Jim Bosley
President

Be an advocate for your hobby. An advocate is a “person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.” This is an important time for rockhounds to speak up and be part of the process to ensure that our public lands remain open to the collecting of rocks, minerals, and fossils.

There are several things you can do:

- Contact your BLM and NFS regional and state offices and ask to be put on their mailing list for road closure and land use planning. This is the easiest way to find out about the proposed changes to the use of public lands. Find opportunities to assist the local BLM and NFS with cleanup projects or other ways you can help them.
- Become a member of your local 4-Wheel Drive club. They are active in many states and work to keep roads open in many of the areas where you rockhound.
- Become a member of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA). They promote the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining on public lands. They need your help is need in monitoring the changes to the public land use in your area.
- Write your congressmen and let them know of your concerns with the proposed changes to public land use.
- Contact your local officials and let them know of your concerns.
- Encourage your fellow rockhounds to become active. The more voices, the more effective you can be to influence the use of public lands.

BLM and NFS personnel work hard to implement the laws Congress passed concerning use of our public lands. The corner stone of BLM and NFS management of public lands is a written notification of a proposed change in the use of public lands (road closures, land withdrawal, grazing, etc.); public hearings to collect comments on the proposal from the stakeholders (users of the public lands); a published draft decision; and public comment of the draft decision and a published final decision. It is important to be part of the process from the initial proposed changes through to the final decision.

Don’t get mad - get involved. Speak up, write letters, attend meetings and promote your hobby.

Keith Fackrell
1st Vice President

Everyone, take a deep breath. Here we are going into 2017 already. We can all have a great year. We have 11 months to work in it. Let us all work on it and improve all the good things we accomplished last year.

To start with, I am sure most of us have a few rocks that need cutting, polishing or some items made from them. This is a great time of year to work on them and get items ready for each of our Societies’ Shows and the Federation Show that is coming up on May, 19, 20 & 21, 2017 in Hamilton, Montana. This will be hosted by the Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society. There will be an awards Banquet held where the winning participants of each of the awards offered will be presented.

Check each of your Northwest Federation newsletters for application forms and details about each award available.

Each of the several application forms have a deadline so don’t let this slip by you desire to enter one or more of the contests.

While you are traveling on vacation this year, be sure to take your latest NFMS Newsletter with you and check for Gem & Mineral Shows in the area you are in. Attend any that you are able to. Talk to the person at the door and let them know which Society you are from, and make new friends.

I thank you for being a Rockhound and a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Society.

Until next month, have fun, be safe and - BE Happy!
SCHOLARSHIP: Evelyn Cataldo, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 95905 Brandon, Kennewick, WA, 99338, (509) 628-0170, cataldoevelyn@yahoo.com

SHOW CHAIRPERSON 2017: Steve Viethe, Bitterroot Gem and Mineral, 309 Baily Ave., Hamilton, MT, 406-759-7979, viethsteve88@gmail.com

SHOW COORDINATOR: Pat Lambert, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 820 S. Oak, Kennewick, WA 99337, palambert@charter.net

STAMPS: Chuck Souther, Southern Western A. Mineralological Society, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA 98596, (360) 785-3909, chuckagate2@yahoo.com

SUPPLIES: Patty Amos, Mt. Hood Rock Club, 15253 NE 214th Ave, Brush Prairie, WA 98606, (360) 892-3716, packracks20q@yahoo.com

WAYS & MEANS: Janice Van Cura, Willamette Agate & Mineral, Inc., 3448 NW Covy Road, Corvallis, OR 97330, (541) 753-2245, jvc@icloud.com

WEBMASTER: Brad Landon, Owyhee Gem and Mineral Club, 412 E. Fink Park Drive, Nampa, ID 83686, 208-465-1920, nfms.webmaster@gmail.com

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Doug True, Billings Gems & Minerals Club, 22622 Bloodhill Road, Billings, MT 90120, 406.670.0565, dtruefoss122@yahoo.com

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Laurie Ellis, Hattrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 3326, Irigon, OR 97844, 541-626-3113, 6shank@icloud.com

WEBSITE: Cheri George, bradandon@gmail.com

NFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)
Ronna Watkins
2nd Vice President

I hope this message reaches you right In the middle of your hobby, whether it be polishing a cabochon, tumbling rock, wire-wrapping, or classifying minerals. There is always something to do with rocks and always something new to learn or a technique to perfect. I hope the last rock you cut had unbelievable beauty inside. I hope the last wire you wrapped went just how you saw it. I hope you found the mineral that completes your greatest aspiration!

We have been busy in the shop and with our club here in Yakima. Darrell has been cutting slabs and I have been preparing curriculum for our Juniors’ Volcano series. The weather has been challenging in the Northwest this year, the shop is cold and the travel slow. But, it is good to be kept home by the weather with a bunch of rocks.

A couple of thing are going on with the NFMS that I want to tell you about.

We have a new website address! It is http://northwestfederation.org/. You can still reach the site through the AFMS website, but now we have our own independent site. You should check it out. Thank you Brad Larson.

