“Let me Entertain You” — and that is exactly what happened at the AFMS/NFMS Awards Banquet held in Billings, Montana, hosted by the Billings Gem & Mineral Club. If you remember, Doug True, former AFMS president, is an active member of the club and show chairperson. The club calls him the “Rock Father.”

The “Rock Father” was the banquet master of ceremonies. As Doug was about to start the program, he was pleasantly surprised by his club members and AFMS 4th VP, Liz Thomas (RMFMS), who all had witty stories to share. Club members also provided a skit. Perhaps the best way to describe it would be as a “Godfather western cowboy,” if there is such a thing? The skit was quite humorous, which ended with Doug dancing! All in all, everyone had a great time — so thanks to Billings Gem & Mineral Club members, Liz, and to Doug! Afterwards, Doug began the program by introducing NFMS President Darrell Coyle. Darrell introduced Dr. Rob Thimas, the AFMS Scholarship Honoree. He presented one of the scholarship recipients, Michael Gray, who gave a short talk on his graduate project.

The four days of convention activities were a success. Roger Burford has been elected to serve as your President, beginning his term on November 1, 2023. He will be contacting people to fill open chair positions. If you are interested in being involved with the AFMS, please contact Roger!

The Endowment Fund raised nearly $4,000.00. Thanks to all who have either contributed specimens or donated money. In addition, I hope you all have time to view the mammoth and dragon packages on the AFMS website that our AFMS Historian, Jennifer Haley (also 1st VP NFMS) has so graciously sewn to help raise funds for the juniors’ activities. Please have a look – they can be purchased for $75.00 per package. I encourage each Federation to purchase one -- I will be watching!!!!

Juniors chair Lora Hall (also 2nd VP of NFMS), introduced Joan Stoker of the Indian Mounds Club in Michigan to unveil the newest program for juniors. The Junior Committee has been working hard at the show to purchase the prizes requested by the winners of the two contests – one for the name of the new newsletter by kids for kids, and one for the mascot of the newsletter. Thanks again to Dennis Gertenbach for volunteering as the editor. You can encourage a junior – your child, grandchild, nephew or niece, brother or sister – to participate in this hobby that we love!

Jim Brace-Thompson, Public Relations Chair, announced a win-win situation with Rock and Gem Magazine. For each subscription – new or a renewal – the AFMS will receive a cash refund, and you will get a break on the subscription price. See Jim’s article on page 3 for the QR code. Additionally, Jim requests that each federation provide a public relations chairperson ASAP!

DeLane Cox presented a certificate to Joan Stoker for the New Program competition. If you score over 90 and are number one, there is also a cash award. DeLane requests that each club read the requirements for the competition and then provide a program.

continued on page 2
From the Desk of the President
continued from page 1

Linda Jaeger, Editor, requested articles for the newsletter. Each article is due by the 5th of the preceding month of the publication. For instance, for September’s publication, the articles were due by the 5th of August. The good news is that you have time to get in an article or two before the year ends!

The Uniform Rules Committee has moved forward with changes to the rules that will make it easier for all to compete with showcases. Thanks to Larry Hulstrom, Uniform Rules Chair, and the committee.

All federations reported a healthy membership growth. This year, the “M” award for the greatest increase in membership was received by Darrell Coyle, NFMS president, for the nearly 14% increase in NFMS membership from 2022. The “M” award was first presented in New Orleans last year, with Dennis Buchanan, SFMS President, accepting the award for the Southeast Federation. The “M” award was started in the EFMLS many years ago by Matt Charsky, who later served twice as AFMS President.

I also attended the NFMS annual meeting. The NFMS is interested in having their newsletter distributed electronically when possible. I was surprised to hear that all their federation club members received a copy – or at least should have – which was straining the coffers. Most of the representatives of other federations noted that only three people in each club received the hardcopy of the newsletter. Most of the federations now distribute their newsletter electronically, where possible, and have the club’s contact (usually the editor) distribute to each club.

Please remember, the present board is still active until November 1st. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of us!

