The United Nations Proclaims 2019 the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements

On 20 December 2017, during its 74th Plenary Meeting, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly 72nd Session has proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT 2019). In proclaiming an International Year focusing on the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements and its applications, the United Nations has recognized the importance of raising global awareness of how chemistry promotes sustainable development and provides solutions to global challenges in energy, education, agriculture and health. Indeed, the resolution was adopted as part of a more general Agenda item on Science and technology for development. This International Year will bring together many different stakeholders including UNESCO, scientific societies and unions, educational and research institutions, technology platforms, non-profit organizations and private sector partners to promote and celebrate the significance of the Periodic Table of Elements and its applications to society during 2019.

The development of the Periodic Table of the Elements is one of the most significant achievements in science and a unifying scientific concept, with broad implications in Astronomy, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Biology and other natural sciences. The International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements in 2019 will coincide with the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the Periodic System by Dmitry Mendeleev in 1869. It is a unique tool enabling scientists to predict the appearance and properties of matter on Earth and in the Universe. Many chemical elements are crucial to enhance the value and performance of products necessary for humankind, our planet, and industrial endeavors. The four most recent elements (113, 115, 117 and 118) were fully added into the Periodic Table, with the approval of their names and symbols, on 28 November 2016.

The International Year of the Periodic Table of the Chemical Elements will coincide with the Centenary of IUPAC (IUPAC100). The events of IUPAC100 and of IYPT will enhance the understanding and appreciation of the Periodic Table and chemistry in general among the public. The 100th Anniversary of IUPAC will be on the UNESCO Calendar of Anniversaries on 28th July 2019.

“As the global organization that provides objective scientific expertise and develops the essential tools for the application and communication of chemical knowledge for the benefit of humankind, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry is pleased and honored to make this announcement concerning the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements” said IUPAC President, Professor Natalia Tarasova.

continued on page 2
The AFMS
Proudly Serving Seven Regional Federations

Officers:

President
Sandy Fuller
<MWFtreas at rock-biz.biz>

President-Elect
Doug True
<dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com>

1st Vice President
David Wayment
<aastainedglass at bellsouth.net>

2nd Vice President
DeLane Cox
<delane3 at earthlink.net>

3rd Vice President
Margaret Kolacyzk
<markolacyzk at gmail.com>

4th Vice President
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

5th Vice President
Roger Burford
1 <la.navy2307 at hotmail.com>

Secretary
Donna Moore
<MWFsecretary at gmail.com>

Treasurer
Pat LaRue
<bplarue at earthlink.net>

A Word from the President
by Sandy Fuller, President

This has been an amazing year…traveling around the country and meeting some really great people. I’m struck by the passion of our members, whether they are talking about collecting, their amazing finds or how to make our clubs and federations stronger. It’s been a privilege to “lead” such an enthusiastic crowd. It was only possible thanks to those who stepped up to provide leadership in our local clubs, our regions and the AFMS.

My goal this year was to focus our efforts on making our clubs stronger. There are so many people who share our interests but many of them are still thinking they are maybe just a little bit weird for liking something so simple as a rock. Too often, the newbie collector is surprised to not only find that there are others who share the passion, but actually whole clubs of rockhounds.

So let’s keep the outreach going. Roll out the welcome mat and invite new ideas as well as new members. Enter our competitive programs to rate your efforts and get ideas for strengthening your club. Then tell others about your successes.

Don’t forget to share your talents. Show others how to do lapidary arts or prepare a fossil. Use your work place skills to strengthen your club. Joins others to learn a new skill that you, in turn, can share with others. We all have something to contribute. Together we can help each other grow and learn about our wonderful natural world and the lapidary arts that help us show off its beauty.

Finally, I would like to extend a big thank you to all the AFMS committee chairs. Each of you does so much for our federation. A special thank you goes to those who stepped up to fill a job during this year and those who needed to step down: Don Shurtz replaced Dan Imel as AFMS Website Contest Chair, Judi Allison replaced Evelyn Cataldo as AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year and Darrell Watkins replaced Doug Moore as Program Competitions Chair.

Sandy

Year of the Periodic Table
continued from page 1

Chemical Elements play a vital role in our daily lives and are crucial for humankind and our planet, and for industry. The International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements will give an opportunity to show how they are central to linking cultural, economic and political aspects of the global society through a common language, whilst also celebrating the genesis and development of the periodic table over the last 150 years. It is critical that the brightest young minds continue to be attracted to chemistry and physics in order to ensure the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators in this field. Particular areas where the Periodic Table and its understanding have had a revolutionary impact are in nuclear medicine, the study of chemical elements and compounds in space and the prediction of novel materials.

