like to point out some notable accomplishments that the AFMS can be proud of.

**Membership:** Recently, I received from our Treasurer the membership numbers for 2015-2016 and 2014-2015. In alphabetical order they are:

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<tr>
<td>CFMS</td>
<td>8535</td>
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<td>EFMLS</td>
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<td>NFMS</td>
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<td>SCFMS</td>
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<td>3694</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFMS</td>
<td>8145</td>
<td>6765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>52,460</td>
<td>49,892</td>
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Two Federations stand out in terms of increased membership from the previous year. Both Federations have had significant increases for the two year period (2015-2016 and 2014-2015). The Rocky Mountain Federation increased membership by approximately 9% in one year on top of the 9.5% increase for the previous year. The big winner, however, is the Southeast Federation, who increased their membership by a whopping 20% in one year – they added 1380 members in 2015-2016 on top of the 20% increase for the previous year. Will both of these Federations please share with the other Regional Federations how this is being accomplished? In a previous Newsletter article, I volunteered to give bragging rights to the Federation that increased membership the most in the last year and the winner who holds the bragging rights for 2015-2016 is the Southeast Federation! Congratulations on a job well done.

These figures are only intended to show that AFMS is vibrant and growing (increase of approximately 5% from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016). If anything, it makes you want to read the Southeast and Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletters for some helpful tips.

**Scholarship:** The AFMS Scholarship Foundation continues to operate while going through some unforeseen personnel changes. Our Scholarship President has informed me that in 2016 we have received three types of donations: Individual, Club, and Memorial Gifts. The big winner so far is the Rollin’ Rock Club in the South Central Federation. They have a treasure chest that travels from club to club with a total of 11 clubs participating. They have a point of contact that handles the money and forwards it to our Scholarship President. Also, I just returned from the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention and they plan on donating the interest on some of their accounts to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation – Thank you so much!

Although I would like to mention and thank individuals by name, I realize that people give because they want to, and not to be recognized by me.

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation giving season is open year round and we need your help to keep the level of scholarships the same from year to year.

**Conservation and Legislation:** I realize the last thing anybody wants to do is to read the Federal Register, comprehend legislation like the Wilderness Act of 1964, or try to figure out the actions of Federal Agencies like the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. Well if we want to keep our collecting areas open for today and the future, we need to speak up now and be heard! I want to commend the work of three Federations for their work behind the scenes on our behalf.

First, the California Federation (in particular, John Martin, our Conservation and Legislation Chair) for getting the word out on terms like wilderness areas, national monuments, and environmental study areas and how they affect and limit our ability to collect minerals and fossils.

Second, the Northwest Federation (in particular, Hidemi Kira, NW President) for sending letters to the Bureau of Land Management on the sage-grouse issue, which could significantly affect a large area in the Northwest where many important rockhounding sites are included.
Mid-Year Accomplishments  
continued from page 2

Third, the Rocky Mountain Federation (in particular, Mike Nelson, Chair of the Public Lands Access Committee representing each state within the Rocky Mountain Federation) for sharing information on Federal land collecting.

You may think their effort is a pacific coast, Rockies, plains, and mid-west “thing”. Actually, it is an AFMS “thing”. We are all going to have to be part of the solution if we want to continue to collect today and in the future. We need people to speak up and voice their opinion when public comments are asked for.

I hope we can spend some time on this issue at the next AFMS Convention in Albany, OR. It is that important and the time to act is now. Many of us joined clubs for the opportunity to collect minerals and fossils. Let's not allow collecting trips be taken away from us.

Endowment Fund: The AFMS Endowment Fund Chair has informed me that we have over 25 items for the drawing to be held at the AFMS Convention in Albany, OR. Please contact your regional representative for tickets – you have to play to win. It is also not too late to donate a piece to the AFMS Endowment Fund.

Junior Activities: The AFMS Junior Activity Chair continues to set records on its badge program. We have excellent junior activity programs so contact us to start up or jump start your club’s junior activities.

