Hi my Rock Friends! This is officially my last newsletter article as President. The year sure did go by fast! When I was in Girl Scouts we used to sing this song:

Make new friends but keep the old
One is silver and the other gold!
Here’s to all of my silver and gold friends! Thanks so much for guiding me, supporting me, and being my friend throughout this year.

As I write this I’m preparing to have a house full of family (all vaccinated) for the Labor Day weekend. Bright and early Tuesday morning Larry and I will be hopping in our rolling roost to head to the Midwest Convention hosted by the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club. We are very excited to attend the meetings and see their show. I’m a Michigan girl and we are going to visit some family and then travel to the Keweenaw Peninsula in the UP (Upper Peninsula in Michiganese ;) and Copper Country. I’ve never been that far west to tour the area because I always get sidetracked before getting there. But this time we have reservations on the shore of Lake Superior on that elusive peninsula!

After our arrival home we’ll work the week and then head to Lubbock for the South Central Convention hosted by the Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society. I can’t wait to see the treasures that we will see at the show!

September is going to be a good month! I’ll have to write one more article to tell you about all of our adventures J!

I’m excited about the American Federation and its future. This past year we saw big strides in improving our digital presence by the updating of our website. The committee continues to meet and we are excited about being able to bring this to our members in the near future. We also have looked at how we can support and better highlight the wonderful Junior Rockhound Program that we have. This committee worked hard at our convention to highlight the Junior Rockhound Program and has also been looking at the Juniors’ page on the website. I encourage all of you to look at where you can volunteer at the club, regional, or national level. We need good people like you!

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you this year as President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. From the bottom of my heart I want you to know that it has been a privilege and an honor to represent you.

Hoping to see you on a field trip soon—and may all your finds be keepers!
How the AFMS Rockhounds Took the Johnny Horizon Outdoor Pledge Under Their Wing

by Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

In 1968 the Department of the Interior’s, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), created a fictional character to use in advertising for their anti-litter campaign on public lands. The BLM printed cards for Americans to sign in support of the then word of honor, “I pledge to help clean up America for our 200th birthday.” Americans saw Johnny Horizon on TV ads and supported by celebrities Carol Burnett, Red Buttons and Burl Ives, and followed up by sending letters to the BLM expressing their support for the project and promising they would participate.

At the 1969 AFMS Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, the BLM awarded Jack R. Cox who was managing editor of Gems & Minerals Magazine, the first Johnny Horizon National Award for anti-litter efforts. Jack and the magazine were acknowledged for their outstanding service for leading the campaign to encourage rockhounds to become involved in anti-litter efforts on public lands.

Through Jack’s efforts and with full support of the AFMS rockhounding community, the chief of the BLM at that time, John Mattoon, recognized how responsible the AFMS rockhounds were and validated their exceptional role in helping to keep public lands clean. At that time the BLM noted the AFMS had 60,000 members nationally.

After 1976 the BLM decided to retire the campaign, but to this day AFMS member societies continue their commitment to carrying on our long-standing tradition of leaving all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

The BLM’s 1968 visitor to the public lands pledge: “I pledge to:

- Keep the land clean and free of litter,
- Respect and treat the land as my own,
- Leave gates and fences as I find them,
- Obey state game and fish laws,
- Be careful with fire.

The dragon gift totes donated for the AFMS Endowment raffle at the convention at Big Piney, Wyoming, were apparently a bigger hit than originally imagined. Thinking the dragons would make great gifts for parents and grandparents to give to the kids, it turns out the adults really wanted them for themselves too. After the raffle we had more people asking if they could still make donations to the AFMS Endowment Fund so they could get the dragons totes.

Yes, they can be made to order. If you want to make a donation towards the AFMS Endowment Fund to receive a dragon gift package in time for Christmas this year, the cut-off date will be October 31st. Getting supplies this year could be strained given the problems covid has created with shipping and backorders on some supplies, but so far everything is looking good.

What’s in the dragon gift tote? The dragon hand puppets are quite the characters. The green ones are (LxWxH) 8.5 x 8 x 11 inches and the blue ones are 9 x 8 x 22 inches. Each one comes in a tote bag with a dragon scale fabric grab bag with dragon beads at the drawstrings and filled with beautiful tumbled stones, a dragon scale pendant, a carved dragon’s stone egg with stand, a very special quality mineral or stone specimen and a copy of the book Fairy Dragons written by AFMS Historian, Jennifer Haley.

