A. F. M. S. Newsletter

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From the Desk of the President

Margaret Kolaczyk, AFMS President 2021-2022

It is a start to a new year for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. To start things off I thought I would introduce myself. I joined the Amador County Gem and Mineral Society in 1996. By the second meeting I attended, I was asked to handle programs for the society’s meetings. It was a challenge, but I was lucky enough to be able to work with the person who had handled this position. From that position, I have held the positions of Vice President, President, Treasurer, Education, Publicity and a few others for my society. At present, I am the Federation Director for my society.

At the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies level, I was the Treasurer, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and President. Committee Chairs I have held are 2015 CFMS Show, Golden Bear, Long Range Planning, Boundaries, and Rules. For 10 years I was an instructor for the Earth Science Program.

At the AFMS level, I held the position of 3rd and 2nd Vice President, President Elect and now President. In 2015 Jay Bowman asked if I would be the Judges’ Training Instructor. I was surprised and knew this was an honor. Jay started a revolution in how judging is done, and I am a firm believer in Jay’s philosophy. My hope is to do my best for AFMS.

I have made some committee chair changes. I have made these changes because the present chairs know how these committees work and it is their expertise they can share. Each committee is a team and the more the team members understand how their committee works, the stronger the committee will be. From past experience, I know it is great to have someone else who knows what needs to be done.

I wish to Thank Jennifer Haley for stepping in for me at the AFMS 2021 Show in Big Piney, Wyoming. While I was at the show, I had to leave early due to a death in the family. I did arrive early and was able to work with the Sublette County Rock Hounds setting up the tables for the show. I had a wonderful time helping and you could not ask for nicer group of people. Thank You!

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Shows in Toledo, O, and Lubbock, TX

Judy Beck, AFMS Past President

Can I say again how glad I am to see Rock Shows back in action? Larry & I were blessed to attend 2 fantastic shows this September in Toledo, Ohio and Lubbock, Texas.

We left Salina and stayed at Hannibal, Missouri our first night and Lake Mississinewa in Indiana the next night. We arrived at the Wood County Fairgrounds in Bowling Green on our third night out and set up a very nice camp at the Fairgrounds. The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club hosted the Midwest Federation Convention and Show from September 10-12, 2021. This crowd knows how to have fun! We enjoyed a fun Meet and Greet Social the first evening and a quick peek at part of the show. Dave Rich and Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich gifted us with some beautiful Ohio Flint material that my husband is looking forward to cutting and polishing very soon! I attended the

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AFMS Newsletter November 2021

Dragon Lore for the AFMS Endowment
by Jennifer Haley

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. To order, make your check or money order to AFMS and send it to Cheryl Neary, AFMS Central Office, 42 Jefferson Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772-1008. Be sure also to mention what color dragon you want. Blue Dragon Gift Tote is $95. Green Dragon Gift Tote is $85. Shipping & handling is included. All the funds raised from sales of dragon gift totes are being donated to the AFMS Endowment Fund as a fun fundraiser.

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Rockhound of the Year
Judith Allison,
AFMS RoY Chair

Northwest Federation
Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corporation chooses Denise Harrison as their 2021 Rockhound of the Year. Denise has been our webmistress for a while now and her mastery of her skills has been a wonderful addition to our club. It has resulted in calls and emails about our monthly programs and in many inquiries about new memberships. In addition, the quality of our website has won both AFMS and NFMS awards and also has brought us several large donations of lapidary material for our rock sales and for our show. We are proud of Denise and her accomplishments!
The Uniform Rules - What's Next?

Lee Whitebay, Uniform Rules Committee Chairman

Before diving into this note I need to acknowledge the loss of my good friend and mentor, B. Jay Bowman. Shirley Leeson penned a fitting remembrance to him last month, so I don't need to remind you of all he did for AFMS. He was proud to be associated with Judges' Training and keeping the Uniform Rules uniform; he will be missed.

Now I need your help. The future of the Uniform Rules and Judges' Training was discussed at the Annual AFMS Convention, last June. B. Jay and I agreed a review was warranted, but how to get started was a challenge. Before meaningful discussion of revisions can take place, I need to hear from rockhounds across the country. It would be very helpful if clubs could poll their membership and send me the results. A tally of yes/no answers is all that's needed at this time.

Responses to questions about the Uniform Rules and Judging often fall into two categories, either embarrassed ignorance (I don't know what you are talking about) or vitriolic explosions recounting past injustices. Benign ignorance is very useful data, and reminding members that improvements are being sought should keep explosions to a minimum. Please start with the following questions:

- Are you aware of the AFMS Uniform Rules? (It's perfectly OK for members to say, "No.")
- If "no" would you like to know about the Rules?
- Do you think Judges should be trained?
- Do you think Exhibitors should be trained?

