Kathy Moedl  
President

September already and it’s time for me to move into the President position. When I signed on for this job 2 years ago I had no idea how fast time would fly, although, those that have gone before me have said the very same thing.

The 2012 AFMS show hosted in Minnetonka, Minnesota in July was a great adventure! The theme was “Celebration of Agates” and that is exactly what it was! I learned many new things about agates, especially the Lake Superior agate. The Twin Cities is a great place to visit, too. There are so many friendly people there.

I have enjoyed going to the mid-year and annual NFMS shows hosted in Kennewick, Washington and Chehalis, Washington as well as the 2011 AFMS show hosted in Syracuse, New York. I strongly encourage you to attend these NFMS or AFMS shows whenever you can.

I have met so many people that are willing to assist and support me that it is a very good experience. Now I look forward to this next year knowing there are so many new friends out there waiting to be met and more wonderful experiences to come my way. I will endeavor to help make you all feel the same way!

By the time you receive this newsletter the new NFMS website should be up and available.

Check it out!!!

www.amfed.org/nfms

Thanks, Brad Larson
ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS

To NFMS Treasurer for:
1. Dues and supplies
2. Donations for the general fund
3. Donations to Junior Achievement
4. Advertisement in this Newsletter

Send to: Lyle Vogelpohl, 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.

To NFMS Scholarship Chair for:
1. Donations to AFMS Scholarship Fund
2. Memorial contributions to AFMS Scholarship

Send check payable to AFMS Scholarship Fund.

To NFMS Newsletter:
1. Memberships, new and renewals
2. Donations

Make check payable to NFMS Newsletter and send to Joyce Hanschu, Treasurer.

To ALAA Treasurer:
1. Dues and supplies
2. Donations
3. Support for ALAA Newsletter
4. Advertisement in this Newsletter

Mail to: Joyce Hanschu, ALAA Treasurer, 6607 Sturbridge Ln, Canton, OH 44718-2638.
Judi Allison
Past President

AFMS SHOW AND MY THANKS

Hi All. Although this may go to press prior to September first, it is the September newsletter and, as such, my message comes to you as the immediate past president. I am now among the “has beens”.

The end of July was the combination Midwest-American Federation Show and Convention, “A Celebration of Agates” in Minnetonka, Minnesota. The American Federation meeting led by our own Northwest member, AFMS President Lauren Williams, was quick and to the point. Its entire duration was under an hour and fifteen minutes.

The Minnesota Mineral Club did a very nice job of organizing the affair with a number of symposiums on Thursday, official opening of the show Friday afternoon and a nice banquet on Saturday evening. The displays and dealers supported the theme, and the facility was pleasant and easy to locate.

The photo is of me holding a bronze medal for the Hatrockhound Gem and Mineral Society’s submission for the All American Club Awards. The award is for clubs that compile a book that reflects the activities of its past year. It is a great way to chronicle a club’s history and have something concrete to display at a show or public activity to give people an idea of what the club does. This was a first time endeavor for the Hatrockhounds, which taught us a lot about our club. I encourage others to try the process. You can contact the Education Chairmen, Jim and Libby Spencer, to learn more about it.

A friend and I made a road trip out of my travel to Minnesota. We managed to take in Mount Rushmore, Wall Drug, Mall of America, and Lake Superior, float the St. Joe River and visit some relatives along the way. We also enjoyed the opportunity to take in the show and convention and to visit with old friends and new acquaintances, which I will continue to cherish.

I have enjoyed my three years on the executive board as I worked my way to president. I am completely grateful to all the other executive officers, the committee chairpersons and all volunteers in general. You all helped make everything run smoothly. I now turn over the position to our new worthy President, Kathy Moedl. May she enjoy the fruits of the position as I have done.

Don Innes
1st VP

Seems as if we missed spring this year it was winter and now it’s late summer. We have been to several Rock and Gem Shows and attended several meetings locally in Oregon.

