2020 Bulletin Contest Results by Mark Nelson, AFMS Bulletin

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Address Service Requested

Time Sensitive Material—please do not delay

Remember Information for the December issue must be to the editor by November 5. Thank you.
**Safety Matters: Sharing Safety**

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Just spoke with a physician who is head of a state's Center for Disease Control. One of the topics discussed was that masks matter when it comes to COVID-19 transmission—and so does other face protection. Some notes:

Keeping physically distant, as in over six feet, is good but sometimes that will not be sufficiently safe considering aerosols and air currents. Mask wearing is a highly recommended complement to distancing.

The longer the exposure time of people (even outdoor people) the greater the risk.

Masks need not be hospital/surgical grade or similar to N-95 standards (NIOSH) for brief passing contact. For contact times over 10 to 20 minutes, consider a higher grade mask than many of the ones offered for sale at most retail stores and catalogs, and many of the home made masks. Because there are no standards to which many of the current commercial offerings adhere, caution is warranted. Greater caution is advised for most home-made designs and fabrics.

Masks should fit well around chin, cheeks and especially nose contours. Better masks have bendable strips that allow the mask to be contoured around and snugly fit the nose area.

A tightly fitting mask does restrict and affect air flow and oxygen/CO2 levels so check with a professional for fit testing as well as suitability to address various health conditions that might be affected by mask wearing.

Masks are made with numerous fabrics. Some fabrics are better than others for COVID-19 protection. If there is any doubt as to when additional protection is needed consult with a professional or utilize a known surgical or N-95 mask.

Home-made masks convey some measure of protection but must be worn correctly to be most effective. Mask must fit well and be worn to cover the mouth and nose. A mask is not an ornament; it is a measure of commitment to safety. That said, many masks come printed with various imaginative designs. One can make a statement with mask wearing.

Another mask to consider is a face shield style head ware that extends from forehead to below the chin as well as extending from ear to ear. A face shield adds a modicum of additional protection against COVID-19 transmission. Mask first, face shield second. Goggles with side shields and eyeglasses also offer a modicum of additional protection. Combined with a mask, face and eye coverings aid in preventing COVID-19 transmission especially for those in prolonged contact with others. Remember, persons carrying transmissible COVID-19 can be asymptomatic.

If one has or feels any difficulty with breathing while wearing a mask have that difficulty checked by a professional. There may be an undiagnosed condition that needs to be addressed.

There needs to be a common-sense judgement of what situations and environments need additional protection and attention. There are no one-mask-fits-all scenarios.

Along with mask wearing, consider additional precautions of glove wearing, hand washing, and distancing while in contact with health-compromised individuals or while in situations where one cannot be safe just by physical distancing.

Sources of additional information include:

- WHO - World Health Organization
- CDC - Center for Disease Control
- NIH - National Institute of Health
- NIAD - National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases
- NIOSH - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

Checking with the above sources, as well as your own personal and trusted sources, plus your state and local sources, would be wise in order have the most current mask advice. Your safety matters. Please be extra cautious in this current COVID-19 virus day and age.

The disclaimer: understand that this article does not profess to offer medical advice but merely compiles data from several sources about masks and the COVID-19 virus. For current information please check with trusted sources.
ALAA - Who Are They and What Is Their Purpose?

By Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

The American Lands Access Association, Inc. represents the rockhounding interests of 325 gem & mineral clubs/societies in 47 States and the District of Columbia.

In 1991, the President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) appointed a select committee to recommend ways to make the 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. The 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 association is a 501 (c)(4) (non-profit) organization which means that all moneys raised by the association can go toward lobbying activity. Donations and memberships to ALAA are not tax-deductible.

The purpose of the association is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral 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. Their work began immediately! Within days of the July meeting, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) introduced the Vertebrate Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 1992 into the U.S. Senate. If enacted, the legislation would have ended amateur fossil collecting on all public lands managed by the Federal government except under supervision of certain degree paleontologists in "acceptable institutions."

ALAA has become an organization that is present wherever there are hobbyist and recreational users of our public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state and federal level. From defeating the Baucus Bill in 1992 to coordinating massive public protest to the proposed US Forest Service rules (withdrawn) and the Bureau of Land Management’s RS (Revised Statutes) 2477 Rights-of-Way (rewritten), the ALAA has earned the respect of public officials from Washington, DC to state capitals across the country as the voice of the amateur and recreational users of public lands. The association has also formed working relationships with many other organizations fighting for private property rights and multiple use of public lands including the Blue Ribbon Coalition as well as treasure hunters, metal detectorists, fishing and hunting enthusiasts, and mining and timber interests. With this network of contacts, the Association reaches into every State and into every Congressional District in the country on a national level. That network provides a swift and effective response to issues brought to our attention.

