I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. I’m exhausted and reenergized all at the same time. Now that the holidays are over and we are all gearing up for the 2013 many clubs will start turning attention to their individual clubs, and planning what they want to accomplish this year and planning their shows. Please also plan to integrate the NFMS into those plans.

In the last issue I talked about my evolvement/involvement in the NFMS. I keep thinking about it and I really what to stress to you to GET INVOLVED. If the only thing you see benefiting from your contribution is the NFMS newsletter written by people you don’t know then you are really missing out on all it has to offer.

In order for you to experience all that NFMS provides I strongly encourage you to GET INVOLVED! I like to think of the NFMS as “Continuing Education”.

For those of you who are thinking about putting in a showcase at your local show, please keep an eye toward continuing your showcase in the NFMS show in Butte, Montana. It isn’t until August, but you will be further ahead if you do your local showcase with the NFMS in mind.

I’m looking forward to what the New Year will bring to me and to you. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This is your combined January/February Northwest Newsletter. The next issue will come out in March.

NFMS DUES are DUE by January 31st
Lyle Vogelpohl
NFMS Treasurer

Thank you to the many clubs that have already submitted their membership lists and dues payments. Don’t forget that the Membership Directory is available to members at a cost of $10 each to be picked up at the Mid-Year Meeting at Kennewick, WA on Saturday, April 20, 2013. If you need a Directory mailed there will be added the additional cost of postage (rates going up in cost after the first of the year). Questions???
... give me a call at 206-932-3292.
Page 2

Northwest Newsletter  Vol 53, No. 3  Jan/Feb 2013

 edición can and see it by the first of the month to see this newsletter in living color.

NFMS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2012-2013

PRESIDENT:  Kathy Moeld, Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society, 149 E. 1st N, Rexburg, ID 83440, (208) 357-3860, kmoe@countrywest.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT:  Don Innes, Far West Lapidary, 54416 Arago-Fishtrap Rd., Myrtle Point, OR 97458, (541) 396-5722, donin11@hughes.net

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:  Tom Burchard, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club, 236 Tollgate Rd., Boise, ID 83716, (208) 345-8774, grumpies@q.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:  Joan Day, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617, (206) 932-3292, afms treasurer@comcast.net

NFMS STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET:  Don Innes, 1st Vice President (see above)

BULLETIN AIDS:  Peggy Blickfeldt, Idaho Gem Club, 236 Tollgate Rd., Boise, ID 83716, (208) 345-8774, grumpies@q.com

CIRCULATION:  Tom Burchard, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Society, 873 E. S. Ogden, UT 84403, (801) 479-4286, Roxhund@aol.com

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS:  EXHIBITS REGISTRAR:  Dee Holland, Bitterroot Gem/Miner Soc, P.O. Box 23, Trendy, ID, 83468, (208) 756-2394, beauholland@centurytel.net

JUDGING DIRECTOR:  Carol Cimolino, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 1429 Avenue D, PMB 518, Snohomish, WA 98290, (360) 689-6210, carol_roth@comcast.net

RULES & AWARDS CHAIR:  Larry Hulstrom, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 758-210, Ectaldo@cltbaths.com

SHOW CHAIRPERSON:  Larry Hulstrom and Evelyn Cataldo, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W. 26th, Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 578-8210, pamalbert@charter.net

STAMP COMMITTEE:  Club-at-Large, 208 Riverview 2 East, Great Falls, MT 59404-1534, (406)231-0620

SUPPLIES:  Tim Hof, Butte Mineral & Gem Club, 1016 Waukesha Ave, Butte, MT 59701, (406) 491-3587, tim_hofmboff@frontier.com

WAYS & MEANS:  Janice Van Cura, Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Inc., 3448 NW Covey Run, Corvallis, OR 97339 (541)753-2401, jvancura@peak.org

WEBMASTER:  Brad Larson, Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society, 4112 E. Park Ridge Dr., Nampa, ID 83467, (208) 465-1920, nfm.webmaster@gmail.com

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:  Doug True, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, druefossil12@yahoo.com

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR-- Viola Jones, Skagit Rock & Gem Club, P. O. Box 2841, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273, (360) 422-8340, roch@frontier.com

WEBSITE COMMITTEE:  Cheri George

AFMS NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

AFMS OFFICERS:  AFMS President, Chris Blickfeldt, EDITORS HALL OF FAME OPEN, NEWSLETTER EDITOR-Beth Hesacker, NFMS CLUB BULLETIN AIDS-Peggy Blickfeldt, ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR-Evelyn Cataldo, SUPPLIES AND PUBLICATIONS-Chuck Sonner, CONSERVATION & LEGISLATION-Darlene Posthuma, EDUCATION-ALL AMERICAN AWARD-Jim & Libby Spencer, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-Bill and Janet Smith, TECHNOLOGY-Allan Akin, PROGRAM COMPETITION-Tim & Sharon DeGrie,

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES

NFMS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2012-2013

PRESIDENT:  Carol Cimolino, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Society, 149 E. 1st N, Rexburg, ID 83440, (208) 357-3860, chuckcagatze2@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP:  Evelyn Cataldo, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W. 26th, Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 578-210, Ectado@cltbaths.com

