It has been an interesting year for me. I have met so many people through the various federations.

This will be my last President’s Message since the term ends on October 31, 2023 for me. It has been an honor to serve the AFMS and to serve with the Board members and the committee chairs. Lastly, thank you to all the members of the AFMS. I encourage you all to support this fine federation, as well as your regional federation and of course, your club!

I ventured Labor Day weekend to Kentucky for three reasons. First, I met club members and friends from the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club (CVGMC, Hickory, North Carolina) at their annual Labor Day field trip near Harrodsburg. I believe this is my 8th year of joining them! The variety of rocks and minerals at multiple locations are field collected by people who all meet at the location, from all walks of life and numerous states. The first two nights we have a swap and/or sell, providing a great opportunity to obtain various other minerals. It is always enjoyable to be around people who have the same love of the hobby and rockhounding!

Second, one of my four sisters relocated to the area of Somerset, Kentucky from upstate New York approximately two years before I started to travel there. So, it is always great to see her, my brother-in-law and my one niece, who also moved there!

Lastly, my friend and professional colleague moved earlier this year to Oak Ridge, Tennessee. I invited her to meet me, and she was quite psyched! We had a blast!

In September I will be driving to Michigan for the MWF convention. I originally was planning on flying, but since there were several items that did not fit in the car from the Billings, Montana AFMS/NFMS trip, I had asked and was lucky to have Donna and JC Moore bring the items home with them. They will bring them to me in Michigan. Two of the items were my hand sewn Mastodons by our own AFMS Historian, Jennifer Haley. They are quite large and definitely worth every penny. You can order the mastodons for your club, your children, your grandchildren, your nieces and nephews, your neighbors’ children…(I can go on, but I think YOU get the point!). For $75.00 you not only get the mastodon and brush to brush the hair – you get to help support the Juniors program now!

Since I am now driving to Michigan, I decided I would fly down to Kentucky; however, the airlines that I am loyal to did not have any convenient flights from the local airport on Long Island to Kentucky or Knoxville. So, I decided to fly to Charlotte and spend some time with another New York transplant. From there I carpooled with two members of CVGMC to Harrodsburg, where we safely arrived! On Monday, we drove back to Hickory and to my friend’s home near Lake Norman in Mooresville, North Carolina.

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From the Desk of the President

continued from page 1

Our travel from North Carolina to Kentucky brought us through Tennessee. At one of the rest stops I noticed the nickname for Tennessee is the Volunteer State. My inquiring mind wanted to know why, and I found out! During the War of 1812, a request from Governor Willie Blount for volunteers to serve was answered with an overwhelming number of willing recruits. Then again, in 1846, the eagerness was repeated when President James Polk (a fellow Tennessean), requested around 2,600 volunteers to fight in the Mexican-American War. There were over 30,000 volunteers.

What does this have to do with the AFMS?

The AFMS seeks volunteers for various positions – either at the American level or the regional federation level.

The role of a volunteer is basically to take an unpaid position to help your non-profit club (or federation) by assisting in various activities or events.

There are benefits associated with volunteering, such as:
1. Making new friendships
2. Gaining new skills
3. Increasing both your mental and physical health and wellbeing
4. Improving your confidence
5. Gaining new knowledge
6. Knowing you are contributing to your club or federation
7. Rewarding feelings

Volunteers are rewarded with a family of others who hope to change their hobby for the better through service to the federation(s). Many volunteers add educational expertise to the federation(s) as well, with their knowledge and talent.

Volunteers, serving the members of each federation without asking for any reward, know that they gave their all to set the direction uphill, and this is rewarding enough.

So now as your president, can I request eager volunteers to serve the federation(s)? You may not believe you have the time or the knowledge – but how would you know if you did not at least try? Please consider volunteering!

Go Volunteers!
Hope to meet you at one of the federations’ conventions in the future!

A Win-Win-Win with Rock & Gem
Subscribe & Support both R&G & AFMS—and Get a Discount for Yourself!

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

A reminder: Rock & Gem (the officially endorsed hobby magazine of AFMS) is offering a special deal to members of local gem and mineral societies affiliated with the Federation. It’s a win-win deal in that Rock & Gem gets subscribers, we subscribers get a special 61% discount, and AFMS gets a 15% commission on each subscription that will go into the Endowment Fund. This deal applies to both new and renewing subscriptions.

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Win-Win Public Relations
continued from page 2

Rock & Gem has produced a “Rock & Gem/AFMS Subscription” flyer/order form that I hope to get posted to the websites of AFMS and the regional federations to ensure that a portion of your payment goes to AFMS. Those preferring to order online can use a QR code (see below) that can be scanned with your cell phone. By the way, the same deal applies 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. If you’d like a master copy of that form right away from which to print out multiple copies, I can send it as an attachment. Email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com.

Here’s to supporting our official hobby magazine as it, in turn, supports us as individuals and as a Federation!

Photo/image: Scan this QR code to quickly access the special Rock & Gem subscription deal that directly benefits AFMS!

Final Call for Zoom Meeting on PR in the Age of New Media
Jim Brace-Thompson, Public Relations Chair

Whether promoting your club as a whole or a single special event like your annual show, social media is now a vital part of the marketing mix. As I’ve been noting in this newsletter and at our recent AFMS show and convention, I plan to host a Zoom conference on “Practicing Public Relations in the Age of New Media.” I’m in the process of picking a date plus an alternate if there’s a significant number of people who can’t make the first date. My goal is to host it in late October or early November, and already, we have a good long list of interested parties.

It doesn’t matter if you’re an old hand or entirely new at social media. The goal is to include a mix so that we can all share questions and experiences and learn from one another. If interested in participating, please contact me (jbraceth@roadrunner.com, 805-659-3577). Tips and suggestions emerging from the conference will be shared in the pages of this newsletter.