Another thing I would like to mention is the 79th Annual NFMS Show & Convention in Hamilton, Montana. There is going to be a great line-up of speakers that include Dave Trelxler a paleontologist from Two Medicine Center, George Stanley Jr., Professor of Geosciences and the Director of the Paleontology Center at U of M, Dick Berg of Montana Tech with “Talks about Sapphires” and Ted Antonioli a Consulting Geologist, Member of Montana Mining Association. We will also have Bruce Baty with a talk on Glacial Lake Missoula and Lee Filliman with “Fossils and Petrified Trees of Yellowstone”. You won’t want to miss this! Please get your registration and competition/noncompetitive display applications sent in now. Last year’s show had many wanting dinner after the banquet well after the caterer needed to know how many meals to plan for. If you have ever helped put on a rock show, you know a lot of time and planning go into these shows. Why not help out the coordinators and register early? Forms can be found in past previous “Northwest News” issues and here http://www.ravalligemandmineralclub.org/contact.html

Lastly, I would like to remind you that the American Lands Access Association needs us. If we want to keep rockhounding and fossil collecting open for amateur hobbyists we need to join the group that has our best interest in mind. How can you help if you don’t participate? This group makes sure we get alerts when action is being taken that limits our ability to collect rock and fossils. If your club has not joined please bring it up at your next meeting and get those membership dollars in so you can be alerted to these actions and do your part. Or, you could join as an individual. Memberships are ALAA’s only funding. Find the membership application online here: http://amlands.org/media//DIR_519967/f814313c636ebe07ffff8056ffffe906.pdf or contact me and I’ll make sure you get one.

So, I am looking forward to spring and those first chances to go on a field dig. And, I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Montana.

IRISH ROCKHOUNDING

BY LINDA BARLOW, NFMS HISTORIAN from Idaho Gem Club

Due to this lovely winter weather, I have not been able to obtain my predecessor’s records for the NFMS and present you with an article about NFMS history. I have chosen to write about the rocks I encountered while traveling in Ireland this past Oct/Nov!. They so intrigued me as would be any rockhound.

After visiting Dublin, I drove down to the Wicklow Mountains and Glendalough (County Wicklow, Republic of Ireland) where I found SCHIST attracting my eyes d/t its mica content. While staying in Doolin (Republic of Ireland), I visited the beautiful Cliffs of Moher observing SEDIMENTARY ROCK formations. After leaving the Cliffs, I drove through pathways of LIMESTONE in the Burren (County Clare, Republic of Ireland) with excellent view of Dunluce Castle (all castles were built with local rock). But, it is good to be kept home by the weather with a bunch of rocks.

Our Idaho area has a lot of Basalt rock d/t our history of volcanic explosions and water coverage. I wondered why Ireland was covered in lots of basalt but it looked quite different from ours here in Idaho that I had been exposed to over the past 5 years after my move from upstate NY. The Basalt rocks in Ireland were not only black with holes but I was told by an Irish tour guide that the brown rocks I found were also Basalt. After reading about the stones of Ireland and their formation, I tend to believe that it is the porous Sandstone and not Basalt. (I welcome comments on these rocks I found!). The Stone Circles I visited were spiritually enhancing as I also use my stones for healing purposes. When customs looked through my suitcase, they commented on all the stones I brought back! Unlike in the national parks here in the states where rockhounding can be illegal, picking up rocks in Ireland and Northern Ireland was quite legal! I would be willing to share with others to see my stones from Ireland.

Check it out!!!!

New website address for the NFMS!!!

http://northwestfederation.org/

The link from amfed.org links correctly to the new address too.
NFMS SHOW!
Hosted by the
Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society

First Interstate Center
Ravalli Fairgrounds
Hamilton, Montana

May 19-21, 2017
Show Times are Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-6
Sunday 10-4

List of Vendors

1. World Fossils and Minerals, Herbert Shepard
2. Kitty Kat Jewelry, Kathy Meuchel
3. Earth's Treasures, Cindi Allison
4. C'Anne's of Montana, Christine Burmmitt
5. Granite Mountain Nature Gallery, Dennis DeLaet
6. Nel's Rock "N" Wood, Nel Buck
7. Tiger Eye Minerals, Cindy and Leo George
8. Canyon Creations, Dennis Grunder
9. Maki's Gems, Mike Maki
10. McKenize Gem's, Don McKenzie
11. Bonnie's Rocks, Bonnie Kline
12. Amphersand Gems and Jewelry, Arla Defield
13. Paleo Enterprises, Doug True
14. T&B Gems, Thurston and Betty Dotson
15. Azara Creations, Yvonne Flack
16. Rock in Roses, Mike and Dianne Rose
17. The Local Stone, Stan Kosteezko
18. Fine Opals, Mulugeta Kebede
19. Gem Stone Connections, Dave Schell
20. Lazurus, Dan Radakovick
21. Washingtons Treasures, Stewart Wilson
22. Dale's Minerals, Dale Hart
23. Stitches "N" Stones, Mark Lent
24. Nesper's Montana Agate, Jeff Nesper
25. C and S Minerals, Charles Jago
26. Gemsparkly, Aregawi Yekunno

