Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

Well March is on its way, and by the time you are reading this, we’ll be starting to have some warm days that promise spring is on its way! By the end of the month, we’ll be able to get our camper out and enjoy some days out in nature. Even with COVID it is possible to do some “socially” distanced field trips and explore new areas. Our club, McPherson Gem & Mineral, has a newsletter, Facebook Group Page, and we have done a few “social” Zoom meetings to stay connected.

What has your club been doing to maintain that connection to its members? Shoot me an email, and I’ll share some of your ideas in my next newsletter article.

Plans are proceeding for the convention, June 17-20 at Big Piney, WY. I’ve been told that there will be field trips on the 15th & 16th and also on the 21st & 22nd. I can’t wait to see what treasures we can find on this trip! So, while the winter wind is blowing, I sit back and dream about Wyoming and petrified wood and fossil fish….well you get the picture! Immediately after the Big Piney Show we’re planning to head out to catch the California Federation Show the following weekend. It is fun to start thinking about some travel plans again!

We continue to have Zoom meetings with the groups that are looking at how we can increase the visibility and usability of our website platforms. Thanks to all that participated in the survey that was sent out;-the committee received some GREAT feedback! One of the nice things about our “virtual” meetings is that we are able to bring people together all across the United States to share ideas. I’m in awe of the wonderful volunteers and their expertise as we tackle these projects! We’ll look forward to bringing you all a progress report in June at Big Piney!

Have a wonderful spring and may all your finds be keepers!
Safety Matters: Safety in the New Year

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Dedicated readers of this column, it has been an honor to bring these messages of safety to you. Thank you for reproducing some of them in your own newsletters. It has been a pleasure presenting safety messages so we might help one another keep your club members safe. Thank you for sending your safety ideas to me these past few years - by doing so you too have had a hand in keeping others safe...what a team! -Thank you, kind readers, for your thoughtful words of encouragement. They have been appreciated. Please be safe. Your safety matters.

Safety guidelines, rules, parameters, restrictions, advisories and more—Oh My. What a lot of safety. What are all these safety documents? They are documents, the following of which are meant to keep people safe from harm. That is straightforward, but how, where, and when do rules apply and how does one make those judgements? In a word (or three) - practice, judgement, and understanding.

A medical kit is an extremely helpful thing to have in an emergency. But a better use of the kit will be made when the user is familiar with the contents, how to use the items, notes expiration dates before needing the supplies in the kit, and has it available when needed. There are rules and guidelines for almost everything; however, the wise use of those rules often makes the difference of being safe or having problems.

Here are a few ideas worth considering:

• Have multiple people read and understand the guidelines
• Know where the guidelines apply and where they might not.
• Safely practice the guidelines.
• Get help or research areas where rules are unclear.
• Become knowledgeable where judgements apply, know the risks, and err on the side of safety.
• Make sure everyone knows the rules applicable to the task.
• Common sense goes a long way in being safe.

Here are a few good starting places for safety guides:

• Medical emergency kit safety booklets
• Equipment guides
• Personal protective gear instructions
• Hand / power tool maintenance recommendations
• Meeting place / show facility rules
• Mine, quarry, pit procedures and restrictions

Your safety matters. That is not a judgement. It is a rule.

Rockhound of the Year

Judi Allison, AFMS RoY Chair

Eastern Federation

The Morris Museum Mineralogical Society (MMMS) nominates Mark Kucera for 2021 Club Rockhound of the Year (CROY). Mark serves as VP of the MMMS, never misses a meeting, always volunteers at club sponsored mineral shows, generously contributes to the club’s annual Tricky Tray fundraiser, and represents the MMMS at EFMLS meetings and shows. Most importantly, Mark has kept the MMMS active during difficult Covid-19 pandemic months by sharing his Zoom account and hosting MMMS virtual meetings/guest speaker programs.

Submitted by Kathy Francis, Director of Education, Morris Museum
“NEPA-For-Lovers” Program at June 17-20, 2021, AFMS/RMFMS Meeting in Big Piney/Marbleton, WY.