Future Rockhounds of America is Now on Facebook
Lora Hall, AFMS Junior Programs Chair

In addition to our website, www.juniors.amfed.org, Future Rockhounds of America is now on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AFMS.FRA/. Michelle Cauley has volunteered to serve as our moderator. Please help spread the word and grow our page by leaving us a “like” and be sure to “follow” us and “share” our page with others. This gives us another way to keep in touch and share information.

Junior News from the AFMS Convention in Billings, Montana

We had some outstanding junior exhibits at the AFMS Convention in Billings! Winners included:

• Gabe Murphy, Hellgate Mineral Society and the Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, Montana - Blue Ribbon for his exhibit on the “Colors of Obsidian” with a score of 91 points.
• Alex Murphy, Hellgate Mineral Society and the Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, Montana - Blue Ribbon for his exhibit on the “Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Formation” with a score of 93 points. Alex also received the AFMS Trophy for “Outstanding Educational Exhibit.”
• Greer Kjellberg, McPherson Gem and Mineral, Kansas – Blue Ribbon with a score of 70 points.
• The AFMS Lillian Turner Junior Award of $100 for “Outstanding Junior Exhibit” was presented to Gabe Murphy from Montana.

We hope to see more junior exhibitors next year!

We had a fantastic turn out for the Juniors Cracker Barrel, with over 25 folks coming to exchange ideas, learn about new programs, and revisit old favorites. A huge thank you to Jennifer Haley for the awesome FRA tote bags and to Judi Allison and Joan Stoker for staffing them full of information and goodies. The FRA Information Table staffed by Joan and Craig Stoker and Dennis Gertenbach entertained and educated dozens, as well as dozens of prospective new junior members. A great time was had by all!

Lora Hall
AFMS Junior Programs Chair
youth@amfed.org
The 2024 Annual AFMS Meeting will be May 24-26, 2024 during the CFMS Regional Meeting in Ventura, CA. This means the 2024 contest must start soon, so deadlines will be very early in 2024:

- February 15, 2024: Deadline for regional contest chairs to have all of their website entries submitted to me so I can assign regional judges.
- February 16 to March 15: Regional judges score websites and send their results to the regional chairs who must submit the top 2 from their region to the AFMS contest.
- March 16 to April 14: AFMS judges score regional submissions.
- April 15 to May 24: First place plaque and certificates must be made for the annual meeting.

Before the contest starts, we reviewed contest rules and scoring via Zoom on Monday, September 18. Based on the results of our discussion I put together updated rules and scoring sheets and should have them posted on the AFMS website no later than September 30th.

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

Lori Carter, AFMS Website Contest Chair
webmaster@southeastfed.org

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Northwest Federation

The Golden Spike Rock Club from Ogden, Utah, at the Billings Rock Show. At one of the meetings I attended, there was mention of the Federation recognizing members of a club who perform way above the norm (Rockhound of the Year). Our club has such a person. His name is Richard Dunaway.

I have only known Rich for 4 years through being a club member, but from the very beginning he has shown outstanding devotion and dedication to making our club one of the best in the state. Not only is he working full time, but he shares his skills and knowledge of silversmithing and lapidary with the public. He is the Master Chef at our annual club picnic. He offers to let rockhounders park their trailers in his yard when the need arises.

He has a sideline business of selling rocks. His rock shop and rock equipment, along with his vast stock pile of rocks, are the envy of any rockhound. He is currently the treasurer of the club and has been for many years, keeping all the club bills paid on time and all the club equipment in top shape and legal. He supplies much of the material used in our rock bag fill for the shows. But his greatest contribution to the club, in my mind, is his donated time, work, material, and equipment, which he freely gives without a single whimper or complaint, just because he likes to help. The club would not be the same without him.

Every club needs a guy like Rich. I feel bad that he gets so little recognition and yet gives so much of himself. He is indispensable. It would be great to recognize Rich nationally some way or somehow.

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2022-2023 AFMS Rockhound of the Year Recipients

**California Federation**

The Rockhound of the Year Award for the Delvers Gem and Mineral Society goes to Guynell Allen Miller. Guynell’s involvement with the Delvers GMS goes back more than 55 years. She began as a Pebble Pup under a family membership with her parents, Harvey and Sylvia Allen, and sister Francine. At that time there were many children involved, and when she and Francine were old enough, they became Delver members, as well as another sister, Connie who also joined. Connie met Delver Gilbert Kleckner, and they married. Guynell has always been an active supportive member, at first guiding the Pebble Pups along with her sister Francine. Guynnell loves the field trips and going to Quartzsite, Arizona for the powwow.

Eventually Guynell married Delver Steve Miller. The years passed quickly, and she is the lone survivor of the Allen and Miller clans. We all look forward to the Silent Auctions as Guynnell uses her mother’s fudge recipe and brings it to the auction. Guynell has provided a meeting program to demonstrate her knowledge of using metal detectors, a common secondary hobby of rockhounds. She and her late husband were avid treasure hunters using these simple machines. Guynell is found at all our meetings sitting close to the door to greet guests and new visitors. She facilitates the monthly raffles in which one was almost guaranteed to win something at a time when our attendance was at a minimum. The last few meetings, the refreshments have escalated into a full-blown buffet with main entrees, sides, and dessert, which Guynell has made a memorable morsel each time. Our club was invited by the Cerritos Library to fill their lobby display cases to showcase the many aspects of our hobby. She has graciously loaned several beautiful pieces of petrified wood from Gabbs, Nevada and some Bruneau jasper pieces made into beautiful jewelry. Guynell has served in many officer and board positions over the years, including president, 3rd vice president, show chairman, CFMS representative, and board of directors. She is currently serving as vice president. We are honored to present this award to Guynell. It is very well deserved as she is always willing to help in any capacity at a moment’s notice with a big smile. Submitted by: Marvin Belcher – President, Delvers Gem & Mineral Society

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Notes from Judi Allison, AFMS RoY Chair:

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.

