From the Desk of the President

Cheryl Neary  
AFMS President 2022-2023

I bought a sign years ago, one for my boss (more for him, to remind him how I feel) and one for me that reads: “Don’t get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life.” (Dolly Parton)

I find this saying to have a great deal of value. Some may disagree with me, but I believe we need to live our lives first. It isn’t all about making money – it’s about making memories. Don’t get me wrong. Yes, making a living is quite important and in fact necessary, but in the end the bills eventually get paid, and what price did you pay for that to happen?

Again, you may say what does this have to do with the AFMS - and my answer is plenty!

I am talking about making memories at your Federations’ and the AFMS conventions! To make memories you must be at a certain place at a certain time with certain people.

We have dates in the newsletter for the various Federation conventions. Please note that the seven federations’ dates are in a time frame of five (5) months. Boy, that calendar I spoke about last month can be filled before you know it!

CANYWYMTMIFLLA – this is almost like the word supercalifragilisticexpialidocious – not quite – since the letters in bold are merely the letters of the states in the order in which the conventions will be held in that five-month period:

- California will be hosting their convention in Lodi, CA. This will happen June 23rd – 25th.
- EFMLS will be following shortly after with a convention to be held in Syracuse, NY the weekend of July 7th – 9th.
- RMFMS will be hosting their convention in Casper, WY July 14th – 16th.
- NFMS is hosting the AFMS convention in Billings, MT from August 3rd – 6th.
- MWF will be hosting their convention in Howell, MI on September 16th – 17th.
- SFMS will be hosting their convention in Port St. Lucie, FL on Oct. 27th – 29th.
- SCFMS will be hosting their convention in New Orleans, LA – the date still to be determined!

Back to the nonsensical word supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, which refers to something extraordinary. The earliest known written record was in a column by Helen Herman in the Syracuse Daily Orange (Syracuse University) in 1931. Yes, the same city where EFMLS will be attending their convention this year!

When you plan to attend any of the conventions, you just may have a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious time! Why? Mingling with people, seeing great displays, purchasing great specimens for your collection, what else could you ask for? How about attending a meeting (or more!) and enjoying a banquet and/or the breakfast with editors and webmasters!

continued on page 2
Remember, the host clubs spend a great deal of time trying to make each convention special for the attendees. Why not reward them with your presence!

Thanks to Linda Jaeger, AFMS editor, for a great newsletter. She must have been one of the only ones that read my February message, which stated I would appreciate it if any one of the readers would write an article for the newsletter about a mineral, fossil, gem or lapidary piece that starts with the same letter as the month of the newsletter. For instance – if you are reading this article now, it is the April edition. The next newsletter will be May and the month starts with M, just like in March! Your article needs to be sent to Linda at AFMSeditor@gmail.com by the 5th of the month of April. Again, I challenge anyone to do it for M, J, J, A, S, O, N, and D!

Back to the saying, “Don’t get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life.” My boss, owner of the company I work for, would be described as a workaholic. That is until he was blessed two years ago in a matter of a month’s time with three grandchildren, one from each of his children. He recently commented to me that being able to spend time with them was very important to him. I know I value the time I spend with my grandson, now 30 months old (and another one on the way)! The arrangement I have with my boss is that I work four ten-hour days and am off on Fridays to babysit. I enjoy the times with Miles (my grandson) and the only thing that saddens me is that I will miss some of those Fridays with him while attending the conventions. Thankfully, there is FaceTime! While I will not be with him on those Fridays, I will be thinking of him and perhaps talking about him with the various people I see at the conventions. So be prepared, you might just be one of them!

For the AFMS Convention, Lucy and Jean, with whom I traveled to both Wyoming in 2021 and Louisiana in 2022 for the AFMS conventions, will again be traveling with me. We plan on leaving Long Island (New York) early on Monday, July 31st and reaching Billings, Montana by Wednesday night, August 2nd.

As of the writing of this article, Doug True has informed me that Bear Canyon is locked in for a field trip on Monday, 8/7/23. More details to follow about this trip and the other two trips being set-up.

