Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!!

Our first Rock Show in 1 ½ years was AWESOME! Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society in Abilene, TX had a great show! We enjoyed the vendors, displays, and the warm and welcome people that we met there! My grandgirl won a gem tree (which I have to pick-up when I see my son next) and was soooo excited!

And next up…..It’s almost here-the annual convention in Big Piney, WY is just a few weeks away! I’m looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones! Plan to come early and stay late for the field trips that are being planned. In addition to conducting our business, visiting the displays and vendors, plan on attending some of the interesting seminars that are being planned. Our ad hoc Juniors committee has been hard at work preparing an informational workshop on Saturday to help you generate new ideas for the youth in your local area and we’ll be hosting a Pizza Party for interested youth and adults on Sunday! Lastly, Larry & I would like to invite you to a Social Hour on Friday, June 18th from 5-7! Come by and say Hi!

Sadly, we learned that the Eastern Federation is cancelling their annual convention due to continuing restrictions from COVID. I know this decision was not reached easily and it points out that we are still dealing with this pandemic!

Summer is here and that means that the AFMS newsletter will be on vacation for the next couple of months! I’m sure I’ll have lots to tell you when we catch up again in September!

Have a great summer, stay well and I hope to see you in Big Piney this month!

Attention Editors and Webmasters

We are aware of an email group entitled Editors United that has been contacting our members, and we advise you that this is not an AFMS sanctioned group. If you have any questions, contact Judy Beck, Marty Hart, or Suzanne Webb.
Office addresses for privacy reasons. If you wish your number withheld, let me know.

Note: I have restored officers’ phone numbers in response to comments regarding efforts to get in touch with them. I am still withholding physical addresses for privacy reasons. If you wish your number withheld, let me know.

Correction

In the May AFMS Newsletter, the name of TRMS Juniors Chair, Julia Allande, was inadvertently misspelled. The version with the “e” is properly used when referring to the former president of Chile or to the novelist, Isabel Allende, whereas Julia’s name is spelled with an “a.” My apologies for the error.
What Makes a Great Club? The Members!
Cheryl Neary, Central Office Administrator

Your club probably has bylaws. Bylaws are the rules established by the club, by which your club operates; directing the board of directors to oversee the day-to-day operations of the club. Note: the italicized words directing and directors. The board of directors are an important part of your club, and their roles should be identified in your bylaws - the number of board members, their duties and their terms of service. To keep your club transparent, bylaws should be examined periodically and changed as needed.

Another important document for your organization is a standard operating procedure (SOP). However, not all clubs have a SOP. The reason the SOP is important is that it guarantees that best practices will be always followed. It provides guidance to all members. It allows for all members to be aware of how the club operates. Essentially a new member will be on the same speed as older members. The SOP allows for best management practices. As with the bylaws, the SOP should be reviewed regularly and updated. For example, roles and their responsibilities may change over time. This may come about due to technological advancements.

I would hope that each person that has a significant role in their club would read what is expected of that position. For instance, if the SOP states that a monthly article is to be forwarded to the editor for that position, then the article would be expected by the editor. By not providing your article you are hindering your editor. Furthermore, if someone accepts the position, then they should fulfill their responsibilities - no ifs or buts! Of course, there are some reasons that are credible excuses for a period - sickness and death.

You know that old saying “If you see something, say something”. We can also apply that statement to the SOP - if something should be changed - say something to the committee responsible for overseeing the SOP. If in your position, a change should be made -you may be the only person who realizes that - because you are the person that is dealing in that position. Obviously, a change can only be made if it is justified. As with any documents that require change, a clear understandable explanation should be provided. Making a change for personal reasons is not a credible option.

So now your club has bylaws and a SOP. More importantly, for your organization to grow, you need to recruit members. You must offer your membership something of value. The value you offer, is reflected in the number of members you can recruit. The opposite is also true, if you have members that decide not to renew their membership, then perhaps your club has lost its value to the former members. That is why it is also important to find out why a member becomes a former member!

For our clubs, offering your membership the knowledge of the earth sciences; the lapidary arts and field trips may be archeic since they are offered by the internet - free of any membership fees. So, what makes your club an important part of a member or future member, when they can basically get information on the websites? The answer is quite simple - they can’t touch a specimen, they can’t learn the arts with a hands-on instructor, they can’t be part of the “family” of a lecture and question and answer session. It is the social aspects of the club that will bring in your members. It is your membership’s word of mouth - more important than any advertisement that will bring in new members. New members bring in new ideas - new ideas - bring in new members and so on and so forth.