Dr. Ken Zahn

Well, it’s really a program on “NEPA For Lovers of continued access to Forest Service and BLM lands in which to collect.”

American Land Access Association (ALAA) is planning a program presentation at June’s AFMS/RMFMS meeting in Big Piney/Marbleton, Wyoming, on how to effectively engage the Forest Service and BLM when they conduct public meetings and seek comments on draft environmental documents that impact our access to collect on public lands.

It is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its new, revised, implementing regulations (Sept 24, 2020) that govern how those agencies must interact with the public when they propose major projects or wish to revise Forest Management Plans and associated Travel Management (access) Plans.

Dr. Ken Zahn, of the Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club in MT, will review what NEPA’s Regulations require of the Federal agencies and how best to provide powerful input to them when they seek public input or comments on their draft environmental impact and travel-access documents.

Ken has 25 years experience in applying the NEPA review process to Federal land projects and plans, and has both advocated for and defended – as well as litigated – Federal agencies over how they implement NEPA. He will discuss how the Forest Service/BLM typically conduct public meetings and NEPA reviews of draft documentation, how to provide key input during meetings at which access and recreation are discussed, and how to best give substantive comments to FS/BLM when draft project or planning documents are circulated for review.

Having a basic understanding of these processes will give you and your club members more confidence in making the voices of recreational rock hounds heard when those who seek to dominate the dialogue for a “lock-up” of access to the public lands and strongly advocate for only “quiet and no-surface-disturbance” recreation.

Watch the next AFMS, ALAA, and Regional Federations’ Newsletters for details on where/when the program will be presented at the combined June 2021 AFMS/RMFMS meeting in Wyoming (most probably Thursday evening or Friday morning, June 17th or 18th). ALAA hopes you will encourage interested club-level representatives from within each Federation to attend both this sure-to-be-fantastic-again Sublette County Rock Hounds Club show and this important and timely ALAA program.

Sad News

Emerson Tucker, AFMS President 2010

AFMS Newsletter and Central Office have been notified that Emerson Tucker, AFMS President in 2010, passed away February 5 in Lubbock, TX. No details have yet been forthcoming, but we will publish them when we have them.

Exhibitors/Competitors & Rules

Lee Whitebay, Chair, AFMS Uniform Rules

By now 2021 is well underway, and I hope this is the year we can safely gather at meetings and conventions sharing our hobby with old friends and new acquaintances. The strength of our Clubs and Societies comes from the steady inflow of new (and yes, younger) members. And, we attract these folk in large part by having quality exhibits at local shows, and regional conventions. Historically, we’ve called exhibitors, competitors. AFMS developed guidelines for those exhibiting and judging exhibits.

 Those guidelines grew, and grew, and grew, until today the Uniform Rules Handbook resembles the Manhattan phone directory. It’s an intimidating book, but like the phone directory one need only focus on a few pages to gather all the information needed. Maybe you noticed I use the term exhibitor rather than competitor. During the time I’ve been involved with Judging and the Uniform Rules, I’ve heard lots of stories of over-officious Judges and badly behaving Competitors; too many stories and for too long. Those conflicts have led directly to Judges, Exhibitors, and Volunteers leaving our organizations. These talented, knowledgeable and helpful people left because of unnecessary conflict.

I believe the most valuable role exhibits play is in attracting new members to our hobby. High quality exhibits grab one’s attention, inspire visitors, and challenge existing club members to explore all aspects of our hobby. The Uniform Rules, developed over decades, provide guidance on what is required to create high quality exhibits suitable for being judged for regional and national awards. Winning an award is recognition of an exhibitor’s effort, diligence and skill. Exhibitors and Judges I know are ready to share their knowledge at the drop of a hat, guiding and mentoring whenever asked.

Our meetings in Wyoming this June will be an opportunity to begin discussions on how to move from a culture of competition to one of exhibiting and sharing our hobby and skills. I’ll be there; if you cannot be, please feel free to contact me with your thoughts.

