



# NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 65 NO.2 - FEBRUARY 2025  
 NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF  
 MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES



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### Letters From Our Committee Officers:



#### Lora Hall - President

Winter can feel like it drags on forever. The cold, gray days can leave me feeling a little sluggish, but I know one thing: spring is just around the corner, and with it comes the promise of fresh adventures in the world of rockhounding. Each year, as the days grow longer and the snow begins to melt, my excitement builds at the thought of venturing back into the wild to hunt for new treasures. It's the perfect way to shake off the winter blues and reignite that spark of joy that only a successful rockhounding trip can bring.

This winter has been particularly hard for my husband and I as he is recovery from a stroke, and I am recovering from back surgery. We are hitting the gym every day and looking forward to rockhounding in the spring. Although, I have been told I need to limit the number of rocks I stuff in my pack from now on. I shouldn't have a problem staying under 25 lbs. per person per day limit on public land. My physical therapist told me I couldn't lift more than 10 lbs., and she equated it to a gallon of milk. In my mind that was quickly converted into 3 softball sized pieces of agate. It won't stop me from collecting, but it will make me pickier.

Maybe this year will be the year I finally track down that elusive Bear Canyon Agate. With each passing week, my anticipation grows. Knowing that warmer days and those first trips to the field are coming soon gives me something to look forward to, a reminder that the season of adventure isn't lost, just delayed.

*Continued on page 2*

**Letters From Our Committee Officers Continued:**

**Michael Rhodes - 1st Vice President**

The word "diversity" has gotten a lot of bad press lately, mostly politically. As I think about the word, from a non-political point of view, it reflects our federation and the hobby we all share! The Northwest Federation

includes more than 60 clubs from 6 different states, each with its own diverse cultures and terrains. I have been fortunate to have visited all 6 states long before becoming an officer of this federation. I have enjoyed the variety of people I have met and the cultures I have had the opportunity to learn about. Our hobby is one of diversity. Some of us love to get out in nature to collect rocks and minerals, some do their collecting online, and some collect only at gem and mineral shows. Our federation includes prospectors and knappers. Some of us specialize in minerals, some in rare gems, some only collect agates, and some of us are just general collectors. When we get our rocks and minerals, some of us display them on shelves, some of us cut them into slabs, and some break them up and put them in tumblers. Some of us cut cabochons and some of us facet beautiful gems. Some of us do metalsmithing and some of us wire wrap. Some even make a business of this hobby, selling rough materials, slabs, cut stones and jewelry. We are also diverse in age. The Juniors program includes those ranging in age up to 18 years, I can't find a lower end of that spectrum, but the youngest level of the Junior Achievement Award is for those under 7 years of age. The oldest of our group reaches all the way to 100 and maybe beyond. The Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society has a member celebrating his 100th birthday this month! I love attending our club's Gemstone Junction show every April and am fascinated by the age range of those coming through our doors. I encourage you to celebrate the diversity of our hobby and try to learn a little more about those areas beyond your own expertise. Enjoy collecting, whatever your focus, and as always ROCK ON!

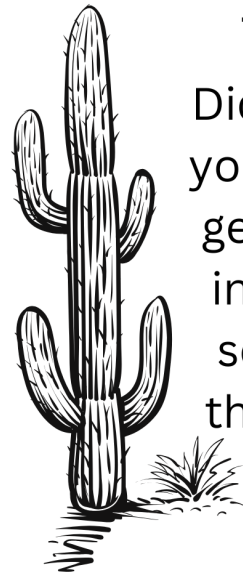


**Gary Warren - 2nd Vice President**

We are into February and I hope everyone is keeping warm and looking forward to rock hunting in the coming months. February is an in between month but may be the perfect time for planning and preparing. It is also a good time to take inventory of your rocks and decide what you want to do with them. Maybe you could start a new project or learn a new skill. If you have not done so in the past, try tumbling, lapidary, jewelry making or any number of other directions that your creativity might lead you. Maybe you could find a class to take or study up on some new activities. I hope everyone is well and look forward to seeing you in the future.

- Gary

## **Tuscon 2025**



Did you go, or are you at the Tuscon gem show? Send in your pictures so we can print them in the next newsletter!

**Letters From Our Committee Officers Continued:**
**Judi Allison -  
Secretary (Treasurer  
Pro Tem)**

I am sitting here contemplating what I might be able to write about pertaining to my Secretarial duties. I decided, at the moment, that it wouldn't be too exciting. So, I will fill you in on a few of the things that have

caused my head to spin a bit lately. It is probably a convoluted story, but true, nonetheless. As you may know, I have been attempting to wade through the Treasurer duties of soliciting and gathering the dues. This is being done without the slightest bit of knowledge of how to build and Excel spreadsheet. (I have a feeling it would be a lot easier if I had mastered that task at some point.)

Along with working on the dues process, I was excited in December as I was headed to my sister's in Spokane to help celebrate her 59th wedding anniversary. Then the following weekend my youngest daughter and I headed to Montana to spend Christmas with my older daughter and



her children and families. This trip included seeing my thirty-two-year-old granddaughter who has been undergoing treatment for aggressive stage 4 breast cancer. It also included meeting fraternal twin great grandbabies number 16 and 17.

The anniversary trip was accomplished without a hitch. I had left on Friday afternoon and when I returned home at five in the afternoon on Sunday, I headed over to my boyfriend's (I always have a bit of trouble with that term- "boy" friend at 77?) to share dinner with him. When I arrived, I was surprised (and worried) to find his door locked. I have a key, so I let myself in. And found him on the floor! He had fallen on Saturday morning and injured his back. He tried to get up for several hours but finally gave up. His primary diagnosis was rhabdomyolysis and acute renal failure. This puts

him in the hospital for a week and into a rehab facility until tomorrow-January 24. I have spent a great deal of time visiting, as I can't imagine being stuck in such places without being outside company.

I also volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and Citizens Review Board member. Because all the information is confidential, any paperwork must be shredded. In order to follow the process and not have volumes of paper to shred, I decided to buy a laptop that I can simply take with me to reviews and such, then delete the information after the reviews. Along with the laptop I purchased the Microsoft 365. Little did I know at the onset how "untechie" I actually am! Now I am trying to wade through all that the program has to offer. Hopefully I won't drown before the learning curve flattens out.

With all that, I am hoping to take a deep breath and slow down the tailspin so that I can enjoy taking part in some relaxing hobby activities. I hope your lives are sailing smoother than mine has been the last month or so. Let's keep "rockin' on". (Oh, and just to let you know, I got to see my granddaughter and those precious babies.)