We put our Educational Display in the BLM New River Park Headquarters. This facility is for education of schools and tourists showing the flora and fauna and rocks in this area of BLM Park. This Park covers from the CA border on the south to Newport and the Ocean to the north and east to HWY 5.

We have just had a great Show in North Bend OR. We had the 50’s theme and ballroom dancers on stage. The Dealers and customers really enjoyed this.

The Oregon Council website is up to date and available to anyone logging on. It is very informational and will be getting more and more info as we proceed getting more involved with the Gov. The web site is www.oregoncouncilrmc.org.

The economy has been hurt by low job rates and rising prices, but the mineral and gem has been fairly static in our area.

We have seen several changes in BLM and Forestry rules, mostly limiting the areas and amounts of material collected. I guess we expected this. We have to watch what is happening in our local areas and get involved. New young folks in our organizations, beginners in our local clubs are the life blood of our hobby. Many will join in the hobby, some will become geologists or even gemologists and wander away for a time and get jobs and family, but as they get older will wander back and rejoin our hobbies. Doug True touched on this at the YOTMC breakfast in Reedsport, OR. We can only hope we get many, many young members to continue what we are doing.
Hello Dee,
This year was the first time I entered a competitive case at the NFMS show in Kennewick. I entered the Advanced category for my all Agate showcase. I entered with the impression that it would be me against the judges. Was I wrong? Absolutely! The judges where kind, thoughtful, and caring. I watched my showcase while it was judged. I was caught by surprise when the judges turned to me and started teaching me. They shared with me my strengths and how I could improve. Later I walked around the room and I saw how all of the judges admired the hard work that exhibitors put into their showcases.

I would like to refer to a paragraph from the July Newsletter:
If you haven’t exhibited competitively recently you will find a huge change in judging from earlier years of the NFMS. Judges are actually helping you make your exhibits better by giving constructive advice to upgrade instead of criticism when judging the exhibit. It’s not you against “them.” It’s you and “them” together to make your case a winner. It’s a teaching experience, and a good one.

This explains my experience and how well the judges expressed themselves to me. I hope that the Regional shows adapt this new method of judging.

I am looking forward to next year’s competition.

Have a good day, Denise Harrison

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Chuck Sonner
Safety Chair

IS IT REALLY SAFE?

I wanted to write on another subject but this one butted into first place. Tanya and I will be back from our trip to the Southwest as this article is written. I made sure my injector for bug bites was in the car. The next thing we did was check our first aid kit. I don’t remember when the kit was purchased but most of the items were out of date. Just how well they will work is up for debate. To be on the safe side, we replaced the kit. The one thing I did not think of was bug spray. The flies out in the desert just chewed the heck out of my legs.

Our trip was to the Grand Canyon and the Petrified Forest. I know this is the wrong time of the year but who could have guessed heat records were going to be set. The temperature ranged from 105 to 121 degrees. I did find one location to collect Arizona Rainbow Wood that was legal. The question was how did we handle the temperature? Sunscreen, water and salt chips and nuts to eat to replace what the salt will lose. Wet towel around your neck works wonders. Carrying a spray bottle with water to check rocks works better as a mister for our face and neck. I got lazy and soaked my tee shirt with water. This increased our time in the desert but remember to keep your time reasonable.

The trip was great fun and Tanya took lots of pictures. We learned something new, what they mean by Monsoon Season in Arizona.

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Dee Holland, NFMS Rules Committee

I have been a staunch supporter of competitive exhibiting for many years. I’ve been on the NFMS Rules Committee as well as the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee.

