A. F. M. S.
Newsletter

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Please notify the Central Office of any violations.

Having Fun: Junior Activities
by Jim Brace-Thompson,
AFMS Juniors Program Chair

Seeking Help with Kids on Two Fronts

I’m updating our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Manual with a goal of issuing a Fifth Edition in 2020. When I wrote the First Edition in 2004, I promised to update it every four years. Hard to believe we’re up to a Fifth Edition already. Time truly flies! As I work on the Fifth Edition, I welcome suggestions from one and all for any new activities, any new multimedia links (to websites, YouTube videos, etc.), any suggestions at all!

In addition, I write articles for the monthly Kids’ section of Rock & Gem magazine (selected by AFMS as our “official” hobby magazine). Within this section, I have occasionally run articles about outstanding kids in an informal series called “Spotlight on Juniors.” I would like to spotlight many, many more. In fact, I’ve discussed this with my editor at Rock & Gem, and she has suggested that we try running a “Spotlight” article at least once every two or three months. But for this to happen, I need your help!

The intent of “Spotlight on Juniors” is to highlight interests and accomplishments of kids, both to honor those who deserve special recognition and to provide role models for other kids. Do you have a pebble pup or junior member (up to age 18) in your society who is completely “rock crazy” and gung ho for our hobby? If so, please contact me with names and details about kids whom you believe deserve special recognition. I’ll follow up from there with some questions to flesh out further details, to connect with the kids’ parents, to obtain photos, etc. I will then be happy to do a write-up for Rock & Gem Kids. As an easy start, consider kids that your club has nominated to AFMS for Junior Rockhound of the Year recognition. Also, you don’t need to think of just an individual child. I’m happy to put a spotlight on multiple kids or even on your club’s entire program for Juniors. Do you have a full and active Pebble Pup or Juniors contingent within your club or society? If so, let’s honor your whole program while sharing the secrets of its success with tips for other clubs and societies within CFMS and beyond.

Whether you have ideas about the AFMS/FRA Badge Program or suggestions for “Spotlight on Juniors,” I welcome your good thoughts! Please contact me via snail-mail, e-mail, or phone: 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003, jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577. Here’s to engaging kids with our hobby and honoring the best of them while having fun

Past President
by Doug True, AFMS Past President

It is hard to believe where the year has gone. It seems that our journey had just begun. As we traveled around the country, we met new friends and visited others that we have met before. What a great experience. We would like to thank everyone for welcoming us throughout the different federations and for showing us your beautiful states and sharing what is going on in your federation, or clubs. I would do it again in a minute.

It is important that we work hard to keep our hobby strong and vibrant, that means putting that extra effort in to our youth; it means working to keep open our public lands for collecting; it means sharing your time and knowledge to help advance our hobby.

I’m sure that my journey is not complete, just going in another direction. I am sure I will see many of you down the road in the future.

Thank you for a great year
Doug True
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From the desk of the President

David Wayment
AFMS President 2019-2020

And just like that the year is over and another one begun. The year as President-Elect is spent getting ready for your year as President. And no matter how well you think you have planned for it, you always run out of time. It is my honor to be your AFMS President for the 2019-2020 year. I am looking forward to working with everyone and meeting many new friends all over the country.

I have been involved with the hobby, but not as a rockhound or collector, as so many of our friends in the west are. In Florida we have only a few rocks/crystals to collect. I have been in my home club since 2002. In my first few years I took a class at each of the 5 sessions SFMS offered at the William Holland and Wildacres workshops. Over the years I progressed from learning Silversmithing to teaching Silversmithing. I am currently the Education Chair for my home club, teaching classes there and at William Holland.

Now that the winter season is finally getting to Florida and temperatures are dropping below 80, it is time to get back into the workshop for another busy season. After moving to Florida, you need a few years to turn your year around so you hibernate in the hot summer and go out in the winter. This is the season for club shows and some field trips in our area. If you are coming down to the south, look up a local club and you might find a show or field trip in the area.

