Happy New Year to All,

I am sure you all enjoyed the Holiday Season and are back to normal by now.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I hope many of you have written letters to the BLM and sent copies to your congressmen/congresswomen. The BLM’s Proposal includes the area where we had the NFMS Field Trip last year in September and the members who attended or members who have been there know how exciting and fun that area is. It will be a great negative impact if those places are closed to rockhounding.

To contact each club regarding this matter, I used two separate email lists, one which I got earlier and one I picked out from the 2014-2015 NFMS Directory. If your club has not received any of my emails regarding the BLM Proposal I have been sending out since December of last year, please let me know your club’s contact person and their email address, so that I can put your club in my list and send out messages in the future when I have to. Also, if I am sending it to the wrong contact person, please let me know as well.

I am sure some of our members have headed south already. I am not sure if you will receive the newsletter in time, but as I write every year, the Rock & Gem shows in Quartzsite, Arizona are coming or have started already. This year’s QJA Show is from Jan. 20 to 24 and there are other shows such as Desert Garden and others. The ALAA will have Meetings and BLM Clean Up during the Quartzsite Shows, so if you are able to go south, plan to attend if you can. The Public Informational Meeting will be on Friday, January 22, 7 pm (MT) at the New Quartzsite Community Center, 295 Chandler Street. And the 4th Annual BLM CLEAN UP will be on Sunday, January 24, 10 am to 12 noon, at the Dome Rock exit (I-10) west of Quartzsite. The Clean Up is a great way to keep good relations with the BLM.

For the newer members, ALAA (American Lands Access Association) is an organization to promote and ensure the right of amateur collecting and recreational mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes. Many of our NFMS clubs are members of ALAA. If your club is not a member yet, please consider joining. There is an individual membership as well, so please check out the ALAA’s website at www.amlans.org for details.

In previous newsletter articles, I wrote that I am keeping track of the trend of the number of Adult and Junior membership of all the clubs. From 2007 or from the recent years to 2015, there are clubs that have showed significant growth and I recently asked some of those clubs to write articles to share their success stories. There are many different factors and circumstances among the clubs, so the methods will not always work for your club, but this should give you ideas of how to grow your club.

And I am sure there were many articles in past issues where clubs have shared their success stories. If your club still has those articles, I would love to read them and eventually combine all this information for the use of the NFMS Clubs. If you do, please email it to me at hkira@spiritone.com. As I have written, the number of members is not the only important factor to be a great club. However, when we have to express our thoughts like the case above, number of members gets more important. And it will be important to get more junior members for the future of the Rockhounding World.

NFMS/AFMS Combined Convention & Show will be held in Albany, OR this year in end of July and Show Chair, Janice Van Cura (Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Salem, OR) is working very hard. As written in previous articles, Janice is aiming for 200 Display Cases. The forms for the Competitive and Non-Competitive are now released, so please plan to set up cases with preferably NW materials for the visitors from around the country and for us to enjoy. And make sure you make the reservations for your stay early if you are planning to come to the show and to the following field trips.

Just a reminder, we will have the Mid-Year Meeting in April during the Lakeside Club’s Annual Show. Please see the notice on this issue. Thank you to the Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club for hosting this meeting again!

Wishing that 2016 will be a great year for all!

Happy New Year
SHOW COORDINATOR: Pat Lambert, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 26450 NE 247th St., Kirkland, WA 98037, palambert1@charter.net

STAMPS: Chuck Sonner, Southern WA, Mineralogical Society, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA 98596, (509) 785-3909, chuckk322@yahoo.com

SUPPLIES: Patty Amos, Mt. Hood Rock Club, 1552 NE 215th Ave., P.O. Box 54398, Seattle, WA, (206)992-3716, packrattz2@msn.com

WAYS & MEANS: Janice Van Cura, Williamette Agate & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617. Please send all information for the show to Janice Van Cura, newsletter@alam.org.

WEBMASTER: Brad Larson, Owyhee Gem and Mineral Club, 4110 NE 215th St., Kenmore, WA 98028, jvancura@peak.org

Treasurers: Tanya Bodkin, Oregon Agate, 3292 NE 39th Ave., Siletz, OR 97380, (541) 444-3292, tanya@bodkin.com; Audrey Vogelpohl, Oregon Gem & Mineral Club, 369 N. Tamarack, Hermiston, OR 97838, (541) 585-7561, audreyvo@aol.com.

Make checks payable to the Federation.