I am going to stop here, but I do not want to overlook any of the work performed by other AFMS Committees. We will see the fruits of their labors in Albany, OR at our next AFMS Convention. So be there in person as a delegate or interested member and say hello to me (you can take all the selfies with me that you want). I would like to hear from you on what you think about the AFMS.

Best wishes for a safe and productive summer collecting season and have fun at your club picnics or other summer activities. I hope to see each of you in Albany, OR or you will hear from me again after the summer.

‘Till September.

Matt

Endowment Fund  
continued from page 1

#25- Petrified Wood (Indonesia) Approx., 6” high X 5” wide donated by Tom Cacciagno of Lost World Fossils. Estimated value $35.00 (EFMLS)

Color photos of each of the donated items can be viewed on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org/2016_AFMS_Endowment_Fund_Drawing.pdf).

Purchase tickets by sending your check, payable to AFMS Endowment to your regional representative listed below. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope, your name, address and phone number so that we can contact you if you win one or more of the prizes. All mail requests for tickets should be received by your regional representative no later than July 15.

CFMS – Colleen McGann
P.O. Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052

EFMLS – Carolyn Weinberger
P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

MWF – J.C. and Donna Moore
25235 N. State Route 97, Cuba, IL 61427

NFMS – Hidemi Kira
15455 S. Highland Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045

RMFMS – Delane Cox or Richard Jaeger
8152 Spanker Ridge Dr.; Bentonville, AR 72712
3515 E. 88th St. Tulsa OK 74137

SCFMS - Joyce Speed
4680 Wisteria St.; Dallas, TX 75211

SFMS - Jerri Heer
7301 N. Howard Ave.
Tampa, FL 3

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.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Address corrections and changes
Subscription Information, Distribution Questions: Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are usually sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

Subscriptions are $4.50 per year
Remit payment to the AFMS Central Office
Checks should be made payable to “AFMS”

Address maintenance and mailing labeling are the responsibility of the AFMS Central Office. All changes and questions should be sent to:
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

Deadline is the 1st of each month preceding publication (i.e. April 1 for the May issue)

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**Ed Romack**

Ed Romack, another of our AFMS giants passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 1, 2016. The news came from long time friend and companion, Bev Dillon.

AFMS President in 1992 when the convention was held in Brunswick, Ohio, he was of the era when you went “through the chairs” meaning you held each AFMS office all the way through to the Presidency. Ed was interested in the finances of the Federation and worked hard to see that the AFMS was on a sound footing.

During the Brunswick convention, Ed and a few others introduced the idea of forming the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) which became the legislative voice of the AFMS. Ed and his attorney in Idaho Falls, Idaho, got the 501-C-4 non-profit status, registered it in Idaho and brought forward the outline of the organization. It was voted into existence that year with much fanfare and over the years has had a major influence in information all regarding pending Federal legislation that effects rockhounds.

There were so many things Ed did for us. He was a huge supporter of the Scholarship Foundation and beginning back in the 1980’s he created a special faceted stone auction which raised tons of money for the Foundation. The ‘stones’ were from faceters beginning in the Northwest, and later from all over the US, who donated just stones at first and later beautifully mounted stones for the auction. As an auctioneer he was the best, dragging money out of you, even when you tried to resist his charm. For his 8th birthday, Ed’s family donated $5,000 to the Foundation.

Ed was a mover and shaker in getting the Smithsonian the huge faceted golden topaz they so badly wanted as one of the crown jewels of the gemstone collection.

He was a master faceter and was involved in the famous US vs. Australia faceting competition that gave bragging rights for the best cut gemstones. Ed was a judge for these yearly events. He also served as a faceting judge for our Uniform Rules Committee, helped craft the rules that are in use today, and spent many hours with exhibitors explaining how to facet a better stone.

In 2009, Ed was presented with the AFMS Recognition Award, the highest achievement award given by the AFMS. Later in life, he spent a great deal of his time travelling world-wide and regaled us with his stories at the conventions won’t be the same without Ed. He encouraged us to remain fiscally responsible, encouraged us to promote exhibiting, especially competitive exhibiting, supported ALAA and the Scholarship Foundation.