So, depending on the field trips and the dates, we will plan on visiting: Craters of the Moon in Idaho, Crater Lake and Lucy’s sister in Oregon, and Glacier National Park in the northern portion of Montana. I need to return to work by 8/21. With that being said, I plan on returning to Long Island no later than 8/19 but ideally by 8/17 – so on the 18th I will see my grandsons and babysit!

That, my friends, is having a life!

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Like what you see at right? Interested in extinct volcanoes? You, too, can make the stunning Crater Lake (Oregon) a part of your trip to the AFMS/NFMS Show and Convention in Billings, Montana. Be there!

Photo by Linda Jaeger, August 2016
The Art of Being the Meaningful Historian, Part 4 — Photographs

Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

The photographs in your club and federation historian collections are some of the most treasured items you will come across. Hopefully, the historians before you made notes on each one, but that isn’t always the case. We tend to think we won’t forget who is in the photo, or when and what the event was, so we’ll get to labeling them sometime later. Over time those very good intentions can be forgotten about for years.

I would like to suggest that if you haven’t gone through those old photos, have some fun going through them soon. There will be members in your society, federation and even the AFMS, who have participated in so many of our events for most of their lives that they can be of help to you.

Where you find the photos in your boxes or files usually is a clue to what year the snapshots are from, but not always. Some of those mystery photos will turn out to inspire some really great articles for your newsletters, so dig into the project!

Many people are now choosing to scan their old photographs so the images will last longer than the paper they are on. There are basic computer programs available now, so you can erase the scratches, coffee spots and rusty paperclip marks from the photos. These programs allow you to bring the photos back to life if they have become faded and lack the crispness of the lines they once had. Once you scan a photo, you can easily email it to people who might be able to help you identify the photo.

If you aren’t into scanning, it would be helpful to use the archival photo sleeves found at office supplies to protect the photos. Many of these programs and archival supplies mentioned have become very reasonable to purchase these days. And you don’t have to do all the work yourself. As a historian, you can always ask for help to expand your committee, so you have more of the help you need. Just like a good mystery book group, you can share some fun with others and try and resolve the mysteries in those boxes!

Editor’s Note: Sounds like a party or maybe even a club program in the works!

How Do You Define & Implement PR?

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

We had a bit of a tragedy in our family this week. Subsequently, my time has fallen short for my monthly column, so I’ll take a brief pause to simply pose a question and invite your thoughts.

Rather than me, or the AFMS, telling you what public relations is and how to do it, how does your club or regional federation define PR, and what do you do to implement all that’s associated with that definition?

I welcome ideas large and small. Please send your thoughts to me via snail-mail, e-mail, or phone: 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003, jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577. I look forward to receiving suggestions, reflections, and ideas from those who matter most, namely, you!

2022 Junior Poetry Award Winners

Linda Jaeger, AFMS BEAC Chair

Kudos to Celia Churchill, editor of Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, and her juniors for sweeping the top spots in the Junior Poetry Category of last year’s AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest. Enjoy these reads from the eyes and pens of the younger set!

I Love Them All Big and Small

Lucia H. (11)

Rocks, fossils, gems, and minerals. I love them all. Each time I go collecting I always bring home quite a haul. They’re all so neat and interesting even the ones that are very small. If I had to pick a favorite I couldn’t. Because I would pick them all.


Tide is Low, Time to Go!

Valerie C. (6)

What washed up today?
Red and yellow jasper,
White quartz,
One swirly agate.
It’s getting dark,
My feet are wet and cold.
My bag is full. Let’s go home.

2nd Place AFMS Junior Poetry 2022. Rockhound Rambling, 11/2021
Thirty-four million years ago on a dismal Eocene afternoon near present-day Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in central Colorado, woodland creatures fled as the ground shook from a fiery power held deep within the Earth. This dark force manifested on the surface, where toxic gases, ash, and molten rock shot through open vents — filling the air. A red glow painted the sky as cinders rained down through the smoky, sulfurous air onto the landscape. Flows of searing lava, which can reach 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, oozed from volcanic vents, burning everything in their path.

