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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

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Carolyn Weinberger, Editor
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Rockhound Soap Box

by John Martin, Conservation & Legislation Chair <afmsclc@antelecom.net>



I am sure by now you have all heard or read something about the new rule or regulation being proposed by the BLM on Fossil Collecting on Public Land managed by the BLM. The Regulation is further implementation of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA). The public comment period ended on February 6, 2017.

There was a large effort originating in California by the Southern California Paleontological Society, a member of CFMS, to draft a letter of concern and submit during the public comment period. The letter was drafted and circulated throughout the CFMS and to the other Regional Federations for review. Several good articles were written and circulated during this time period on the subject and the impact of the

proposed Regulation by several federation members.

Some of the contributors of articles were Mike Nelson, Lisbet Thorsen, Andrew Hoekstra and Karol McQueary. I would like to thank them for their enormous effort they put forth in the research and documentation required to formulate the response letter. Karol and Lisbet did an outstanding job of getting the response letter out to a multitude of clubs/societies, professional organizations and all of the regional federations.

You were asked to read the information and encouraged to be a signatory on the official letter. That was sent to the BLM on February 6, 2017. If you were one of those signatories on Karol's letter I want to thank you for your participation. By adding your name to the letter you did two things. First you showed your concern for the rule making process and your willingness to make your voice heard on this important issue on the future of legal fossil collecting on Public Lands. Second, by adding your information to the letter, you are now on record and if and when there is another comment period, you will be allowed to add more comments to the record.

So, thank you to all of the people, Clubs, Societies and groups which added your names to the letter. Your effort made the BLM at least notice that there are Rockhounds out here and we are concerned about our Public Lands and the recreational activities they provide.

Thank you one and all.

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Rock&Gem
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Official Magazine of the AFMS

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<MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz>



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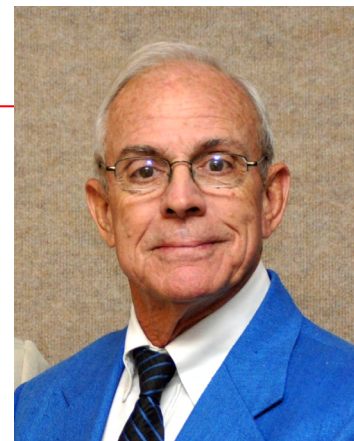
5th Vice President
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor@amfed.org>

Secretary
Donna Moore
<MWFsecretary@gmail.com>

Treasurer
Pat LaRue
<bplarue@earthlink.net>

A Word from the President

by Ron Carman, President



Be on the Lookout!

First, I want to thank all those who send me newsletters from various clubs and federations every month. I only regret that I can't reply to all of them, but I can show that I read at least some of them.

Last month's AFMS Newsletter contained an article written by Mark Nelson, Bulletin Editors' Advisory chair, about how thieves attempt to steal club funds by sending bogus e-mails pretending to be from the club president. The phony e-mail is sent to the treasurer, asking him or her to make an expenditure or funds transfer that wasn't expected or in the budget. Of course the real president doesn't know about this e-mail, and if any money is sent out, it disappears. I saw this same article reprinted in the California Federation newsletter, and all clubs and federations would do well to reprint it, since this trick has been attempted on our own AFMS treasurer, Pat LaRue. A few weeks ago she forwarded such an e-mail to me asking if I had really sent it, and of course I hadn't. Pat was alert, as usual, and recognized the signs of a bogus communication. A couple of weeks later she forwarded me another e-mail she had received asking if she could initiate a bank transfer for me. This particular scammer wasn't too careful, since he used my name, but it showed a return e-mail address as one very different from mine, which Pat again recognized as being phony. Thanks for being vigilant, Pat!

Everyone in all clubs and all federations should watch for this kind of fraud and report it should it occur. Be especially wary if someone asks for a direct transfer of funds. Usually the treasurer writes checks, which can leave a paper trail where the money goes, but a bank transfer just sends funds to an account number the scammer gives, and when it comes through the recipient can take it and transfer it somewhere else, and no one else knows where it was sent – it's gone! Most treasurers know the president (and other officers as well) and should always question an unexpected request, especially if it's not in the budget. Our gem & mineral clubs are probably not the only targets of these fraudsters, but as Mark said in his article, if we watch out for them we can foil them and keep our money safe.