SHOW CHAIRPERSON:  Larry Hulstrom and Evelyn Cataldo, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W. 26th, Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 578-8210, pamalbert@charter.net

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NFMS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2012-2013

PRESIDENT:  Carol Cimolino, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Society, 149 E. 1st N, Rexburg, ID 83440, (208) 357-3860, chuc
In the November NFMS Newsletter I wrote a message about sharing field trips and field trip information between clubs. I suggested using the NFMS Directory for help in finding contacts. I also suggested talking to people at different shows. After writing this I was painting my front porch and trying to think of other ways that individuals from different clubs could share information back and forth. For instance what about the program chairman in a club in Idaho, who is out of program ideas and wants to know what other clubs are doing. How does he or she get help? There may be a club in the greater Portland area who has some fresh program ideas? How do they interact? You could ask the same question about Gem and Mineral show chairman or the Kids program chairman.

You see, most of our clubs do the same things; we have monthly meetings and programs, a juniors program, field trips and a gem and mineral show. However, we are kind of like islands, in that we are separated by miles and really can't share, support and help each other very easily.

So, I got to thinking about a forum or chat space on our web site where people could ask questions and get answers. I asked Brad Larson our "whiz" web master if a chat space was possible and he found some free shareware called "free forums". He was able to incorporate it into our website. Brad and I have been testing it and finding it efficient and easy.

I would like for each of you to check it out and tell Brad or myself what you think. Just go to our site and click on the third tab from the left which says "NFMS forums". This will open a new window which will say "Welcome to the NFMS community forum". You will need to log in and create a password. This will keep spammers out and only NFMS members in. Then you will wait to receive an email of confirmation from Brad. Now you can go back and log in. The main page is called the "Portal", it shows recent topics. You will see several topics listed, which you can click on and read and answer. At the bottom of the middle of the Portal page is a button called "select a forum". We have put in several categories, which can be edited if needed. The idea is that now the program chair (for instance) can select the forum for programs and type in a question, statement or answer. Then many people can go into that chat area and reply. It is a space people can "chat" and help each other out.

This is not replacing anything; it is just adding one way to connect member to member of our large organization.

Hi folks. Just a word from your Immediate Past President: The New Year is upon us and that means the nominating committee will be searching for candidates to run for the position of Second Vice President. We will also check with current executive officers to see if they are willing to continue in their positions. If you know of someone you feel would be a worthy candidate or if you, yourself, might be interested in running, the committee would love to hear from you. You can pass any information on to me at jall@eotnet.net or 541-720-4950.

Becoming an officer for the NFMS can be a very rewarding experience and give one a greater insight about the workings of the Federation. As Second Vice President, one has the opportunity to learn from others while moving up the positions to become the President. The official duty of the Second Vice President is that of Custodian. It is a much simpler task than the title implies, but helps give more understanding of the expanse of volunteerism throughout our Federation.

So, again, if you have some good ideas for candidates, toss the names our way. We will be looking forward to announcing the slate of potential officers at the April Midyear Meeting in Kennewick, Washington.
WEBSITE CONTEST DEADLINE IS SOON
By Cheri George
NFMS Website Contest Chairman

The 2013 Website Contest documents are now available for download from the AFMS Website, http://www.amfed.org/. I am hoping to have some really great entries for submission to the judges for next year. Take a look at the forms and fill them out and email them to me. Make sure the forms you submit really do say 2013. Remember to fill out the Entry form as well as the Scoresheet form, using Acrobat 9 you can fill them out on your computer, email them and save them for your own reference. I do love Acrobat 9!

I know that winter is here, don't wait, you know how fickle the weather can be and you might be surprised how many people tell me that they will send their entry as soon as their POWER COMES BACK ON.

Our NFMS deadline is 30 January 2013. I will accept late entries (Yeah, I know) for only three days after that date. Please work on your entry as soon as possible so I can be proud of you all.

I really want to say that it was lovely meeting more of our webmasters at the NFMS Show in Kennewick, WA in May and I look forward to meeting more and more of you as the years go by.

Having Fun: Junior Activities
by Jim Brace-Thompson,
AFMS Junior Activities Chair

Host an “Amazing Mineral Magic Show”

At the beginning of the year, I added five new badges to our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, and one has proven instantly popular beyond what I’d imagined: Special Effects. We’ve already awarded nearly 40 of these badges, which is three times as many as any of the other new units introduced this year. The Special Effects unit guides kids in exploring such interesting mineralogical phenomena as magnetism, double refraction, fluorescence, triboluminescence, and more. A suggested activity is having your juniors host an “Amazing Mineral Magic Show” to demonstrate these phenomena to the rest of the club. Several clubs have already done just this, and they report that the adults in the room were just as amazed as the kids who were demonstrating the effects.