-[Editor’s note: We love to publish photos if you don’t mind sending!]

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

Here are your regional chairs:

California: Chris Ward, chris_ward678 at yahoo.com
Eastern: Ellery Borow, PO Box 47; Waterville, ME 04903-0047 rocknellery at fairpoint.com
Midwest: Jeanine N. Mielecki (312) 623-1554 / jaynine9 at aol.com
Northwest: Laurie Ellis, PO Box 3326; Irrigon, OR 97844 rfsmsroy 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 nfmssec at gmail.com
Southeast: Marty Hart, 4935 Olivia Dr. Antioch, TN 37013, webmaster at amfed.org

AFMS Scholarship Report
Sandie Fender, AFMS Scholarship Chair

I want to thank everyone who attended the Scholarship meeting at Billings. It was so good to see all of you. Also, thank you for having the confidence in me to continue the position of President [AFMS Scholarship Foundation] for another two years. I could not do this job without the help of Barbara Ringheiser, treasurer, and Mary Bateman, secretary. I also want to thank the representatives of the Southeastern Federation for giving their report on their federation’s scholarships.

It is my hope that everyone will work on their Honorees and students early this year with the AFMS show being the end of May. Please remember that each Federation receives one Honoree. I am planning to give the Federations their plaques at this show/convention. This saves the Scholarship Foundation a good sum of money. For any Federation shows that happen before AFMS, plaques will be sent in the mail.

I am also asking for the email and snail mail address of those in charge of the Scholarship for each federation. Sometimes it changes and I can’t find an address for these people.

Finally, I know that some of the By-laws and Operating Procedures are outdated. Please let me know of any that you feel need to be changed. I am trying my best to update these.

Creating and Cultivating a (Rockhound) Community
Ben Chorn, Tour Director, Minnesota Mineral Club

Growing up in Minnesota I had been interested in Lake Superior Agates, as most kids are who grow up in Minnesota. Finding a ‘treasure’ usually led to pockets full of rocks and many questions of, “Is this an agate?” to anyone who would answer. However, my love for rockhounding wouldn’t truly bloom until I made my way to Montana for college. It was there, while getting my Bachelor of Science degree in Geology, that I began to more seriously collect rocks. It started with collecting rocks from class field trips, which in turn led to doing research and buying the Rockhounding Montana book (by Montana Hodges and Robert Feldman), which led to bringing friends and coworkers on trips. I ended up leading people to gravel bars on the Yellowstone River to find agates, we braved steep hillsides (and scorpions) to collect Fort Union Formation fossil leaves, and we made a road trip to South Dakota and Wyoming in search of shark teeth, calcite, and agates.

In the years after college, my collection and my curiosity grew. Eventually, after graduating college and graduate school (in Duluth, MN), and getting laid off from a job in Montana, I made my way to Chicago. There I joined my first American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) club - the Chicago Rocks and Mineral Society (CRMS). The CRMS truly

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opened my eyes to the idea of a “community.” The meetings were filled with stories of recent collecting, the presenters expanded my knowledge on various rockhounding topics, and most importantly I made friendships. Show-and-tell during the meetings seemed more a conversation than it did a competition, and usually led to sharing information and ideas for future field trips. It was from the CRMC I went on my first official field trip to look for geodes in the Keokuk, Iowa area. The trip was led by Carlos Blanco, who ended up showing me more collecting locations around Chicago.

Soon after I joined the CRMC I realized the rockhound community extended far beyond that of just one club. Getting an itch to return to Montana to do more rock collecting (as everyone gets at some point after they have been to Montana), I decided to plan a spring trip in 2017 to look for agates. Unfortunately, I had mis-judged when the Yellowstone River would be at an acceptable level for collecting agates and the river was rising. I was following the gauges on the river and realized my trip may be in jeopardy. In an act of desperation, I looked up and found an AFMS club in Billings, Montana (Billings Gem and Mineral Club). I emailed a plea for information on areas I may be able to collect ANYTHING so my trip wouldn’t be a waste. Within a couple days the President, Cari Adamek, responded and got me some useful information - and connected me with Doug True. Doug may have been the AFMS president at the time, I am unsure, but he offered to take me to a spot to collect some Bear Canyon agates. We ended up going up a canyon and found a handful of nodules - one of which I broke and found the amazing dark and white contrasting bands we had been searching for. At the end of the trip, Doug even gave me some uncut nodules to take home that he had collected. It was through Doug’s generosity that I learned a couple things: 1. That most rockhounds are generous and caring people, and 2. That the Rockhound community stretches very far.

After returning to Chicago with some buckets of moss agates, Bear Canyon agates, and fossils, I decided it was time for myself to share great rockhounding with others. I organized and led my first field trip - a trip to Colorado to collect amazonite, smoky quartz, topaz, fossils, and blue barite. There is a lot of joy in sharing the experience of finding a prized mineral and helping someone find a prized mineral that comes from leading field trips, and the trip I led to Colorado proved it.

It was this feeling that came with me when I found myself back in Minnesota a couple years later, and a new member of the Minnesota Mineral Club (MMC). I attended a couple of club field trips, and offered to share some of my spots with other members. I then led my first MMC field trip - a trip to “central” Montana to look for agates, fossil leaves, “Montana Diamonds,” and invertebrate fossils. It wasn’t long after I had been with the club for a year that I was approached to be the Tour Director (field trip coordinator), which I happily agreed to. The next year I, alongside and with the help of co-Tour Director Jennifer Sorenson, realized how much work it is to organize field trips for an entire club. We began opening up website registrations that year, which allowed for field trip leaders to have less work. In the end, we were able to do more trips and have more members attend more trips. Seeing photos and hearing about how much fun members had on field trips made the hard work worth it.

