



NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
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PRESIDENT

Darrell Coyle



This is my last article as the President of the NFMS. Jennifer Haley is the incoming President. Lora Hall 1st Vice President and Welcome to Michael Rhodes as the new 2d Vice President.

The NFMS Annual Meeting, AFMS Annual Meeting are in the books. It was a great show. The Hosting Club, Billings Gem and Mineral did a tremendous job. Thanks to all the members of the club. I want to personally thank, Doug True, Tim and Deb Zimbleman and Kari Adamek. The show itself had a huge turnout. There were lots of high-quality stuff available from vendors. Thank you, Vendors.

The AFMS is hosted by the NFMS once every seven years. So there were lots of special certificates to be handed out. The Juniors Cracker Barrel was the best I have seen. NFMS Juniors won first place in a couple national level categories. There were ten competitive cases with Juniors and adults from the NFMS taking home ribbons and trophies. Overall, it was an outstanding Show and Combined Meetings. On Sunday there was a live auction for the ALAA and proceeds will be split with the NFMS and the ALAA.

The AFMS meeting was a lot of fun. The NFMS meeting went well until we got to the discussion on Electronic Newsletters. There were a lot of differing opinions and some questions brought up that need to be addressed before the transition could be accomplished. With the amount of opposition and other issues it was decided to not vote on the matter at this time. For more details the minutes of the meeting will be available later. Just when you thought you were rid of me, I will be the Past President this coming year. I will be attending the 2024 show and meeting at Hermiston in May 2024. The NFMS does not have a Host for the 2025 and 2026 Annual Show and Meeting. Now is the time to make that commitment. It can be a booster for your club in both membership and money. I was told we may already have a nominee for 2d Vice President for next year. There are a few Committee positions open. Rumors of a new Treasurer? Nothing firm yet. **Yes we still need someone to take the Treasurer's position immediately.**

NFMS Annual Meeting - a Quick Quip About the Newsletter

The Annual meeting was held at the NFMS/AFMS Show in Billings on August 4th. The full set of minutes will be coming out to your club directors soon, but I just wanted to be certain that all understand that even though there was a motion and a vote for clubs to opt to receive their newsletter electronically if desired, the printed newsletter is not going away. Even with the motion and vote, there was no real definitive means of accomplishing this.

When/if the Newsletter goes entirely electronic, there would be many things that need to be worked out. When the minutes do go out, I tried to capture everyone's comments and be completely impartial in taking the minutes-as a good secretary should do. I think when you are able to read the entire exchange, you will see that there was a lot of discussion and passion in the room. And in the end, President Darrell Coyle stated that he would table the matter.

So, please don't worry and please don't speculate. The status quo remains.

Submitted by Judi Allison NFMS Secretary

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The editor will send out a reminder in time for all committees to respond.

Estimated Deadline - **Oct 14th**

For deadlines and to submit articles

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NFMS Website:

<http://NorthwestFederation.org>

To see this newsletter in living color go to

<http://NorthwestFederation.org/Newsletters.asp>

and click on the month you want to see.

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Jennifer Haley , 1st Vice President



A big heartfelt thank you to the Billings Gem and Mineral Club for hosting the AFMS/NFMS show and convention this summer. This was one of the best AFMS/Federation events I have attended in a long time. Thank you for doing such a great job in so many ways and for showing the AFMS attendees and the public what your club and the NFMS are all about. Wonderful job!

As the AFMS Historian one of the important themes since the 1930's through to today I've noted, is rock and gem clubs have always known they need to continue working on their membership every year. I've been concerned with the large number of the public now getting involved in rockhounding who don't know about our clubs. This new surge in rockhounding developed during the pandemic as more people discovered the many wonders of the great American outdoors and collecting rocks.

On the one hand it's fantastic because it can mean lots of new members of all ages for your clubs. On the other hand, I worry about what their reputation will do to ours, which we've taken such good care of since the 1940's in our affiliation with the AFMS. I really feel we need to work on making the public aware of the value of belonging to an NFMS club. Any time you don't make the time to educate new people about your clubs is a missed opportunity. This is a project we can all work on together. When you see people who aren't on your field trip who are also collecting, introduce yourselves and enjoy telling them about your club.

