Greetings Fellow Rockhounds and a VERY Happy New Year! 2021, we’re going to turn this COVID thing around, right? I’m sure hoping so; I want to hit the road and get to meeting up with you! So let’s start this off with news about our convention. As many of you heard from the Central Office, the convention was cancelled in Sandy, Utah because their venue will not hold any activities until sometime later in the year. We’re so sad that we won’t be going out to Utah and hope to see Sandy on the convention radar in the next couple of years! Rocky Mountain stepped right up, though, and has set June 17-20 for the new dates in Big Piney, WY. This is the RMFMS’s second year there and everyone who went last year raved about what an awesome time they had! Thanks to Jim Gray and his crew for stepping up and volunteering to host us this year! We can’t wait to go West this summer!

So the first few months of my tenure as President are past, and honestly the job has been busier than I thought it would be. Things started out when I received a lovely card from Muriel Frink in Colorado; she remembered me from a convention we attended together in Roswell, NM in 2001! That is sooo awesome! I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting with committee chairs over the past few weeks. So thankful for the people that have answered the call to volunteer for a committee-Margaret Kolaczyk, Walt Beneze, Leslie Wayment—I’m so appreciative of you!! And I’m so thankful for the people I consider giants in this federation that serve and have served-Shirley Leeson, Emerson Tucker, Ellery Borow, and Marion Roberts! There are so many more people that I have been blessed to talk with and receive great advice from including our past presidents-Doug True, Sandy Fuller, Richard Jaeger, Dr. Bob Carlson, and Dave Wayment. It is so nice to know that you all are out there, and whenever I have a question, you will point me in the right direction! And I would be remiss if I didn’t give a BIG shoutout to Cheryl Neary in the Central Office and Sue Webb our awesome newsletter editor!! I couldn’t ask for a better right-hand woman than Cheryl to answer my questions and collect information that I’m needing! So many have contributed to the American Federation and hobby over the years, and I was really sad to hear of the passing of one of the giants, Dee Holland. Dee was always larger than life to me, and I always appreciated his knowledge and wisdom! We also lost a wonderful rockhound friend who served as the North Dakota State Director for many, many years, Russ Oliger. Russ didn’t know a stranger and enjoyed sharing the excitement of his hobby with everyone he met!

Looking to activities in the New Year—the special committees set up by our Past-President, Dave Wayment, are perking right along! We hope that your clubs were able to take the survey about the website that was sent out as we seek to better serve you! There are some great minds working on our website offerings and our junior programs.-Thanks for ALL that you are doing and your faithfulness in serving the American Federation!

Wishing you all a healthy 2021 and many great finds in the field! I’m honored to serve you!
The AFMS
Proudly Serving
Seven Regional
Federations

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Safety Matters: Safety in the New Year

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Some believe COVID-19 is hokum. Some believe it is quite genuine. That will not be discussed here… But
But what if… What if mask wearing, social distancing and observing safety guidelines saves a life. What if minding state guidelines protects a club. What if protocols for COVID-19 keep from bringing it home or from taking it out of your home if its already there. What if procedures for safety really do curb spread to ones family, friends, or community.

Does mask wearing violate rights? Does respectful distancing dishonor relationships? Does hand washing hurt the community? Only you can decide for yourself…. But it is not only just about yourself, it is for all those around you.

What if… What if a price for COVID-19 is too high? What is the price? There are many such questions. The job of safety is to be mindful of what ifs and prepare for them.

What else can a mask do? One can go a few days without shaving and no one in public will care. One could wear a mask that looks like a majestic orangutan's jaw and lips. One can wear a mask to make a statement of art - there are a great many artful mask designs out there. One can wear a mask to be brave in facing a pandemic and take charge of ones own care. One can wear a mask because the CDC, WHO, NIH, NIAD say it is a good idea… and they care about saving people. One might wear a mask because a friend got sick… or worse. One can wear a mask to keep the flu numbers down. One can show one's bravery by wearing a mask. Masks can do a great deal. How about making them work for you? How about making them work for those around you?