2021 Show and Convention, Big Piney Wy

Doug True, InterRegional Field Trip Chair

Now is a good time to start planning your vacation around this show, Show, vendors and fieldtrips and some of the most scenic country in the world. Yellowstone National Park 215 miles. Visit the Tetons and Jackson Hole 90 miles north of the show. Millions of acres open country..

We plan on having 4 Rock Roundups (field-trips) 15th and 16th, and after the show the 21st and 22nd 170 miles from Idaho Falls, Idaho north west of Big Piney.

(Continued, p. 4)
These times are no ordinary times. Near-and-dear, far-and-wide, we all have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, my own mother was laid low for some five weeks in COVID isolation wards after nearly dying, and we have since moved her from Nebraska to live with us in California, where we are all still adjusting to a whole new and unexpected life situation. Few clubs, including my own, are enjoying in-person meetings. What with vaccine roll-outs now in progress and “herd immunity” a true possibility before this year is out, may we all once again join together and have fun together.

Meanwhile, most of us are still forced to gather virtually online rather than in-person. One local juniors leader has come up with a terrific activity to keep kids engaged, even if at a distance. Dennis Gertenbach of the Flatirons Mineral Club in Colorado alerted me to his fun online activity with “Rocks & Mineral Jeopardy,” which he conducted via the free online service JeopardyLabs.com. As with the TV Jeopardy! show, this website enables you to set up jeopardy games, and you can devise and upload your own questions and answers directly related to our rockhounding hobby.

As an example, Dennis shared one that he put together for the kids in his club. Check it out at https://jeopardylabs.com/play/rock-and-mineral-jeopardy-7. Thank you, Dennis! This looks like one terrific way to keep kids connected while, as always, having fun!

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.
With all of the restrictions that health officials put on our club activities due to COVID19 our bulletin editors are more important than ever to the health of a club and membership retention.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when you go to lay out your bulletin:

1. Find a Main Article

   A. Identify a main article of interest to your members.
   B. Put a really nice photo of it on your cover, with a teaser to look on an inside page for the rest of the story.
   C. In the rest of the story, put some more good photos to help explain the article
   D. Keep the article conversational and avoid tech jargon. Don’t assume your members know what the complex scientific mineral formulas and abbreviations stand for. Keep your stories on an even keel, easily understood by your audience.
   E. Avoid putting reports on the cover, even from the president of the club.

2. The teaser relating to the cover photo should pack a punch and make the reader want to turn to that inside page. If you draw readers in, they’re more likely to flip through the entire issue.

3. Minimize Reports. Most club members will get lost with paragraphs and pages of reports on the board and general club meetings. For a board meeting report, only mention that you had a meeting, the date and what came out if it that would affect the members. The report of a general meeting can also be simple. Mention the nice presentation, drawings and refreshments. K.I.S.S. !

4. Identify the author and source of the material. In cases where you are reporting on an article presented on a web site, give the link to the web site.

5. Proofread, Proofread, Proofread. Your bulletin is a reflection of your club including its quality, service, and people. Have several people proofread each story if you can, so you can have several perspectives. Spell checking is not good enough. Yes, it can spot glaring errors, but if you meant to use “where” instead of “were,” it probably won’t catch it.

6. If you’re printing your bulletin, it doesn’t have to be in color. While most people prefer reading a full-color bulletin, they will still read one in black and white. If your bulletin is issued in a digital format - always go with color.

7. Encourage club members to participate by letting them write articles in their area of expertise. It gives your bulletin a bigger feel so that your readers don’t see articles written by the same people every month.

8. Study bulletins from other clubs to get ideas on what articles and formats you’d like to incorporate in your own bulletin.

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The cover story of the Mineral Notes & News, October 1949, led with the question, “Want a specimen of crystallized selenite, three times the size of the one pictured on the cover for your collection?” In the photo is Miss Jean Marie Pettit sitting on a half-ton piece of selenite while holding two smaller specimens in her hands.

The massive selenite specimen was the main exhibit at the Clark County Gem Collectors’ Mineral and Gem Show that following month. The show was held at the U.S. Naval Reserve Armor, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Selenite, with a Mohs’ scale hardness of 2, is named after the Greek goddess of the moon, Selene. Despite its softness, a selenite specimen as large as the one displayed at the show took some heavy lifting and careful coordination. We are told it took four men, and a balancing act involving a jeep, three half-ton trucks, chains, crowbars, wood saw and apparently a model, for the piece to be displayed.