- Judi


**Special Announcement!**

Calling all junior rockhounds. The deadline for the NFMS Junior Achievement Award has been extended until **March 15, 2025**. Why might you ask? Jennifer Fitch our Juniors Chair has received ZERO applications. Yes, you read that correctly, ZERO! The application can be found in the December newsletter so jump in and help your juniors enter. I know the application and resume looks complicated, but kids don't have to write book for each question, just a few lines about how they are involved in their club, what they like most about their hobby, whether it is field trips, collecting, or lapidary work, and if they entered any related competitions like setting up a display box at their club show. The judges also want to hear about their accomplishments in school and what extracurricular activities they enjoy. For extra points they can also write about any community service or volunteer work they completed. They can even talk about chores or a part time job they may have. That's all! Pretty simple! Parents are welcome to help younger kids and handwritten entries are acceptable.

Lora Hall-NFMS President

# Embracing the Future: The Rise of Online Mineral Sales

An Interview with Chad Kaatz, owner of C.K. Fine Minerals  
(Instagram: @C.K.fine\_minerals)



## Building Collections with Passion: The Story of Chad Kaatz and CK Fine Minerals



Chad Kaatz, owner and operator of CK Fine Minerals based in Richmond, Michigan, is a relatively new but passionate force in the professional mineral world. Though CK Fine Minerals was officially founded just three years ago, Kaatz's journey in the field has been a lifelong adventure.

"My fascination with minerals started when I was a child," Kaatz shared during an interview. "I still have the first agate I fell in love with, a paperweight

belonging to my great-grandfather. That stone was the catalyst for my obsession." From childhood trips to rock shops where he collected dyed geodes and amethysts to his current work with high-end specimens, Kaatz's enthusiasm has only deepened.

At 36 years old, Kaatz is not only a dedicated collector but also a professional dealer helping others build their collections. With a background as a professional chef, he transitioned to the mineral world to pursue a personal passion that offered more freedom. "Culinary was amazing, but it consumed all my nights, weekends, and holidays. I wanted something equally fulfilling but more flexible," Kaatz explained.

## The Spark of Fluorite

When asked about the mineral that first captivated him or how he stumbled upon fluorite, Kaatz reflected on his collecting journey. "For most of my youth and through my twenties, I collected very randomly," he said. "I'd go to rock shops and pick up whatever caught my eye—heat-treated citrine, dyed geodes—you know, I just didn't know any better."



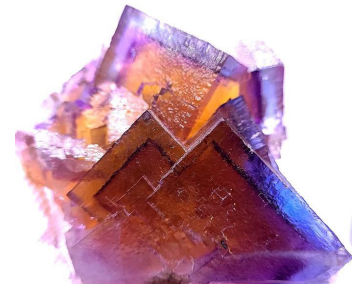
It wasn't until later that Kaatz's collecting became more focused. "Amethyst was really the mineral that first got me more serious. I started seeking out high-grade pieces from Brazil, Thunder Bay, and Madagascar. I still have some of those in my collection," he explained.

Fluorite, however, became his true passion after founding CK Fine Minerals. "When I got on Instagram and started my com-

pany, I stumbled across some very famous Illinois fluorite pieces. I was immediately taken aback by the color, luster, and form," Kaatz said. "I had to know everything about it."

This newfound interest quickly turned into an obsession. "I went down the rabbit hole, buying pieces on eBay, connecting with other dealers, and eventually purchasing entire collections," he shared. "I've spent more time studying Illinois fluorite than any other facet of the mineral world. These days, if you ask me what my favorite mineral is, it's fluorite, and I don't see that changing."

For Kaatz, fluorite is unrivaled. "Can you think of a mineral that has so much variety in growth habit, color zoning, and styles, and is found so ubiquitously worldwide?" he asked. His love for the mineral runs so deep that he joked about keeping prized pieces until the very end: "The Illinois stuff would be the last to go. When I'm on my deathbed, I'll tell my friends, 'All right, you can have that blue Minerva now!'"



## A Dealer Who Educates

Despite his relatively short time as a professional in the industry, Kaatz has quickly established a reputation for his expertise, commitment, and integrity. "A big part of our job as professional mineral dealers is to educate," he said. He emphasizes the importance of helping collectors—both novice and seasoned—make informed decisions.

"I often say a well-informed buyer is a good buyer. Whether it's understanding the human history and provenance behind a piece or evaluating its worth, education is key," Kaatz explained. He noted that the market for fine minerals can be subjective, with values varying significantly from specimen to specimen. "At the end of the day, what we do is help people build collections."

Kaatz's personal philosophy also drives his approach to business. "If someone is looking for something I don't have, I'll refer them to someone who does, even if it's another dealer. It's about doing what's in the best interest of the collector," he said. From childhood curiosity to professional dedication, Kaatz's journey reflects a deep love for minerals and the stories they carry. "These are more than just rocks," he noted. "They're pieces of history, science, and art."

*Continued on page 5*

## **The Digital Revolution of Mineral Collecting: How Social Media is Reshaping the Hobby**

In a world increasingly driven by technology, even traditional hobbies like mineral collecting are being transformed by the digital age. Social media, particularly platforms like Instagram, has emerged as a key player in connecting collectors, dealers, and enthusiasts across the globe. Chad shared his insights into how social media has revolutionized the mineral collecting hobby.

### **Breaking Barriers with Social Media**

“Social media has made mineral collecting more accessible than ever before,” Chad explained. Traditionally, collectors would have to travel to shows or rely on local dealers to find quality specimens. Now, platforms like Instagram bring the global mineral market to their fingertips. Collectors can browse, negotiate, and purchase from dealers worldwide without ever leaving their homes.

This accessibility is a game changer, especially for those who face logistical or financial constraints. Chad highlighted that many collectors now rely on trusted dealers to source materials they’d otherwise miss. “If someone can’t attend shows in person, I’m able to bring that experience to them,” he said.



### **The Trust Factor**

Transparency and trust have become the cornerstones of successful online dealings. “Honesty is critical,” Chad emphasized. Online transactions require buyers to rely heavily on sellers’ descriptions, photos, and videos. Accurate representation of quality, pricing, and any potential flaws builds long-term relationships with clients. “A good dealer’s reputation is everything in this industry,” he added.

Buyers are also encouraged to do their homework. Platforms like Mindat.org and eBay can help collectors learn about market trends, mineral values, and dealer reputations. Chad’s advice: “Ask questions. Don’t hesitate to dig into a dealer’s history and reviews. A little research goes a long way.”

### **Social Media: More Than Just a Marketplace**

For Chad, Instagram isn’t just a sales platform; it’s a community hub. Through live shows, video content, and direct communication, the platform fosters connections among collectors and dealers. “It’s a space for education and mentorship,” Chad said. “You’re not just buying a specimen; you’re learning about its history, its origins, and its unique qualities.”