On another level, many officers, directors and members of the association have developed ongoing working relationships with local, state and federal officials and legislators. This other network provides us with immediate access to and an impact on many proposals for changing regulations, policy or legislation before they become set in the concrete of implementation.

ALAA is also there when there are confrontations in the field and when proposals are made for expanding federal ownership of land such as publicizing and fighting the Heritage Corridor Act, and other attempts to establish additional wilderness areas under federal control.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE TO PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PUBLIC TO WHOM THEY BELONG! ADD YOUR VOICE TO OURS! JOIN ALAA NOW!
The little boy in the accompanying photo is my Scottish grandson Lukáš enjoying a visit to the National Museum of Scotland with my Slovakian son-in-law Peter. What does this family portrait have to do with junior activities and the Federation? The young lady who took the photo is my daughter Hannah, a former Pebble Pup and CFMS award-winning junior exhibitor. Watch for her photo—and many, many others to appear soon in the Fifth Edition of my AFMS Future Rockhounders of America Badge Manual! I’ve been busy wrapping up the new edition, which I hope to send to AFMS webmaster Marty Hart for posting by the end of October. If all goes as planned, by the time you read this article, it should be posted and ready for use. Go to the following page on the AFMS website: www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm.

While I have not added new badges to this new edition, I have tweaked virtually every badge unit. Without getting into the weeds, here’s a snapshot of the big changes:

- I’ve added pagination and a new Table of Contents coordinated to that pagination. (As some will say: “Duh. It’s about time!”)
- I’ve added a very large number of photos to better illustrate activity instructions. Many came from my own photos assembled over the years; others were sent by Youth Leaders of local clubs.
- I’ve gone through to ensure all suggested websites are still functional, and I have replaced those that have gone by the wayside (a tediously frustrating endeavor).
- My original intent was to add still more multimedia, such as YouTube videos, but many of those seem to have short half-lives. Thus, rather than provide a link to specific YouTube videos, here and there I suggest where you can do a web search for such a YouTube link (for instance, for “recipes” on growing crystals, of which there are many).
- I’ve expanded our “Leadership Badge” into a badge entitled “Leadership & Citizenship.” We have awarded very few Leadership Badges, but I hope the expansion to include “Citizenship” will see us awarding many more of this particular badge. It is one that I, personally, consider especially important for us to work on with kids.
- I’ve added a new activity to each and every badge, namely, “WILD CARD: Do Your Own Thing.” This provides flexibility for clubs to add activities that match their kids and their local resources so as to allow for creativity and locally sourced ideas. A “WILD CARD” can be a whole-club activity or an activity chosen by each individual child.

I wrote and released the first edition of this manual in 2003/2004 and have continued to pursue this as an entirely free labor-of-love with new editions every four years. Again: entirely free. If your club is not utilizing this program, what’s holding you back? Here’s hoping you and your club’s kids find the Fifth Edition better, more visually inviting, easier to use, and more flexible than ever for learning—while having fun!
Northwest Federation

Dorothy Roden is the kind of gal who walks in the door with both hands raised to volunteer! This is but ONE of the reasons we, the Mt. Hood Rock Club, are pleased to honor her as our 2020 Rockhound of the Year! Since the day she joined, Dorothy has enthusiastically contributed to the growth and success of MHRC, using her endless supply of skills, concepts and energy. Right out of the gate she stepped up to organize “Rock Critters” for our yearly shows and the creative parties to build them! This led her to taking on the role of Kids Corner chairperson, where she has influenced many children and their parents to join local rock clubs and thrive in the world of rockhounding! Dorothy currently serves on the Mt. Hood board as Member at Large and at Portland Regional, as our Alternate Advisor. Until COVID mandated social distance and Zoom, she was the cheerful face that greeted our members to meetings and enrolled the new ones. As Membership Chairperson, she and our current president have implemented very clever ways to enroll new members, during these difficult times, including a ‘Drive-By Enrollment’ in the Roden Home driveway! In addition to being a world class bingo caller, she has helped with set up, orchestration and tear down at countless rock auctions, shows & club events. Her husband, Steve, was not so much a ‘go to meeting kind of guy’ but cheerfully came along & rolled up his sleeves to help with ‘heavy lifting’ & lend support to the good of the club and its events. Sadly, we lost Mr. Roden in early June of this year. He is greatly missed. While he was able, he was a cheerful volunteer and so gracious to support Dorothy in her dedication to moving MHRC forward. Most recently, as if her plate were not full enough, Dorothy added a large helping of Rice to our 2020 Rock Critters! She filled the vacancy of our Rice Museum Display Case Chair. This will involve coordinating display themes, collecting, displaying & returning loaner material from members, bi-annually. If we could clone this lady, we would be happy to share her with other clubs, but we are so thrilled that she found us and became such a wonderful addition to our MHRC Family! Congratulations Dorothy! Submitted by Barbara Brandt

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 governmental authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.

