As far as legislation regarding Public Lands and Recreational Rockhounding goes for 2019 all of the damage was accomplished with the passage of S 47 which included most of the bills introduced in the 2019 session of Congress. Since that time in the first quarter of 2019 legislation pertaining to or having an impact on Recreational Rockhounding has been mostly non-existent. If you have paid any attention to what is happening in Washington DC this year, then you know where Congress has been spending their time and your tax money.

With that said, I will turn my thoughts to other things of importance. As I was unable to attend the AFMS Meeting in Cedar Rapids this year, I would like to take this time to thank the AFMS for bestowing upon me the AFMS Recognition Award for 2019. I am honored to receive the award and will continue to strive to support the AFMS and Recreational Rockhounding in a manner that will respect the award in the future years. I would like to thank Tony Fender, President of CFMS, who accepted the award on my behalf at the AFMS Convention and Show and presented it to me in California.

Once again, I would like to thank the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, its Officers and Directors, Committee Chairs and the seven Regional Federations for without their effort and support Recreational Rockhounding and the Lapidary Arts would not be as they are today and will be in the future.

History in the Making: The AFMS Land Use Policy and the American Lands Access Association

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

In 1991, the President of the AFMS appointed a select committee to recommend ways to make the national Federation more effectively responsive to the political challenges of increasing regulation and decreasing access to public lands, that State and Federal Land Management agencies were imposing on amateur fossil and mineral collectors. This committee recommended that the AFMS form a separate 501(c)(4) organization whose primary purpose would be to promote the amateur collectors’ interests in present and proposed policies, rules, regulations and legislation with State and Federal land managers, elected officials and legislators. In compliance with that recommendation, the AFMS directors voted to establish the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) in July 1992 at their convention in Brunswick, Ohio.

The AFMS Land Use Policy was adopted at the AFMS Annual Meeting at Port Townsend, WA, July 17, 2002. Many of you may be familiar with the policy and ALAA, but what about your society’s newest members and your recent new societies who have joined your Federation? They may know nothing about both unless you’ve made the effort to educate them, similar to the age-old question which too often still comes up from newer members, “what is the AFMS?” History is always in the making and history never stands still. Often the making of history can be quiet as a mouse until a big, “ta-da!” is announced about something that might happen, going to happen, or has already happened. If your Federation and your member Societies aren’t participating or preparing right now with helping to keep your collecting areas open for the future, someone else is going to be writing the future for those Recreational Rockhounding areas, and it won’t be someone who is even familiar with the love and experience we have for our historical American recreational hobby, and they won’t see a reason to keep them open. Think of it as similar to out of sight, out of mind.

However, there are enough of us among all our societies within the 7 Federations who can stand up and be counted and can have an influence on our future. It comes down to if you are willing to stay involved and willing to do a little bit of work for what you love. When govern
Citizen Science Opportunity: Dark Matter Obsidian Tracks in Granite

by Robert Jarrett, Georgia Mineral Society

If you have seen, or do see, a straight “bar” of obsidian in granite or some other rock, where obsidian should NOT be, you might become famous—seriously. Rock-hounds spend millions of person-hours/year examining rocks world wide. “Official” scientists haven’t that amount of time to devote.

Case Western Reserve University’s Dr. Glenn Starkman and Singh Sidhu postulate, based on careful mathematical analysis, that a particle of Dark Matter actually accidently interacting with real matter could make that obsidian bar. The odds are vanishingly slim but not impossible, apparently. The energy released in such a collision path would be enormous, enough to melt and transform the rock or to kill a person (none reported, so far).

So, keep your eyes open for this phenomenon. YOU could be THE key to solving the deep mysteries of dark matter. Report real findings to Dr. Starkman at Case Western Reserve University, Physics Department.

Refs:

Our morning began with a tour of the Sterling Hill Mine. Alex described the history and accounts of what daily life was like for the miners back in the day as we walked through several mine shafts. After the underground tour, we viewed the world class museum. Comprised of not just Fluorescents, but also fabulous specimens from around the globe. This place must be on every rockhound's bucket list as it is one of a kind and it is truly amazing.