The IYPT is endorsed by a number of international Scientific Unions and the International Council for Science (ICSU). The IYPT will be administered by an International Steering Committee in collaboration with the UNESCO International Basic Sciences Programme and an International Secretariat, to start operating in early 2018. In addition to IUPAC, IYPT is supported by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), the European Chemical Sciences (EuCheMS), the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST).
Safety Matters - Ticks, Chiggers, Mesquites, Oh My!
   by AFMS Safety Chair, Ellery Borow

Ticks, chiggers, mesquites, fire ants, black flies, scorpions, venomous snakes, poison ivy earthquakes, volcanos, flashfloods, and excessive heat - oh my! Pretty much anywhere a rock collector goes one will find something in the area that needs special attention. That something can be a little thing or a big thing, but still a thing which should, for safety sake, be addressed and not ignored.

We collectors check maps, monitor tire pressure, bring water, update medical aid kits, research what mineral might be found in the area and soon. We might be well advised to also check into things which might bug us on our trips... things such as bugs and bears and storms and snakes.

Fire ant bites are not fun. Mesquites and ticks are transmission vectors for more and more diseases. Weather patterns are changing. For these and other local conditions for which the well prepared collector should be aware, there are numerous sources of data. NOAA weather services, state and local health services monitor area insect populations, and even the USGS has websites which report on earthquake and volcanic activity.

A rain in the mountains and the resulting flash flood 6 miles away could isolate our vehicle, knowledge of how long a tick takes to transmit Lyme Disease, how to prepare for a venomous snake in the trail, precautions concerning fresh bear tracks in the area—all these take time to research and understand but the well prepared collector is a safer collector. It is, in this time of internet, far easier and less time consuming than yesteryear to be prepared and be safe. Truly, there is sometimes too much information out there to review it all.

When traveling, most rock collectors bring at least the basics - maps, water, food, medical kit, personal protective equipment and so on. Besides the basics, it is the wise collector who prepares for any additional hazards the area has to offer. Such additional protections might be as simple as bringing an extra strong mosquito repellent.

Please don’t let little flying things bug you. Your safety matters.

Build Enthusiasm, Create Smiles, and Honor Your Members!!
   by Judi Allison, ACROY Chair

Hi Folks.

The year is drawing to a close and there are only a handful of submissions for the Rockhound of the Year. I realize only a select number of people get this newsletter, so please take the time to mention the honor your club can give to a special member. And don’t forget those Juniors! Let’s fill the AFMS Newsletter with pages of honorees from all over the country.

Following is the information I have for Rockhound of the Year Chairpersons for each Federation. If you are no longer the contact, please let me know. Thanks.

California: Gary Levitt, <garytherockhound@sbcglobal.net>

Eastern: Ellery Borow, PO Box 47; Waterville, ME 04903-0047

Midwest: Steve Shimatzki, 4295 County Rd. 16 Woodville, OH 43469

Northwest: Laurie Ellis, PO Box 3326; Irrigon, OR 97844

Rocky Mountain: Sheri Johnson, 6085 Allanche Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89141

South Central: Chip Burnette, 2630 Polk Street, Killeen, TX 76543

Southeast: Marty Hart, 4935 Olivia Dr. Antioch, TN 37013

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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California Federation

The Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Club (AVGMC) proudly presents our oldest and longest reigning Junior Member and Honor Student, Lana Haven, as our “Junior Rockhound of the Year”. Lana is an enthusiastic Rockhounder regularly attending our General Meetings and Field Trips. She is knowledgeable and quite adept at identifying rock specimens. Besides tumbling and polishing rocks she’s collected, she is an expert at using the “Genie”. Lana is an active, positive, engaging force in our club. She is the self-appointed hostess to all young guests who show up. At all three of the Community Events that the AVGMC is involved with, Lana always volunteers to help.

Submitted by Jim Betz AVGMC President

Paul Hobbs and Ruth Hidalgo have been Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club (AVGMC) members for 14 years and are major contributors to our club’s inner workings as well as our club’s community presence. Both hold current directorship positions on the AVGMC Board and have been elected to various Board positions. Ruth is our Internet Chairman, organizing and administering our web site and Facebook presence, as well as serving on our Updated By-Laws Committee.

This dynamic duo, an essential force in the organization and functioning of our club as well as active advocates in the community at large for the future of Rockhounding as a hobby, is proudly recommended by the AVGMC as our “Rockhound of the Year”.