The Coquina Kids of the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society in Florida, the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club’s Rock Retrievers, and the Jr. Geologists of the Flatirons Mineral Club in Colorado have all written to me of the success of this particular unit. Dennis Gertenbach, leader of the FMC Jr. Geologists, has even suggested new rocks to add to the Amazing Mineral Magic Show, including floating pyrite and rocks that “sing” when put in water. I hope to incorporate his suggestions into future revisions to the Badge Manual, and I encourage others to send in suggestions of rocks with special effects. (Email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com.)

It sounds like this particular unit, with its hands-on activities, has gone over well, so I encourage your society to give it a try because it sounds like the adults, just as much as the kids, found it not only eye-opening, but also fun!

Via AFMS Newsletter 12/12-1-13

Valentine’s Day
February 14, 2013
NFMS Junior Achievement Award

by Audrey Vogelpohl
NFMS Juniors Chair

It is time for Junior Rockhounds to consider entering the Junior Achievement Award and win fame and money. If you won last year you will need to wait until January 2014 to enter again, unless you move up to the next age category. You must be a paid up member of your Club and the NFMS and listed on your Club’s membership list sent to the NFMS Treasurer.

Your age determines if you enter the age 12 and under category or the age 13 to 18 category. The applicant must not have had an 18th birthday prior to April 1st; but the applicant can turn 18 between April 1st and the presentation of the awards (August 17, 2013 at Butte, MT). Your Resume and Application together require a postmark by April 1, 2013. Winners will be notified a month later, after the NFMS Judges vote on each candidate’s Summary. If any of this sounds too complicated or if you have any questions just contact me at nfmsjunior@comcast.net OR ask your Juniors Advisor, parent, or the Federation Director of your Rock 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 (resume/outline) about what your achievements are for the past 2 years (2011 and 2012), following Sections I, II, III & IV from the GUIDELINE below.
2. Photocopy the APPLICATION from the Northwest Newsletter. Fill out the APPLICATION and have your Rock Club representatives sign their spaces.
3. Mail with a postmark by April 1st, 2013, your summary (resume/outline), and completed APPLICATION to the NFMS Juniors Committee Chair,
   Audrey Vogelpohl, 8810 37th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126
   NFMS is looking forward to giving out some money awards this year.

GUIDELINE FOR JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Section I. HOBBY RELATED (Possible 45 points)
- Club involvement (field trips, committees, show participation) 20 points
- Hobby Craft involvement (faceting, lapidary, metals, collecting) 20 points
- Competitive involvement (display, articles, promotion, awards) 5 points

Section II. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (Possible 25 points)
- Scholastic (honor roll, advanced classes, improvement of grades) 15 points
- Extracurricular (sports, drama, debate, drill team, music) 10 points

Section III. COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT (Possible 20 points)
- Events involvement (charity, volunteer, donation programs) 10 points
- Scouts, Campfire, 4H-Club, Other community groups 10 points

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

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<th>APPLICATION: Junior Achievement Award (confidential info)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Rock Club Name</td>
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<td>Name of Junior Advisor</td>
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<td>The following Club Officials attest to the applicant being a paid up member of the Club and NFMS</td>
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<td>President Name</td>
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<td>President Signature X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mail your SUMMARY (resume/outline) &amp; APPLICATION to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audrey Vogelpohl, NFMS Juniors Committee Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>8810 - 37th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Please be sure to postmark by APRIL 1st. -- Thank You!)</td>
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For all of you considering a trip to Camp Hancock this year we want to let you know about some of the exciting additions to the casting class. We will still be doing the traditional lost wax casting but we are adding some new things this year. We will be learning to do metal folding jewelry, tube and prong setting of faceted stones, reticulation and rolling mill texture. We will still do our broom casting on the last day. The silver class will be able to do the stone setting as it will be late enough in the week that you will know enough about soldering to do it. We are excited about these new things this year and are hoping to see a lot of you there. You can contact us at grumpies@q.com if you have any questions.

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Ouch! Ouch!

By Chuck Sonner
Safety Chair

This month’s article should be for earlier in the year. For some, it could be timely.

Mosquitoes, sun and plants cause problems for rock hounds. We know we should be more careful but, well, you know!!

A Federation member showed me her arm; she had a close encounter with stinging nettle. What about the sunburn acquired while digging sunstones. That trip up a canyon creek loaded with mosquitoes and devil’s club. I think we all have had our run-in with nature. The well stocked first aid kit might have some of the answers but there are a few things you might want to add to your overall kits. Duct tape should be in your repair kit. Did you know a small piece can be placed over the area that came in contact with stinging nettles or small cactus needles. The fine hairs and or small needles will be removed when the tape is pulled off. Apply antihistamine cream after removal of the tape. If you are closer to home, another method is Elmer’s wood glue. Apply the wood glue to the affected area and let dry. Peeling the glue will remove the fine hairs or needles. A past of baking soda spread over the area will relieve the burning and itching.

Sunburns can come at the most inopportune time. A Longview club member that while digging sunstones spent too much time in the sun without sunscreen. On the way back to Lakeview Oregon, she picked up a gallon of vinegar. She added the vinegar to a tub full of water. The mild acid bath relieved the burn and she was able to have a great time for the rest of the trip.