I’m just recently back from the SFMS Annual Meeting. The SFMS has been working on a big initiative to disseminate information for the Stare Directors to present to the clubs in their state about the benefits and programs available to the local clubs provided by the SFMS and AFMS. One of the most underutilized programs is the Slide/Video program. This is a wonderful benefit to the clubs that comes from the AFMS to the regions. Not all clubs are lucky enough to have skilled instructors in all areas of our hobby or speakers to provide programs at meetings. This wonderful library can lend DVD’s or VHS programs for the clubs to use, and return, at no cost. The topics range from a tour of the Grand Canyon, identifying gemstones to creating a bezel for a cabochon.

As the holidays approach I wish blessings on everyone and I look forward to working with all of you.

The Federations Need You!
by Beth Heesacker, NFMS 1st VP

We currently need AFMS-certified Judges to evaluate and critique the competitive display cases at our annual shows. This is an important function that enables us both to continue support for our members and to improve their skills as exhibitors. It also seems that most of the other regional Federations desperately need more certified judges.

Plans are in the works to hold AFMS-certified training classes in conjunction with the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society Show and NFMS meetings next year in Ogden, Utah. The training takes 3-4 days and would start before the Ogden show and continue throughout the show. The tentative dates are April 9-12, 2020.

There will probably be a small fee for attending the classes to cover the cost of the lunch during training, but the AFMS instructors will be free. Attendees’ room costs are not finalized yet and travel costs will, of course, vary. Those costs—or a portion of them for each attendee—should be paid by their respective federation.

We need to get some idea of how many people are interested, and which Federations are interested in supporting their members who are willing to attend. If you are interested in being trained for this vital position, or if you are a Federation interested in participating, please email Beth Heesacker, NFMS 1st VP at heesacker@coho.net and let me know. If you have questions, please email also.

As details come together, I will keep you posted and forward the registration form to you. Thank you so much for considering serving in this very important capacity.

happy holidays
Recreational Rockhounding as Defined in the United States Code of Federal Regulations

43 CFR § 8365.1-5 Property and resources,

(a) On all public lands, unless otherwise authorized, no person shall;

(1) Willfully deface, disturb, remove or destroy any personal property, or structures, or any scientific, cultural, archaeological or historic resource, natural object or area;

(2) Willfully deface, remove or destroy plants or their parts, soil, rocks or minerals, or cave resources, except as permitted under paragraph (b) or (c) of this paragraph; or

(3) Use on the public lands explosive, motorized or mechanical devices, except metal detectors, to aid in the collection of specimens permitted under paragraph (b) or (c) of this paragraph.

(b) Except on developed recreation sites and areas, or where otherwise prohibited and posted, it is permissible to collect from the public lands reasonable amounts of the following for noncommercial purposes:

1. Commonly available renewable resources such as flowers, berries, nuts, seeds, cones and leaves;
2. Nonrenewable resources such as rock and mineral specimens, common invertebrate and common plant fossils, and semiprecious gemstones;
3. Petrified wood as provided under subpart 3622 of this title;
4. Mineral materials as provided under subpart 3604; and
5. Forest products for use in campfires on the public lands.

(c) The collection of renewable or nonrenewable resources from the public lands for sale or barter to commercial dealers may be done only after obtaining a contract or permit from an authorized officer in accordance with part 3600 or 5400 of this chapter.

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<thead>
<tr>
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AFMS Endowment Fund – It’s not too early or too late!

By Cheryl Neary, Endowment Fund Chair

It is not too early or too late to be thinking about donating to the AFMS Endowment Fund.

Why contribute to the Endowment Fund? Simply, your donation of either an item donated to the fund or the purchase of tickets helps tremendously with this important fundraising for the Federation. The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, just to name a few.