The story is a fairytale written for kids about lapidarians and their magical life with the fairy dragons and fairy dragon gemstone eggs. When you send your order with payment to the AFMS, mention what color dragon you want. Blue Dragon Tote is $85. Green Dragon Gift Tote is $88. Shipping & handling is included. All the dragon gift totes are being donated to the AFMS Endowment Fund as a fun fundraiser.

The AFMS
Proudly Serving
Seven Regional Federations

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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.
Jay Bowman, Passed away, Sunday evening Aug 29, 2021 by Shirley Leeson—a skeptic turned believer

Jay was an icon in the AFMS. He single-handedly changed the way judging was accomplished in the competitive exhibit area. He believed he was not a judge, but a teacher—someone who could help each exhibitor make their exhibit better and therefore show the public was rockhounding was all about.

I had known Jay socially because we both attended AFMS conventions. But it was at Wildacres that I got to really know who Jay Bowman was. I sat at the foot of two 8-foot tables, with Jay at the head, and representatives from all the regional rules chairs fillings all the spaces. I had been allowed, as a spectator, to sit in at this workshop. It didn’t take me long to get involved and ask questions. Jay easily fielded all the questions, but the one that hung in the air was “what does a judge actually do?” There were AFMS Rules books for exhibitors, but none for judges. As I had observed over the years, judges did their own thing…. there were no standard rules for judges. JAY BOWMAN CHANGED THAT ALL THAT.

Jay strongly believed that judges of competitive exhibits were put on this earth to help the exhibitor. You couldn’t help the exhibitor if you were JUDGING them. Jay explained, “If we support the exhibitors, help them see what they can accomplish, and bring the product the following year up to high standards, it benefited the exhibitor as well as those clubs members around them and gave the public a glimpse of what our hobby was all about.

Jay asked those who attended this first encounter to believe, and we did. We believed that the word judge meant things to some people, but to Jay, in judging competitive exhibits, it meant a TEACHER.

His message resonated with those in attendance, but after a few years, the only people coming to Wildacres were those who really had competitive exhibits at their conventions shows. This meant mostly from the California, Northwest and Midwest folks. So the idea took shape—we’d take this Juggling Seminar on the road. Jay and Dee Bowman (chair of the AFMS Endowment Fund) asked the AFMS to give them the funds to begin a touring Judges Training Program—and it was granted!

The first meeting was in Reno, Nevada; the reasoning was, it was during a well attended club show with lots of exhibits, but only a few in competition. The club was on board with this, and this years competition was before their respective regional and the national show. This could only be done if Jay was willing to attend and teach the class. His answer, “of course, let’s get on the road.”

The first meeting beyond Wildacres was in Reno, Nevada in May, 2012. This was in conjunction with a CFMS club show….a must so students could judge the exhibits of the club members, be they in competition or otherwise. This was because there was a great deal of interest by California and Northwest people to attend Wildacres, but the long trip across the country was costly and time consuming. There were 30 people who attended, mostly from California and Northwest, and this was as much as the AFMS could afford. Jay and Dee Wayt came all the way from Florida to attend. Jay has been am inspiration by all who has crossed paths with him on the subject that is so near and dear to his heart—competitive exhibiting and judging them. And those of us who have been ‘followers’ of him from the start of this long process are so very proud to be a part of this ‘awakening’ of interest in competitive exhibiting again.

The next Judges Training Class was in Ogden, Utah in April, 2014, a NFMS club show, again with exhibits. Each of these two shows were before their respective regional and the national show so that exhibits and new judges could compete and judge respectively that year. These classes weren’t easy to arrange and coordinate. I was personally responsible for getting a hotel with reasonable rooms, checking out the restaurants, coordinating with the local club and their members and overall gofer. It was a pleasure to do so because the reward was to great. I have been able to sit back and watch a whole new generation of judges really respect their exhibitors and help them, even stand by them; what I mean by that is, allow the exhibitor to stand in while the judging is taking place and see what the judges/teachers see…. and this makes their exhibits and their experience positive. Rarely these days does an exhibitor go away angry and frustrated, never to exhibit again. Many feel they have someone at their back, to help them. And after all, isn’t that what it’s all about?

Who reaps the rewards for all this work? The general public who doesn’t know anything about us, but comes away with a better knowledge about who we are and what we do.…. Thanks Jay, and to Dee Holland, who had a vision….thanks too.