In June of 2022, I received a forwarded email, from the MMC president, which inquired if the MMC was interested in doing joint field trips with the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club (CCRMC). Through many months of planning, including taking on a second term as Tour Director, we were able to have trips planned for both the CCRMC and MMC. This past May the MMC made a trek to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to look for copper minerals under the direction and assistance of the CCRMC. The trip was very successful, and those who went had a great time (and found lots of copper).

In return, the CCRMC ventured to Minnesota to look for Lake Superior agates. While I am unsure of the full outcome of their trip, as I could not be present both days, I believe the CCRMC had success and learned a lot about Lake Superior Agates.

I bring up these experiences hoping to inspire others to do what the people in the (rockhound) community have done for me. I have been to places I wouldn’t have gone because of people in other clubs reaching out and offering trips. I have been shown ‘secret’ or largely unknown sites because I reached out for help on a trip that was (literally) underwater, and I have forged friendships that have made rockhounding and attending meetings and shows very fulfilling experiences.

I often think about Carlos Blanco, who had shown me, a then ‘new kid in town,’ kindness and knowledge when I had asked for neither. Carlos unfortunately developed health issues and passed away in 2019. Shortly after his passing I moved from Chicago to Minneapolis for work reasons. I still remember his kindness - offering to power-wash and crack my geodes, show me where to find trilobite fossils near Chicago, and being a friend anytime we met at a CCRMC meeting. Beyond Carlos, so many people in this community have shared their knowledge, kindness, and care simply because we share a love of rockhounding. I hope at some point, maybe at the next club meeting, you can reflect on those who have influenced your rockhounding journey and can come up with some ways to share this community with others. This community is great because it has great people. I hope there can be more joint field trips between clubs, more helpful responses to inquiries from strangers about “where can I go to find cool rocks?” and more people like those who have shown me how to be great: Carlos, Doug, and too many more to list.

President Cheryl Neary called the meeting to order. She changed the order of the beginning of the meeting according to who was present. J.C. Moore gave the invocation. Cheryl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Billings Gem & Mineral Club President, Tim Zimbelman, welcomed everyone to the convention. He said it had been 14 years since Billings last hosted the AFMS.

Memorial names of those rockhounds who had passed away since the last convention in Westwego, Louisiana in 2022 were read by a representative from each federation. (The lists of names are on the AFMS Website.) A moment of silence was held in their honor.

Cheryl greeted everyone to the annual meeting and asked the officers to each introduce him or herself by giving their name, office, describing themselves in one adjective and stating their favorite rock.

Cheryl told the group about the wooly mammoths and the dragons Jennifer Haley was making for a $75 donation to the juniors program.

Secretary Donna Moore reported there was a quorum to conduct business.

Parliamentarian Evan Day reviewed the rules of the meeting. Roger Burford moved to approve the agenda. Dennis Buchanan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Wayne Cox moved to approve the minutes of the two Zoom executive committee meetings. In the minutes of the Annual Meeting in Westwego, Louisiana, a correction was made to the name of the California Vice President — Kimberly Fiala, and Sandie Fender’s name was misspelled, which were both corrected. Jim Brace-Thompson moved to accept the annual meeting minutes as corrected. Doug True seconded the motion, which carried.

Cheryl called on the officers and directors. All had a report in the packet. (Packet is on the AFMS Website.) The following added to their reports:

- Treasurer Pat LaRue had printed copies of the treasurer’s report.
- Southeast Federation President Dennis Buchanan added they have a new contest for youth during August and September. There is a youth group judging the entries.
- Sheri Johnson, Rocky Mountain President, reported they are working on a location in Phoenix for the 2028 AFMS Convention.

Committee chairmen also had reports in the packet with the following additions:

- Auditing – Pat LaRue had distributed the report.
- By-Laws Revisory – Steve Weinberger had broken his hip and was recuperating.
- Inter-Regional Field Trips – Doug True reported he was adding a trip to South Dakota next year and one for TeePee in June. Information would be in the AFMS Newsletter.
- Junior Activities – Lora Hall added that some things were changing. Future Rockhounds of America was now live on Facebook. They are going where the kids and parents are. People say that Juniors are our future, but they are here and now. They care about what they are doing now. They are not our future, but they are here and now.
- Rockhound of the Year – Judi Allison reported that Chris Whitney-Smith is the new RMFMS RoY chairman.
- Safety – Ellery Borow thanked those helping with articles.
- Scholarship – Sandie Fender reminded the six presidents and vice presidents of all federations except Southeast (who have their own scholarship fund) that they were all directors at the scholarship meeting which would follow this meeting.
- Uniform Rules – Larry Hulstrom reported on the meeting held previous to this annual meeting. They are going forward with a new edition of the Uniform Rules, hopefully to be ready by January. The finished product will be put on the AFMS Website.
- Uniform Rules Eligibility – Leslie Wayment added to her report that regional chairmen must send her results from their shows. They had to kick one exhibitor back because she did not provide records.

Old Business

- Jim Brace-Thompson shared that Rock and Gem, the official hobby magazine of the AFMS, is offering to give $6.00 to the AFMS for each new or renewal subscription of members. He had a flyer with details. Members get a discount using the code on the form or the website. There is also a QR Code. He will see that information is included in the AFMS newsletter as well as sharing with all the federation editors and webmasters.
- Bill Stephens, EFMLS President, shared that he had submitted letters objecting to the closing of the Mohave Desert site to collecting.