Tickets for the drawing are $5.00 per ticket or 5 for $20.00. You may purchase your tickets from your Federation’s representative below:

So far, I have received the first donation, while at this year’s convention – Please remember to donate to such a worthy cause in our organization! Also, please remember these guide lines:

Each object should weigh no more than 5 pound
Each object or combined set of objects should have a minimum value of $75.00
If you are considering donating, either contact your Federation Representative or email me at: 

Ciervo.neary@gmail.com

Check the website shortly for updates for pictures of donations!
California Federation

The Woodland Hills Rock Chippers nominate Demelza Adamson as our Junior Rockhound of the Year. In the short 2 1/2 years as a Little Chippers she has earned 10 badges towards her Rock Star Pin; she already earned her Rockhound badge (5 badges required). In addition to her FRA badge activities she designed, arranged, made labels and set up the Little Chippers showcase at our 2019 show, working along with a guest 8 yr. old, Aidan, who was interested in displaying too. As a special addition to her work on her Fluorescent Badge, she had a second exhibit at the games table at our show. With her parents helping a box with UV lighting, it became a showstopper with visitors to our FRA booth. We are happy to nominate Little Chiper Demelza. Submitted by Thalia Goldsworthy.

We are extremely pleased to announce our "Rockhound of the Year" for Ventura Gem & Mineral Society in the person of Lynn Varon. If you feel you recognize this name, you are correct! For many years running, Lynn was none other than Managing Editor of Rock & Gem magazine, the official hobby magazine of AFMS. Lynn has been a VGMS member for only two years, but within that brief period she has put a definite stamp as Bulletin editor, upgrading an already award-winning bulletin with a refined graphic presentation. While stepping forward to take on a second year as Bulletin Editor for 2020, she also recently volunteered to help our annual show next March as Raffle Chair, which is a major money-maker for our society. In just two short years, Lynn has made herself indispensable and is always willing to help when something needs to be done. We proudly name her "VGMS Rockhound of the Year"! Submitted by: Nancy Brace-Thompson, President

Micheal Polasky is one of our newer members and has been involved with Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society for about 2 years. He came eager to dive into many unfinished projects and has helped us tremendously withfixing up our workshop, lapidary equipment and broken faceting machine. He has revived our library and we are grateful to be able to check out a book or DVD once again. Michael is talented at playing his Native American flute and charms us with melodies when tense moments bring us down. Congratulations for being our Rockhound of the Year, Michael Polasky Submitted:

By: Karin Alvarez, Treasurer

Eastern Federation

Anna Markevitch joined the Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club in 2018 and has become one of our hard-working club members. She exhibited her fossils at our local shows and helped with every job needing to be done. For the 2019 show, Anna spent many hours on Friday preparing cabochon blanks for people coming to the show. In her first use of dop wax she learned quickly and did at least 300. She presented fossil talks to several libraries, the Science Olympiad team, and brought her fossils to health care facilities for residents to enjoy, learn about and touch fossils. Anna was elected club secretary in a time where it is hard for clubs to attract and keep new members. We are very grateful to have Anna as a club member and wish to honor her with The Rockhound of the Award Year. Inga Wells, President

We would like to nominate Addie King as Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club’s Junior Rockhound for Junior Rockhound of the Year 2019. Addie has been a Junior Rockhound member for many years. She is 14 now and volunteered to take charge of the club’s mini-mine at this year’s show. She saw a post on Facebook that the club was in need of some youngsters or anyone to help at the mini-mine because most of the Junior Rockhounds were busy with a Science Olympiad event or at their school and Girl Scout cookie sales. She volunteered to work the whole weekend and even made her older brother run the ore cart up the tracks. The club’s mini-mine is a big attraction at our show. An ore cart comes up the tracks and dumps a load of un-popped popcorn, minerals, tumbled stones, fossils, shark’s teeth, plastic dinosaurs and other goodies into a screen, the popcorn is returned through the screen and the kids can pick up their treasures. When asked by a reporter why she volunteered to this all weekend, she replied, “I have been attending the show all of my life and have enjoyed it, especially the mini-mine. It makes kids and everyone happy. I love seeing all of the kids enjoy it as much as I did”.

