



A.F.M.S. Newsletter

It is AFMS policy that its name and logos may not be used for commercial purposes. Please notify the Central Office of any violations.

Time Sensitive Material - Please do not delay

Address Service Requested

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger, Editor
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
McMinnville, OR
Permit No. 7

Safety Matters – Kid Safety

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Kid safety? Isn't kid safety the same as adult safety? Well, yes it is, more or less, and that is the crux of the matter — the "less" part that is. Kids are generally less — less experienced in matters of safety, less tall, less heavy, have smaller hands and overall, have smaller proportions than adults.

There are thus, some safety considerations when it comes to kid safety. Namely:

1. Some safety goggles are made of hard plastic or rubber. They do not easily conform to the smaller faces on kids. Solution: try using softer vinyl framed goggles which are flexible enough to properly fit kid faces. Goggles with elastic head bands can easily be adjusted to fit kids. If one is using safety glasses with side shields make sure the temples are sized to fit kids. One would find it uncomfortable to have safety glasses keep sliding down the nose every time one looked downward - and let's face it, looking downward is a large part of rock, mineral and fossil collecting.

2. Heavy duty work gloves in either large, or sometimes medium size are easily found in most stores. Heavy duty kid work gloves are not so easily found. Solution: try looking for ladies small-size heavy duty gloves. Sometimes the more well stocked suppliers will have smaller, heavy duty gloves.

3. Hard hats for kids? Sometimes I have seen the play hard hats, but never have I seen down-scale hard hats that meet all the various ANSI or OSHA specifications. Solution: check out the adjustability of the head band and suspension system. Some are more adjustable than others. Seek one that can be adjusted to fit smaller heads. The benefit is that a good hard hat can be adjusted to fit as the child grows.

4. Steel toe work shoes in smaller sizes? There again, in some specialty work clothes establishments one can find safety toe work boots that fit smaller lady-size feet. The problem there is often finding the correct width, but with a little luck one might be successful in finding a safety shoe that fits. As fast as kids grow, it will be quite a trick to keep kids

in proper safety footwear. The best one can mostly hope for is just providing good sturdy work boots. Oh, there are steel and safety toe sneakers, so there may be some suitable offerings there as well.

4. Kid appropriate tools? Sure, kids love to hammer on things. Can one find kid appropriate rock collecting tools? Solution: I have found none specifically made for kids, but what I have seen are what I call "travel tools", tools that are smaller -- less heavy rock picks, crack hammers, and chisels. Why does a kid need smaller tools? Well, smaller tools are more easily controlled in kid's smaller, less strong, and less coordinated hands. Mind that any use of tools should be suitably adult supervised. Along with tool use safety and first-aid kits should have kid-sized bandages packed in with all the adult-size bandages.

We like protecting our kids from harm. Large, dangerous working mines, quarries, pits and other hazardous commercial operations often limit kid entry. Insurance and liability requirements in operating facilities often dictate that no one under 18 is permitted on site.. Thus, kid specific safety gear is often not needed because kids are often not permitted inside. Common sense should reign in other collecting sites.

In general, safety requirements are similar for kids and adults – keeping hydrated, minding site specific rules and regulations, wearing safety goggles, and so on. The trick with kid safety, the one thing that makes it easier for adults is this one simple guideline: kids use adults as role models. If kids see their parents wearing goggles, they will want to as well, because it's the adult thing to do. If kids see their parents using gloves, kids will want to as well. Kids learn from us, so if we adults set a good example, our work in keeping kids safe is made much easier. The bonus with that approach is that we say safe too (for our kids sake).

Please be safe out there, whether you are a kid, an adult or a kid-like adult!