Financial Advisor: Jon Spangenberg, P.O. Box 166, Linn, OR 97455, (503) 292-0590 (a mail forwarding address), (503) 397-5284, rockhound1966@yahoo.com. The Editor will keep the above decisions confidential.

The name and show title (if applicable), the date and time of the show is then donated to Cancer Research. The collected stamps are then used by the Federation. The only criteria for the Taxidermy of the year is that it be hobby related (i.e., rocks, equipment, grit, shows, etc.).

The Adams Northwest Newsletter (ALAN) is a hobby-rel A publication published by the North American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Each NFMS member club should have three people (usually the Pres, Secretary, and Editor) receiving the NFMS Newsletter. If they are not or if anyone else wants to subscribe ($4.50 per year). Contact: Office of the President, 319 East 7th Street, Winlock, WA 98596, phone (503) 357-1000, fax (503) 357-0300. The NFMS endowment fund is not listed, or if your show is not listed, contact the Newsletter Editor.

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Jim Bosley
1ST Vice President

Be A Mentor

You may wonder why I chose the topic, “Be A Mentor”, for this article. Every year people join gem and mineral societies or following a gem and mineral show. New members and visitors come to the monthly meetings because they are interested in gems and minerals. If the needs of the new members are not met then they drop out during the first year. It is the responsibility of the society to ensure that the new members are included and retained as members. I believe “mentoring” is the best way to retain new members and meet their needs.

The best legacy a gem and mineral society can pass on is its ability to build mentors who will share their knowledge and love for working with rocks. By a mentor leader I mean a deliberate decision to get involved in someone else’s life as a friend, teacher and role model.

The 7 keys to mentor leadership are:

Engage - It is impossible to mentor from a distance. Look around at the monthly meeting or a field trip for someone new to the society. Take the time to introduce yourself, find out about them and take them under your wing. Make new friends.

Educate - Mentor leaders must take a hands-on, one-on-one approach to teaching. When you find out what a new member is interested in, invite them to your workshop and teach them and/or make arrangement for them to meet others who share their interests. Share your knowledge, pass it on.

Equip - The mentor leader understand that education and equipping must go hand in hand, Help new members identify and find the equipment they need. Offer them a ride to a field trip. Share your equipment.

Encourage - The mentor leader understand that a good dose of encouragement strengthens confidence. Be positive when teach, do not criticize, offer suggestions on how they can improve their technique.

Empower - At some point, a mentor leader must trust and turn others loose to do their job. Many people need someone to ask them to help, to thank them when they do, and let them know they are important. They will have good ideas, ideas you did not dream of and the energy to see them through.

Energize - inspire and motivate those around you. We all belong to the society because we like rock and the people who like rock. Do all that you do with enthusiasm and you will create energy in those around you.

And, Elevate - A mentor leader’s goal is to raise up new leaders, It is not about getting the credit, it is about help the society and everyone in it be the best they can be.

The success and the future of the society is something we will achieve, together. Start right where you are, with the people around you, do something as simple as engage with them by talking, sharing knowledge and teaching each other. For a society to grow each society member (you and me) needs to:

1. Create a welcoming and accepting environment at the monthly meeting and activities.
2. Personally make new members and visitors a part of our society.
3. Mentor new members and existing member allowing them to explore the different facets of the lapidary arts
4. Help them find their talents.
5. Make new friends.

Remember, regardless of our situation in life, we are always a role model for someone.

2016 NFMS Mid-Year Meeting
Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016
Time: 1 pm
Place: Benton County Fairgrounds
1500 South Oak, Kennewick, WA
(During Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club’s Annual Show)

2016 AFMS Annual Meeting
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016
Time: 9 am
Place: Linn County Fair & Expo Building
Albany, Oregon
(before the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society’s Annual Show)

NFMS Annual Meeting
Date: Friday, July 29, 2016
Time: 4pm
Place: Linn County Fair & Expo Building
Albany, Oregon
(During Willamette Agate and Mineral Society’s Annual Show)
Time does fly when you are having fun. Where has this last year gone? It seems like last week we were finalizing our last year’s show. Well guess what! Reality has struck, it is already time to make sure our 2016 Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Society (TGMS) show preparations are on schedule.

This is also the time of the year when we start getting contacted by school teachers from all around the area, inviting one of our TGMS members to come and provide information (about 1 hour) for their elementary students. To make it a little easier for our members who answer the call, there have been three kits assembled with rock samples from our state, literature and most everything that will be needed for the program. Having these kits pre-assembled makes it much easier to get member involvement.