I don’t like to but I do use mosquito repellant. The variety with DEET is the best. The clip-on’s work for a few hours but if it is windy, well… Keep the mosquito repellant in your safety kit. Some of us have reactions to the bites and there is always West Nile virus. I saved the best for last. Old fashion remedies sometimes work or not? The Smithsonian magazine, Oct 2012 page 62, listed a 19th century cure for tuberculosis: ‘drinking brown sugar dissolved in water and frequent horseback riding’. This one is for stinging nettle. First, you will need a pair of heavy leather gloves (you can also wear them when around devil’s club). Second, find a yard slug and smear the slime on the stinging nettle exposure. This is one I have NOT tried.
It is with heavy heart that I announce the untimely death of our club president, Cliff Matteson. He had a severe stroke. This is the obituary that we will be placing in the Tacoma News Tribune hopefully this Sunday. I will miss him and I just wanted to let you all know how happy Cliff was serving as the All Rockhound Pow-Wow of Club America’s President and making the Madras Show a fun place to be. Please feel free to inform all other Rockhouders of his passing.

Connie Matteson

Clifford Charles Matteson, born to Ralph and Novella at the age 62 was received into the eyes of our Lord Dec. 10, 2012. As a member of the graduating class of 1968 at Mount Tahoma High School he met his lifelong friend and wife to be Connie Gittins. Cliff appreciated the outdoors and loved to serve others as he was blessed with many talents. President of the All Rockhounds Pow-Wow Club of America, scoutmaster of troop 169 at Gray Jr. High School and served many positions throughout his life with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Cliff was employed with Hygrade Food Products Inc. in his younger years and then moved on to working at the Tacoma Public Utilities as a custodian, in which he took great pride. He is survived by his mother Novella, wife Connie, son Clifford and daughters Sheila, Teresa, Kimberley, Jennifer and 5 grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21st at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 1102 So. Pearl, Tacoma, WA. 98465

Midwest Federation Youth Poster Contest: Fossils of the World

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair

For the past few years, the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio has been sponsoring a poster contest for kids in conjunction with their annual show and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies convention. The contest is open to any kids within an AFMS-affiliated club, especially those who already may be involved in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. David Rich has emailed to let me know the tradition continues, and this year, the contest is focused around a theme of “Fossils of the World.” Kids wishing to enter the contest should prepare a poster illustrating one or more fossils that interest them, from anywhere in the world.

The contest is open to kids in grades 1 through 8. Each grade level will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and 1st place winners will also receive a prize. Rules are as follows:

- all entries must be presented on 12X18-inch paper;
- artwork can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other artist’s medium, but no three-dimensional posters accepted;
- include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of entry;
- the title maybe on front or back;
- list of names of the fossils and why you chose them; and
- all entries become the property of Summit Lapidary Club and the Midwest Federation.

Points will be awarded as follows: Originality & Art Work—30 points; Design—25 points; Title—25 points; Listing of Fossils and Reason You Chose Them—20 points. Entries must be postmarked by March 2, 2013, and should be mailed to: Jennifer Fike, P.O. Box 26276, Akron, Ohio 44319. Winners to be announced April 6, 2013, at the MWF convention. Further contest info may be found at http://Lapidaryclubofohio.org, and if you have questions, contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email at: SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com.
Hell's Canyon Gem Club of Lewiston, Idaho, is proud to proclaim David Dabritz as our Rockhound of the Year.

David is a real jewel. His cooperative and friendly personality make him a joy to work with. Responsibilities have included vice president and president of the club. He has a real enthusiasm and talent for teaching, whether juniors or adults. But with the juniors is the place that he really shines. His experience with young ones gives him the ability to teach a mixed age group from eight to eighteen with great results. His own teaching agenda is giving our juniors a depth of understanding in geologic processes, jewelry making skills, fossils, and so on. This involves no little planning on his part, as all the supplies must be loaded after a full day of work and set up at the meeting.

The surrounding school districts are also enriched by his participation in the clubs educational programs. He has been known to drive sixty miles with a loaded pick-up to set up a geology presentation for a school district lacking this science in their curriculum.

David’s education in paleontology started as a little boy when he watched government geologists discover unknown trilobite species on his father’s ranch. It led him to pursuing a degree in the subject. At our annual shows you will find him presiding over the fossil table, happily explaining and selling our wares. His books are open and he relishes helping the public to identify their finds.

Thank you, David, for all you do.

Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Society of Utah would like to nominate Richard Peterson as Rockhound of the Year for NFMS, 2013.

Richard and Marlene had a rough start when they joined the Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Society in 1976. There are several reasons we feel he deserves this honor:

1. When they first started, the members did not talk to them. They went to the location of their first field trip knowing where it was because they overheard someone at the Club meeting talking about where they were going. Once they got there they didn’t know where they were leaving or where they were going until the group stood up and left. Richard and Marlene looked at each other and thought, “Well, we are here, we might as well follow them”. They knew what to pick up by watching the others. They didn’t know what to do with the rocks they got. No one seemed interested in helping them.