List of Speakers

Dave Trexler, Paleontologist, Two Medicine Center
George Stanley Jr., Professor of Geosciences and Director of the Paleontology Center at U of M
Dick Berg of Montana Tech, Talks about Sapphires
Ted Antonioli, Consulting Geologist, Member of Montana Mining Association
Bruce Baty, Talk on Glacial Lake Missoula
Lee Filliman, Fossils and Petrified Trees of Yellowstone

Important Notice
Please submit all membership and address changes to Tom Burchard, Circulation Chair, and to Carol Willey, Directory Chair.
Their contact information can be found on the second page of this newsletter.
You MUST submit all show information (including admission charge) to Pat Lambert, Show Coordinator. FUTURE SUBMISSIONS MADE DIRECTLY TO THIS EDITOR WILL BE IGNORED!
Pat’s information can be found on the second page of this newsletter.
THANK YOU.
NFMS COMPETITIVE ENTRY FORM

*Dig This!*
First Interstate Center, 100 Old Corvallis Rd. – Hamilton, Montana
May 19 – May 21, 2017

**COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY DEADLINE: April 19, 2017**

All entries may be set up beginning Thursday May 18, 2017 from 9am to 8pm. All entries must be ready for judging by 8:30am *Friday the 19th* and may not be removed prior to the close of the show Sunday, May 31, 2017. 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 mail or email to the competitive exhibit registration chairman for acceptance and acknowledgment. Mail to: Bob Gibson, P.O. Box 942, Hamilton, MT 59840-0942 or gibcott@gmail.com.

You must fill out a separate application for each entry. **ENTRY DEADLINE: April 19, 2017**

Refer to the AFMS Rules Updated to January 2017 for Competition. For updated rules, go to: [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org).

If you are uncertain as to the correct class or group you should enter or for clarification of the rules, contact Bob Gibson, 326 Snow Goose Ct., Hamilton, MT 59840.
Email: gibcott@gmail.com.

LIABILITY: It is mutually agreed that the Northwest and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Bitterroot Gem and 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 __________________________

NFMS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM
(AFMS RULES)

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
79th Annual NFMS Show and Convention
May 19th, 20th and 21st, 2017
Hosted by Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society
First Interstate Center, 100 Old Corvallis Rd., Hamilton, MT 59840

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM Deadline April 19, 2017**

Please use one form per person. Forms may be duplicated. Payments may be combined.

Name: __________________________

Address: __________________________

Street ______ City ______ State ______ Zip ______

Email: __________________________

Club Federation Affiliations __________________________

Please mark all that apply:

Past President NFMS ____ NFMS Officer ____ Committee Chair ____
NFMS Delegate/Director ____ NFMS Alt Delegate ____
Judge ____ Clerk ____ Demonstrate ____ Exhibitor: Competitive ____ Non-Competitive ____

**SHOW ADMISSION**

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<th>Daily Rate</th>
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<td>Adult $3.00</td>
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Children 12 and under free with adult

Show Times: Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4

Note ALL Food Events REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION with Awards Banquet off site.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social Hour (No Host)</td>
<td>5:00 Cash Bar</td>
<td>$32.00</td>
<td>$32.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prime Rib: Chicken: Dietary Restrictions

| Sunday May 21st | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| All Editors Breakfast | 8:00 am | $10.00 | $10.00 |

Total Amount due ______

Camping at Fairgrounds with Electric only $15.00 per day Contact Chris at 363-3411 for reservations and Payment, OR Black Rabbit RV Park at 363-3744 OR Anglers Roost at 363-1268 for reservations and Payment.

Make checks payable to: Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society (or BGMS). Before April 19, 2017

Mail application and remittance before April 19, 2017

Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society (or BGMS) 309 Bailey Ave. Hamilton, MT 59840

Show Chair: Steve Vieth 406-361-7597 email: viethsteve88@gmail.com

Club use: Date received ______ Check # ______ Amount ______ by ______
Show Update!
By Steve Vieth, Show chairman

The NWFS May 19, 20, 21, 2017 in Hamilton, MT at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds is moving along. The internal components, tables, display cases, buildings, etc. are going well. Doug True has been outstanding in providing answers, suggestions, and coming from Billings to meet with me to make sure this is done right. I am sure there will be situations that will arise that will need to be addressed.

The vendors that are in the show are superb with great quality gems, gems, and minerals. I have known them all for many years. Currently I have 24 vendors with only a few spaces left to sell. The requirements that are needed by the Federation have been included.

The Ravalli Gem and Mineral Club has all that is needed. Wifi, heat or air, electrical outlets, drive in loading or unloading. Parking, on site camping with hookups, dry camping. I am going to have several on site food vendors. There will be speakers, several on dinosaurs, Glacial Lake Missoula, Fossils of Yellowstone, and Mining of Montana. I am working on several more and will keep this updated on our website. RavalliGemMineralClub.org.

For Federation needs and events please call Faith Farley, 1 406 961 3347. Display cases non-competitive and competitive contact Bob Gibson, 1 406 361 0870.