Lastly, next year’s convention will be held in Ventura, California over Memorial Day weekend. Please make your plans to attend! See you in Ventura! As far as the weather is concerned, they say, “May Gray” and “June Gloom.” Jim Brace Thompson says the “unofficial” shirt of choice is a Hawaiian shirt. If you don’t own one yet, you have a few months to acquire one! (Lucky for me, I will be in Hawaii this September for a wedding, and will be looking for one, too!)

Practicing Public Relations in the Age of New Media
Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

Having talked about traditional PR for much of this year, this month I begin my pivot to our current media age and the need to fully embrace social media in pursuing effective public relations campaigns. The impact of social media was emphasized to me recently by my editor at Rock & Gem magazine. She posted a 3-sentence extract on Facebook from a Rock & Gems Kids article I had written about fire agate along with one of my photos, and within 2 days it generated some 6,300 likes, 1,700 shares, and 245 comments. Within 2 days! Try doing that with hardcopy show postcards... Social media’s effectiveness in helping promote our shows was further underscored by the huge crowds that poured into our recent AFMS Show & Convention in Billings, thanks in large part to Facebook promotions conducted by Billings club member Thea Marie, who gave a talk entitled “Online Marketing Strategies.”

While I have long served as a publicity chair for shows at local, regional, and national levels and consider myself adept at pursuing traditional (primarily print) avenues of PR, I admit to being a social media neophyte in sore need of advice to catch up. Thus, as I noted in the last AFMS Newsletter, I plan to host a Zoom conference on “Practicing Public Relations in the Age of New Media.” If you are interested in participating, please email or call me (jbrace@roadrunner.com, 805-659-3577). I hope to hold this in October or early November in order to get word out to maximize attendance. Don’t delay! Call me today!

The draft agenda begins with a brief definition of social media and the major platforms currently out there and how the popularity of platforms varies across age demographics (important to know, depending on whom you wish to engage).

continued on page 3
We would then move into specifics of using platforms. My hope is to have a mix of participants, including both old hands at new media and newbies like me. I, myself, will be participating in both moderator/learner modes and look forward to coming away with great ideas and info to share with everyone within future pages of this column.

**Win-Win Deal with Rock & Gem Magazine: Subscribe and Support both R&G and AFMS!**

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

Rock & Gem (R&G) has long been recognized as the officially designated hobby magazine of AFMS and, by extension, the seven regional federations and their individual member clubs. At last year's AFMS Annual Meeting, R&G editor Pam Freeman submitted a "win-win" proposal. Here's how she put it at the time: "We at Rock & Gem recognize that rock clubs are the lifeblood of this hobby. We'd like to grow with you through a proposed subscription commission partnership. Simply put, a rising tide lifts all ships! How might it work? For every Rock & Gem magazine subscription purchased by an AFMS affiliated member and/or club, R&G will pay a 15% commission to AFMS. This would apply to both new and renewing subscriptions."

We agreed at the 2022 Annual Meeting to proceed with this proposal, and I agreed to serve as the liaison in working out details given my long affiliations with both AFMS and R&G. Details have now been worked out, and here's what I presented at this year's 2023 Annual Meeting.

The R&G marketing team has produced a "Rock & Gem/AFMS Subscription" flyer/order form that we suggest be posted to the websites of AFMS and the regional federations. Anyone interested could print the form and mail it to R&G at the address provided. It has a specific code on it (P73RNG01) that tags the order as being part of this promotional effort. If you order or renew a Rock & Gem subscription, reference P73RNG01 to ensure that a portion of your payment goes to AFMS. Those preferring to order online can go to www.rockngem.com/afms. Or, for the truly young and hip among us, a QR code is provided that can be scanned with your cell phone to place an order.

Again, this is for both new subscriptions and renewals of existing subscriptions. Not only will individuals get a 61% discount off the cover price, AFMS will receive a commission that breaks down to $6 per 1-year subscription/renewal and $10 per 2-year subscription/renewal for each order. The same would apply to any subscriptions you might sell to members of the general public by having copies of the flyer/order form at, say, a take-one table at your annual club show. I presented that flyer at the 2023 Annual Meeting in Billings and provided copies to folks in attendance.