Hearing from a majority of club members is preferred to waiting for 100% response. A tally sheet for your club can be scanned and e-mailed to lwhitebay@poncacity.net or mailed to the address below.

I am looking for members to help review the Rules and Training and make recommendations for the future. Contact me if you would like to get involved.

Lee Whitebay
Uniform Rules Committee Chairman
4669 N. Prentice Rd
Ponca City, OK 74604

(Continued from p. 1) Midwest business meetings the following morning and President Susan Stanforth knew exactly how to mix business and fun together! JC & Donna Moore always know what is going on and answered my many questions. Joan Stoker represented the AFMS Junior Rockhounds beautifully during the show! Saturday evening we enjoyed a wonderful Awards banquet to cap off our time in Ohio. We were heading up to the Keweenaw Peninsula after a quick visit to my hometown of Linden, Michigan.

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Having Fun: Junior Activities

Jim Brace-Thompson, 2020-2021 AFMS Juniors Program Chair

In the Era of COVID, Two Words: Field Trips!

Kids yearn for cohesion. They look forward to opportunities to gather together and see one another in-person, not just on a computer screen during a Zoom meeting. While visiting family in Maine, I recently had a delightful informal meeting with Ellery Borow, President of the Eastern Federation. Ellery noted problems with declining youth membership, exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. With vaccines still reserved for adults, parents hesitate to bring their kids together in groups for club meetings, and rightfully so. Thus, many youth programs in our clubs have been evaporating over the past 18 months. In overseeing the AFMS/FRA Badge Program, I've observed this in clubs across all seven regional federations. Badge requests are at an all-time low. Over the course of our conversation, Ellery further noted how getting a kid involved usually depends on having an involved parent.

One of the best ways to involve both parent and child and to bring kids back together, I've found, is with field trips. Most mask mandates do not require masks outdoors, where there's plenty of space for social distancing. Prior to the pandemic, whenever we held a local fieldtrip, my own club had an abundance of both parents and kids, and the most common question was always, "When's the next trip?" Of all the things our club offers, field trip opportunities for collecting continue to rank high on the list of member interests.

As pandemic restrictions eased here in California, our club held two field trips this past year with a special focus on kids. Both centered on collecting jaspers and agates on the beach and in dry river beds, which allowed for plenty of fresh air and ample room for social distancing. And both proved highly successful with great attendance. (Our kids program, by the way, now numbers 38 kids, and we've kept them active with online meetings and activities in addition to these two field trips.)

This pandemic won't last forever (knock-on-wood), so if you belong to a society that has more-or-less lost its junior members and you are looking for ways to rejuvenate your club post-pandemic with both adults and their kids, start planning a kid-friendly 2022 field trip schedule today in hopes that we once again may soon have fun!

visit to my hometown of Linden, Michigan. Cindy & David Root provided us with lots of ideas and suggestions for our trip north! Definitely go to the Jam Pot if you are up in Eagle Harbor area!! We didn't get to see and do everything they suggested, but that just means we need another trip north! We enjoyed lots of beach combing and I did find one little Superior Agate and none of that fluorescent sodalite .... definitely need another trip north! But, I did find a little piece of Chlorastrolite. I know you may be a doubter but I did have it checked out at the Prospector's Par...
Safety Matters - the Signs

Chlorastrolite was in fact Chlorastrolite. I feel like my rock hunting was a success with this special little rock! The mining history is fascinating in this area and it was with great reluctance that we left that beautiful country to return home.

We were home long enough to work that week and then headed south to Lubbock, TX so we could attend the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Convention and Show hosted by the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society September 25-26th. It was another GREAT show and by now I have accomplished a lot of my Christmas shopping!! The mighty trio of President Valerie Zink, Show Chair Michael Zink, and Walt Beneze made everyone feel welcome at the show and everything was organized beautifully! At the Editor’s Breakfast Mark Nelson shared judging tips and provided examples for submissions in the Bulletin Editor’s Contests.

South Central President Jerrold Simpson ran the business meeting in the afternoon and good ideas were generated for accomplishing the work of the federation. The evening awards banquet featured the keynote speaker, Helen Serras-Herman who is a sculptor of beautiful gems. She shared an interesting presentation of different mines around the United States and some of the material she has been able to collect during her travels. I was excited to share the show with my parents and our oldest son, Ken, and daughter-in-law, Priscilla. Ken & Priscilla belong to the Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society in Abilene, TX and were able to come spend the weekend with us. It was really cool to have them come to the Rolling Rock Club meeting Sunday morning and become members. Ron Carmen loves to tell the story

(Continued from p. 3) adise AKA as the Wal-Mart of Rock Shops and 2 of the people there said that it was in fact Chlorastrolite. I feel like my rock hunting was a success with this special little rock! The mining history is fascinating in this area and it was with great reluctance that we left that beautiful country to return home.