Also In this Issue

A Word From the President	2
Having Fun – Junior Activities	2
Producing a Great Bulletin.....	3
Regional Federation Conventions.....	4
Lapidary of the Month Articles	4
Rockhound of the Month.....	4
AFMS Endowment Drawing	4



Rock & Gem
THE EARTH'S TREASURES • MINERALS AND JEWELRY

Official Magazine of the AFMS

The AFMS

Proudly Serving
Seven Regional
Federations



Officers:



President
Ron Carman
<rrcarman@centurytel.net>



President-Elect
Sandy Fuller
<MWFtreas@rock-biz.biz>



1st Vice President
Doug True
<dtruefossils12@yahoo.com>



2nd Vice President
Mark Easterbrook
<asgardsgc@earthlink.net>



3rd Vice President
DeLane Cox
<delanec3@earthlink.com>



4th Vice President
Jennifer Haley
<ladybuglane@napablogger.com>



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

Secretary
Donna Moore
<MWFsecretary@gmail.com>

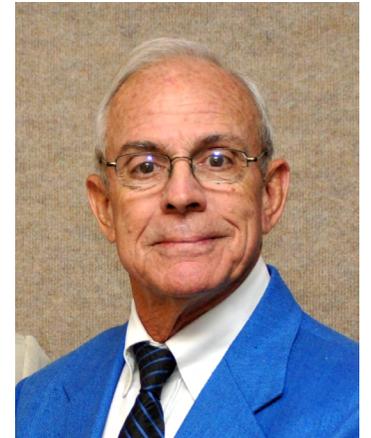
Treasurer
Pat LaRue
<bplarue@earthlink.net>

A Word from the President

by Ron Carman, President

More Traveling

When I first took on the position as your president, one of my goals was to visit all the federation shows I could during my term, all seven if possible. So far I have visited five, including the AFMS combined show in Ventura in June. Since the Eastern Federation show in Connecticut and the South Central show, hosted by my own Houston Gem & Mineral Society, are still in the future I can't yet report on them, but intend to visit both. All the shows I have attended so far seemed to be quite well planned and well presented. I have enjoyed the chance to meet members from all around the country and learn more about what goes on in each federation. A side benefit from visiting these shows is the chance to do some collecting on my own in areas where I don't ordinarily have a chance to go.



In August I had a rare opportunity to combine hobbies; I have also enjoyed amateur astronomy for years and in all that time had never seen a total eclipse of the sun, although I have seen several partial eclipses. On August 21 the eclipse path passed right across northwestern Kentucky and southern Illinois, where many classic fluorite specimens have come from in the past. We drove to Paducah, Kentucky, and the day before the eclipse I went hunting in one of the old quarries with some success; I collected two boxes of yellow and purple fluorite specimens. The day of the eclipse we spent in Golconda, Illinois, which was right on the center line and I saw and photographed my first total eclipse ever. The next total solar eclipse visible from the U.S. will pass through central Texas in April of 2024 and so I will just stay here to see that one!

Now I look forward to visiting the Eastern Federation show in October (more traveling!) and my own South Central Federation show in November. When planning a federation show, it's a good idea to check with the AFMS Show Coordinator, who is Emerson Tucker, to be sure there is no conflict. However, I also know that sometimes it depends on when the host club can get the show venue. Each of the shows I visited was well conducted – keep up the good work, folks - and I also look forward to the next AFMS convention in Raleigh, NC in April, 2018. Hope to see you then if not before!

Ron

Having Fun – Junior Activities

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr., Program Chair

One Great Source for Kids Booth Spinning Wheels!

Go to many local gem and mineral show that have a Kids Booth, and one of the things you'll most likely see (in addition to grab bags) is an activity that goes by a variety of names: a Spinning Wheel, a Wheel-of-Fortune, a Prize Wheel, etc. Basically, we're talking a roulette wheel the likes of which you'll see in Las Vegas—but unlike those in Vegas that are made to simply take money out of your pocket, the wheels in our Kids Booths offer a guaranteed rocky prize with every spin!

Many clubs have such a wheel, and most such wheels have been in the club for decades. In short, most are "clunkers." They are heavy, awkward to move and to store, and have seen better days in the time since they were first constructed and given a fresh coat of paint in 1952. Many of them are so off-balance that you can pretty much guarantee they'll always stop at the same two or three numbers on each spin.

