“Ring out the old, ring in the new;
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.”
—Alfred Tennyson, “Ring Out, Wild Bells”

I am sure many times over the years you may have heard the saying to ring out the old, ring in the new. What does the saying mean to you? Perhaps it means to rid yourself of the negative and bring in the positive. Possibly to ring in the new year with hope and understanding and determination to accomplish things.

The Latin root word for new is nov. It is found in many of our words, such as novel, supernova, renovate and innovate.

At this point you might be wondering where this is going. The answer is as follows:

This is a new year for our members and our hobby.

There will be a number of new minerals found this year. According to the International Mineralogical Association (IMA), approximately 90 to 110 new mineral species are approved.

You can read about two newly discovered minerals found in El Ali meteorite in the link below; however, I will summarize it for you a little later in this article.


At the last annual meeting held in New Orleans, a new committee was formed to renovate the Uniform Rules for Competition Display. What this means to you is that it will be easier to understand the rules to display your rocks, minerals, gems and fossils in competition. Look for updates in the next several newsletter additions.

Next, let’s talk about our newsletter. This year, Linda Jaeger is our new editor. Linda has been and continues to be the BEAC chair as well for the AFMS. Being the editor is a very big commitment and one that we are very thankful that Linda endeavored to undertake.

I would like to take this time to also thank Suzanne Webb, our former newsletter editor and member of the Reno Gem & Mineral Society, who stepped up to the plate at our AFMS/MWF Convention in 2018 upon the death of Carolyn Weinberger.

Linda is with the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society (RMFMS). She serves within the regional federation as well as the AFMS.

Kudos to both Suzanne and Linda. Should you see either of them, please thank them!

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From the Desk of the President

Regional BEACs are in the midst of organizing & running their contests for 2023. We are looking forward to new entries and hoping maybe a new editor or two has joined the contest! Of course, we love reading the articles sent in by the editors! Hopefully, next year - a mere 11 months away - more editors will find the contest to be a novel event!

There are several contests your clubs and members should be participating in. Why not record the activities of your club for the year. Enter your memories in this new year’s All American.

Why not encourage your members to pay tribute to a person in your club. Surely someone knows a person who should be recognized for all their efforts. Please send your Club Rockhound of the Year to your federation’s representative.

The youth program has been busy providing new insight for ways for your club to provide an avenue for juniors to be involved in the hobby. This is not a novel idea by any means, but it may be a new idea for your club. You only need one child to be interested - this may be your own child, your grandchild, your neighbor’s child or a child in the classroom. If we want our hobby to survive with the aging of our members, we need to look to the young for new, fresh ideas. We need to provide them with an education that will possibly lead them through life with an understanding of our mother earth and a desire to learn new ideas and techniques.

Visit the new AFMS Juniors Website, [www.juniors.amfed.org](http://www.juniors.amfed.org). Lori Carter and Marty Hart of SFMS have been busy launching the site. Lori has been working on this for two years now and deserves a very loud round of applause. She is also involved with the International Sand Collectors Society, [https://sandcollectors.org/](https://sandcollectors.org/). This may be a novel way for you to learn more about geology! One grain at a time, to paraphrase the society.

The newest convention will be held in Billings, MT. Doug True, former AFMS president, has been very busy getting ready for the crowd! In addition to the normal convention activities, you will find several new ideas - but you need to be there to be part of them!

I wanted to recap the article about new minerals. The study of the El Ali meteorite at the University of Alberta (UA) discovered two new minerals which were named elaliite and elkinstantonite. One was named after the locale of the found meteorite - near the town of El Ali in Somalia, Africa. Chris Herd, Professor of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, named the second mineral after a person, Lindy Elkins-Tanton, vice president of Arizona State University’s School of Earth & Space Exploration and principal investigator of NASA’s upcoming (new) Psyche mission. Professor Elkins-Tanton received her doctorate in Geology and Geophysics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2002.

The asteroid Psyche appears to be the exposed nickel-iron core of an early planet. The asteroid orbits the sun between Mars and Jupiter.

If you happen to be in Tucson this year, take the time to see their newest museum located in downtown Tucson at the historic Pima County Courthouse - the Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum with a specific emphasis on minerals from Arizona and Mexico.

So there you have it!

I wish for you this new year the opportunity to learn new ideas. I hope you and your members decide to participate in more programs that are offered by AFMS. I hope you all have the opportunity to collect new minerals, whether it is the actual specimen or the knowledge of the mineral. Every month I challenge you to read about a rock, mineral, gem or fossil that begins with the same letter of the month.

So now you have your homework - J for January, F for February... **Send me a paragraph of what item you chose.** This will be a real test to see who actually read the whole article!
AFMS Executive Committee Zoom Meeting  
December 8, 2022  

AFMS President Cheryl Neary called the meeting to order. She thanked David Wayment for setting up the Zoom meeting. 25 officers, directors and committee chairmen answered the roll call, which gave a quorum.