How to Make SEASONAL SNOW GLOBES

You will need:

- Plastic or ceramic figurines appropriate for the season such as flags, shamrocks, bunnies, or for Christmas season, synthetic evergreen tips
- Glass jar with lid
- Oil-based enamel paint (optional)
- Sandpaper
- Clear-drying epoxy
- Distilled water
- Glitter
- Glycerin

Sand the inside of the lid until the surface is rough. With clear-drying epoxy, adhere the figurine to the inside of the lid, and let the epoxy dry.

Fill the jar almost to the top with distilled water; add a pinch of glitter and a dash of glycerin (available at drugstores) to keep the glitter from falling too quickly. Don't add too much, or the glitter will stick to the bottom of the jar when it's flipped. Screw on the lid tightly, being careful not to dislodge the figurine. Turn the jar over and back again -- and let it glitter.

You can paint the jar lid with the enamel paint if you want to disguise its provenance.

Almost any jar works for this project, but one with a diameter at least half its height may work best: baby-food, pimiento, small pickle and olive jars are good choices. Look for plastic or ceramic figurines (metal ones are prone to rust) at flea markets and hobby or model-railroad shops. Synthetic evergreen tips are available at many floral-supply stores. Photos may be plasticized and inserted.

Although Snow Globes are usually associated with the Christmas season, they may be purposed for many other uses—Easter, St. Patrick’s Day, Valentine’s Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Photos, preserved (or plastic) flowers, and so on. Source unknown, contributed by John Martin.
Bulletin Contest Results, Continued

10th Award
  The Rockhound
  July
  Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches
  Laura Phillips

HM Award
  Ozark Earth Science News
  March
  Ozark Earth Science Club - Mountain Home, AR
  Madelyn Anderson

HM Award
  Grindings
  October
  Idaho Gem Club - Boise, ID
  Linda Barlow

HM Award
  The Conglomerate
  May
  Michigan Mineralogical Society - Redford, MI
  Dawn Niedermiller

HM Award
  Rocky Echoes
  July
  Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society - Florence, MS
  Rosina Echols

Award Adult Article Advanced—Title
  1st
  Pura Antiquior: A Nineteenth-Century Fore-runner of Paleoart
  January
  Steven W. Veatch
  Lake George Gem & Mineral Club - Lake George, CO
  Carl Carnein & Jer- rolynn Kawamoto
  RMFMS

  2nd
  Some of my favorite Turquoise - The Semi-precious December Birthstone
  December
  Dion Stewart
  Georgia Mineral Society - Norcross, GA
  Bob Jarrett
  SFMS

  3rd
  Collecting in the “Empire of Petosegay”
  June
  Jim Brace-Thompson
  Ventura Gem & Mineral Society - Ventura, CA
  Lynn Varon
  CFMS

  4th
  Types of Granite Pegmatite
  July
  Carl Carnein
  Lake George Gem & Mineral Club - Lake George, CO
  Carl Carnein & Jer- rolynn Kawamoto
  RMFMS

  5th
  Pouamau: New Zealand Jade
  July
  Vivian Gornitz
  New York Mineralogical Club - New York City, NY
  Mitchell Portnoy
  SFMS

  6th
  The Lure of Gold
  August
  Vivian Gornitz
  New York Mineralogical Club - New York City, NY
  Mitchell Portnoy
  (Deceased)
  SFMS

  7th
  Mineral of the Month: Goethite
  September
  Dr. Ray Grant & Chris Whitney-Smith
  Mineralogical Society of Arizona - Phoenix, AZ
  Chris Whitney-Smith
  RMFMS

  8th
  Amazing Agates (Part 2 of 3)
  February
  Wayne W. Mills
  Orcutt Mineral Society - Santa Maria, CA
  Elisabeth Nybo
  CFMS

  9th
  Amateur Microscopic Mineralogy - Part 1
  April
  Glenn Shipley
  Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society - Woodstock, IL
  Rachele Best
  MF

  10th
  Is It Whalebone or Whale Bone?
  February
  Lynn Varon
  Ventura Gem & Mineral Society - Ventura, CA
  Lynn Varon
  SFMS

HM Award
  Midlothian Field Trip: Great Day -- No Rain!
  August
  Michael Sommers
  Houston Gem & Mineral Society - Houston, TX
  Phyllis George
  SCFMS

HM Award
  Learning About Fluorescent Minerals
  Nov.
  Nancy Roberts
  North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society - Tupelo, MS
  Nancy Roberts
  SFMS