I'll be working with webmasters and newsletter editors of AFMS and the regional federations to get the word out and to provide the ordering code and QR code that tags an order to generate income for AFMS. Here's to supporting our official hobby magazine as it, in turn, supports us!

Scan the QR code at right to quickly access the special Rock & Gem subscription deal that will directly benefit AFMS!

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**Crack the News - A New AFMS Newsletter for Kids**

Dennis Gertenbach, Juniors Newsletter Editor

At this year’s AFMS Convention in Billings, the inaugural issue of Crack the News was introduced. Crack the News is an AFMS newsletter written by kids for kids who love rocks, minerals, and fossils. This first issue included articles, artwork, and even a video prepared by kids and teens, ages 4½ to 16. In this issue, kids can read and learn about:

- Clinozoisite, emeralds, and jasper
- Trilobites and dinosaurs
- The Dice Mineralogical Museum
- Making a borax snowflake
- Earning the Collecting Badge

This first issue can be downloaded from the AFMS juniors website at [https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter](https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter).

The name of the juniors paper, Crack the News, was chosen from entries submitted by 22 kids throughout the country. Congratulations to Rosalie Dunn, a member of the Georgia Mineral Society, who submitted Crack the News as the name for our juniors newsletter. Because her newsletter name was chosen, Rebecca will receive a $100 trilobite.

We plan to publish additional issues as we receive more items from kids for Crack the News. Information about how kids and teens can send their newsletter contributions can be found at [https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter](https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter). Please encourage the kids in your club to help make this newsletter fun for junior rockhounds across the country.
All American Club Awards and More
Mary Boesdorfer, AFMS AACA Chair

This article is to both congratulate our winner from this year and also to remind you to start working on next year’s entries!

The award year covering 2022 had one entry for the All American Club awards. The Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society received the FIRST PLACE GOLD Award with an average of 102 points.

This club did a great job with everything! They have a great pebble pups program, they made wonderful education boxes for teachers, they host workshops in their Rock Shop, had a nice line-up of field trips, and so much more!

As you can see, I only had one entry this past year. I would love to get that number back up for 2024! I understand making one of these yearbooks can be daunting, but I think in the end it’s well worth it! It gives you a chance to highlight what your club has accomplished over the past year and creates a beautiful snapshot for you to look back on.

If you are thinking of doing one for the first time, the best piece of advice I can give you is to provide all the documentation! That is always where I find I’m giving the most deductions, so include pictures, screenshots, and documents of everything you do. But, more importantly, have fun with it! Show off your members, activities, community, and all the fun and unique things about your club! So assemble your avengers…..I mean yearbook team, start collecting photos, and work on putting together an amazing yearbook.

The deadline for the AACA entries will be February 1st, 2024. The contest will cover the year 2023 from January thru December. Forms for the 2023 contest are on the AFMS website.

Questions? Contact Mary at writteninwood@gmail.com.

2022-2023 AFMS Rockhound of the Year Recipients
Judi Allison, AFMS RoY Chair

Northwest Federation
Each year the Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corporation (CMGC) Board selects a member whose volunteer contributions have gone above and beyond. For 2022, Mary Sparks is awarded the honor of Rockhound of the Year. In 2022, Mary was on the CMGC board as Past President and Show Chair. Due to a vacancy in the Secretary position, Mary stepped up and kept both the board and general meeting minutes. As Show Chairman, Mary’s leadership and organization skills made our 2022 Annual Show historically successful. Due to Covid and the Event Center changing our show dates from October to May, Mary managed and organized the volunteers to accomplish the necessary tasks in a significantly reduced time frame. In late 2021, the club needed to find a new location for the club’s storage containers, as well as move literally tons and tons of rock inventory. This need morphed into an enormous project. Once more, Mary stepped up to manage and coordinate the move, which took over a year to accomplish and required her time and efforts in conjunction with the Annual Show. Mary served as President in 2017 and 2018. She is once again serving as CMGC President for 2023. Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corp. rock club is fortunate to have an active and supportive member like Mary, who steps up to the tasks needed.