Following this concentrated chaos, hot ash and mud raced down the slopes of several volcanoes. Swirling mudflows pulled in surface materials, knocked down and carried small trees with their root wads, and then surrounded the bases of towering redwood trees. After frequent periods of active eruptions, the volcanic complex ultimately quieted down to dormancy and peaceable extinction. The mud that encased the bases of the redwoods enabled the slow petrification process to begin. The wayward mudflow also dammed a prehistoric stream and quickly formed a lake. Plants, insects, and other organisms were trapped in the lake sediments. As time passed, the lake sediments turned into shale containing fossils of these organisms.

Today, enormous redwoods grow at their ecological limit in a narrow zone along the California and Oregon coasts. Redwoods still exist at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, but only as fossil leaves, cones, or petrified stumps. It would be impossible for redwoods to grow today in Florissant’s cool, temperate highland climate. Redwoods reached towering heights in Florissant’s Eocene past, when the climate was warm and temperate.

There is a remarkable site at the monument where a singular fossil redwood stump endures despite the unavoidable and inexorable power of erosion and weathering. This petrified redwood base is unique among the others: It has a ponderosa pine tree growing from its stone center. I have always been spellbound by this juxtaposed image — the prehistoric stone stump with a living ponderosa tree growing out of it. I wanted to look at it again and make a deeper connection with this geological marvel.

As I walked on a trail to its location, Pikes Peak loomed in the distance. I passed a long, low, grass-covered meadow bounded by treed hills. A green swath of lichen-capped rocks fringed the trail. As I neared the scene I sensed a weight to the afternoon: windy weather brought a grey, clouded sky that rolled over the land. The warm, heavy smell of rain soon rose from the wet and glistening forest floor. Glittering drops of water rested on leaves. The wind began to whistle through the trees while flowers of sky-blue flax nodded. As the rain clouds broke up, an elk wandered this high stretch of land while a coyote trotted by.

When I reached the fossil redwood, I sat down on a bench to soak in the experience. As I looked at this remarkable remnant of a primeval redwood I noticed patches of soft, velvety, emerald green moss gripping sections of the petrified stump. There are small forest sounds: a bird chirps in the distance while a chickadee croons a love song from a place deeper than daydreams. A jay scolds me from the safety of a high branch overhead. There are little rustlings in a tree behind me where a black, tufted eared Abert’s squirrel worries a pinecone. These sights, sounds, and smells make me content, and mark this natural place as special.

Fossils are the letters that form words in a geologic story. Together, these words complete the pages of the area’s paleontological record: messages from a distant time telling a story of plants and animals that once lived here and are now gone. The pages document the broader climate and the ecosystem it supported. Most importantly, these intimate histories — written in stone — yield a narrative of how an ecosystem responds to climate change. The Eocene marks the start of a gradual global cooling.

The secrets of deep time are exposed in fossils on pine covered hills and grassy meadows of Florissant. At the Florissant Fossil Beds lie some of the world’s richest fossil deposits, remnants of life ranging in size from a tiny grain of pollen to massive redwood trees. Time is no longer the trickster under Florissant’s vast summer sky; instead, time is captured as a memory in each fossil and is brought forward to the present, where these vital fossils reveal a primeval Eocene ecosystem. I immersed myself in its story.
On the Road to Montana — Big Sky Country — The Treasure State, Part 1

Planning: August will be here before we know it. So, I started planning my trip to Billings, Montana, for the annual convention, this year hosted by NFMS. My two friends, Jean and Lucy, who attended Wyoming and New Orleans’ conventions are also planning on attending.

My goal while in Montana is to visit Glacier National Park in the northern portion of Montana; Craters of the Moon in Idaho; Crater Lake in Oregon; and to spend time with Lucy’s family in La Pine, Oregon. We expect to return home on Thursday, August 17th - just in time for me to babysit my grandsons on Friday! On the way home we are planning a few stops as well - just not sure yet where! Also, I think my boss just might want to say sayonara, adieu, adios, arrivederci, cheerio or good-bye if I stay out more than three weeks!

