Greetings Friends!

Spring has officially sprung here in Kansas, and we are enjoying trees blooming, some sun, and our usual Kansas winds! Got our camper out for the first time this year, and we enjoyed a quick trip to Kearney, Nebraska to see the Sandhill Cranes. That is a spectacular sight; if you ever get the opportunity go see them!

This month I want to touch a little on communication. It is the primary focus of our ad hoc committees for the Long-Range planning committee. Our website is being designed to be extremely user friendly for not only our clubs and federations but for people seeking information on how to connect with a show or a club. We are really excited to show you the hard work from this group. At the show in Big Piney, the Junior’s committee is going to be presenting information not only on the website side of things, but some practical tips for starting a Junior’s program in your club. I can’t begin to express how thankful I am for this group of people that have stepped up to make a difference in the American Federation!

So, what can you do to help with the communication lines? There are several things that you can do. When you have a change in personnel or any other contact information, please let Cheryl Neary know in the Central Office. She LOVES to hear from you! A BIG thanks to the Midwest and Rocky Mountain for the directories that I received this past month! That is a great way for us to keep in touch! Our newsletter editor Sue Webb would love to have your articles about newsworthy items that would be of interest to our readers.

I’m appreciative of the communication I have received from those who reach out to me to share their thoughts and ideas. I read the newsletters that I receive and enjoy them a lot!

Going back to our new website, Lori Carter who has worked tirelessly on building this new site is looking for photographs that we can place on the website. She is looking for pictures that demonstrate educational activities, field trips, shows, and specimens. If you have a great snapshot, send it to Lori at Webmaster2@amfed.org. Be sure and put where the picture was taken, what it is a picture of, and who should receive credit for the image.

I’m heading to my first rock show in over a year this weekend! We’re looking forward to the show in Abilene, TX with the Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society. Big Piney continues in their planning process and I sure hope that you all can make it out for our annual convention June 17-20th! I think that Wyoming needs to make Cheryl Neary an ambassador for the state after the wonderful Why-Why-Wy-oming? articles that she has written. She has definitely generated excitement for our show!

Wishing you all a wonderful springtime and many wonderful field trip finds!
Multi Federation Field trip  
Blue Forest petrified wood dig site and Fossil Fish Quarry—May 19-23

Join us at the blue forest dig area for a week of fun: dig for petrified wood, camp on site, and dig for 40myo wood. Join us on May 22. We will go to a fish quarry (fee around $50 per day) lots of fun and great fish. The area at 7000 ft elevation is high desert, sage brush and sand. Petrified wood here is buried in sand. We will camp on site, have camp fires, and lots of fun. Bring your shovel, pick and rock pick, steel rod probe if you have one, lots of water and food.

We will send a map of the area next month. Note: no snakes in the area, a few small cacti,

For more information contact Doug True  
dtruefosils12@yahoo.com 406-670-0506

AFMS Field trips, June 16, 21st and 22nd

The local club will have a petrified wood collecting trip on the 16th to an area north of Farson, Wyoming. The 21st there will be a trip to the blue forest. We will travel south about 5 miles to the dig site: Easy access. high desert about 7000 ft elevation, no snakes, some cacti, sagebrush and sand. Bring a shovel, rock pick and a steel rod probe if you have one; several of us will have one, Bring water and lunch and then the fun begins.

On June 22 there will be a trip to a fossil fish quarry to collect 35-million-year-old Fossil Fish. This is a fee dig—a whole day for $50. You will find lots of fish. They will furnish tools for splitting the rock. Bring Newspaper to wrap your catch. Bring lunch and water. This trip is approx. 70 miles south and then about 15 miles west. We will leave from the parking lot in front of show entrance at 8 am for all trips

Doug True dtruefosils12@yahoo.com 406-670-0506

Welcome to a Year from ALAA

We are going to attempt a new direction this year. Lets work together. Why not have all clubs reach out and offer to assist the BLM, U S Forest service, your state Parks, ALAA—members or not—let’s start working with all agencies to help manage , cleanup, trail work, camp host, anywhere we can help, lets see what kind of a difference we can make.

Many of the closures are done to lack of manpower, and/or resources and these agencies might be open to us helping.

Lets cut the rhetoric on the closing of collecting areas, Wilderness is wilderness, we need to accept that and lets put our effort into areas where we can make a difference.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the AFMS? In Big Piney June 17-20. Bring a rock for the live auction , 3 field trips, Jr programs , Just lots of fun, great information.

In Memoriam, Marve Starbuck

Marve Starbuck (Vicksburg, Michigan) passed away March 1, 2021 at the age of 94. He and his wife Kitty were active in the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineralogical Society, serving as officers and Chair of various activities over 30+ years. Marve was president of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies in 1993-94, President of AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) in 2003-04 and he also served a term as President of ALAA (American Lands Access Association – formed by AFMS to lobby for the ‘rockhound hobby’).

When their children were youngsters, they started spending family vacations in mines, quarries and rock piles all over the U.S. Over the years they collected a wide variety of minerals and lapidary materials. Marve shared his lapidary and silversmithing skills, and, with other KGMS members, set up a complete workshop for club use in a repurposed travel trailer. (No surprise, it was stored in the Starbuck’s yard.)

Over the years, Marve and Kitty developed a number of excellent displays with other KGMS members, set up a complete workshop for club use in a repurposed travel trailer. (No surprise, it was stored in the Starbuck’s yard.)

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the AFMS? In Big Piney June 17-20. Bring a rock for the live auction , 3 field trips, Jr programs , Just lots of fun, great information.