Matt Charsky, immediate past president, reported that he has several duties as past president. 1.He will be putting together the past president’s case at the AFMS Convention in Billings, Montana in August 2023. Doug True took the materials back to Billings because Matt was flying home from Louisianan. 2. He is looking at getting new photos, labels and specimens updated, and cleaning the liners. 3. He will be contacting members of the advisory council (past presidents). 4. Long Range Planning will be making recommendations. 5. Next year’s executive committee members.

Liz Thomas was celebrating her 50th wedding anniversary, but was present. Lora Hall had had a heart attack recently and was now battling the flu. Cheryl Neary had laryngitis.

As president, Cheryl had asked Jim Brace-Thompson to serve as chairman of the Public Relations Committee. Cheryl noted that each regional vice president needs to contact their committee chairman to see if they can help them in any way. Everyone needs to be writing articles for the AFMS Newsletter and sending them to Linda Jaeger.

Since the California representatives had another Zoom meeting shortly, they were asked to report first.

Jim Brace-Thompson said he was looking forward to working with all the chairs, especially website. The California website chairman wants to update the competition and requirements. Jim’s wife works as the IT person with their school district, so he will be calling on her for assistance. He said he is not entirely clear what public relations covers, so is trying to get a better feel. The operating procedure for that needs updating to include social media. He asked about an AFMS Public Brochure from 2001. He would like to update that. He wants to be outward focused, not inward focused. We need to reach out to the general public. Fran Sick was the most active public relations chair. He plans to go back over her articles. The regional federations need to connect with the chairs.

Treasurer Pat LaRue reported the main thing she is doing is getting everything ready to send to the accountant for taxes. She needed to know who the treasurers are for each federation so she can remind them dues are due.

Kimberly Fiala, President of the California Federation reported she had nothing new to add.

Cheryl noted that there are open positions that need to be filled. She will send out a list so others can help find people to fill the open positions.

President-elect Roger Burford was on, but having trouble with his audio. He later reported he had nothing to add.

First Vice President J.C. Moore reported he would be contacting Ellery Borow, Commemorative Stamp Chairman; Cheryl Neary chairman of the Endowment Fund; Financial Investment Advisor, Wayne Cox; and Photographer John Martin to see how he might be able to assist them this year.

3rd Regional Vice President Reggie Bolton noted he was responsible for the Historian, International Relations Chairman, New Program Competition Chairman, and Safety Chairman. He would be contacting those people. The best e-mail to reach him is reggie@newenvirons.net and his landline is the preferred phone number to use.

4th Regional Vice President Liz Thomas is responsible to assist Club Rockhound of the Year, Education, and All American Awards, for which she had judged; Publications; Webmaster; and Inter-Regional Field Trips. She is working to fix the snag from last year.

Secretary Donna Moore had nothing new to report. She noted she answers questions and tries to direct questions to the person who can best handle them. The minutes of the annual meeting had been published in the AFMS Newsletter.

Directors Reports
Eastern Federation President Bill Stephens said he was intrigued with the outward not inward movement. The EFMLS is working to recover from recent problems. They have recovered their website. He noted that YouTube has an interesting series called Dirt Man. Tom Hale had a meeting of Friends of Mineralogy and has leveraged social media. He is quite active. Ellery Borow is taking over the Uniform Rules for Eastern after the untimely death of Barbara Sky. They are hoping to back some clubs that had dropped out and find more willing volunteers. The EFMLS is coming back.

Midwest President Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich reported their spring meeting and fall convention are set. They have a T-shirt slogan contest for the MWF. They are just getting the officers and chairmen filled. There are several long-term people who have asked to step down. The MWF is coming back after Covid.

Judi Allison reported that both Darrell Coyle and Jennifer Haley were in areas that might be affected by a storm and not sure if they can connect to this meeting.

Sheri Johnson is serving her second year as president of the Rocky Mountain Federation. She is having the same trouble as others in getting reliable volunteers. They are presently updating their 20-year-old website. Some clubs have more members than ever before. It is going to take time to recover.

Jodi Brewster, Rocky Mountain 1st Vice President had nothing to add.

continued on page 4

AFMS Newsletter — February 2023
South Central Roger Burford reported they serve on a two -year cycle starting January 1. They have the same problem getting volunteers. They had a poor turn out from their federation for the recent convention. They are having trouble getting the word out to the general public that the clubs exist.

Jennifer Haley, Northwest 1st Vice President joined the meeting. She reported they had just had their convention in Portland. It went well. One club had dropped out. Covid did take a hit. They had lowered dues to help clubs out. They are talking to clubs about working with the Bureau of Land Management. She can be e-mailed at ALAA. The BLM is allowing collecting at the new monument site.

Dennis Buchanan, Southeastern Federation President, reported they had just held their annual meeting with the largest group in the last five years. Two committees – membership and communications were off to a good start.

Danny Griffin, Southeastern 1st Vice President, said their education chairman is trying to figure out how to publicize workshops in the AFMS. His phone is 865-406-8802.