If you have such a wheel—or if you're one of the few clubs that has never had such a wheel at an annual show—I've learned of a source that offers beautiful wheels that are light-weight, compact, and easily assembled and disassembled for convenient storage and transport. That source is Spinning Designs (910 First Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712, phone 732-775-7050, web site SpinningDesigns.com). They offer a basic "Off The Shelf" model that starts at just \$99 and that comes in varied sizes with colorful pre-made designs and a dry-erase surface so you can easily customize your wheel from show to show or for other club events. Or, if your club treasury is especially flush, you can get other, fancier models and designs in the \$300 to \$350 ranges—as well as a super-size model with "price available on request." If you have an older "clunker" wheel that has seen better days or would like to incorporate a wheel into your show for a great Kids Activity, I encourage you to check out SpinningDesigns.com. I know from decades of personal experience running Kids Booths that wheels like these are a guaranteed source of fun!

Producing A Great Bulletin

by Mark Nelson, BEAC Chair

Here are some tips for making your bulletin a great one!

Put spark in your bulletin

•Participate in a bulletin sharing group. Read other bulletins and borrow ideas and interesting articles for your own bulletin (if you think it is interesting you can be assured that your readers will also).

•Join SCRIBE and access the AFMS Best Of The Best articles. These are the top three articles, poetry and illustrations of North American lapidary clubs. Copy and put them in your bulletin – a sure winner!

•Check back issues of your own club's bulletins. Many of those old articles present a fresh look at today's issues, tips and ideas.

Proof read. proof read, proof read

•After you have put your articles in their place in your bulletin, use your software's spell check utility.

•Print your bulletin, go out and stretch, get some fresh air, pour yourself a cup of coffee and sit down in a comfortable chair to read it like you did not write it. Note spelling errors that spell-check did not catch. Note the hyphenated words at the end of run-on sentences. See what happened when your spell-check program rearranged your paragraphs. Make the corrections and print it again.

•Ask a friend who reads a lot to proof-read your bulletin. Give them a sharp red pen or pencil and encourage them to use it.

•Take the bloody edits and correct them once again!

Check Your Work.

•Go to the AFMS web site (www.amfed.org). Scroll down and click on the link called **Bulletin Editors' Contest (Updated 11/22/2015)**.

•Scroll down and click on the link called **Bulletins - Specific Guidelines**. Print and read the guidelines.

•Return to the previous page and scroll down below the heading **Fillable Score Sheets** to the link called **Bulletins**. Print the score sheet.

•Lay the score sheet next to your bulletin and go through the items on the score sheet. Make sure that your bulletin has EVERY item that is on the score sheet.

Submit – Submit your work to your federation's Bulletin Editor's Contest and see how much better your bulletin scored compared to the prior year!

The 2018 Bulletin Editor's Contest deadlines are earlier this year than last year. It is likely that you will be able to select from your first eleven months of bulletins for this year's contest. You will not be able to submit your 2017 December bulletin material in 2018, but you will be able to submit it in the 2019 contest, so remember to make it as good as every other month's bulletin!

See your federation BEAC for the submission deadlines for your club's articles!

Congratulations to all of the editors, poets, artists and writers who entered so many great items in the 2017 Bulletin Editors Contest! You did an excellent job and I know that your federation's BEACs appreciate it! The 2018 contest is two months earlier than in 2017, but it will still give you time to select from your best work to submit to your federation's BEAC. Here is information for the 2018 AFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest:

Schedule:

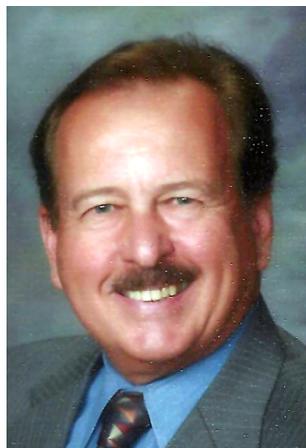
November 1, 2017 – AFMS Judges List and program changes sent to all Federation BEACs

January 5, 2018 – Entries due to AFMS judges

February 15, 2018 – judged entries due back to Mark Nelson

April 6 - 8, 2018 – AFMS Show & Convention in Raleigh, NC

If you have any questions about your federation's specific schedule, please check your federation's newsletter or web site, or email your federation's BEAC. I don't foresee any significant changes to the contest rules, and if I can be of any assistance please let me know!