I suggest that every club have a recruitment committee or a membership committee. Brainstorm on regular intervals, how you can increase your membership. For instance, do you have a show? If so, do you have a membership table where interested people can be drawn to the club? Do you have a website - and possibly an application form on the website for interested people to fill out and return to the recruitment/membership committee. There are clubs that have in their bylaws or SOPs that to be a member the interested party needs to attend “x” amounts of meetings - to ensure the person is truly interested in the club. That is a good idea, for numerous reasons, especially if your club supplies the members with materials that cost the club. However, if you have an application online along with your club’s membership rules, you can have your recruitment or membership committee reach out to them and welcome them - make them feel welcomed and wanted.

At my club’s meeting, the public is invited to attend any of our meetings. If we are having a hands-on program, they participate in it but at a higher cost than membership. Another value for being a member. Often our members bring in new members. It can be a co-worker or a family member or through professional networks. When people hear about what our club has made or the lecturers we have had, they become interested. When a person becomes a member, we provide them with a membership package. Our package includes a copy of the bylaws, the SOP, a book on the introduction of rocks and minerals, a name badge, and a membership list. We let them know any of our members are there to answer any of their questions, and are open to any suggestions for a project, lecture, or field trip.

Another way to increase membership is through a Juniors Program - as one club mentioned on their website – you could make it a family affair.

Remember the TV show - Art Linkletter hosted -Kids Say the Darndest Thing? Well, sometimes our members learn from our youth -we see things through them in a different light. Quite frankly, many of us have been amazed at what a third grader can inform us. One of the darndest things said recently by a child that has to do with earth science - is that when asked if there was climate change, the child stared at the commentator and replied nonchalantly – “of course there is! If there wasn’t then we would all be in the ice age!” What a profound statement! Makes you think - yes, there have been various climates throughout the history of the earth and the only way that could possibly happen is through climate change! Perhaps if you don’t have juniors as members, you may want to rethink your club membership needs.

It is also a good idea to meet with other clubs in your area. Many members belong to multiple clubs. Why? Possibly because the clubs may offer different opportunities to the members. Perhaps one club is more in tune with lapidary skills than another, or perhaps one has different lectures or field trip possibilities.

Also, make each of your members feel important. You can ask a member to participate in certain activities or become a board member. Perhaps a member can offer to teach a class or present a lecture. Your membership committee should know what your members can offer to your club and ask the new member what he expects from the club.

At times, evaluate with your membership how your club is doing. Are you meeting their expectations? Is the club meeting its mission statement? Is it following the bylaws and the SOP?

Now that the weather is getting nicer throughout the country, let’s go out – do some field tripping and bring in some new members!

Sublette County, WY Scenes

Sublette Chamber of Commerce

ScottAlmdale-PinedaleOnline.org
AFMS BEAC Report - Mark Nelson, AFMS BEAC chair

I am pleased to see more clubs coming back to life after the erratic months of the current virus threat! It is my sincere belief that a rock and mineral club’s frontline is the club’s bulletin. A well-written bulletin can keep the interest of members even during difficult times, such as in 2020! I take the responsibility of being your AFMS BEAC seriously, and do all that I can to improve the skills of rock and mineral club bulletin editors. I’m planning to attend as many of our regional shows this year as possible and to bring ideas and examples of how editors can produce award-winning bulletins and publications! I hope to see a lot of our editors there!

Part of the opportunities presented to me through the position of AFMS BEAC is the opportunity to read about 100 of the best bulletins, poetry, articles, publications and features produced by rock and mineral club editors. I enjoy reading such good and diverse material. I’m occasionally asked for feedback in bulletin exchanges for suggestions that can help improve the editor’s skills, just as mine were improved when I entered my bulletin in the CFMS and AFMS contests. My belief is similar to that expressed by Jim Brace-Thompson: “I firmly believe that each one of us has something to share and teach another human being. As a lifelong learner, I search for learning opportunities anywhere and everywhere.” I want to share my experience and knowledge with other editors!