Abby has volunteered at our previous shows. She has blossomed into a young lady that wants to take on more responsibilities, give back to the club and make sure kids will enjoy coming to our show. She gave up her week-end of going on a fun field trip to work at the show. That is why we nominate her as our Club Junior Rockhound of 2019 Inga Wells, President

The Delaware Mineralogical Society is honored to have Tom Pankratz as a member who constantly gives of his time and energy to making the DMS a huge success in the Diamond State. Tom is our VP of Field Trips and works with other area clubs in setting up great field trips. He is our “Go to” person. Tom processes donations, cleans specimens, fixes equipment, slabs rocks, gets minerals / fossils ready for sale at our show’s Junior Booth, conducts our online silent auction, sets up fluorescent exhibits for DMS, and always answers our junior member’s mineral questions. He is a joy to work with and always has a smile. Every organization needs a person like him and that is why, for the first time, DMS has ever nominated someone for this honor. Teddi Silver, President

The Morris Museum Mineralogical Society (MMMS) nominates James E. Rumrill for 2019 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Jim is a 29-year member who is a prolific writer, photographer, and contributor of articles (460 to date) to the Rockhound Register, the club’s newsletter. Jim reviews shows, speaker presentations, field trips he’s attended, and other earth science topics. Jim has served the MMMS as President for 8 years and VP for 7 years. He volunteers at the MM’s annual Rock and Mineral Weekend and contributes generously to the clubs annual Tricky Tray find raiser. Kathy Francis, President

The Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse is pleased to recognize Judy Cook as our 2019 Rockhound of the Year. Judy has been our dedicated Facebook editor for a number of years. She photographs and posts club events regularly. Concerned about our new show location, Judy posted new pictures and tidbits about the show every day for several months preceding the show. This played a big part in our having the largest show attendance in the history of our club. Facebook posting engagements were up 846% over the month of June. We have over 2,255 regular followers as of July. Thank you, Judy, for helping make our show a success, and for all you do behind the scenes throughout the year to make our organization all that it is! Cheryl Brown, President

Midwest Federation

The Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society is happy to announce our 2019 Rockhound of the Year Award recipient, Todd Hall. Todd Hall, our “Tucson Connection”, is a long-time member of the club who is also the owner of Earth’s Hidden Treasures. You may have met him at a rock show or two. He started in the field by being fascinated with the wonders of calcite. Always willing to answer our questions, we appreciate his generous sharing of his time and knowledge. Congratulations and thank you, Todd.

The Parma Lapidary Club has voted for Michele Stoffan as their Rockhound of the Year for 2019. Michele has served the Club in many capacities. As Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, she was instrumental in setting up the library and has served on the Membership Committee. Michele excels in her craft and shows others the basics of wire wrapping in order to be able to create beautiful pieces on their own. Michele is talented and knowledgeable in many areas. Giving freely of her time, Michele genuinely has the welfare and stability of the Club in mind at all times. Michele Stoffan is an asset to our organization and deserves this recognition.

Northwest Federation

Cassandra Lowell is Bozeman (MT) Gem and Mineral Club’s Rockhound of the Year for 2019. Cass joined in 2017 and immediately became a trusted and efficient volunteer, even as a brand-new adult member. Even with no prior experience and with a full-time job, she took over arranging land-owner permission for, organizing, and leading 10 field trips this past year. Cass has also eagerly supported the annual auction on set-up, silent auction during set-down, and clean up. Cass is happy to reach out to other area clubs in setting up trips. Cass does her work needed. While new adult members to the hobby usually shy from volunteering, Cass has already become a cherished Club asset for her continuing “can-do” volunteering attitude. Thank you!!!
Idaho Gem Club nominates Linda Barlow and Mike Dome as Rockhounds of the Year.

Linda has served as AFMS and NW Federation Director. She steers committees, and is a strong voice for lands and recreation access. Amid rockhounding trips in 2018 she produced award winning newsletters and served on the Banquet committee. Mike is always ready to help with functions, committees, and our annual gem show. This rockhounding super couple is always seeking adventure, and discovering new collection sites. Their enthusiasm is contagious!