I'm not here to judge, but to simply help people stay safe. It seems the right thing to do.

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.

Obituary: Dee Holland
by Shirley Leeson, AFMS President 2008

Dee Holland passed away December 8, 2020. He was the last of a group of pioneers in the Northwest Federation. Dee, along with Ed Romack, John Spunaugle, Cliff Jackson, Dorothy & Glenn Lee and Richard Glissman all hung around together and created so many things we can all look back on with awe and reverence. The fellas were involved in faceting, they were all involved in competitive rules and exhibiting, they were all involved in the formation of ALAA, Ameri-can Lands Access Assn. Dee was NFMS president in 1987-88 and went on to be AFMS president, 1998, and finally in his later years, he was president of AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

His great love was judging competitive exhibits all over the regional federation shows, and worked hard to update the AFMS Rules. Along with Jay Bowman, they created the first program of bringing people from all the regional federations to Wildacres for a week-long seminar of teaching how to judge competitive exhibits. Both Dee and Jay always said, 'you are not a judge, YOU are a teacher.' Dee had been in bad health for many years, but he leaves a legacy we will not soon forget.

R.I.P.
Rockhound of the Year

Judi Allison, AFMS
RoY Chair

Midwest Federation

The 500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis would like to recognize Jan May as the 2020 Rockhound of the Year. Currently, Jan serves as Treasurer and Co-Chairperson of the Club sponsored Rock, Mineral and Fossil Show. His involvement and leadership in developing and improving the financial reporting and expense tracking of Club financial activities has been exceptional. He has also served as President. Jan has the ability to find the most interesting specimens during Club field trips. His interest in the Earth Sciences is a constant in his life as he relates stories during Club meetings of his geological and fossil finds while on trips that he takes.

“Outstanding” certainly describes Vern Recker, a longtime member of the Parma Lapidary Club. His commitment to the Club is unquestionable. Vern wears a lot of “hats” here at PLC. He is a Trustee, on the Club’s Speaker Bureau, field trip planner, faceting instructor and Black Bean Brownie baker. Vern has an extensive knowledge of the lapidary arts and shares it with all of us. Whenever help is needed, Vern is the first to volunteer. He steps up and does it. He was a constant helper when we were packing up to move. Now, at our new location, his experience and help with electrical work is invaluable. Vern has a generous heart and a kind soul. He is friendly to all and can’t be missed with his distinctive mustache. Parma Lapidary Club is honored to name Vern Recker as our Rock Hound of the Year.

West Central Illinois Rock and Mineral Club from Macomb, Illinois, would like to nominate Rob Heath as Club Rockhound of the Year. Rob has served as our President for many years. He also made arrangements for many of our field trips over the years. He and a former member even scouted out mines and places in South Dakota, then he led a trip there in 2004. Rob has done a wonderful job as a member and president. He is knowledgeable, as well as enthusiastic, about gem and mineral collecting and is always willing to share and help. He has a quiet sense of humor that always adds fun to the meetings. Under Rob’s leadership we updated our constitution and started a newsletter to the membership. We also started putting informational rock and mineral displays in the local public library to help publicize our show each year.

The Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society is proud to announce that it has chosen David Rice for the 2020 Rockhound of the Year Award. David has been an outstanding member of our club for many years. He often volunteers to help with identifications and giving programs such as “Agates” and “Real or Fake Specimens”. We have all enjoyed seeing the agate table and other items he has constructed. He has also served in a supervisory capacity. Congratulations to Dave Rice for receiving the ROY Award for his many contributions to our club.

Rocky Mountain

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society would like to honor Evelyn Canela, who is 12 years old, as our AFMS Junior Club Rockhound of the Year. She discovered the delights of rocks and minerals at an early age, visiting museums, mines, and rock shows with her parents. The fascination with rocks spread to fossils and then further to fluorocents. She is a member of Tulsa County 4-H and entered her collection in the State Fair, taking First Place. She is an active member of the “Pebble Pups” Junior Rockhound group in our club and takes an active role participating in their meetings. She has also taken an active role in Future Rockhounds of America. She has completed 14 of 20 badges in that program and is working on 5 more. She has also put her own display in the club case to share it with the whole club and members of the church where we hold our meetings. She hopes that we can have our club show this coming year so she can participate in that.