To prepare students for this activity most of the teachers have geology in their curriculum. Believe me these kids are not dummies. They know what you are talking about. Some local libraries sponsor education days where they have educational subjects offered to children, which we have been invited to participate in presenting.

One recreation center in our area has a day camp for youth from 5 years to 12 years of age. Two of our members had a booth at this event. They were there a big part of the day. All of our club members who took part in the above mentioned activities, without exception, said they enjoyed working with the children.

This is a great way for TGMS members to spread good will and meet many people.

Above all, don’t give up, just keep up the good work.

NFMS Scholarship Honoree
By Hidemi Kira, NFMS President

I am nominating Dick Parks and Patty Amos for the year 2015 - 2016.

Dick and Patty have been very active in the NFMS and the local clubs to which they belong. In the NFMS, they both have been in charge of the Silent Auction held at the NFMS Shows since 2002 at the Lakeside Show (WA). They have worked very hard and have heavily contributed to the raising of funds for the NFMS with help of the members including those who donated the material over the years. There is a lot of work involved in running the Silent Auction and they have been handling it very well. And Dick has also helped the Oral Auction many times when he was able to do so. Dick has served as Co-Chair of the NFMS Field Trips and still gives a helping hand to the coordination of the field trips.

Patty has served as the NFMS President 2008-2009 after going through the ranks and has been serving as the Supply Chair since 2013 and has contributed to the NFMS in so many ways.

They both joined the Mt. Hood Rock Club (Gresham, OR) in 1990 and have been very active and they are the key figures of the club. They recently were nominated the Mt. Hood “NFMS Rockhound of the Year” for their hard work over the years.

Dick served as the President during 98-99, Vice-president 97-98, Treasurer 2002-2004 and has been leading many field trips and helping the club in many areas. He contributes in so many areas, it is difficult to list all what he does.

Patty served as President 2003-2005, Secretary 2000-2003 and serving as the Newsletter Editor since 2005. Together with Dick, she has been helping the club in many ways as well. Again, there are too much to list.

As part of the Mt. Hood club, they have been very active in the Portland Regional Show hosted by the Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Association, which has several local clubs involved.

At all the shows in which they are involved, they not only help planning, setting up, running and tearing down, but always put in lovely showcases. The shows they get involved will never complete without the contributions of these two.

They also belong to Columbia Gorge Rock Hounds (Corbett, OR). Dick has served as President, Vice President, Field Trip Leader, Federation Director and others. Patty served as Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and others. They are the key members of this club as well. And they also belong to the Southern Washington Mineralogical Society (Longview, WA).

Congratulations Dick & Patty and thank you for accepting this honor.

As recipient of this position they will choose two graduate students in Earth Science for the Scholarships and announce these individuals at the awards banquet at the 2016 NFMS/AFMS Show & Convention in Albany, OR. Each student will receive $4000 for one year beginning with the 2016 Fall Semester. For the newer members, being nominated to be the Scholarship Honoree is considered to be the highest honor you can receive in the NFMS.

This program is part of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation and each participating Federation selects the Honoree to choose the two students. This program relies on donations from clubs and members. If your club makes some extra incomes from your shows or others, please consider the Scholarship Fund as an option for a donation. Our NFMS Chair of the Scholarship is Evelyn Cataldo, so please contact her at cataldoevelyn@yahoo.com or call 509-628-0170 if you have any question regarding the Scholarship. If you decide to make a donation, make the check payable to AFMS Scholarship Fund and send to Evelyn Cataldo (99509 Brandon, Kennewick, WA, 99338).
From the Editor’s Rockpile
By Beth Heesacker

A very Happy New Year to all. What an exciting year we have ahead for rockhounds, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

In April is the NFMS Mid-Year meeting, April 16th, during the Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club’s show in Kenniwick, WA. This has always been a highlight of our rockhounding adventures both for the meeting and for the wonderful show that Lakeside produces. Also don’t forget the tailgating session on Sunday morning which is always a hit.

Of course there are the Prineville and Madras shows and their field trips.

Then we have the BIG one! The AFMS/NFMS Show July 29-31 in Albany, Oregon. And don’t forget the field trips after the show out of Prineville. This promises to be a show of shows from what I have heard. Please put this one in big red letters on your calendar so you will not forget it. And try to come a day early to attend the AFMS meeting. Come and see what your national rockhounding group means to us.