Remember, there's lots rockhounding books available for anyone interested in finding the collecting areas we've known about for decades, along with information on websites. Any opportunity you have to introduce yourselves as NFMS clubs to these new rockhounds, is a multifaceted opportunity to your benefit. Talk to them about the value of belonging to an AFMS affiliated club. Tell them about all the fun contests they can participate in, the skills they can learn, the junior activities and how fun and wonderful our members are to be with. NFMS has a flyer you can print out to give and your club may have one too.

Just as important, talk to them about the value our clubs have because of our AFMS Code of Ethics we abide by. Our "code" has been the backbone of our foundation for decades, something we pride ourselves in. Be sure to give a copy of the "code" to your new members and go over it with them. Some clubs have their new members sign a membership form that they will abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics in their being a member. This is a very good idea!

A big part of my work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been making them aware that our AFMS affiliated clubs are the "gold standard" of responsibility while collecting in the field. This separates us from the non-affiliated casual collectors who aren't familiar with our etiquette in the field, and the bad apples who don't care how they leave a collecting area when they are done. The more the BLM gets to know us, they realize we are good people to work with, and they really like the fact we have a code of ethics. This has been opening doors for us in helping to keep our access to collecting areas open. In the future, our "code" and reputation will probably be the most important thing that allows us to collect in certain areas, while others may not be allowed in. We all have a lot to feel proud about as members of the NFMS and AFMS. Continue to lead by example by conducting yourselves in a manner that will add to the stature and public image of Rockhounds everywhere. Go out and play and create wonderful memories for yourselves and others.

Jennifer Haley
1st Vice President

Lora R. Hall, NFMS 2nd Vice President



It has been a very busy month, but I want to take a minute to share the winners of the AFMS Juniors Newsletter Contest since one of the winners is from the Northwest Federation, Gabe Murphy. The newsletter, "Crack The News" can be downloaded from the website <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. The winners will each receive a rock, mineral, or fossil of their choice and since Gabe is an obsidian collector, it isn't hard to guess what he requested. Yep, obsidian. If your juniors missed getting published in the 1st Edition, we are now accepting submissions for Vol.2! Submission instructions and release forms can be found on the website.

Grand Champion Mascot: George the Geode – Rosalie Dunn, Georgia Mineral Society, GA

Grand Champion Newsletter Name: Crack the News – Rosalie Dunn, Georgia Mineral Society, GA

Under 12 Group: Mascot

1st Geo the Rockhound – Gabe Murphy, Hellgate Mineral Society and the Bitterroot Mineral Society, Montana

2nd Tek the Tektite – Axel Gray, Flatirons Mineral Club, Colorado

3rd Max the Mammoth – Everett Benetazzo – Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, Illinois

Under 12 Group: Newsletter Name

1st Rockin' News - Gabe Murphy, Hellgate Mineral Society and the Bitterroot Mineral Society, Montana

2nd The Big Dig – Brady Booth, Flatirons Mineral Club, Colorado

3rd Earth Explorer Express - Axel Gray, Flatirons Mineral Club, Colorado

12 and Up Group: Mascot

1st Meg - the Megalodon - Sydney Thornton, North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Mississippi

2nd Roger the Rockhound – Jonah Palumbo, Penobscot Mineral and Lapidary Club, Maine

3rd Terry the Trilobite - Charlotte Small, Flatirons Mineral Club, Colorado

12 and Up Group: Newsletter Name

1st Meg's Minutes - Sydney Thornton, North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Mississippi

2nd The Tourmaline Schorl – Jonah Palumbo, Penobscot Mineral and Lapidary Club, Maine

Lora Hall
2nd VP NFMS
AFMS Junior Programs Chair

Nope. I'm Not Just a Dust Collector

You know how you get some printed material in the mail and you fully intend to read it? Later? It gets tossed on the pile with the other things you have good intention to read, and eventually it is buried under a pile of other items choking from the accumulated dust bunnies never to see the light of day again.