HM Award
  HGMS Africa Outreach
  April
  Neal Immega
  Houston Gem & Mineral Society - Houston, TX
  Phyllis George
  SCFMS

HM Award
  Inesite and Hubeite
  October
  Michael Pabst
  The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area
  Kathy Hrcekka
  SFMS

HM Award
  Part 2: Do Echinoderms Have a Point?
  May
  Jerry Lipsky
  Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society - Aiken, SC
  Shellee Newell
  SFMS

HM Award
  HGMS Paleo Section Supports National Mu-seum of Geology in Mozambique
  Aug.
  Al Robb
  Houston Gem & Mineral Society - Houston, TX
  Phyllis George
  SCFMS

Award Junior Articles, Under 12 - Title
  1st
  My Birthday Collection
  Sept.
  Lucia Hetrick
  Ventura Gem & Mineral Society - Ventura, CO
  Lynn Varon
  CFMS

  2nd
  Touring Fantastic Caverns
  Nov.
  Sydney Thornton
  North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society - Tupelo, MS
  Nancy Roberts
  SFMS

  3rd
  Visiting the Big Thunder Gold Mine
  Nov.
  Amelia Thornton
  North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society - Tupelo, MS
  Nancy Roberts
  SFMS

  4th
  My Future Rockhounding Dreams
  July
  Theo Gallegos
  Sacramento Mineral Society - Sacramento, CA
  Alyssa Meisszinger
  CFMS

  5th
  Texas Two Step Dino
  July
  Ziri Boren
  The Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society - Fort Wayne, IN
  Michele Yamanaka
  MWF

  6th
  My Trip to the Huntsville Show
  Nov.
  Sophie Gunther
  North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society - Tupelo, MS
  Nancy Roberts
  SFMS

  7th
  My Name is Wesley Holman
  March
  Wesley Holman
  Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society - Florence, MS
  Rosina Echols
  SFMS

  8th
  Triceratops
  October
  Nora Fey
  The Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society - Fort Wayne, IN
  Michele Yamanaka
  MWF

  9th
  Junior Gem Club Meeting and Demonstra-tion
  February
  Naomi Boat
  Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club - Albuquerque, NM
  Doug Johns
  RMFMS

  10th
  My Mini Museum
  April
  Matthew Laster
  East Texas Gem & Mineral Society - Tyler, TX
  Kinney Polve
  SCFMS

Award Junior Articles, 12-17 - Title
  Small Fry Prospect
  April
  Claire Ross
  Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club
  Doug Johns
  RMFMS

  Ohio's Isotelus Trilobite
  June
  Rayni Rister
  The Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society - Fort Wayne, IN
  Michele Yamanaka
  MWF

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<td>The Story of an Ugly Rock</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Tom Batcha</td>
<td>Georgia Mineral Society - Norcross, GA</td>
<td>Bob Jarrett</td>
<td>EFMLS</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>Margaret Ronan</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Kim Cochran</td>
<td>Georgia Mineral Society - Norcross, GA</td>
<td>Bob Jarrett</td>
<td>EFMLS</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>Make a Beading Tray</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Nikki Kenney</td>
<td>North Mississippi Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Tupelo, MS</td>
<td>Nancy Roberts</td>
<td>SFMS</td>
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<td>8th</td>
<td>Archaeology Section</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>Nancy Engelhardt-Moore</td>
<td>Houston Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Houston, TX</td>
<td>Phyllis George</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>Tyrannosaurs Rex Commemorative Forever Stamps First Day</td>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>Kathy Hrechka</td>
<td>The Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area</td>
<td>Kathy Hrechka</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>My New Mexico Road Trip</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Alan Hedrich</td>
<td>McPherson Gem &amp; Mineral Club - McPherson, KS</td>
<td>Sara Murphy</td>
<td>RMFMS</td>
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<td>HM</td>
<td>The MGMC Is About to Get a New Website</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>Bret Whitennack</td>
<td>McPherson Gem &amp; Mineral Club - McPherson, KS</td>
<td>Sara Murphy</td>
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<td>HM</td>
<td>Educational Resources at the 2019 Gem Show</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Debbie Crow</td>
<td>Mississippi Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Florence, MS</td>
<td>Rosina Echols</td>
<td>SFMS</td>
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<td>HM</td>
<td>My Flint Ridge Field Trip</td>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>Daniel Hogan</td>
<td>Three Rivers Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Fort Wayne, IN</td>
<td>Michele Yamanaka</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<td>HM</td>
<td>Sylvania Quarry at South Rockwood, MI - Report</td>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>Nancy Carper</td>
<td>Three Rivers Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Fort Wayne, IN</td>
<td>Michele Yamanaka</td>
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<td>HM</td>
<td>Shop Time</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>Terry Roberts</td>
<td>East Texas Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Tyler, TX</td>
<td>Kinney Polve</td>
<td>SCFMS</td>
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<td>Award</td>
<td>Drawn Feature—Title</td>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>Author</td>
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<td>Editor</td>
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<td>Brontosaurus</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Betsy Oberheim</td>
<td>Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club - Harrisburg, PA</td>
<td>Brittany Martin</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>Don't Take Me for Granite</td>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>Susan Burch</td>
<td>Houston Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Houston, TX</td>
<td>Phyllis George</td>
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<td>Name the Backbender's Mascot</td>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>Kim Fuselier</td>
<td>Houston Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Houston, TX</td>
<td>Phyllis George</td>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Water Everywhere</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Betsy Oberheim</td>
<td>Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club - Harrisburg, PA</td>
<td>Brittany Martin</td>
<td>EFMLS</td>
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<td>Ode to an Aggie Geologist</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>Charles Creekmur</td>
<td>East Texas Gem &amp; Mineral Society - Tyler, TX</td>
<td>Kinney Polve</td>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Mammoth Site</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Gavin Seltz</td>
<td>Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society - Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>Larry Jones</td>
<td>RMFMS</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>Daddy's Rocks</td>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Evie Harvin</td>
<td>Catawba Valley Gem &amp; Mineral Club - Hickory, NC</td>
<td>Slade Harvin</td>
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<td>Issue</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Fluorescent Minerals</td>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td>Dan Snow</td>
<td>Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City - Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>Valerie J. Meyers</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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Results for the Adult Original Article will appear in the December issue.
SLAB and TRIM SAWS