Fifteen years later, the Cave of Crystals would be discovered in the Naica Mine in Chihuahua, Mexico, containing crystals of selenite close to 4 feet in diameter and 49+ feet in length.

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Next month we will have more information on shows, field trips, programs.

For more information—Jim Gray igray@wyoming.com
Field trips—Doug True diruefossils12@yahoo.com

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Call for Scholarship Information

Sandie Fender, Scholarship Foundation President

It is that time of the year again! I need to know each federation’s (except Southeast) honoree and students for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. I already have Midwest and California. I know this is an exceedingly difficult thing to do without the help of Federation meetings. In order to have this information for the AFMS meeting, I need this information now.
Why - Why -Wy-oming?

Why did the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies seek another club to host their 2021 Annual Convention, after the venue in Jordan, Utah would not be able to open for the April event due to COVID restrictions.

Why did the Sublette County Rock Hounds Club offer to host the RMFMS & 74th AFMS Annual Convention & Show this year? The show will be held in Big Piney, WY on June 17th - June 20th. The Convention meetings will start on June 16th. Field trips will begin on June 14th and 15th, and the last two trips will be held June 21st and 22nd.

Wy? Oming!

Yes, Wyoming - the site of the 2020 RMFMS Convention. Last year’s convention was a success! Everyone who had ventured to the convention, sang praises to the club - the venue- and the Town of Big Piney.

When the Sublette County Rock Hounds heard that the 2021 RMFMS venue would not be available in Utah due to COVID restrictions and the lack of vaccines distributed, the club stepped up to the plate and is offering a home run of activities for all participants.

If you live in Wyoming, you already know of the wonderful things the geologic terrane / terrain has to offer. If you live outside the state, I am sure that you heard of the many fine attributes and attractions.

But first - how do you get to Big Piney, WY.

If you are planning on flying, here is a list of the nearest airports. You will also need to rent a vehicle. If you plan on visiting some of the nearby sites, well this article is to help you decide what you might be interested in.

Also, remember Doug True, AFMS Past- President and Inter -Field Trip Chair will be leading a total of four (4) exciting field trips. Two days prior to the annual meeting and two days following the close of the show.

Airports with scheduled flights sorted by distance with estimated hours rounded to the nearest tenth and the direction airport is located from Big Piney:

- Jackson Hole Airport, Jackson, WY - 81 miles, 1.5 hours, Northwest
- Sweetwater County Airport, Rock Springs, WY - 85 miles, 1.5 hours, Southeast
- Idaho Falls Regional Airport, Idaho Falls, ID - 120 miles, 3.0 hours, Northwest
- Pocatello Regional Airport, Pocatello, ID - 139 miles, 3.5 hours, Northwest
- Ogden Hinckley Airport, Ogden, UT - 135 miles, 3.0 hours, Southwest
- Worland Municipal Airport, Worland, WY - 147 miles, 4.0 hours, Northeast

So, why did I decide to write this article?

First, I thought perhaps I would fly into Vegas to visit with a good friend, and then travel together to Big Piney. Then I thought - maybe it would be better to drive out there!

Why? It has been many moons since I drove cross country and that was the more southerly route. Preparing for this trip, I noted that Interstate 80 and 90 would be travelled from my home to Big Piney. This reminded me of a great book I read, which I highly recommend to anyone, especially if you are interested in geology and landscapes. The book is authored by John McPhee, “Annals of a Former World”. In a nutshell the book, which consists of a compilation of five books, the first four of which were previously published as Basin and Range (1981), In Suspect Terrain (1983), Rising from the Plains (1986), and Assembling California (1993), plus a final book, Crossing the Craton, brings you through the various terranes and terrains of the United States starting from the east and traveling west.