Contributions in Ed’s memory should be directed to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, % of your regional Scholarship Foundation Coordinator.

Shirley Leeson, AFMS Historian

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**AFMS Scholarship Foundation News**  
*by Lauren Williams, Foundation President*

On March 22, I went to Boise, Idaho and talked to a representative from our broker, Charles Schwab about having Schwab administer the Scholarship account. He said that it would be no problem in maintaining the account as Jon Spunaugle had done for us in the past. The Schwab representative assured me that Schwab would have no direct connection with the buying or selling of Bonds or Stocks since they hire an independent company to do the work.

The Schwab representative sent me to the Badgley Phelps Investment Managers firm and they assumed the management of the Scholarship funds on April 9th. All communications about the fund will be thru the Schwab in the Boise office. On April 21, I met with the Schwab representative and finalized the contract.

And then I received some more terrific news! Gene Maggard (8418 SE Hwy 77; Leon, KS 67064), the current Treasurer for the Rocky Mountain Federation, has volunteered to serve as our Treasurer, effective immediately. He has served as RMFMS Treasurer for many years and has managed their funds extremely well. His task will be to receive donations (which will be forwarded to Schwab), write checks to cover expenses of the Foundation, send the scholarship checks to the student recipients, keep the books and forward these for the annual audit and taxes.

Please continue to send your donations to the Scholarship Foundation to your regional representative:

- CFMS - Pat LaRue
- EFMLS - Steve Weinberger
- SCFMS - Virginia Adian
- MWF - Marge Collins
- NFMS - Evelyn Cataldo
- RMFMS - Richard Jaeger
- SFMS - send directly to Gene Maggard

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**Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions**  
*from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator*

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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>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Sept 16-18 Placerville, CA</td>
<td>October 21-23 Rochester, NY</td>
<td>August 19 – 21 South Bend, IN</td>
<td>AFMS July 27-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>Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL</td>
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Having Fun: Junior Activities

Youth Poster Contest Deadline Extended

In the February AFMS Newsletter, I noted that the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (MWF) is sponsoring a poster contest open to kids throughout the U.S. focused on a theme of “Amazing Agates.” At the time, the deadline for entries was April 15, with winners to be announced at the MWF Convention in South Bend, Indiana, on August 20. I’m happy to announce that the deadline has extended through June! I encourage you to spread the news via your local newsletters and at your monthly board meetings and membership meetings and get your club’s kids to enter. 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.

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 accepted through June 2016.

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

Questions? If you need further info, please email Evelyn Tryon at <Geojunctions@juno.com> with “Poster Contest” in the subject line.

Rockhounding will have the authority to collect rocks and minerals for non-commercial, personal and educational use. The management plan has started within the BLM. Three BLM district Managers have been tasked with creating the plan and at the appropriate time in the process the plan will be released for public input and comment. This is the time period in which we, the Recreational Rockhound, must make our inputs and comments known to the Land Managers that are making the decisions to allow collecting of rocks and minerals. If recreational rockhounding is not listed in the management plan collecting will not be allowed. This work has already started with the gathering of collecting site information, attending BLM Public meetings, joining advisory groups, contacting BLM offices and discussing the issues, contacting elected official’s offices and voicing our personal concerns. Through personal experience, when I have attended public meetings, the recreational Rockhound is usually out numbered at least 4 to 1 by the groups which do not want recreational rockhounding recognized as a recreational activity. I am only one voice and to make Recreational Rockhound a recognized activity it will take a lot more voices, yes more voices than the 8,747 members of the CFMS, it will take all of the voices of the 502 clubs and societies of the AFMS supporting this recreational activity.