Growing Your Club

Dr. Ken Zahn, Past President of NFMS (2020) and of Bozeman, MT GMS

From the NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER VOL.56 NO.3 MARCH 2016

It was a pleasant surprise to get an invitation from Hidemi a few weeks ago to write about our Bozeman, Montana, Club’s growth since 2007. We’ve grown from 38 (2007) to 162 members (2015) – an increase of 326%, 2nd behind the Yakima WA club (+357%) in overall growth rate over the 8-year period among the Federation’s 82 clubs. Let’s set the stage a bit. We’re a small town (~37,000) with only ~55,000 people in a 50-mile radius – no match for the Boise ID, Provo/Spanish Fork/Orem/Salt Lake UT, or coastal Oregon and Washington club areas. Winners are snowy and dark, field collecting is usually limited to April – October, and we’re a long way from the many fine historical collecting areas in ID, UT, OR, and WA – though Montana has some too.

Our club has been active since 1939 – so we have a long history. My 1st year in the club was 2005. Membership was 38 in 2007, averaged 52 from 2007 to 2009, 99 from 2010 – 2013, 125 in 2014, and 162 in 2015. Moving around the U.S. in the last 43 of my “almost 80” years, I’ve seen A LOT as a member of 11 different clubs - but have been a club officer only the last 2 years. Trying to identify WHY the 8-year upward trend for the Bozeman club, and WHY the several plateaus before 2014, was instructive, but it’s still more subjective than hard science.

There are clearly many similar individual project and organizational elements in any club’s success over the long haul (I’ll speak to some of these in a moment), but there are also some more subtle and subjective elements (both positive and negative) that are probably even more important in attracting and keeping solid members (I’ll speak to those next month).

First, some typical common elements of successful clubs I’ve noticed over the years:

(1) An efficiently planned and organized annual show featuring 20 – 30 display cases of both nearby-area materials and world-wide specimens. It should also be a major profit center for the year, not a financial drain. Our Show Chairperson thinks way ahead about every detail (venue contract, security, support staff training/briefing and duty assignments, floor layout, equipment condition, insurance, audio system, etc.), plans activities for kids, lines up and communicates early with high-quality vendors, and maintains a short waiting list of locals in case of potential last-minute cancellations. Pretty standard! But at Bozeman’s shows, I’ve seen some interesting additional, more subtle “success elements” that the chairperson puts in place as well. We bought out a failing party-rental agency’s chairs and use them for the show, saving big bucks each year by not renting them from the venue (Fairgrounds). Running a food concession is a profit for the venue, health department hassle, etc. We provide a free, member-donated “pot luck” dinner for vendors and club volunteers on setup evening, and have free snacks and beverages during the show—simply asking for a small donation; we build good will and don’t lose money on it. In 2010, one member canvassed each entering attendee as to how they heard about the show; the analysis of the data sheet results drove a major shift in how we advertised from 2011 on and attendance has generally grown each year. Our “silent auction” is generally not “silent.” A pretty vocal “color” announcer talks up the pieces being offered, mentions vendors, and reminds folks of other show info such as raffles, food, activities for kids, and videos that may be running. Besides the usual donated-item raffles, we buy a very large, splashy (but inexpensive) display specimen at the Tucson show each year and sell only a limited number of $10 raffle tickets on the item at our show, bringing a 5-10-fold profit. Talking up possible membership to attendees is also VERY important. Use an enthusiastic, very friendly member for the task, and be sure to discuss it at entrance, during the show, and at the exit. Having club mining claims, activities for kids, and a good field trip schedule to mention/discuss helps people consider membership. Passivity here gets almost no new memberships.

