



NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 66 NO.3 - MARCH 2026
NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES



REMINDER:

All newsletter submissions must be received by the 25th of each month to be included in the following issue.

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NFMS President Michael Rhodes

One of the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Club's outreach programs is working with Elementary School STEM Programs. This past week we had the opportunity to present a rock cycle program to a group of 3d to 6th grade students, It is exciting to share our enthusiasm for rocks and minerals with the younger generation, Our program included microminerals, a "gem search" through Montana Sapphire gravel :salted" with other small pieces of gem. A table showing the division between igneous sedimentary, and and metamorphic rocks, A fourth table gave students the opportunity to guess which specimens will float and guessing wich are heaviest by look. A number of faculty members and other STEM presenters stopped by to ask questions about rocks and about our club. It would be interesting to hear from other member clubs to learn about your community outreach programs. Our annual show is just weeks away in Missoula, MT and I am looking forward to meeting with directors and delegates to learn more about other member clubs. We will be discussing the results of the survey on use of Endowment Funds to benefit the NFMS member clubs.

I am also interested in learning what we as a federation can do to be a better help to you, our federation members. What are the concerns from individual members and clubs and what are your expectations from federation leadership. If you are willing to put in the time and effort, we could use volunteers to help with our federation committees. Many committees currently have one person as chairman, but no committee members. We are always interested in giving you the opportunity to share your interests and expertise in ways that will improve the federation.

See you in Missoula, and as always, ROCK ON!

NFMS 1st Vice President Jennifer Haley

As I write this, I am close to finishing up working on the NFMS Proposed Budget for 2027. Each year for every NFMS 1st VP, one of their jobs is chairman for the budget. Because I've done it before, and in understanding all the thought and details that needs to go into it, I actually find it rather fun this time around. And that's saying a lot, because I never thought of myself as a number's person before. So you see, you can volunteer to be a NFMS officer or a committee chairman or be on a committee, and you'll learn so much that it is involved in being a federation. I don't plan the budget all on my own. I work on laying out the budget though interactions and feedback from the chairmen and the officers. Once I think I have it ready, then it goes back to the executive board for review and final tweaking, before it's presented to all of you at the NFMS Annual Meeting for your approval. I can tell you, working together with all of them is a great experience.

The NFMS is a wonderful federation, and I've enjoyed being a part of it since I joined a few years ago. It's full of warm and friendly people, who are generous with their time, and dedicated to this federation. So, I would encourage you to volunteer. Each year we are always looking for a 2nd VP, so please do think about it. There are a few open committees that could use an open hand, and don't forget, there is room for your creativity within those committees and officer positions.

My last few words are, send in your pre-registration forms for the NFMS Annual event, generously hosted by the Hellgate Mineral Society in Missoula, Montana. They are putting on a great show, and their BBQ banquet is going to be superb! They've put a lot of thought into this show so I know you'll be sure to enjoy it. See you at the show!



Acting on a Challenge Judi Allison

I don't consider myself an expert in any creative area, or necessarily adept at any form of lapidary arts, but I do enjoy creating gem trees. I just make them "with my mind" and hope they come out as I want. I never use a pattern or try to duplicate something. I just "go with the flow".

My daughter sent me a photo of a gem tree mounted on a wall with a series of rocks below. Her comment with the photo was, "Why don't you make this, Mom?" Ever up for a challenge, I decided to give it a try. The photos accompanying this article are the result of my endeavors. I first had to figure out how to suspend the rocks, so I experimented with shells, thinking they would be lighter. I used cardboard as a base and imbedded a loop in the back for hanging purposes. After creating the one with shells, I decided it seemed to be holding up to the weight of hanging on the wall, so I decided to try the rocks. I had a bead shaped like a crescent moon, so I ended up sticking it on that piece. I never have quite decided if I like it there or not, but all in all, I thought things came out quite well.

(I am sharing this because of Jennifer Haley's invitation in the last newsletter. What do you have to share?)



Endowment Fund: As you can see in the list at the back of every newsletter, the Endowment Committee lists the **Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Advisor**. Our chairperson is **Vicki Johnson**. We have gained a new Treasurer; **Mikki Richard**. And the Financial Advisor is **Jim Brain**. The Secretary position remains vacant, so for now, the committee assures amongst itself that minutes are written. This committee usually functions through emails, having possible Zoom meetings if necessary. They will also plan on having an in-person meeting at the Annual Show, if it is warranted. The major purpose of this committee is to oversee the Endowment Fund and help members decide on the dispersion of any expendable funds generated by interest income through financial investments. The fund is kept at a base amount as non-expendable funds, with the balance available for needed projects and expenses not covered by the general fund. The Endowment Fund was created to protect the Federation if there were years when income was not sufficient to cover costs. Fortunately, recently with the advent of the electronic newsletter the times when the money can often be used for special projects and wishes rather than covering expenses have increased. Remember that survey that was sent with repeated requests to complete it? That was to be certain that the ENTIRE membership of the Federation was involved in making those decisions. As with all surveys, only a small percentage responded, so the information will be used as collected. Hopefully, this information will give you a better idea about the positive aspects of having the endowment fund and competent folks to take care of it. I also want to remind clubs and individuals that we continue to accept donations to add to the base fund in order to continue to assure our financial safety well into the future.