2. They didn’t let discouragement get them down. Richard started reading every rock hunting book he could get his hands on. He searched until he could find good deals on a trim saw, a slab saw and something to polish rocks. He practiced and practiced. His wife took a wire-wrapping lesson from a woman in Bagdad, Arizona, and read several books and learned how to wire wrap. Eventually they became very good at what they were doing. Marlene wire-wrapping the rocks that Richard was cutting and polishing. And yes, according to Richard, the club members did eventually become much more friendly.

3. They stayed with the club in spite of, and since then Richard has held every position in TGMS except being Secretary and Treasurer.

During the years Marlene helped Richard with the positions he held and also took her turn as Treasurer.

4. Richard has helped with the show ever since joining and is now the Dealer Chairman, the Advertising Chairman and is in charge of the layout of the Show. This show has grown from about 16 dealers to about 23 dealers. He is very careful not to get more dealers than the public will support. Marlene’s first show where she demonstrated wire-wrapping was in Logan, Utah. She then extended to many shows in Utah and Idaho. Marlene passed away in July of this year, but not before she taught several hundred people how to wire wrap. She was always happy they learned from her then went on to do their own style of wire wrapping.

5. Richard loves to help. We are so amazed that he remembers how to get to various rockhunting places he hasn’t been for 25 to 30 years.

6. He became very aware of the challenge of being a new member and vowed he would help anyone who wanted to learn, which he has, slowing down a bit because of age. Besides the positions he has held in the yearly Gem & Mineral Shows, Richard, at the present time even at age 82 in December, is over the Silent Auction Table at the monthly Club meetings, is a Board member, which he has been for about 30 years, and continues to cut and share slabs and polish cabochons. He also writes tips for TGMS monthly Bulletin, which have been picked up by many Club bulletins throughout the United States. What an amazing person!

We are thankful for Richard and all he has done and continues to do for the Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Society and its members. Because of this, we feel he would make a very good Rockhound of the Year.

From the
Editor’s Rockpile
By Beth Heesacker

A new year is here. We survived the Mayan End-of-Time predictions. I wonder who is going to predict the next end of the world? Someday it will happen but we still have more time to collect rocks and enjoy the beauty of the world God gave us.

One of the most magnificent gifts we have received is our children. I am writing this shortly after the tragedies in Newtown and in our own area at the Clackamas Town Center and send my prayers to God for all those who are suffering. Not only for the families who lost loved ones but also for the families of those who caused the loss of life.

Please take a good look at your own children and do what you can to keep them from being the cause of pain and suffering. Not all the research is in concerning the causes but monitor what they watch on tv, what internet games they play, who their friends are, what their mood is. Hug them and make sure they know that they are loved.
To all of you, the information below comes from Don Amador, Blue Ribbon

While Don is interested in the Dunes for off road use, it's also important to note rockhounds could also be impacted. Those of you in OREGON, please check this out, Off Road people have done the heavy lifting, help they out.

Shirley Leeson, ALAA
ALAA is a member of Blue Ribbon

The Future of OHV at OR Dunes?

The Recreation HQ believes that the Coos County Resolution (see below) articulates a well thought out foundation for a desired future condition for the OR Dunes. HQ believes the agency has underestimated the resolve of the counties/users/small business owners to fight back against their effort to implement the 1994 Management Plan (actually that is a misnomer since it only focused on areas to close to OHV recreation and did not address the most important issue impacting the dunes and that is the encroachment of non-native vegetation).

Dec 4, 2012 Coos County Resolution

One option for the counties is to ask the FS to do a supplemental DEIS because they failed to properly analyze and create alternative(s) that address the real environmental crisis that is impacting the dunes nor did he vet the economic impact that the decision will have on OHV tourism.

Another option is for the counties to engage the OR congressional delegation to help direct (i.e. new legislation, direct talks, etc.) the FS to develop a travel plan that fosters both a robust OHV program and a dune restoration program that deals with the encroachment of non-native vegetation that is taking over the open sand dune areas.

Getting the congressional delegation involved on another Forest’s travel plan was key to having the Wallowa-Whitman NF withdrawn their proposal due to a massive closure of routes. Their help may be needed to encourage the FS to push the “reset button” on the current dunes travel planning process.

Link to article on travel plan withdrawn on Wallowa-Whitman NF

Many of the key tenets below were stated in the Coos County Resolution. They should be non-negotiable going forward for the long-term protection and restoration of the OR Dunes to their 1972 condition of being mostly open dunes.

- Re-designate all 10C areas to 10B open riding areas – for about 11K total acres open for OHV
- Reestablish the Resource Advisory Council
- Aggressively attack the encroachment of non-native vegetation in the non-motorized areas and utilize OHV recreation as a veg. management tool as well.
- Cooperate and formally consult with the counties

Also, here is a great TV news story that recently ran on the Dunes issue. One of the best OHV TV stories ever done on our sport.
TV Video/News Story on OR Dunes

Thanks for your interest in the OR Dunes!