For a LUBRICANT in SLAB AND TRIM SAWS, radiator antifreeze can be used as a COOLING AGENT. It has no odor, and will not rust your saw or evaporate. In addition, it lubricates well and being very soluble in water, is easier to clean from the rocks and your hands...AFMS Newsletter

When CLEANING OIL FROM YOUR SLAB SAW, put a shopping bag inside another one and put them into a five gallon can. DRAIN THE OIL into the sacks. After a day or two, the oil will filter through the bags and will be clean and ready to re-use..... Chips and Facets

Add a couple of tablespoons of liquid detergent to your CUTTING OIL, — if your saw has a plastic lid, this will be the first time you have been able to sea through the top after cutting your slab........ The Tumble Rumble

After slabbing or trimming, all OIL should be removed from material by soaking in a strong solution of DISH-WASHING DETERGENT. Laundry detergents should never be used, since they all contain bleaches that will affect the color of many gemstones. Dishwashing detergents do NOT CONTAIN BLEACHES which can cause film and dullness, but rather they are made to break down oils, fats, and greases...... Strata Gems

When working with soft stones such as marble, onyx or Howlite, SOAK IT IN WATER a day or two before cutting it in oil. THE OIL WILL NOT SOAK IN and this will result in a much better finish when the polishing is done...... Breccia

CUTTING FOR "SHEEN" ON OBSIDIAN! Cut at an angle of about 50 degrees to degrees to the stripe of flow lines to insure a good sheen in the finished product.....Rockhound’s Rag

Because JADE does not have the abrasive quality of some material, it DOES NOT WEAR AWAY THE METAL BOND ON DIAMOND SAW BLADES. Consequently the BLADES GLAZE when you cut jade, and it becomes necessary to clean and dress the saw blade by cutting through a building brick or a piece of discarded 200 grit wheel.......... Chip 'N Tumble

There are three ways to CUT PALM ROOT and each one will give a different effect. All palm root seems to have a ring of agate around the eye and a colored center. First, you can cut it right down the center. This gives the palm root a wood-grain effect that is striking but it does not show the eye. Second, you can cut squarely across the grain and bring out the round eyes. Lastly, you can cut it diagonally and get an elliptical eye effect. All will give patterns that make showy cabs........ The Polished Slab

Save wear and tear on your expensive diamond TRIM SAW BLADE, and cut your agate or jasper slab with a glass cutter. Use one with a carbide wheel, not tungsten, and put a, good handle on it so you can bear down hard. Use pliers to break the slab along the scored lines..... The Agatizer

TRIM SAWING: Instead of pushing the slab into the blade and letting the oil spatter all over you — turn the whole unit around so that the saw blade rotates AWAY FROM YOU. Then stand to the back side of it and pull THE SLAB INTO THE BLADE. You can see what you are doing better and your goggles do not get all oil splattered..... The Agatizer

When your wheel has worn down quite a bit, INCREASE the R.P.M. of THE MACHINE. In doing this you will compensate for wheel wear, there by maintaining grinding efficiency..... The Tumble Rumble