Committee Chairmen
Judi Allison, Club Rockhound of the Year, urged everyone to participate in recognizing unsung heroes in our clubs.

Steve Weinberger asked about the submitted request to rename the committee Program Competition to New Program Competition. It was decided at the annual meeting that this could be done by the Officers. He noted it could be done by e-mail. There had been talk about changing the rules. He noted if rules are too detailed, it limits the committee activities. Cheryl can send out an e-mail for a vote from the board. Ballots can be returned by e-mail to Donna or Cheryl. Cheryl preferred Donna as credentials chairman.

Ellery Borow reported that the post office has had one request. He is working on something for commemorative mineral stamps.

Endowment – Cheryl reported she needs prize donations. Send photos of the prizes to Cheryl so they can be added to the website. Prizes should be no more than five pounds with a value of at least $75.

Financial Investment – Wayne Cox reported the fund had been hurt by the stock market this year. Any profit was invested in the income. The rate increases were hurting our income. He hopes funds will come back in the long term. This year will show a loss.

Historian Jennifer Haley is working on updating the past presidents’ photos. She would like to make them a certain size so they don’t overwhelm the case.

Judges Training – David Wayment reported for Leslie there is a possibility of holding a session at Wildacres or Hickory.

Juniors – Joan Stoker (sitting in for Lora Hall) reported 166 clubs with juniors had been contacted. There was a spreadsheet that lists about 170 responses. A few had discontinued their junior program. They found that most junior programs were running at the same time as the adult meetings. There are now 74 clubs with active junior programs, 63 before Covid. Most of the clubs responding are doing the badge programs. Some are doing their own thing. It is hoped juniors can be contacts and encouraged. It is hard to help if clubs are not on the list. Jim and Nancy Brace-Thompson had started a special award for juniors in the California Federation.

Name Badges – Let Cheryl Neary know if you need an AFMS Name Badge. Send her your mailing address.

Evan Day, Parliamentarian, asked to keep him on the list if any by-laws changes are being proposed.

Delane Cox – She reported she is trying to put together an update. There have been no entries in program competition for three years. She encouraged juniors to do a 10-minute video and submit it. The rules are different for junior entries. She is trying to get new federation chairmen. We need new programs.

Publications – David Wayment said we need to update the uniform rules even if there are no major updates. They have not been updated since 2018. The Uniform Rules Committee is working to make the rules more user friendly.

Safely Chairman Ellery Borow reported that Mary Bateman had found a treasure trove of safety articles. He was working at getting the safety manual updated. Programs are needed.

Walt Beneze, Show Consultant, asked federations to get dates to him ASAP. The Midwest is holding their convention September 16-17, 2023 in Howell, Michigan. California is June 24-25, 2023, Eastern Federation will be held July 7-9, 2023. Northwest will be hosting the AFMS in Billings, Montana, August 3-6, 2023. E-mail him any corrections at wmbenlbk@gmail.com.

Lori Carter reported that they are having problems transitioning to the new website. They may just have to rip off the band aid and go to a new one. The information from California indicated they have some things they want to talk about.

New newsletter editor Linda Jaeger, indicated her e-mail will remain the same as the one Suzanne Webb used afmseditor@gmail.com. Her deadline will be the 5th of the month preceding the issue date (as January 5 for February issue).
Lora Hall, AFMS Junior Programs Chair

Have you checked out the new AFMS Juniors Website?

When the new AFMS Junior's website launched in January 2022, part of that was a new way for clubs to sign up for Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) using an online form. The point of the online form wasn't to cut down on paperwork; it was designed to be a way of gathering information into a spreadsheet and searchable database.

We know that there are many clubs out there who have junior and youth programs that have never signed up for Future Rockhounds of America, which means they are not in our new database, and we want to change that. So, if you are in a club that has a youth program and you're not signed up for Future rockhounds of America we encourage you to go to the website, follow the link, and sign your club up.

Future Rockhounds of America link is: www.juniors.amfed.org/fra

There's no need to worry that you might already be signed up because the database makes it very easy to find duplications and simply keeps the most current information. The AFMS Juniors Committee feels this will be a game changer in communicating with all the clubs out there running junior programs so that we can share information in real time. We have always felt that one size does not fit all when it comes to a juniors programs. Not every club wants to use the badge program and that's fine. But what we're finding is sharing information is critical. If one club has a juniors program that works for them, then more than likely that same juniors program will work for another club.

We recently sent out a series of 166 emails based on email addresses we had dating back to 2004 asking if they still had a juniors program. If you received one of these emails and you haven't responded, we strongly encourage you to do so even if you no longer have a juniors program. It might also be a great opportunity for you to say, "No we suspended our juniors program but would really like help restarting it". As of today, we have 63 active juniors programs with over 500 kids across the federation that we know of, and we are sure there are more out there. If your club doesn't have a juniors program and you're interested in starting one, I am only a phone call away or you can visit the new website that is chock full of ideas on how to get started. You can even find PowerPoint presentations that will walk you through the process of starting a juniors program or using the badge program.