I am sure that there are other events each club has planned in their local area ranging from shows to field trips. Be active in your club, your local Federation, and this year especially, in your national Federation’s meeting.

See you all there!!

2016 NFMS AFMS Show Update
July 29th to 31st, 2016
Albany Oregon

The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society invites you to come see the “Treasurers of the Northwest” The AFMS meeting will be held on Thursday the 28th before the show opens on Friday the 29th. It is being held at the Linn County Fair & Expo Building in Albany, Oregon just off I-5.

All meetings and events will take place at the Fair Grounds. We expect to have lots of vendors, over 200 display cases, lectures, silent auction and daily field trips to a local petrified wood local for your enjoyment.

The Best Western Prairie Inn nearby has agreed to reserve a block of rooms at a discounted rate for those coming to the event. You can call them at 541-928 - 5050 our group name is “NFMS Rock & Gem Show”. This rate and block of rooms will only be held until July 12th so please reserve early.

The Holiday Inn Express 541-928-8820 and the Comfort Suites 541-928-2053 right next to the Fair Grounds do not have rooms reserved but will provide a discount if you mention that you are there for an event at the Expo building. You will need to ask for the “Expo rate”.

There are also RV parks in the area that are available. There are a few spots at the Fair Grounds you need to contact them directly and mention you are with the rock show. The Knox Butte RV Park 541-928-9033, The Blue Ox RV Park 541-926-2886, The Albany RV & Trailer Park 541-928-8532, and The Albay/Corvallis KOA 541-967-8521 are all close by.

We really recommend that if you are planning to attend that you make sure to get your room in advance because the same weekend is also the multi-day Country Music Festival in nearby Sweet Home and rooms and RV parks tend to fill up.

For your long range planning the Multi-Federation Field Trip is the week after the show out of Prineville Oregon. So come for both events and really see some of the Treasurers of the Northwest.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM
Deadline June 30, 2016

Name: _____________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________
City                      State                           Zip
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Please mark all that apply
Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City                      State                           Zip
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Club Federation Affiliations
Please mention your club affiliation if you have one.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM Deadline June 30, 2016

Name: _____________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________
City                      State                           Zip
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Please mark all that apply
Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City                      State                           Zip
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Club Federation Affiliations
Please mention your club affiliation if you have one.

Please use:
Check # __________________________  Amount __________
Show Chair: James Van Gama 541-753-2401 email: jvagama@pacbell.net

Thank you for your continued support. This show is all about the rockhounds and the rock show. The Willamette Agate & Mineral Society invites you to come see the “Treasurers of the Northwest” The AFMS meeting will be held on Thursday the 28th before the show opens on Friday the 29th. It is being held at the Linn County Fair & Expo Building in Albany, Oregon just off I-5.

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For your long range planning the Multi-Federation Field Trip is the week after the show out of Prineville Oregon. So come for both events and really see some of the Treasurers of the Northwest.
Just a reminder that July is roaring down on us faster than we can keep track of time. Get your Competitive Display cases ready for the Competitive Competition in Albany. If you score higher than 90 then you will fly up to the AFMS level where your cases will be judged again for the AFMS Competition. In other words, enter the NFMS competition and automatically fly up to the AFMS Competition, hence 2 for 1 competition.

Remember that it is you against the Rule Book only. It is not you against someone else. It is how well you read and follow the rules in the rule book and the quality of work that you put into preparing your individual specimens. Dee Holland will be accepting your application this year.

NFMS/AFMS COMPETITIVE ENTRY FORM

Treasures of the Northwest
Linn County Fair & Expo Center – Albany, Oregon
July 29 – July 31, 2016

COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY DEADLINE: June 29, 2016

All entries must be set up beginning Thursday July 28, 2016 from 9 am to 8 pm. All entries must be ready for judging by 8:30am Friday the 29th. And may not be removed prior to the close of the show Sunday, July 31, 2016. All exhibits must be removed by 5 pm Sunday.

SECURITY WILL BE FURNISHED

TWO GUEST PASSES PER EXHIBITOR WILL BE PROVIDED.

Cases will be assigned space on display bases approximately 40 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and exhibitor should supply a three prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the tables. (Normally 10 feet) If borrowing a case power cords will be provided.