John McPhee won a Pulitzer Prize in 1998 for this book which took two decades to write. The author, an American writer – staff writer for the New Yorker, not a scientist, is considered one of the pioneers of creative nonfiction. He provides an opportunity for lay-folk to learn about geology of America and the world, as he follows a geologist across the country, starting in New York and traveling Interstate 80 to San Francisco.

As a side note, when I read the book Assembling California, one of the points he made was how much the wine of California reminded him of the wine in Greece – and why?

The reason he explained was that both places the rocks on the surface rose from the ocean floor to create continents. These rocks are known as ophiolites. As I read the passage in the book, I too sensed that I could taste the wine, the fruit of the earth! I believe for me this was the beginning of my thirst to learn more about wine terroir – and probably decided to quench that thirst with an actual glass of wine or two!

Note terr-oir, terr-ane and terr-ain all have the first four letters in common – the root word -from Latin word terra, which refers to the earth or ground. Other words that are derived from the root word terra are territory, terrace, Mediterranean and terrestrial, terrace, terrarium.

Continued next page
Then again, there are other words in the English language that would seem to be part of this scheme, but are not – such as terrible, terror, terrorism or deterrent.

Note, terrane vs. terrain.

To quote Quizlet: (https://quizlet.com/286533129/geology-chapter-14-flashcard)

"Terrane" describes a crustal fragment consisting of a distinct and recognizable series of rock formations that has been transported by plate tectonic processes, whereas "terrain" describes the shape of the surface topography.

Originally the word terrane described a crustal block bounded by faults, with a geologic history distinct from the juxtaposed blocks’ histories. With the acceptance of the plate tectonic theory, the definition was modified to tectonostratigraphic, accreted, exotic or suspect terranes. The crustal blocks originated somewhere else and traveled to the location through the process of plate tectonics, on the Earth’s lithosphere. Some terranes may be considered the building blocks for orogens. (The word "orogeny" comes from the Greek (oros for "mountain" plus genesis for "creation" or "origin" according to the Chambers 21st Century Dictionary)

Anyway, back to Why Wyoming!

If you decide to attend the convention, please decide to spend more time in the state of Wyoming other than the time at either the field trips or the show. Why? Spend time visiting the many natural wonders the state has to offer.

So, while researching what I will be doing while in Wyoming, I found listed on the following websites: https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/wyoming/7-natural-wonders-in-wy/ https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/wyoming/must-see-natural-wonders-in-wy/ the following suggestions. I want to experience them all!

- Devil’s Tower National Monument - First National Monument
- Hot Springs State Park, Thermopolis – World’s largest mineral hot spring and Wyoming’s first state park
- Yellowstone National Park - First National Park, established in 1872
- Grand Teton National Park - Established 1950
- Fossil Butte National Monument- Established in 1972 Assemblage of Eocene Epoch (56-34mya) animal and plant fossils associated with Fossil Lake
- Sinks Canyon State Park – Named for a unique geologic formation “The Sink” where the river vanishes underground near the mouth of the canyon
- South Pass City State Historic Site – Historic mining town which was on the Oregon Trail
- Red Desert - Killpecker Sand Dunes - Largest sand dune system in the US

Please note the following information was obtained from https://www.distance-cities.com/

All mileage reported is by car. If you check the maps, you will see that the distance to many of the sites are seemingly closer as the crow flies but add a few hours for driving!

Yellowstone National Park 172 miles North of Big Piney Est. time: 3.5 hours

Periodic Spring Trails

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermittent Springs, Afton</td>
<td>135 miles</td>
<td>Northwest of Big Piney</td>
<td>Est. time 2.5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sinks Canyon, Lander</td>
<td>139 miles</td>
<td>Northeast of Big Piney</td>
<td>Est. time 3.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermopolis Hot Springs 217 miles</td>
<td>Northeast of Big Piney</td>
<td>Est. time 5.0 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devils Tower</td>
<td>517 miles</td>
<td>Northeast of Big Piney</td>
<td>Est time 9.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Desert</td>
<td>165 miles</td>
<td>Southeast of Big Piney</td>
<td>Est time 2.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Pass City</td>
<td>110 miles</td>
<td>East of Big Piney</td>
<td>Est time 2.5 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following information is from https://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm

Since I feel that I need to spend more time in Yellowstone to be able to appreciate the park, I will start with the first national park. They say you need multiple days to be able to see or hear all the park!