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)

Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes provided credit is given this publication and the author.

For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.

Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions

from Emerson Tucker

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2017	AFMS June 9 - 11 Ventura, CA	October 21-22 Bristol, CT	May 6 -7 Brainerd, MN	May 19-21 Hamilton, MT	March 18-19 Albuquerque, NM	November 10-12 Humble, TX	October 20-22 Knoxville, TN
2018		AFMS April 6 - 8 Raleigh, NC	Oct. 6-7 Springfield, IL	April 27-29 Yakima, WA	June 8-10 Fairplay, CO		
2019			AFMS March 16-17 Cedar Rapids, IA				

Seeking "Lapidary of the Month" Articles for Rock & Gem Magazine

by Jim Brace-Thompson

Rock & Gem magazine is the officially endorsed hobby magazine of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. In other words, it's our magazine! Not only does it contain articles of immediate interest each and every month, it welcomes contributions by each and every one of us to better inform our fellow practitioners in our fun hobby. R&G Managing Editor Lynn Varon notes that one especially popular feature is the "Lapidary of the Month" article submitted by people to highlight some new technique or novel lapidary art that they've mastered and would like to share with their fellow rockhounds. However, the supply of entries for this monthly feature has been drying up in recent months, and Lynn welcomes new articles to keep this feature lively and relevant.

The guidelines are simple: 1) Write a 500-word step-by-step description of how you crafted a particular lapidary project and save it as a document file. 2) Take at least one sharp, close-up, color digital photo of the finished project. (Use high resolution: 300 dpi at 4 inches by 5 inches, minimum.) 3) Attach your document file and digital photo (.tif or .jpg) to an e-mail and send it to editor@rockngem.com with the subject line "Lapidary of the Month." 4) E-mail the editor or call (972) 448-4626 with any questions. Lynn is happy to provide guidance! For an example, see page 8 of the September issue of Rock & Gem, where the Lapidary-of-the-Month article describes how to make drawer pulls and knobs for kitchen cabinets decorated with agate cabs. Let's all help keep our own hobby magazine lively and relevant with projects and techniques that should prove of interest to all of us!

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

from Evelyn Cataldo, ACROY Chair

Northwest Federation

The Hermiston, Oregon Hatrockhounds are pleased to present **Elmer and Marilyn Ringering** as our AFMS 2017 AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. Longtime members, Elmer and Marilyn generously give of themselves and their knowledge. Elmer is a great source of information about rocks and locales. Marilyn's baked goodies delight all. We give them our thanks and gratitude.

submitted by Hermiston Hatrockhounds

Just a reminder that the deadline for submitting information about your 2017 Rockhound of the Year is fast approaching. Any submissions for 2017 must be received by me no later than December 31. You can e-mail them to me at <cataldoevelyn at yahoo.com>.



AFMS Endowment Drawing

by Carolyn Weinberger

With the early 2018 AFMS Convention, it's time to start purchasing your tickets for the upcoming Endowment Fund drawing. We already have several prizes that you could possibly receive should you hold the winning ticket. We'll have photos and descriptions in the next AFMS Newsletter issue.

In the meantime, should you wish to purchase tickets, they remain \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The drawing will take place during the 2018 AFMS Convention in Raleigh, NC the weekend of April 6-8. You do not need to be present to win!

Proceeds from the drawing are invested in secure accounts and the interest is used for special AFMS programs such as junior badges for the junior program, digitizing prior AFMS slide programs, and purchasing new DVD programs for the regional federation program libraries.

If you would like to donate a special prize for the drawing (\$75 minimum value), please send it to Cheryl Neary, 42 Jefferson Ave; Patchogue, NY 11772 as soon as possible so it can be photographed and "advertised" in this newsletter and on the AFMS website. Please limit your donation to 5 lbs or less.

To order tickets, checks should be made payable to "AFMS Endowment" and mailed to me at EFMS Endowment, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number as well as a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your order.