Field trips are still unplanned due to the security of the weather we’ve had. There is lots of snow pack in the mountains and will have to wait and see what is available. I will update our website on this. Our website RAVALLIGEMANDMINERALCLUB.ORG is updated weekly.

For the show and any other questions or concerns Steve Vieth, 1 406 381 7597.

One special event will be a walk through time, from stardust to now, presented by Jill Davis. The venue that are in the show are superb with great quality gems, gems, and minerals. I have known them all for many years. Currently I have 24 vendors with only a few spaces left to sell. The requirements that are needed by the Federation have been included.

The Ravalli County Fairgrounds has all that is needed. Wifi, heat or air, electrical outlets, drive in loading or unloading. Parking, on site camping with hookups, dry camping. I am going to have several on site food vendors. There will be speakers, several on dinosaurs, Glacial Lake Missoula, Fossils of Yellowstone, and Mining of Montana. I am working on several more and will keep this updated on our website. RavalliGemMineralClub.org.

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All entries may be set up beginning Thursday May 18, 2017 from 9 am to 5 pm. Entry must be set up by 8:30 am Friday the 19th and may not be removed prior to 4:30 pm Sunday May 21st. All exhibits must be removed by 5 pm Sunday.

You must fill out a separate application for each entry. Security will be provided during the show. Exhibitor will receive two free passes to the show.

Cages will be assigned space on display bases approximately 40 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and if an exhibitor is bringing their own case we suggest supplying a three prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the bases. (Normally 10 feet) Loaner cases will have power cords.

Display cases will be assigned space on display bases approximately 40 inches high. Exhibits are limited to 150 watts of power per case, and if an exhibitor is bringing their own case we suggest supplying a three prong extension cord to reach the power supply under the bases. (Normally 10 feet) Loaner cases will have power cords.

Please complete all information on the entry form and the certification form and mail or email to the exhibit registration chairman for acceptance and acknowledgment. Mail to: BGMS PO Box 942 Hamilton Montana 59840-0942 or Email to gibcott@gmail.com.

LIABILITY: It is mutually agreed that the Northwest and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Bitterroot Gem & 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.

NAME ____________________________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________________________
PHONE _______________ EMAIL ________________________
SOCIETY _______________ City State _______________

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 3 ft. Loaner cases do not always have risers, but will have liners.

Description of Material to be presented ____________________________________________

Signature: ________________________________________________

Be sure and make a copy for your use.
Nomination for 2017-2018 NFMS Officers
By Hidemi Kira, Past President

I am pleased to announce the slate of NFMS officer nominees for the year 2017-2018. Introduction and the voting of these candidates will be at the Annual Meeting to be held at Hamilton, Montana in May.

Nominees for year 2017-2018
President: Keith Fackrell
1st Vice President: Ronna Watkins
2nd Vice President: Kenneth Zhan
Secretary: Judi Allison
Treasurer: Lyle Vogelpohl

I am sure you all know Keith, Ronna, Judi and Lyle well and know that they have served very well in the NFMS. Here is the introduction of the 2nd Vice President nominee, Kenneth Zhan. He belongs to the Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club in Montana. The Bozeman Club has been significantly growing their membership and I had asked him to write in the NFMS newsletter about how they have done so well and I am sure you have read his article. He has been very active in his club. He also has great knowledge of public lands issues and has been contributing in this area as well. It will be nice to have an officer from Montana as we have not seen an officer since Doug True (current AFMS 1st VP) was the President in 2001. I would like to thank the committee members who went through Kenneth’s detailed resumes and for the approval for him to be the nominee. The committee is confident that Kenneth Zhan will serve very well in the officer position. Following is Kenneth Zhan’s biography.

Kenneth Zahn, Candidate for NFMS 2nd VP.

I began field collecting while pursuing several degrees in education and chemistry at the University of Arizona, 1954 - 1960, and continued to collect during my follow-on Army and private-life careers -- and after full retirement (2010). A member of 11 different clubs in 5 different AFMS Regions since 1972, I have most often served as field trip leader or program chairperson, rather than as an elected officer, primarily because of the Army practice of moving officers from assignment to assignment every few years. Since partially retiring in 2004, I have taken an active role in the local Bozeman, MT club, serving as program chair (since 2009), President, Executive Board member, Trustee of a valuable club-owned historical collection, field trip leader, Board member of the Montana Council, Club bylaws drafter, lecturer/presenter at area schools, fund-raising auctioneer, Club coordinator for its mining claims, commenter on proposed federal regulations and draft NEPA documents related to recreation on (and access to) national forest and BLM lands, and work on many other committees and show-related tasks that support club activities. I have assisted in organizing the annual "Montana Crystal Collectors" meeting by arranging speakers, giving presentations, and conducting fund-raising auctions. In 2014-2015, I organized gathering (on loan) the best samples of club-member-collected Montana minerals, purchased insurance, then transported and displayed the large collection at the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Club show in February, 2015.

Articles I have written on reviewing and commenting on federal-project draft NEPA documents and on club growth have appeared in past NFMS newsletters, and an article on the uniquely gemmy serpentine mineral Williamsite I’ve collected from the Maryland/Pennsylvania state line is posted on MINDAT/GEMDAT and has appeared in club newsletters, such as that of the Mineralogical Society of the District of Columbia (Dec. 2013).