Social media also allows for personalized experiences. Dealers can curate private shopping sessions and tailor their offerings to individual collectors. Chad’s ability to provide this level of customization has set him apart in the industry.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

One of the main challenges in online mineral dealing is accurately representing the specimens. “Photos and videos are powerful, but they’ll never fully capture the beauty of a mineral in person,” Chad admitted. Despite this limitation, consistent, high-quality content can overcome many hurdles.



Another significant shift is the migration away from traditional websites and platforms like eBay. Social media offers lower fees and better interactivity, allowing dealers to operate with less overhead while still reaching a wide audience. “It’s not just about the tools; it’s about how you use them,” Chad said.

### **The Future of Mineral Collecting**

As the online mineral market continues to grow, Chad believes adaptability is key. Dealers who embrace social media and its evolving features will remain relevant in the changing landscape. For collectors, the advice is simple: engage with the community, build relationships with trusted dealers, and leverage the resources that social media provides.

“Social media has made the hobby more inclusive,” Chad concluded. “Whether you’re a seasoned collector or just starting out, there’s a place for you here.”

The rise of social media in the mineral collecting world is a testament to the hobby’s ability to adapt and thrive in the digital age. As platforms like Instagram continue to connect people and expand opportunities, they ensure that this age-old pursuit remains vibrant and accessible for generations to come.

## Chad's Recommendations:

Whether you're considering joining Instagram or are already active, here are some recommended accounts to explore. These suggestions come from Chad's personal experiences with these accounts, both professionally and as friends. Even if you're not planning to make a purchase, browsing exceptional examples of your favorite types of rocks can be incredibly inspiring.

- **Crystal Classics (@crystal.classics)**
- **Dan Zelner (@danzrockshop)**
- **Dave Bunk (@davebunkminerals)**
- **Phil Persson (@perssonrareminerals)**
- **CeeCee Machado (@the\_collectors\_series)**
- **Mark Cross (@pegmatite\_obsession)**
- **James Webb (@focalcrystal)**
- **Fabian Wildfang (@thewildfangcollection.museum)**
- **Alan Hart (@alanhart)**
- **David Ziga (@zigamineral)**
- **Robert Nacarato (@music\_city\_minerals)**
- **The Arkenstone (@arkenstone\_minerals)**
- **Saga Minerals (@mineral\_saga)**

## The Bright Future of Mineral Collecting

As the mineral collecting world moves into 2025, there is a wave of excitement and optimism among collectors and industry experts. According to Chad, this year is shaping up to be a pivotal one for the hobby and industry alike.

### **The Promise of Rare Earth Mining**

One of the most exciting developments on the horizon, according to Kaatz, is the anticipated growth of rare earth element mining in the United States. Over the next decade, Kaatz predicts new mines opening in states like Illinois, Montana, and Utah. These projects aim to address the growing demand for elements such as gallium and lithium, which are critical for electronics, vehicles, and renewable energy technologies.

This domestic expansion offers a twofold benefit: creating jobs and ensuring ethical sourcing of these vital resources. Kaatz expressed concerns about current practices in some parts of the world, particularly in Central Africa, where unsafe and unregulated mining conditions are common. A domestic push for rare earth mining could provide high-paying jobs, safety standards, and environmental regulations that are often absent in other regions.

“We could revive entire counties with a single mine,” Kaatz said. “Providing not only economic growth but also setting a global standard for ethical sourcing.”

### **Technology Meets Tradition**

Another transformative development in the mineral collecting world is the rise of technology-driven tools for collectors and dealers. Kaatz highlighted **EarthWonders.com**, a regenerative AI-based platform created by Will Jessup and his team.

This platform revolutionizes how collectors and dealers access, evaluate, and trade minerals. Using AI, it compiles data from across the globe, offering features such as:

- **Global Price Comparisons:** Median and sale prices across platforms in various languages.
- **Collection Digitization:** Tools for collectors to digitize, evaluate, and even consign their collections.
- **Specimen Insights:** Comparisons with similar specimens worldwide.

Described by Kaatz as “light-years ahead” of its competition, EarthWonders.com provides collectors with unbiased, raw information. Its impact on the hobby could be transformative, offering tools that simplify collecting, enhance knowledge, and expand accessibility to minerals worldwide.

### **A New Era for Collectors**

With these advancements, the next five to fifteen years promise to be a golden age for collectors of all ages. From groundbreaking finds to state-of-the-art tools, the world of mineral collecting is set to evolve in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago.

Kaatz concluded, “Mark my words: we are entering an exciting era of discovery and innovation. This is only the beginning.”

Stay tuned as the mineral world continues to grow and evolve—2025 is just the start.

Condensing a captivating two-hour interview into a brief and concise article inevitably has its limitations. If you have some time and would like to dive deeper into our full discussion—and check out some of Chad's latest acquisitions—visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQFNwmkf38Q> (copy and paste) or search YouTube for “Interview with Chad Kaatz.” Look for it under the username “NFMSeditor.”



## Behind The Scenes

By: Judi Allison

Wow! Look at all that action taking place up on the screen! You are watching one of your favorite shows and begin to ponder how all that action is accomplished and recorded. If you look behind the scenes, you discover a lot of work goes on to make your viewing experience pleasant and seamless.

If might not be the same, but a lot of “behind the scenes” activity goes on in the Northwest Federation to create a “pleasant and seamless” experience. For example, your newsletter editor researches interesting things and requests permissions to publish articles that are copyrighted. She sends reminders to the officers that press time is approaching. She creates the newsletter and checks with the board for final approval before you ever see it.

The Bulletin Aids Chairperson reviews all the information to understand the timelines and requirements for the contests. She lets the members know of deadlines through publications in the newsletter. She finds qualified judges to rate the entries and sends the entries that merit entry into the American Federation on to that Chairperson. She puts together the awards and develops a program for the Editors’ Breakfast at the annual convention.

The Junior Chairperson strives to let everyone know all the opportunities open for Juniors, such as the Junior Achievement award and the AFMS Badge Program. She also publishes information in the newsletter for awareness and opportunities. And, of course, the submissions for the awards need to be rated.

The Northwest Rockhound Retreat Chairperson oversees all aspects of the camp. He ensures that attendees are paid up, makes certain there are instructors available, and the equipment is in good running order. He coordinates with OMSI to ready Camp Handcock. I am certain if you were to ask you would find out there are several other things involved with the process.

The PLAC Chairperson (Public Lands Access Association) has been very active over the last few years, attending many meetings relevant to the use and preservation of our public lands for recreational use. She has driven countless miles and spent many hours taking in these meetings.