One question I'm often asked is why should our club care about a juniors program? And not surprisingly these are some of the same clubs whose membership is dropping, and they are in danger of folding. As you may know, Boy Scouts of America rebranded itself a few years ago into Scouts USA and at the same time included girls across the board in all levels of programming. I was involved in Scouts at the time, and I can tell you that one of the reasons they did this was to accommodate busy families. Boy Scouts recognized that it didn't work for Jack to be going off to boy scout meetings once a week and Jill to be going off to girl scouts, and they needed something that the whole family could do together. Families simply do not have time for girl scouts, boy scouts, soccer, piano lessons, 4-H, and everything else that's available for kids today. A rock club’s junior program can do the same thing. It can turn your club into something the whole family can participate in, including Grandma and Grandpa. Think about it — most clubs are very diverse. You have people who like fossils, people who like minerals, those who like going on field trips, or those who like participating in lapidary classes. Your club most likely already has something everyone in a busy family is interested in.

So, my message is, if your club doesn't have a youth program consider starting one, and the new website is a great place to start. If your club had a juniors program and you had to put it on hold and you need help restarting it, reach out and we will be glad to walk you through a restart.

Website link is: www.juniors.amfed.org

(Photos courtesy of Lora Hall. Used with parental permission.)

AFMS Executive Committee Zoom Meeting

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The Bulletin Editors Contest information has been sent to the regional chairmen. Any questions can be address to Linda.

Cheryl encouraged everyone to send articles to Linda for the newsletter. The AFMS judging sheets for the bulletin editors contest are on the AFMS website.

Bill Stephens mentioned helping quarries in their outreach to the public. He said the Friends of Mineralogy have been looking at the opportunity to assist in this. Also, contact the aggregate industry. On Saturday, Feb. 11, a symposium with five sessions will be offered from Tucson. This will be available on Zoom. He noted in our outreach we need to be thinking what we can do for other people.

J.C. Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl adjourned the meeting.
I’ve been collecting rocks and fossils since my days as a young grasshopper in the early 1960s, way back in the midst of the last century. In a more official capacity, I’ve been involved in our dear hobby at the club level since 1991 when I first discovered there were such things as gem and mineral societies and accidentally found myself president of one. (Ask me, and I’ll give you the full story…) Since then, I’ve been involved at the regional CFMS level since 1998 and at the AFMS level since 2003, when I initiated the AFMS/FRA Badge Program. In other words, I’m no spring chicken. In fact, as of this year, I’m officially rather old according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But old age doesn’t preclude new beginnings!

My new beginning? AFMS Public Relations Chair. It’s not a position I actively sought and, quite frankly, it’s a position that baffles me. When Cheryl Neary suggested it, I explored various AFMS documents, including notes from recent AFMS convention packets. Most often, under “Public Relations,” those notes indicate “nothing to report” or “no report submitted.” This left me at a loss as to what, exactly, my responsibilities might be. Exploring further, I found that the last Public Relations Chair to submit regular monthly AFMS Newsletter articles and convention reports was Francis M. Sick, who wrote a series of articles from 2008 to 2010. I hope I might emulate her example, and I’ve been downloading and reading her helpful material, along with material from others who followed her.

As I continue to explore this position, I’ve noticed one thing over my years in the organized rockhounding community: when it comes to public relations, we always seem to preach to the choir. In other words, messages seem to be aimed inward to fellow clubs and members rather than outward to the public at large. To me, that’s not public relations. We need to get out of our insular bubble if we wish to continue and grow the hobby. When I was President of the California Federation in 2011, CFMS had 135 member societies. Today, we have 98—or a loss of some 3 clubs a year. How to reverse this disheartening trend?

Mind switch! Every morning, I take my dog Symon to a local off-leash dog park. Many people I meet sort of snicker when I mention I’m a Rockhound. “Oh,” they pause. “You mean like that nerd I knew in high school with a rock collection?” They don’t seem to notice they’re literally dripping in rocks, from the diamond in an engagement ring to the stone in a school ring, to the glittering and shiny stones adorning necklaces, bracelets, and belt buckles—even the collars of some dogs named Emerald or Ruby. When I shift the conversation to jewelry, ears perk up. Little did they know, they are Rockhounds, too!

These are the people we need to reach and to convert into the fold, so to speak. How to do so? That’s what I hope to explore in my monthly column for the coming year, and I seek your help. One of my duties is to coordinate with the Public Relations committee members of regional federations, but in going through regional websites, I see that only a couple regions, such as the Rocky Mountain Federation, even seem to have such a position. MWF has a Public Image Chair and SFMS has a Social Concerns Chair, but I’m not sure if these are the same as Public Relations. Still, every regional federation has a newsletter editor, a webmaster, and/or a social media chair. To me, these are synonymous with “public relations” in that each is charged with spreading the message and mission of our collective group.