Rocky Mountain Federation
Claudia Marek is the clear and undisputed winner of the 2023 Rockhound of the Year award for The Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club. The list of what Claudia has done and continues to do for the Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club (DMRMC) is prodigious. It is not only the number of tasks she has taken on that make her our award winner. It is the level of enthusiasm she brings to her work and engenders in all who work with her. Claudia is a true rockhound. If you need proof of that take a gander at her front yard. Let’s look at what she does for us. The list is long. Claudia took on the job of Show chairwoman and gave us our most successful Show to date. To accomplish that meant she needed to fill key positions such as vendor coordinator and security. She changed the layout of the Show making our outdoor vendors very happy. Claudia is a monitor at the North Valley Visitors Center to enable Club members to have access to lapidary instruction and equipment. That had been an every other week task, but when I was in the hospital, she was there every Monday. She works every STEM night that the Club participates in. Claudia has been the biggest promotor of volunteerism for Club members. She promotes Club tee shirt sales in order to better fund our scholarship program, as well as administering the program. She works all year to make certain the Kids’ Corner at our Show is adequately supplied with material. All this while going on club field trips and helping new members find and identify the treasures that are the object of those trips.

I am certain that I am leaving something out and for that I apologize. My point is that Claudia is an undeniably valuable member of the Daisy Mountain Rock and Mineral Club and is easily our, “ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR.” ~ Ed Winbourne, President
2022-2023 AFMS Rockhound of the Year Recipients
continued from page 4

Northwest Federation
Kimberly Lordeman and Jeff Conrad have been Hellgate Mineral Society officers for over 15 years providing critical continuity. In addition to being the club Treasurer, Kimberly is the Hellgate Mineral Society Show Treasurer. Kimberly and Jeff host the membership table at our annual show yearly without fail, registering and maintaining the club’s extensive membership list. They both go way beyond their officer positions, volunteering to organize club events and the bi-monthly silent auction. This may not seem like an important job, but the auction draws in new club members and gives existing members a reason to socialize after monthly meetings. The silent auction is also a way for kids in the club to expand their collections. Jeff and Kimberly do the important, mundane, behind the scenes work; paying club’s bills, checking mail, receiving correspondence, and paying our federation dues. These happen weekly, monthly, and yearly to keep our club running. The club could not function without them! They are our unsung heroes, our dynamic duo. For these reasons and many more, we proudly nominate Jeff Conrad and Kimberly Lordeman for the AFMS Rockhound of the Year Award. Respectfully submitted by the Hellgate Mineral Society Officers, Executive Board, and fellow club members.

Rocky Mountain Federation
The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society (TRMS) is honored to select Eric Hamshar as our Rockhound of the Year for 2022. Eric became a member in 2013. He is the curator of the D.W. Correll Museum in Catoosa, Oklahoma, which has large quality displays of rocks, minerals, fossils and artifacts as well as a workshop that club members can use. For a number of years our club has been able to hold swaps there, which are open to all area clubs. The museum has hosted meetings of the Oklahoma State Council of Mineralogical Societies. We have also been able to hold some club meetings at the museum and have food served there. (Thank you, Eric!) Eric became the Co-Chair of our Gem & Mineral Show in 2016 and took over as the full Chair in 2018; he has done a great job in that capacity as our show continues to improve in all aspects. He is also a leader of our Education Committee and has helped put together tubs of books, rocks, minerals, and fossils that have been given to school libraries for teachers to check out and use to teach students about our earth. Eric is most deserving, and our club is proud to honor him as our AFMS Rockhound of the Year.