To do all the above, be the event family trips the following week, I need to plan the schedule for sure. Is it serendipity that my friend Lucy has had family members near each of the convention locations? Another important part of the schedule!

We will leave early Monday morning, July 31st, since both Jean and Lucy have an event for the Boating Association the preceding weekend, and one of my clubs - Long Island Mineral and Geology Society (LIMAGS) - is hosting their show the last weekend in July.

When we drove out west to the convention in Big Piney, Wyoming in 2020, we traveled through South Dakota. This time we plan on traveling through North Dakota into Montana.

History: The area now known as Montana was inhabited over 12,600 years ago by Paleo-Indians (Paleo-Americans). The earliest ancestors of the Native American entered the area now known as Wisconsin during or after the retreat of the last continental glacier in the late Pleistocene period. The Paleo-Indians most likely originated in Asia and traveled across Beringia on a land bridge that connected Russia and Alaska during low sea levels in the Ice Age. During this period, huge animals (now extinct) roamed the land. Paleo-Indians were hunter-gatherers who followed the animal herds for food and other materials.

Thousands of years later, the Crow, Cheyenne, Blackfeet and Shoshone tribes lived in the plains region, hunting buffalo and living in temporary homes - tepees. Kootenai and the Salish lived in the mountains in more permanent homes and were hunter-gatherers.

Today there are eleven tribes that reside in Montana’s seven reservations, which is approximately six percent of Montana’s population. The tribes celebrate their culture through dance, songs, games, language, and religious ceremonies.

Perhaps you can see if there is a powwow to attend while you are in Montana!

During the late 1700s, French fur traders roamed the area for beaver pelts. For several years, the land was claimed by both the French and Spanish. In 1803, the majority of Montana was purchased from the French as part of the Louisiana Purchase. It was during the famous expedition from 1804-1806 that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark ventured into the area with guidance from Sacagawea, as they traveled following the Missouri River.

The area was called Montana from the Spanish word “montaña” which equates to mountainous. Montana has more than 300 peaks with elevations over 9,600 feet above sea level.

Missionaries from the Roman Catholic faith established Saint Mary’s Mission in the Bitterroot Valley, thought to be the first permanent settlement in Montana, promoting agriculture and building a sawmill in 1841. In 1846, Fort Benton was established on the Missouri River by the American Fur Trading Company.

With the discovery of gold in 1858, many prospectors found their way to the area. Cattle ranches flourished as the demand for beef in the new mining towns increased during the 1860s. Towns grew rapidly, including Virginia City and Helena. The Bozeman Trail was established as a route for people to take from the Oregon Trail to Virginia City. When the gold rush ended, many people stayed in Montana.

In 1864, the Montana territory was established with its first capital at Bannack. The capital city moved to Virginia City in 1865 and then to Helena in 1875. In the 1880s, railroads crossed Montana. The territory became the 41st state on November 8, 1889.

Hard rock mining began around the late 1880s. Butte became famous with the discovery of silver and copper. Hence the nickname the “Treasure State” for the deposits of copper, gold, and silver. Sapphires were another natural resource mined in Montana, in addition to the precious metals. Today, the state is the world’s leading producer of talc, and petroleum is a valuable commodity.

With so many settlers arriving, they threatened the way of life of the native inhabitants. The Indians lost access to their traditional hunting grounds and conflicts grew. In 1876, the Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes banded together and won a short-lived victory over the US Army at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. It was at this battle that General George Custer and the US Army were defeated by the Native Americans led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse.

This battle is sometimes called “Custer's Last Stand.” If you get a chance, please visit the monument to Crazy Horse. The monument is under construction, but it is very impressive. We stopped there two years ago. The carving is the whole mountain, not a carving in the mountains as Mount Rushmore, another impressive site. The privately held land in the Black

continued on page 6
Hills in Custer County, South Dakota depicts the Lakota warrior Crazy Horse, riding a horse with his arm stretched pointing to his tribal land.