With great volunteer support, membership in our Bozeman club has increased from approximately 37 in 2007 to 200 as of mid-January 2017. The club has also recently opened a lapidary clubhouse, and placed a large display of Montana minerals at the Bozeman/Yellowstone International Airport. Our fundraising auctions, raffles, and show profits have enabled us to be financially stable. I hope to share the many "Lessons-Learned" from my experiences (both in the Bozeman club and others of which I've been a member) with the wider NFMS family.

My home library collection is approximately 8,000 - 10,000 books/journals, approximately 1/3 of which are related to mineralogy, geology, "gold-rush" history, mining, lapidary, field collecting, and other earth science and general science topics; I have a large collection of minerals in home display cases as well. These also speak to my passion for this hobby. My current more-technical interests are on the pegmatites of the Boulder Batholith, and the fate of proposed federal agency regulations that threaten the collecting and National Forest/BLM-access aspects of our hobby. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible within our NFMS Region over the next several years.

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2017 GEM Show
Hosted By Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club
21st Annual Show
Saturday, April 22nd – 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, April 23rd – 10 am to 4 pm
Benton County Fairgrounds
1500 S. Oak St., Kennewick, WA

Adult Admission $5 (good for both days)
Children 14 and under FREE
with paid adult admission

Events & Activities Include:
• 40+ Collectors’ Exhibits
• Geode Cracking
• Gem & Mineral Show
• Fluorescent Displays
• Gem Show

Don’t Miss The Fun:
Gem and Mineral Displays
Rock and Jewelry Dealers
Demonstrations
Door Prizes • approx. every ½ hr.
Silent Auction • Raffle Prizes
FREE Kids’ Activities:
Rock Hunts: Sat: 11am • 1pm • 3pm
Sun: 1pm • 3pm
Rock Painting with Michael’s

2017 Rock & Gem Show
presented by
Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club
Saturday, May 6 – 9am to 5 pm
Sunday, May 7 – 10am to 4pm
Douglas County Fairgrounds
I-5 exit 123 • Roseburg, OR
FREE Admission – donations appreciated
Food Concessions by
Idlewyld Lodge

Rainbow of Rocks
ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

Happy New Year to ALL!

While we share a mutual passion, I bet we can all think of a special rockhound who has made a memorable impression, and positive impact on us as well as those around us. Let’s show them our appreciation by nominating them for Rockhound of the Year!

Email your submission, with a brief description of your nominee to me, Laurie Ellis 65shark@gmail.com

The Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Club is pleased to nominate Vern and Suzanne Young for Rock Hounds of the Year. Both have been active members of the Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Club since 2007.

Suzanne, currently Vice President, has been our Club President, and Chairman of many committees. She helps with our Silent Auctions, and is in charge of the Kids Activity Corner at our Annual Show. She also serves as our Christmas Dinner Coordinator. She is very creative, and teaches lapidary classes.

Vern is Manager of our Club Lapidary Shop at the local Community College, and maintains equipment and supplies. He also has taken on the responsibility of coordinating donations of rock, and lapidary equipment for Club use in our Auctions and Annual Show. He also runs our Annual Show Silent Auction. In addition he has been a critical member of the construction team for our new Club House, Lapidary Shop, Library, and Junior facilities which has just opened.

Both Vern and Suzanne are active participants in our Field Trips, support of our new Club house, and annual Show activities. They also fill the roles of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause for the Club Children attending our annual Christmas dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill and Linda Stonecipher, Olan and Norma Long

We, the Hellgate Mineral Society of Missoula, MT., have declared that the 2017 rockhound of the year is Bob Riggs. Bob has been a club member since 1986 and has served as a club board of director, a federation director, a Montana Council director and club Vice President. Bob is currently our president and for the last 19 plus years our tireless show chair. Bob is quite knowledgeable and talented in the hobby of rockhounding and is more than happy to share his expertise with everyone he comes in contact with. He can be found on the majority of our field trips assisting in material identification and has given presentations on cabochon making, silversmithing and is always coaching everyone to put a display case in our annual show. If one was to define a dedicated volunteer, the words BOB RIGGS would have to appear.

Thank You!

THANK YOU to Sandy Hansen who volunteers with the Junior Program in her club, Magic Valley Gem Club of Twin Falls, Idaho. As an employee of Walmart, Sandy applied through the Walmart Foundation's Volunteerism Always Pays (VAP) program for grants for the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc (a 501 c-3 organization) with a request that the money be applied to the Junior Achievement Trust Fund. Walmart made this grant of $1,000 in honor of Sandy's hours of service to her club, and we received the gift in appreciation of her volunteerism.