One excellent method used to SHARPEN SAW BLADES is to mix cement and water. You can produce an excellent finish with dry croux cloth and about an hour of hard rubbing before polishing. ....Strata Gems

In SAWING GEODES or AGATE-FILLED NODULES, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in the upright position when the specimen was forming. Saw through this largest dome, and it is likely you will expose the best "picture" or surface. If the specimen is elongated or eggshaped, saw length wise in order to obtain the best exposure,..... Rocks and Gems

Keep your DIAMOND SAW BLADE ROTATING in the SAME DIRECTION and occasionally to SHARPEN it make a couple of cute through a piece of Obsidian.....AFMS Newsletter

TUMBLING TIPS

OPERATING A ROCK TUMBLER

Select rocks that will take a good polish. Use rocks nearly the same size and hardness. Use 1 cup (1/2 lb.) of the first run grit (80 or 220) to 2 pounds of rock. (Use 220 grit for beach rocks) Run until the corners of the rocks are smooth and all pits removed — from one to two weeks, depending on the condition of the rocks. Rocks broken up with a hammer will take longer to smooth up than water-worn pebbles. It is a good idea to use half the grit to start and add the other half later, after some of the mud has been poured off. Because the coarse grit will become broken down to a finer grind, this later addition seems to cut the rocks faster than using all the coarse grit at one time. First run grit can be as coarse as 60 grit. Wash rocks well and put 1/2 cup of second run grit. This can vary from 220 to 320, depending on how well the rocks are cleared up in the first run. Tumble for four or five days.

Wash rocks and the tumbler and put in cup of third run grit, 400 to 600 — along with a tablespoon of Tide and run for four days. Wash rocks and tumbler and put in 2 tablespoons of finely powdered pumice with a tablespoon of Tide and run for four days. Wash rocks and tumbler THOROUGHLY. Add 1/2 cup of tin oxide and a tablespoon of Tide. Run until a good polish is obtained. This usually takes about three days, but do not take them out too soon.......Spit and Polish

ALTERNATE METHOD FOR TUMBLING ROCKS — TWO STEPS ONLY

The barrel is filled properly, using 220 coarse grit and allowed to run steady for 3 weeks. The grit will break down to a finer grade. The rocks are washed very thoroughly to remove all grit, clean tumbler carefully. Use the same amount of Polishing Powder as was used for the coarse grit tumbling. Tin Oxide is the best. Let run for 3 weeks steady. Wash in hot soapy water, after cleaning in cold water.....Alaska Pebble Patterns

(Continued p. 9)
ANOTHER METHOD OF TUMBLE POLISHING called "NO WASH"

Start with #80 grit, tumble one week. Don't empty the tumbler, but add five teaspoons of new grit to the mixture --using a three pound tumbler. Tumble another week. Follow this same procedure through the other grits #190, #320 & #600.

Thoroughly wash the stones and the tumbler before putting in the pre-polish and final polishing powders.

For a glossy finish, after washing out polishing powders, add three tablespoons of sugar, one level tablespoon of "All" or "Cascade" or any non-sudsing detergent. About ten drops of muriatic acid can be added. Let the tumbler stand open for a minute, then close the barrel and tumble for a week....Strata Gems

It is possible to use SPARK PLUG GRITS for the FIRST CYCLE in your tumbler. They are efficient and cheap and does a very good job. They can be bought at any AUTO SUPPLY store.....The Agitazer

POLISHING SUNSTONES IN A TUMBLER

Start with #60 or #80 grit, 1 tablespoon per pound of stones. Tumble 3 days. Check for size and shape. If desired tumble for a few more days and check again. Wash and clean stones and the tumbler.

Put in the same amount of #220 grit and tumble 4 days. Be sure all edges are smooth. Wash and clean thoroughly.

Put in #600 grit, 2 tablespoons per pound. Tumble for 1 week. Wash and clean thoroughly.

Put in Tin Oxide, 4 tablespoons per pound. Tumble for 1 week and check for desired polish. If not satisfied run for another week. When desired polish is reached, wash and clean.

Put in thick, creamy solution of non-detergent soap and burnish for 1 week. Wash and clean.....Pasadena Lapidary Society

FURTHER TUMBLING NOTES

1. Always keep the tumbler nearly full even if you have to add extra material, such as plastic foam, rubber bands or plastic pellets.

2. Silicon carbide grit gets used up in a week. Add more if you feel the rocks need more grinding.

3. Rounded rocks, such as Beach Pebbles, should be started with #220 grit rather than #80. The rougher grit makes the rocks rougher than the surf left them.