In closing I just want to state that I know that people are still going to collecting areas like Lavic Siding, Afton Canyon the Cady Mountains and others that now lie inside the national monuments. Please keep in mind that it is unlawful to remove rocks and minerals from the monument. I also have talked to the BLM office and managers responsible for the monuments and they have stated verbally that recreational activities that were allowed before the creation of the monuments are going to be allowed to continue for the time being or until they receive new instructions. They have also stated verbally they do not have the resources to patrol the monuments looking for violations. They have also stated verbally they probably and most likely will not go looking at the known collecting sites and issue citations or confiscate your equipment or vehicles. Just keep in mind if you do venture to the new national monuments in southern California with the intention of collecting the Jaspers, Agates and minerals found throughout the monuments, you are breaking federal law as it stands today. That is the reason that Recreational Rockhounding must be included in the monument management plans. Hopefully more information will be available by the time of the AFMS Convention in Albany, OR. this coming July.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me and I will strive to answer and resolve them. <afmslsc@antelecom.net>
Editor's Corner
by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair

Bulletin editors who enjoy their job are always striving for improvement. They seek feedback as much as they do new articles. One area that those of us who mail our bulletins are concerned about is the condition that the bulletin is in when it gets to the reader. Does it look as nice and crisp as it did when we consigned it to the Postal Service, or does it arrive torn and distressed?

My background is mechanical. I'm not a professional printer, publisher or editor and learning the details of what editors do has come slowly. So when I find something that makes my job of producing an effective bulletin easier, I grab onto it! I'll share what I found last year.

I started sealing my bulletin with little strips of tape, as had the editor before me. A lot of the bulletins began arriving damaged, and the members needed a kitchen knife to cut the tape. Then the Postal Service rubber-banded a pile of my bulletins and returned them with a note that tape was not allowed in the new automated postal sorting equipment. I guess that the sticky side of the tape gums up the works. You may have seen the current USPS requirements for folded self-mailers in the latest issue of the SCRIBE Newsletter. If you missed it, let me know and I'll ask the S.C.R.I.B.E. editor to send it to you.

So I next went to my local office supply store and bought the Avery 1” round clear mailing seals. At $12.69 plus tax for 480 seals they cost almost 3¢ each (6¢ per bulletin) but they looked great! They also worked great with the postal service equipment, but the feedback that I was getting was that they were tough to open with a finger or car key.

One day I went to the local print and copy shop that prints and folds my bulletin and asked for their advice. They suggested a solution that I would like to pass on to editors who may face a similar problem. The referral was to an on-line company - www.waferseals.com. I bought their model INV-WTU1-20N, a 1” translucent round sealing tab. It is not completely clear, but is clear enough that it does not distract from the appearance or the message of the bulletin. At a cost of $44.00 for a roll of 20,000 seals, the cost went down to only 2¢10 of a cent each (less than ¾¢ per bulletin! Even better, I have received no more complaints of mail damage or of a difficulty to open the bulletin, as only a finger is required to tear the sealing wafers.

This was an improvement for my bulletin and, as I started this article, bulletin editors who enjoy their job are always striving for improvement. This improvement makes for more capable people who can use their talents to recognize what makes a good bulletin, poem, article or feature. The AFMS wants to tap this talent! We are looking for individuals who are willing to lend their talents as judges for the 2017 regional and AFMS bulletin editors contests. If you, or someone you know, are willing to serve as a judge once or twice a year - please contact me at <mnelsonair@aol.com>!

AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year
from Evelyn Cataldo, Coordinator

Eastern Federation
The Lapidary and Mineral Society of Central Connecticut Rockhound of the Year Committee is pleased to select Aidan Briggs as our Junior Rockhound of the Year for 2016. Aidan participated in several rock collecting trips. Among his many qualifications he has shown good rockhound traits by being helpful to his dad, cooperative with other rockhounds and practices safe collecting methods. Aidan shows great enthusiasm for the hobby. Nice job Aidan and congratulations!

submitted by Tom Benedict, President

Rocky Mountain Federation
The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society is recognizing Jamie Brown as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for 2016. Jamie is 12 years old and is a member of the Rockstars. Jamie enjoys the field trips and the time she spends in the workshop. Jamie has an eye for finding rocks and turning them into beautiful cabochons. Our club has a monthly cabochon contest and she has won First Place several times! As an active member, Jamie helps wherever needed, especially guiding younger members in learning about rocks and assisting them with activities. Jamie worked at Gem Show and contributes to the newsletter. She wrote an exceptional poem on rocks conveying her love of the hobby.