In Memoriam, Marve Starbuck

by Marge Collins and Donna Moore, Secretary

Welcome to a Year from ALAA

Doug True, Assistant President

Doug True, Past President

Doug True, Past President

Doug True, Past President
PEBBLE PUPS, Stars of the FUTURE

Julia Allende, TRMS Juniors Chair

In 2016 I wrote about a certain Tulsa Rock and Mineral Pebble Pup who I felt was exemplary in the field of Junior Rockhounding, and TRMS subsequently named him Junior Rockhound of the Year for 2016. At that time I mentioned that Ian Kirk had already completed 5 of the 20 badges obtainable in the Future Rockhounds of America program, and he seldom missed a meeting. Boy Scouts took a priority position in his life for a couple of years, and he progressed from First Class to Eagle, but always continuing his pursuit of the STAR in JRoA. As of October, 2020, in the midst of The Pandemic, Ian completed and earned his 20th badge AND his STAR with the submission of a write-up to a neat collecting spot in Llano, Texas. Despite this write-up being an uncomfortable feat for him, this young man stuck with the program to become the second STAR recipient from TRMS, the first being James Puls. Ian continues to work in both Boy Scouts, where he is Senior Patrol Leader, and the Pebble Pup program, where he is my most able-bodied assistant.

James Puls came into the TRMS Pebble Pups at the age of 16 going on 17, and decided he was absolutely going to earn the STAR, which he accomplished just before his 18th birthday, in 2017. I wrote about James in 2017, when he was selected TRMS Junior Rockhound of the Year for that year. James is now in his second year as a West Point cadet.

There are no less than three more youths in line to complete their STARS, all of them TRMS Junior Rockhound of the year recipients, and several more just getting started. I welcome not only the under 18 youngsters, but also the over-18 subset, to participate and share at our meetings. I encourage all of them to study and learn on their own, with their families, friends, at school, at zoos and nature centers, and of course, at our Pebble Pup meetings.

The Young Ones are the Future and Continuation of our hobby, and Future Rockhounds of America is providing an avenue to keep them interested, engaged, and productive. They are our ROCK STARS!

Photo courtesy of Richard Jaegar.

Ed: This column is a repeat of one that appeared in April, but which was resubmitted with photo.

Show Time

Lee Whitebay,
Chair, AFMS Uniform Rules

Congratulations, you’ve spent countless hours over the last few months perfecting your exhibit. You reviewed the sections of the Uniform Rules pertaining to your chosen Exhibitor Group, Division and Class; and filed your completed entry form on time. So now it’s time to start packing for the Show. Lapidary and jewelry pieces can be placed in cushioned cases designed for, or modified for, your needs. Consider commercially available camera cases; they come in various sizes, the cushioning can be easily adjusted, and they can be locked.

Packing minerals or fossils involves wrapping individual specimens in soft tissue or cotton swaddling before placing them in individual boxes or compartments in a larger box. Don’t put more in a box than you can comfortably carry alone. And always keep security in mind; locked containers kept out of sight are prudent precautions.

Setting up for a show is always going to be hectic, so take time before leaving home to organize your stuff (risers, side panels, labels, etc.). If using your own lights check them, then carefully pack them for travel. Consider bringing spares for critical items, such as spot lights, and pack a small assortment of tools, screwdrivers, small hammer and sharp knife. Please do not put the tools in your carry-on bag if flying.

Bring a copy of your entry forms and try to get to the venue at least a few hours early. Seek out those in charge and ask for instructions as to when best to unpack and set up. Show organizers are often hit with a barrage of imaginary crises on set-up day, so be patient and don’t add to their stress. Once in the auditorium, try to relax. If you are using a club case you may need to make some adjustments to panels and risers. After placing your specimens and labels, give the case a little bump. When nothing falls or slips out of place, you are almost ready for the show. With specimens and labels in place, step back three or four feet and let your eyes drift over the display. Is it welcoming? Is the lighting even without shadows or hot spots? Would a visitor be drawn over, to take a closer look? If the answers are yes, yes, and yes, then there is one last detail to attend to. Make sure the front glass of the case is spotless inside and out. Then close and lock the case and enjoy the show.

Judging may take place before the show opens, but more often it happens opening morning. Let the judges complete their evaluations before approaching them with questions. They will be following the AFMS Uniform Rules. I expect all the exhibits I see this June will be of superior quality, and many will receive awards. Those that do not will most likely have run afoul of an overlooked point in the Rules. After all the Competitive Cases have been judged, scores will be posted and judges will be available to discuss the results with exhibitors. At this point I ask for calm from judges and exhibitors. There are ways to phrase questions and provide answers that further understanding. Once cases have been judged, the Judge’s role becomes that of a mentor and educator. Questions from a disappointed exhibitor can often feel pointed. Judges must respect the work that went into the display and provide guidance as to how it might be improved in the future. The goal of the Judge-Exhibitor exchange, in my view, is to keep exhibitors participating and improving their displays. High quality exhibits spark the imagination of all visitors, nudging many to enquire about joining clubs, and showing “old rockhounds “ there are plenty of new paths to explore.

See you in Wyoming!
In the simplest terms, Recreational Rockhounding is the lawful removal of non-renewable natural resources from public lands for personal non-commercial use. Recreational Rockhounding also applies to the removal of non-renewable natural resources form private land with the permission of the land owner. Recreational Rockhounds are persons who engage in Recreational Rockhounding. (as defined above) There. That was simple enough, or was it? Think about it. The second word in the definition is "lawful"; what does that mean? How does one know if their removal is lawful or what is unlawful recreational rockhounding?

The lawfulness of Recreational Rockhounding has been defined and is explained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 1 through Title 50. Lucky for the Recreational Rockhound, there are mostly only 2 titles that really apply: Title 30 – Mineral Resources[1] and Title 43 Public Lands: Interior[2].

Starting with Title 43, here are some of the definitions and rules for Recreational Rockhounding:

Pa8365 of Title 43 CFR [Code of Federal Regulations], which provides for the collecting of “reasonable quantities” of rocks, minerals, semiprecious gemstones, and invertebrate and plant fossils of non-scientific importance, for personal use. Legal Definition of Recreational Rockhounding as defined in Title 43 CFR... § 8365.1-5 Property and resources.