Please complete all information on the entry form and the certification form and mail or email to the competitive exhibit registration chairman for acceptance and acknowledgement. Mail to: Dee Holland, P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468. Email: beauholland@centurytel.net

You must fill out a separate application for each entry. ENTRY DEADLINE: June 29, 2016

Refer to the AFMS Rules Updated to January 2016 for Competition. For updated rules, go to: www.amfed.org

If you are uncertain as to the correct class or group you should enter or for clarification of the rules, contact DEE HOLLAND, P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468. Email: beauholland@centurytel.net and shirleyleeson@gmail.com

LIABILITY: It is mutually agreed that the Northwest and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Willamette Agate & Mineral Society shall not be liable to any Exhibitor in whole or part. This includes the property of the exhibitor or the injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submitting this signed application for entry constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

Signature

PRINT NAME: __________________________________________________________
Exhibitor’s Society: ____________________________
I certify, as an officer of the above named Society, that the exhibitor is a member in good standing of that society, and to the best of my knowledge, is eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to the rules.
Signature: __________________________________________________________

Exhibitors Signature: ____________________________

CERTIFICATION FOR EXHIBITORS

I hereby certify that all material in competition by me is my own property, or if Society all material belongs to members of the society. All work except minor findings or where otherwise allowed by the rules was completed by me. I have read the current rules and agree to abide by them.

Certificate for Exhibitors Signature: ____________________________

NAME____________________________________________________________
ADDRESS_________________________________________________________
PHONE___________________ EMAIL__________________________________
SOCIETY_________________________________________________________
This display is to be entered in (check one)______ NFMS or _____AFMS Direct
EXHIBITOR GROUP: MASTER__ADVANCED__NOVICE__JUNIOR__
SOCIETY__JUNIOR SOCIETY__
EXHIBIT DIVISION:___________EXHIBIT CLASS:______________________
If JUNIOR, give birthdate________________
If Direct Entry, indicate when and where eligibility was earned________________

Do you have your own case?_______Size: Width_______Height_______Depth_______
Do you want to borrow a case?_______Cases will be available on a limited basis. Basic size: 4 ft x 2 ft x 2 ft. Liners or risers may or may not be available.

Do you have your own case?_______Size: Width_______Height_______Depth_______

BOTH PAGES MUST BE SENT BACK.
Be sure and make a copy for your use.

NFMS/AFMS Competitive Display Form - 2 fer 1

Competitive Cases
By Lauren Williams

NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER VOL.56 NO.1
JANUARY 2016
Deadlines:

All American Club Yearbook Award
AFMS deadline: April 15, 2016. Check with your regional chairs for their deadline.

Bulletin Editor’s Contest:
NFMS deadline: March 1, 2016

Webmaster Contest:
NFMS deadline: March 1, 2016

Junior Achievement Award
NFMS deadline: April 1, 2016

AFMS/NFMS Case Registration:
June 29, 2016

AFMS/NFMS Meeting Registration:
NFMS deadline: June 30, 2016
Bulletin Editor’s Contest
By Ronna Watkins

Greetings from Tieton! We have had a white winter here, and I think that is good for exposing new rocks in the spring. I hope it makes for some good finds after the thaw.

I am writing to encourage all club editors in the NFMS to send in submissions for the NFMS 2015 Bulletin Competition, and to announce the deadline for entries which is March 1, 2016.

Bulletins, articles (from adults and juniors), don’t forget to encourage the juniors to write about rocks), written and drawn features, and special publications from 2013 should all be submitted. Submissions must have an AFMS score sheet attached to it, with the top portion filled out (see below for instructions).

Bulletin categories for competition include, “New Editors” (any size bulletins), “Mini” (six pages or less), “Small” (7-11 pages), and “Large” (more than eleven pages). There are also the following categories of competition, “Original Adult or Junior Articles”, “Advanced Adult Articles”, “Written Adult or Junior Features”, “Drawn Adult or Junior Features”, and “Junior or Adult Poetry”.

Junior articles are broken into two levels of competition: “12 and up” and “under 12”. Special publications can be your show program or a rockhound guide your club produced.

Get the complete guidelines for the NFMS contest, which are exactly the same as the AFMS’ guidelines, at the AFMS website: www.amfed.org/news/contest/contest.htm. The 2011 contest information and forms on the website are the same as what is most current and are good to use. To use the fill-able forms, open the file to the category needed, type in the information, and then save the document to your computer with a different name; then, print it out. The forms are in PDF format. Fill in only the top section. The lower section is for judges. To edit the forms, you will need Acrobat Reader 9, 10, or 11, a free program which can be downloaded from the web at http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/.

