



NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 66 NO. 7 - AUGUST 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.

**If you don't receive a brief reply confirming that I've seen your email, please reach out again. There has been an issue with spam filtering and the arbitrary flagging of incoming emails.

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1st Vice President Jennifer Haley

I hope everyone is having a grand summer enjoying our hobby. I can't wait to hear all about the stories from the dino dig field trips the NFMS Endowment Fund helped to sponsor. Any field trips led by Doug True, are truly special times. These particular dino digs Doug led, are sure to be amazing experiences for a lifetime. Thank you Doug, for organizing the trips this year.

I hope some of you took photos and will send them in for the NFMS newsletter and for your club newsletters. I would love to see displays of the fossils you brought home from the dig, at the 2027 Annual Meeting & Show, hosted by the Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club!

Please remember, your field trip experiences created into articles, poems or drawn features would make wonderful entries to the Bulletin Contest, so please think about doing that. Not only do your club members get to enjoy your experiences as if they were there with you, but the NFMS can include some of them in our federation newsletters!

Our NFMS Mid-Year Organizational Meeting on October 3,rd is just around the corner. We had such a good meeting at the Annual Meeting earlier this year, so I'm really looking forward to all of us getting together again for some good discussions, like last time.

NFMS Secretary

Judi Allison

As I am writing this, I am thinking about all the fires and devastation and misplaced families from so much devastation around the region. It appears the Spokane area is getting hit the hardest with the loss of so many homes. I can only imagine being in such a position, but my heart goes out to everyone. Now is the time we can come together to help our fellow man in any way we can. I am sure the aftermath will be long term.

With all these fires in mind, we need to be very vigilant if we are out rockhounding anywhere. With the dry conditions in most areas, it takes very little time for a spark to ignite a whole area. Even something from an exhaust could end up being a culprit. If you are out and about, please be careful.

Keep in mind, also that our air quality is not the best because of the residual smoke. We may not notice it, but it can adversely affect our lungs. I am guessing most of you already know all this, but I think that reminders help us keep the dangers and hazards in our forefronts.

On a more positive note, my daughter and I had a grand three-week excursion through Acadia National Park, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Each area was so diverse in its composition. Although we couldn't get on the schedule for the sunrise excursion, we were able to travel up Cadillac Mountain in Acadia to take in the sites from atop the highest point in the Park. Nova Scotia appears to be made up of a very granitic base, while Prince Edward Island consists of a great deal of red clay. Their primary crop is potatoes. We were fortunate to take in the tidal bore on the Bay of Fundy in Moncton, New Brunswick. That was a grand experience, although I am sure those who live there view it as "old hat". At any rate, all was a wonderful trip; and I did bring a few small samples from the different areas home with me.



View from Cadillac Mountain, Acadia National Park



Peggy's Cove, Nova



Thunder Cove, Prince Edward Island

Organizational Meeting

Judi Allison

Hey Folks, I know a great rock and gem show you don't want to miss! And as an added bonus, the NFMS will be having its Organizational Meeting where you can give input on what direction you would like to see your Federation headed.

We will have the meeting at one o'clock in meeting room 2 on Saturday, October 3rd. It is in the same building as the show, so getting to the meeting is a simple process. Our Executive Board is looking forward to seeing old and new faces and exchanging ideas. Remember, if you are a delegate or director, be sure to check with your club to see if they have a wish list for discussion. Remember also that you do not have to be a delegate or director to attend. All are welcome! Let's all show our support and belief in the Federation.

The show is the Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show put on by five clubs in that area. They come together to offer a wide range of dealers, displays and activities. They even have competitive displays, which help individuals hone their skills in the art of competition.

Dates for the show are October 2-4, 2026. It will be held at the Wingspan Complex 801 NW 34th Avenue, Hillsboro, Oregon. It is situated on the Westside Commons. (It used to be the Washington County Fairgrounds.)

For the members of the Oregon Mineral Council, there will also be a meeting in that same room at 9:00 am. Just think. You can take in a great show and be a part of two great meetings all in one place on the same day. See you then!!!

(Just to let you know there is a charge for parking at the facility, but I did hear that sometimes if you get there early, they haven't arrived to collect fees yet.) If nothing else, carpool and pay for one care instead of three or four. I think the fee is \$10, so carpooling would be worth your while. Just a thought.

Safety Chair

Kathryn Larson

Summer time

It's summertime and it's hot. Used to be my favorite time of the year. Since I've gotten older, I just can't take the heat. I still want to participate in all the fun outdoor activities, car shows, art walks, concerts and picnics. There's so much to do in the summer! I can still enjoy but I just have to be smart about it.

I stay hydrated. Carry water with me and drink often. I drink before I'm thirsty. I avoid drinks with alcohol or too much caffeine and sugar. These will make my body lose water.

I stick to the shade as much as possible. I wear a hat, use sunglasses and put on sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher every 2 hours.

I rest when I get tired. It's a good chance to people watch.

If someone does show signs of heat exhaustion, get them to the shade and let them cool off as quickly as possible. Headaches, heavy sweating, feeling sick and dizziness are all signs to watch for. Don't force a person to drink. Let them sip slowly. Call 911 if the symptoms get worse.

Enjoy!

Kathryn Larson

NFMS Safety Chair

"S" is for September and "S" is for Still. September may be at our front door, but there is still time to honor your special heroes by choosing a member to receive the honor of American Federation Club Rockhound of the Year. Various clubs may have a specific method in place, but there is no set rule. As per guidelines, any member of your club can nominate someone. You may want to check for sure with your officers-or maybe you want to nominate one of your officers and have it be a surprise. Perhaps you could run it by another member. People sometimes have a misconception of what the honor is all about. The idea behind Rockhound of the Year is to honor some unsung hero who has contributed something special to your club THIS YEAR. It does not have to be someone who often is recognized for their contributions. In fact, in my opinion, it should be someone who steadily contributes without getting much recognition.