For a few moments at a world famous Zinc Mine, human kindness fluoresced brighter than the minerals. After our private behind the scenes tour at Sterling Hill on day 4 of Eastern's 2019 Convention, it was time for lunch. Our tour guide, Alex Kerstanski who's also part of the Mine Staff and 2nd VP of the Orange County Mineral Society - NY (OCMS), led the group to the cafe where the menu had some traditional Miner's Fare, even Pasties. School kids on class field trips were also getting lunch. We noticed that there were 2 kids sitting alone by themselves and we wondered why they weren't joining the other kids in the food line. Jeannette True approached the kids below.

Jeannette asked them if they were having lunch? The boy on the right said yes and the boy on the left said no. She then asked the boy on the left if he had any money, figuring that he may not. The boy replied that he did not have any money. Obviously, Jeanette's intention was to give him some money for lunch. To her surprise, the same boy then replied that if he had any money, he would give it to her... At that moment, the boy didn't realize that Jeanette was going to give him money for lunch and he selflessly offered to give her money if he had it. How often does an act of kindness beget another act of kindness in return? Clearly, a true testament of character displayed by two individuals from different walks of life to help each other. You don't get that every day! Who said Mineral Enthusiast don't have hearts of gold?

Giving... & Giving back Above is just one example of who we are. At the Convention, Eastern also established a Wildacres Scholarship in honor of Steve Weinberger & the memory of Carolyn Weinberger.

After lunch, it was collecting time! We all got our fill of the typical fluorescing Willemite, Calcite and some Franklinite to take home. Some of this may likely end up at one of our local club meetings. Check out Eastern's affiliate's site (fomsnj.org/Our Favorites.aspx) for more on NJ Fluorescent Minerals.

The 2019 EFMLS Convention was a great success for our Federation and for our gracious host, the Orange County Mineral Society (orangecountymineralsocietynewyork.com). An outdoor show is always risky weather wise, but we got lucky. The idyllic historical setting in Monroe, NY's Museum Village made it a memorable event. How many shows have you gone to where there are roosters walking through the crowd? (Roosters not pictured. Hopefully you all know what a rooster looks like)

It was a "True" honor (no pun intended, okay, maybe a little) to have Doug & Jeannette travel the thousands of miles to be with us at our annual convention. We extended our appreciation by giving them an award. Since our convention was held in New York, the base of the plaque is the same material as the base of the Statue of Liberty (Stony Creek Granite). Thankfully, OCMS President, Mike Tedford, allowed me to use him and his necktie as a prop to assist in announcing the award. Thanks Mike
Seeking Suggestions for AFMS/FRA Badge Manual Revisions

When I started the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program fifteen years ago, I stated that my plan was to expand and/or update it every four years. I started in 2004 with a Membership patch, 9 badges and a Rockhound badge that were unveiled at a Fall CFMS Directors Meeting. In 2008, I added 6 badges and a Rock Star pin.

Starting 2012, we arrived at our current set of Membership patch, 20 activity badges, Rockhound badge, and Rock Star pin. In 2016, we kept the same badges and awards while replacing and updating website references and adding a number of new optional activities for each badge unit. To see what we currently offer, go to http://amfed.org/fra_frbadge.htm.


As I gear up for a Fifth Edition, I welcome your ideas, experience, and creativity. Because of the expense of adding new badges to a program that we provide for free (thanks to the generosity of the AFMS Endowment Fund), I’d like to avoid adding the set-up and manufacturing costs of an entirely new badge unless there’s a truly major area of our hobby and avocation. I’ve missed these past 15 years that presents a clear and compelling need for a broad range of kids. Instead, I’d like to focus on adding new activities to the existing badges. For instance, we initially lacked anything on dinosaurs. Rather than add a whole new badge on dinosaurs, this omission was fixed in a later edition by adding activities to the existing Fossils badge thanks to suggestions from local juniors’ leaders.