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Commonly available renewable resources such as flowers, berries, nuts, seeds, cones and leaves;

(2) Nonrenewable resources such as rock and mineral specimens, common invertebrate and common plant fossils, and semiprecious gemstones;

(3) Petrified wood as provided under subpart 3622 of this title;

(4) Mineral materials as provided under subpart 3604; and

(5) Forest products for use in campfires on the public lands. Other collection of forest products shall be in accordance with the provisions of Group 5500 of this title.

(c) The collection of renewable or nonrenewable resources from the public lands for sale or barter to commercial dealers may be done only after obtaining a contract or permit from an authorized officer in accordance with part 3606 or 5400 of this chapter. Next month I will discuss the rules and definition of collecting for personal use and commercial use as well as the methods of collecting under the CFR 43 and the extrapolation of the requirements for petrified wood as provided under subpart 3622 and mineral materials as provided under Subpart 3604 of this CFR title 43.

Footnotes:
- CFR Title 30: Mineral Resources: https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/30
- CFR Title 43: Public Lands Interior: https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43

“Happy Recreational Rockhounding and enjoy your Public Lands”
Having Fun: Junior Activities
Seeking Kids’ Help Crafting an FRA Mascot & Oath
by Jim Brace-Thomson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair

Cheryl Neary, from the AFMS Central Office, noted briefly in last month’s AFMS Newsletter that two new contests are in the works as a part of AFMS Junior Programs. I’m joining forces with Cheryl to square away the details of these contests toward a more formal announcement.

In short, we envision contests seeking the involvement of pebble pup and junior members to craft a “mascot” for the juniors program and an oath or pledge kids would take upon joining a club with a juniors group. We are currently envisioning a deadline around November 2021. This would allow time for entries to be crafted, sent, and judged and then for awards to be made at the next AFMS Show & Convention.

The contests will be announced formally at the upcoming June 2021 AFMS Show & Convention in Wyoming and full details will be published in the pages of this newsletter while also being sent to all the regional federation newsletters and to all the junior leaders of local clubs using the AFMS/FRA Badge Program. Stay tuned for more fun to come!

Rockhound of the Year
Judi Allison, AFMS RoY Chair

California Federation

2020
Richard Bryan has been a solid contributor to the success of the Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society. He not only has served on the board multiple times but has also been an avid volunteer and contributor at the annual Ag Day Events, our gem show and fair. In addition, he has been an active Shop Foreman and has been involved in several projects in improving and upgrading the shop. In 2019, the year of extraordinary challenges, Richard, as the current VGMS President, has utilized the COVID & shelter in place to re-organize the shop, coordinate shop equipment repairs and setting up shop for COVID safety and social distancing. When Richard is not working in the shop he actively joins and engages in several of the VGMS field trips throughout the year. Submitted By: Tina Anderson

Lucia Hetrick is a 5+ year Junior member of Ventura Gem & Mineral Society who has had and incredible year of accomplishments and recognition for her love and passion of all things gems, minerals & fossils. She achieved her “Rock Stars” status by earning all 20 AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badges this year. She encourages others with her enthusiasm and knowledge. She won the CMFS and AFMS bulletin article award for 12 years and under for her article “Her Birthday Gifts”.

She has enjoyed planning her rock library and is continuing to focus on creative teaching and mentoring opportunities for others in the club. Lucia has enjoyed her show experiences including the VGMS show, VC Fair and the Oxnard show. She is always hunting for the next treasure. She has participated in several field trips both sponsored by the club and personal exploration. She has a profound drive for learning more and has become adept at researching for herself about a variety of topics she is interested in learning more about. She has continued to contribute to the newsletter and continues to be an amazing spokesperson for the program and is looking forward to what the Jr. Rockhound program has in store. Submitted By: Nancy Brace Thompson-President

Ron Wise is a 30+ year active club member of Ventura Gem & Mineral Society who has held a position in the club almost the entire time. He was field trip chair for many years and shares his field trip knowledge with other field trip leaders. He is the club’s lead shop steward, certifies members for equipment usage and keeps the equipment in great condition. He has taught members Knapping, Cabbing, Angle Grinding, and Flat Lapping and will share his knowledge with any member who asks. Ron runs our show’s silent auction and is instrumental in making it a money-maker with quality items every year. He also donates items to the show’s Country Store, homemade knapped knives for the raffle, and plants for the plant sale. Ron will help pickup donations of rocks and equipment for the club when asked. He also goes to Quartzsite, AZ, every year and is always willing to be a tour guide to the shows and collecting sites. Ron volunteers to help setup, display and take down every year at the Ventura County Fair in the Gem & Mineral building. He also displays at other clubs and CFMS shows. He is definitely worthy of 2020 Rockhound of the Year! Submitted By: Nancy Brace Thompson, President 2021

Margaret Hogarth of Searchers Gem & Mineral Society has been one of the hardest working Show Chairs I’ve known and she’s done it for 6 years. Our show always has a large attendance & a lot of that is due to her expertise at planning & advertisements. And her helper bees, of course.

She’s a Librarian at the Claremont Colleges (CA) and is on the Board of their Friends of the Library. She has been a beachcomber all her life, mainly collecting shells & weathered glass. Now she tumbles glass for her grab bags.