The last date we have been given for the 2022 AFMS convention is for January 29. This means that our schedules will need to be moved up and everyone work a bit harder to compress the time and get the judging done and awards created. For your information for your editors, the requirements for the 2022 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest are unchanged from what is posted on the AFMS web site. The AFMS categories are:

1. New Editor
2. Mini Bulletins
3. Small Bulletins
4. Large Bulletins
5. Original Junior Articles (under 12)
6. Original Junior Articles (12-18 ages)
7. Original Adult Articles
8. Original Adult Articles Advanced
9. Original Adult Poetry
10. Original Junior Poetry
11. Features (Written & Drawn, all ages)
12. Special Publications

Please remember to provide both a printed copy of your AFMS entries to the AFMS judges as well as a PDF to my office when you submit your entries for judging. Here is schedule information for the 2022 AFMS Bulletin Editor’s Contest:

Schedule:

Regional BEACs accept entries published from January 1 through September 30, 2021
Regional contests run from 10/15-11/15/2021
Regional entries due to AFMS judges on 12/1/2021
Juggled entries back to the AFMS BEAC by 1/3/2022
AFMS show in (Tyler, Texas?) on 1/29/2022

As I write this report there is word that the scheduled 2022 AFMS Convention may be changing dates or locations. If that happens and changes the schedule, I’ll let you and your Federation BEAC know!

Please contact me if you have any questions! If you are a new BEAC or Judge, I’m here to help you through the process. Don’t guess—let’s talk! If you email me and you don’t receive an answer from me in a day or two, call or text me at (909) 996-1784 or email me at mnelsonair@aol.com!

I hope to attend as many federation shows as I can this year. If invited, I would be happy to speak to editors (without cost to the Federation) on a subject related to submitting winning bulletins or other contest-related articles, or about S.C.R.I.B.E.!
WHY NOT?  
Charles Wooldridge, President,  
Lincoln NE Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

I spend a lot of time in Long Pine, Brown County, Nebraska where I frequently walk local rivers and streams looking for agates, petrified wood, artifacts, and fossils. The area of North Central Nebraska is in the heart of the Sandhills and where Morris Skinner, Nebraska’s most renowned paleontologist, spent five decades digging for fossils. The area is rich in mega fauna fossils.

One day, I was talking to a local fellow. I mentioned I like to hunt for fossils to which he stated something to the effect of, “I wish we had fossils like that around here.” I wondered how many people grow up somewhere and haven’t experienced, or were never shown, significant aspects of the world around them. I have had my eyes to the ground searching for rocks, artifacts, and fossils for close to sixty years. Like others of you who are affiliated with this hobby, I have amassed a great deal of fossils, rocks, and other “thingamajigs.” My philosophy towards fossils has been, if it has the slightest possibility of scientific significance, I show it to a paleontologist. Most of the fossils I find come from gravel bars or other alluvial deposits that have no real scientific value, as such, I collect them and tell myself they are better in my collection where people can view them. The alternative is that they will continue to be ground to sand by the forces of nature. I like to show them, especially to children who are amazed to know elephants, camels, rhinoceri and most of the other animals that they see only in zoos or in books (internet) once lived here, and many were giant.

In reality, not that many people see my collections. Once a year I may have a display at the local gem show or occasionally, I’ll show someone my yard and basement, but frankly, not that many. So, when this fellow in Long Pine made his comment, it dawned on me that there is a museum in town, and I didn’t remember them having any fossils. Maybe I could put a display together for them. I approached the Heritage House Board and floated the idea by them. They were ecstatic. No one had thought to include Pre-History. I thought "WHY NOT?" The Museum found an old gun cabinet and made a nice display case out of it. I gathered together an assortment of fossils from the area that I and a couple of friends had found. Another friend made labels with information and pictures of the various creatures. This provides me the opportunity to display my finds, helps to educate people, and clears some things out of my basement. There are small museums in almost every town or county. You might think about finding one and donating the things you have found. WHY NOT? It's a win-win situation.

TO CAB OR NOT TO CAB  
Vicki Hathaway

It is usually true that, when lapidaries cut slabs, we do so with the intention of cutting them into even smaller pieces and making cabochons of various sizes. Sometimes, however, the slab must stand alone. When beauty is in the whole, cutting it up yields nothing. Take the slab of a Utah septarian nodule for example. It just doesn’t lend itself to being cut up into smaller pieces. Sure, it would be possible to make some very nice cabs from the golden crystal parts, but destroying the slab for just a couple of cabs would be a shame. This is especially true when usable broken pieces of the crystal formations are usually lying all over the area in which the nodules are found.