California Federation
Jenny Rohl is a key person in the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society. For this we wish to honor her as our 2023 Rockhound of the Year. Her broad knowledge about chemistry, rocks, minerals, polishing, and lapping is a reliable source for everyone in the workshop and at meetings. When at the workshop, she is a natural teacher. She will often be asked questions by other members. Without irritation at the interruption, she stops working to answer. When a problem comes up with the workshop equipment, she has a good memory for past solutions and shares vital details from experience. She has high standards for her polished cabochons, and has the aesthetic sense and dexterity to achieve those standards. For every workshop, Jenny verifies the workshop attendance and monies. She provides timely news of the Delver club events, the Mineralogical Society events, and weekend rock sales. She is a skillful photographer. Her photos of polished rocks provide content for the website and Facebook page. Her business thrives because clients trust her to buy rocks and minerals for them. Elected to be Secretary, she holds an officer position on the Searchers’ board. She is conscientious when taking meeting minutes, and consistently sends a summary to the Slab editor. Because she is quiet, her contributions are often overlooked. For these reasons, I would like to nominate her. Submitted by Robin Larzelere, President

Notes from Judi:
It is getting closer to the end of the year. If you haven’t taken the time to choose one of your unsung heroes to honor as your AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year, now is the time. Remember, it is a simple process:
-choose the person
-write a few sentences why you believe the person should receive the honor
-submit the information to your Regional American Club Rockhound of the Year Chairperson.

Your honoree will receive a certificate and a write up in the AFMS Newsletter. Let’s see those nominations come rolling in!

California: Chris Ward, chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
Eastern: Ellery Borow, PO Box 47; Waterville, ME 04903-0047 rocknellery at fairpoint.com
Midwest: Jeanine M. Mielecki (312) 623-1554 / jaynine9 at aol.com
Northwest: Laurie Ellis, PO Box 3326; Irrigon, OR 97844 nfmsroy at gmail.com
Rocky Mountain: Chris Whitney-Smith ask.chrisws at yahoo.com
South Central: open (send to Judi Allison, jms46 at outlook.com or nfmsssec at gmail.com
Southeast: Marty Hart, 4935 Olivia Dr. Antioch, TN 37013, webmaster at amfed.org

Some “S” Words for September
from Judi Allison, NFMS Secretary

Stealthily searching, seeking sensational spherical specimens.
Surely, sapphires sparkle splendidly.
Scintillating senses spark surreal sensations.
See simply symphonic systems.

[Editor’s Note: How fast can you read this aloud without tripping on your tongue?!?!]
Safety Matters — The “To Bring” List

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Before going on a dig, many people prepare a list of things to bring with them. Such lists may begin with:

- Dig map
- Collecting tools
- First aid kit
- Pet first aid kit
- Mo…

Wait. Back up a bit – a “Pet first aid kit”? Yes, a pet first aid kit. A great many people bring their pets with them when they go on local or extended digs. Pets can be injured. So, what is a pet first aid kit? Glad you asked — such a kit would include meds and supplies both specific and similar to a kit found in most pharmacies and department stores. There are, however, notable differences. A pet friendly first aid kit may include:

- Pet foods and water (with bowls)
- Sufficient pet medications for the duration of the trip
- A pet-specific first aid book
- Gauze, the self-adhesive kind for pets
- Bandages of various sizes (the butterfly style)
- Surgical tape (the waterproof kind)
- Eye and ear meds and ointments
- Bug bite, insect sting meds (think ticks and fleas)
- A general pet-friendly antibiotic
- Package of activated charcoal – in case of accidental poisoning
- Powdered styptic to control / stop bleeding
- Swabs, cotton balls, sterile pads
- Towels
- Scissors, rounded / blunt nose type
- Tweezers
- Nail cutters / clippers
- Hydrogen peroxide in applicator bottle
- Chemical cold pack

Additional often-useful items include:

- Treats
- Pet toys
- Pet bed for cold or wet locations
- A photograph of your pet in case it wanders
- Collars, leads, harnesses, and pet identification (is your pet ID chipped?)
- Boot-wear in case of a paw injury
- Pet waste baggies
- With care, a handkerchief or bandana may suffice as a temporary muzzle

Please, discuss with your veterinarian any special trip hazards, medication dosage, application, and administration of all pet meds and safety supplies.

If staying at a campground or hotel – calling ahead is suggested to ensure it is pet-friendly and to what degree in their facilities.