Safety: This committee is relatively simple as the key to serving effectively is to submit information and articles to our publications that will remind us of the importance of being safe in our hobby. As one would expect, the hobby with its collecting, lapidary arts and the like can present some issues unique to the hobby itself. So let's thank our current Chairperson, **Kathy Larson** for reminding us about keeping our all-precious bodies safe while we are out there having fun.

Directory: **Janel Lacey**, our Directory Chair, takes all that information that each club sends in with their membership renewal and collates it to create a comprehensive list of contacts that can be used by the individual clubs and committees. If a show chairman might need an additional person for their show,



they could contact another show chair for ideas. The Bulletin Aids Chairperson has the contact information for the Clubs' Editors to inform them about the contest. The Treasurer has the information for sending out renewal notices to club treasurers. Clubs can correspond directly with key people in every club. A new Directory is available at the first meeting of the year. It could be

a mid-year meeting, Annual Meeting or Organizational meeting, depending on when the meeting falls. Each club receives a complementary Directory. (If additional ones are desired, a few may be available for purchase.) Directories will be mailed to clubs who do not have a representative at the meeting. Keep in mind that even though each club receives only one Directory they should be available to all members to use for the purpose of contacting a key person in a neighboring club. An example of reasoning for such contact could be to learn about collecting sites in a particular area or possible field trip one could join while on vacation in an area. The Directories are created as a resource for all members. It is the hope that they are used.

Public Lands Access Chair (PLAC) As Rockhounds within a nonprofit organization, we cannot lobby or be involved in any political activity representing the Federation. (That is a purpose left to ALAA, so join them also. Dues are only \$25 per individual or \$50 per club.) But we can be information gatherers and advocate for our hobby by sitting in at meetings which are held to discuss land use. Our PLAC Chairperson, **Susie Koppert** does just that. She has been so diligent in her position that she gained a position on the BLM Revisory Council Committee. Sadly, with the advent of changes in the government, this committee was cut. Attempts are being made to regroup and renew the focus. In the meantime, Susie continues to go to innumerable meetings and speaks on behalf of rockhounds. Catch her sometime between meetings and have a conversation with her. You will see her passion emerge.



Rules and Awards: This is another committee where you will see a collection of titles. They are **Exhibits Registrar, Judging Director and Chairperson**. This committee oversees competitive exhibits. The idea is for a member to commit to a three-year succession. The first year



the individual serves as Exhibits Registrar, who oversees receiving applications for competitive displays. The next year the person will act as Judging Director. This person is responsible for obtaining judges and clerks to complete the process of assessing and judging the competitive displays. And the last year the person serves as the Rules Chair overseeing the entire process. One learns about the process by serving in the previous two years, so things can run smoothly. The Rules and Awards Committee follows all the guidelines from the American Federation, so nothing needs to be created or invented. The two individuals who have been completely dedicated to this endeavor are **Larry and Josh Hulstrom**. Although they have served in all capacities for much more than the official "three-year" commitment, they continue because of their strong belief in the value of competitive display and the process that it entails. They would love to see others step up into these positions, and you can rest assured they will not leave you out in left field without any instruction and assistance. You don't have to be a competitive displayer to hold these positions, so if you have ever thought about committing to a committee, you might find this one to your liking. You even get to attend the shows to carry out your duties, and as Chairperson, you get to go to the American Federation Show. (Not that you can't do that as a regular hobbyist, but why not give yourself a greater purpose?)



Did You Know?

The Chugach Club has two shows per year. One February with the Fur Rondy and one in the fall with the Miners Convention. Let's go to **Alaska!**

MT Baker Club has a retail store at Bellis Fair Mall in Bellingham. They have been there for over 5 years. Nine members participate in the store. Their lapidary room is also located there. Let's go to the Mall!

What is some special tidbit about your club? Send it to me and I will add it to the newsletter. Let's share the special things about our hobby. Judi Allison nfmssec@gmail.com or jms46@outlook.com

NFMS Safety Chair

Kathryn Larson

Shop Safety

I learned a new skill. I was making a knife handle out of stone which involves using a trim saw and a bench grinder set with various wheels. I am not an expert and in fact it's been a few years since I last played with a grinder. So it was with a little intimidation that I approached the wheels.