Septarian slabs aren’t the only ones that deserve to be saved. Slabs of crystal-lined geodes are also desirable as display pieces, and they are seen at shows and in shops all the time. Often, they have a bit of rind, a nice band of agate, and a center of clear crystal. The crystals often surround a void in the geodes center. The slab as a whole is more interesting than a cab cut from a small section of it.

Although many thunder egg slabs may yield very nice unusual cabs with interesting patterns and colors, many others will be better displayed whole. There are many other types of rocks that are beautifully displayed as slabs, but I think you get the idea. Now, if I have convinced you to throw yourselves on these beauties and save them from the horror of the trim saw, the next step is to decide what to do with them. Just allowing them to lie on a table at a rock show or in a box at a shop is not the answer. A simple napkin holder would be a better use, as it allows the larger pattern to be displayed. All that is needed are a couple of slabs, a piece of wood or stone for a base, and a little epoxy or cyanoacrylate. Such items make a nice addition to the kitchen, and they work well as gifts.

If you don’t happen to be a napkin holder person, how about some bookends? Using stone for bookends is a very old, very simple lapidary exercise. Usually, this involves cutting a big heavy rock in half and placing one half on each end of a row of books. There is certainly nothing wrong with this, but it does not address our main purpose here: that of finding a lapidary use for slabs other than making cabochons. Slabs can be used very creatively for bookends by utilizing those inexpensive metal bookends found in office supply and stationary stores. Glue your slab to the vertical face of the bookend. If you wish, you can also glue a decorative piece of wood or stone to the outside tab to fancy it up a bit. These bookends come in different sized vertical faces, so you can get one to fit the size of the slab you are using. These make very pretty bookends, and they don’t take up nearly as much shelf space as the large stone types.

Via The Golden Spike News, 5/21 and via the Clackamette Gem, 1/14; from Rock Chips, 10/13

 Article and photos from the May, 2021 issue of the Lincoln NE Gem and Mineral Club’s newsletter, The Pick and Shovel.
Mt. Etna erupted recently with showers of rock and clouds of gas that briefly closed the airport in Catania, Italy. Etna is one of the Decade Volcanoes—also known as the Decade Sixteen—that are closely studied by scientists. They were identified in 1990 by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth’s Interior as part of the United Nations’ International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Because these are volcanoes that are active, have a history of destructive eruptions, and are located close to populous areas.

According to Wikipedia, each of those 16 volcanoes met other criteria besides recent activity and nearness to populated areas. Each was also chosen if it “exhibits more than one volcanic hazard (people living near the Decade Volcanoes may experience tephra fall, pyroclastic flows, lava flows, lahars, volcanic edifice instability and lava dome collapse); . . . is politically and physically accessible for study; and there is local support for the work.” Two of the Decade Volcanoes are in the U.S.!

1. Mount Etna in Italy, near the city of Catania and several small towns.
2. Mount Merapi in Central Java, Indonesia. The island of Java is densely populated; an eruption less than a month ago forced the evacuation of 2,000 residents near the volcano.
3. Galeras Nariño in Colombia. About 8,000 people live in several towns near the volcano. Galeras Nariño is notorious among volcanologists because it erupted without warning in 1993. Six scientists who’d been attending a volcano conference and three tourists were caught in the crater and killed.
4. Mauna Loa in the USA. It’s near Hilo, the largest city on the Big Island of Hawaii.
5. Mount Etna in Italy, near the city of Catania and several small towns.
6. Mount Merapi in Central Java, Indonesia. The island of Java is densely populated; an eruption less than a month ago forced the evacuation of 2,000 residents near the volcano.
8. Mount Rainier in Washington State, USA. Small towns cluster around Mount Rainier National Park, and all of Pierce County could be affected by an eruption.
9. Mount Vesuvius in the state of Campania, Italy. It’s less than 14 miles from Naples.
10. Mount Unzen in Japan. It’s near Shimabara, a town of 45,000 in the Nagasaki Prefecture.
11. Sakurajima in Japan. It is actually within the city limits of Kagoshima, a city of 595,000.
12. Teide in the Canary Islands, Spain. It is near several large towns, and the Canary Islands are popular with tourists.
13. Santorini in Greece. The island has a population of 15,000, and is a popular tourist destination.
14. Taal Volcano in the Philippines. There are several towns on the island, although the Filipino government has declared it a permanent danger zone and strongly discourages people from living there. An eruption in January 2020 buried the area in ash, forcing evacuations and complete lockdowns of four towns. This past February, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported 98 tremors in 24 hours, prompting evacuations again. On April 10-11, the Institute recorded 200-plus tremors and quakes as Taal spewed more than 2,000 tons of gas emission.
15. Teide in the Canary Islands, Spain. It is near several large towns, and the Canary Islands are popular with tourists.
16. Ulawun in Papua New Guinea. About 4,000 residents of several small towns were evacuated when Ulawun erupted in 2000.