The ASPCA maintains a hotline for pet poison control in case of emergency. At the time of this writing their telephone number is (888) 426-4435.

Be aware that an injured pet may act in unusual ways. Caution, care, and control are imperative.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 Inductees to the Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame

The AFMS Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame was established in 1995 as a way to recognize and honor the hard-working and dedicated editors of the rockhound community. Brainchild of Shirley Leeson, the original format inducted editors from all of the federations at the annual AFMS convention. In 2004 this changed to honor inductees from the regional federation hosting the convention, allowing more of the honorees to actually be present for the induction. Each regional federation now gets to nominate and honor their editors every seven years. This year’s inductees are from the NFMS.

Know that you are appreciated!

- Christian Teutsch, Pebble Patter, Chugach Gem & Mineral Club
- Patty DeForest, The Geode, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club
- Nancy Samuels, Maplewood Rock & Gem Club Newsletter, Maplewood Rock & Gem Club
- Cindy Yablok, Hy Grader, Tualatin Valley Gem Club
- Kathryn Larson, NFMS Bulletin, Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
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## 2023 Bulletin Editors Contest Awards

### 2023 BULLETIN EDITOR'S CONTEST

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Most awards were picked up at the Breakfast in Billings. There are a few items that will be mailed, hopefully by the time you get to read this. Congratulations to ALL of you! It is an honor for your work to be submitted to the contest no matter where you placed in the grand scheme of things!
Quick Tips for Editors

Linda Jaeger, AFMS Editor, AFMS BEAC

WHO AND WHAT GET CAPITAL LETTERS?
Recently I received a request from an editor asking for clarification on capitalization names of rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Generally speaking, rock and mineral names are notcapitalized unless they begin a sentence, are given in a list of names, or are written as part of a specific format — such as on a label for a competitive case according to the convention required by AFMS.

Even minerals that are named after a person are not capitalized in general usage. The correct spelling of the person’s name would be used, but no spaces and no capital letters at the beginning or in the middle of the name as applied to the official name of a mineral. Some examples are: goethite, mcnearite, joesmithite.

Names of rocks are not capitalized (sandstone, quartzite) unless they refer to a proper name (such as Dox Sandstone, Troy Quartzite).

When writing the scientific names of fossils, the genus name is capitalized, the species name is lowercase, and both names are italicized. An example is: Favosites sp. If you use a typewriter and do not have the capability to italicize, you must underline: Favosites sp.

Names of fossil phylums, classes, orders, and families are capitalized but are not italicized (examples: Ammonoidea, Mollusca, Arthropoda). If these are used informally as English nouns or adjectives, they are not capitalized (examples: ammonites, mollusks, arthropods).

Names of geologic eras, periods, epochs, and formations are capitalized: Paleozoic Era, Jurassic Period, Miocene Epoch, Green River Formation.

If you need a really quick reference, you can always look up the word in the dictionary!

References:


(From: ALAA Newsletter 2nd Qtr 2023)

Mojave Trails National Monument Update

Gregor Lorsson, ALAA Ambassador, gregor.lorson@amlands.org

Hello Recreational Rock Collectors, thank you to those that attended the public meetings for the MTNM planning process. Nearly every attendee at the Barstow meeting was a Rockhound. In Twentynine Palms we had Collectors with knowledge of the history of our access battles. Rock Collectors representing the Arizona and Nevada clubs attended the Needles meeting. The meetings were designed to explain the planning process, including how we can participate and they concluded with time for attendees to meet the MTNM management team and speak with them about the Monument. Your fellow Rockhounds were very involved in the meetings and represented our hobby well. The in-person meetings were helpful for everyone involved. The BLM was able to personally meet the Rockhounds that visit the MTNM, and we got an understanding that our comments are to be received under the law of NEPA, but also by a MTNM management team that is asking to understand what the public stakeholders want for the Monument.

Right now is your chance to tell them what you are asking for. For those of you who have been continuously submitting roads and localities for years, please do not be discouraged. All of that previous work was to inform the 13 years of the WEMO/WMRNP route planning, and the multiple years of the DRECP land zoning. Your previous work was a success, did not go to waste, and is why we can currently access the northern Cady Mountains collecting areas! Your hard work has resulted in a road plan in areas of the western MTNM, such as the Cady Mountains, that will most likely be applied to the Monument.