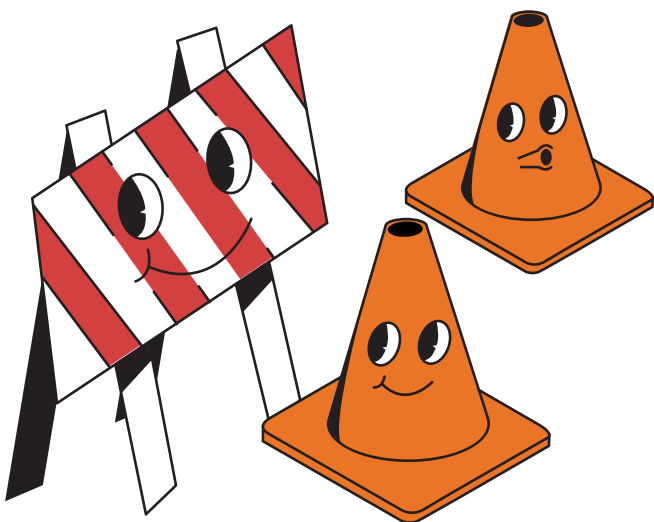
First, I had forgotten how noisy the 80-grit diamond wheel is! Where was my hearing protection?? I didn't have eye goggles so I had to use my glasses. Then I rubbed my index finger on 300 grit wheel taking off a small piece of hide which then proceeded to remind me whenever I bumped it. What can I do to avoid that in the future? I think there are fingers guards that I might explore using in the future.

What else? Standing for hours on the concrete made my back ache. I need an anti-fatigue mat to absorb some of the stress. That and really good shoes to alleviate the stress of standing.

Water accumulates on the floor during the grinding process causes slips and falls. I kept a rag handy to soak up the excess water.

All in all, I think I did okay with my first knife handle. I'll remember my items for protection next time. Keep learning those new skills and stay safe out there.

Kathryn Larson
NFMS Safety Chair



Coming to a show near you!

Lora Hall

NFMS T-shirts in your choice of Garnet Red or Sapphire Blue will be available at the NFMS Annual Meeting and Hellgate Mineral Society Gem and Mineral Show. There will be a limited number available so be sure to get yours early. These 100% cotton T-shirts have the NFMS logo on the front, and You might be a Rockhound if... on the back. Proceeds will go to the NFMS Endowment Fund.



AFMS Historian

Jennifer Haley

A Paperweight and Pencil Holder

I thought this was a fun craft project, submitted by Ethelwyn Dills back in the 1960's for rockhound club members to use. Although the materials call for sterling silver, you can use other types of metals of your choosing and gauge, as long as the gauge will give you the strength to hold a pencil or pen in position. Let your creativity lead the way on this project. If you'd like me to send you a full-size pattern for your club in document form or snail mail form, just let me know.

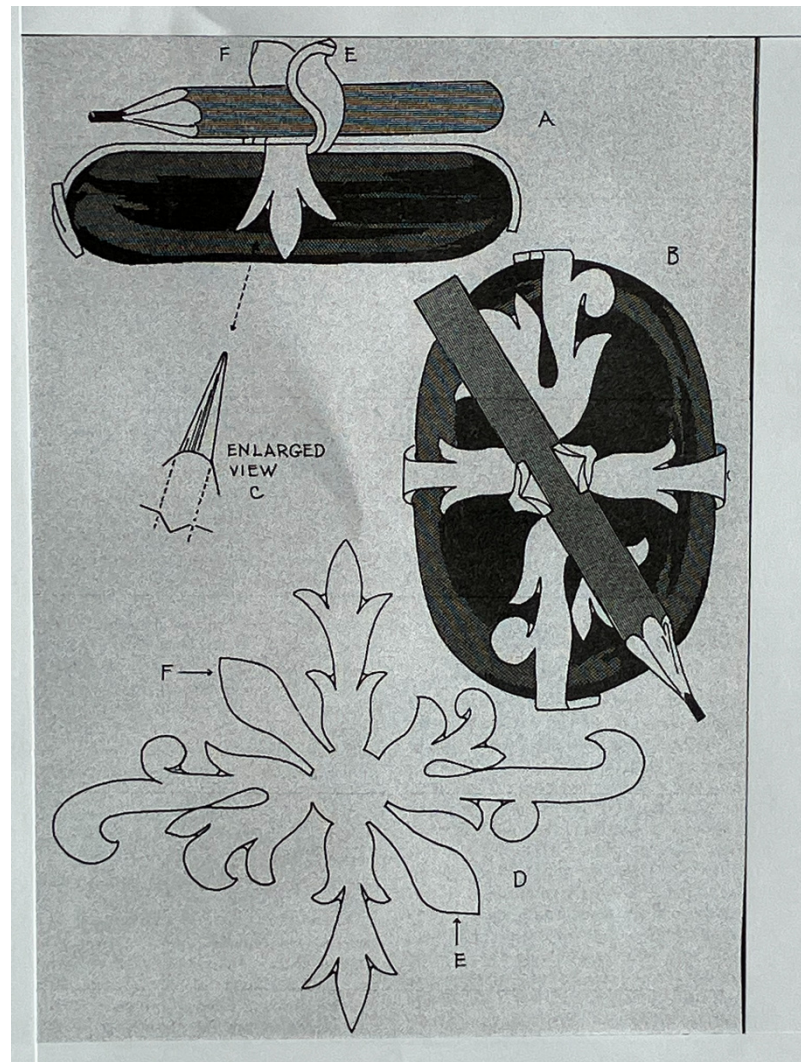
Materials: 1 piece 18-gauge sterling silver flat sheet 4"x3 1/2"; 2 stones similar in size and shape to the ones shown.