The Show Coordinator takes the time to research places where the submissions for the numerous club shows

can be advertised. The shows are not only listed in the NFMS newsletter but also passed on to other entities such as the Rock and Gem Magazine.

If you look at the list of committees in the newsletter you will see many. Some of the committees require a small amount of time and effort. The Safety Committee, for example, submits articles related to safety to the newsletter. The Credentials Committee has the one-time yearly duty of verifying the directors representing the individual clubs at the annual meeting.

The list goes on: Budget, Custodian, Directory, Endowment Fund, Nominating, Past Presidents Council, Resolutions, Rules and Awards, Librarian, Scholarship, Stamps. Each person in charge of one of these committees is working behind the scenes to ensure a seamless experience for the membership. And each person does this because they have a special place in their hearts for the Federation and what it is all about. And, please, remember this: every single minute of each of these individuals’ time is VOLUNTEER. Thanks to everyone who gives to our Federation. Each one of you is special.

## Treasurer Report

By: Judi Allison

If you happen to read my “behind the scenes” piece, it came about because of the interesting trip we have taken to get the Treasury to a point where we can take care of business without an issue. If you have ever tried to change anything with a bank, you probably know that it isn’t the easiest thing to do. Admittedly, that is most likely a good thing. Try doing this when there is only one person on the signature card for a “small business” and that person passes away. Somehow, that was the situation we found ourselves in when Andrew passed away. Larry Hulstrom and I spent countless hours and made numerous trips to the bank to get everything to a point where we won’t have such an issue again. After finally getting the general fund and savings set up, we discovered the two CDs purchased from the Junior fund needed additional work. It took us from May until last month to get everything in order. Now I am working on getting our new Treasurer, Faith Farley, on the signature card. It is another process, since we are not in the same physical location. We’re getting there, but our “behind the scenes” continues.



Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society  
[marcuswhitmangem.com](http://marcuswhitmangem.com)  
[info@marcuswhitmangem.com](mailto:info@marcuswhitmangem.com)  
Walla Walla, Washington

## **87<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show & Convention 2025**

Walla Walla, Washington September 5-7, 2025  
Hosted by the Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society

We are excited to combine our Annual Gem Show with the NFMS Convention and welcoming all to Walla Walla. As we look forward to September, we must let you know that this is, quite possibly, the busiest week of the year. In addition to the Gem Show and Conference, there is an Annual Car Show, Aviation Show, and Fall Release for wine lovers. With that being said, we highly recommend getting a head start on booking your stay with us.

Here are various links to lodging options within the valley:

- Bed & Breakfast Lodging: <https://wallawalla.org/lodging/bed-and-breakfast/>
- Hotels & Motels: <https://wallawalla.org/lodging/hotels-motels/>
- RV/Campgrounds: <https://wallawalla.org/lodging/camping-campgrounds/>  
Walla Walla Fairgrounds: <https://www.wallawallafairgrounds.com/p/plan-your-event/grounds-camping>
- Vacation Rentals: <https://wallawalla.org/lodging/vacation-rentals/>

Stay tuned for the full conference program coming soon. We look forward to having you in Walla Walla.





Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat 10 - 7 Sun 12 - 6	Idaho Gem Club  85th Gem Show	Expo Building 'South Wing'  5610 Glenwood  Boise, ID 83714	Brent Stewart  Willa Renken  idahogemclub.com
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>  March 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5	  Chugach Gem and Mineral Society Show	Midtown Mall  3 Large Show Rooms!  600 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  Anchorage, AK 99514	Paul Burger  cavemonpaul@hotmail.com
March 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5	Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society	O' Connor Field House  2207 Blaine Street  Caldwell, ID 83605	Paul Deveau  devidaho66@outlook.com  208-994-8025
March 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5	E. King Co. Rock and Gem Show	Pickering Barn  1730 10th Ave. NW  Issaquah, WA 98027	Kim Villines  earthlightgems@aim.com  425-828-3872
March 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5	E. King Co. Rock and Gem Show	Pickering Barn  1730 10th Ave. NW  Issaquah, WA 98027	Kim Villines  earthlightgems@gmail.com  425-828-3872
March 7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> Fri 10 - 4 Sat 10 - 4 Sun 10 - 4	Oregon Agate & Mineral Society	OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry)  1945 SE Water Ave.  Portland, OR 97214	Rose Cohen  nwcohenfamily@gmail.com



<p>March 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Sat 9-5</p> <p>Sun 9-5</p>	<p>Panorama Gem and Mineral Club</p>	<p>NE Washington Fairgrounds &amp;AG Center</p> <p>317 W. Astor Ave.</p> <p>Colville, WA 99114</p>	<p>Johnie Pitman</p> <p>509-684-8887</p> <p>jgpitman@outlook.com</p>
<p>March 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Fri 10 - 5</p> <p>Sat 10 - 5</p> <p>Sun 10 - 5</p>	<p>Tualatin Valley Gem Club</p>	<p>Forest Grove National Guard Armory</p> <p>2950 Taylor Way</p> <p>Forest Grove, Oregon 97116</p>	<p>Gordon Hale</p> <p>gordanhale@comcast.net</p>
<p>March 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Fri 10-7</p> <p>Sat 10-7</p> <p>Sun 10-5</p>	<p>Timpanagos Gem &amp; Mineral Society Show</p>	<p>Spanish Fork Fairgrounds</p> <p>475 South Main St.</p> <p>Spanish Fork, UT 84660</p>	<p>Jerry Davis</p> <p>801-830-9228</p> <p>carpetman405@gmail.com</p>
<p>March 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; 16<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Sat 9 - 6</p> <p>Sun 10 - 5</p>	<p>Hellgate Mineral Society</p> <p>30th Annual Show</p>	<p>Hilton Garden Inn</p> <p>3720 North Reserve St.</p> <p>Missoula, MT 59801</p>	<p>Neil A. Maier</p> <p>nam56@yahoo.com</p> <p>406-546-6013</p>
<p>March 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 23<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>Sat 9 - 6</p> <p>Sun 10-4</p>	<p>NW Mt. Rock Chucks - Rock &amp; Gem Show</p>	<p>Kalispell Fairgrounds</p> <p>Kalispell, MT 59901</p>	<p>Judy Pettersen</p> <p>406-250-1936</p>
<p>March 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 23<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>Sat 9 - 6</p> <p>Sun 10 - 4</p>	<p>Flathead Chucks Gold Gem and Mineral Show</p>	<p>Flathead County Fairgrounds (Expo Building)</p> <p>265 N. Meridian Rd.</p> <p>Kalispell, MT 59901</p>	<p>Lloyd Fager - oldgreyelf@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>608-436-0400</p> <p>nfmsrockchucks@gmail.com (club email)</p>