We sincerely thank you Sandy, for your support for the Juniors.
Audrey Vogelpohl, NFMS Juniors Chair
Lyle Vogelpohl, NFMS Treasurer

From the Editor’s Rockpile

By Beth Heesacker

What an exciting trip we just completed. We went down to Quartzsite, Arizona for all the excitement during the winter down there. Then over to Redlands, California for the Mineral Society of Southern California’s Micromount Conference, then to Bisbee, Arizona to see some of the mines and back across Arizona to the big show in Tucson. On the way back to home through California we lost a camper motorhome the Tardis. If any of you are Dr. Who fans you know that it’s bigger on the inside than on the outside“. We felt the same about our motorhome. Besides bring back our purchases for our club rock show I ended up with about 150 flats of minerals from the 2 mineral meetings and other purchases from the Tucson show. We did have to put a carrier on the back with some things that would be ok if they got wet but you just do not realize how many places there are to slow go single file through flooded I-5.

Other than these problems we had a great time. We have decided to name our class “B” motorhome the Tardis. If any of you are Dr. Who fans you know that his travel machine is called the Tardis and is said to be “bigger on the inside than on the outside”. We felt the same about our motorhome. Besides bring back our purchases for our club rock show I ended up with about 150 flats of minerals from the 2 mineral meetings and other purchases from the Tucson show. We did have to put a carrier on the back with some things that would be ok if they got wet but you just do not realize how many places there are to slow go single file through flooded I-5.

The high points of the trip were the 2 micro-mineral meetings with their talks about mines, etc., their “freebee” tables and sales tables. Hence the 150 flats of minerals. Also it was a delight to attend the national Friends of Mineralogy meeting and meet some of the people I have been corresponding with in order to edit their newsletter.

Quartzsite (second time to attend) was as crazy as usual and the Tucson show (first time to attend) was even crazier. We only got to about 5 of the many Tucson venues with sales of rocks, minerals, fossils, etc. from all over the world but we had a good taste of what happens each year there. Lots of fun!
There is a lot of excitement about attending this seminar. When it was heard through the grapevine last summer the seminar was being arranged for 2017, everyone was cheering. The seminar is for judges, exhibitors, and anyone who would like to better understand the AFMS Uniform Rules.

B. Jay Bowman, renowned across the country for his teaching skills in AFMS Judges Training Seminars, is leading the course. Jay’s class is 2 days of classroom study of the AFMS Rules book, and then a day of practice judging on Friday, June 9th at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, at 9:00 a.m. in the San Miguel/Anacapa Halls.

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For those who want to stay at the inn, we were able to get the best room rates in town for you, along with free parking for quests staying at the inn, and for those attending the seminar. Free parking in Ventura is rare, so we are happy we could do this for you. Deadline for registering for the seminar is April 30, 2017. For more information for registering at the inn, and for the seminar, please see the link for the AFMS Judges Training Seminar on the calendar of the CFMS website.
Public Lands
By Bob Pattie,
Cascade Mineralogical Society, Washington State Mineral Council

The January 2017 issue of the Northwest Newsletter Vol. 57 No. 1, had an article written by John Martin titled “Rockhound Soapbox - Rockhounding on Public Lands”, which I thought was very good and timely as we get ready for a summer of collecting. I believe that for the State of Washington collectors I would like to provide some additional information help understand governmental terminology. The Code of Federal Regulations Part 8365 of Title 43 CFR, and Part 8360.5 under definitions states that “Public lands means any lands and interests in lands owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management without regard to how the United States acquired ownership.” Other definitions have expanded that public lands include lands managed by Bureau of Land Management, also the following are normally included; United States National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service under the Department of Interior, and United States Forest Service under the Department of Agriculture. In the State of Washington, we also have the United States Department of Defense owning some land.

Continuing the “public lands” definition we need to consider how the state land fits into this definition. All states have some lands under state management, such as; state parks, state wildlife management areas, and state forest. Each western state received “public lands” as trust lands designated for specific beneficiaries. These trust lands cannot any longer be considered public lands as allowing any benefits to the “public” would be in breach of loyalty to the specific beneficiaries. The trust lands are to provide revenue for public schools and official state construction of building. This definition is from Wikipedia under public lands and is consistent with other listing of definitions. In Washington State, the State management of their lands is very different from the federal government, which means very little collecting on State lands in Washington. Our neighboring states treat rockhounding different, so a person should check with each state as to their requirements and restrictions.

The following data is primarily from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, the different agencies and various state office websites, and it has provided listings of areas and acreages. This is included to review the relationship between federal lands and state land, also a relationship between states. The total acreages for the state of Washington is; 42,693,760 and the federal acreages is 12,176,293 or 28.5%. That 12,176,293 is a sum of the following major federal agencies; BLM (Bureau of Land Management) - 429,083 acres, Forest Service – 9,323,705 acres, Fish and Wildlife – 150,024 acres, National Parks Service – 1,834,548 acres and Department of Defense – 438,938 acres. Washington’s total land area is 42.5 million acres. Half of this is forested. Nearly 36% of the forestland is privately owned, and 64% is managed by the government. Washington’s total land of 42.6 million acres, the Forest Service has 9.3 million acres or 22% of the land and BLM has less than 1%. Other states are listed below. Of the Forest Service land about half of the forest service land has been designated as Wilderness (Washington has 30 wilderness areas in our 6 National Forest plus 3 other National Forest’s we share with Idaho or Oregon).