I’ve seen the slide downward of competitive exhibiting all over the country. I decided that NFMS wouldn’t be like the others…. we’d work to bring competitive exhibiting back to what it used to be. It isn’t there yet, but with a letter just received from a first time competitive exhibitor at the Kennewick NFMS Show, my hopes are soaring…. here’s why:

Now if that isn’t something that will make your day, I don’t what will. The NFMS Rules Committee is here to support our competitive exhibitors. Who will be the first to sign up for a competitive exhibit at Butte, Montana. Get your exhibits ready. If you have concerns as to what division, what class, contact me and I’ll help. The only thing we cannot change is your group (master, advanced, novice) If you are a Junior there is a junior section. Let’s see a return to society exhibits. Try a Division A – Open or possibly a Division E – Education.

See you in Butte…..
Dee Holland, Judges Chair 2013.
beauholland@centurytel.net

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Chuck Sonner
Safety Chair

From the Editor’s Rockpile
By Beth Heesacker

Like I said last month, there is still time for more field trips. We went to southern Oregon for sunstones. What a wonderful time. The only problem was the smoke in the air from wildfires. I got some beautiful pictures of a very red sun along with my haul of sunstones.

We tried 3 different mines and had mixed results. Our best but most expensive was the Dust Devil except for the large dichroic (green from one direction, red from the other) sunstone from the Sunstone Butte mine. My hubby wants to facet it but I want to leave it as a specimen since it is on a nice chunk of matrix. I wonder who will win that one. Only time will tell. (Last minute breaking news – I get to keep the specimen 😊).

We also attended the Lakeview show and got some great faceted gems for next to nothing. The seller buys gold jewelry and takes the stones out and sells them for way below their worth. It was a pretty quiet show. Maybe the fire and smoke scared everyone away.

By the time you read this September will be upon us and the fall season. Given some good weather (translate that to cooler weather) we will be out picking up more rocks and enjoying the beauty God gave us.
NORTHWEST FEDERATION WELL REPRESENTED AT MINNESOTA

By Dee Holland

In late July representatives and friends descended on Minnetonka, Minnesota for the annual AFMS Convention hosted by the Wisconsin Gem and Mineral Club.

Our own Lauren Williams presided as president of the AFMS over the convention meeting and dispatched business in a quick and business-like manner. In fact it was one of the shortest meetings on record with few questions or dissensions. Both our NFMS President Judi Allison and 1st Vice President Kathy Moedl attended and participated.

Dee Holland and Jon Spunaugle ably attended to the business of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation with Lauren, Judi and Kathy participating in that also.

Dee Holland and Shirley Leeson represented the NFMS at the Uniform Rules meeting and more on changes to the AFMS Rules for the coming year later.

There were only six competitive exhibits at this national show and one was from Cheri George; beading, an at-large member and NFMS Website Contest Chair.

Besides those mentioned there was a large contingent of NFMS members who made their presence known during the show and festivities: Alex Moedl, who didn’t bring a prize-winning exhibit with her this time. Ed Romack, AFMS Past President, Bev Dillon, Shirley Leeson, AFMS Past President, Dee Holland, AFMS Past President, Cheri and Jon George, Jon Spunaugle, NFMS Past President, Tom and Brenda Burchard, and Janice & Joe Van Cura.

This was an unusual show because it featured AGATES from many locations. And “agate lickers” are an enthusiastic bunch, make no mistake about that.

I will leave it up to our President, Judi Allison to report on the AFMS meeting.

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Winners of the American Federation Bulletin Editor’s contest from the Northwest Federation

By Beth Heesacker

These articles and bulletins were submitted by the editors of their respective bulletins to the NFMS and if they were winners there they were passed on to the AFMS. As a bulletin editor myself I encourage all bulletin editors to review their 2012 bulletins for submission to the NFMS Bulletin Editor’s Contest later this year. Help your club and its members that submit articles to gain the recognition that they deserve. Thank you.