Did you realize the park sits on top of an active volcano? This would explain the over 10,000 hydrothermal features or the 1,000 - 3,000 annual earthquakes. The park is also home to one the world’s largest caldera and home to a total of three calderas which formed under dramatic eruptions. According to National Geographic Society (NGS) https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/calderas/:
A caldera is a large depression formed when a volcano erupts and collapses. During a volcanic eruption, magma present in the magma chamber underneath the volcano is expelled, often forcefully. When the magma chamber empties, the support that the magma had provided inside the chamber disappears. As a result, the sides and top of the volcano collapse inward. Calderas vary in size from 0.62 to 62 miles in diameter.

Luckily, the supervolcano and earthquakes are monitored around the clock by the staff of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory and University of Utah. More than half of the world’s geysers are also found in Yellowstone, Old Faithful the most famous. Almost 300 waterfalls are also found in the park.

North America’s highest elevation lake—Yellowstone Lake at an elevation of approximately 7,800 feet above sea level is 20 miles long and 14 miles wide. It drains to the north at Yellowstone River, but at one time it is believed to have drained to the Pacific Ocean. Why? Today it has the largest population of wild cutthroat trout, assumed to have swam from the Pacific Ocean via the Snake River in Outlet Canyon over the Continental Divide at Two Ocean Pass. The headwaters for the Snake River have been debated for years and today it is listed as Two Ocean Plateau in Yellowstone Park. The Snake River is the fourth largest river in the US with 42 miles in Wyoming.

Please note that Lake trout have been introduced to the Yellowstone Lake illegally and is now threatening the existence of the cutthroat trout. According to the National Ocean Service (https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/invasive.html):

Invasive species can harm both the natural resources in an ecosystem as well as threaten human use of these resources. An invasive species can be introduced to a new area via the ballast water of oceangoing ships, intentional and accidental releases of aquaculture species, aquarium specimens or bait, and other means.

Invasive species are capable of causing extinctions of native plants and animals, reducing biodiversity, competing with native organisms for limited resources, and altering habitats.

This has happened in so many parts of the US. Many entire ecosystems have been destroyed. I have seen this in the Finger Lakes of NYS and most problematic today in the Everglades, with the introduction of the Burmese pythons. That is a story by itself!

Located about 10 miles from Yellowstone National Park is Grand Teton National Park. The John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway connects West Thumb in Yellowstone to the southern boundary of Grand Teton National Park.

And this is where we end this month’s article – which will continue the following month!

“Which natural wonder will be your favorite?” “Why?”

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**Update for the 2021 AACA Contest**

*Mary Boesdorfer, AACA Chair*

Hello everyone! I wanted to give an update on the 2021 All-American Club Awards. I know 2020 was quite different for everyone, and you might be thinking there’s no reason to put together a club yearbook. I’d like to disagree. I think this would be a great time to put together a record of the strange year we all went through. It will most certainly be interesting to look back on and to have that record for your club history.

And if you’re worried about scoring, we’ve tried to make that easier for you as well. There are new judging sections that we’ve added to the criteria to account for the pandemic. You can score under both in-person and virtual activities. It will be neat to see some of the creative ways that your club stayed active last year.

I know the original deadline was listed as Feb 15th but, as the AFMS convention has been pushed to a later date, I’m happy to take submissions through March 31st.

If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at writteninwood@gmail.com
With all of us having cameras and cell phones that can make movies, I think that we should start filming field trips, shop techniques, and other items of interest concerning our hobby to share with our membership. The AFMS has a Program competition every year that anyone can enter.

Here is what the competition is about:

The purpose of this competition is to recognize and reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country.

AWARDS

A $200 cash prize for the highest program scoring 95 and above, and a $100 prize for a score of 94-90 points in Classes 1-4. In addition, winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each AFMS Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to clubs across the country. Each program is judged on its own merits. Entrants will receive a composite score sheet with comments/score. (Winners may be asked to make some changes based on judges’ comments before the final version is ready for duplication.)