She & her husband, Tom, go to most all of the field trips & they enjoy camping out. They have also gone to Camp Paradise the last 4 years (except last year, of course) and once to Zzyzx. Tom likes carving while Margaret enjoys lapidary, Ming Trees and carving. She thinks the Earth Science Schools are a pretty great and affordable vacation! She also supplies the bulk of the grab bags, the raffle & the spinning wheel prizes for the show and answers calls for help with material at every meeting. She thinks about these things all year and you can tell by the quality of the offerings. We are lucky to have such a wonderful and actively engaged member in our club for the past 13 years. Submitted by: Nancy Bird – Federation Director

Midwest Federation 2020

The Spring River Gem and Mineral Club of Cherokee Village, AR, wish to present the 2020 Rockhound of the year award to a wonderful unique couple. Mary and Bill Traxel have been and still are contributing to our club after many years. Mary, while president for two years, was an inspiring leader. Our club doubled in membership during that time. Mary is an interesting speaker also. I remember a program she gave on Minerals of the Bible. Bill was the editor of our newsletter for three years. His articles were so informative that I learned more from his articles on geology than some classes I’ve taken. Dr. Traxel has also donated some books, written on earth science and volcanoes, to our club library. The Traxels are a unique couple of Rockhounds who continue to contribute to our club, and we are honored to name them as our 2020 Rockhounds of the Year.
So far we discussed what to do in Wyoming. I will get back to that in a bit- but for now let’s talk about the AFMS convention and show. Why? Simply because the reason we will be there is for the convention and show!

Last year, the Rocky Mountain Convention was held at Big Piney. I was hoping to go, but Covid decided that wasn’t going to happen as it did for many of you. Then I heard how much of a great time it was and boy oh boy! I was wishing I had been there. So this year, it is not only the Rocky Mountain Federation but also the American Federation! Twice as much fun! Jim Gray, show chairperson, has been very busy with the preparations for this year. I personally would like to thank both Jim and his club for venturing two years in a row for Federations shows and conventions. Shows and conventions are by no means all that simple. There is quite a bit of logistics involved with running a show. Then you add a federation show and convention and you are adding meetings—finding space for the meetings, social hour and the banquet—then adding another day for the AFMS meetings.

This year, and I am very excited about this, the AFMS will have space to promote the Juniors Program! Jim Brace-Thompson has been chairing the committee for many moons! He has done a wonderful job and has written a program that has been very successful and fun for children of all ages! Jim has developed the badge program. It is a very rewarding venture for our Juniors.

Jim has been busy over the years trying to help leaders run the juniors programs. Now, the AFMS is moving on his request—find leaders! He has been stating that in his AFMS newsletter articles and in Rock and Gem Magazine, which he has contributed to on a regular basis for years.

How do you find interested adults who are motivated to teach and learn with the Juniors about the hobby and field that we all love? Learn about how to be a leader; learn about the step by step syllabus for the badge program; learn how to teach the juniors and be rewarded by the excitement and thrills the juniors display. Well -you could come to the convention where the AFMS will be having a workshop—run by veteran leaders.

Or you could attend the pizza party we are having on Sunday at 12:00 pm in a nice covered picnic area just outside the show! Why is the AFMS having a pizza party? Why not? What a wonderful way for juniors and parents to learn more about the program—and who doesn’t love to eat while having fun learning? The pizza party will be a nominal fee, to ensure we have enough pizza! You can sign up for it at the AFMS Juniors table at the show!

We would also like to honor the Juniors that have been in the program that have earned the 20 badges—so please send in your club’s Junior names to your Federation chairperson or to Jim Brace -Thompson.

Whaaaat! You don’t have a Juniors program in your club? Are you interested in having one? The AFMS would be honored to help you and your club start a program and will have information available for you—after the convention! If interested, contact Jim Brace -Thompson.

North of the area of Big Piney is the Wind River Mountain Range. This mountain range is home to over 39 named peaks which reach heights exceeding 13,000 feet, with Gannett Peak the highest at 18,804 feet. This mountain range is also home to seven (7) of the largest glaciers found in the Rocky Mountains, with the single largest glacier, Gannett Glacier, in the American Rocky Mountains.

One of the six North American Continental Divides crests the entire length of the Wind River Range. What is a continental divide? Basically it separates the hydrogeologic flow of waters into which ocean or sea the water flows to. The Great Continental Divide is the most famous of the North American Divides and runs from Alaska through western Canada along the crest of the Rocky Mountains to New Mexico where it follows the crest of the Sierra Madre Occidentals in Mexico southward to the tip of South America.

The Wind River Range is approximately 100 miles long. The Range is home to numerous lakes and ponds - approximately 2300. Wind River Range exhibit great glacial geology with numerous glacier-carved cirques, kettle hanging valleys and troughs. Just in case you are not sure of the glacial landforms mentioned previously, a cirque is a valley shaped similar to an amphitheater; a kettle is a depression that when filled with water becomes a pond or lake; valleys are elongated low areas often found between mountains and hills- usually containing a river or stream. A hanging valley is a tributary to a main valley which was deeply scoured by glacial ice, leaving the tributary valley “hanging” above the main valley; and glacial troughs are U-shaped valleys with flat bottoms and steep, straight sides.

The geology of the Wind River Range is unique. There are several areas of displacement - with blocks of the earth shifting past one another - one up and one down. Additionally unique to the Rocky Mountains, which are sedimentary in origin, the Wind River Range is comprised of granite.

A noted cirque is the Cirque of Towers appropriately named since three sides are surrounded by 12,000 foot high granite peaks. The glacial system in the Wind River Range is the most extensive in the Rocky Mountains south of Canada. Perhaps, between the heights of the mountains and the glaciers, it is not surprising that winter runs from mid-September to mid-June; the end of June and July are noted for the mosquitos, that do not want to share the area with you and August and the beginning of September is thunderstorms.

The Wind River Range is also the headwaters for the Green River. I discussed the Green River in part 2 of this trilogy. The Wednesday 6-16-21 field trip will be at a spot just north of Farson along the old highway US 191. US 191 runs parallel to the west side of the range.