We benefit from the education they provide as they travel. In 2019 the rockhounding motorhome cruised 10,000 miles through Idaho, Montana, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, Alaska, Washington, and collecting along Arctic Ocean, Bering Strait, Gulf of Alaska, and Pacific Ocean, sending photos and stories all the way!

The West Seattle Rock Club’s Executive Board has selected Ron Nims as its Rockhound of the Year. Besides, creating T-shirts for our members, Ron has supported our annual show by creating a “movie corner”. With a set-up beneath a canopy, chairs are provided for viewing geology related videos. Chairs are also welcomed by show guests looking for a place to rest their bodies after viewing display cases, demonstrators, dealers and the silent auction. A place to sit awhile, and a movie to watch, can be found at our show – THANKS to RON NIMS.

Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society names Mike Filarski as their AFMS Rockhound of the Year. Mike has served as our Vice President/Show Chairman for a number of years. He pleasantly accepts both jobs and creates a great venue every year for the show. He not only takes care of the dealers but also the advertising; creating ads, making flyers and placing signs. He is a hands on person when it comes to showtime. If it weren’t for Mike, we might not even have a show. Not only does he run the show, but so much more! Mike is one MVM (most valuable member). We honor and thank him for all his dedication.

Rocky Mountain

The Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club is proud to recognize Mel and Pam Burch as its 2019 Rockhounds of the Year. Mel and Pam have been GJGC members for over 30 years, achieving Lifetime Membership status. During their first date, Mel casually asked Pam if she would like to see his rock collection. No stranger to the rockhounding hobby (Pam’s grandfather was Club president in the 1940s-50s) Pam agreed and the rest is history. Mel and Pam represent the heart and soul of our Club. Their enthusiasm for the rockhounding hobby, leadership in our Club, care for our clubhouse, participation in our annual rock shows and service to our members helps make the GJGC a vibrant and very active organization. Both have served as Club officers (Mel-president, Pam-Secretary and Treasurer) and they assist the Junior Science Rock Club in the classroom and on field trips. Pam teaches classes (lapidary and filigree), Mel is an infinite resource on mineral identification, collecting sites and rock polishing, and both lead groups on field trips. They host a monthly Mineral Night at their home where members enjoy a potluck, viewing their vast private mineral collection, and detailed examination of mineral specimens. Their devotion of time, energy and expertise to the GJGC cannot be overstated and this recognition as Rockhounds of the Year is just one way we say “Thank You!”

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society would like to honor Scott Robb as our Club Rockhound of the Year. Scott serves as the Chairman of our Committee to update our club By-Laws. This was a major task and there continue to be occasional updates to be made. Scott has also served as our club Treasurer, as Co-Editor of our club Bulletin, and as a Director. He has provided materials and equipment for our Club items and ideas to our club’s Junior Rockhound group. Scott Robb is a hardworking, conscientious member who always has the best interest of our club and hobby at heart. He is very deserving of being our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Submitted by Richard Jaeger

TRMS Junior Rockhound of the Year What do an eighth grade student at All Saints Catholic School, a member of Boy Scouts of America for seven years, an active Pebble Pup of Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society for two years, an active field tripper, a Future Rockhound of America member with more than eight badges already to his name, a repeat display entrant in the Tulsa Rock and Mineral show and a competitive entrant with a trophy in the same show, and a willing volunteer and helper for the Tulsa Rock and Mineral show ALL have in common? They ALL pertain to 13-year old (14 in November) Adam Proctor, a quiet but productive young man who has participated in field trips both near and far, from Paris, Texas to Peru, Kansas, and from Ada, Oklahoma to Hot Springs, Arkansas, including some trips for the purpose of scouting a good rock hunt site. Besides entering a competitive display in the TRMS show, Adam was instrumental in set-up and tear-down operations, as well as giving his time and lending assistance to various exhibits and activities of the show. Adam was particularly drawn to fossils but then he discovered crystals, gems, and geodes! He prepared an impressive trophy-winning educational case for display and competition highlighting his finds from a club field trip. With all this said, it stands to reason we are proud to name this young and future rockhound TRMS Junior Rockhound of the Year for 2019.