Attach the original bulletin, article, feature, or publication to the forms and send it to me at PO Box 635, Tieton WA 98947. For articles and features, please send the entire page and not just a cut out section.

If you do not have internet access or have difficulty accessing a printer, contact me for hard copies of these forms, and feel free to call me if you have any questions. It is not too early to send your entries now and I am already receiving them.

I would really like to see something from every club. I am sure it would be wonderful for your club to bring home a nice award in July. It would also be a very nice thing, for your members that take the time to submit articles and features, to be recognized for their efforts of making your bulletin interesting. This is a nice way to show your appreciation.

As a reminder the show dates are July 29th through the 31st at the Linn County Fair & Expo in Albany, Oregon. The All Editors Breakfast is at 8 a.m. and the cost is $12.00. All bulletin editors, writers, webmasters, and their guests are invited. Please remember to pre-register. We are sure to have a great time.

Ronna Watkins
509-673-0085

Are we ready for the weather?
By Tanya Sonner

Most of us remember the last summer. It was dryer and warmer for most. I hope everyone was prepared to deal with these conditions.

The forecast for winter is warmer and wetter. I don’t know if the forecasters got it right. Western Washington is getting the rain and our snow pack is above average. As far as the warmer weather, I don’t know. I will say the low’s have been just above single digit on and off for several weeks. The temperature is more like a normal winter.

My husband and a fellow rockhound took a field trip on New Year’s Day. They went to a rock pit near White Pass off Highway 12. The temperature was below freezing and the wind chill made it feel like 10 degrees. He made sure he was dressed for the weather and carried a fully charged cell phone. He also carried a crow bar to test the loose rock to make sure he would not lose his footing.

Remember to make sure you are dressed for the condition. Let people know where you are going. A phone call back to loved ones is a must in case you get lost.

To All NFMS Webmasters:
Cheri George, NFMS Website Contest Chairperson

It’s that time again… time to start things up for the 2016 Web Site Competition. I know that a few of you will have already started thinking about your entry. I need your deadlines for entries for the AFMS Newsletter. I pulled all the convention dates from the last AFMS newsletter to make it a little easier - the AFMS Editor’s Breakfast is August 1st so I’ll set the AFMS deadline as May 1st to give our judge enough time to judge our entries. The three entries from each region were a bit much for our Judges and the AFMS judge has said he doesn’t want to do 3 this next year. It was suggested two but it hasn’t been decided at this time. When he agreed to the top 3, it was on an experimental basis to see if it was too much for him. Believe me, I can understand busy… I’m grateful for his willingness to help with his vast expertise every year.

Some of the previous entrants have forwarded lists of suggestions for changes to the scoring sheets in the last few months, more than from just one region. These came from people entering the competition. Many are updates based on changes in technology since the original score sheet was developed and many do merit consideration. It has been decided that all changes submitted will be reviewed and will take place for the 2017 year, not the 2016 competition. It should be understood that the rules are up for revision for the next competition!!!

2015 was a banner year for us in that we had nine entries, the most of any year since we started in 209. I remember 2009, because that’s the year I became a member of the NFMS at Billings, MT. What a great show that was! Every year I have been involved with the NFMS Website contest, it has been wonderful. That is why I am confident that you all will make us proud once again and enter your website in the Website Contest. Our deadline date is 1 March 2016, I will be diligently working to ensure all the entries are judged and forwarded to the AFMS judge in time for the AFMS Show in Albany, OR.
Improving Your Club's Bulletin

By Kreigh Tomaszewski, S.C.R.I.B.E. Midwest Regional V.P.

Your local rock club probably has a bulletin that comes out monthly or quarterly to keep you aware of club activities and share general rockhounding information. It used to come in print form, but most clubs have moved to electronic distribution to cut costs. Now you get an email with a PDF, but it is in color instead of B&W. Have you ever thought about the process that produces your club's bulletin?

Let's say your club meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of each month. You get your bulletin about a week before the meeting as a reminder. That means your Editor has already spent a week or two collecting all the details about this month, bugging the President for a paragraph or two, getting the treasurer's report and minutes from the secretary, and looking desperately for some interesting content to fill out the pages before the publication deadline. Your editor starts the next bulletin on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. It takes time to put together several pages of information, format it correctly, verify the facts, and make it look attractive.