Submitted by Jim Betz AVGMC President

Galen Moyer of the Santa Lucia Rockhounds has a special talent; cutting and polishing rocks, working the Gravel Pit at our yearly Show and greeting new members at our Club Meetings. He serves on our Board of Officers, as Vice President of Membership and Host our Annual Lapidary Day Picnic at his home. On field trips, he will share his truck and trailer to help people who need a helping hand to haul our precious discoveries back to our cars. He is one in a million and the Santa Lucia Rockhounds are very proud to know him and call him a friend in rocks.

Submitted by Mary Caparone, President

Rocky Mountain Federation

The membership of the Flatirons Mineral Club (FMC) this past spring voted in Dr. Jean Orr, MD (retired) as the 2018 recipient of the Rockhound of the Year laurels. Jean has been very active the club’s activities and especially with the “Junior Geologist” group in helping to facilitate their meetings, teaching and mentoring. Jean is also the current Programs Chair for the club and is on the exec board. Many thanks from the FMC membership to Dr. Jean Orr for a “job well done”.

Submitted by Gerry Naugle, FMC Treasurer

South Central Federation

Fredericksburg Rockhounds Club has selected Jim Gedeon as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. We are very grateful for all the work Jim has so generously done for our club. Jim joined Fredericksburg Rockhounds in 2004. He has served as Education Chair, Treasurer, President, and for the past six years been the Show Chairman. He has held some position for all fourteen years as a club member. He has given geological talks to schools, clubs, and libraries throughout the Texas Hill Country, and offered a class in “Hill Country Geology” for the Fredericksburg Continuing Education program. After working as a substitute teacher, he became involved with the Mentoring Program where he has followed two young men throughout their elementary, middle school and into their high school years. He

continued on page ___
The front page of our bulletin often makes the difference between a publication that is read, shared and saved – or one that is tossed on the pile of material for reading at some future date. I have found that a front page that jumps out at the reader and begs for immediate reading is a winning combination. Look at it this way .... no matter what our special interest in the rock and mineral field we all appreciate a fine-looking mineral specimen or gem. Our challenge is to find such a gem and then encourage our readers to open our bulletin to read more about it!

Where do we go to get the initial inspiration for an article about interesting minerals? We now have a never-before resource – the Internet! In my years as an editor I have found that nearly every site that publishes photos and information about minerals and gems are willing to let a non-profit club publish the photos for the education of its members. Of course, it is only courteous and legal to ask permission and to cite the source of the material for your members.

My favorite source is John Betts. John publishes a web site called JohnBetts-fineminerals.com. Here you will find spectacular photos of the minerals that he sells, as well as the photos in his Mineral Museum. Here is an example of a mineral on the home page of his web site as I write this article:

#75920, Fluorite with minor Sphalerite, Weardale District, England.

When we click on this description we get details of the specimen, size, condition, fluorescence, price and provenance:

Description of Mineral Specimen for sale No. 75920:
Mineral Species: Fluorite with minor Sphalerite.
Location of origin: Weardale District (probably West Pastures Mine), County Durham, England.
Description: Lustrous transparent yellow-gray cubic fluorite crystals to 27 mm with a few lustrous black sphalerite crystals to 1 mm on the surfaces. The fluorite crystals fluoresce under ultraviolet illumination: longwave = violet; shortwave = dull violet. Though the crystals are clean and in good condition, a few show damage upon close inspection, but they are minor compared to the relative size of the specimen. Ex. Harry W. Eichel, Jr. (1914-1990); ex. Phil-Mont Christian Academy.
Overall size: 11.5x8x3.5 cm.
Size of individual crystals: 1-27 mm

This outstanding photo and specimen information gives us our starting point. Our readers will be as interested in the specimen as we are! Then, we can do a little more research on the individual minerals, such as Spalerite.

Wikipedia is a great resource. When we check the mineral Sphalerite on Wikipedia we learn the chemical name ([Zn, Fe]S) and that it is a mineral that is the chief ore of zinc. It consists largely of zinc sulfide in crystalline form but almost always contains variable iron. When iron content is high it is an opaque black variety, marmatite. It is usually found in association with galena, pyrite, and other sulfides along with calcite, dolomite, and fluorite. Miners have also been known to refer to sphealerite as zinc blende, black-jack and ruby jack. Wikipedia also provides information that may be of interest to our readers such as its chemistry, varieties, hardness, occurrence, gemstone and other uses.

Here are some other sites to get photos and mineral information for our bulletins:
- enter “beautiful and interesting minerals” into your Internet search engine and see the results!
- www.architecturedesign.net/45-extremely-beautiful-minerals-and-stones
- http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/museum
- http://mindat.org
- https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

[Ed. Note: Be aware however that all the images on many of these websites are copyrighted and may NOT be used in your publication without written permission. This permission must be noted in the credit line for the photograph.]