Another phony e-mail I recently received addressed to "president@amfed.org" said it was from the USPS and the subject line was "unable to delivery package" spelled just like that. The message was addressed "Dear Customer" and told me that my package had been sent and I should check the attached delivery label. Since I hadn't ordered anything, I knew this was also phony and deleted it, as I suspected the attachment contained either a virus or spyware. This is another method that hackers use to get into other people's computers. If you receive messages like this, I recommend deleting them without opening any attachments. If you delete them, they go away harmlessly, but if you open the attachment and it contains a virus, you could lose valuable data or even give outsiders access to your computer. Hackers also steal e-mail lists and then send a message to all the addressees with nothing more than just a link to some website. I wouldn't click on any unknown link, since the link could also contain a virus or spying software. If you just delete the messages they can't do any harm.

You may already know about some of these sneaky tricks hackers use to invade other people's computers; these are some of the things I always look for, since I know that the crooks are out there looking to steal our personal information and our websites are not immune to them.

On a more pleasant note, the AFMS and CFMS websites now contain information on the AFMS convention and show to be held in Ventura, California in June. Registration forms are available; you can use your computer to print them. I better send mine in too, since I hope to see many of you there!

Ron

AFMS Judges Training Seminar

by Jennifer Haley

June 6-7, 2017, Clocktower Inn, Ventura, CA

There is a lot of excitement about attending this seminar. When it was heard through the grapevine last summer the seminar was being arranged for 2017, everyone was cheering. The seminar is for judges, exhibitors, and anyone who would like to better understand the AFMS Uniform Rules.

B. Jay Bowman, renowned across the country for his teaching skills in AFMS Judges Training Seminars, is leading the course. Jay's class is 2 days of classroom study of the AFMS Rules book, and then a day of practice judging on Friday, June 9th at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, at 9:00 a.m. in the San Miguel/Anacapa Halls.

The classroom can take up to 50 people, so we hope to see many of you there. The fee for the course is \$25 and includes lunch both days. By taking the seminar you will be able to improve your personal exhibits skills and be able to better assist your home society and neighboring societies in their annual showing of exhibits, with the knowledge you've gained.

For those who want to stay at the inn, we were able to get the best room rates in town for you, along with free parking for quests staying at the inn, and for those attending the seminar. Free parking in Ventura is rare, so we are happy we could do this for you. Deadline for registering for the seminar is April 30, 2017. For more information for registering at the inn, and for the seminar, please see the link for the AFMS Judges Training Seminar on the calendar of the CFMS website.

You can download a registration form by visiting <www.cfmsinc.org/>.

An Invitation to Exhibit at This Year's National Show

by Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS/AFMS Show Publicity Chair

On behalf of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, I invite you to exhibit in this year's national AFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11 in Ventura, California. Enter either a competitive or a noncompetitive display—or one of each! Go to the show website at <2017CFMS-AFMSShow.com> to access and download entry forms by clicking on "Files and Entry Forms." You'll also find a direct link to the AFMS Uniform Rules manual. The deadlines are May 22 for noncompetitive entry forms and April 30 for competitive forms, so don't delay.

Exhibiting is fun! When displaying at a gem show, we not only get to show off our collections and handiwork but also to learn from others, seeing display techniques, getting advice, sharing tips, and forging bonds of friendship through mutual interests. There is a host of trophies for adult exhibitors, including a special trophy for nervous first-time Novice Exhibitors sponsored

by the hosting Ventura society. Kids entering either competitive or noncompetitive displays can earn the Showmanship badge in our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, and those entering competition can strive for both trophies and the AFMS Lillian Turner Award. Several years ago, Lillian Turner of Bethesda, Maryland, generously donated funds to support an award for the best junior's exhibit at the annual AFMS Show. The award consists of a certificate, a \$100 bond, and a mineral specimen and is presented at the Show Awards Ceremony. I guarantee that adults and kids who choose to display in Ventura will find the experience both rewarding and fun!