Congratulations to:

Original Adult Articles, Honorable Mention
Glacier on South Hill?
by Bob Ballou, Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club (NFMS)
From: Rock-A-Teer, 12/11

Written Features, Top 10
10. President’s Message
by Nancy LeMay, Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club (NFMS)
From: Rock-A-Teer, 1/11

Adult Poetry, Top 10
8. The 12 Days of Christmas Rockhound Style
by Khara Gunness & Doug Davis, Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club (NFMS)
From: Rock-A-Teer, 12/11

New Editors, Top 10 (6 entries)
5. Yakima Rock & Mineral News, 10/11, Ronna Watkins, Editor
Yakima Rock & Mineral Club, Yakima, WA  (NFMS)

Small Bulletins, Top 10
8. Dusty Rocks, 10/11, Jennifer Zimmerlee, Editor
Klamath Rock & Arrowhead Club, Klamath Falls, OR  (NFMS)

Large Bulletins, Top 10
1. Rock-A-Teer, 11/11, Dana James, Editor
Puyallup Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Puyallup, WA  (NFMS)
AN ODE TO A ROCK

Drawing by the author

By Kurt Lahmers
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Pebble Pups/Junior Member Program

From a presidential mountain face, to the far reaches of outer space; lays boundless, amazing discoveries, as rocks yield their secrets in all countries.

Some rocks can reach massive sizes, while others fit through needle eyes; some are shiny, and others are not. But all are remarkable, when put to thought.

The sandstone arches in the Utah sun is a rock landscape that can't be outdone. The relentless, ever-changing weather brings rain, snow and ice altogether.

The granite peaks through Colorado create a large elongated shadow show while they slowly erode, silently away—but is unnoticeable in our daily fray.

Through craters and volcanic plains along the orbit where the moon reigns, are fields of extraterrestrial moon stone that every geologist would love to own.

Rocks are seemingly everywhere; over here and surely over there, from mountaintops to the forest floor—in outer space, and right outside the door.

Via the Rocky Mountain Federation News 8/12

2¢ OF ADVICE ON STINGING INSECTS FROM A DEAR OKIE FRIEND

This information is something to remember as summer wears on. It might be wise to carry a penny in your pocket while working in the yard or hunting rocks in the wild......... BEE STINGS!

A couple of weeks ago, I was stung by both a bee and hornet while working in the garden. My arm swelled up, so I went to the doctor. The clinic gave me cream and an antihistamine. The next day the swelling was getting progressively worse, so I went to my regular doctor. The arm was infected and needed an antibiotic.

The doctor told me - "The next time you get stung, put a penny on the bite for 15 minutes".

That night my niece was stung by two bees. I looked at the sting, and it had already started to swell. So, I taped a penny to her arm for 15 minutes. The next morning, there was no sign of a sting. We decided that she just wasn't allergic to the sting.

Soon, I was gardening outside. I got stung again, twice by a hornet on my left hand. I thought, here I go again to the doctor for another antibiotic. I promptly got my money out and taped two pennies to my bites, then sat and sulked for 15 minutes. The pennies took the sting out of the bite immediately.

In the mean time, the hornets were attacking, and my friend was stung on the thumb. Again the penny. The next morning I could only see the spot where the hornet had stung me. No redness; no swelling. My friend's sting was the same; couldn't even tell where she had been stung. (I suppose this would also work on wasps and yellow jackets!)

She got stung again a few days later upon her back---cutting the grass! And the penny worked once again.

Wanted to share this marvelous information in case you experience the same problem.

We need to keep a stock of pennies on hand. The doctor said that the copper in the penny counteracts the bite. It definitely works!

Please remember and pass this information on to your friends, children, grandchildren.

Via the Rocky Mountain Federation News 8/12
The Gold Star
By Ellery Borow, ELFMS Club 
Rockhound of the Year Chair

Have you visited those stores, shops, schools and other establishments that post in a prominent position their employee or student of the month? Sometimes with their honoree of the month there is a photo of a beaming with pride person. Maybe there is even mention of why the honoree is the honoree.