The western crest of the Wind River Range lies in the Bridger -Teton Forest. The eastern side of the crest lies mainly in the Shoshone National Forest. The central section falls within the Wind River Indian Reservation.
There were five (5) tribes that called the area of Wyoming home, prior to the westward movement of the colonists. The tribes were the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Crow, Shoshone and Ute. Today, the Wind River Reservation is home to the Shoshone and the Arapaho, the only two federally recognized tribes in present day Wyoming.

Perhaps you all remember one of the most famous females, originally born to the Lemhi tribe of Shoshone Indians that settled in present day Idaho? This female, daughter of a Shoshone chief, at the age of ten, was kidnapped by the Hidatsa Indians and was relocated to present day North Dakota. Later, she would be sold to Toussaint Charbonneau, a French Canadian trapper and later become his wife and bear him two children.

Maybe if I told you that in the winter of 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition built Fort Mandan near several Hidatsa villages. It was here, while they were interviewing many of the French Canadian trappers for guides that they met Charbonneau and hired him as their interpreter since they learned that his wife spoke the Shoshone language. Yes, this female was Sacagawea! She was pregnant at the time she joined the expedition, and in February gave birth to a son, named Jean Baptiste Charbonneau. In April of 1805, while carrying her son on a cradleboard on her back she travelled up the Missouri River and four months later, in Idaho, she led the expedition to the Shoshone. She continued with the expedition all the way to the Pacific Ocean. In 1806, she headed eastward with the expedition. She was invaluable to the expedition as she recalled trails from her childhood. In August of 1806, she returned to the Hidatsa-Mandan villages, where she and her family resided for three years. In 1809, at the invitation of William Clark, her family traveled to St. Louis, Missouri. Clark was hoping that they would stay. Both Sacagawea and Charbonneau left St. Louis, but left Jean Baptiste in Clark’s care. There are some reports that Sacagawea gave birth to a daughter and two years later died on 12-22-1812 at a trading post in South Dakota at the age of 24. Yet, oral traditions of the Eastern Shoshone claim that she rejoined the Shoshone people in 1871 on their Wind River reservation and lived to nearly 100 years. In 1884, she was laid to rest at what is now called Sacajawea Cemetery near Fort Washakie, Wyoming.

Since the Tuesday, June 15th field trip was cancelled, the three Long Islanders (amigos) will travel three and half hours from Big Piney to Hot Springs State Park in Hot Springs County. There lies a geothermal heated body of water. In volcanic areas, rocks are heated by the temperature of magma. The waters can be heated to scalding temperatures. In non-volcanic areas, hot springs appear, when water percolates to deeper depths and circulates to the surface. The Native Americans believed the hot springs possessed healing and therapeutic powers: which has been the thoughts of many Western settlers and today, with the multitude of visitors to the region. We are grateful to the Arapaho and Shoshone tribes, who in the treaty of 1896, gave the land of the hot springs to Wyoming under the condition the springs would be accessible to the general public without any charge.

At Hot Springs State Park in Thermopolis, there are free (yes free! Per the Treaty of 1896) indoor and outdoor soaking pools. I vision the scene - the three Long Islanders relaxing in the 104 degree mineral waters soothing away our aches and pains! Additionally, there are other exciting attractions, such as the swinging bridge across the Bighorn River (named after the big-horn sheep that lined the river banks) from where you can view Rainbow Terraces, where hot water cascades down the colorful landform; Teepee Fountain - formed by the flow of mineral-rich groundwater and the state’s largest herd of bison - which graze on two different pastures. There are roads running in the pastures so that you have the opportunity to watch these wild animals. Also, the silhouette of the American bison is on the state of Wyoming flag.

The bath house is open 8am - 5:30 pm; the grounds sunrise to sunset and open year round pending weather conditions.

Located about 4 hours from Big Piney is Hell’s Half Acre, which is over an hour away from Hot Springs State Park. Hell’s Half Acre is approximately 320 acres and a horseshoe shaped gorge. The land is composed of deep ravines, pinnacles, caves and various rock formations in the middle of a basically flat prairie west of Casper. It is such an unusual setting that it was used as the fictional planet of Klendathu in the 1997 movie Starship Troopers. Prior to the name Hell’s Half Acre, this area was known as the Devil’s Kitchen “The Pits of Hades" and the “Baby Grand Canyon". Obviously, many settlers thought of the devil when they named the area ! The name stuck when a cowhand thought he arrived at an area southwest that was known as Hell’s Half Acre, which is an area of alkali bogs.

The ravine at the site was utilized by the Native Americans for a mass killing of bison during their hunts, in which they drove the bison off the cliffs of the 150 foot gorge. Flint arrowheads, spear points and bison bones have been found at the site, dating 3,000 to 1,200 years old.

Hell’s Half Acre is a large scarp located 40 miles west of Casper. Casper is the second largest city in Wyoming and home to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, which has dioramas and hands-on displays of the numerous trails by emigrants to Oregon, Montana, and California.

Scarp is short for an escarpment. A scarp is a line of cliffs or steep slopes formed by faulting and/or erosion. A fault scarp is a vertical offset on one side of the ground surface. Some differentiate the terms escarpment and scarp - stating escarpment is the margin between two landforms, while scarp is cliff or steep slope. A gorge is a narrow valley between hills or mountains, typically with steep rocky walls and a stream running through it.

Interesting to me is that the city of Casper is in the county of Natrona, applicably named for the deposits of natron found in the area. Natron or native soda, is a natural compound of sodium (Na) salts. Throughout ancient history, it was produced in Egypt, Middle East and Greece and was used for medicine, agriculture, cookery, glass making and to dehydrate Egyptian mummies.