JAY BOWMAN—AFMS RECOGNITION AWARD FOR 2015 RECIPIENT

by Shirley Leeson, AFMS Past President 2008 And a proud AFMS Judge

Jay Bowman has been a force in the judging of competitive exhibits for as long as I care to remember. His voice hasn’t always been heard, but more recently he has become an icon. I’m sure many of you remember the horror stories about competitors being subjected to really bad experiences when they competed at both the regional and national levels….well, no more. Jay brought to all a leader in the movement who has helped instead of hindered competitive exhibitors……Jay Bowman.

I can remember asking Jay if I could ‘clerk’ for him at the AFMS/NFMS Port Townsend, Washington show in 2001. He said ‘can you keep quiet and just write down what we tell you?’ I said, “Nope, but will you let me clerk so I can ask you questions and learn how you judge?” He said ‘yes,’ and that was the beginning of my apprenticeship on judging with Jay.

My next memorable encounter with Jay was at Eastern’s Wildacres in about 2002. I took his Judges Class, and told him I was his worst enemy. I was going to have all kinds of ‘why’ questions….his answer. ‘Bring ‘em on…” The one thing I remember vividly was his statement ‘You are not a judge, you’re a TEACHER. It’s your job to help the exhibitor make his/her case better.” If you take a point off, you better have a damn good reason, and it better be in writing on the score sheet. And….don’t let your personal opinion away you, keep to the rules.’ Lessons to live by.

Dee Holland told the AFMS meeting in 2002 that he’d take the AFMS Endowment Fund Chair, if they would let him create a Judges Training Class and open it to judges from all of the regional federations so we’d all have the same background when judging. This worked for several years but competition had been dwindling in many of the regions and getting people to attend the workshop became harder so in 2011 we began looking at other sites. This could only be done if Jay was willing to attend and teach the class….his answer, ‘of course, let’s get on this.’

The first meeting beyond Wildacres was in Reno, Nevada in May, 2012. This was in conjunction with a CFMS club show….a must so students could judge the exhibits of the club members, be they in competition or otherwise. This was because there was a great deal of interest by California and Northwest people to attend Wildacres, but the long trip across the country was costly and time consuming. There were 30 people who attended, mostly from California and Northwest, and this was as much as the AFMS could afford. Jay and Dee Wayt came all the way from Florida to attend. Jay has been am inspiration by all who has crossed paths with him on the subject that is so near and dear to his heart—competitive exhibiting and judging them. And those of us who have been ‘followers’ of him from the start of this long process are so very proud to be a part of this ‘awakening’ of interest in competitive exhibiting again.

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AFMS Newsletter October 2021
**AFMS Juniors Mascot & Oath Contests—A Reminder, a Link, & a Request**

My column this month is short-and-sweet. I write to provide a reminder and a couple of links, along with a request. As I announced last month, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Future Rockhounds of America Program (AFMS/FRA) is hosting two new one-time contests. One is to come up with an official mascot to represent kids enrolled in the AFMS/FRA program. The other is to develop an oath or pledge that newly enrolling kids would take when joining the juniors group of a rock club.

Winners of each contest will earn $100 and a Certificate-of-Achievement from AFMS and will have their accomplishments announced at the 2022 AFMS Show & Convention, posted to the AFMS website, and incorporated into the AFMS/FRA Program and Badge Manual. Kids participating in these contests must be members of local clubs or societies holding an affiliation with AFMS via one of the seven regional federations.

We published rules for both contests in last month’s AFMS Newsletter, which you can find on our AFMS website at https://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm. Full rules also are posted as a pdf on the AFMS website at https://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS_Junior_Mascot_and_Oath_Contests.pdf. The deadline for both contests is May 1, 2022, with results to be announced at the AFMS Show in New Orleans next October. Should you have questions about either contest, please contact me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com.

Now for the request. I hope anyone reading this column will reprint it in their regional and local club newsletters to spread the word and help maximize participation by kids within your clubs and societies. As Art Linkletter always said, “Kids say the darndest things.” (Does that date me?) Here’s looking forward to seeing what creative and darndest things our pebble pups and junior members come up with!

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**September Library Highlight**

**A Guide to Fossils by Helmut Mayr**

By Susan Satchwill, Three Rivers GMS librarian

[From the September 2021 Strata Data, Volume 59 Number 9. September 2021]

Anyone interested in collecting fossils or in learning more about the previous life of these animals and plants will find a wealth of information in this lavishly illustrated guide. Intended to aid amateurs in specimen identification and classification, this book offers an encyclopedic breadth of coverage. Mayr discusses the origins of fossils and the forms of their preservation, tips on collecting and on recovery and storing, technical terminology, and insights into scientific research. The main section contains over 500 illustrations and descriptions of fossils, with an emphasis on ammonites, but also includes corals, mollusks, snails, echinoderms and brachiopods, vertebrates, and plants. Each illustration’s description includes distinguishing marks, geographical distribution, period of existence, and the habits and ecology of the individual genera.