South Central Federation Austin Gem and Mineral Society recognizes Barbara and Jack Liebman as 2019 Rockhounds of the Year for amazing contributions to the club in their first membership year. They came to Austin from Brooklyn by way of the Boston Mineral Club. Barb has Earth Sciences/Geology Education background and focuses her collection on tourmaline, beryls and quartz. Jack is an architectural engineer who has become fond of agates. They immediately volunteered in most events and activities including Gem Capers and Mineral special interest group. They represented the club at the International Agate Show. Barb is cataloging the club’s display minerals and has presented on minerals at a monthly meeting. They share constructive suggestions based on their Austin club experience. Submitted by Bob Atkinson

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 legislatures 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.
The next AFMS convention will be in October 2020. This gives us the luxury of holding off on the deadline for the AFMS Website Contest until mid-year. However, the ONLY WAY to get an entry to the AFMS Website Contest is to place first or second in your Regional Federation Contest. The 2020 Website Contest page has been updated and is now posted on the AFMS Website at http://www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm. On the updated page, you will find the Entry Form, Score Sheet, and Contest Guidelines. Note that all the Regional Federations use the same Entry Form, Score Sheet, and Contest Guidelines. More importantly, you will find the name and an email address for your Regional Federation Website Contest Coordinator. This is the person to contact regarding entry into the Regional Contest. Each Regional Federation has their own contest and establishes its own entry date — it may be significantly earlier than the mid-year date for the AFMS Contest. If you place first or second in your Regional Contest, the Website Contest Coordinator from your Region will enter your website into the AFMS Contest.

The AFMS and Regional Website Contests are more about improving your society/club website than about winning; however, recognition for your efforts in publishing a great website is a nice bonus. Your website is not the motivator, rather the recognition that the winner gets! The memory of the project still exists today with a memorial in the Regional Federation and AFMS 2020 Website Contest. The 2020 Website Contest page at http://www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm. On the updated page, you will find the Entry Form, Score Sheet, and Contest Guidelines. Note that all the Regional Federations use the same Entry Form, Score Sheet, and Contest Guidelines. More importantly, you will find the name and an email address for your Regional Federation Website Contest Coordinator. This is the person to contact regarding entry into the Regional Contest. Each Regional Federation has their own contest and establishes their own entry date — it may be significantly earlier than the mid-year date for the AFMS Contest. If you place first or second in your Regional Contest, the Website Contest Coordinator from your Region will enter your website into the AFMS Contest.

The agenda should allow a moment for the editor to read the question from the bulletin and to tell which member was the first to correctly answer it, and what the answer was! The prize can be a cabochon, book or other item. The cost of the prize is not the motivator, rather the recognition that the winner gets!

One way to raise your club’s bulletin awareness is through the use of the Editor’s Quiz. This process that I have used for years and it works like this:

- The editor puts an interesting article in the bulletin.
- Among the many facts and information included in the article is one which the editor selects as an incidental fact.
- Somewhere, on one of the “informational” pages of the bulletin, the editor creates a section called “Editor’s Quiz”. In that section, the editor poses a question that can only be answered by giving the incidental fact.
- The editor states that the first member to correctly answer the question will win a prize at the next meeting!
- The agenda should allow a moment for the editor to read the question from the bulletin and to tell which member was the first to correctly answer it, and what the answer was!

As an example, I recently ran an article about the Franciscan Complex, a geological formation prevalent in the area around San Francisco, California. In the article, it was explained that a gray sandstone (or greywacke, as the 1849er miners called it) is the most common rock of the Franciscan Complex. The Editor’s Quiz asked the question: “What did California gold miners call the gray sandstone material that they encountered?”? As the answer only appeared once in the article, the reader had to read every line to find the correct answer!