Tools: Jeweler's saw and blades, a stylus, needle files—including square needle file, chain-nose pliers.

For finishing: abrasives, coarse, medium and fines; Tripoli and rouge.

Instructions:

1. Cut out a paper pattern of figure D. Fold this pattern around your stone, and if necessary, adjust so that it will fit the stone on the four ends as shown in figure A.
2. Trace with carbon paper the outline of the pattern onto the piece of sheet metal. Scratch the lines onto the sheet with a stylus and saw carefully in the line. File all the edges. Study the enlarged view of the figure C. Use the square needle file to make the grooves as show in figure C. Figure D has all the grooves indicated.
3. Polish the surface with coarse, medium and fine abrasives; also polish the two prongs on the underside (see figure E and F). An electric motor with polishing buffs will shorten the polishing job. Wash the piece in detergent after using each polishing agent (Tripoli and rouge).
4. Bend the two prongs up (see E and F in figure A), and shape them to hold a pencil as show in figures A and B.
5. Then, with a rawhide mallet, shape the four ends of the silver scroll around the stone to hold it firmly in place.



Donations

Mary Lou Northup

Has your club lost a valued member lately? Would you like to honor someone in your club either living or deceased? Maybe you would consider making a donation in their name to the Northwest Federation Scholarship Fund. In our club when someone is deceased we just pass a hat at a monthly meeting. Any money collected goes to the fund. Other clubs just have a set amount that they donate. Either way make a check payable to American Federation Scholarship Fund and mail it to me. I'm included in Northwest Newsletter as Scholarship Committee person. Remember two students in our Northwest geology program receive \$4,000.00 scholarships each year to further their studies. A donation does help even if it is just coming from your club because you want to help. Thank you in advance.

HELLGATE MINERAL SOCIETY



ADVANCE REGISTRATION

Submission Deadline: February 20, 2025
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
and Hellgate Mineral Society Present

Treasures of the Northwest

Hilton Garden Inn 3720 N. Reserve St. Missoula, MT 59808

March 21-22, 2026

NFMS Meetings on Friday, March 20



- **Complete Page 2 of this Advance Registration Form, one form per attendee**
- **Submit Page 2 and check as directed on Page 2.**

Friday March 20, 2026 - First Lutheran Church, 2808 South Ave W, Missoula, MT 59804

- 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM: Start the day with Coffee and Pastries
- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Editors/Webmasters Meeting
- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Editors, Officers, Committee Chairs, etc. Brunch & Social Time
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Officers/Committee Chairs, Judges/Clerks, Past Presidents Meeting

Friday March 20, 2026 - @ Hilton Garden Inn, Salon A

- 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM: NFMS Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 21, 2026 – Hilton Garden Inn, Salon A

- 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM: Juniors Cracker Barrel
- 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Presentation (Topic to be determined)
- 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Presentation (Topic to be determined)
- 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Presentation (Topic to be determined)

Saturday, March 21, 2026 - First Lutheran Church, 2808 South Ave W, Missoula, MT 59804

This is a Non-Alcohol Event and Setting

- 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Awards Banquet
There is a maximum of 75 banquet tickets, first come, first served.
 - The NFMS is pleased to offer "Free Admission" to the first 40 NFMS Society Directors to register.
 - Contact Steve Stiff to confirm availability of "Free Admission" prior to submitting an Advanced Registration.
 - A Society Director's name and society will be taken to confirm and issue a "Free Admission".
 - **Any issued Society Director "Free Admission" not claimed will be back-billed to that Society by NFMS.**



ADVANCE REGISTRATION
Submission Deadline: February 20, 2025
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
and Hellgate Mineral Society Present
Treasures of the Northwest



Hilton Garden Inn 3720 N. Reserve St. Missoula, MT 59808
March 21-22, 2026
NFMS Meetings on Friday, March 20

- Complete one form per attendee.
- Meals will be provided for individuals with Advance Registration only.

NAME _____ (please print legibly)

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE ZIP _____

HOME SOCIETY _____

Attendee Federation and/or Club Affiliations (check all that apply):

- ☐ NFMS Officer ☐ Past President ☐ NFMS Committee Chair ☐ Society Director/Delegate ☐ Judge
☐ AFMS Officer ☐ Presenter/Lecturer ☐ Competitive Exhibitor ☐ Non-Competitive Exhibitor
☐ Other _____ (significant other, spouse, child, etc.)

2-DAY SHOW PASS (daily rate of \$5.00 x 2 days): \$10.00 \$ _____

- Competitive Exhibitors admitted free.
A copy of the NFMS Competitive Exhibit Entry Form Page 1 must accompany this form.
- Children under 12 admitted free when registration is accompanied by an adult registration.