Our Public Lands - Today &
???????????????
By Andy Johnson
NFMS Public Lands Advisor

According to the (GAO) Government Accounting Office report - Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data, released this February reveals the following: "The federal government owns and manages roughly 635-640 million acres of land. Four agencies manage 609 million acres of this land: in the Department of the Interior (DOI), the National Park Service (NPS) manages 80 million acres, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 248 million acres, and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages 89 million acres (plus 217 million acres of marine refuges and monuments); and in the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service (USFS) manages 193 million acres. Most of these lands are in the West, including Alaska. In addition, the Department of Defense administers 19 million acres in military bases, training ranges, and more. The remaining several million acres (estimated) are managed by a variety of government agencies.

Ownership and use of federal lands have stirred controversy for decades. Conflicting public values concerning federal lands raise many questions and issues, including the extent to which the federal government should own land; whether to focus resources on maintenance of existing infrastructure and lands or acquisition of new areas; how to balance use and protection; and how to ensure the security of international borders along the federal lands of multiple agencies.

Congress continues to examine these questions through legislative proposals, program oversight, and annual appropriations for the federal land management agencies."

Recently while reminiscing about some of my experiences on our nation’s public lands I could not help thinking about the way it was, how it is now, and what it will be like for those of us who enjoy the great American Outdoors and the opportunity to recreate upon those lands in a variety of ways. As you read this article, America is poised to set sail on a journey into the unknown, a new year where there are more questions than there are answers, where unfounded and unproven optimism for the future rules over common sense and proven logic. Our current political administration and the hierarchy...
of its leadership seems hell bent on giving away our homelands and the resources they possess to foreign interest and alien ideas which undermine the very nature and fabric of America.

There has been no greater time in America’s history than the present, where our public lands as well as our private lands have been, are now, and will be threatened by internal and external force whose mission is to deprive, deny, and destroy the very greatness we have. It is difficult to convey in words adequately, the significance of the loss until it's gone. When common sense and truth are muddled and mistaken by the reality of deception and untruths.

Yet regulatory and legislative entities of this country seem all to eager and anxious to implement and impose rules and laws which ... outlaw the very constitutional rights to occupy, inhabit, use and enjoy our lands, your lands, my lands, our public lands.

We have been too busy and caught up with the multitude of distractions which have become all too common in daily life to fully wrap our minds around the fact that America is standing in quicksand and we are sinking. While the Department of the Interior and it vast empire of federal land management agencies continue to mishandle and mismanage our public lands under the banner of public safety and in the best interests of the public, all to often it is at the expense of the public.

State land management entities of our federation are not exempt from the above remarks and observations as well, and are, in some instances subservient and share complicity with the Federal government in its role to minimize and eliminate multiple use and access from our public lands as well as to insure that the public receives a fair and just return on lands they manage.

Here are but a few of the game changers and eye openers the public has witnessed pertaining to its public lands this year.

Rep. Doc Hastings (R-Wash.), chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, has held a series of hearings this year on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) highlighting Congress’ need to review and update the act, which has not happened since its enactment 37 years ago. The ESA has had a less than two-percent success rate for species recovery, has imposed severe restrictions on ranchers on both public and private lands, and has been the cause of much litigation by radical environmentalists, costing taxpayers and landowners alike.

Proposed Increased Funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The president has proposed a $105 million increase to LWCF, totaling at $450 million. $258 million of that would go toward federal land acquisition. …

Scoping Report for Sage Grouse Finalized

Earlier this year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) released their Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Scoping Report ("Scoping Report"), a result of the first stage of public involvement in a planning effort to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act.(NOTE:- should these agencies be successful it will significantly impact recreational access and use on huge tracts of public lands in the west.)

Wild lands Order Revived by "Guidance"

In August, the Congressional Western Caucus brought to light what appears to be the administration’s revival of the congressionally blocked Wild lands Order, this time in the form two new BLM manuals (guidance) on managing lands with "wilderness characteristics". The two manuals, dated March 15th 2012, were recently discovered on the BLM website (6310 – Conducting Wildness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands and 6320 – Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process). It is unclear when the manuals were posted/made public. …

WHO KNOWS??

While the U.S. government reaps billions of dollars in royalties each year from fossil fuels extracted from federal lands and waters, it does not collect any such royalties from gold, uranium or other metals mined from the same places, congressional auditors reported Wednesday.

The federal government doesn't even know how much these so-called “hard rock” mines produce from federal public lands in the 12 western states where most of the mining occurs, the Government Accountability Office report found. And there is no federal law requiring the disclosure of production figures from individual mines.

The non-competitive nature of the federal leasing program is being reviewed by the Interior Department’s inspector general and also will be the subject of an audit by the Government Accountability Office, according to officials at the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the leasing program,.(NOTE: Isn't it time that provisions are established to help fund our public lands and amenities with a reasonable percentage of the wealth extracted by the private sector from our public lands?)