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Signs? Safety means different things to different people. Safety can mean locking the doors, keeping a medical kit handy, or reading the instructions before using your new "rock destructo" tool. One of the issues with safety is reading the signs of a situation before it becomes a full-blown problem. If one sees a worn cord on one's lapidary equipment, a mushroom head developing on a chisel, a broken guard on a slab saw, or a tripping hazard at a gem show - those would be safety matter "signs".

Goggles hard to see through? Clean them or replace them. Mushroom head on a chisel? Grind off the damaged part. Worn electrical cord? Replace it. Those are relatively easy issues to address. If one sees a potential problem and addresses it before it becomes an active problem, one has correctly read the signs. What about the signs of someone's medical problems while participating in the hobby? Would one recognize the signs of a medical problem?

What if there were a member's diabetic sugar level problem, a dehydration issue on a dig, a sun burn from a day at the beach, or a heart attack at a club activity? It is not likely everyone in a club will want to be an expert in all matters of medical emergency but a smattering of knowledge and being aware of certain signs can be a good thing.

Here are some common medical safety matters—heart attack, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, poisoning, concussion, shock. To give any complete and comprehensive descriptions of these conditions is beyond the scope of this column. However, some basic knowledge may be beneficial.

- **Heart attack**—For one reason or another heart cannot do its job. Symptoms: Time of essence, severe pain or discomfort in chest region, often radiating to arms / neck, sometimes denied / dismissed because can feel like indigestion, if not breathing initiate CPR, seek medical attention ASAP.
- **Dehydration**—Insufficient water consumption. Symptoms: thirsty. Drink water.
- **Heat exhaustion**—Symptoms: weakness, faintness, sometimes headache and nausea, skin pale, wet, and clammy from perspiring. Move to cooler but not chilly place, lay down, drink fluids if tolerated. Follow-up care suggested.
- **Heat stroke**—more serious than heat exhaustion. Symptoms: mental confusion, staggering walk, delirium, skin flushed, dry, and hot. Person may mention being hot. Move to cooler but not chilly place, lay down with head elevated, sponge body with cool water. Seek medical attention.
- **Poisoning**—Can be by inhalation, ingestion, absorption or injection (bites). Symptoms: many and varied. Observe the situation and seek medical assistance immediately. If by ingestion of known source follow directions on container and seek medical assistance immediately.
- **Concussion**—Injury to head. Symptoms: depends upon nature of injury, may have loss of consciousness, breathing or vision issues, inability to move certain body parts, headache, nausea, vomiting. Seek medical attention.
- **Shock**—A response to severe or sometime slight injuries including fright, severe burns, circulatory issues, blood loss, pain. Symptoms: altered consciousness; skin pale, moist, cool; rapid breathing and pulse; irritability or restlessness. Treat base cause then lay down feet elevated except with head injury, keep warm and airway clear, offer water. Seek medical attention.

Sometimes the signs are confusing or not easy to ascertain, but they are still worth noting. Rockhounding is a hobby where it is still best when all end their day safe, healthy and happy—a hobby where being part of the rock collecting family and knowing the signs is good thing.

The above is not meant to profess or prescribe current medical solutions. It is meant to convey the understanding that many medical emergencies have solutions that need quick action and club knowledge of solutions may be a part of a successful outcome. There is a huge number of emergency medical and survival guides. The American Red Cross (copyright) had a substantial number of up-to-date health and safety publications. Please encourage your club’s safety committee to stay current with health and safety practices. Please consider encouraging an interest in safety being practiced by every club member. Your safety matters.

• Ron Carmen
The commemorative stamps have been enhanced with holographic films adding color-changing designs such as the moon stamp which, when warmed in the hand, changed from full dark to bright full moon, recent dinosaur stamps were printed on translucent material, and then there were the popsicle stamps which had scents included in their make-up. Stamps are a fun item to collect.

The AFMS Commemorative Stamp Committee (CSC) is charged with coming up with a hobby-related idea to submit to the Stamp Development section of the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee of the US Postal Service (CSACUSPS) which selects designs for stamps. The committee receives thousands of ideas each year. From those ideas the CSACUSPO choose the designs for new United States postal stamps.

Many years ago, the AFMS CSC made a concerted effort to have clubs rally around the effort to get behind the idea of a set of stamps highlighting birthstones on stamps. While many people and clubs sent the birthstones idea into the CSACUSPS, the effort to issue a birthstone stamp was not successful. In the past year several ideas have been submitted to me for a new stamp effort. Ideas suggested include:

- Kids rock/geoscience poster art
- USA strategic minerals
- Birthstones
- Jewelry craft
- Suite minerals such as minerals from a specific mine such as the Red Cloud Mine
- Highlights from several famous museums
- Agates
- Famous gems
- The world of micro minerals
- State gem/rock/mineral/ fossils
- Minerals that helped build the USA
- USA gemstones
- Gemstone carving
- Fossil Parks
- Picture jaspers
- Bead work
- Highlights of the Smithsonian Museum mineral collection
- Scrimshaw from museum collections
- Coal
- Fossil dinosaur skulls
- Thin section art

And there are plenty more great ideas out there.