Independence Rock, a large granite rock, approximately 130 feet high, 1,900 feet long, and 850 feet wide, is located in southwestern Natrona County. Prior to reaching this large formation, the pioneers had to travel through a land of a series of playas, or soda lakes - shallow lakes with the rims of the lakes or the floors of the lake encrusted with snow-white alkali. The pioneers called the substance saleratus. Saleratus is a bicarbonate of soda - baking soda- which was used by the settlers to leaven bread. Based on the concentration of sodium salts, the water potentially was poisonous and caused deaths to the animals and pioneers as well.
Okay, back to what you can do in Wyoming. I spoke to a few of the different motel front desk personnel when making reservations for myself and a few friends (fellow members of a few of the rock clubs here on Long Island) as to what they would recommend for sightseeing. Basically, the answers have not been a surprise - Yellowstone National Park, Devil’s Tower, Grand Tetons, Fossil Butte and the Green River. Since my friends and I are planning on attending the field trip on June 22nd to find fossil fish, which is in Kennammer - south of Big Piney approximately an hour and a half away - I decided to book rooms in Kennammer. It is closer to I-80 and I figured it would be a good start the next day. When I asked the young attendant, she suggested Salt Lake City and Great Salt Lake - approximately 1.5 hours away. Well, that gave me the idea of heading west via I-80 before heading back east.

One of the many things I have always been interested in is the etymology of words - such as rocks, minerals and places. Etymology is the study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history.

Before we leave Wyoming for a trip to Utah the Great Salt Lake, did you know that the origin of the name Wyoming is from the Lenape tribe? The Lenape are one of the many tribes that speak the Algonquin language. Depending on who you talk with, the word “Wyoming” in Delaware Indian language means either “large plains” or “mountains and valleys alternating;” in Munsee language “at the big river flat;” or in Algonquin “a large prairie place.”

The Lenape were also known as the Delaware Indians, since during the colonial times the tribe was first encountered living along the Delaware River in New York, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. The Delaware River was named after Lord de la Warr, the governor of the Jamestown colony. The Lenape were one of the first Native Americans to come in contact with the Europeans from the Netherlands (Dutch) and the English. The Lenape were called the “Grandfather” tribe because they were respected as peacemakers by the other tribes and served to settle disputes between rival tribes.

In 1809, the area known as Wyoming was made famous by the Scottish poet Thomas Campbell, in the saga Gertrude of Wyoming, which spoke of the beauty of Wyoming and the unfortunate massacre that had taken place. However, the Wyoming Campbell was speaking about is found in Pennsylvania! The massacre spoken of occurred on July 3, 1778 when more than 300 American Revolutionaries died at the hands of the Loyalists and their Iroquois allies. The verdant Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania, also referred to as the “Anthracite Valley Section”, is bisected by the Susquehanna River. The physical Wyoming Valley is a canoe-shaped valley, about 25 miles long and became famous for fueling the industrial revolution due to the multitudes of anthracite coal mines.

U.S. Representative James M. Ashley of Ohio proposed the name “Wyoming Territory” in 1865. James Ashley was born in Pennsylvania and familiar with the Wyoming Valley. However, after visiting the territory Ashley remarked that the land of the new State of Wyoming was not fertile enough to support a population sufficient for a congressional district and that the land lacked proper irrigation. But his remarks were too late - the name Wyoming stuck!

By the way, the three of us will be passing by Wyoming on the first day of our trip from New York - in Pennsylvania, of course!

So we will spend a day at the Great Salt Lake and perhaps Salt Lake City in Utah and head back to the hotel for another night stay before traveling homeward bound via I-80.

There are many explanations of how the word Utah was derived. It is said that the name is derived from the Ute tribe, which is supposed to mean “people of the mountains” or “top of the mountain”. However, the Ute’s actually referred to themselves as Noochee. The Apache word for “one that is higher or those that are higher up” is Yuttahih and the Spanish pronunciation was Yuta - and the English speaking may have translated it to Utah. According to Larry Cesspool, of the “Ute” tribe, Utah was the anglicized word from the Spanish, who called the Indians, “meat eaters” or Yuta.

Didn’t you ever wonder about the origin of the Great Salt Lake? Did you ever wonder why this natural lake is so salty. Well, whether you did or you didn't, you are either in or out of luck because I am going to inform you now!

Great Salt Lake, or as known as “America’s Dead Sea” is the largest natural lake west of the Mississippi River, approximately 75 miles long and 35 miles wide. However, the measurements have changed since the first scientific measurements obtained in 1839. The change in lake water elevation has been over 20 feet at times, causing a change of the shoreline of approximately 15 miles. The lake’s area is over 2100 square miles. The average depth of the lake is 14 feet.

The largest natural lake east of the Mississippi River is Moosehead Lake, in Maine with an area of 117 square miles. Yellowstone Lake which I will be visiting while in Yellowstone National Park is approximately 136 square miles.

The water in lakes comes from precipitation such as rain, snow, melting ice, which may either flow as a river or a stream to the lake or as groundwater seepage. Most lakes contain freshwater. Great Salt Lake is a bit different. All of its water flows in from various tributaries, which contain dissolved salt. Remember the water or hydrologic cycle? Basically, precipitation hits the earth and becomes either surface- or ground-water, some become part of the transpiration process or the precipitation evaporates. Due to the amount of evaporation at the Great Salt Lake, what is left behind is the salt.