Jim Dennis – a modest man of many talents is the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild’s AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. As a fourth generation Coloradan, Jim has a love of the land, its rocks and geology. Upon retiring, he started hunting rocks. Jim and his family have collected all over the U.S., Canada and Mexico as evidenced by his yard and shop. Jim is a master lapidarist, soapstone carver, silversmith, blacksmith, carpenter, mechanic, rigger, and as he puts it, “just pretty handy”. Jim has held many positions in the Guild, taught classes on lapidary and saws and demonstrated cabochon cutting at the club show and at the Denver Council show. We thank him for his generosity and hard work since he joined our group ten years ago.

Happy Father's Day!

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
<<martin at antelecom.net>

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

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slhariur at msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleylesenon 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
<bj 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 Charsky, Vice President
Tom Burchard, Secretary
Gene Maggard, Treasurer
Safety Matters - Safety 101
by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

To my knowledge there is no rockhound mineral collector fossilhound lapidary jewelry maker Safety 101 class being offered anywhere. In my years and years... and years of safety research I’ve sort of made up an informal list of what might be offered if there were such a course.

Now, I’m sure you all as good rockhounds mineral collectors / fossilhounds / lapidary / jewelry makers are aware of, in one form or another, and follow pretty much a self-made list of similar guidelines — and one more specifically tailored to your particular activities. So, the following list may be more of a reminder for veteran collectors and a good reference list for newcomers to our great hobbies.

1. Prepare yourself both mentally and physically for the task at hand
2. Wear and utilize any and all protective gear suitable for the task.
3. Stay hydrated and consider bringing additional water with you to offer to those less encumbered with thoughts of keeping hydrated.
4. Keep with you or know where whereabouts of a medi-kit, first-aid kit. Learn how to use the contents of the kit.
5. Let folks know where and when you will be both on the road and situated at a specific location. (Cell phone batteries are notorious for quitting at the most inopportune times.)
6. Keep your personal meds with you.
7. Know the guidelines, safety rules of the mine quarry building / equipment one is working with I on in and by.
8. Keep the "Golden Rule" in mind, and, no, I’m not talking about the rule that says "He who has the gold makes the rules." 11. Every minute has the potential to be one in which one can learn something and teach something – or a little bit of both. Take advantage of those opportunities.
12. Take more rest breaks than you might think you need for the task at hand -- your body will thank you.
13. Mind the conditions in which you find yourself - too hot, too cold, too wet, too humid, too deep, too close to an edge or slope, too slippery, too hazardous, tooooo... anything.

14. Mind that your actions reflect in what you do and how safe you are.
15. Note that your attitude makes a huge difference in what you do and how safe you are.
16. Keep your wits about you at all times, you will need them if not now, then later. Personally I have use up so many wits that I am down to a half of one, but that is another story for another time.
17. Have maps handy. Those GPS batteries are also ones that have a habit of failing when most needed.
18. Our hobby is not a race - take the appropriate amount of time to be safe.
19. Keep a personal protective kit with you in case one gets lost and need to spend more time that planned out in the wilds and woolies.
20. Keep in mind the AFMS Code of Ethics - it is as much a safety guide as it is ethics.
21. Learn to fly the plane if the pilot is incapacitated - a metaphor of all experiences in life.
22. Clean up after oneself.

As one might imagine this list is in no particular order and every situation demands its own specific requirements. As a general list of guidelines I’m sure another thousand or so could be added without too much thought. This list is just a good starting point.

Be safe, think safety, because... your safety matters.

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.

Uniform Rules Meeting
by Dee Holland, URC Chair

The annual AFMS Uniform Rules Committee meeting will be held in Albany, OR on Wednesday, July 27. There are at least two major proposals that will be presented during the meeting.

So that we can be sure that each Federation rules chair is present (or represented), and also know how many “visitors” to expect, please e-mail me to let me know of your attendance. My e-mail is <beauholand@centurytel.net>.