We just had our NFMS Annual meeting in Billings and some of you signed for and went home with the NFMS Directory. The balance of clubs will be receiving them in the mail soon. Or they may have already received them as of this publication.

How many of you realize what an awesome tool that little Directory is? It contains the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws and Operation Procedures for the NFMS. Have you ever wondered what all those positions are on the inside of your Newsletter cover? The Operation Procedures will tell you what each entails and the work that each of those volunteers does for the Federation.

Do you need some fresh material for a meeting program? The Directory houses a whole list of available programs that can be checked out, just like your local library. Did you know that there is a contest through the AFMS for individuals or clubs to create a video program? The winners are published and a copy is given to each Regional Federation for its library.

The Directory has history of past shows in its forward. Officers and Committee Chairs are also listed. One can peruse this section and learn when and where a show took place over the years. It also lists who was President at that time. And, of course, the list of Officers and Committee Chairs is simply another place where you can find information to reach out to us.

The Directory includes all the clubs in the NFMS. It lists its officers, meeting time and place and members. This could be a handy-dandy tool if you are planning a vacation within the Northwest. You could perhaps be in a particular area at a time when you could take in a meeting. Or, maybe you want to know a good collecting area. Since there is a long list of names and many phone numbers, you could call someone and ask. Maybe they might even let you be privy to their special spot once they learn you are a fellow NFMS member.

Yes, your club may only have one Directory. And your Club President or Federation Director may have taken possession of it. Or it may be lying in the archives of some little used place. But know that the Directory is for any member of the club who would like to use it. It is for the club as a whole. It is a resource. Bring it out into the light and use it. Dust off that Directory and let it shine!

Submitted by Judi Allison NFMS Secretary

Kids Korner

AFMS Future Rockhounds Badge Program

Junior Rockhounds are able to earn free badges. This program offers 20 different badges and plenty of backup information to help leaders teach any of the three activities needed to pass each badge. Their only requirement is that they belong to a regional club with AFMS affiliation. AFMS does not charge for any of these benefits. This information can be found at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/fra-badge-program>. Contact Lora Hall 2nd VP NFMS and AFMS Junior Programs Chair for more information.



Competitive Award Winners
NFMS/AFMS Annual Show
Billings, MT 2023

By Josh Hulstrom, NFMS Rules & Awards Chair

AWARD	SCORE	GROUP	DIVISION	CLASS	DISPLAY
<u>NFMS Competitive Displays</u>					
Gabe Murphy T-28 trophy Stevensville, MT Hellgate Gem & Mineral	98	Blue Ribbon Junior	E	EGC-1	Education, General
Alex Murphy Stevensville, MT Hellgate Gem & Mineral	92	Blue Ribbon Junior	E	EGC-4	Education, General
Daniel Hall Frenchtown, MT Hellgate Gem & Mineral	97	Blue Ribbon Novice	E	EGC-4	Education, General
Priscilla Hall-Ford LaCenter, WA Oregon Agate & Mineral Soc.	100	Blue Ribbon Novice	C	CC-1	Cabochons, more than 1 material
Doug True Billings, MT Billings Gem & Mineral	83	Red Ribbon Master	E	EIC-5	Education, Informed
Doug True Billings, MT	88.5	Red Ribbon Master	E	EGC-5	Education, General
<u>AFMS Competitive Displays</u>					
Gabe Murphy Stevensville, MT Hellgate Gem & Mineral	91	Blue Ribbon Junior	E	EGC-1	Education, General
Alex Murphy T-28 trophy Stevensville, MT Hellgate Gem & Mineral	93	Blue Ribbon Junior	E	EGC-4	Education, General
Daniel Hall Frenchtown, MT Hellgate Gem & Mineral	94	Blue Ribbon Novice	E	EGC-4	Education, General
Priscilla Hall-Ford LaCenter, WA Oregon Agate & Mineral Soc.	91	Blue Ribbon Novice	C	CC-1	Cabochons, more than 1 material
Greer Kjellberg Salina, KS McPherson Gem & Mineral	70	Blue Ribbon Junior	E	EGC-5	Education, General
Larry Hulstrom Kennewick, WA 99338 Lakeside Gem & Mineral	92	Blue Ribbon Master	B	BU-7X	Minerals, 1 Series or Species

SPECIAL AWARDS

John T. Hedin award for “Best Display of Petrified Wood” was given to Doug True for his excellent educational display of Blue Forest petrified wood.