On a positive note

In October, four hikers, including two Ojai men, sued the U.S. Forest Service, challenging the agency's right to charge visitor fees at four Southern California national forests. The lawsuit, filed in federal court, follows similar efforts elsewhere in the country. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided in February with petitioners challenging the legality of fees at Mount Lemmon in Arizona.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act allows fees in "high-impact" recreation areas that have specific amenities available, including picnic tables, security services and developed parking. The Arizona lawsuit alleged the Forest Service went too far by charging those parking their cars just to picnic, hike or camp on undeveloped public land. The California suit follows a similar argument. (More to come)

Recommended Reading:

http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42346.pdf

In closing, it is my wish this new year that your experiences outdoors are pleasant and safe and full of wonderful encounters and marvelous discoveries that await those who will reach out and walk the landscape of a new horizon.
<p>| <strong>February 8-10</strong> | Oregon Agate and Mineral Society | OMSI, 1945 SE Water Avenue Portland OR 97214 | Craig Prier  503 984 7004, <a href="mailto:oarmsrockhound@live.com">oarmsrockhound@live.com</a> Website  <a href="http://www.oregongagate.org">www.oregongagate.org</a> |
| <strong>Feb. 9-10</strong> | Whidbey Island Gem Club | Oak Harbor Senior Center, 51 SE Jerome Street, Oak Harbor WA | Keith Ludemann  360 675 1837 <a href="mailto:rock9@whidbey.net">rock9@whidbey.net</a> |
| <strong>Feb. 16-17</strong> | North Lincoln Agate Society | Lincoln City Cultural Center 540 NE Hwy 101 Lincoln City OR 97367 | Laura Joki 541 351 8423  <a href="mailto:laura@rockyourworldgems.com">laura@rockyourworldgems.com</a> |
| <strong>Feb. 23-24</strong> | Idaho Gem Club | Expo Idaho, 5610 Glenwood Boise ID | Charlie Smith  PO Box 1264 Riggins, ID, 83549, 208 628 4002 |
| <strong>March 2 – 3</strong> | East Kingco Rock and Gem | Pickering Barn, 1730 10th Ave NW, Issaquah, WA 98027, Across from Costco | Heather King 425-883-6519 <a href="mailto:secondwindcharms@msn.com">secondwindcharms@msn.com</a>  <a href="http://www.eastkingco.org">www.eastkingco.org</a> |
| <strong>March 2 - 3</strong> | Owyhee Gem &amp; Mineral Society | O Connor Field House 2200 Blaine, Caldwell ID | Susan Beattie, 208 466 6184 <a href="mailto:susan71061@aol.com">susan71061@aol.com</a> |
| <strong>March 8 – 10</strong> | Tualatin Valley Gem Club | Washington Co. Fairplex 873 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro OR | Mitch Metcalf <a href="mailto:mitch@myenoaddress.com">mitch@myenoaddress.com</a> PO Box 641, Forest Grove OR 97116 |
| <strong>March 9 – 10</strong> | Magic Valley Gem Club | Twin Falls County Fair Grounds, 215 Fair Avenue, Filer ID, (just east of Filer on Highway 30) | Shirley Metts 208 423 4827 <a href="mailto:imetts@centurylink.net">imetts@centurylink.net</a> or Jon Cromer <a href="mailto:rokercutter@hotmail.com">rokercutter@hotmail.com</a> |
| <strong>March 9 - 10</strong> | Rock and Arrowhead Club | Klamath Co. Fairgrounds 3531 South 6th Street Klamath Falls OR | Marv Stump 541 882 8341 POB 1803 Klamath Falls OR 97601 or Garwin Carlson 541 882 8276 |
| <strong>March 15-17</strong> | Timpanogos Gem &amp; Mineral Society | Spanish Fork Fair Grounds, Indoor Tennis Court, 475 South Main, Spanish Fork UT | Keith Fackrell <a href="mailto:timrocks@gmail.com">timrocks@gmail.com</a>, 801 592 0410 |
| <strong>March 22 - 24</strong> | Mt Hood Rock Club | Kleiever National Guard Armory, 10000 NE 33rd Drive Portland OR 97211 | L. Smith 503 646 1932 <a href="mailto:mhrccshowchair@gmail.com">mhrccshowchair@gmail.com</a> |
| <strong>March 29-30</strong> | Panorama Gem &amp; Mineral Club | Ag Trade Center, NE WA Fairgrounds, 317 W Astor Avenue, Colville WA 99114 | Bill Allen 509 936 5847 <a href="mailto:sago@theofficenet.com">sago@theofficenet.com</a> |
| <strong>March 30-31</strong> | Sweet Home Rock &amp; Mineral Society | High School Gym, 1641 Long St., Sweet Home OR | Joe Cota 541 451 2740 POB 2279 Lebanon OR 97355 |
| <strong>March 30-31</strong> | Mt. Baker Rock &amp; Gem Club | Bloedel Donovan Community Center, 2214 Electric Avenue Bellingham WA | Lori Nettles 360 961 7873 <a href="mailto:lornhardt@yahoo.com">lornhardt@yahoo.com</a> <a href="http://www.mtbakerrockclub.org">www.mtbakerrockclub.org</a> |
| <strong>April 6-7</strong> | Southeast Idaho Gem &amp; Mineral Society | Bannock County Fairgrounds 10558 Ift Road, Pocatello ID | Anna Capell 208 221 9458 PO Box 3089 West Neeley Loop American Falls ID, 83211 |
| <strong>April 12-14</strong> | Golden Spike Gem &amp; Mineral Club | Golden Spike Event Center Weber County Fair Grounds 1000 North 1200 West Ogden UT | Cynthia Aeschlimann PO Box 12835 Ogden UT 84414-2835 <a href="mailto:club@goldenspikegem.org">club@goldenspikegem.org</a> 801 648 5060 |