In the list of duties for the AFMS Public Relations Chair, one huge omission I immediately spotted was not one single mention of social media. I’m encouraged to “submit articles to magazines and newspapers about Federation events.” To this, I respond, “What’s a newspaper?” If we are to grow, we need to embrace the new and look beyond our own belly buttons. How to do so? Well…

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2022 AFMS Rockhound of the Year

Recipients

Midwest Federation
The Dayton Gem and Mineral Society (DGMS) of Ohio proclaims Greg Brown is Rockhound of the Year for 2022. A member since 2012, Greg is the club’s newsletter editor and has served as secretary and treasurer. He has kept the club’s meetings ongoing, setting up Zoom sessions during the pandemic until members could meet in person. As treasurer, Greg did the considerable work required to secure for the DGMS 501(c)(7) non-profit status from the IRS in summer 2022.

Greg began collecting fossils at an early age and turned his passion into a career. Prior to earning his B.S. Geology and Mineralogy from The Ohio State University in 1985, Greg worked in the geology museum on campus as part of the work-study program. He also prepared conodonts (microfossils) for graduate students and specimens for electron microscopy. After graduation, Greg spent ten years as a hydrogeologist. For the past 22 years, he has worked for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency as a Geologist 3 to keep our groundwater and cities clean.

Greg continues to build his collection, searching for minerals and the select fossils that have been replaced by minerals, often calcite or pyrite. He has traveled to Tucson three times for the big show and attends many local shows. Greg has been on many field trips and enjoys the camaraderie and enthusiasm of his fellow collectors. Congratulations, Greg, the honor of Rockhound of the Year is well deserved.

Photo courtesy: Greg Brown

Northwest Federation
Gordon Weber has been a member of Hatzrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society for a number of years. Although one rarely sees him in the forefront, he is often quietly in the background contributing to the good of the society. Gordon has created some very visible signage for our show and he is always front and center to help with all the tasks in getting the show ready. At the meetings, whenever his name is chosen for a door prize, he re-gifts it to a Junior or a visitor. Whenever we have a picnic or potluck, we can always count on Gordon to bring the ice cream. Yum! Thanks, Gordon, for all you do. Submitted By Executive Committee

Because we could not decide on one, The Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club selects Larry Hulstrom and Mike Zinski as the 2022 Rockhounds of the Year.

Larry's tireless efforts in support of the Club and the rockhounding hobby really dazzled this past year. Last year, Larry wore multiple hats: NFMS President, our Federation Representative, and annual show organizer. He managed to juggle all three roles with aplomb, organizing and running both the NFMS mid-year meeting and our most successful annual show in recent years. But Larry really shines because his zeal doesn't stop there. He helps organize and shows up for events that represent our club, like RiverFest and the Benton County Fair. His passion for the hobby is reflected in his excellent presentation at one of our General Meetings.

Larry also recognizes Mike Zinski. Although he has only been a club member for a few years, Mike has been a rockhound and lapidary artist for decades. He brings a wealth of information that he is more than happy to share with anyone who visits his shop, which he generously opened to members to visit and work their stones. His name continually pops up during meetings as members remark "I cabbed this at Mike’s last week" or "I faceted my first stone at Mike's shop." He has also hosted several Junior Club meetings, and his enthusiasm has rubbed off on the next generation of rockhounds. Thank you, Mike, for sharing your passion for rocks and gems with the club and enabling many others to pursue their interests. Submitted by Chris Sorensen and Patrick Donahue.

South Central Federation
Earnest Carter, this year’s (2022) Austin Gem and Mineral Society's Rockhound of the Year is a familiar face to any AGMS member who has spent time at the clubhouse. First of all, he is the embodiment of our club motto, “Each One, Teach One.” During 2022 he has supervised workshops and taught classes on how to make cabochons. In addition, all attendees learned something new about glass fusion from his excellent presentation at one of our General Meetings. Secondly, he has volunteered at all of the AGMS special events including First Saturdays, the Noisy Auction, and Gem Capers, usually wearing a colorful Hawaiian shirt. Lastly, he was involved in all facets of building maintenance and repair. This included equipment repair and the purchase of various items necessary for the betterment of club facilities. Submitted by: Jan Oszias, Nicole Heinmich, Barbara Liebman, Jack Liebman

Rocky Mountain Federation
Cañon City Geology Club honors Greg Sharp as its Rockhound of the Year for 2022. As our Field Trip committee chair, he has demonstrated a constant enthusiasm for the education and elevation of the membership. He created an unprecedented number of field trips, providing variety, quality, and accessibility, while concurrently promoting member camaraderie. His lecture-hike approach - inviting knowledgeable speakers to actively participate in field trips, greatly expanded the geologic understanding of attending members. Multiple classes in geology were well attended, very well received, and led by high-quality instructors. Always open to suggestions, he proactively sought member input that he translated into still more welcome activities. The Canon City Geology Club membership thanks Greg Sharp for his many contributions and deservedly recognizes him as our Rockhound of the Year. Submitted by Bill Bosch, Vice President