(2) A well-planned and organized set of field trips scheduled for the collecting season. Assure there are designated leaders for planning, leading, and announcing each outing via meetings, email, and website/Facebook page, etc. We’ve done some “over-nights” to N. Idaho and Utah as well, and have sometimes subsidized the purchase cost.

Continued on p. 6
Having Fun: Junior Activities
2021 National Youth Poster Contest: “Rockin’ Around the USA”
by Jim Brace-Thomas, AFMS Juniors Program Chair & Michelle Cauley

Volunteering to Do a Program
Many of our junior members are not only active in the hobby, but are being creative during this uncertain time. Trent Meyers is one of those juniors.

Trent, a junior member of the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Gem Club, has received numerous awards for his writings from both the EFMLS and AFMS, and was featured in a recent Rock and Gem Magazine article. When Trent’s mother, Region 3 Vice President, first asked that we acknowledge Trent’s request to put his volunteered program in the newsletter, we knew this was a way to support our junior members. Since Trent is working through his club and not charging for the following, we decided we could include his request in the newsletter. It has been a policy of EFMLS News that commercial, for hire or other events should go there.

To showcase his creativity, Trent has been working with multiple rock and mineral clubs in the Central Pennsylvania area, including the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club where I recently gave a presentation on fluorescent minerals from the Ouachita Mountains. Of course, I can provide references but instead I’ve included a link to an article that was written about my fluorescent fascination in Rock & Gem Magazine. In this time of social distancing I think it is more important than ever to connect with fellow rockhounds and continue meetings.

Trent Meyers
Hi, my name is Trent Meyers and I’m an upcoming junior in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and yes, my mom is the Region 3 VP for the EFMLS. I am a member of multiple rock and mineral clubs in the surrounding area, including the Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club where I recently gave a presentation on fluorescent minerals over Zoom. I’m here to offer to present the same program to any of your members, free of charge. The presentation is on fluorescent minerals and is about 45 minutes long. You might think I’m too young but my mineralogical resume already includes several in person presentations and several zoom presentations on fluorescent minerals. Of course, I can provide references but instead I’ve included a link to an article that was written about my fluorescent fascination in Rock & Gem Magazine. In this time of social distancing I think it is more important than ever to connect with fellow rockhounds and continue meetings.

Intimidated by virtual meetings? Don’t be! I can walk you through the steps to set up a zoom meeting if needed. My calendar is filling fast so book your date now! Email me at tmeyers785@comcast.net or call 717-314-5375 with any questions, more information or to schedule a presentation.

Creating Bulletin Cover Backgrounds
Mark Nelson, AFMS BEAC

When you look at the cover of Rock & Gem Magazine, what is the first thing that comes into your mind? Very likely it is “WOW, what a nice specimen!” The next thought, if you are a bulletin editor, is “how do I do this for my club’s bulletin?” At a meeting of S.C.R.I.B.E., the association for rock and mineral bulletin editors, a poll was taken to determine the most popular format for creating lapidary club bulletins. Microsoft Publisher was the choice of most of those editors. So this explanation will be geared to editors creating in Publisher, and is applicable for either the back page (usually the mailing page) or the front page. I’ll use the back page for this example.

First, pick and slide your standard items off the page. This might include your return mailing address, club affiliations, mission statement, calendar and such. Now you have a blank page.

Let’s say your bulletin is for August and that you want to create a background that highlights your article on Peridot, the month’s birthstone. Use your search engine (in my case it is Google) to search for “peridot sand”. Switch the results to Images and scroll to one that you like - such as the image shown at http://geology.com/minerals/olivine.shtml. Right click on the image and select Save As, and save it into your file for the August bulletin—either as the default name of “olivine-sand.jpg” or whatever you choose.

Back to Publisher. On your blank page, create a text box and expand it to fill the entire page. Right click inside the box, select Format Text Box, and put a black border around it. Now, left click on the Fill tab on the toolbar and left click again on the Texture tab. Left click again on Other Texture and a screen will open to allow you to go to your August file and select the JPG called “Olivine Sand”. Now the background of your bulletin will be filled with striking green peridot gems!