Perhaps there is someone in your club who brings extra treats. Maybe it is the newsletter editor. Perhaps a member created a phone tree. Or maybe someone came up with a social sub-group to discuss and learn about a specific aspect of the hobby. I urge every club to take advantage of this simple endeavor. Please honor your deserving members. Our Regional Rockhound of the Year Chairperson, Laurie is waiting for your entries. The process is simple. Choose a person (or couple) to honor. (Each club can also honor a Junior Member.) Write a paragraph or two about why they should be honored along with the name of your club. Lack of writing skills is no excuse, as we help you out and edit the piece if you need help with it. Photographs are encouraged. We love to see our friends' faces! The write-up will appear in both the NFMS newsletter and the American Federation Newsletter. You will also receive a certificate of recognition to present to your honoree. As I said, simple. So, make a choice, write a paragraph and honor your unsung hero. Laurie Ellis, 57462 Clarks Canyon RD, Heppner, OR 97836 nfmsroy at gmail.com (You may also email me if you don't get a timely reply from Laurie. Use the email jms46@outlook.com and be sure to say something about Rockhound of the year in the subject if you write to either of us) Let's see some honorees!!!

Rattlesnake Safety

It's been unusually warm this year. In our area, annuals never survive winter weather. This year I have several plants that were planted last year and are showing new growth! I'm pleased with that. But unfortunately the mild weather is causing early wakeup of creatures like rattlesnakes. People are seeing snakes and getting bitten at a time when it's generally safe to go hiking. Rattlesnakes emerge from their dens in March and April. This year being warmer they have been out early.

If you hear a suspicious rattle, don't panic. Stop and look around and see if you spot the snake. Then just turn around and walk the other way. Snakes really don't want any trouble. Remember to stay aware of your surroundings and practice common sense. If you do get bit, don't try to suck the venom out and don't apply a tourniquet. Call 911 or Washington Poison Center. Keep the bitten area still and lower than the heart until reaching the hospital. Remove rings, watches or tight clothing in case of swelling.

To stay safe around rattlesnakes, wear boots and long loose hiking pants. Don't step or reach into thick brush, tall grass or rock piles.

Stay safe!

2026



FREE



Presents

THE 50TH ANNUAL
"Rocktoberfest"

Rock, Jewelry, and Mineral Show

October 3rd & 4th

Saturday: 10am-5pm

Sunday: 10am-5pm

EVERGREEN FAIRGROUNDS

Bldg 500

14405-179th Ave SE

Monroe, WA

Door Prizes • Exhibits • Raffle Drawing
Demonstrators • Dealers • Food Service
• Espresso and Elephant Ears

For More Information, Contact:

Brian Murril (425) 346-9313 Email: bmurril@aol.com

www.marysvillerockclub.com or find us on Facebook

FREE PARKING!

ADA accessible

NFMS T-Shirts are Still Available!

Did you miss getting an NFMS T-shirt at the Annual Show and Convention in Missoula? Not to worry! We still have one box left with a good selection of sizes from Adult Small to Adult 3X in both Sapphire Blue and Ruby Red. For individual orders, send \$20 to Lora Hall, Education Chair, PO Box 1095, Frenchtown, MT 59834. (Postage is included!) Make your check out to the NFMS. I encourage clubs to get together and place a bulk order to save me time in packing and shipping, but I am happy to fill individual orders.

The front features the NFMS logo and the back reads “You might be a Rockhound if...” You pack a rock hammer for your vacation. Geology professors hold field trips in your yard. And The caution sign says, “Falling Rocks” and you pull over to wait.

These are heavy weight, premium, 100% cotton T-shirts in Adult Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL, and we still have just a few XXXL. You can always call me to check size availability before ordering, 406-370-1863 and I will set aside what you want. Kids find the Adult Small fits with just a little room to grow.



NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2026

Sept 19th & 20th Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Southern Washington Mineralogical Society	Longview Fairgrounds Cowlitz County Event Center 1900 3rd Ave. Longview, WA 98632	Greg Larson swimineralogicalsociety1@gmail.com Chet Chafton 360-600-9830
Sept 19th & 20th Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Clallam County Gem & Mineral Association	Vern Burton Center 308 E. 4th St. Port Angeles, WA 98362 Longview, WA 98632	Sam Kimbrow 208-301-3653 ccgmavendors.org sequimrocks.org
Oct 2nd - 4th	Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Club	Wingspan Event and Conference Center at the Westside Common	Gordon Hale
Fri 10 - 6		801 NE 34th Ave.	gordonhale(at)comcast.net
Sat 10 - 6		Hillsboro, OR 97124	
Sun 10 - 5			
Oct 17th & 18th	Hells Canyon Gem Club	Nezperce County Fairgrounds	Shannon Peterson
Sat 10 - 5		1229 Burrell Ave.	speterson5024(at)gmail.com
Sun 10 - 4		Lewiston, ID 83501	208-413-5024

NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2026



Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) Show

April 17th -18th , 2027

Kennewick, Washington

Contact Person: Larry Hulstrom

rockhound132(at)charter.net

TVGC Show Dates:

- March 11, 2026 - Setup
- March 12-14, 2026 - Show

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)

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)

Secretary/Treasurer:
Mikki Richard, Marysville Rock and Gem Club, Inc., 7608 85th Place NE, Marysville, WA 98270 425-387-4591, [mikki.richard\(at\)adp.com](mailto:mikki.richard(at)adp.com)

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HISTORIAN: 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)

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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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)

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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: OPEN

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 2027:

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)

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/>