Here is what you need to know to enter:

All digital presentations or videos relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes (See below).

WHO MAY ENTER: Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2020 dues paid to the NFMS may enter. Judging Form and "Tips for Good Programs" are available on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org), or from me.

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES:

Class I Educational—About geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.

Class II Field Collecting—Showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.

Class III "How To Do It"—Techniques/equipment for fossil preparation, jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.

Class IV Just for Juniors—Any of the above for/by youngsters.

"Excellence in Education"—Class is for "commercial" presentations (entries are judged separately).

JUDGING:

Judges look for:

• accuracy of information / educational value

• quality of photographs/visuals, completeness of story, but not “too much” information

• narration that moves well from one image to the next

• presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try.

• title, credits and “The End” “slides” For CD, DVD or VIDEO entries

For CD, DVD or VIDEO amateur entries—do not send in a DVD format for judging. Submit a copy preferably in PowerPoint or similar format on a flash drive instead of CD without author’s credits for anonymity. Entries may be ‘live action’ or static “slides”. Integrated audio is preferred but not required for judging (audio will be added for final version). Please include a typed script if there is no audio.

35mm SLIDE PRESENTATIONS can be considered. Please contact me before submission.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2021

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:

AFMS Program Competition Coordinator, Darrell Watkins 509-673-0085, PO Box 635, Tieton WA 98947  email: AFMSprograms@gmail.com

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2021AFMS /Slide PROGRAM ENTRY FORM

I / we submit__________________________________________________________ (Presentation title)

In [circle one]

Class 1

Class 2

Class 3

Class 4

*EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION* (for programs produced for sale)

Producer(s) ____________________________________________________________

(your name(s) (include your Office if Club entry)

Parents (if junior entrant),________________________________________________

Member of ____________________________________ (Club name)

Address: ____________________________________________________________

______________________________________________ [city] [state] [zip]

Preferred contact(s)

phone ______________________________ Best time to call: daytime / evening

e-mail ______________________________

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR SALE? No _____ Yes _____ Cost: $ __________
AFMS Committees: 2021

Here is the Committee Chairs list for 2021. 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 foil bots that collect email addresses.

All American Club
Mary Boesdorfer
<writteninwood at gmail.com>

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

Boundaries
Bob Carlson
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<shirleyleeson at gmail.com>

Bulletin Editors Advisory
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Bylaws Revisory
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516-449-5341 <centraloffice.afms at gmail.com>

Commemorative Stamps
Ellery Borow (See Safety)

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
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Convention Advisory
Emerson Tucker
<emertuck at gmail.com>

Endowment Fund
Cheryl Neary
See Central Office

Financial Investment
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Historian
Jennifer Haley
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Inter-Regional Field Trip
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Judges Training Seminar
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Junior Programs
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<jbraceth at roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
David Wayment
<aastainedglass at bellsouth.net>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv at aol.com>

Nominating
David Wayment (see Long Range Planning)

Parliamentarian
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Past President’s Advisory
David Wayment (see Long Range Planning)

Photography
John Martin (see Conservation)

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<webmaster at amfed.org>

Web Site Contest
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<don.shurtz at gmail.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Sandie Fender, President
<sandie.fender at gmail.com>

Judy Beck, Vice President
Margaret Kolaczyk. Secretary
Barbara Ringhiser, Treasurer
Sublette County Rock Hounds’

Gem & Mineral Show 2021

Hosting the annual CONVENTIONS of the
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies

June 18th, 19th, & 20th
at the Sublette County Fairgrounds
10937 Hwy 189,
Big Piney, Wyoming

Friday & Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-4
 DEALERS, demonstrators, exhibits, field trips, fluorescent mineral display, kids’ activities, food concession & more!
Admission: $2.00 adults, kids free

Contact: jimgray@wyoiming.com or schafma1@hotmail.com
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.

Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions

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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, 516-605-3451 <centraloffice.afms @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 @gmail.com>.

Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication.

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