The relationship of acreage and federal lands with our neighboring states are listed here: Idaho- total land—53.5 million acres, Forest Service 20.5 million or 38%, BLM 11.9 million or 22%; Oregon – total land 68.0 million acres, Forest Service 15.7 million or 23%, BLM 15.7 million or 23%; and Montana – 94.1 million acres, Forest Service 17 million or 18%, BLM 8.0 million or 8.5%. Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages over 3,000,000 acres of land and 2,600,000 acres and aquatic (shorelines, tidelands, land under Puget Sound, and area lakes) areas.

Washington may have some restrictions for collecting, but we still have many sites that are available for collecting. Many of these sites are on Forest Service land, other sites are on private lands and/or other governmental managed lands. It is important to know the land ownership of our collecting sites and support their requirement so that we can continue pursue our hobby of non-commercial rockhounding.

Good hunting for that special specimen for your collection.
| March 4 & 5 | Sat – 10 - 6 | Owyhee Gem & Mineral Society | O’Conner Field House | 2200 Blaine | Darell Ehlers 208-674-1213 | ddlehlers@fmcnc.com |
| March 10, 11, & 12 | Fri – Sat – 9 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 5 | Tualatin Valley Rock and Gem Club | Washington County Fair Complex, 873 NE 34th Ave | Hillsboro, OR | Rose Jackson, info@tvrgc.org | PO Box 641, Forest Grove, OR 97116, tvrgc.org |
| March 11 & 12 | Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Magic Valley Gem Club | Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, 215 Fair Avenue | File, ID | Shirley or Rocky Metts, 208 423 4872 | metts@magicvalleygemclub.org |
| March 11 & 12 | Sat – 9 – 6 | Sun – 9 – 5 | NW Montana RockChucks | Northwest Montana Fairgrounds, 265 North Meridian Road | Kalispell MT | Lloyd Fager | oldgravelAY@bescglobal.net | 608 436 0780 |
| March 11 & 12 | Sat – 9 – 5 | Sun – 9:30 – 4 | 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 | carwin garson 541 882 8276 |
| March 11 & 12 | Sat – 9 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 3 | Springfield Thunderedge Rock Club | Goshen Grange | 856282 Dillard Access Rd. | Eugene, OR 97405 | Trish Adams | 541 517 3617 | casheb@comcast.net |
| March 17 & 18 | Fri – 8:30 – 6 | Sat – 9 – 5 | Panorama Gem and Mineral Club | Colville Fairground, Colville Ag and Trade Center | 317 West Astor, Colville WA | Bill Allen 509 936 2446 | safgostore2@ charter.net |
| March 17 – 19, Fri – Sat – 10 – 7 | Sun – 10 – 5 | Timpanogos Gem and Mineral Society | Spanish Fork Fair Grounds | 475 South Main Street | Spanish Fork, UT | Karl Powell | 801 766 | karlpowell@hotmail.com |
| March 18 & 19 | Sat – 9 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 5 | Hellgate Mineral Society | Hilton Garden Inn | 3720 North Reserve St. | Missoula MT | Bob Riggs 406 543 3667 | robertriggs5@gmail.com |
| March 25 & 26 | Sat – 10 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 5 | Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club | Bloodel Doveman Community Center | 2214 Electric Avenue | Bellingham WA | Lori Nettles, 360 961 7873 | lorihardiy@yahoo.com |
| March 24 – 26 | Fri – Sat – 10 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Rock Rollers Club of Spokane WA | Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, N.604 Havana at Broadway | Spokane WA | Vonnie Dillon, 509 931 8173 | showchair@rockrollercs.org |
| April 1 & 2 | Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 5 | Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Society | Sweet Home High School Gym | 1364 Long Street | Sweet Home OR | Joe Cota 541 451 2740 | 420 451-1577 elsrocks@gmail.com | PO Box 2279 Lebanon OR 97355 |
| April 7, 8, & 9 | Fri – 9 – 6 | Sat – 10 – 6 | Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society | Golden Spike Event Center | Weber County Fairgrounds | 1000 N 1200 W Ogden UT 8440 | Deborah Blake 385 205 9187 | gemshow@goldenspikegem.org |
| April 8 & 9 | Sat – 9 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Maplewood Rock and Gem Club | Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 190th ST SW, Edmonds WA | Mary Ann Collins, 206 714 3922 | collinma1@comcast.net |
| April 8 & 9 | Sat – 10 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 5 | South East Idaho Gem and Mineral Society (SEIGMS) | North Bannock County Fqrgrnds, 10588 Fairground Dr., Pocatello ID 83201 | Larry Manhart 208 705 7273 | 841 South Arthur Avenue Pocatello ID 83204 |
| April 22 & 23 | Sat – 10 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Yakima Rock and Mineral Club | Central Washington State Fair Grounds | 1301 South Fair Avenue | Yakima WA 98903 | Marty Sondgeroth, 509 625 2187 | martdenny@comcast.net |
| April 22 & 23 | Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club | Benton County Fairgrounds | 1500 South Oak | Kennewick WA | Mary Lou Onsted, 509 783 2798 | PO Box 6652 Kennewick WA 99336 |
| April 22 & 23 | Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 5 | Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society | Idaho Falls Recreation Center, Corner of Memorial Drive and B Street, Idaho Falls, ID | Nicole Strong 208 768 7953 | nicolek_hansen@hotmail.com | or gerry Gibeault 208 589 0736 | PO Box 2362 Idaho Falls ID 83403 | gerry@w改制comb.com |
| April 28 – 30 | Fri – Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Mount Hood Rock Club | Jackson Armory | 6255 NE Corvallis Road | Portland OR 97218 | Wayne King mbreeder@gmail.com | 503 284 7195 | www.mthoodrockclub.com |
| April 29 & 30 | Sat – 10 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 5 | West Seattle Rock Club | ALki Masonic Temple | 3764 E 40th Avenue SW Seattle WA | Diane Christensen diane@purrs.org | 206 582 2267 | www.westseattlerockclub.org |
| April 29 & 30 | Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Grays Harbor Gem and Geology Society | Grays Harbor Fairgrounds | 43 Elma-McCleary Road | Elma WA | Gary Emberley 624 Fairmont Place | Aberdeen WA 98520 | 360 533 6196 | melissa624@hotmail.com |
| May 6 & 7 | Sat – 10 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 5 | Everett Rock and Gem Club | Everett Community College | 2206 Tower Street | Everett WA | Fritz Makk 425 232 0809 | PO Box 1615 Everett WA 98206 | www.everettrockclub.com |
| May 6 & 7 | Sat – 9 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Umpqua Gem & Mineral Club | Douglas County Fairgrounds, I-5 Exit 123 | Roseburg OR | Sue Woodman 541 672 3486 | rocksandhorses3@gmail.com |
| May 6 & 7 | Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Billings Gem and Mineral Society | AI Bedoo Shrine Auditorium | 1125 Broadwater Avenue | Billings MT | Doug True | dtrueoasis12@yahoo.com | 406 670 0050 |
| May 13 & 14 | Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society | Hermiston Conference Center, 415 Highway 395 | South, Hermiston OR | Mike Falarski, 541 571 2593 | stonerolml1@netscape.net |
| May 13 & 14 | Sat – 10 – 5 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club | Gallatin County Fairgrounds | Building #1, 901 North Black Bozeman MT | Jerry Hackom jaegegers@brennan.net | PO Box 11001 Bozeman MT 59719 |
| May 19 – 21 | Fri – Sat – 10 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 5 | Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society | First Interstate Center | Ravalli County Fairgrounds | 100 Old Corvallis Road | Steve Vieth, 406 381 7397 | viethsteve88@gmail.com |
| May 27 & 28 | Sat – 10 – 6 | Sun – 10 – 4 | Oregon Coast Agate Club | National Guard Armory, 541 SW Coast Hwy, Hwy 101 | Newport OR 97365 | George Mazenka 541 991 0311 | george mazoe58@gmail.com | PO Box 818, Yachts OR 97498 | www.coastagates.org |
NFMS Clubs’ Show Schedule