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

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Club Rockhounds

from Evelyn Cataldo, AFMS Chair

California Federation

The Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society has chosen **Robert Regalado** as our 2016 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. He has been managing the shop and making repairs for the equipment. He is available to help anyone with questions or directions on how to use the equipment efficiently and safely. Robert also trains new members in how to prepare a cabochon. He has led numerous field trips locally. He sells drawing tickets at meetings. Robert is always at the annual show helping with set up and take down and helping in any way. He is also a contributor to our quarterly cabochon contests and is frequently a winner. Robert is a very nice man and was just installed as vice president for the coming year.

submitted by Aubrey Daniels, Federation Director

Rocky Mountain Federation

The Cañon City Geology Club congratulates **Jennifer Gerring** as their 2016 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Jennifer is the current president and has been a member for four years. She enthusiastically volunteers anywhere needed to help CCGC be an educational and successful organization. Such duties include secretary, membership, programs, club claim, and field trips. She created and maintains an award winning website, winning awards with the RMFMS and the AFMS. During her leadership, the club membership has grown from 60 members to over 300, and has seen the addition of a Pebble Pups program. She is a great ambassador for the club and CCGC wants to thank her for her hard work and dedication.

Northwest Federation

The Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Club recognizes **Vern & Suzanne Young** as our 2016 AFMS Club Rockhounds of The Year. Suzanne, currently Vice President, has been our Club President, and Chairman of many committees. She helps with our Silent Auctions, and is in charge of the Kids Activity Corner at our Annual Show. She is very creative, and teaches lapidary classes. Vern is Manager of our Club Lapidary Shop at the local Community College, and maintains equipment and supplies. He also has taken on the responsibility of coordinating donations of rock, and lapidary equipment for Club use in our Auctions and Annual Show. He also runs our Annual Show Silent Auction. In addition he has been a critical member of the construction team for our new Club House, Lapidary Shop, Library, and Junior facilities which has just opened.

*submitted by Bill & Linda Stonecipher
and Olan & Norma Long*

Time Flies When You Are Having Fun!

by Cheryl Neary, AFMS Endowment Chair

I am in Tucson as I write this article- I am hoping that I am able to obtain some great donations for the Endowment Fund, while I am here! I even bought a large empty suitcase with me, with the hopes that I can manage to get some really neat stuff!

Just prior to leaving I received a donation from the one of my local clubs on Long Island, New York, the Island Rock Hounds. I took a photo, then downloaded the photo on my computer at home and deleted the photo on my phone- so, no picture. I also received a donation from Richard Jaeger. He kindly sent a photo, so that I can share that with you this month.

Last year I received most of the donations after the Tucson show. I am hoping that you might consider as individuals or as a club to make a donation of an item or two with a minimum value of \$75.00 and no heavier than five (5) pounds. Of course, if you cannot make a donation, I encourage you to purchase tickets from your federation representative. Tickets are reasonably priced for the drawing at \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. What a bargain! The money collected is for the AMFS Endowment Fund. The interest from the monies generated is used for the AFMS special projects. The special projects consist of junior badges, judges training and digitizing slideshows – just to name a few- and in which your club benefits!

You can purchase tickets by sending your check made 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 prizes! All mail requests need to be purchased for the drawing no later than May 15th.

Your Federation representatives are as follows:

CFMS: Colleen McGann, PO Box 224, Santa Clara, CA 95052

EFMLS: Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

MWF: J.C. & Donna Moore, 25235 N. State Rt 97; Cuba, IL 61427

NFMS: Judi Allison, 1701 NW 11th St; Hermiston, OR 97838

RMSMS: Delane Cox, 8152 Spanker Ridge Dr; Bentonville, AR 72712

Richard Jaeger, 3515 E 88th St; Tulsa, OK 74137

SCFMS: Joyce Speed, 4580 Wisteria St; Dallas, TX 75211

SFMS: Leslie & Daave Weyment, PO Box 780791; Sebastian, FL 32978-0791

Please email me if you will be making a donation. My email is <ciervo.neary@gmail.com> or call me on my cell at 516.449.5341 – and leave a message please.

We will be having donations of rock specimens, fossil specimens and jewelry. Last year we had a great run, and I am hoping that this year we rock Ventura, California!

Next month we'll have pictures and descriptions of more prizes that you can win.....but only if you have a ticket and therefore are part of the drawing!

Wyoming Fossil Fish donated by Richard Jaegar.
Estimated value \$75. (RMFMS)