**Quartzsite, continued**

Quartzsite Pioneer Cemetery of a stone pyramid made of local rough rock and mortar with a standing camel on top and the nick name of one of the famous camel drivers who retired in town known as, Hi Jolly.

Prices have been really good at the shows. It’s a great place to buy rocks for your club shows and for junior activity programs, and you’ll always find something special to add to your collection or as a gift for someone else’s. If you are looking for something special for your RV, you’ll find it at the show. If you haven’t been to Quartzsite, I hope you get a chance to go and enjoy what has been over a century old Rockhound tradition.

**Multi–Federation Field Trip June 13-16, 2020 by Doug True, AFMS Inter–Regional Field Trip Chair**

Blue Forest for petrified wood, dig Fish Fossils(see) and we’re working on several other trips in the area, all in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Federation Show and convention being held in Big Piney, Wyoming June 19, 20, and 21. So make it a vacation and visit Wyoming. For information about this trip, contact Doug True. dtruefossils12 at yahoo.com. For show and other trip information contact Jim Gray. jimgray at wyoming.com. We are looking forward to this great show.

**Annual Rockhound Rendezvous—Quartzsite by Jennifer Haley**

Recreational Rockhounds have been setting their sights on traveling to Quartzsite, Arizona, each winter for over half a century to experience the annual festivities of the Quartzsite rock and gem, RV and sports shows. So, what has made this place so special for so many every year? I would have to say that Rockhounds and the small town’s character built upon the unique wild west historical background within the backdrop of the Sonoran Desert. Our own AFMS Past President 2018-2019 Doug True and his wife Jeanette have been overwintering in Quartzsite as vendors since 1997. The annual Pow Wow Rock, Gem & Mineral Show combined with field trips to collecting sites is what originally began the annual Rockhound migration to Quartzsite back in 1965. That first year it is recorded 16,000 people visited the event, and with the news of the show being a Rockhound’s dream destination, the annual road trip to Quartzsite became famous among rock and gem club members. Today, about one million visitors come to Quartzsite during show season. Some stay a few days, others stay for a few months.

If you plan to stay in Blythe, California, Quartzsite is only a twenty-five minute drive. In Quartzsite there are RV Trailer Parks with full hookups. Wherever you plan on staying, try to book early. If you are into dry camping Ask are thousands of RVing enthusiasts in Quartzsite, thousands of BLM acres can accommodate your RVing experience. There are gas stations and restaurants in Quartzsite, although if you plan on eating out for dinner it is advised to go prior to 4:00 p.m. before the crowds rush in after the daily shows close.

The American Lands Access Association (ALAA) has been organizing one of its two meetings there each year, along with a trash clean up in coordination with BLM on public land, annually in Quartzsite. Check the ALAA website for more details.

The wild west history of Quartzsite is unique. During the 1850’s a settler built a fort to protect his water from Native American attacks. For awhile the town was a stage coach stop. The army brought in seventy-seven camels from the middle east along with their camel drivers to help with building projects, especially the desert roads. Camels could carry two to three times the weight loads of the army’s mules and could survive on less water. Once the Civil War began, the army’s projects with the camels were dropped and the town became a ghost town.

The memory of the project still exists today with a memorial in the
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.

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Parliamentarian
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Sandy Fuller, Vice President
Margaret Kolacyk, Secretary
Barbara Ringhiser, Treasurer
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 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.

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 related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby 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, Federation Director and Editor.
Subscription Information, Distribution Questions and address changes should be sent to the AFMS Central Office. Subscriptions are $5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to “AFMS” and sent to Cheryl Neary AFMS Central Office 42 Jefferson Avenue Patchogue, NY 11772-1008 516-449-5341 <ciervo.neary at gmail.com>
Content – Letters, Editorial Comments – Submissions
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter, and questions should be sent to the Editor.
Suzanne Webb 9895 Kerrydale Ct. Reno, NV 89521-4401 775-624-8446 <AFMSeditor at gmail.com>
Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication
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Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions from Emerson Tucker

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