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislators and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the “Public Image” of recreational collectors.
Scientists have found a rapid way of producing magnesite, a mineral which stores carbon dioxide. If this can be developed to an industrial scale, it opens the door to removing CO₂ from the atmosphere for long-term storage, thus countering the global warming effect of atmospheric CO₂. This work is presented at the Goldschmidt conference in Boston.

Scientists are already working to slow global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but there are serious practical and economic limits on developing the technology. Now, for the first time, researchers have explained how magnesite forms at low temperature, and offered a route to dramatically accelerating its crystallization. A tonne of naturally-occurring magnesite can remove around half a tonne of CO₂ from the atmosphere, but the rate of formation is very slow.

Project leader, Professor Ian Power (Trent University, Ontario, Canada) said:

“Our work shows two things. Firstly, we have explained how and how fast magnesite forms naturally. This is a process which takes hundreds to thousands of years in nature at Earth’s surface. The second thing we have done is to demonstrate a pathway which speeds this process up dramatically”

The researchers were able to show that by using polystyrene microspheres as a catalyst, magnesite would form within 72 days. The microspheres themselves are unchanged by the production process, so they can ideally be reused.

Read more at: https://phys.org/news/2018-08-scientists-mineral-co2-atmosphere.html#jCp

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.

Do We Have The Correct Name and Mailing Address for Your Club Officers?

If not, please send to the AFMS Central Office so your club may keep informed.
AFMS Committees: 2017 – 18

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2017 – 18. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or

All American Club
Regina Kapta
<cigmc at comcast.net>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Judi Allison
<nfmssec at gmail.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
<editor at amfed.org>

Boundaries
Bob Carlson
<illegitimusnoncarborundum at inbox.com>

Bulletin Editor’s 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 (see Bylaws Revisory)

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr at erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
<smartin@antelecom.net>

Convention Advisory
Emerson Tucker
<emertuck at gmail.com>

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

Financial Investment
Wayne Cox
<wayne3 at earthlink.net>

Historian
Jennifer Haley
<ladyuglane at napablogger.com>

Inter-Regional Field Trip
Doug True
<dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Marion Roberts
<mvroberts1 at comcast.net>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<jbraceth at roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Matt Charsky
<matt2430 at comcast.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
Matt Charsky (see Long Range Planning)

Photography
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Program Competition
Darrell Watkins
<darrekk8418 at aol.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
Emerson Tucker
<emertuck at gmail.com>

Uniform Rules
Marion Roberts
<mvroberts1 at comcast.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Josie Middleton
<jemzrocz@gmail.com>

Ways and Means
Richard Jaeger
<rjgrsci at aol.com>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart
<webmaster at amfed.org>

Web Site Contest
Don Shurtzl
### Club Rockhounds of the Year

has been mentoring for twelve years.

Jim’s work and organization for our annual show has been exceptional. He was very active in enabling our club to have new display cases built and getting members to fill those cases for our annual show. Jim has a B.A. in geology and M.S. in geology with honors and served as professional geologist in the petroleum industry. He also collects Native American artifacts. He is always willing to share his knowledge and is a great resource to our club.

Submitted by Virginia Adian

Northwest Federation

Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society present Bill Shipp and Rita Watters as our 2018 Rockhounds of the year. They not only initiated the task of soliciting donations from local stores with sufficient donations to cover the cost of our show’s potluck, continental breakfasts and offerings of liquids for the dealers and workers, they also did the shopping and took charge of all related aspects at the show. Bill is serving on our Executive Board and Rita volunteered to do a radio spot promoting our show, as well as take on secretarial duties. They are active, contributing members and we thank them for their volunteerism.

Submitted by Hatrockhounds Exec. Committee

### Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

The Regional Federation Convention calendar for 2019 is almost complete and is shown below. We’ll add the dates and location for both Rocky Mountain and Southeast once they have been confirmed.

As you can see, most of the regional federations have not yet confirmed the dates and locations for their 2020 conventions. It is important to be certain that we don’t have conflicting dates between the AFMS and the regionals, so please let me know what they are as soon as possible so we can publish them here.

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### A.L.A.A.

Have you joined the American Lands Access Association (ALAA)?

The organization was founded to promote and ensure the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

Individual dues are $25 per year; clubs $50 per year. A quarterly newsletter is sent to all members.

For more information, visit [http://am-lands.org/6601.html](http://am-lands.org/6601.html)