Eastern Federation
As Co-President of the New York Mineralogical Club I would very much like to nominate Diane Beckman for Club Rockhound of the Year. At the beginning of the pandemic, Diane, already our club treasurer and acting president, was proactive in finding out how to use Zoom, open an account on behalf of the Club, host all the meetings and obtain speakers willing to present using this new platform. As a result of her hard work, we have not had to cancel any scheduled meetings! We have engaged highly popular guest speakers discussing a wide variety of topics. She established the practice of honoring our speakers with sponsorship of a “mindat” page. Each month she updates our website and newly created Facebook pages, a social media platform that the Club did not previously have and which she created on our behalf. She was also key in organizing two club field trips and our highly anticipated Club get-together at Chelsea Piers. Due in no small part to her efforts, the NYMC has attracted many new members during these difficult times. Moreover, Diane took the helm as Editor of the Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Club, winning AFMS & EFMLS Best New Editor Award for 2020. It is clear to many of us that the NYMC would not have reached its 135th year if not for Diane’s hard work and creativity during these past two years since the loss of our beloved president, Mitch, and the devastating impact on all of us, of a once-in-a-century pandemic. I greatly enjoy working with her and wish to express our deep gratitude on behalf of NYMC for her unfailing care and service to our club.

submitted by Anna Schumate

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AFMS Newsletter — February 2023
Too Much Safety

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Too much safety, is there such a condition? In day to day activities we practice driving safety, lapidary equipment safety, first response safety, fire safety, mineral collecting safety, home safety, meeting safety, food preparation safety and much, much more. All those safety matters plus a myriad of additional activities in which we practice safety make quite a daunting list of what we must know and do to remain safe.

To be safe we need to know a great deal of information. There is so very much information, one might be tempted to hide under a rock to escape it all, but even that escape would not be safe either. What is one to do to be knowledgeable in all matters of safety? The answer to that question is clear – get help. Or, get professional help.

There are numerous professional people out there who will gladly help us in being safe. Fire departments routinely have people who can help with matters of safety, the American Red Cross has people who train groups of people in safety techniques, many insurance companies have booklets and brochures on home safety, local and state police departments frequently offer community safety programs, equipment manufacturers provide detailed safety guidelines for safe operation of their equipment. Those and many more offer very specific and professional approaches to safety.

Not as common, but available at various schools and colleges, are courses of study dealing with specific matters of safety.

Generally, equipment manufacturers provide excellent safety instruction in the operating manuals provided with the machinery they offer. Manufacturers most certainly want the users of their products to be safe and have good experiences in that usage. If a machinery operation manual is lost or damaged a replacement copy can usually be obtained. It is important to know and understand safe use of the equipment we use.

Additional sources of safety information are available on the internet. Many of those sources are of professional quality. It often pays to verify accuracy of some of the material available electronically.

Getting professional safety help is easy to accomplish through the sources mentioned above. Please don’t let the daunting volume of safety information deter one from approaching safety matters with confidence and knowledge. When in doubt, please feel free to contact the experts and ask for the help they can provide.

Your safety matters, always. It matters this year, next year, and all years to come.

Quick Tips for Editors
Linda Jaeger, AFMS BEAC

The AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee is composed of the seven regional BEACs plus two members at large.

Do you know your Regional BEAC?

CFMS: Celia Churchill
EFMLS: Lucy Jackson
MWF: Mary Ann & David Ferguson-Rich
NFMS: Kat Koch
RMFMS: Linda Jaeger
SCFMS: Susan Burch
SFMS: Mark Easterbrook

Members at Large: Terry Yoschak & Mark Nelson

Regional Bulletin Editor contests will soon be in full swing. Local club editors submit their bulletins, articles, features, poetry, juniors’ works, and special publications to the BEAC for the federation to which their club belongs. Each regional BEAC sets dates for their contest that will be complete before the dates listed below for the AFMS contest. Top three winners in each category of the regional contests are forwarded to AFMS judges by each regional BEAC.

Important dates for the AFMS contest:
March 3, 2023 — BEACs expect an email & hard copy of AFMS Judges List
April 3, 2023 — All entries due to the AFMS judges
May 17, 2023 — All judged entries due back to Linda from AFMS judges

This means regional contests will need to be completed sometime before April 3, 2023.
The Art of Being the Meaningful Historian, Part 3 — Storage Boxes
Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

Often historian files are kept in cardboard boxes, the type with the open hole hand grasps. Those are fine if kept in a dry space, but you want to make sure mice and pests aren’t getting into the boxes. Mice have amazing acrobatic talents, and can easily squeeze into a 5mm opening and jump almost 10”. They love to chew up cardboard and paper to make their nests. This means some metal filing cabinets (depending upon where you keep them) can become a mouse apartment too, so periodically check them.