Go back to the outside margins of your page and bring back those standard items for that back page. You can select your return address and do a cut-and-paste, or slide your item onto the new background and either click on the “Bring To Front” button on your toolbar or press Alt+F6 on your keyboard. Position the item where you want it and lay out your page as you like.

That’s all there is to it! Now you have a page of olive-green gemstones that say “WOW” to the reader. You can use the same background for the front cover, or use another background—your choice! This is particularly impressive when you either print the covers in color for your members or email your bulletin in PDF format. Give it a try!

Now that you have created an impressive front and back cover, how about entering your bulletin in the AFMS Bulletin Editor’s Contest? With the 2021 AFMS Show & Convention being held on June 17-20, 2021, there is plenty of time to enter your bulletin in your regional federation’s contest! I’m looking forward to seeing your entries win!

Commemorative Stamps
Ellery Borow,

Remember stamps? They are the miniature works of art glued to the upper right hand corner of the envelopes we send and receive through the United States Postal Service (USPS). Envelopes are those thin paper containers used to enclose the cards, bills, letters and various bits of correspondence we send and receive.

Stamps, those miniature works of art, are still an important piece of the process that keeps the mail flowing through the postal system. "Important" because try sending a birthday greeting card to a friend without a stamp on it. Without a stamp it just comes back and the process has to start over. Please don’t ask how I know this, but I do.

Stamps, postage stamps, have for a long time been an item of interest to philatelists--people who collect or study stamps. Every year the USPS commissions new designs for stamps which people may affix to the correspondence and communications they send through the postal service. The new designs are eagerly acquired by collectors, not necessarily to use as postage, but to add to their collections of stamps.

Among the stamps produced by the USPS, there is a class of stamps called commemoratives. Commemoratives are just that, the images depicted on the stamps commemorate a special event, activity, time, person, etc.. Commemorative stamps are particularly sought in the world of collectors and non-collectors alike because of their beautiful designs. There are collectors of holiday stamps, classic car stamps, flower stamps, scenic river stamps, super-hero stamps, and, well, just about any and every subject imaginable—even gem and mineral stamps.

The USPS has an office that solicits ideas and designs from people for new commemorative stamps. The office receives many thousands of design ideas every year. The submission process has numerous requirements, rules and regulations.

Over the next few months, a series of articles will explain the process of getting a design onto a new stamp issue, as well as describe the duties of the AFMS Commemorative Stamp Committee.

Happy (mineral, fossil, and gem stamp) collecting.

It is official
Cheryl Neary, Central Office

The 2021 show will be held in Big Piney, WY on June 17th - 20th.

Big Piney is the oldest settlement in Sublette County in Wyoming, founded in 1879 by ranchers from Nevada hoping to ship out a thousand head of cattle. However, the weather did not cooperate and instead spent the winter in the Green River Valley. A year later the family joined the ranchers and the town, which derived its name from the water that flowed through Big Piney Creek—named after the pine trees that lined the banks.

Cattle and oil have traditionally been the two primary industries for the area.

More information should be out in the next few weeks.

Discussion of field trips for Petrified Wood (Blue Forest), fish fossils, and they’re working on other trips (in case you cannot make the inter-regional field trip run by Doug True, Chair of the Inter-Regional Field Trip).

Interesting: the town is known as “the icebox of the Nation” with the motto “Best People on Earth!”—and you may be able to meet most of the 492 residents while at the convention!
Continued from p. 3

of sapphire gravel buckets for club members—a very successful way to get newcomers out on a field trip here in Montana.

3. Great topical guest speakers, educational program presentations, demonstrations, and occasional videos for monthly meetings. We have offered speakers from out-of-town a room at a member’s home for the night after the meeting so that there is no motel expense, and no need for them to drive home late at night. These speakers become like “family” to our club.