So, two other interesting facts about the National Parks in Montana: In 1872, Yellowstone National Park was established in southern Montana. In 1910, Glacier National Park was established in northern Montana.

Interestingly to me, in 1914 Montana was one of the states where women won full suffrage rights prior to the national constitutional amendment. Jeannette Rankin led the successful campaign to amend Montana’s state constitution. In 1916, she was elected the first woman to serve in national office as a member of the US House of Representatives.

**Geography:** Montana is bordered on the north by Canada, to the east by both North and South Dakota, and to the south by Wyoming. Idaho borders the southern and western portions of Montana. Montana encompasses 147,000 square miles, making it the fourth largest state in the nation. Imagine fitting all of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, DC and Virginia in the space! However, the population of the state makes Montana one of the 10 least populated states.

The Great Plains region in the eastern section of the state is the remaining three-fifths of the land. The Great Plains Badlands is part of this region, with colorful and oddly shaped rock formations.

To further break down the geography of Montana: there are three main geographic regions. These are known as the Eastern Plains with 21 counties; the Central Front with 14 counties; and the Western Mountain region with 21 counties. The Eastern Plains gives the state the nickname “Big Sky Country,” where the sky seems to have no limits. The Central Front is plains surrounded by island mountain ranges. An island range is a mountain range that exists in total or near-total isolation from a larger chain of ranges and sub-ranges. The Western Mountain region is the mountains and valleys of the Rocky Mountains. The south-central portion of the state is home to Yellowstone National Park. In the northwestern corner of the state is Glacier National Park. The eastern most part of the state is Makoshika State Park. The park is located southeast of Glendive and is known for its mysterious badlands formations, which contain dinosaur fossils and rock from the Hell Creek formation.

The Great Plains Badlands is the nickname given to Billings, host city for the NFMS/AFMS convention, is in the Central Front, within Yellowstone County. It is Montana’s largest city and located in the south-central portion of Montana on the Yellowstone River. "Magic City" is the nickname given to Billings because of its rapid growth as a railroad town. The city was named after Frederick H. Billings, a former Vermonter who was a president of the Northern-Pacific Railroad. Formerly, the Crow people called the land “where they cut wood” because of a sawmill built prior to the railroad by early white settlers. The Cheyenne referred to the area as “sawing place,” while the Gros Ventre called it “where they saw lumber.”

Billings is almost 3,120 feet above sea level. It lies at the base of the Rimrock Mountains, in the fertile Yellowstone River Valley, surrounded by mountains on three sides and with the Yellowstone River bordering the city to the east.

The mountains shelter the city from most of the severe weather. Blizzard conditions are not uncommon in the spring and fall, when moist air from the Pacific Ocean called “Chinook winds” bring warm temperatures in winter and cooler temperatures in the summer. The spring season has the most unpredictable weather. Thankfully, the convention is being held in the summer season, which is noted to be typically dry with cool nights. The average temperature in August is 72.5 degrees according to: https://www.city-data.com/us-cities/The-West/Billings-Geography-and-Climate.html

The area of Billings was once the shore of the Western Interior Seaway, a large inland sea. The ancient sea existed from the late Cretaceous to the Paleocene, a time span of approximately 40 million years. It split the continent of North America into two land masses known as Laramidia to the west and Appalachia to the east. The Seaway was approximately 2,000 miles long, and 600 miles wide.
2022–2023 AFMS Rockhound of the Year Recipients

Judi Allison, AFMS RoY Chair

Northwest Federation (2022)
Elisheba Fitch has been a junior in the Hellgate Mineral Society of Missoula, Montana for quite a few years, attending club meetings alongside her family. She was very excited when we started our Juniors program several years ago and has never lost that excitement. In fact, she now shares that zeal with other kids in the community as she invites them to join our group. Due to her enthusiasm, we have gained several families in our club, as well as more kids in the juniors group. Elisheba is always volunteering her time, whether it be to help during the meetings or to participate during our annual rock and gem show. All her volunteer work for the club helped her to achieve the new AFMS Junior Volunteer Award. Elisheba was the first junior who decided to have an entry in our local gem show. All her volunteer work for the club helped her to achieve the new AFMS Junior Volunteer Award. Elisheba was the first junior who decided to have an entry in our local show, and her entry last year showed off her rock animal collection. She also enters geology exhibits into our county fair and placed best in show for her volcano entry last summer. In 2021 at the age of 11, Elisheba completed earning ALL of the Future Rockhounds of America badges! Currently, she has been working on earning all of them for a second time and has already achieved six of the twenty! She loves attending field trips and always seems to find some of the best specimens. We are very proud of Elisheba and are very blessed to have her in our club! Submitted By: Lora Hall - Education Chair and Neil Maier - President, Hellgate Mineral Society, Missoula, MT