Cardboard boxes are convenient and don’t have to cost anything. I do think however that plastic boxes are the best. Not the pricier type with the carrying handle on the lid, but ones with snap closures. The lids snap on tight and stay on tight all around the lid. I suggest tossing in a silver fish insect packet per box for good measure. If you live in the south, those cute little lizards and bothersome crawling insects aren’t going to get in.

As for spiders, they won’t be able to get into your plastic snap on lidded boxes. Spiders of all kinds can make a big mess over time if you don’t keep an eye on them. Spider poo builds up into a terrible mess that is hard to clean off hard surfaces, and will stain paper. Keep up good housekeeping around your boxes and filing cabinets, so the creepy crawlers don’t settle in for good.

Tightly lidded plastic boxes are moisture proof, except if you have a flood and the water level is high enough to slowly seep into your boxes. What’s great about these boxes is they are good protection against an undetected overhead leak or spills for a good period of time before you notice the needed repair or accident.

These days the cost of plastic containers has become surprisingly affordable. Often the office stores and big chain stores have sales on them. Some brands are charging way too much in my mind per box. This year I found some excellent ones on sale for $8 each, and they are strong and easily stackable. If you have lots of boxed files, even $8 each may sound like too much to spend. If you want to gradually make the switch, think about upgrading the earliest files first since they are more fragile.

Notes from Our Regional Federations:

Volunteers
Kimberly Fiala, CFMS President

Hello! Every society and club needs volunteers, but how does one get someone to volunteer? Maybe we need to re-evaluate and/or set up a recruitment program. Most people like to be a part of what they are passionate about or join an organization/club that shares their interests, skills, and passion. Being a volunteer is work, but when it’s something you enjoy and are passionate about it is rewarding.

Please talk with your friends/family and neighbors to see if they are interested in joining or volunteering to help the society or your own local club. I’d have to admit that most people I run into don’t really have any idea what a “rock/gem” show is. We all know that the shows are a big part of our society and for those vendors/clubs to show off their skills on what is actually done with rocks, gems, and/or minerals. If everyone can just get one person to volunteer and help out no matter what small task, it would be a tremendous help.

Take your friends and family out to a show, search for local rock events or shows in your local area, so your friends and family can experience the excitement of great finds! For those of you in the south, check out Quartzsite, CA. There is a wide variety of things to look at that may also pique interest in people to join the society or local club. And have you ever tried going to Tucson, AZ?

Have a Happy Valentine’s Day and enjoy the month!

How I Got Involved with RMFMS
Jodi Brewster, RMFMS Vice President

In 2018 I attended the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Show and Rocky Mountain Federation Convention to represent our club, The Gila County Gem & Mineral Society. While there, I met some of the people who are RMFMS officers and was finally able to put faces to those I called when we needed something from the federation. Like most clubs, we get our show insurance from the federation, and it was nice to meet and talk with Gene.

I was asked if I was the delegate for our club, I just looked at them and said “Sure” — even though I was really there to take part in the cool rock trips they had planned. They invited me to sit in on the Executive Board meeting. I thought to myself “this sounds important,” and so I sat there and listened. Roll call for the state directors was called and each state in attendance responded, but no one from Arizona. Then they asked all the state directors about what their member clubs were doing, and one report after another was given, but still nothing from Arizona.

I was curious as to what a state director did so I asked them, “Just what does a state director do?” and “Do we have one and if so, who is it?” They told me that we do have a state director and because Nevada only has one RMFMS member club, they were represented by him. They told me the director is a liaison between the clubs and the federation. Some of their duties include keeping the clubs informed on what is going on in the federation and forwarding the monthly RMFMS newsletters to the clubs.

While at the floor of delegates meeting and still curious I asked “Who is the Arizona State Director and how do we get hold of them if needed?” To my shock the next thing heard was “I nominate Jodi Brewster for Arizona/Nevada State Director” and then “I second the motion.” Which to my shock was followed by “All those in favor of Jodi Brewster being elected to state director say aye” and then a loud chorus of “Aye!” and not a single “nay,” then “Let the record show that Jodi Brewster is nominated as AZ/NV State Director.” All I could think was “DON’T EVER ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS because I might get myself in deeper than this.”

Yes, I did accept the position and got all the information I would need to be an effective director. When I returned to Arizona, I contacted all 18 of the clubs to introduce myself and to set up “Meet & Greets” so that all the clubs know they HAVE a director. My main goal was to let them know that the RMFMS is more than “Event Insurance,” like the lending library, and several member contests which are judged every year for the convention.

I felt like a firecracker ready to explode. I needed to start right NOW so I could let the clubs know what I had learned.

Being President and Show Coordinator for the Gila County Gem & Mineral Society, I ran into some issues that were so complex I almost canceled our annual show. If I had known we had a State Director, I could have reached out to see if they could help or have someone I could talk to about the problem.

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How I Got Involved with RMFMS

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It was with this reason in mind I took the position. The thought that I might be able to pass on what I had learned to help make someone else’s job a little easier is what drove me on.