The first thing you can do to help your Editor is write them an article. You went on last month's field trip, write a paragraph or two of a trip report. You figured out a way to get dop sticks straight, write an article. You found a great geology website, write a review. Give your editor support by providing local content. They can't publish everything, but when they are short and the deadline is approaching they might publish anything they have. You might solve a problem for many rockhounds simply because you shared.

The second thing you can do is tell your Editor to join the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors (S.C.R.I.B.E.), an AMFED organization for bulletin editors. Membership comes with a quarterly newsletter full of tips on how to improve your bulletin, and a DVD full of articles from other clubs on general rockhounding topics that you can use to spice up your own bulletin. Your Editor should be connected with other Editors. It is less than $20 annually and your club should subsidize it.

The third thing you need to do is thank your Editor regularly for their service. If they are not happy and appreciated you will have to find a replacement for them since it is an essential club function. Don't buy your Editor a cup of coffee, buy them a S.C.R.I.B.E. membership.

And finally you need to think about who will take over if your editor wins the lottery and retires. Every Editor (read any club officer) needs an apprentice who is able to take over.

NFMS NEWSLETTER – RECEIPT VIA THE COMPUTER – LESSON 101

By Judi Allison

Many have heard the remarks about the cost of sending out the newsletter, and Past President, Warren Rood, worked on encouraging folks to change to an electronic system. I think a number of people feel this is a good idea, but aren’t sure how to go about it. So, my hope is to give a simple step-by-step “lesson” in how this might be accomplished at each club level.

I am writing this on the premise that your club already has a designated person to keep track of the membership, a newsletter editor and a webmaster. They may all be the same person, but the idea is that there is probably some sort of email system already in place.

A simple beginning: For new individuals joining your club, write on your club’s application form something to the effect – “Unless otherwise requested, all correspondence including Club Newsletter and NFMS Newsletter will be via internet”.

Second Step: Poll your current members to find out who is willing to receive correspondence via the internet. Compile a complete list of those willing to receive the NFMS Newsletter online.

Next: Send the list to Tom Burchard (Circulation Chairperson) so he can delete those names from the list of members receiving hard copies of the newsletter. (Remember that when you send in names of new members, you will also need to let Tom know they are receiving the newsletter online.)

Assign a Person: One person will need to be the person responsible for getting the newsletter to the members who will receive it online. The best person for the job is most probably going to be a membership chairperson, a webmaster or a newsletter editor. One of these individuals most likely has already established an email list of members who receive information about their own club.

Assigned Person’s Duties: The assigned person will need to contact webmaster, Brad Larson, and ask that they be put on the list as the representative of their club to be notified when the current NFMS Newsletter goes online.

Final Step: Upon receiving the notice from Brad, forward it to your membership. (Brad’s notice will include a link directly to the current newsletter, so it is easy to find.)

Good luck and help us “save a buck”. 
NFMS Junior Achievement Award
By Audrey Vogelpohl

The AFMS in 1984/85 recognized Junior members by adopting the "Future Rockhounds of America" slogan which later worked into the current badge program for Junior members, and available to Junior members in all of the Federations.

The NFMS established the NFMS Junior Achievement Trust Fund with a purpose of providing one or more monetary awards at the Annual NFMS Convention to the Juniors whose submitted resume/application rates highest in the opinion of the judges.

Now it is time for our Junior members to share their accomplishments from the past TWO years (2014 and 2015) ... the Northwest Federation wants to honor you. You must be paid up and listed as a member of your club and the NFMS.

Your age as of December 31, 2015 determines the age category. If you won last year at Ogden, Utah you will need to wait until 2017 to enter again UNLESS you move up to the next age category.

Age Group 1: ages up to 7 years
Age Group 2: ages 8 through 11
Age Group 3: ages 12 through 15
Age Group 4: ages 16 through 18

Your Resume and Application together require a postmark by April 1, 2016. Winners will be notified about a month later, after the Judges vote on each candidate's Summary. Monetary awards and/or certificates will be presented at the NFMS Annual Meeting at Albany, Oregon on July 29, 2016.

If any of this sounds complicated, or if you have any questions just contact me at nfmsjunior@comcast.net OR ask your Junior Advisor, a parent, or the Federation Director of your club , everyone will be delighted to help you in the quest of achieving fame.