4. Smoothly-run, informative, and upbeat monthly meetings. Again—a pretty standard goal of any club. Our club meetings aren’t much different in format from most, but we’ve learned some lessons that have paid big dividends in the hardest part of growing membership—retaining new members after their first year. Think about it. Clubs usually meet only an average of 9–10 times a year in a formal evening business meeting format (usually there’s a Christmas party and a summer picnic meeting—with little business conducted). No new member attending their first several monthly meetings wants to hear bickering about payment of minor bills, long-winded diatribes about what we can’t do or shouldn’t do, or heated arguments about personal opinions on trivial issues. Even one such meeting is enough to turn off a newcomer, yet many “mature” clubs have these characteristics in spades. This is how clubs often shrink or die, or why members transfer elsewhere. Keep it light; keep it fun. During the early Spring of 2016, for example, a group within our club launched a tirade over certain club property immediately after our Vice President gavelled a meeting to order (the President was away).—Thirty minutes later the wide-eyed guest speaker gave his presentation. Meeting over, the stunned attendees left embarrassed and divided. Over the next 2 months, the club completely reorganized meeting procedures. New bylaws were written and passed, and a functioning Executive Board and essential Standing Committees were established. The meeting format was reorganized (program presentation; then refreshments, “show-and-tell,” and silent auction; followed by short business meeting). The dissenting group left the club over the bylaws changes, but membership almost doubled over the Summer and Fall—and remained stable through 2013. Since then, financial and operational matters and long-range plans have been fully discussed by the Executive Board first, and the business elements of general meetings are then more focused and efficiently conveyed. Members HAVE FUN at the meetings, enjoy the program presentations, make friends with other members, are happy with their auction winnings, and leave enthused with what they see can be collected on upcoming field trips.

Besides these common features of successful clubs that I’ve noticed over the years, there are also some more subtle leadership elements that are even more important to assuring a stable, productive club. A “Top Dozen” come to mind from observing the Bozeman Club and many others. Each, when done well, can spur new growth in a Gem and Mineral club.

1. Acknowledge and praise—OFTEN—the work efforts of members; try not to miss anyone who has contributed. This is often a core group of dedicated members plus new volunteers.

2. Nominate Executive Board members carefully, with a mix of very experienced and newer but willing members; try for built-in diversity of capabilities across the main functional areas of the club. A good Board will usually surface issues early and assure a forum for a good discussion of solutions and initiatives for improvement or expansion that can be thoughtfully researched and presented to the general membership. Within the club.

3. Aim for an Executive Board meeting between most regular monthly meetings as a way to bring up ideas and suggestions and to “check in” on the status of issues, projects, and general club “health.” Avoid long “communication dead spaces” between monthly meetings by sending both a newsletter and club wide email reminders of upcoming activities and field trips. Members are busy with normal life activities; reminders help them plan in advance for club functions.

4. Address issues head-on and quickly. Rumors, concerns, and misinformation usually travel fast and color perceptions before leadership even realizes what is happening. Base discussions on research and facts. To minimize apprehension, “report out” to the general membership promptly.

5. Delegate project leadership, but check in on progress. Offer to help find volunteers if asked. Then, praise and recognize the work done. It has always amazed me how often members volunteer to do or lead special projects. Often, others then also volunteer on upcoming projects—they doing paperwork or research or “pounding nails.”

6. If elected to an office, LEAD—AND DO THE JOB PROACTIVELY. Be dependable and reliable in task execution; then fully brief any incoming new officer on history, procedure, and recordkeeping to assure an efficient transition of the functions at the end of your term.

7. Keep up-to-date on the financial, legal, and paperwork elements: yearly tax and non-profit reports, liability insurance, Director & Officer insurance, fund-raising opportunities (donations of materials, live and silent auctions, raffles, annual show), club membership rosters, and meeting minutes. Attention to detail in these areas engenders a feeling of competency in the club’s leadership.

8. Be sure to place club brochures at any local “rock shop” or other venue that has “rocks for sale” (e.g., also often at antique stores or flea markets). Respond to requests from the public when called by a customer of those local shops. Our club picks up about 10 memberships a year through these areas engenders a feeling of competency in the club’s leadership.

9. Take some risks in proposing, discussing, and executing some new initiatives that gain visibility or good will for the club.