<p>March 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 23<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>Sat 10 - 5</p> <p>Sun 10 - 5</p>	<p>SE Idaho Gem &amp; Mineral Society</p>	<p>Bannock County Event Center</p> <p>10588 Fairgrounds</p> <p>Pocatello, ID 83201</p>	<p>Joe Rodriguez</p> <p>rodrider@msn.com</p>
<p>March 29<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> 2025</p> <p>Sat 10 - 5</p> <p>Sun 10 - 5</p>	<p>Mount Baker Rock and Gem Club</p>	<p>Pioneer Pavilion Community Center</p> <p>2007 Cherry Street</p> <p>Ferndale, WA 98248</p>	<p>Candi Gerard</p> <p>candisjewelry@gmail.com</p> <p>www.mtbakerrockclub.org</p>
<p>April 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> 2025</p> <p>Fri 9 - 6</p> <p>Sat 10 - 6</p> <p>Sun 10 - 4</p>	<p>Golden Spike Gem &amp; Mineral Society</p>	<p>Golden Spike Event Center</p> <p>Weber County Fairgrounds</p> <p>1000 N. 1200 W.</p> <p>Ogden, UT 84401</p>	<p>Margie Miller</p> <p>(385) 205-9187</p> <p>goldenspikegem.org</p> <p>FB: Golden Spike Gem &amp; Mineral Society</p>
<p>April 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Sat 10 - 6</p> <p>Sun 10 - 5</p>	<p>Idaho Gem &amp; Mineral Society</p>	<p>Bonneville County Fairgrounds</p> <p>1542 E. 73rd South</p> <p>Idaho Falls, ID 83404</p>	<p>Tom Strong</p> <p>wildlandlapidary@gmail.com</p> <p>www.ifrockhounds.com</p>
<p>April 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Fri 10 - 4</p> <p>Sat 10 - 5</p> <p>Sun 10 - 4</p>	<p>Yakima Rock and Mineral Club</p>	<p>Modern Living Building @ Central Wa. State Fairgrounds</p> <p>1301 South Fair Ave.</p> <p>Yakima, WA 98901</p>	<p>Marti Sondgeroth</p> <p>marthams@g.com</p> <p>509-910-3484</p>
<p>April 26<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Sat 10 - 5</p> <p>Sun 10 - 4</p>	<p>Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club Show</p>	<p>Benton County Fairgrounds</p> <p>1500 S. Oak St.</p> <p>Kennewick, WA 99336</p>	<p>Larry Hulstrom</p> <p>rockhound132@charter.net</p> <p>lakesidegemandmineralclub.com</p>



# NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2025



<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> 2025</b>  Sat 10 - 5  Sun 10 - 5	<b>Everett Rock &amp; Gem Club</b>  <b>70th Annual Show</b>	<b>Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Weikel Event Center</b>  <b>18359 Cascade View Drive</b>  <b>Monroe, WA 98292</b>	<b>everettrockclub@hotmail.com</b>
<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></b>  Sat 9 - 5  Sun 10 - 4  Dealer/Demo Contact:	<b>Umpqua Gem &amp; Mineral Club</b>	<b>Douglas County Fairgrounds</b>  <b>2110 Frear Ave.</b>  <b>Roseburg, OR 97470</b>  Jason Jakubos 541-580-7584	<b>Jay Thomas</b>  <b>jrthoms2@gmail.com</b>  <b>503-400-2090</b>  <b>rockandwool@gmail.com</b>
<b>May 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup></b>  Sat 10 - 5  Sun 10 - 4	<b>Hatrockhound Gem &amp; Mineral Society</b>	<b>Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center</b>  <b>1705 East Airport Rd.</b>  <b>Hermiston, OR 97838</b>	<b>Mike Filarski</b>  <b>stonemorlin1@netscape.net</b>  <b>Hatrockhounds.org</b>
<b>May 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup></b>  Sat 9-5  Sun 10 - 4	<b>Butte Mineral and Gem Club</b>	<b>Butte Civic Center - Main Arena</b>  <b>1340 Harrison Ave.</b>  <b>Butte, MT 59701</b>	<b>Jerry D'Arcy</b>  <b>406-491-2054</b>  <b>jkdudding@gmail.com</b>
<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> &amp; June 1<sup>st</sup> 2025</b>  Sat 9 - 5  Sun 10 - 4	<b>North Idaho Mineral Club's 64th Annual Show</b>	<b>Kootenai County Fairgrounds Jacklin Building #25</b>  <b>4056 N. Government Way</b>  <b>Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815</b>	<b>Mike McConnell</b>  <b>nimcshowchairman@gmail.com</b>
<b>July 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup></b>  Fri 9-6  Sat 9-6  Sun 9-5	<b>Washington Agate and Mineral Society</b>	<b>Tenino City Park</b>  <b>300 Park Ave. W</b>  <b>Tenino, WA 98589</b>	<b>Doug Shank</b>  <b>wamsolympia@gmail.com</b>

# AFMS FEDERATION SHOW DATES



## Shows in 2025:

- AFMS/EFMLS Hickory, NC\*\*  
March 27 - 30
- Midwest Federation Lincoln, NE April 5-6
- Northwest Federation Walla Walla, WA  
Sept 5 - 7
- Rocky Mountain Federation Grand Junction,  
CO Sept 19-21

## Shows in 2026:

- Midwest Federation St. Charles, IL.  
May 23-24

**\*\*GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!** I have tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing to be held at the AFMS Show in Hickory, NC March 27-30. They are \$5 each or five for \$20. Just your name and phone number are fine for the information. Remember that the AFMS Endowment Fund helps support, among others, such things as the judges training, Junior Badge Program and provision of winning programs to each Federation. Send your requests to Judi Allison, 1701 NW 11th ST, Hermiston, OR 97838 by March 10th. Thanks for your support.

## **NFMS Nominating Committee Jennifer Haley, Chairman**

***"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."***

This is one of my favorite quotes about leadership, which comes from John Quincy Adams, our sixth president of the United States. Those words remind me about the leadership I have seen and heard about in rock and gem clubs, within the seven federations and the AFMS, for generations.

Each year, the NFMS Nominating Committee invites you to help us find good people to nominate for the position of 2nd Vice President, to join the executive committee of your federation.