Northwest Federation (2023)
Allen Marquette is Salmon Valley Rock Hounds AFMS Rockhound of the Year for 2023 (and all years beginning 2015) Allen, Salmon Valley Rock Hound’s Founding Father, was instrumental in starting and promoting this organization. He guided the development of this club from its beginning. He continues to be generous in various areas of interest with his time, energy, abilities and personal supplies/materials for club members. He’s served in numerous Executive Board positions and personally provided at least 50% of the monthly club programming: sharing skills, providing hands-on demonstrations and guiding field trips. Allen volunteers to create pop-up lapidary workshops for members and takes those workshops/classes to area schools and seasonal camps. He totes samples and equipment, brings magazines to share/give away at meetings and provides many articles to our Rock Bottom monthly newsletter. Allen always takes time to talk and educate people, stimulating club and community member involvement. Submitted by: Club Board, Sue Grosenick, President

2023 NFMS/AFMS Show — Mark Your Calendars — Make Your Reservations

Judi Allison, NFMS Secretary

The 2023 AFMS/NFMS Show and Convention is coming to Billings, Montana August 3-6. The activities will take place at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mullowney Lane. Our host, The Billings Gem and Mineral Club, is busy working to bring us a special show of “Montana Treasures.”

The AFMS meeting of directors will take place on Thursday, August 3rd. The NFMS meeting will be on Friday. Past Presidents and Committee Chairs will have the opportunity to enjoy some relaxing down time and conversation at the Saturday noon luncheon. Saturday evening’s social hour and banquet is sure to be a crowd pleaser. The editors/webmasters breakfast on Sunday morning will honor all those hard working folks who help keep us informed. Additional meetings, speakers, auctions, displays and sales will be interspersed in the mix.

Be sure to get your advance registration in early, as the closing date is June first. The club needs the information to complete their planning process. (See page 8 for the registration form.)

Along with enjoying a great show venue, plan to do some sightseeing and field collecting. The Billings Gem & Mineral Club is working to coordinate with other clubs to provide some great collecting opportunities during the week after the show. Details will be forthcoming.

The Billings area has a great deal to offer. Take in the Pictograph Cave State Park just five miles from the city. There are three caves preserved and protected in the 23-acre Park.

ZooMontana is a zoological/botanical garden, accredited arboretum and educational facility in Billings dedicated to the conservation of wildlife. ZooMontana cares for over 80 animals of 56 different species.

The Little Bighorn Battlefield is just sixty miles southeast of Billings. Here you can walk through the area and learn about the two-day battle fought by the American Indians. The Indian memorial, unveiled in 2003, “Peace Through Unity” remembers and recognizes those who fought.

Pompeys Pillar, about thirty miles northeast of the city, served as a meeting place for centuries. William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition carved his name in the stone, right next to American Indian petroglyphs carved there much earlier.

One only has to ask to take in an abundance of sights and history throughout the state. The Museum of the Rockies, including the Taylor Planetarium and Steibel Dinosaur Complex is housed in Bozeman.

Butte boasts the World Museum of Mining ‘Where History Tells a Story’. If you travel further east, you will find Makoshika State Park with badland formations and the fossil remains of numerous dinosaurs. With the richness of Montana history and sites, the list could go on endlessly. Rest assured, there will be plenty to see and experience. So plan to take those extra days and make a real excursion out of your trip to Billings.

We look forward to seeing you all!