The salinity in Great Salt Lake is too high to support fish and most aquatic species. Several types of algae and brine shrimp and flies, which feed on the algae live in the Lake or around it. The brine flies are dinner for many birds that migrate to the Lake. Biologists have estimated that the population of brine flies along the shoreline is over one hundred billion - yikes! The brine flies thankfully are more interested in the algae and do not bite or land on people. The surrounding area of the Lake is basically wetlands, which are an important resource for migrating and nesting birds.
Most lakes are depressions or basins in the Earth’s surface, which formed one of several ways. Many of the lakes in the Northern Hemisphere were formed by glaciers approximately 18,000 years ago, when the North American climate experienced one of the last cold cycle climates. Another way lakes form is due to structural changes in the earth surfaces, caused by plate tectonics. Inactive volcanoes are also responsible for the formation of lakes as the crater fills with precipitation. Many times the top of volcanoes collapse or are blown apart during an eruption leaving a depression, known as a caldera. Crater Lake formed when ancient Mount Mazama’s volcanic cone collapsed approximately 8,000 years ago. Mount Mazama stood approximately 13,000 feet high before the eruption. Geologist believes it was 250 years of precipitation to fill the caldera. Crater Lake (also on my bucket-list) in the state of Oregon, is one of the deepest and bluest lakes in the world. (Deepest in the US; 7th deepest in the world.) Then oxbow lakes, named after the u-shaped frame that fits over an ox’s head when harnessed to a plow, are formed when mature rivers that meander have periods of flooding and the rushing river creates a shortcut - path of least resistance, leaving behind standing water.

The top and bottom of lakes are known as the epilimnion and hypolimnion, respectively. Limnology (study of lakes) classifies how the water in lakes mixes or turns over from epi- to the hypo-limnion. Limnologists classify lakes by how many nutrients are in the lake; how the water mixes in the lake and what types of fish live in the lake.

Did you ever wonder why some lakes’ names start with the word Lake while others end in the word Lake? In one of my geology classes in the 70’s, one professor informed us that most lakes that have Lake first were pre-glacial while those with the name and Lake at the end were post-glacial. However, I did not find this explanation anywhere that I searched on the internet. It seems to fit though!

Fossils are found in many dry lake beds, such as Fossil Butte in Wyoming. Over time, approximately 2-million years, the remains of organisms are buried as sediments settle on top of them. Fossils preserved include fish, alligators, turtles, small sized horses, plants and other species

For those of us who plan to visit Salt Lake, Bridger Bay Beach located on the north end of Antelope Island, is approximately two (2) miles long and hundreds of yards wide of white oolitic sand—sand formed in the lake of concentric layers of calcium carbonate. So if you want to float in the Great Salt Lake—this is the place to go!

You may have noted several times the name of Bridger at sites in both Wyoming and Utah. James Feliz Bridger was an American mountain man whose family were English immigrants in the early colonial period, who settled in Virginia. James was born in Richmond VA in 1804 and died in Missouri in 1881. He was a trapper, Army scout, and wilderness guide.

Perhaps on my eastward journey back to New York, we may stop off at the highest summit point on I-80. The Summit Rest Area is exit 323, and sits at an elevation of 8,640 feet above sea level. The Summit Rest Area is east of Laramie and west of Cheyenne. It is home to a 30 foot granite pedestal with an almost 13 foot, 4,500 pound bronze bust of the head of the 16th President of the US—Abraham Lincoln. The bronze head was sculpted by Robert Russin and commissioned by Wyoming Parks Commission to honor the former President's 150th birthday. It also commemorates the Lincoln Highway—one of the first transcontinental roads from San Francisco, CA to New York, New York.

Again, most of the information in this article has come from the National Park Service, USGS, Wyohistory and TravelWyoming, Official website of the Delaware and Ute Indians, and Wikipedia.

So hopefully I will see you at the convention! Please stop by the Junior Program booth, or workshop or the Sunday pizza party—I will be there and looking forward to either re-acquainting with fellow rockhounds or meeting new ones!

**AFMS BEAC Article for May**

Thieves continue to target rock and mineral clubs, you and me! One day Linda, at that time the treasurer of our rock collecting club, received an email from Ellen, the club president. It read “Please send $4,125 to the (whatever) vendor at P.O. Box xx, Atlanta, GA”. The return sender on the email to Linda had the president’s first and last name. It looked perfectly legitimate. Linda, a CPA with some years of experience with businesses and non-profit organizations was immediately suspicious. Why hadn’t this been brought up and approved by the board at its monthly meeting? She called Ellen and quickly determined that it was an attempt to commit theft of our club funds! It turned out that a criminal had changed his name on the email to that of the club president on his computer and targeted our club to see if the treasurer would send the money without question!

From a computer-savvy friend I have since learned that it is very easy to change the name on an email account to anything you want, as often as you want!

This could also happen to us outside of our rock and mineral clubs. Imagine you saw an email in your inbox from NetFlix. The email looks like it’s from a company you may know and trust (ie: Netflix). It even uses a Netflix logo and header. The email says your account is on hold because of a billing problem. The email often has a generic, but intimate, greeting, “Hi Dear.” If you have an account with the business, it probably wouldn’t use a greeting like this. The email invites you to click on a link to update your payment details. While, at a glance, this email might look real, it’s not. The scammers who send emails like this do not have anything to do with the companies they pretend to be. Phishing emails can have real consequences for people who give scammers their information. And they can harm the reputation of the companies they’re spoofing.

With the various “stay at home” orders in the various states, the use of on-line shopping has made a dramatic increase. I’m not immune to the ease of shopping that way! For the last month or so I’ve received text messages saying that I came in second in the Amazon iPad drawing. Click here to claim the prize. Since I didn’t enter a contest it was unlikely that it was really me, and why would Amazon text me instead of contacting me via email? Amazon says: If you receive a suspicious SMS claiming to be from Amazon (sometimes called “Smishing”), consider the following advice from Amazon: “Smishing scams are becoming increasingly advanced. Fraudsters can now insert their scam messages into a thread of legitimate messages that you might have received from us. Scan texts often say that there’s a problem with your account, ask you for sensitive

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**AFMS Newsletter May 2021**

Mark Nelson, AFMS BEAC chair
information like passwords, or state that you’re owed a refund. We never ask for your password or personal information by text. If a text appears to be suspicious, don’t click on any links and don’t call any numbers included in the message. If you receive an SMS of this nature, and haven’t lost money, you can report this as phishing to stop-spoofing@amazon.com.”