Here are your three EZ steps:

1. Write or type a short summary about what your achievements are for the past 2 years (2014 and 2015), following Sections I, II, III & IV from the following GUIDELINE.
2. Photocopy the APPLICATION from the Northwest Newsletter or Website. Fill out the form and have your Rock Club representatives confirm your eligibility and sign their spaces.
3. Mail with a postmark by April 1, 2016, to the Junior Committee Chair, Audrey Vogelpohl, 8810 - 37th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617

Guidelines for the Junior Achievement Award

Section I. HOBBY RELATED (possible 45 points)
- Club involvement (field trips, committees, show participation)
- Hobby Craft involvement (faceting, lapidary, metals, collecting)
- Competitive involvement (display, articles, promotion, awards)

Section II. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (possible 25 points)
- Scholastic (honor roll, advanced classes, improvement of grades)
- Extracurricular (sports, drama, debate, drill team, music)

Section III. COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT (possible 20 points)
- Events involvement (charity, volunteer, donation programs)
- Scouts, Campfire, 4H-Club, Other community groups

Section IV. WORK RELATED (possible 10 points)
- Employment, Home Chores, Neighborhood Work, Business

APPLICATION --- Junior Achievement Award (confidential)

Applicant Name _____________________________________
Date of Birth __________________ Age as of Dec 31, 2015__
Mailing Address_____________________________________
City________________________ State_________ Zip________
Phone Number __________________
and E-Mail __________________
JR Member Signature____________ Date________
Rock Club Name __________________
Name of JR Advisor __________________

THE FOLLOWING CLUB OFFICIALS ATTEST TO THE APPLICANT
BEING A PAID UP MEMBER OF THE CLUB AND THE NFMS
Federation Director's Name: _______________________
Federation Director's Signature X__________________
Club President's Name: __________________________
President's Signature X___________________________

MAIL your SUMMARY (resume/outline) and APPLICATION to:
Audrey Vogelpohl, NFMS Juniors Chair
8810 37th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617
(Please be sure to postmark on or before APRIL 1, 2016)
The Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society is proud to submit Bill and Linda Stonecipher as our club’s 2015 Rockhounds of the Year. Bill and Linda have been active members of the club since 1991. Bill served as club President in 1998 and 1999. Linda was our club Secretary from 1994 through 2004 and continues to oversee the club insurance needs as well as maintaining the history of club membership. Both have supported our annual Gem and Mineral Show for many years. They are always there helping with the show setup and teardown as well as being available wherever needed during the show.

They perform such behind the scene activities as providing space to store the club’s extensive rock inventory. Bill has written Newsletter articles on field trip and poems for Christmas activities. He serves as an auctioneer at our annual rock auction and coordinates the monthly raffles that support our Juniors activities. This is just a sample. Bill and Linda are always willing to help wherever needed as well as provide guidance and advice based on their years with the club. The Club is fortunate to have them as lifetime members.

At its December meeting, the Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club (Montana) announced that its Rockhound of the Year for 2015 is John Czyzewski. A long-time Club member, John has volunteered to serve as one of three Trustees of a significant collection owned by the club since 1947, has set up and managed our first Clubhouse, rehabilitated donated lapidary equipment for the shop, served on numerous project teams, solicited volunteers for Club officer positions, sorted and prepared specimens for Club auctions, and has been an amazing collector of mineral specimens at Montana-area dig sites this year.

Acknowledged for his uncanny foresight of “where to dig for the best pieces,” he has even been known to light a small fire to melt through the snow and ice so that he can prospect and dig at sites in the winter. That’s dedication!!

Craig Prier is the 2015 ‘Rockhound of the Year’ nominee from Oregon Agate and Mineral Society. Craig and wife, Sharon, joined OAMS in 2005. Craig is always a help to everyone, no matter the need. He always lends a hand for club projects and extras. He has been involved in so many aspects of the club, that he can answer most any question.

During his 2011-2012 Presidency, he was a pivotal part of reestablishing a positive working relationship with OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry) and educating the OMSI staff on the OAMS role from the beginning of the museum.

His leadership for two years as show chairman produced very successful shows. He has been a trusted lapidary teacher and advisor to those interested in exhibiting. His own craftsmanship and displays of his ‘Rock Stars’ earned him several awards: OAMS Show at OMSI People’s Choice and President’s Choice Awards; other clubs Creativity and Showmanship Award and Best Guest Display; Portland Regional Cabochon III Advanced and President’s Awards to name a few. He has also won many ribbons through the years.

Craig has been a major asset to OAMS and loyal friend to so many. We are thankful for him.

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