But with that success, we have also known year after year of the loss of collecting. The ALAA website has examples such as Tick Canyon Howlite, Stone Canyon Jasper, Horse Canyon agate, Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper, Last Chance Canyon Petrified Wood, Pink Thulite, Celestite, and Owlshead Sagenite now in Death Valley National Park, Soda Mountains Conichalcite, Caruthers Canyon Azurite, secondary lead minerals of the Lava Hills, and Chapinite localities now on Fort Irwin. Think of the other known sites, and also unexplored mines and jasper hosting volcanics, that have been declared off limits to collecting.

In front of you is the chance to save 1.6 million acres, 14 mountain ranges, and historic Recreational Rock Collecting areas such as the Cady Mountains, Lavic Siding, Marble Mountains, and Sleeping Beauty. Take some time and write thoughtful, detailed, substantive comments. Tell the BLM what you are asking for and teach them about what you do, your values, history, your respect for the desert. Your comments, hopefully, will help prepare the draft management plan. The next time we comment it will be on what has been drafted, so your name is now your chance.

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, c2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)

Reprinted from my original column, 2/2008. 
2023 AFMS Website Contest Results
Lori Carter, AFMS Website Contest Chair

1st Place: Lorrilee Stackhouse, Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society, RMFMS
2nd Place: Gina Manso, Cascade Mineralogical Society, NFMS
3rd Place: Sarianne Rittenhouse, Payson Rimstones Rock Club, Inc., RMFMS

Honorable Mention (Alphabetical Order):
Judi Allision, Hatterockhound Gem & Mineral Society, NFMC
Walter Beneze, The Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society, SCFMS
Aaron Nelson, Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, MWF
Bob Shively, Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society, SFMS
Michael K. Smith, Paleontological Society of Austin, SCFMS
Laurie Tossy, The Villages Gem and Mineral Society, SFMS

Information for 2024 AFMS Website Contest:
• Zoom discussion on rules & scoring, Monday, September 18, 7 pm Eastern Time. Contact Lori Carter at webmaster@southeastfed.org for the link.
• February 15, 2024: Regional contests deadline
• March 15, 2024: Regional judging deadline
• April 15, 2024: AFMS judging deadline

Updated rules and scoring sheets will be posted on the AFMS website no later than September 30, 2023.

If you would like to volunteer as a regional or AFMS judge, please let me know!

Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions
Walt Beneze, AFMS Show Consultant

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 2024, SFMS 2023, and added dates for CFMS and SCFMS.

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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
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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.

What Are Volunteers?

Volunteers are like Ford
They have better ideas.
Volunteers are like Coke
They're the real thing.
Volunteers are like Pan Am
They make the going great.
Volunteers are like Dial Soap
They care more, don't you wish everybody did?
Volunteers are like VO-5 Hair Spray
They hold up in all kinds of weather.
Volunteers are like Hallmark Cards
They care enough to give the very best.
Volunteers are like Standard Oil
You expect more and you get it.
But most of all . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
Volunteers are like Frosted Flakes
They're GRRRRREEAAAATTTT!!!!

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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 reycle 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.

Sending thanks and appreciation to all the fantastic volunteers who created the beautiful 2023 AFMS/NFMS Show & Convention! — Linda Jaeger, AFMS Editor
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
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AFMS Newsletter
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Commemorative Stamps
Ellery Borow (see Safety)

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

Convention Advisory
Walt Beneze
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Endowment Fund
Cheryl Neary
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Financial Investment
Wayne Cox
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Historian
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Inter-Regional Field Trip
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Junior Programs
Lora Hall
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Long Range Planning
Matt Charsky
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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
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David Wayment
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URC Eligibility Files
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Ways and Means
Judy Beck
<Lkbeckfam at gmail.com>

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

Web Site Contest
Lori Carter
<webmaster at southeastfed.org>

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