New Business

Roger Burford presented the budget for approval. He noted that he tried to compensate for the cost of travel for officers and directors. He raised the maximum amount from $300 to $400 in each instance. The cost of the newsletter had increased. There will probably be the expense of a judges training at the next convention. Everything pretty much remained the same. If it wasn’t being used, he took some away. We will need approximately $1,500 to $6,500 from the endowment fund. Miscellaneous is up to $1,000. Some were not using their amount allotted. Travel expenses have gone up considerably whether for airline or gas. It was noted that we need to sell more tickets for the endowment fund drawing to supplement the budget. Doug True moved to approve the proposed budget. J.C. Moore seconded the motion.

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Leslie Wayment noted that the OP for judges training is 10 years out of date. It says the cost comes out of the endowment fund. Pat LaRue, treasurer, said there is an allocation from the endowment fund income. $6,500 would be to cover judges training and other things. If more is needed, the officers and directors need to approve it if it is for a valid AFMS expense. In the past the old amount was $3,500. That amount should cover the expenses except for the judges training.

Dennis Buchanan had a question about the Endowment Fund Allocation thinking it was over budget in expenses for the year. Pat explained that so far nothing had been taken out. She normally makes the transfer in mid-October. All the junior materials come from the endowment fund. There is some confusion with the way Quick Books shows it. The vote was taken to approve the proposed budget which passed unanimously.

AFMS Logo – DeLane Cox noted that the official AFMS Logo is not being used. An alternate is actually being used. Maybe it is time to look at a new logo, which might be more updated. This can be proposed and brought up for a vote next year. It was noted the official color is dark blue. The description of the logo is in OP #2 of the AFMS Operating Procedures (as well as in the Constitution ARTICLE XI – OFFICIAL EMBLEMS, ETC.), which would need to be changed if a new one is proposed. Cheryl appointed DeLane in charge of an ad hoc committee to propose a new logo. She can draft the committee members.

Mohave Desert – handouts prepared by Jennifer Haley were available that contained good information about the situation. The New York Times had repeated the article. Look at the article online, it got enough hits. Have it put in the hard copy. We will probably not find out the results until 2024.

ALAA – Doug True announced that the meeting would be at 1:00 on Sunday followed by the auction at 2:00 p.m. As far as the Mohave Desert is concerned, the fight is how much can be taken out. It is a big area with great collecting. We need to keep pushing. Initially the government was considering rockhounds the same as hard rock miners. We need to point out that we can clean up and improve the land. ALAA and the California Federation are working with BLM. We need to just work with them, don’t fight them.

Jim Brace-Thompson said he wanted to underscore the magnitude of this. The guidebook on rockhounding in Southern California would have half of the areas eliminated. These are classic sites. The magnitude is huge.

Reimbursement for Expenses for Media Director – Cheryl announced she had appointed David Wayment Media Director, a new position, and we need to reimburse him for expenses. Last year the amount was $1,000. He had spent $250 alone buying a license. We need to purchase a better microphone to improve the sound. David hosts not only the annual meeting for the AFMS but several other meetings. It was agreed to reimburse him for his costs.

Judges Training – Leslie Wayment – says this is addressed in OP #16 Uniform Rules, needs to be re-done. Most of the OP’s need to be looked at. In 2012 Judges Training was only held at Wildacres. Only 2 per federation could attend. Some federations have no competitive cases. This is no longer appropriate. She would like to hold a four-day class in Ventura. A block of rooms would need to be reserved. We have to get more judges trained, especially with the new format. Pat LaRue noted it was originally set up that each federation could send one person to training. $350 was allocated for one person from each federation. A request needed to be sent to the treasurer by the training coordinator. Evan Day noted that this came under Special Committees OP #12 Judges Training. Wildacres costs about $456. Is it right to limit this to one person per federation? We send a minimum of 3 people to the meeting from each federation. Jennifer Haley noted that she had been under Special Committees OP #12 Judges Training. Wildacres costs about $456. Is it right to limit this to one person per federation? We send a minimum of 3 people to the meeting from each federation. Jennifer Haley noted that she had been under Special Committees OP #12 Judges Training. Wildacres costs about $456. Is it right to limit this to one person per federation? We send a minimum of 3 people to the meeting from each federation.

Wayne Cox brought up that he needed approval of a financial form from Merrill Lynch. It should have been done yearly. It is needed for changing the OP to present to be voted upon next year. We can have a special committee to prepare a revision. A special meeting can be called. David Wayment said many go at their own expense. The federations could put it in their budgets. It could be opened to anyone wanting to attend. Cheryl suggested that Leslie get a committee together and revise the OP.

Cheryl noted that several of the OP’s are in need of updating. She appointed an ad hoc committee to review them. The committee will consist of Liz Thomas, Jennifer Haley, Jim Brace-Thompson, Doug True, Liz Burford, and Cheryl.

Upcoming Conventions
- Jim Brace-Thompson announced that the 2024 AFMS Convention will be in Ventura, California. He invited everyone to come share their fun. He had preliminary packets for those who wanted them. They have a dedicated website at www.2024cdfs-afms.com. There is no host hotel, but the list included some suggestions. He noted that the official dress shirt for the banquet would be Hawaiian shirts.
- Cheryl Neary reported 2025 will be hosted in Hickory, North Carolina, with the Eastern Federation convention. It will be the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April.
- J.C. Moore announced 2026 will be in the Midwest Federation May 22-24, 2026, in St. Charles, Illinois, which is in the Chicagoland area. The venue is the Kane County Fairgrounds with everything hopefully at the show site. The Chicagoland group puts on a fantastic show with a wholesale room as well as the retail show.