As members of your club, I know you have a good eye and the experience to make recommendations. Also, if you are an individual interested in being 2nd VP don't hold back, let us know. It doesn't matter if we receive more than one nomination between now and up to 60 days before the 2025 NFMS Annual Meeting, because we can keep a list of names for the following year. Nominations for all elected

officers of the NFMS must be in good standing of a recognized NFMS Club, and must be a permanent resident within the boundaries of the NFMS. The 2nd VP is a position for one year, and is a three-year commitment as you go up the ladder to 1st VP and President. 2nd VP is also NFMS Custodian Chairman which is an easy job, because all you need to do is check in with each of the NFMS officers and chairman to see if there have been any changes in the inventory in their keeping and make note of it. Following being NFMS President, you become NFMS Nominating Committee chairman for one year, as I am this year.

It's very rewarding being on the executive committee, and I can tell you that from my experience being on these boards over the years in two different federations. Please send resumes of nomination to me. We have a wonderful future to look forward to together, and I look forward to hearing from you.

## **Rock Of The Month: Halite**

Halite, commonly known as rock salt, is more than just a kitchen staple—it is also a fascinating mineral prized by collectors for its perfect cubic crystal structure and vibrant color variations. Typically found in evaporite deposits where ancient lakes and seas have dried up, halite forms stunning, transparent to translucent crystals, often tinged pink, purple, green, or blue due to trapped impurities or radiation exposure. Some of the finest collectible specimens come from the salt mines of Poland, Germany, and the United States, where large, well-formed crystals are carefully extracted and preserved for display. Unlike many minerals, halite is highly soluble in water, meaning collectors must take special care to protect their specimens from humidity and handling.

Historically, halite has been one of the most valuable minerals in human civilization, shaping trade and commerce for thousands of years. While its primary use was for food preservation and seasoning, natural salt crystals have also fascinated scholars and collectors for centuries. Ancient salt mines, such as those in Poland's Wieliczka Salt Mine, have yielded beautiful halite formations, some of which have been carved into sculptures and even entire underground chapels. Modern mineral collectors seek out halite not just for its aesthetic appeal but also for its unique geological formation process, often displaying it alongside other evaporite minerals like gypsum and sylvite.

For mineral collectors, halite presents both an opportunity and a challenge. While its striking cubic formations make it a visually appealing addition to any collection, its softness and water solubility require careful storage—often in airtight containers or display cases with desiccants to prevent moisture damage. Collectors particularly prize specimens with rare color zoning, hopper growth patterns, or exceptionally large crystal clusters. Whether admired for its scientific properties, historical significance, or sheer beauty, halite remains a unique and rewarding mineral for enthusiasts around the world.

Jessica Himple  
Everett Rock and Gem Club  
Editor for NFMS Newsletter

### **Specimens from my personal collection:**

\*Send in photos of your own specimens for a chance to have them showcased in the newsletter!



Halite - Iran



Halite - Searles Lake, San Bernardino County, California, US



Halite - Saskatchewan, Canada

"Halite." *Mindat.org*, Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, [www.mindat.org/min-1836.html](http://www.mindat.org/min-1836.html).

"Halite." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., [www.britannica.com/science/halite](http://www.britannica.com/science/halite).



## KID'S CORNER



Hello to all the membership of the NFMS!

I hope that you all had an amazing holiday season and are gearing up for a new year of fun! Many of the juniors in the federation have stayed busy and achieved some cool things. Check out the cool picture of one of the kiddos that cut open a massive thunderegg. It is pretty awesome!!! Don't forget to scan through all the badges that have been earned. The kids work hard to earn them and love to share their achievements with you.

One last thing...if you have a junior that is a member of the federation, encourage them to participate in the Junior Achievement Award (application and instructions to follow). This is a special award that only happens once a year. It helps kiddos to highlight the special parts of their lives and gives them a chance to learn how to 'sell themselves', something which they will do in their adult lives when they go to a job interview. The cool thing here is that they can also be awarded some money for doing so!

Have a great day!

Jennifer Fitch

NFMS Junior's Chair



### Meet Addy L.

This great kiddo has really been working hard this past year! She has earned her Collecting Badge, Rocks and Minerals Badge, and Lapidary Badge.

She has contributed an article to the AFMS Junior's Newsletter "Crack the News", and earned a special badge for contributing...the George the Geode Badge. For all her hard work, she was also awarded the New Horizons Award for Junior of the Year for the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society.

Congratulations!

She is pictured here with her HUGE fresh-cut thunderegg!

# Future Rockhounds of America

Congratulations to all of you who have worked so hard! You have done a fantastic job. Keep up the good work!  
 (The star indicates a junior that already earned all the badges and this is their second time earning that badge)



**Rocks and Minerals**  
 Willamette Agate and Mineral Society  
 Addy L.  
  
 Hellgate Mineral Society  
 Micky C.  
 Evelyn C.



**Collecting**  
 Willamette Agate and Mineral Society  
 Addy L.



**Lapidary**  
 Willamette Agate and Mineral Society  
 Addy L.



**Rockhounding Patch**  
 Hellgate Mineral Society  
 Gabriel M.



**New Members!**  
 Hellgate Mineral Society  
 Jack S.  
 Rio L.  
 Hadley E.  
 Taevan G.



**Earth Processes**  
 Hellgate Mineral Society  
 Micky C.  
 Evelyn C.  
 Hudson B.  
 Karis G.  
 Alex M.  
 Gabe M.  
 Thor O.  
 Tempe O.  
 ★ Elisheba F.

**JOKE OF THE MONTH!**

What did the boy volcano say to the girl volcano?

*I really lava you!*

**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Deadline Extension!**

To encourage more participation, the deadline to get the Junior Achievement Award postmarked will now be by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



## NFMS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Jennifer Fitch, NFMS Junior Committee Chairman

It is time for Junior Rockhounds to share their accomplishments from the past two years (2023 and 2024)!

*The Northwest Federation wants to honor you! You must be paid up and listed as a member of your Club and the NFMS.*

### AGE GROUP CATEGORIES

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

Your age as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, determines your age category. If you won an award last time (in 2023), you will need to wait until 2024 to enter again unless you have moved up into the next age category.

Your resume and application together require a postmark by February 15, 2025. Winners will be notified soon 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 [jfitch2711@yahoo.com](mailto:jfitch2711@yahoo.com), or you can ask your parents, your Junior's Advisor, or the Federation Director of your rock club. Everyone will be delighted to help you in the quest of achieving fame!

Awards will be presented at the NFMS Annual Meeting in Walla Walla, Washington, in September 2025.