Where does the AFMS CSC stand at the moment? We have received information on stamp design requirements and are reviewing the information regarding the new requirements. We hope to soon have a plan to prepare another official AFMS stamp design effort for a hobby related stamp design.

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Land Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.

(Continued from p. 4) of how Ken as a little boy, bid $50 for a piece of Lepidolite Ron had supplied at a Rolling Rock Club auction. Ken was up front and we were at the back when the little hand shot up and he said $50. Of course, Howie Whiting immediately said sold and Ken became the proud owner of this very special specimen! One of the joys of attending shows over the years is the opportunity to reconnect with friends, and it was wonderful to spend a few minutes with Shirley Leeson & Keith Harmon.

Our September was definitely a rock hound’s dream come true! Great people, great shows, & great scenery! Hope to meet you on the trail soon!
Montana Agate—An American Gemstone Treasure

Lynn Baldwin

From Ezine Articles.com Expert Lynn Baldwin via The Opal Express, October 2021, vol. 24, #10, p. 4

Since the time Man descended from the trees, personal adornment in the form of jewelry has been part of every culture. Each person wishes to express herself or himself in an individual manner, and jewelry allows us one means to accomplish that goal.

Usually, when someone thinks about gemstones, the big four come to mind. These are diamond, emerald, ruby and sapphire. One might also consider opal, garnet, and a few others, but typically it would end there. Of the gemstones just mentioned, all but the opal would be cut as faceted stones, and allow little in the way of individuality.

The opal would be the only gemstone in the list to be cut cabochon. As defined by the *American Heritage Dictionary*, this means a highly polished, domed, un faceted gem.

The opal is the only stone of the previously mentioned gemstones to offer much in the way of exclusivity, as no two opals are ever the same. This property alone allows an opal to be chosen to reflect its owner, and to assure a one of a kind piece of jewelry. Unfortunately opal has a big drawback. It is a fairly soft and brittle gemstone, and must be worn carefully or you risk breaking it.

So far, virtually everyone is aware of the previously mentioned gemstones. Something to consider though is that this barely scratches the surface of the potential gemstones available to be used in various ways as personal adornment.

For instance, there are a great number of agates and jaspers (topics for another day) that are cut for use in jewelry about which almost no one knows. One of these that I would like to discuss is Montana agate.

Montana Agate

Long a favorite of hobbyist and professional cutters alike because of the beautiful and highly variable patterns and durability, Montana agate is a very hard and tough stone that wears well in jewelry. A classic scenic agate, it produces luminous and lustrous gemstones with evocative scenes of lakeshores or mountains as well as figural gems. With many of these agates, in order to appreciate their subtlety, you will have to view them against the light. No two are ever exactly alike, not even matched pairs.

Agate, the Mystical birthstone for the month of September and the birthstone for the Zodiac sign of Gemini, is believed by many to possess unique properties that protect its wearer from dangers and promotes strength and healing.

Lynn Baldwin is the owner of http://www.fine-find.com and has been involved in collecting, cutting and carving fine gemstones, including Montana agate, for more than 30 years.


Image sources: Creative Commons
Here is the Committee Chairs list for 2021-22. 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
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**AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year**
Judi Allison
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**Conservation and Legislation**
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**Convention Advisory**
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**Endowment Fund**
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**Name Badge & Trophy**
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**Nominating**
David Wayment (see Long Range Planning)

**Parliamentarian**
Sandy Fuller
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**Past President's Advisory**
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**Photography**
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**Web Site Contest**
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**AFMS Scholarship Foundation**
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<sandie.fender at gmail.com>

Judy Beck, Vice President
Margaret Kolaczynk, Secretary
Barbara Ringhiser, 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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**Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Federation</th>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canceled</td>
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<td>July 9-12</td>
<td>Syracuse, NY</td>
<td>Eastern Fed.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Canceled</td>
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<td>Sept 10-12</td>
<td>Toledo, OH</td>
<td>Midwest Fed.</td>
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<td>2022</td>
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<td>April 22-24</td>
<td>Lancaster, CA</td>
<td>Midwest Fed.</td>
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<td>Southeast Fed.</td>
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**Purpose of the AFMS:**

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

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

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

Subscription Information, Distribution Questions and address changes should be sent to the AFMS Central Office.

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

Content: Letters, Editorial Comments, Submissions

Any questions or other communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor.

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775-624-8446 <AFMSeditor@gmail.com>

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**AFMS Newsletter November 2021**