4. Grind off sharp edges to bluntness before starting to tumble,

5. Getting rid of used grit and sludge is easier if you let it stand in a bucket until it settles and then pour off the water. This can be done several times until it becomes moist "garbage" to be collected with the rest of the garbage, wrapped in several thicknesses of newspaper.

6. The most satisfactory polishing medium is still Tin Oxide. It is worth the price.....The Tumbler

“POLISHING POINTERS”

SUGGESTED POLISH FOR VARIOUS STONES

CERIUM OXIDE on CANVAS for — Agate, Glass, Hematite, Howlite, Jasper, Opal, Rhylolite.


LINDE A on LEATHER for — Apatite, Chalcedony, Cinnabar, Garnet, Jade, Peridot, Rhodonite, Tourmaline, Serpentine.

LINDE A on CANVAS for — Bloodstone, Hickoryite, Jadeite.

DIAMOND on WOOD for — Ruby, Sapphire.

LINDE A on FELT for — Spinel

LINDE A on CORK for — Topaz

TIN OXIDE on CORK for — Travertine.—Spit and Polish

When you are POLISHING WOOD LIMBS, instead of using Tin Oxide, use Tripoli for a glass - like polish at a lesser cost.....The Polished Slab

POLISH HOWLITE on a felt wheel as leather will often stain Howlite....The Agitazer

DIGGERS Digest

SPIC AND SPAN has OXALIC ACID in it, and is especially good in polishing mixtures.... Strata Gems

Have you ever had trouble trying to figure out JUST WHERE you were SANDING or POLISHING on a cab or facet??? Try using a WATER-PROOF FELT PEN — coat the area — sand or polish a little and you'll know EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE!....Rockhound’s Rag

After POLISHING GEODES on your flat lap, etc., an easy way to remove the polish from those beautiful crystals — just use your DENTAL WATER PICK!!!....Rockhound’s Rag

Monument Makers use a weak solution of Oxalic Acid to acquire the GLASSY SHINE ON GRANITE. Dissolve a little oxalic acid in water and work into your felt buff, to add to your polishing paste. Try it on AGATES and other such stones.....The Polished Slab

After lapping flat stones, such as cut thunder-eggs, with 600 grit, wash them and leave them under a HEAT LAMP or 100 watt bulb for about five minutes. When the stones are warm, polish them on a felt wheel with tin oxide. BY PRE-HEATING, THE POLISHING IS ALMOST INSTANT. Otherwise the wheel has to HEAT THE STONE before the polishing action begins.....Breccia

Take the LINT from your CLOTHES DRIER lint catcher and ADD it to the POLISHING COMPOUND for tumbling. It speeds up the polish and prevents chipping.....The Agitazer

A few tablespoons of OXALIC ACID CRYSTALS in your FINAL TUMBLING POLISH - will give your stones an extra luster.....Breccia

When desiring a very HIGH POLISH on your tumbled stones, use a quarter pound chunk of soluble rouge, the kind used by silver smiths, which comes in half-pound bars. Cut the bar in half and put it into the tumbler with the usual amount of water and your choice of regular polishing compound. It will greatly improve the luster.....Rockhound’s Rag

NOTE: It is not wise to use Tin Oxide on Rhodonite? Bon Ami can be used as a mild abrasive for pre-polishing gemstones.....Boulder Buster Press

TUMBLING APACHE TEARS: Use several successive stages of fine grit grinding, then normal polishing technique. It is necessary to fine-grind at a SLOW SPEED, so as to grind smooth without creating more cracks by fast tumbling. A filler, such as cork granules or small leather chips may be added to carry the polish, but slow speed is vitally important.....Lapidary Journal

(Continued p. 10)
HOW TO POLISH MATERIAL WHICH WILL "UNDER-CUT"

Try the following procedure to get a better polish on materials that will generally "under-cut", such as sagenite, moss agate, plume, porous wood and wood with iron.

First, completely cover the slice with water in a flat pan with some detergent, and shake of Comet, elevating the slice in the water on a small object, such as a jar ring. Start the rocks in lake-warm water and gradually bring to a slow boil. Boil for 10 minutes keeping the slice well covered with water at all times. Remove from heat and leave in pan until the water reaches room temperature. Fast changes in temperature may fracture the slice. Shape stone and work through the fine sanding stage, clean well and spray with a coat or two of clear plastic. Let it dry, fine sand again lightly, then polish. The plastic fills in the porous spots, enabling the surface to take a polish. This thin coat over the iron content in picture wood almost eliminates the shiny iron streaks in the wood. The Agatizer

TO POLISH WONDERSTONE: In general, wonderstone should be worked in the same way as most stones that tend to under-cut. It is a rock and not a mineral. It is not always possible to get a high polish on all types of wonderstone. Sanding should be completed through the 600 grit paper. Polishing should be rapid to minimize under-cutting. Linde A is the best powder to use. Wonderstone is a very "loose term" and is used to describe a variety of rocks, including so-called "sand-stone" and types of rhyolite. Chips and Facets