AFMS Newsletter — April 2023
Much of the Billings area was carved out by the Yellowstone River and is located in the river valley. As per the National Park Service information on Yellowstone National Park, the name of the river is attributed to the Native Americans in the early 1800’s, referring to the yellow sandstone cliffs found along the banks of the river in eastern Montana, hundreds of miles downstream from the Yellowstone Park. I had assumed the river and park were named Yellowstone after the rhyolite lavas that were chemically altered by reactions with steam and hot water to create the vivid pink and yellow colors. I admit I was wrong!

The headwaters for the Yellowstone River lie outside Yellowstone National Park’s southern border in the southern Absaroka Range. The river flows through Paradise Valley and between the Gallatin and the northern Absaroka Mountains as it travels northeast through the state of Montana to its confluence with the Missouri River in North Dakota. From what I read, besides the myriad of wildlife found along the riverbanks, agates are also to be found!

When you attend the convention, be sure to travel around the area of Billings and take in some of the older buildings’ construction of sandstone blocks. Most of the sandstone was quarried at the Heffner Stone Quarry.

Plan to come to Billings to share the magic of the convention. Come and experience the continued growth of our organization - the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)!

---

**Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

**Annual Show: Hosted by: Billings Gem and Mineral Club**

**“Montana Treasures”**

**August 3-6, 2023**

**Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mullowney, Billings, MT**

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION Deadline: JUNE 1, 2023**

(Please Print)

Name(s): ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

(City) Phone (State) Zip (5+5)

E-mail: ____________________________________________

Name of Club/Society: ________________________________

Please check all that apply:

- RRMFS
- SCFMS
- CFMS
- MWF
- EFMLS
- NFMS
- SFMS

- Chairman
- Delegate
- Alternate
- Editor
- Judge
- Clerk
- Other

Officer: ___________________________________________

(Please check this form and the Exhibitor Form)

Exhibitor: ________________________________________

Please Check the meetings you will be attending: AFMS Meeting __________ NFMS Meeting __________

---

**SHOW ADMISSION (Please check)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passes</th>
<th>DAILY RATE x # DAYS</th>
<th>4 DAY PASS</th>
<th>TOTAL COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 5.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All food events require reservations (All food events on site)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6th**

**Past President/Committee Chairs Lunch Buffet 12:00 PM**

($24 per person x number of people)

(Roast beef w/ mushroom gravy, herb baked chicken, garlic roasted red potatoes, corn O’Brien, Tossed Salad fresh fruit bowl)

(Note: Transition cost of $2)

Social Hour 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Awards Banquet 7:00PM - 9:30PM**

($40 per person x number of people)

(Carved Baron of Beef w/ au jus, roast turkey, BBQ baby back pork ribs, baked potato w/sour cream & butter, glazed carrots, tossed salad w/ fresh vegetables or fresh fruit bowl and a dinner roll. Assorted dessert buffet.)

**SUNDAY AUGUST 6th**

**Editors/Webmasters Breakfast Buffet 9:00 AM** ($25 per person x number of people)

(Biscuits & gravy, cinnamon swirl French toast, scrambled eggs w/ cheese, crispy bacon, sausage links, breakfast potatoes, assorted pastries, and fresh fruit. Coffee, hot tea and orange juice.)

(Note: Transition cost of $2)

Make check payable to: Billings Gem and Mineral Club.

Mail application and remittance before June 1, 2023 to:

Billings Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 80134

Billings, MT 59108

**For questions, please call Deb & Tim Zimbelman at 406-670-7261 or 406-670-6524**
Safety Story
Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

There are a thousand safety stories out there, but only one will be told here.