In addition to new activities, I’d like to update basic info. Have you tried any of the web addresses included in the Manual intended to lead to additional sources of information and activities and, if so, do you have suggestions for new websites to incorporate? Have any of the web addresses expired? Are there additional books, videos, or other resources we might recommend to go along with any of our badge units? Are there ways we might use our AFMS and regional Federation websites to support aspects of the Badge Program?

I welcome any and all ideas large and small! Please send your thoughts to me via snail-mail, e-mail, or phone: 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003, jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577. I welcome your ideas to help craft our next edition toward providing kids with yet another four years of having fun!

Safety Matters - Is Safety Enough?
By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

A question if I may: Do you think just wearing eyeglasses is enough to protect your eyes? The answer is well, maybe, maybe not.

There is a discussion going around -- does wearing seat belts while driving one's car make one feel safer or perhaps more confident about the driving? And, if one is feeling safer, more confident, is it possible that with such feelings, one might drive faster or perhaps not as cautiously because of using the aforementioned seat belts? There is a discussion in safety circles as to whether or not the potential of additional risk-taking might mitigates a portion of the safety from use of the belts. Again, this is not a discussion as to whether or not to wear seat belts. Seat belts are well documented as to their benefits in saving lives and reducing injury in motor vehicle accidents. This is instead a discussion as to the idea that, in addition to the belts, we should consider how we feel about relying on them to get one out of trouble if it should happen upon us. In other words, seat belt are not the whole answer, they are a complement to all of our good driving practices.

Oh, and of course, there are folks who will not change their driving habits one single iota while wearing their seat belts. They will remain as cautious and risk averse as is their usual nature. They will, as usual, mind the speed limit, will drive just as carefully in the snow even though they have snow tires, and will be just as cautious in every respect.

So where do safety glasses enter his discussion? When one is wearing their safety glasses, are one's hammering actions more dramatic on the chisel? Is one as careful as usual about other people in the area while chisel chips are flying? Might one be as fussy about large flying shards while striking a rock directly with the hammer?

Safety shoes: might wearing safety shoes cause one to be less careful of their footing? One may still lose their footing even while wearing the best of boots. Gloves: gloves should not be counted on to fully protect one's hand during a hammer's mis-strike. One's fingers may still suffer a hurtful pinch right through a heavy glove.

The take away is to remain mindful even though one is wearing or utilizing every item of safety gear available. Try not to let using safety gear override good safety practices; you can do this.
Who is Your Special Member?

I know, I know, we are all special. :-D But I bet there is one member in your club who has shown to be invaluable this year. Why not honor that person with a Rockhound of the Year Recognition. Your member will receive a certificate from the AFMS and mention in the AFMS Newsletter. All you have to do is choose the person, create a brief accolade of accomplishments and send it on to your regional Rockhound of the Year Representative. Let’s get those honors rolling in! If you have a problem reaching your listed Representative, feel free to contact me. Below is a brief idea of how to write up your submission. (You can also honor a Junior member as well as an adult.)

One member or couple from your society/club can be recognized each year by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Society/Club Name ____________________________
Person or Couple ____________________________

Members for how long? (Approximately) _______

Write a brief (preferably 50-75 words) summary of how (he, she, they) have helped your club. Service to the club could be:

- Being an officer, show chairman, bulletin editor, webmaster, instructor, help at the shop, junior program, educational speaker, hospitality at meetings (greeting new members and making them feel a part of the club), etc.
- Remember this is Rockhound of “the year” so it is nice to pinpoint something special they did in that particular year.
- Please include the address so that we may mail the certificate to the appropriate recipient/office. (In order to be more timely, there is also a possibility the Certificate can be sent electronically, so that you may print it for a more expeditious presentation.)

**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 sjs132@gmail.com

**Northwest:** Laurie Ellis, PO Box 3326; Irrigon, OR 97844 65shark@gmail.com

**Rocky Mountain:** Sheri Johnson, 339 S. Milan ST, Henderson, NV 89015, 702-525-0256, sherisrocks89121@gmail.com

**South Central:** Chip Burnette, 2630 Polk Street, Killeen, TX 76543 burnette@aceweb.com

**Southeast:** Marty Hart, 4935 Olivia Dr. Antioch, TN 37013 webmaster@amfed.org

Judi Allison, AFMS ROY Chairperson. Jms46@outlook.com or nfmsssec@gmail.com.