Friday March 20, 2026 - First Lutheran Church, 2808 South Ave W, Missoula, MT 59804

• 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Brunch: **\$10.00** \$ _____

Saturday, March 21, 2026 – First Lutheran Church, 2808 South Ave W, Missoula, MT 59804

This is a Non-Alcohol Event and Setting

• 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Awards Banquet: **\$35.00** \$ _____

ADVANCED REGISTRATION TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to: Hellgate Mineral Society

Mail completed ADVANCE
REGISTRATION form(s) and check(s)
to:

Steven Stiff
4013 Thomas Place
Missoula, MT 59803

Contact Information:

email: steven.stiff@bresnan.net
text/phone: 406-529-2671



NFMS Competitive Exhibit Entry Form
Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026
Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
and Hellgate Mineral Society Present
Treasures of the Northwest
March 21-22, 2026



Hilton Garden Inn 3720 N. Reserve St. Missoula, MT 59808

EXHIBIT SET-UP RULES:

All competitive exhibits must comply with the AFMS/NFMS rules updated January 2024. For complete rules and updates go to: <https://www.amfed.org>.

EXHIBIT SETUP: FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2026, 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM

- All entries must be ready for judging by Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 AM.
- Exhibits may **NOT** be removed before Sunday, March 22 at 5:00 PM.
- Cases will be assigned space on display tables approximately 30 inches high.
- Display cases **WILL NOT** be opened at any time during the show without a member of the NFMS Rules Committee present.
- **Competitive Exhibitors receive a free 2-day pass.**
- ***There is no entry fee for a competitive exhibit.***

ENTRY FORMS:

- Complete one **two-page** entry form per display case.
- Please provide all information requested on the **two** pages of the **NFMS Competitive Exhibit Entry Form**.
- For Junior Exhibits, the Society Officer certifying the exhibit completes Page 1.
- For Society Exhibits and Junior Society Exhibits:
 - The Society Officer certifying the exhibit completes Page 1.
 - Each Exhibitor completes Page 2.
 - Submit Page 1 and all Page 2s together.
- Mail or e-mail the completed pages to:
Larry Hulstrom, 5409 West 26th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99338
E-Mail: rockhound132@charter.net

Liability:

It is mutually agreed that the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Hellgate Mineral Society shall not be liable to any Exhibitor in whole or in part. This includes the property of the Exhibitor and/or injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submission of this signed entry form constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXHIBITOR RULES AND LIABILITY (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY):

Name: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Exhibit Title: _____

Exhibit Description: _____

COMPETITIVE EXHIBIT ENTRY FORM – PAGE 2

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

EXHIBITOR:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SOCIETY/JUNIOR SOCIETY: _____

EXHIBITOR GROUP: (check one)

☐ MASTER ☐ ADVANCED ☐ NOVICE ☐ JUNIOR

☐ SOCIETY EXHIBIT ☐ JUNIOR SOCIETY EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT DIVISION: _____ EXHIBIT CLASS: _____

For JUNIOR entry, date of birth: ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

DISPLAY CASES:

Display cases are required. Display cases will be available on a limited basis, first come, first served.
The basic case size is 4 ft. x 2 ft. x 2 ft. Liners and/or risers may or may not be available.

Do you need a display case? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If **NO**, what is the size of your display case? Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____

EXHIBITOR CERTIFICATION:

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

Signature _____ Date: _____

OFFICER CERTIFICATION:

I certify, as an officer of the above-named Society, that the exhibitor is a member in good standing of that society, and to the best of my knowledge, is eligible to exhibit in the stated classification according to the rules.

Name: _____

Title _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

E-Mail: _____

HELLGATE MINERAL SOCIETY



NFMS Non-Competitive Exhibit Entry Form

Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

and Hellgate Mineral Society Present

Treasures of the Northwest

March 21-22, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn 3720 N. Reserve St. Missoula, MT 59808



Exhibit Setup: Friday March 20, 2026, 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM

- All entries must be ready for judging by Saturday, March 21 at 8:00 AM.
- Exhibits may **NOT** be removed before Sunday, March 22 at 5:00 PM.
- Cases will be assigned space on display tables approximately 30 inches high.
- Display cases will not be opened at any time during the show without a member of the NFMS Rules Committee present.
- **Non-competitive Exhibitors DO NOT receive a free 2-day pass.**
- ***There is no entry fee for a non-competitive exhibit.***

Entry Forms:

- One entry form per display case.
- Please complete all information on this entry form and submit via mail or email to:
 - Mail: Steven Stiff, 4013 Thomas Pl., Missoula, MT 59803
 - Email: steven.stiff@bresnan.net

Liability:

It is mutually agreed that the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Hellgate Mineral Society shall not be liable to any Exhibitor in whole or in part. This includes the property of the Exhibitor and/or injury to their person resulting from any cause. Submission of this signed entry form constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

Exhibit Information (please print legibly):

Adult Exhibit (Y/N) _____ Junior Exhibit (Y/N) _____ Society Exhibit (Y/N) _____

Exhibitor Printed Name: _____

Exhibitor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Exhibit Title: _____

Exhibit Description: _____

A REMINDER AND REQUEST FROM THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

CREDENTIALS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Clara & Del Walker, Committee Chairpersons, must receive the NFMS Credentials, **the NAMES (only)** of Club Directors and Delegates, as soon as possible (ASAP) For planning purposes of the meeting. The annual meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Salon A, 3720 N Reserve St, Missoula, Montana on Friday, March 20th 2026 at 2:00PM.