November 2021 my title of RMFMS AZ/NV State Director ended, and I embarked on a new journey… RMFMS Vice President. You guessed it, I couldn’t keep comments to myself. LOL.

November 2023 I will have completed my two year term as the RMFMS Vice President. Who knows where my next challenge may be.

My motto is: COMMUNICATION!

Without all the clubs participating, there would be no RMFMS.

Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions

Hi, I am Walt Beneze, and I am privileged to be the AFMS show consultant again for the year 2023. What exactly is a show consultant, you say? That’s a good question, and I am still learning as I go.

I have been either the dealer chair, exhibit chair, or show chair for the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society for the last 11 years, and we have hosted the Regional Federation Convention three times in those years. As the show consultant, I can help by providing you with the necessary meetings and events list during your show. More importantly, I am a clearing ground for all upcoming Federation Convention dates. Since the AFMS officers come from all the Federations and are expected to be at the AFMS meeting, avoiding any conflicting dates with the AFMS convention is very important.

Please keep me informed as soon as you know the date and location of your next convention so it can be published in the AFMS newsletter. Thank you.

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<th>California Federation</th>
<th>Eastern Federation</th>
<th>Midwest Federation</th>
<th>Northwest Federation</th>
<th>Rocky Mountain Federation</th>
<th>South Central Federation</th>
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<td>Lodi, CA May 6 - 8</td>
<td>Syracuse, NY July 7 - 9</td>
<td>Howell, MI Sept. 16-17</td>
<td>AFMS Billings, MT August 3 - 6</td>
<td>Casper, WY July 7 - 9</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA Oct. TBD</td>
<td>Port St. Lucie, FL Oct. 27 - 29</td>
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<td>Ventura, CA June, TBD</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK Oct. 25 - 27</td>
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<td>Grand Junction, CO May 9 - 11</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 AFMS 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>

Content: Letters, Editorial Comments, Submissions

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

Linda Jaeger
3515 E. 88th St.,
Tulsa, OK 74137
<AFMSeditor at gmail.com>

Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication

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AFMS Land Use Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.
**AFMS Committees: 2022-2023**

Here is the list of Committee Chairs for 2022-2023. You can contact these people if you need information, have questions, or want to share ideas with them. Please note that the @ sign in the email address has been replaced by the word "at" to foil bots that collect email addresses.

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

**AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year**  
Judi Allison  
<nfmssec at gmail.com>

**AFMS Newsletter**  
Linda Jaeger  
<AFMSeditor at gmail.com>

**Boundaries**  
Doug True  
2622 Broadwater;  
Billings, MT 59102  
<dtruefossils 12 at yahoo.com>

**Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame**  
Frank Mullaney  
<rockyfive at gmail.com>

**Bulletin Editors Advisory**  
Linda Jaeger & Cheryl Neary  
<LJGRALG at aol.com>

**Bylaws Revisory**  
Steve Weinberger  
<cscrystals2 at gmail.com>

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

**Commemorative Stamps**  
Ellery Borow (see Safety)

**Conservation and Legislation**  
Susie Koppert  
<susiekoppert at gmail.com>

**Convention Advisory**  
<>

**Endowment Fund**  
Cheryl Neary  
See Central Office

**Financial Investment**  
Wayne Cox  
<waynec3 at earthlink.net>

**Historian**  
Jennifer Haley  
<ladybuglane at napablogger.com>

**Inter-Regional Field Trip**  
Doug True  
<dtruefossils 12 at yahoo.com>

**Judges Training Seminar**  
Open

**Junior Programs**  
Lora Hall  
<silvertipminis at msn.com>

**Long Range Planning**  
Matt Charsky  
<matt2430 at comcast.net>

**Name Badge & Trophy**  
Frank Mullaney  
(See Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame)

**Nominating**  
Matt Charsky  
<matt2430 at comcast.net>

**Parliamentarian**  
Evan Day  
<>

**Past President's Advisory**  
Matt Charsky (see Long Range Planning)

**Photography**  
John Martin

**New Program Competition**  
DeLane Cox  
<delanec3 at earthlink.net>

**Publications**  
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<aastainedglass at bellsouth.net>

**Public Relations**  
Jim Brace-Thompson  
<jbraceth at roadrunner.com>

**Safety**  
Ellery Borow  
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**Show Consultant**  
Walt Benezet  
<wbmenibk at gmail.com>

**Uniform Rules**  
Northwest Federation

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

**Ways and Means**  
Richard Jaeger  
<rjgrsci at aol.com>

**Website/Webmaster**  
Marty Hart & Lori Carter  
<webmaster at amfed.org>

**Web Site Contest (open)**  
Open  
<>

**AFMS Scholarship Foundation**  
Sandie Fender, President  
<sandie.fender at gmail.com>  
Cheryl Neary, Vice President  
Mary Bateman, Secretary  
Barbara Ringhiser, Treasurer