Rodney J. Smith award for “Best All Northwest Material” was given to Priscilla Hall-Ford for her beautiful display of cabochons.

Lester Zeihen award for “Best Mineral” exhibit was given to Larry Hulstrom for his display of muscovite.

Isabelle B. Mattison award for the “Best Exhibit by a Junior” was given to Alex Murphy for his display of Dinosaurs of the Hell Creek Formation.

The AFMS Lillian Turner Junior award, which is a \$100.00 cash award, was presented to Gabe Murphy for his display of Colors of Obsidian.

I wish to thank everyone that entered competitive displays and encourage others to enter in the future. I also want to thank all of the judges that helped evaluate the cases.

2023 NFMS/AFMS Show

Old Friends, New Friends, and a Whole Lot More!

Thanks to Billings Gem and Mineral Club for hosting the 2023 NFMS/AFMS Show. I arrived in time to take in the AFMS Meeting of Directors where a simpler version of rules for competitive displays was introduced. We also heard about the new Junior Newsletter, "Crack the News", written by and for Juniors of all ages.

Friday's NFMS meeting brought about a passionate and healthy discussion about the pros and cons of a hard copy newsletter. In the end, it was agreed clubs could opt to have a completely electronic version, if desired. With this, there continues to be questions and details to consider and evaluate. We continue to have some great volunteers and new folks stepping up to fill positions. We are always seeking more. Friday evening, folks enjoyed a casual meet and greet complements of our Billings hosts. It was a great way to visit with old and new friends.

Saturday morning we learned about all the positive offerings for our Juniors throughout the AFMS. As Chair, Lora Hall stated, in effect, Please don't say Juniors are our future-they are here, they are our now. Lots of good food and company rounded out the day with a luncheon for officers and committee folks. And the awards banquet in the evening completed the day. Along with the awards, a roast to Doug True by the show committee added humor and delight as they dubbed him the "Rockfather".

Sunday morning's editors and webmasters breakfast was complete with lots of recognition and awards. At its meeting, members of ALAA continue to urge all to join and add visibility and understanding of the rock hobby and our code of ethics. Please keep writing letters of concern and work in cooperation with BLM and the Forest Service. Show them who we are. Thanks to the generosity of Doug True, the afternoon was rounded out by a live auction that netted over \$2500 each for the NFMS general fund and ALAA.


Of course, there were top notch displays and multiple dealers to take in. Some excellent speakers offered information from quartz to dinosaurs to making social media work for you.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday field trips allowed folks to try their hand at gathering rocks and fossils. Among the finds were Bear Canyon fortification agates, baculites and ammonites, as well as, dino finds in a special dig.

It appeared all had a grand time. A big round of applause for Billings and all the work put into this very successful show!

Submitted by Judi Allison

CELEBRATING 52 YEARS



Gem Mineral SHOW

Enjoy many displays of jewelry, minerals, rough material, slabs, and used machines. Plenty of demonstrations, a bountiful silent auction, hourly door prizes plus a great kids' section.

September 9-10 10AM-5PM

**WALLA WALLA FAIRGROUNDS
WALLA WALLA, WA**

AFMS Scholarship Winners for Northwest Federation

AFMS Scholarship Winners for Northwest Federation were Michael Gary of Montana Technical University Butte Montana and Korey Mooney of the University of Wyoming. Korey was unable to attend due to medical reasons. Pictured are Michael Gary and Professor Rob Thomas of the University of Montana Western, Dillon Montana.

Michael Gary is doing is a Master of Science graduate research assistant in geoscience with his research concentrated on the detection and processing of rare earth element deposits.

Korey Mooney is pursuing a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering and Hydrology. Her Master's Thesis is in snow density changes throughout the snow season, the effect of slope and determining when and where meltwater flow paths are developing. This involves Ground Penetrating Radar, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, snow pits and depth transects and other data sources.