When polishing SAGENITE AGATE, put the most effort working with the direction of the lines of the inclusion, instead of across them. Chips and Facets

To polish SOFT STONES that under-cut, mix a small amount of tin oxide and cerium oxide in the palm of your hand, rub briskly and gently. It takes longer, but it is worth it. Strata Gems

IDEAS REGARDING PROBLEM OF UNDERCUTTING

When polishing cabochons that UNDERCUT, finish by the usual methods. Upon completion, and after removing from the dop-stick, wash and scrub the stone with ammonia. Then apply clear fingernail polish to the entire surface of the stone, and allow to dry for twenty-four hours. Once the stone has dried, it can be sanded with 600 grit sanding paper that is well-worn, and polished by the usual method. The Polished Slab

TO GET A HIGH POLISH ON OPALS

Raul Hidalgo owns an opal mine in Mexico and has worked extensively with opal. Mr. Hidalgo emphasizes three very important things. Your first enemy is HEAT, and the second is NOT ENOUGH WATER. The third point, he says he can not stress enough, — the use of a 600 grit sanding belt that is completely WORN DOWN! A magnifying glass should be used frequently. Use CERIUM OXIDE and polish on a CANVAS WHEEL with a soft pad behind. The feature he uses which eliminates ANY POSSIBILITY OF OVER-HEATING is a "Paste Stick" which will bend if you are starting to heat the rock, as advance warning.

Use #100, #200, and #300 sandpaper, then go to #600, well worn-down so it won't scratch. Use rubber behind the sandpaper disc and keep water dripping on it always. Keep the opal moving on the wheel — NEVER HOLD IT IN ONE SPOT! Use the magnifying glass after each step to be sure all scratches are eliminated! Now 90% of the work is done. The last 10% is to finish with the polish, using a small disc. Bell Notes...via Rocks and Gems

ALABASTER can be polished with a rag buff, using tin oxide and a little oxalic acid. The oxalic acid forms a hard film on soft materials such as alabaster, marble and travertine. Arrowhead Chips

Treat onyx by dipping cab into mixture of 600 grit sandpaper, then go to #600, well worn-down so it won't scratch. Use rubber behind the sandpaper disc and keep water dripping on it always. Keep the opal moving on the wheel — NEVER HOLD IT IN ONE SPOT! Use the magnifying glass after each step to be sure all scratches are eliminated! Now 90% of the work is done. The last 10% is to finish with the polish, using a small disc. Bell Notes...via Rocks and Gems

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POLISHING JADE

1. When using chrome oxide for polishing jade, mix it with half water and half vinegar. Rockhound's Bag

2. A little graphite mixed with chrome oxide and applied to ordinary muslin buffs makes a wonderful jade polishing agent. It works, also on some hard-to-polish agate. The Agatizer

WORKING WITH SILVER & GOLD

1. An excellent cleaner for silver and gold findings is a can of 7-UP. Dip findings, rinse well, rub with a soft cloth. Use separate solutions for gold and for silver. The Polished Slab

2. To antique silver jewelry. Paint the places to be darkened with RAW EGG YOLK. Rinse off the egg and rub high-lights with Linde A. Del Air Bulletin

To rub smooth the high points of a gold or silver article, use sodium bicarbonate with a minimum of water. Del Air Bulletin

NOTE ON TURQUOISE: A touch of ammonia will brighten the polish on turquoise. Apply it, dry it and then buff the stone lightly. Gems

Banded agate images from creative commons
AFMS Committees: 2019 - 20

Here is the Committee Chairs list for 2019-20. You can contact these people if you need information, have questions or to share ideas with them. Please note that the @ sign in the email address has been replaced by the word “at” to fail bots that collect email addresses.

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AFMS Newsletter November 2020
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 property of any kind.
I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority.
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 exclude areas with private property and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.
I will participate in 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 education of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
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.

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Any questions or other communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Suzanne Webb, 9895 Kerdydale Ct., Reno, NV 89521-4401
775-624-8446 <AFMSeditor at gmail.com>
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Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions

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<th>Year</th>
<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
<th>South Central Federation</th>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>June Lodi, CA</td>
<td>July Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>Sept 10 - 12 Toledo, OH</td>
<td>AFMS April 21 - 25 So. Jordon, UT</td>
<td>Corrected Date</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>Date TBA Lancaster, CA</td>
<td>Sept. Harrisburg, PA</td>
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<td>AFMS January 29 - 30 Tyler, TX</td>
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<td>2023</td>
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