---

**AFMS Eligibility**

by Josie Middleton, Eligibility Files Chair

Hello All,

If you need Eligibility File information, please let me know. All is up to date and on PDF file. jemzroc2z at gmail.com

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**Be the Best You Can Be**

by Mark Nelson AFMS BEAC

Welcome to Summer, fellow editors! I hope that you all are enjoying, or at least tolerating the warm Summer days and nights!

The Southeast Federation is sponsoring the 2020 AFMS Convention, which is expected to be in the later part of next year. Thus, we have plenty of time to make our bulletins the BEST that they can be when we enter our local Federation’s Bulletin Editor’s Contest! This past year I have heard editors say that they are hesitant to enter the contest because they believe that their publication is not good enough. Likewise, I have spoken to editors who are puzzled because their bulletin did not score well in their local federation contest or at the AFMS level.

In my opinion, a club’s Bulletin is the most important part of a rock and mineral club! Thus, the Editor is responsible for that most important aspect. I want to help all of our editors improve the quality of their bulletin! Here are some basic things that should be in every month’s bulletin – think of them as a checklist!

1. What is the First Impression of your bulletin? Is it legible, neat and attractive?

2. Does it contain the basic Vital Information? That is: Bulletin title, club name, city, state (on cover or front page); Publication date (cover or page 1, and on each page); Return address on outside cover (mailing area); Editor’s name and address; Club officers, club address or contact info, dues, purpose, club federation; Date, time, place of regular meeting.

3. Is the bulletin properly formatted? Are the pages numbered & dated, bulletin name on each page; headings, margins, white space, spacing good; typing neat & clean; is there an orderly & interesting arrangement of subjects?; have spelling & grammar been checked?; are all articles credited to writers/publications; borrowed articles credited to writers or publications & dated; does the information in the articles appear correct, no glaring inaccuracies; is there a good use of illustrations (graphics, maps, club logo, cartoons, etc.); does the variety of material appear to fulfill needs of the club?; are there no apparent copyright violations?

4. Does the bulletin contain appropriate Club News? Are Programs announced, previous program reviewed?; are there highlights or minutes of last club meeting?; are there reports of committee/board meetings; president’s message; field trips, workshops/classes, community/federation projects; coming events, or calendar of club activities; events/shows/news of other clubs; news of members?


6. Does the bulletin contain articles? Such as education, hobby-related, or hints & tips, safety info, book reviews, humor, etc. (variety as meets club needs; original articles and items submitted by club members; articles from exchange bulletins and/or other sources?)

If you will make sure that your bulletin contains all of these items, I can guarantee that your bulletin will be better received by your members! Also, you will score better at your local and national federation bulletin contest! Please let me know if you have any questions! <Mnelsonair at aol.com
Copyright and the Club Website

by Don Shurtz, AFMS Website Contest Chair

Copyright applies only to written materials, correct? I hope everyone responded with a resounding NO. Copyright applies to written materials, photographs, paintings, video recordings, and just about anything else that a person can create, including club websites. I would like to encourage everyone to read the article starting on page 1 of the December 2018 AFMS Newsletter by Sue Webb, "But it's OK Because I Got it From The Internet". Sue’s article was primarily written for newsletter editors and those who contribute to the newsletters, but it is equally applicable to club websites. I would encourage every webmaster and those who contribute to websites to take a hard look at the article.