Announcements
- Doug True invited everyone to the meet and greet and President’s reception that evening. He noted the ALAA meeting would be at 1:00 pm on Sunday followed by the auction of about 60 lots of Montana rocks and other material.
- There was a reminder that Judi Allison was still selling tickets for the Endowment Raffle. Cheryl thanked the host club and Northwest Federation for hosting. She noted that board terms end October 31, and it has been her privilege to serve as president this year. She adjourned the meeting.
Venomous Snakes and Safety

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

The good news is that relatively few snakes are venomous. The bad news is that some are indeed venomous. The good news is that there are ways to be safe when encountering venomous snakes. The bad news is that it is sometimes difficult to tell which are venomous and which are not.

To sort out the issues of how to be safe around snakes please see the guidelines following this report. But first, a bit of background information will be helpful to know.

When collecting in a new area it is common to become familiar with hazards to be found there – plants to avoid, biting and stinging insects to mind, weather to watch, and snakes to respect. Considering snakes, it is probably safe to say that most rock, mineral and fossil collectors are not herpetologists, with their knowledge of snake habitats and lifestyles. Snakes generally want to be left alone. Some, such as rattlesnakes, give us fair warning that we are getting a little too close for comfort by rattling their tails.

There are numerous excellent snake guidebooks and websites, with their detailed information and pictures to aid with venomous and non-venomous snake identification. The problem with snake identification is that there are a number of look-a-likes, making it sometimes difficult to identify venomous snakes from the non-venomous kinds. Getting a good close look at a snake and making comparisons with the identification guidelines is ill-advised considering that venom could be involved. Compounding the identification difficulty is that snakes can and do cross over with the resulting offspring being not quite like the images in the identification guides.

One popular activity when visiting a new collecting area is to visit local rock shops to learn not just of area minerals but also of collecting cautions. The trouble with snakes is in the naming and locating of the named snake in the identification guides.

continued on page 10
For example, a snake called a water moccasin in Alabama may be called a cottonmouth in Kentucky. Snakes do not respect state lines. With environmental changes, snakes are slowly finding their way into new areas. So, a mineral collector may come across a snake that isn’t supposed to be found in the area. In addition, for one reason or another, sometimes people move/release snakes in areas they are not known to inhabit. In snake identification, collectors should be aware such things occur.

As a side note, any snake identification guide may not reflect the current state of classification. Modern DNA technology is causing some shifting in how snakes are grouped, so take some naming and identification with a grain of salt in older guidebooks. That said, venom is still venom.

If one is bitten by a snake, drive to a medical facility offering an anti-venom. The efficacy of anti-venom continues to improve. Please do not be bashful with utilizing the services of a medical facility if a snake bite occurs on a field trip.

Most snakes bite to secure food. They use just enough venom to serve the need. When agitated or attacked a snake is likely to use its full venom capability when biting. Give snakes a wide clearance. Children, by being smaller than adults, may be more seriously affected by a venomous snakebite. And with their natural curiosity and lack of full understanding of a snake’s potential dangers, children need to be carefully supervised.

There are several common wisdoms when dealing with snake bite in the field – such as pack the area of the bite in ice. Unfortunately, they are for the most part not particularly useful and some may actually complicate matters. The best advice to treat snakebite is to get to a medical facility quickly. Facilities in areas with venomous snakes will likely have anti-venin in their pharmacies.

The best advice to treat snakebite is to get to a medical facility quickly. Facilities in areas with venomous snakes will likely have anti-venom in their pharmacies.

Among the common wisdoms and advice are both to keep the victim immobilized, and yet get to a medical facility as soon as possible. While those two ideas appear to be opposites (immobilize and transport), they are the two that are advisable to follow. The solution for a snakebite is both to keep the patient’s heart from racing (and spreading venom) and to have a collecting partner aid the patient in not having to exert themselves as the partner drives the patient to the medical facility.

The snakebite guidelines:

• Make an effort to go collecting with other people, preferably people who can also drive a motor vehicle.
• Mind the activity of children when snakes are likely in the area.
• Become familiar with the location of the area’s medical facilities.
• Know the nature and habits of the venomous snakes in the collecting area.
• Wear snakebite clothing - chaps, gaiters and sturdy footwear.
• Keep one’s hands and fingers in sight – snakes (as well as scorpions) may be hidden underneath objects.
• Some snakes rattle their tails — please heed those warnings of tail movement and sound.
• Venomous snakes may not look exactly like the pictures in the books. Allow for variations. And the best snakebite prevention advice – give all snakes wide clearance in every instance. Leave them alone. In some instances and areas they may be protected species.

The study of snakes is an engaging activity. On a rock, mineral and fossil collecting trip the main focus is usually on the collecting, not the snake identification. Please keep clear of all snakes, even the non-venomous ones. If one is really curious about a snake, feel free to take a picture of it (from a safe distance) for identification at a later date.

Your safety matters, and so does that of the snake. We can learn to share the world together… there is enough room for all.

My thanks to the person suggesting the topic for this article. Learning is fun.

ALAA Alerts - Rock Springs - Red Desert Wyoming

Greetings ALAA Recreational Rockhounds across America — This was received from Recreational Rockhounds from the State of Wyoming:

The devastating new rules planned by the BLM will eliminate Recreational Rockhounding and several other types of Recreation in and around the Rock Springs area covering over 7-million acres of Public Lands….. To keep Recreational Rockhounding and other Recreational Activities available to users of your Public Lands, your help is needed in contacting the BLM Public Land Managers and Congress with your comments and to stop the implementation of these devastating management rules.

Time is running out so please take the time to read and visit the hyperlinks included below and submit your comments to the BLM Public Land Management and Congress to preserve your right to Recreation on your Public Lands in the State of Wyoming.