The winter was cold. A layer of ice, a layer of about 16 to 20 inches of dense snow, and on top, another layer of about one- and one-half inches of ice had built up on the roof. The judgement was that there was too much weight for the roof. It had to be shoveled off. The roof was too slippery to stand on for the needed shoveling. Another roof snow-clearing plan was devised. Instead of shoveling, ladders were set up on either side of the roof. The snow and ice was going to be pulled off the roof with a “roof rake.” Or rather, that was how it should have worked. After several tries it was determined that the top layer of ice was too thick for the roof rake to do the job. The top ice layer had to be hammered and broken-up with the raking tool before the all the ice and snow could be raked off. To clear the roof, every square foot of ice had to be hammered with the long-handled raking tool. After 9 straight hours of hammering, hammering, hammering, and pulling the accumulated ice and snow, the roof was finally cleared of its accumulated burden.

The tools and ladders were put away and a pat on the back was applied for a job well done. Time for hot cocoa.

The next day told a different story. Both hands were sore and swollen. The right more than the left. What had happened? Thick padded winter gloves had been worn to protect the hands from the vibration and shock of hammering. However, those well-padded gloves had not provided sufficient protection. Additional shock and vibration protection, or many rest breaks taken, were needed to protect the hands.

We in the rock hobby know what we need to do to be safe – but is that enough? Are we always doing enough to protect our body parts, the people collecting minerals beside us, activity when using the 24” slab saw, or carrying that load as we set up for a show? There are many instances where we may be nudging the edge of being safe and where it might be wise to be extra mindful of what we are doing.

With the possibility of a great deal of hammering shock to the hands, it may be wise to use nylon or leather padding on the hammer handle – along with thick gloves to protect one’s hands. There may be instances where not just earplugs, but earplugs and earmuffs together might be a better option to protect one’s hearing. There may be instances where wearing not just safety glasses but also a safety eye shield should be considered. Even when one thinks they can carry a load, it may still be wise to have help.

How much safety is enough? In many instances it can be a judgement call as to how much safety is needed. Please judge wisely. Your safety matters. Oh, the hand swelling did go down, but it took a while. A lesson learned – again.

Newsletter for Kids By Kids
Cheryl Neary & Dennis Gertenbach, AFMS Juniors Committee Members

The AFMS Juniors Committee has some exciting news for both parents and children!

There will be a newsletter for kids by kids! Yes, your own newsletter, which will be published and sent throughout the country. The number of articles, photos, artwork, and other items submitted for the new newsletter will determine the frequency of the newsletter – at a minimum every 3 months.

The AFMS Juniors Committee is also sponsoring two exciting competitions for the juniors newsletter:

1. What do you want the name of the newsletter to be?
2. What mascot do you want the newsletter to have?

So, give it some thought — you can enter one or both, and submit through the AFMS Junior website. Yes, you have your own website! Just go to https://www.juniors.amfed.org/awards-contests-scholarships and follow the instructions for submitting your entries.

Each competition will have two categories: under 12 and 12-17. Although each competition will have a first-place winner, only one will be selected for the title or mascot of the newsletter.

Oh! Did I mention there are prizes as follows for each category:

- Grand Prize - Rock, mineral or fossil with a $100.00 value
- Runner-up 1st place - Rock, mineral or fossil with a $75.00 value
- 2nd place - Rock, mineral or fossil with a $50.00 value
- 3rd place - Rock, mineral or fossil with a $25.00 value

Of course, there are some rules that you need to follow.

First, both you and your parents need to sign the form granting permission found on the juniors website. Make sure your parents read the form!

Second, you must be under the age of 18.

Third, the entries need to be an original idea.  

continued on page 10
Fourth, you should also tell us what rock, mineral, or fossil you would be interested in if you were the winner!

Fifth, please submit an article for the new newsletter!!!

Let's get those brains working!

We also would like to know the name of the school you attend and the location, so that we can inform your classmates of the great work you are doing.

Good Luck – we hope to have many entries for the competitions and even more articles!

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.

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.

Editor’s Note: See CORRECTIONS in italics below to CFMS 2023 & 2024 and to RMFMS 2023.

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

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

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<csrystals2 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
<wur3 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
David Wayment
<aastainedglass at bellsouth.net>

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

Safety
Ellery Borow
<rocknellery at fairpoint.net>

Show Consultant
Walt Benezet
<wmbenet at gmail.com>

Uniform Rules
Northwest Federation

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

Ways and Means
<>

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