### Here are your three easy steps:

1. Write or type a short summary (resume/outline) about what your achievements are for the past two years (2023 and 2024), following sections I, II, III, and 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 your summary (resume/outline) and completed and signed application to:

Jennifer Fitch—NFMS Junior Committee Chairman  
21148 Old US Hwy 93  
Florence, MT 59833

\*\*\*\**Make sure to have it mailed in time to have a postmark by (February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025)*\*\*\*\*

## Guidelines for Junior Achievement Award

### Section I – HOBBY RELATED (45 possible points)

Club involvement (*field trips, committees, show participation*)  
Hobby craft involvement (*faceting, lapidary, metals, collecting*)  
Competitive involvement (*display, articles, promotion, awards*)

### Section II – EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (25 possible points)

Scholastic (*honor roll, advanced classes, improvement of grades*)  
Extracurricular (*sports, drama, debate, drill team, music*)

### Section III – COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT (20 possible points)

Events involvement (*charity, volunteer, donation programs*)  
Scouts, Campfire, 4-H Club, other community groups.

### Section IV – WORK RELATED (10 possible points)

**APPLICATION ~ Junior Achievement Award**

(This information is confidential)

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age (as of 12/31/2024) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Rock Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Junior Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

***The following club officials attest to the applicant being a paid-up member of the listed rock club and NFMS:***

Federation Director's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Federation Director's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Club President's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club President's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

***Mail your SUMMARY (resume/outline) and APPLICATION to:***

Jennifer Fitch – NFMS Junior Committee Chairman  
21148 Old US Hwy 93  
Florence, MT 59833

***\*\*Please be sure to mail with a postmark by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Thank you!***

**NFMS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2024-2025**

**PRESIDENT:** Lora Hall, Hellgate Mineral Society of Missoula, MT, PO Box 1095, Frenchtown MT 59834 [sil-vertipminis@msn.com](mailto:sil-vertipminis@msn.com)

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:** Michael Rhodes, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 317 E 200 S, Brigham City, UT, 84302-2621, (435) 230 0403 [mrmbrhodes0@gmail.com](mailto:mrmbrhodes0@gmail.com)

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:** Gary Warren, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 317 E 200 S, Brigham City, UT, 84302, (435) 720 - 1775 [rockhunter1946@gmail.com](mailto:rockhunter1946@gmail.com)

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Judi Allison, Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11<sup>th</sup>. St., Hermiston, OR, 97882, (541) 720-4950, [nfmssec@gmail.com](mailto:nfmssec@gmail.com)

**TREASURER: VACANT**

**Judi Allison (pro tem)**, Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11<sup>th</sup>. St., Hermiston, OR, 97882, (541) 720-4950, [nfmssec@gmail.com](mailto:nfmssec@gmail.com)

**NFMS STANDING COMMITTEES**

**BUDGET:** 1st Vice President (see above)

**BULLETIN AIDS:** Priscilla Hall-Ford Oregon Agate & Mineral Society, P.O.Box 818, La Center, WA 98629 (360) 518-7829. [Rockhounder2019@comcast.net](mailto:Rockhounder2019@comcast.net)

**CIRCULATION:** Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 875 E 4500 S, S. Ogden, UT 84403, (801) 479-4286, [Roxhund@aol.com](mailto:Roxhund@aol.com)  
\* Clubs need only to send contact info for their board members. Contact clubs directly to reach out to specific members.

**CREDENTIALS:** Del & Clara Walker, Tualatin Valley Gem Club, 12377 SE Davis Loop, Prineville, OR, 97754, (503) 812-6540, [cwalk12377@gmail.com](mailto:cwalk12377@gmail.com)

**CUSTODIAN:** 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President: (see above)

**DIRECTORY:** Janel Lacey, Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, 43618 SW McKay Dr, Pendleton, OR, 97801, (541) 215-2839, [jlawl6461@gmail.com](mailto:jlawl6461@gmail.com)  
\* Clubs need only to send contact info for their board members. Contact clubs directly to reach out to specific members.

**EDUCATION/ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARD : OPEN**

**ENDOWMENT FUND:**  
**CHAIRMAN:** Vicki Johnson, Southern Washington Mineralogical Society, 1574 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Kelso, WA 98626 (360) 751-8031, [vickijrocks@msn.com](mailto:vickijrocks@msn.com)

**SECRETARY: OPEN**

**TREASURER:** Faith Farley, Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, 392 Market St S, Corvallis, MT 59828, (406) 961-3347 [earthmother169@gmail.com](mailto:earthmother169@gmail.com)

**FINANCIAL ADVISOR:** Jim Brain, NFMS Club-At-Large, 6410 W Sundance Dr., Spokane, WA 99208, (509) 863-9883, [jrbrain233@outlook.com](mailto:jrbrain233@outlook.com)

**HISTORIAN:** Robert Dalton, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club, 18485 SW Pacific DR Unit 92, Tualatin, OR 97062 (859) 533-0026, [Robert.dalton1960@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.dalton1960@gmail.com)

**JUNIORS CHAIR:** Jennifer Fitch, Hellgate Mineral Society, 21148 Old US Hwy 93, Florence, MT, 59833 (517) 281-7461, [Fitchs4god@aol.com](mailto:Fitchs4god@aol.com)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Jessica Himple, (425) 622-3504, [nfmseditor@outlook.com](mailto:nfmseditor@outlook.com)

**NFMS CLUB-AT-LARGE: 1ST Vice President** (see above)

**NOMINATING CHAIRMAN:** Jennifer Haley 2490 Spring Mountain Rd. St. Helena, CA 94574 541-660-1832 [ladybuglane@napablogger.com](mailto:ladybuglane@napablogger.com)

**NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RE-TREAT (Hancock):** Walter Butler, 8821 SW Equestrian Place, Crooked River Ranch, OR 97760, (503) 702-5743, [waltercbutler@comcast.net](mailto:waltercbutler@comcast.net)

**PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL:** Larry Hulstrom, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W 26th Ave. Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 308-8312, [rockhound132@charter.net](mailto:rockhound132@charter.net)

**PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY:** Susie Koppert, Mt. Hood Rock Club, 135 SE Marsh Rd., Sandy, OR 97055 [susiekopper@mail.com](mailto:susiekopper@mail.com)

**RESOLUTIONS:** Audrey Vogelpohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617, (206) 932-3292, [avogelpohl@comcast.net](mailto:avogelpohl@comcast.net)

**RULES AND AWARDS COMMITTEE:**  
**RULES AND AWARDS CHAIR:** Joshua Hulstrom, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W 26th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 306-0385, [josh\\_hulstrom@hotmail.com](mailto:josh_hulstrom@hotmail.com)

**JUDGING DIRECTOR :** Charise Ash, Mount Hood Rock Club, 2331 N Mist Dr, Vernonia, OR 97064, [charisemarie@gmail.com](mailto:charisemarie@gmail.com)

**EXHIBITS REGISTRAR:** Larry Hulstrom, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W 26th Ave. Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 308-8312, [rockhound132@charter.net](mailto:rockhound132@charter.net)

**SAFETY:** Kathryn Larson, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 4102 S Auburn St, Kennewick, WA 99337 [misaique@hotmail.com](mailto:misaique@hotmail.com)