Guide available from Better World Books.com in digital or paper format.
117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H. R. 5088

To prohibit the importation into, or transit through, the United States of any mineral, or product produced with minerals, from Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 24, 2021

Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. WESTERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

A BILL

To prohibit the importation into, or transit through, the United States of any mineral, or product produced with minerals, from Afghanistan, and for other purposes. 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Stopping Terrorist Minerals Trade Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS. Congress finds the following

1) Funds derived from the sale of minerals in Afghanistan will be used by the Taliban and its allies to finance terrorist and military activities, overthrow legitimate governments, subvert international efforts to promote peace and stability, and commit horrifying atrocities against unarmed civilians.

2) The United States spent 20 years and two trillion dollars to attempt to bring peace and international comity to Afghanistan, only to see the Taliban supported by other international actors overthrow the legal government in a matter of hours.

3) The United States spent tens of millions of dollars funding critical mineral surveys and mineral exploration to help build an alternative economy for the legitimate peaceful Government of Afghanistan and that data has now fallen into the hands of the Taliban and its allies.

Photos by John Martin

Ed: A very brief excerpt of the bill follows. To see the entire bill which contains 8 more sections detailing implementation, consult https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr5088 or the Congressional Review.
Many collectors use a mechanical rock saw to cut, trim, or abrade rocks and fossils in the field or lab. Dangers of this activity include flying rock chips, wounds from the blade itself or broken blades, and rock dust, which is extremely dangerous to inhale. Always read and understand the proper operation of any mechanical tool before using it. Whenever cutting or grinding rock, wear protective eye goggles. Also wear a good respirator, or use a dust collection system, to avoid inhaling rock dust which accumulates in the lungs and can cause a variety of serious illnesses.

For those not convinced that rock dust is a serious danger, or that they can get away with not wearing a respirator or working under a hood (if working indoors), I encourage you to read the message below. The original message was posted on 7-14-97 in the Rocks and Fossils News groups, and my reply was sent to that list as well as the Dinosaur List, VrtPaleo and Fossil Nuts.

The original message I am responding to was posted in Rocks and Fossils, but I am sending my response to the other paleo related lists as well, because I feel this is an important safety issue. It affects anyone who even occasionally cuts rocks or fossils or does fossil preparation work. It will be very worthwhile, if it prevents even one person from suffering lung problems or dying prematurely. With that deliberately onerous introduction, let me quote the post that prompted my response:

Peter’s Post: “Last night I spent an hour cutting sandstone side-walk blocks with composition blade made of fiberglass and boronundum grit. This is a dry saw and it was a still night and clouds of dust were all around. Some of it hung in the air for minutes. I am not really concerned about a one-shot exposure, but it did make me wonder if this is the size of silica which DOES represent a health hazard. Of course, I do not know for sure that the fine dust was silica, as opposed to calcium carbonate (the cement in the sandstone) or material from the new blade…”

Glen’s Response: “It’s funny, or really not so funny, that you should write now. I’m suffering a chronic lung irritation, and seeing doctors now, because of the results of a similar incident. In short, yes, one or a few exposures to significant amounts of freshly-cut rock dust can cause serious problems. Silicosis is only one of the many lung problems that can be caused by rock dust, many of which (like fibrosis) can occur no matter what the composition of the rock. Wearing a good respirator or hood with dust collector if working indoors in a must. If you don’t have the proper safety equipment, don’t cut the rock!

Unfortunately, I found out the hard way, I hope everyone learns from my mistakes. About a year ago our fossil club went to Ontario to collect trilobites, and we took along a diamond rock saw. I only sawed out a few trilobites for fellow members (without wearing a mask, I forgot to bring one) and I tried to not inhale the dust. However, large clouds of it were kicked up each time, and it was impossible to avoid inhaling quite a bit of it. By the next morning I had significant lung irritation, and have had it ever since - some days worse than others. I have frequent coughing and uncomfortable sensation in my upper chest. After this went on a few weeks, I went to a doctor, not knowing if I had contracted a bacteria, fungus, or other microbe at the quarry, or just had accumulated too much dust in my lungs. An x-ray was clear, but that is not unusual in such cases (it sometimes takes years for fibrosis, TB, cancer and other diseases to develop). Apparently, the rock dust itself is the cause of the current lung irritation, and it may never get better. In fact, it may worsen into other conditions, as explained below.