Tips and examples of writing to Government Officials may be found at the link below http://www.amlands.org/9112/index.html
August 12, 2023

Attn: McDermitt Exploration Project
c/o BLM Malheur Field Office
100 Oregon Street
Vale, OR 97918

Re: Proposed Plan of Operations
HiTech Minerals McDermitt Exploration Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently seeking public input for HiTech Minerals proposed Plan of Operations to conduct an exploration drilling project on their claims located approximately 20 miles west of McDermitt, Nevada in Malheur County, Oregon. The details of the proposed project are outlined in HiTech’s Project Initiation Letter (PIL) dated June 21, 2023. The intent of this correspondence is to state substantive concerns about public access to the area where drilling operations are to take place.

The Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs (Council) represents 17 statewide clubs totaling nearly 2300 members. The Council’s mission is to promote the interests of recreational rockhounds by advocating for access to public lands and to support good stewardship practices on those lands. A copy of the Council’s informational tri-fold is included for your reference. HiTech’s PIL indicates their proposed drilling will take place on 7,200 acres and include construction of up to 267 drill sites and associated infrastructure for a period of up to five years. They also state under their Occupancy Proposal that “barriers to access” will be part of the project. Given the size and scope of the proposed exploration project, it is likely such barriers may restrict access to rock collection areas of significance to the Council’s members.

As you are probably aware, rockhounds have frequented the McDermitt area to collect many types of material for decades. A partial list of the varieties of agate, jasper, petrified wood and thundereggs are included with this letter. Also attached are hand drawn rockhounding maps dating from 1973 and 1978. These maps show some of the sites known to be of importance to collectors. Because the maps submitted with HiTech’s PIL do not clearly show geographic features, it is difficult to place collection sites within the proposed project boundaries. It is, however, apparent that many collection sites lie north of the Zimmerman Ranch road within the project area. The BLM may wish to use their GIS resources to better define the location of specific sites within the proposed project. Road “barriers” to these sites will prove an undue hardship for rockhounds wishing to access BLM administered public lands.

Due to the above considerations, the Council requests that any BLM project approval include provisions to preserve road access through the project area for purposes of accessing rockhounding sites on BLM managed public lands. As such, we would urge the BLM to “approve the Plan with additional mitigation measures” as stated above, under their NEPA review. We do not wish to impede permitted uses of the area by HiTech or create safety issues for their operations. We do want to continue enjoying the pursuit of our hobby without burdensome access restrictions.

Thank you for considering the above comments during your review for this proposed project. Please contact me if you have any further questions regarding our concerns.

Sincerely,

Dave Williams
Oregon Council President
541-677-9341
igneous80@q.com

cc: OCRMC Officers, Directors, Club Representatives
Venturing to Ventura (Part 1 of several)

Cheryl Neary, AFMS President 2022-2023

Join the fun at the 2024 AFMS/CFMS convention in the Californian City of Ventura, officially known as San Buenaventura (Spanish for Saint Bonaventure), to be held Memorial Day weekend.

California is typically divided into eleven (11) geomorphic regions with naturally defined boundaries. The regions each display unique features based on geology, topography, and structural features – such as faults and climate. From north to south, west to east they are Klamath Mountains, Cascade Range, Modoc Plateau, Coast Ranges, Great Valley, Sierra Nevada, Basin and Range, Transverse Ranges, Mojave Desert, Peninsular Ranges, and the Colorado Desert.

Ventura is part of Coast Ranges and lies northwest of Los Angeles. It is noted for its numerous landmarks and points of interest and is a resort city. The American clothing company Patagonia, Inc. is also based in Ventura.

The area of Ventura was originally inhabited by the Chumash and Gabrielino-Tongva Native Americans, over 15,000 years ago. In 1782 with the arrival of the Spanish missionaries, the Mission San Buenaventura was established, thus providing the name of the city. The area was incorporated as a city in 1866.

During the European occupation of the area there were 20,000 Chumash living in the area of the Channel Islands and Santa Monica Mountain areas. Today, there are estimated to be 5,000 members.

The Chumash are a maritime culture of hunters and gatherers who did not rely on farming as did other Native Americans. The Chumash, as per the website https://www.wishtoyo.org/cp-chumash-history, “understand the relationship between humankind and earth’s natural resources; they both feared and respected the natural world as their greatest teacher of Traditional Knowledge, for they knew then and know now that all our lives depend on it for survival.”

“The word Chumash originally referred to the people of Limuw, Santa Cruz Island. In more modern times Chumash was used to identify all people of the Chumash Nation. Every village in Chumash territory had its own language. These were not only different dialects but distinctly different languages. During the mission times, there were seven Chumash languages: Barbareño/Šmuwič, Ineseño/Samala, Purisimeño, Ventureño/Miscanaqin, and Obispeño. In addition, there were the islander and the interior languages.”

While reading material for this article, I read “Chumash Values,” an interesting article written by Mati Waiya. To summarize:

- Younger members of the nation adhered to the wisdom of the elders
- Each member had a role in the nation and knew what was expected of them. They knew how to be aware of and observe nature – the land and the waters. It was the lessons of nature that taught them the balance of physical and spiritual nature and their effect upon the natural world.
- Be a part of nature – let nature be a part of your life
- Learn from each season in nature

The following phrases can be applied to any child, but specifically in our Juniors programs:

Per Mati Waiya, “Children are like ‘crystal,’ which contains strength and power if you discover how to use it.”

1. Plant a seed in a child’s mind to respect and understand nature – the rock cycle, the seasons.

2. Learn from the eyes of children – we can assess our programs through frequent observations of the child, especially their eyes (you’ve heard the expression, “the eyes never lie!”)

3. Provide a foundation – teach them how to make better choices in protecting themselves and our natural environment.

To read more please see https://www.wishtoyo.org/cp-chumash-values

Preview of coming attractions:

The 1920’s saw a major oil boom in the northern Ventura area, approximately 8 miles long by 2 miles across. Today the oil field is the tenth largest California producing oil field.