The Credential forms below must be completed by the designated director/delegate, signed by the Club President and Secretary, and **BROUGHT BY THE DIRECTOR AND DELEGATE** to the annual meeting. Or, this should be done by the alternate delegate(s), if necessary. Give us name(s) of attendees (not credentials forms) at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Call, email, or send to:

Clara & Del Walker
12377 SE Davis Loop
Prineville, OR 97754

Call 503-812-6540 or email to cwalk12377@gmail.com

NFMS DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIALS

Name of Director _____
Name of Club _____
City, State _____
Club President Signature _____
Club Secretary Signature _____
Date _____

Must be **completed** and **signed** to be seated with voting rights at the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting

NFMS DELEGATE'S CREDENTIALS

Name of Delegate _____
Name of Club _____
City, State _____
Club President Signature _____
Club Secretary Signature _____
Date _____

Must be **completed** and **signed** to be seated with voting rights at the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting

Treasures of the Northwest Show Information

Hello from the mountains of Montana and welcome to the Hellgate Mineral Society (HMS) Annual Gem and Mineral Show, the Treasures of the Northwest, and the 2026 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) Convention. The show is set for Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 2026.

The show is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 3720 N Reserve St, Missoula, MT 59808, Phone (406) 532-5300. The Hilton Garden has set aside ten rooms for NFMS members and vendors on a first come, first served basis.

Daily admission is \$5.00 per person, with children under 12 free when accompanied by a paying adult. The show will be offering exhibitions on wire wrapping, flint knapping, silver smithing, gold panning, and fossil prepping. Fun activities include raffles for rock-hounding paraphernalia, hourly door prizes of vendor-donated gems and minerals, the sale of grab bags of rock and mineral specimens, a silent auction, and a Spin-to-Win. Fun activities for the younger crowd include a mineral dig, geode cracking and a kids-only silent auction.

As the show is in March, and the show is in Missoula, the ability to have field trips is sharply curtailed. So, new this year, we are offering the opportunity participate in “onsite field trips” where attendees can sift for sapphires, sift for garnets, sift for sunstones, and pan for gold.

The HMS show is hosting eighteen vendors. There are also three club tables with six club members (three on Saturday and three on Sunday) displaying and selling their wares.

Please check out the Hellgate Mineral Society on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/HellgateMineralSociety/> and online at <https://hellgatemineralsociety.org/>

For show information, please contact:

- Neil Maier, show co-chair and club president, nam56@yahoo.com 406-546-6013
- Ange Laridon, show co-chair and club secretary, angeange@msn.com 406-370-6318
- Steve Stiff, NFMS coordinator and club vice president, steven.stiff@bresnan.net 406-529-2671

For information on Missoula and the surrounding area, please check out the following:

<https://destinationmissoula.org/where-to-stay>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/hotels-motels>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/bed-and-breakfasts>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/cabins>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/campgrounds>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/guest-ranches>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/lodges>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/pet-friendly>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/rv-parks>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/resorts>
<https://destinationmissoula.org/vacation-homes>

Steve Stiff
Vice President, Hellgate Mineral Society
NFMS Show Chair 2026



Banquet Menu

Served Buffet Style

Starters (6:00 PM)

- **Fresh Vegetables & Dip**
- **Fresh Fruit**

Entrée (6:30 PM)

- **Georgia Chopped Pork**
- **Country-Roasted Chicken**
- **St. Louis-Style Spareribs – Original Style**
(take 2 please)
- **Creamy Coleslaw**
- **Wilbur Beans**
- **Buttered Corn Niblets (corn off the cob)**
- **Corn Muffin (take 2 please)**

Dessert:

- **Fresh-Baked Chocolate Chip Cookies**
- **Chocolate Chip Brownie Bites**

Refreshment:

- **Coffee**
- **Tea**
- **Lemonade**
- **Water**



Catered by Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que
Missoula, Montana

NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2026

March 7th & 8th	E. KingCo Rock and Gem Show	Pickering Barn	Kim Villines
Sat 10 - 6		1730 10th Ave. NW	earthlightgems(at)aim.com
Sun 10 - 5		Issaquah, WA 98207	(425) 828 - 3872
March 13th - 15th	Tualatin Valley Gem Club	Forest Grove Natl. Guard Armory	Gordon Hale
Fri 10 - 5		2950 Taylor Way	gordonhale (at) comcast.net
Sat 10 - 5		Forest Grove, Oregon 97116	
Sun 10 - 5			
March 14th & 15th	Magic Valley Gem Club	Twin Falls County Fairgrounds	Sandy Hansen
Sat 9 - 5		215 Fair Ave.	3toadfrog (at) gmail.com
Sun 10 - 4		Filer, ID 83328	Magicvalleygemclub.org
March 14th & 15th	Rock Chucks Gold, Gem and Mineral Show	Flathead County Fairgrounds - Expo Building	Lloyd Fager
Sat 9 - 6		265 N. Meridian Rd.	oldgrayelf(at)sbcglobal.net
Sun 10 - 4		Kalispell, MT 59901	nfmsrockchucks(at)gmail.com
March 21st & 22nd	Hellgate Mineral Society 2026 NFMS Show	Hilton Garden Inn	Neil A. Meier
Sat 9 - 5		3720 North Reserve St.	(406) 546 - 6013
Sun 10 - 5		Missoula, MT 59801	

NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2026

March 28th & 29th	Clallam County Gem and Mineral Assn.	Vern Burton Community Center	Mitch Fox
Sat 9 - 5		308 East 4th Street	Fox.mitch (at) gmail.com
Sun 10 - 4		Port Angeles, WA 98292	Sequimrocks.org
March 28th & 29th	Mt. Baker Rock and Gem Club	Pioneer Pavillion Community Center	Candi Gerard
Sat 10 - 6		2007 Cherry St.	candisjewelry (at) gmail.com
Sun 10 - 5		Ferndale, WA 98428	Mtbakerrockclub.org
April 10th - 12th	Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society	Golden Spike Event Center	Margie Miller
Fri 9 - 6		Weber County Fairground	(385) 205 - 9187
Sat 10 - 6		1000 N. 1200 W.	goldenspikegem.org
Sun 10 - 4		Ogden, UT 84401	
April 10th - 12th	Mt. Hood Rock Club and Gem Show	Jackson Armory	Roberta Hanson (503) 449-3543
Fri 10 - 5		6255 NE Cornfoot Rd.	Shane Gerrard (971) 322-6263
Sat 9 - 5		Portland, OR 97218	mthoodrockclub.com
Sun 10 - 3			
April 17th - 19th	Willamette Agate and Mineral Society	Polk County Fairgrounds	David Smith
Fri 9 - 5		520 S. Pacific Hwy West	rockclubnewsletter(at)gmail.com
Sat 9 - 5		Rickreall, OR 97371	
Sun 10 - 4			

NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2026

April 18th & 19th	Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club	Benton County Fairgrounds	Larry Hulstrom
Sat 9 - 6		1500 S. Oak Street	rockhound132 (at) charter.net
Sun 10 - 4		Kennewick, WA 99336	Lakesidegemandmineralclub.com
April 18th & 19th	Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Show	Bonneville County Fairgrounds	Nicole Strong
Sun 10 - 6		1542 E. 73rd South	wildandlapidary(at)gmail.com
Sat 10 - 5		Idaho Falls, ID 83404	www.ifrockhounds.com
April 24th - 26th	Yakima Rock and Mineral Club	Modern Living Bldg.	Marti Sondgeroth
Fri 10 - 4		Central Washington State Fairgrounds and Event Center	marthams (at) myct1.net
Sat 10 - 5		1301 South Fair. Ave	(509) 910 - 3484
Sun 10 - 4		Yakima, WA 98901	
April 25th & 26th	West Seattle Rock Club	Alki Masonic Temple	Annette Nelson
Sat 10 - 5		4736 40th Ave SW	show@westseattlerockclub.org
Sun 10 - 5		West Seattle, WA	westseattlerockclub.org

NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2026

April 25th & 26th	Gray's Harbor Rock and Gem Club	Gray's Harbor County Fairgrounds	Gary Emberley
Sat 10 - 5		43 Elma-McCleary Road	(360) 533 - 6196
Sun 10 - 4		Elma, WA 98541	Melissa624 (at) hotmail.com
May 2nd & 3rd	Everett Rock and Gem Club	Evergreen State Fairgrounds - Weikel Event Center	everettrockclub(at)htomail.com
Sat 10 - 5		18359 Cascade View Drive	
Sun 10 - 5		Monroe, WA 98292	
May 9th and 10th	Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club	Gallatin County Fairgrounds	Linda Johnson
Sat 10 - 6		901 North Black Bldg. 1 & 2	bgmcmmt(at)gmail.com
Sun 10 - 4		Bozeman, MT 59715	bozemandgemandmineralclub.com
May 9th & 10th	Hatrockhound Gem and Mineral Show	Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center	Mike Filarski
Sat 10 - 6		1705 East Airport Rd.	stonemorlin1(at)netscape.net
Sun 10 - 4		Hermiston, OR 97838	(541) 571 - 2593
May 16th & 17th	Butte Mineral and Gem Club	Butte Civic Center Main Arena	Jerry D'Arcy
Sat 9 - 5		1340 Harrison Ave.	jkdudding(at)gmail.com
Sun 10 - 4		Butte, MT 59701	(406) 491 - 2054

NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2026

May 23rd & 24th	Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corp.	Clackamas County Fairgrounds and Events Center	Juanita Whitaker
Sat 9 - 6		694 NE 4th Ave.	cmgcshowchair2026(at)gmail.com
Sun 10 - 4		Canby, OR 97013	clackamettegem.org
June 17th - 21st	Prineville Rockhound Pow Wow	Cook County Fairgrounds	Jim McCoy
Thurs 9 - 5		120 S. Main Street	530-999-8045
Fri 9 - 5		Prineville, OR	www.prineville.rocks
Sat 9 - 5			
Sun 9 - 3			
July 24th - 26th	Washington Agate and Mineral Society	Tenino City Park	Doug Shank
Fri 9 - 6		300 Park Ave. W.	wamsolympia(at)gmail.com
Sat 9 - 6		Tenino, WA 98589	
Sun 9 - 5			

NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2026

NFMS & AFMS SHOWS FOR 2026



2026 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show

ST. Charles, Illinois

May 21-24, 2026

Hosted by the Midwest Federation



Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) Show

Treasures of the Northwest

March 21-22, 2026

(Meetings on March 20th)

Hilton Garden Inn

Missoula, Montana

Hosted by the Hellgate Gem and Mineral
Society

Come Join Us

**NFMS EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS
2025-2026**

PRESIDENT: Michael Rhodes, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 317 E 200 S, Brigham City, UT, 84302-2621, (435) 230 0403 [mrnbrhodes0\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mrnbrhodes0(at)gmail.com)

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Jennifer Haley 2490 Spring Mountain Rd. St. Helena, CA 94574 541-660-1832 [ladybuglane\(at\)napablogger.com](mailto:ladybuglane(at)napablogger.com)

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: June Dorning Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, 590 CulDorn Drive, Yakima, WA 98903(509) 930-1323, [dorningjune\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:dorningjune(at)gmail.com)

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

TREASURER: Adam Pettitt, Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, 2035 Center St. SE, Albany. OR 97322, 971-226-6193, [nfmstreasurer\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmstreasurer(at)gmail.com)

Judi Allison (pro tem), Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11th. St., Hermiston, OR, 97882, (541) 720-4950, [nfmssec\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmssec(at)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\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:Rockhounder2019(at)comcast.net)

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

CUSTODIAN: 2ND Vice President: (see above)

DIRECTORY: Janel Lacey, Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, 43618 SW McKay Dr, Pendleton, OR, 97801, (541) 215-2839, [jclawl6461\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jclawl6461(at)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 :
Lora Hall Hellgate Mineral Society, PO Box2095, Frenchtown, MT 59834, [Silvertipminis \(at\) msn.com](mailto:Silvertipminis (at) msn.com)

ENDOWMENT FUND:

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

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Mikki Richard, Marysville Rock and Gem Club, Inc., 425-387-4591, [mikki.richard\(at\)adp.com](mailto:mikki.richard(at)adp.com)

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HISTORIAN: OPEN

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

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

NOMINATING CHAIRMAN:

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

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

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

RESOLUTIONS: Audrey Vogelpohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617,

206) 932-3292, [avogelpohl\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:avogelpohl(at)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\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:josh_hulstrom(at)hotmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUPPLIES: OPEN
WAYS & MEANS: OPEN

WEBMASTER: Brad Larson, Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society, 6010 W. Cruzen St., Boise, ID 83704 (208) 465-1920, [nfms.webmaster\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfms.webmaster(at)gmail.com)

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Doug True, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, (406) 670-0506, 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\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmsroy(at)gmail.com)

SHOW CHAIRMAN 2026:

Steven Stiff, 4013 Thomas Place, Missoula, MT 59803, [steven.stiff\(at\)bresnan.net](mailto:steven.stiff(at)bresnan.net), 406-529-2671

Janel Lacey, Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, 43618 SW McKay Dr, Pendleton, OR, 97801, (541) 215-2839, [jclaw6461\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jclaw6461(at)gmail.com)

WEBSITE CONTEST: OPEN

AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)

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 ASSOCIATION (ALAA)** is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public lands managers. Your annual individual/couple membership fee is \$25 which helps support their activities. Club membership is \$50 per year. Send to Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154. Make checks payable to: American Lands Access Assn. Applications can be downloaded at: www.amlands.org on the left side of the page. For more information contact: Frank Mullaney, 408-266-1791, cell: 408-691-2655, [Rockyfiv\(at\)aol.com](mailto:Rockyfiv(at)aol.com)

The **AFMS NEWSLETTER** is published monthly except Jan-Jul-Aug by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Each NFMS member society should have three people (usually the Pres, Secretary and Editor) receiving the AFMS Newsletter. 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\(at\)AMFED.org](mailto:AFMSeditor(at)AMFED.org) (918) 630-6498 or (918) 481-0249. Make checks payable to "AFMS".

The **NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER** is the official publication of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) and is sent to each club electronically in PDF form between six to ten times per year. It is the responsibility of each club to forward the newsletter to the membership. 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 Federation 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 calendar from "Lapidary Journal". Please provide the date and time for the show, the club name and show title (if applicable), the location of the show, admission price, and most important a contact person 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 generated 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 Federation 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 on above 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, Seattle, WA 98126-3617

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

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

To AFMS Endowment Fund for:

1. Donations to AFMS Endowment
 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 or <http://northwestfederation.org/>