Near the top of the score sheet for the website contests is a list of four items which disqualify a website for the contest. To quote from the score sheet, "Site will be DISQUALIFIED if there are any apparent copyright violations." Most webmasters write the textual material on a website. The material is generally simple such as a listing of officers, where the club meets, etc. However, the pictures used on the website are a very different matter. Many websites like to display a gallery of fancy mineral photographs, and apparently do so without any review for copyright protection simply because It Came From the Internet. It seems that the attitude is that if the pictures are out there for the whole world to see, then they must be available for the whole world to use. Unfortunately, that is generally not the case. Most of the images are copyright. Trying to determine the copyright status of a picture is not easy, but one possible way is right click the image and select “Search Google for Image.” It is possible that Google will find a number of sites that have the same image, so you need to look carefully at what each site says about copyright. Images from commercial sites are likely copyright. One of the common sites that pops up frequently is Pinterest (https://www.pinterest.com). The default for pictures from Pinterest is copyright protected. However, a few (very few) of the images will allow use. Another common group of sites that pop up with great mineral images is mineral dealer sites, and their pictures are definitely copyright protected. It is permissible to use a copyright protected image provided you have contacted the author and obtained permission, and then give credit to the author and source (attribution). However, to be safe, it is best to use pictures from sites that allow use under license. One of these sites is Wikimedia Commons (https://commons.wikimedia.org). The images will give you the license information including those that are released to public domain. Still, you need to provide attribution to the author and source and provide the license information in order to use the image. Another good source is the U.S. Geological Survey (https://www.usgs.gov/). Most of their images are in the public domain (those not in the public domain are annotated), but you still need to provide attribution, and often the correct attribution is listed. The safest way to avoid issues with copyright problems is to use your own pictures or pictures taken by club members. You should give credit to the source. By virtue of images being published on your club website they become copyright protected by your club. If you use your own or club members pictures, it would be nice to add a statement to your website that is similar to most club newsletter; that the pictures are copyright but may be used for non-commercial use and may be used with (or, if you prefer, without) attribution.

Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions

from Emerson Tucker

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<td>2019</td>
<td>March 8 - 10 Pomona, CA</td>
<td>June 1 - 2 Monroe, NY</td>
<td>AFMS March 23-24 Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
<td>October 18-20 Lewiston, ID</td>
<td>August 2-4 Prescott, AZ</td>
<td>January 19-20 Fredericksburg, TX</td>
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<td>July Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>Sept 10 - 12 Toledo, OH</td>
<td>AFMS April 21 - 25 So. Jordon, UT</td>
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<td>Sept. Harrisburg, PA</td>
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AFMS Committees: 2018 - 19

Here is the listing of Committee Chairs for 2018-19. 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 Kaptza
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Nominating
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Parliamentarian
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Past President’s Advisory
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AFMS Scholarship Foundation
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957 E Elva St; Idaho Falls, ID 83401
<slhariur at msn.com>

Sandy Fuller, Vice President
Margaret Kolacyzk, Secretary
Barbara Ringhiser, Treasurer
Continued from p. 1

Many of your societies have been collecting on specific public lands for over 80 years. This is the kind of information that has big impact on what will and won’t happen in these areas. If Recreational Rockhounds do not respond during these comment periods, then legally we cannot be considered in any of the planning, and our fate is left in the hands of people who don’t have a clue about what we’ll lose. If we comment and are specific in our comments, Recreational Rockhounding will be considered throughout the process, all the way to Washington D.C.

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.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands. ALAA does the hard work for you, but they cannot do what they do without the help of your Federation and your Societies. Your job is the easy, fun part. When you go out on your field trips, write down the directions or GPS directions as you follow the roads or travel off-road to your collecting destinations once you are on public land. Not all societies use the same directions for the same destinations. That’s why ALAA needs you all to participate. Send those directions to ALAA so they are prepared to help stop the shutdowns. For more information on how to stay involved contact the ALAA at: http://amlands.org/

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 or 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 times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

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 normally published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

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.

Subscription Information, Distribution Questions: should be sent to Suzanne Webb, Editor. Subscriptions are $5.00 per year.

Checks should be made payable to “AFMS.” Remit payment to the AFMS Newsletter Editor. Suzanne Webb 9895 Kerrydale Ct. Reno, NV 89521-4401 <AFMSeditor at gmail.com> 775-624-8446

Content – Letters, Editorial Comments – Submissions

Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter, address changes and questions should be sent to the Editor: Suzanne Webb 9895 Kerrydale Court, Reno, NV 89521 <AFMSeditor at gmail.com> 775-624-8446

Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication (i.e. August 5 for the September issue)

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