Sources: Wikipedia, “Decade Volcanoes”; Worldatlas.com; Volcanodiscovery.com; Manila-times.net

From the March, 2021 Crinoid Courier via MWF Newsletter, 4/21

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**VGMS WORKSHOP: Squeezing the Most Slabs Out of Your Rock**

By John Cook & Ron Wise, Workshop Stewards, Ventura (CA) GMS

We often find great surprises inside a rock when we clamp it into the big workshop slab saw and slice away. But sometimes, we can get only a couple of slabs until the rock grows too small for the vice to grip, and we end up with a couple of fat “butt ends.” You could just flat-lap them and be happy with two nice paperweights. Still … they’ve got wonderful color and pattern, and you know for sure there are two, three, or more slabs that could be had in order to produce fantastic cabochons. What to do?

Go to a lumberyard and get yourself a 2X4. Cut off an end about as long as your rock. It’s best not to go any smaller than 4 inches in length so that it’s easy to handle and clamp into the saw. Use a quick-setting epoxy (like JB Weld’s 5-minute epoxy) and glue the flat side of your butt end to the face of the 2X4 segment, allowing for some clearance on the bottom.

Use just a small amount of glue, or you will have problems getting the rock off the wood after all is said and done.

It doesn’t take long for quick-setting epoxy to bond, so you could glue the same day as you cut, but letting the glue set for at least 24 hours is best. This helps ensure a firm bond as the saw blade begins to cut into the rock and as oil spills over both wood and rock.

You now have a rock that can be securely set and clamped into the saw via the piece of 2X4. Start cutting and see how many slabs you can produce from your butt end. To remove the last slab from the wood after cutting, place the wood and slab in a bucket of hot water with Dawn detergent and let the wood absorb water overnight. The slab and wood should come apart easily. If it doesn’t, try again with boiling water. Don’t try to chip the slab off with a hammer and chisel, or you may fracture and split your slab.

To provide an example of how well this works, we had one fist-size Ventura Beach cobble of “catsup and mustard” jasper that produced just a single slab before the vice could no longer grip the cobble. After gluing the two butt ends to small pieces of 2X4, we ended up with no fewer than 10 slabs suitable for producing any number of cabochons!

All photos by Jim Brace-Thompson

From Rockhound Rambling, 11/12/20
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
Suzanne Webb
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Boundaries
Bob Carlson
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Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame
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Bulletin Editors Advisory
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Ellery Borow (See Safety)

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
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Convention Advisory
<>

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Name Badges
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Nominating
David Wayment (see Long Range Planning)

Parliamentarian
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Past President’s Advisory
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Photography
John Martin (see Conservation)

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Show Consultant
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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
Purpose of the AFMS:
To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is normally published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are usually sent to the President, Federation Director and Editor.

Subscription Information, Distribution Questions and address changes should be sent to the AFMS Central Office. Subscriptions are $5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to “AFMS” and sent to Cheryl Neary, AFMS Central Office, 42 Jefferson Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772-1008, 516-449-5341 <centraloffice.afms at gmail.com>.

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

Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication.

Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes provided credit is given this publication and the author. For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.

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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<th>Eastern Federation</th>
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<td>June 25-27, Lodi, CA</td>
<td>July 9-12, Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>Sept 10 - 12, Toledo, OH</td>
<td>Walla Walla, WA Sept. 11-12</td>
<td>AFMS June 17-20, Big Piney, WA</td>
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<td>Sept. 10-12, Harrisburg, PA</td>
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