**SCHOLARSHIP:** Mary Lou Northrup, 1623 Powers Ave, Lewiston, ID 83501, (208) 743-6944, [milandjl@yahoo.com](mailto:milandjl@yahoo.com)

**SHOW COORDINATOR:** Faith Farley, Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, 392 Market St S, Corvallis, MT 59828, (406) 961-3347 [earthmother169@gmail.com](mailto:earthmother169@gmail.com)

**SLIDE/ VIDEO LIBRARIAN:** Ronna Watkins, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, PO Box 635, Tieton WA 98947, (509) 673-0085 [nfmsronna@gmail.com](mailto:nfmsronna@gmail.com)

**STAMPS:** Aaron Currier, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, 2182 Broadway Ct, Salem, OR, 97304 (503) 385-5649, [fossils@curriergraphics.com](mailto:fossils@curriergraphics.com)

Ed Anderson, Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society, 40182 Hilltop Dr, Lebanon, OR, 97355 (541) 451-1577, [ela4rocks@gmail.com](mailto:ela4rocks@gmail.com)

**SUPPLIES: OPEN**

**WAYS & MEANS: OPEN**

**WEBMASTER:** Brad Larson, Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society, 6010 W. Cruzen St., Boise, ID 83704

**NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Doug True,**  
Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622  
Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102,  
(406) 670-0506,  
[dtruefossils12@yahoo.com](mailto:dtruefossils12@yahoo.com)

**ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Laurie  
Ellis,** Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral  
Society, 57462 Clarks Canyon Rd,  
Heppener, OR 97836, (541) 626-3131,  
[nfmsroy@gmail.com](mailto:nfmsroy@gmail.com)

**SHOW CHAIR 2023: Mike Filarski,**  
Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Soci-  
ety, PO Box 502, Irrigon, OR 97844,  
(541) 571-2593,  
[stonemorlin1@netscape.net](mailto:stonemorlin1@netscape.net)

**WEBSITE CONTEST: OPEN**

**AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Repre-  
sentatives)**

**AFMS 1st VP - Ronna Watkins**  
**AFMS Junior Program Chair - Lora  
Hall**

**ENDOWMENT FUND - Judi Allison**  
**PROGRAM COMPETITION - DeLane  
Cox**

**SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION- Mary  
Lou Northrup**

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

The **AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS AS-  
SOCIATION (ALAA)** is a 501(c)(4) or-  
ganization. Its purpose is to promote and  
ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil  
and mineral collecting, recreational pro-  
specting and mining, and the use of public  
and private lands for educational and re-  
creational purposes; and to carry the voice  
of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to  
our elected officials, government regula-  
tors and public lands managers. Your an-  
nual individual/couple membership fee is  
\$25 which helps support their activi-  
ties. Club membership is \$50 per  
year. Send to Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398,  
San Jose, CA 95154. Make checks paya-  
ble to: American Lands Access Assn. Ap-  
plications can be downloaded  
at: [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org) on the left side of  
the page. For more information con-  
tact: Frank Mullaney, 408-266-1791, cell:  
408-691-2655, [Rockyfv@aol.com](mailto:Rockyfv@aol.com)

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Each NFMS member society should have  
three people (usually the Pres, Secretary  
and Editor) receiving the AFMS Newslet-  
ter. If they are not, or if anyone else wants

to subscribe (\$5 per year). Contact: Linda  
Jaeger, 3515 E 88th St, Tulsa, OK 74137,  
[AFMSeditor@AMFED.org](mailto:AFMSeditor@AMFED.org) (918) 630-  
6498 or (918) 481-0249. Make checks  
payable to "AFMS".

The **NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER** is  
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(NFMS) and is sent to each club electroni-  
cally in PDF form between six to ten times  
per year. It is the responsibility of each  
club to forward the newsletter to the mem-  
bership. The newsletters are also posted to  
the Federation website electronically and  
archived there for members to review or  
download.

**For matters related to this newsletter  
(i.e. content, advertising, etc.) contact  
the editor.**

**SHOW COORDINATION. Your Fed-  
eration provides a free service for  
NFMS members by listing your show in  
this Newsletter, on the NFMS website,  
two magazines ("Rocks and Minerals"  
and  
"Rock and Gem") and the on-line calen-  
dar from "Lapidary Journal". Please  
provide the date and time for the show,  
the club name and show title (if applica-  
ble), the location of the show, admission  
price, and most important a contact per-  
son with  
address, e-mail address and/or phone (e-  
mail is preferred). Please send your  
show information four to six months in  
advance to the Show Coordination  
Chairperson. If you see an error once  
your show is listed, or if your show is  
not listed, contact the Newsletter Chair**

**SAVE STAMPS PROGRAM.** NFMS  
members are encouraged to use and save  
commemorative stamps. The money gener-  
ated from the sale of these used (cancelled)  
stamps is then donated to Junior Fund.  
The collected stamps can be sent to the  
**Stamps Chairperson**, brought to the  
NFMS Annual Show or given to your Fed-  
eration Director in your club.

**ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS****Where to send your money**

To NFMS Treasurer for:

1. Dues (new and renewal) and  
supplies
2. Donations for the general fund
3. Donations to Junior  
Achievement
4. Advertisement in this  
Newsletter

Send to: see Treasurer this page.

To NFMS Endowment Fund Treasurer for:

1. Donations to Endowment Fund
2. Memorial contributions  
Make check payable to NFMS  
Endowment Fund, send to Endowment  
Fund Treasurer, 8810 37th Ave SW, Seat-  
tle, WA 98126-3617

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

1. Donations to AFMS Scholar-  
ship Fund
2. Memorial contributions to  
AFMS Scholarship  
Make check payable to AFMS Scholarship  
Fund.  
Send to: Mary Lou Northrup (see Scholar-  
ship this page).

To AFMS Endowment Fund for:

1. Donations to AFMS Endow-  
ment
  2. Memorials
- Send to: See AFMS Newsletter

To ALAA Treasurer for:

- Memberships, new and renewals
- Donations
- Make check payable to ALAA  
( American Lands Access  
Assn) Treasurer, P.O. Box  
54398, San Jose, CA 95154

NFMS WEB SITE: [www.amfed.org/nfms](http://www.amfed.org/nfms)  
or  
<http://northwestfederation.org/>

**\*Due to changing to an elec-  
tronic newsletter, clubs are  
no longer required to send  
contact information  
throughout the year for  
members who are added or  
removed from their roster.  
Directory will now only re-  
quire the contact infor-  
mation for the board mem-  
bers of each club. If you  
would like to contact a spe-  
cific person in another club,  
please contact their club.**