With the tax deadlines approaching, the “Government impositor scams” are on the increase. A BBB study finds that they are preying on fear during the pandemic. One of the most common scams in the U.S. today involves callers pretending to be government officials. Some claim to be the IRS and representatives from the Social Security Administration. Others claim to be law enforcement officers and threaten legal consequences. All of them use fear and intimidation to trick victims into turning over personal information or money, often in the form of gift cards.

A new investigative study by Better Business Bureau (BBB) finds that while the number of government scam reports has fluctuated, scams have become more diverse and more sophisticated. In addition, many scammers have taken advantage of the COVID19 pandemic by posing as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials, Internal Revenue Service representatives who can expedite economic impact payments, or contact tracers employed with local government agencies.

The FTC is getting reports about people pretending to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) who are trying to get your Social Security number and even your money. In one version of the scam, the caller says your Social Security number has been linked to a crime (often, he says it happened in Texas) involving drugs or sending money out of the country illegally. He then says your Social is blocked – but he might ask you for a fee to reactivate it, or to get a new number. And he will ask you to confirm your Social Security number.

In other variations, he says that somebody used your Social Security number to apply for credit cards, and you could lose your benefits. Or he might warn you that your bank account is about to be seized, that you need to withdraw your money, and that he’ll tell you how to keep it safe.

People lose a lot of money to phone scams — sometimes their life savings. Scammers have figured out countless ways to cheat you out of your money over the phone. In some scams, they act friendly and helpful. In others, they might threaten or try to scare you. We should be aware that these scams are illegal. The proper action for a text message is to delete it. For phone call scams, don’t engage in conversation – just hang up! One thing you can count on is that a phone scammer will try to get your money or your personal information to commit identity theft. Don’t give it to them. More information is available at www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0208-phone-scams

Scammers often update their tactics, but there are some signs that will help you recognize a phishing email or text message. Phishing emails and text messages may look like they’re from a company you know or trust. They may look like they’re from a bank, a credit card company, a social networking site, an online payment website or app, or an online store.

Phishing emails and text messages often tell a story to trick you into clicking on a link or opening an attachment. They may say they’ve noticed some suspicious activity or log-in attempts claim there’s a problem with your account or your payment information say you must confirm some personal information include a fake invoice want you to click on a link to make a payment say you’re eligible to register for a government refund offer a coupon for free stuff. Frequently there are a number of mis-spelled words in what they send.

Basic Steps to Avoid Being Scammed

1. Be skeptical of incoming calls and emails. People are able to "spoof" and disguise their email address or phone number to make it look as though correspondence is coming from an official source, such as a bank, government agency or charity. Instead of responding to an unexpected call or message, look up the organization's information and initiate a call yourself.

2. Keep your personal information personal. Most organizations that have access to your personal information will never ask you to share it with them by phone or email. If you're asked for your Social Security number, mother's maiden name, bank account information, account user names and passwords, or any other personal information, an identity thief may be making the request.

3. Before making a purchase that seems too good to be true, research the company first. You could search for reviews of the company, or search for the company's name plus "scam," to see what others have to say.

4. Immediately hang up on robocalls. Robocalls have evolved, and new systems may sound real or even have recorded messages that reply to common questions. If you suspect the caller might not be an actual person, don't say anything, don't follow prompts to press a button and hang up right away.

5. Be wary of up-front payments and overpayments. Don't make an up-front payment for a product or service that's not from a well-known merchant.

In April, Bank of America sent warnings to its customers to be wary of

Vaccine scams – Be alert when requested to send information or money for a promise to receive a vaccine. Scammers claim to be able to provide a vaccine sooner than expected for a fee.

Stimulus scams – You will never be asked to provide personal information in order to receive stimulus funds. Scammers ask for personal and financial information claiming it is needed to send you your stimulus payment.

Charity scams: Before donating, do your research. Scammers will reach out asking you to donate to a charity, but the charity is fake. Make sure you validate the request prior to sending money.

Read more at www.bankofamerica.com/security-center/avoid-bank-scams/

Sources: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the U.S. Better Business Bureau (BBB), Bank Of America
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
<nfmssec at gmail.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Suzanne Webb
<AFMSeditor at gmail.com>

Boundaries
Bob Carlson
<illegitimusnoncarborundum at inbox.com>

Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleenson at gmail.com>

Bulletin Editors Advisory
Mark Nelson
<mnelsonair at aol.com>

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<escrystals2 at gmail.com>

Central Office Administrator
Cheryl Neary
42 Jefferson Ave; Patchogue, NY 11772
516-449-5341 <centraloffice.afms at gmail.com>

Commemorative Stamps
Ellery Borow (See Safety)

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
<smartin at antelecom.net>

Convention Advisory
<>

Endowment Fund
Cheryl Neary
See Central Office

Financial Investment
Wayne Cox
<wayne3 at earthlink.net>

Historian
Jennifer Haley
<ladybuglane at napablogger.com>

Inter-Regional Field Trip
Doug True
<duetreosfossils12 at yahoo.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Margaret Kolaczyk
<markolaczyk at gmail.com>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<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)

Program Competition
Darrell Watkins
<AFMSprograms at gmail.com>

Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<bj at wildblue.net>

Public Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52 at gmail.com>

Safety
Ellery Borow
<rocknellery at fairpoint.net>

Show Consultant
Walt Beneze
<wmbenlbk at gmail.com>

Uniform Rules
Lee Whitebay
<lwhitebay at poncacity.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Leslie Wayment
<aastainedglass at bellsouth.net>

Ways and Means
Richard Jaeger
<rgrsci at aol.com>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart
<webmaster at amfed.org>

Web Site Contest
Don Shurtz
<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
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 from Walt Beneze

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