Stay tuned for more in upcoming articles!
Theiophytalia kerri: A Garden of the Gods Dinosaur

Sawyer Blizzard, 1st Place AFMS Junior Articles (12-17) 2023
From CSMS Pick & Pack, 11/2022

In Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs, large upright slabs of rock stand tall above the surrounding landscape, a breathtaking remnant of the ancient sand dunes that accumulated there. A dinosaur named Theiophytalia kerri, an herbivore weighing 16 ft long, was thought to live there during the early Cretaceous. It is only known from one specimen, a fossilized skull found in the Garden of the Gods area.

In 1878, Professor James H. Kerr (figure 1) from Colorado College found a skull (figure 2) in what was originally thought to be the late Jurassic Morrison formation. Marsh put the skull in storage at the Yale Peabody Museum where it was forgotten (Garden of the Gods Visitor Center wall text, n.d.).

In 1995, 117 years later, while the Garden of The Gods visitor center was under construction, two employees, Lenore Fleck and Melissa Walker, inquired with Kirk Johnson, a Paleontologist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, about a planned dinosaur exhibit (Brill and Carpenter, 2006). Johnson referred them to a colleague of his, paleontologist Kenneth Carpenter, who said, "I think I have an article in my drawer, but I'll send it to you." He later mailed them an article that read: "Camptosaurus amplus No. 1887, Yale Museum consisting of portions of the skull and lower jaw. It was collected...in deposits in the Garden of The Gods, Colorado Springs, Colorado." With this specimen was found the following note in Professor O.C. Marsh's handwriting: "Part of this animal and various Sauropoda bones were taken out by Professor Kerr in 1878" (Garden of the Gods Visitor Center wall text, n.d.).

Johnson flew out to the Yale Museum and hand-carried the Camptosaurus skull back to Denver for Carpenter to make a cast replica of it for the exhibit (Walker and Johnson, nd.). While Carpenter was casting the fossil, however, he noticed various inconsistencies and irregularities in the skull's structure. He decided to re-examine the Camptosaurus fossil when he had the chance to. Finally, in 2006, Carpenter, along with one of his associates, Kathleen Brill, had finished an in-depth reassessment of the skull (Walker and Johnson, nd.). It was concluded that the differences between the supposed Camptosaurus skull and a genuine Camptosaurus skull were significant enough to determine that it belonged to a new dinosaur and not a Camptosaurus (Brill and Carpenter, 2006). Carpenter decided to name the new iguanodon relative Theiophytalia kerri. Theiophytalia meaning "belonging to the Garden of the Gods," and kerri in honor of James H. Kerr who first discovered the fossil skull.

Because the only known specimen of Theiophytalia is a single fossilized skull, its full appearance is unknown, and reconstructions of the dinosaur are mostly speculation based off other closely related dinosaurs. It also isn't known where exactly Theiophytalia was found besides the vague recollection of James Kerr telling O.C. Marsh that it was found "in one of the ridges east of Garden of The Gods" (Garden of the Gods Visitor Center wall text, n.d.). With an overly broad area where it may have been discovered, it is heavily debated where the exact location where it was found could be. The exact type of rock where it was found would have given us a clear picture of what its environment and habitat would have been like.

However, although we may not know exactly where it was found, with the knowledge of what America was like during the early Cretaceous, we can put together what the basic environment may have been like for Theiophytalia. It lived from 125 to 100.5 million years ago, and the area was most likely a coastal, tropical forest near to the newly forming Western Interior Seaway. It may have shared this environment with a relative called Tenontosaurus and was possibly preyed upon by the predatory raptor Deinonychus and the large theropod dinosaur Acrocanthosaurus.

Thus concludes the life, history, and rediscovery of Theiophytalia kerri. Its life is shrouded in mystery and uncertainty, thanks to the single specimen along with the unknown location of said specimen’s discovery. Today, Theiophytalia is barely a footnote compared to the much more famous and common dinosaurs of the early Cretaceous, but Theiophytalia will hold a special place in our hearts as the mascot dinosaur of Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs. Perhaps one day we will find another specimen that will help us understand more about this dinosaur, and finally rectify Professor Kerr's inadequate note taking.

References and Further Reading:
Brill, K., K. Carpenter, 2006, A description of a new ornithopod from the Lytle Member of the Purgatoire Formation (Lower Cretaceous) and a reassessment of the genus Camptosaurus. Horns and Beaks: Ceratopians and Ornithopod Dinosaurs. 49-67.

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 updates below for Midwest Federation, 2024, 2025, & 2026.

### Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions

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<th>Midwest Federation</th>
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<td>Hickory, NC TBD</td>
<td>East Peoria, IL August 24-25</td>
<td>Hermiston, OR May 10 - 12</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK Oct. 25 - 27</td>
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<td>Lincoln, NE April 5-6</td>
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**October is for . . . Can you identify these?**

Photos by Linda Jaeger

Check answers on page 15.

**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@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@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.

The Purpose

Richard Braun, 1st Place AFMS Poetry 2023
From Rock-N-Rose, 12/2022

A shattered stone lay on the ground
In hopes one day it would be found.
The life it led was sure and good
It’s many uses were understood.
Tumbled in sand by the river’s bed
A thing of beauty it was said.
Tapped and knapped to a razor’s edge,
To serve you well was it’s humble pledge.
An ax or knife for a hunter’s attire.
Struck against steel for warmth from fire.
Truly a stone from heaven sent
This stone, this stone, the mighty Flint.

October Answers:

1-Onyx mini-bowl (Pakistan)
2-Ostrea coxi, crystalized Pliocene oyster (Florida)
3-Opal mosaic turtle
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;
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