| June 3 & 4 | North Idaho Mineral Club | Kootenai County Frgnds. 4056 North Government Way, Coeur d’Alene ID | Dean Hutchinson 208 664 2712 dluterperd@gmail.com PO Box 1643 Hayden ID 83835 |
| June 10 & 11 | Butte Mineral and Gem Club | Butte Civic Center Annex 1340 Harrison Avenue Butte MT | Pete Knudsen 406 496 4395 PO Box 4492 Butte MT 59702 |
| July 21, 22, & 23 | Washington Agate and Mineral Society of Olympia and Tenino Rock Cruisers | Parkside Elementary School 301 Central Avenue E Tenino WA 98589 | Daniel De Boer keylock1@live.com 5107 Brenner Road NW Olympia WA 98502 https://wamsolympia.wordpress.com |
| August 12 & 13 | Maplewood Rock and Gem Club | Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA | Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 collma1@comcast.net |
| Sept 9 & 10 | Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association | Vern Burton Community Center, 308 East 4th Street Port Angeles WA | Kathy Schreiner 360 681 3811 or Kathy Bachman 360 681 3994 PO Box 98 Sequim WA 98382 |
| Oct 6, 7, & 8 | Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Association | Washington County Fair Complex 873 NE 34th Avenue Hillsboro OR 97124 | Linda Harvey lindaharvey2010@gmail.com Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show Association PO Box 5401 Portland OR 97228 |
| October 28 & 29 | Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club | Clackamas County Fairgrounds, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, OR | Beth Heesacker, heesacker@coho.net 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove, OR 97116 |
| October 28 & 29 | Bellevue Rock Club | Vasa Park, 3560 West Lake Sammamish PKWY SE Bellevue WA 98008 | Bruce Himko PO Box 1851 Bellevue, WA 98009 bellevuerockclub@comcast.net |
| Nov 11 & 12 | Maplewood Rock and Gem Club | Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA | Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 collma1@comcast.net |
| December 9 & 10 | Maplewood Rock and Gem Club | Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th ST SW, Edmonds WA | Mary Ann Collins 206 714 3922 collma1@comcast.net |