Those honor rolls are not filled with folks who just show up. The honoree is the honoree because they did something or sometimes several somethings that deserve recognition. And, that photo of the honoree with the beaming wide smile has that smile because, well, folks like to be recognized when they do good work. Maybe they greeted the most customers, or were always first to say, “Hi” to new members, or helped the most people in need, or for whatever reason – folks like to be recognized for the good work they do.

The posting in a store or shop or school of an honoree’s name and accomplishments is done for several reasons. Such recognition makes a difference. The public takes note that an organization recognizes and appreciates its good workers. The organization is viewed as more friendly because they take the time to value individual members. It also makes the employee or student feel good about themselves and what they did.

I’m sure some folks will look upon such recognition as somewhat old fashion or corny, but human nature stays the same – people like to be recognized for doing for others. Note that few honor postings in a store are related to the employee doing for themselves, they become the honoree because they help others.

Rock clubs are not businesses or schools, but they do have their share of members who time and again help their club and their fellow club members in innumerable ways. We in the Club Rockhound of the Year committee are here to offer clubs a public forum to announce their very own Club Rockhound of the Year honoree.

No, we don’t post photo’s (especially when one has a bad hair day) but we will post, in the pages of the EFMLS News and the AFMS News, the name of your honoree, club affiliation and a brief mention of their accomplishments. We cannot post this information without your help. . . .

Thank you. Let’s get some recognition to those members who deserve it. One of the best things about selecting an honoree for your club this year is that you can select another one next year, and another the year after that, and the year after that, and so on. Let’s offer those great volunteers within our club’s ranks the recognition they deserve! . . .

Something More Important Than Minerals
By Darryl Powell, EFMLS 
Junior Activities Chair

Here in Rochester, New York, there has been a public emphasis on mentoring. What I can only assume is thousands of dollars have been spent on television advertising for the last two or three years encouraging adults to become a mentor through a local community program. The concept is very simple: adults are encouraged to find a few hours a month to spend quality time with a local young person, build a relationship and do something meaningful together. One of their observations is this: “How many children need YOU to be a mentor? Just one.”

We in the mineral collecting community have all the resources needed to be mentors to young people. Many of us can find a few hours a month to spend quality time with a young person. What we do – collect and enjoy minerals, digging for minerals, trading minerals, learning about minerals, going to museums to see minerals – is something very meaningful. And in the process of sharing our interest, we will build a relationship with a young life, a relationship that may just be meaningful for a lifetime.

As I approach my 50th birthday, I realize how quickly time is passing. Last night, as we were sorting books in preparation for a move, I found a bird book a friend gave me in August of 1979. Trudy Smith was a professional ornithologist who worked for the U.S. Government, tagging birds and tracking their migration patterns. She brought her work to the summer camp I attended, and taught us to properly handle the birds and help her tag them. We fondly called her “The Bird Lady.” She did this for the campers for years. I loved holding the birds and she was so careful to teach us how to do it properly without hurting them. In 1979, Trudy was actually a few years into retirement and I felt like the king of the world to think that an adult (and one that wasn’t a relative!) actually liked me and cared to share her passion with me. She inscribed the book with the simple words, “For Darryl – someone I shall always remember!” Knowing Trudy, I’m sure she did remember me. Of far more importance is that I remember her as someone who blessed me in a way that has lasted all my life.

Well, I’m not an ornithologist, although I do enjoy watching the birds eating at the feeders on our deck, especially in the winter. However, I believe, to the core of my being, that part of who and what I have become as a human being is directly the result of people like Trudy who sincerely invested their energies, interests and love into my life. Trudy’s influence has lasted my lifetime.

Be a Trudy to a young person, please. Please consider sharing your passion for minerals and mineral collecting with just one young person. This is a relationship that will bless a young person’s life for his or her lifetime. There are things in life that are more important than minerals.

Via EFMLS News 6-7/12

Labor Day 2012
It takes all of us to keep the wheels of commerce going. Pray for those who are unemployed and for the employers that will hire them.
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**Watch out for our little ones as they go back to school.**