Many people assume years of exposure to rock dust is needed to cause serious problems, and this is generally true when dealing with wind-blown, low concentration dust, which usually has already weathered to some degree. But not so with freshly cut rock. After I started having my problems, I began talking to doctors and doing lots of reading. I also talked to an uncle who used to work in a quarry, and is now dying of pulmonary fibrosis at the age of 55. I am now going to his doctor.

It turns out that not only do rock particles of any composition tend to stay and accumulate in the lungs, but freshly cut rock is the worst, and extremely pernicious. Even one or a few incidents of significant inhalation of such dust can cause long irritation and start a process of increasingly serious lung damage. The microscopic particles are like millions of razor-edged shards that damage lung tissue directly, as well as create conditions promoting the development of TB, micro plasms, fibrosis, and cancer. Experiments with rats and other animals have shown that inhalation of fresh cut rock dust is far more damaging than worn rock dust of any composition, and leads to far greater rates of several diseases, including pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer. But even accumulations of worn rock dust in the lungs greatly increases chances of lung disease.

I’ve also made many fossil molds and casts over the years, and although I often wore a mask while working with plaster, sometime I did not. I may well have accumulated plaster in my lungs as well, which may have contributed to or aggravated my lung condition. Plaster hardens when in contact with moisture, wherever it occurs, including one’s lungs. But I did not have the constant lung irritation until after the Ontario trip using the rock saw (on hard shales and siltstones), and have had it ever since.

I have another appointment with a pulmonary doctor on Thursday, but from what I have learned, such damage is generally irreversible, and the best I may hope for is to have my condition not get worse. I may have to live with lung irritation and chronic cough for the rest of my life, plus increased chances for the serious conditions I listed above.

So PLEASE, whenever you are cutting or grinding rock of any kind ALWAYS wear a respirator (not just a cheap dust mask). If working indoors, use a dust collecting hood, or don’t do it. Your health is not worth any rock or fossil.

There are serious inhalation dangers in the lab also, including solvents, urethanes, glues, and other chemicals used on prep work. These too can have accumulated effects, and lead to a variety of health problems. Work with such chemicals only with very good ventilation, or under a hood, or don’t do it. Again, a rock or fossil is not worth your health. If I scared anyone, I can’t feel too bad, because I wish someone had scared me before I did what I did, and now may have to pay the price the rest of my life.

Pete, in your case, I hope you do not have any problems, and can only urge you not to do it again, at least not without wearing a respirator. The dust you created by cutting sandstone probably included a mixture of siliceous sand particles, calcium carbonate particles (from the cement between the grains), and fibers from the fibrous saw blade. All could be dangerous to inhale.

Thank you, Glen Kuban,

Ed: Given the current health issues resulting from Covid, this story can alert us to dangers we may tend to ignore when we are enjoying our shops. We should all consider keeping those annoying masks on when we are using lapidary equipment or sawing, soldering, or buffing silver and copper or doing torch work. Just for example, my own brother-in-law used to build futon frames in his garage. The work involved a lot of wood dust from some of the exotic woods he used, but he refused to wear a respirator—too hot, too clumsy, too sissifying. Some years later he, who had never smoked a day in his life, died of inoperable lung cancer.
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.

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Mary Boesdorfer
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**AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year**
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**AFMS Newsletter**
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**Boundaries**
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**Bulletin Editor’s Hall of Fame**
?

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**Convention Advisory**

**Endowment Fund**
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**Financial Investment**
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**Historian**
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**Judges Training Seminar**
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**Junior Programs**
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**Long Range Planning**
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**Name Badges**
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**Nominating**
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**Parliamentarian**
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

**Past President’s Advisory**
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**Web Site Contest**
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**AFMS Scholarship Foundation**
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Judy Beck, Vice President
Margaret Kolaczyk, Secretary
Barbara Ringhisier, Treasurer

Please send corrections and updates to AFMSeditor at gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you.
**AFMS Code of Ethics**

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the “Golden Rule,” will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

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**Purpose of the AFMS:**

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

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

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

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**Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
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<td>April 22-24 Lancaster, CA</td>
<td>Springfield MO Sept. TBD</td>
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<td>AFMS June 17-19 Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>AFMS October 7-9 New Orleans, LA</td>
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*From Walt Beneze*