In 2012, for example, it was suggested that our club refurbish an unused, large (6’ x 6’ x 4’) and heavy glassed-in display case, fill it with good Montana specimens, and place it in the Airport’s public waiting area. We got some of the expected membership reactions: “too much work,” “who’s going to do it?,” “too much money for tempered replacement glass,” “no one wants to donate nice pieces,” “who will transport it up and down stairs?,” “what about security?,” etc., etc. Five members took it on, getting $1000 of donated glass from local firms, donated woodwork refinishing and transportation by one member (again over the usual concerns about the work required, cost, paperwork, liability risk, etc.) In 2015, we’ve also filed 2 mining claims for club-member use (again over the usual concerns about the work required, cost, paperwork, liability risk, etc.) In 2013, one member took on a project to replace a run-down ranch gate and build/install a footbridge over a ranch canal so that the club could continue to have permission to collect material on pri-vate ranchland. Great good will—and a feeling of accomplishment for the volunteers involved, all of whom are still members. By 2014, with a larger membership and years of careful fund raising, it was proposed that the club take the next step to grow in capability by renting a “clubhouse,” rebuild the many old donated saws, grinders, polishers, drills, and associated equipment; and start offering lapidary instruction. After the obvious concerns were discussed, the membership decided to take the plunge and try for success over a 2015–2016 trial period. Again, a core group of volunteers stepped up, and we’re now one successful year into our new level of capability and member engagement. As a final example, after addressing many security and liability concerns, the Bozeman club assembled 100 of its members’ best collected specimens (on loan) and displayed a large case at the 2015 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The club paid for insurance, but all other costs (paperwork, time, packing, transport, security, travel, lodging, etc.) were donated. Again, the resulting generation of club pride has been helpful in unifying the club.

10. Reach out to new members immediately. Make them feel welcome, understand their hopes and interests, and encourage early participation in field trips and activities. Our engaged members usually become long-term members. On “first field trips” by new members, assure that they have (or borrow) the right tools and have a mentor willing to help select a good spot to “dig.” Stay with them awhile as they learn what to watch for and how to identify local material.

11. Cultivate “helping relationships” within as wide a member base as possible—certainly within the core membership. Building personal friendships that are not only based on monthly meeting gatherings will greatly enrich everyone. If someone needs a new job, try to help suggest options. Someone “laid up”?—arrange for them to dig at a local club property. I have found that my rockhounding relationships are some of the strongest and most enduring I’ve had in my 80 years. I suspect that is true for many who, at some time, also started as “new growth” in a Gem and Mineral club.

12. Finally, make it ALL fun, interesting, and educational.
Errors and Omissions

Barbara Ringhisier has let us know that “One of the eastern federation scholarship winners was left out”— Alich Ehlers — and Jerrold Simpson noted “Regarding the article [meeting minutes] wherein I was quoted as indicating the SCFMS was not going to have a ZOOM meeting needs to be corrected. I did say the convention was canceled; however we did hold a ZOOM conference the weekend prior to the AFMS ZOOM meeting. The rest is correct.”

Shown here is a corrected list of the various honorees and the students and academic institutions where they are attending.

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<th>Student #2</th>
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<td>South Central</td>
<td>Dawn Bissell</td>
<td>Alicia Jimenez</td>
<td>Monica Estrada</td>
<td>Texas A &amp; M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFMS Not given this year</td>
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**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 all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

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**Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>
<th>Southeastern Federation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Sept 10 - 12</td>
<td>AFMS</td>
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<td>Lodi, CA</td>
<td>Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>Toledo, OH</td>
<td>June 17-20</td>
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<td>Big Piney WY</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>Date TBA</td>
<td>Sept.</td>
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<td>AFMS</td>
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<td>Lancaster, CA</td>
<td>Harrisburg, PA</td>
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<td>January 29 - 30</td>
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<td>Tyler, TX</td>
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From Walt Beneze

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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 <centraloffice.afms at gmail.com>

Content: Letters, Editorial Comments, Submissions

Any questions or other communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter 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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