| <strong>April 13-14</strong> | Idaho Falls Gem &amp; Mineral | Idaho Falls Recreation Center B Street, Idaho Falls, ID | Jim Bosley 208 520 1819 <a href="mailto:jbosley@cableone.net">jbosley@cableone.net</a> |
| <strong>April 19-21</strong> | Willamette Agate and Mineral Society | Polk County Fairgrounds 520 South Pacific Hwy West Rickreall OR | Contact: Etheleen Flippo 503 623 4247 <a href="mailto:reflippoo@hotmail.com">reflippoo@hotmail.com</a> |
| <strong>April 20-21</strong> | Yakima Rock &amp; Mineral Club | Washington National Guard Amory, 2501 Airport Lane, Yakima WA 98903 | Marit Sondgeroth 509 248 6401 (evenings) <a href="mailto:martynsms@c.com">martynsms@c.com</a> |
| <strong>April 20-21</strong> | Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club | Benton Franklin County Fairgrounds, 1500 South Oak Kennewick WA | Mary Lou Omstead <a href="mailto:mlotbo@yahoo.com">mlotbo@yahoo.com</a> 509 783 2798 |
| <strong>April 27-28</strong> | West Seattle Rock Club | Alki Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Avenue SW, Seattle WA | Lyle &amp; Audrey Vogelpohl 206 932 3292 <a href="mailto:avogelpohl@comcast.net">avogelpohl@comcast.net</a> <a href="http://www.westseattlerockclub.org">www.westseattlerockclub.org</a> |
| <strong>May 3-5</strong> | Rock Rollers Club of Spokane WA | Spokane County Fair &amp; Expo Center, N.604 Havana at Broadway, Spokane WA | Mike Shaw 509 251 1574 <a href="mailto:mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com">mikeshawmoose@yahoo.com</a> |</p>
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<tr>
<td>May 11-12</td>
<td>Sat 10–6, Sun 10–4</td>
<td>Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club</td>
<td>Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 901 North Black Bozeman MT 59715</td>
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<td>Dan Carter or Jerry Hancock 406 599 6063 Box 11001 Bozeman MT 59719</td>
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<td>May 18-19</td>
<td>Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5</td>
<td>Hatzrockhound Gem &amp; Mineral Club</td>
<td>Hermiston Community Center, 415 South Highway 395 Hermiston OR</td>
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<td>Mike Filarski <a href="mailto:stonemorlin1@netscape.net">stonemorlin1@netscape.net</a> 541 922 5091 cell 541 571 2593</td>
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<td>May 18-19</td>
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<td>Bitterroot Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>First Interstate Center, Ravalli County Fairgrounds, 100 Old Corvallis Road, Hamilton MT</td>
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<td>Mike McConnell <a href="mailto:micker1949@yahoo.com">micker1949@yahoo.com</a> 406 777 0536</td>
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<td>May 31, June 1-2</td>
<td>Fri 10–5, Sat 10–5, Sun 10–5</td>
<td>Puyallup Valley Gem &amp; Mineral Club</td>
<td>Swiss Park, 9205 198th Avenue East Bonney Lake WA</td>
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<td>Nancy LeMay 253 987 6751 PVGMC PO Box 134 Puyallup WA 98371 <a href="mailto:info@puyallupgemclub.org">info@puyallupgemclub.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1-2</td>
<td>Sat 9–5, Sun 10–4</td>
<td>North Idaho Mineral Club</td>
<td>Kootenai County Fairgrounds, 4056 North Government Way, Coeur d’Alene, ID</td>
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<td>Bev Bockman <a href="mailto:bockbb@aol.com">bockbb@aol.com</a> 208 773 5384</td>
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<td>June 1–2</td>
<td>Sat 10–6, Sun 10–5</td>
<td>Everett Rock &amp; Gem Club</td>
<td>Everett Community College, Student Fitness Center, 2206 Tower Street, Everett WA</td>
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<td>Fritz Mack POB 1615 Everett WA 98206 425 232 0809</td>
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<td>August 9-11</td>
<td>Fri 9–5, Sat 10–5, Sun 10–5</td>
<td>Butte Mineral and Gem Club</td>
<td>Butte Civic Center, 1340 Harrison Avenue Butte MT</td>
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<td>NFMS' 75th Anniversary Show</td>
<td>Pete Knudesen 406 723 8524 1301 West Gold Street Butte MT 59701</td>
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Clubs, please note that any show information should go to Pat Lambert, Show Coordinator. She will then send the information out to the rock magazines, websites and to this newsletter.

All membership updates, including new members so they can receive this newsletter as soon as possible, should go to Tom Burchard, Circulation Chair and to Carol Willey, Directory Chair. See the second page of this newsletter for address information for these Chairmen and Chairwomen.

Thank you!