Rob Thomas has authored many publications including Montana Geology, Yellowstone Geology and runs the Montana Geology Facebook Page with 22K followers. He was very impressed with the AFMS and it's programs for Juniors and was grateful to be able to choose students for the \$4000 scholarships they are receiving.



Submitted by Darrell Coyle
NFMS President

Michael Gary and Professor Rob Thomas of the
University of Montana Western, Dillon Montana

Stamp Committee Update

Here is your stamp program update. Ed and I continue to sort and organize the donated stamps. We received a few more batches, so thank you to those who are donating. We prepared five lots for a big stamp show auction in Portland the first weekend of May. Each of the lots sold for their opening bids, which is better than them not selling at all. That was the case for many other lots. The combined bids were \$100 with a 10% commission, so we profited \$90 for the NFMS scholarship fund. Ed raised another \$70 for a total of \$160 that was presented to the treasurer in early June. That brings our total to \$685 since we started.

Regards
 Aaron Currier
 Stamps Chairman

Rock Stamps of the Month - C

Our highlight for this month is calcite. There are a lot of stamps that depict the showy mineral. Some countries with calcite stamps include Hungary, France, Iceland, and Germany. Other C examples are carnelian from New Zealand and chrysoprase from Australia. Botswana (included in the last issue with Botswana Agate) includes chalcopyrite and citrine in the same set. The US has a nice stamp with a Copper specimen that is actually on display at the Smithsonian. And finally, our double C for the month is Cinnabar from China.



Botswana Chalcopyrite



Botswana Citrine



New Zealand Carnelian



Cinnabar from China



Germany Calcite



United States Copper



Iceland Calcite



Hungary Calcite



Australia Chrysoprase



France Calcite

NFMS Clubs' Show Schedule -- 2023

Sept 8th, 9th & 10th Fri 11 - 5 Sat 9 - 5 Sun 9 - 4	Southern Washington Mineralogical Society	Cowlitz County Fairgrounds Event Center 1900 7th Avenue Longview WA	Vicki Johnson (360) 751 8031 vickijrocks@msn.com Crystal Teel (360) 355 6424 swmineralogicalsociety@gmail.com
Sept 9th & 10th Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Clallam County Gem and Mineral Association	Vern Burton Community Center 308 East 4th Street Port Angeles WA	Kathy Schreiner (360) 460-0827 kmsjes@olypen.com www.Sequimrocks.org
Sept 9th & 10th Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 5	Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society	Walla Walla County Fairgrounds Community Center Building 831 Orchard St, Walla Walla WA	Warren Rood warrenrood@yahoo.com Bruce Hlmko brucebecky@comcast.net
Sept 16th & 17th Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Cascade Mineralogical Society - Kent WA	Green River College Phys Ed Facility 12401 SE 320th Street Auburn WA	Kat Koch (425) 765-5408 vendorchair@cascademineralogicalsociety.org www.cascademineralogicalsociety.org
Oct 6th, 7th 8th Fri 10 - 6 Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5	Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show Association	42nd Annual Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show Wingspan Event Center Building At the Westside Commons 801 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro OR 97124	Gordon Hale prgmsa.exhibitors@gmail.com For more information go to: www.PortlandRegionalGemandMineral.com
Oct 7th Sat 9 - 5	Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society	Annual Members Rock, Gem, Jewelry Bonneville Co. Fairgrounds 1542 73rd S, Idaho Falls, ID	Monique Lake (208) 757-8036 moniquelake1@gmail.com
Oct 7th & 8th Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 5	Marysville Rock and Gem Club	The Evergreen State Fairgrounds Display Bldg #500 14405 179th Ave, SE Monroe, WA (Off Hwy 2, Just west of Monroe, WA)	Christina Morrissey cmvw@frontier.com Website: http://www.marysvillerockclub.com facebook.com/Marysville-Rock-and-Gem-Club-213484905338173
Oct 7th & 8th Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 3	Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club	Willamalane Adult Activity Center 215 W C Street Springfield OR 97477	Dean Burkhart (541) 744-1919
Oct 21st & 22nd Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Hells Canyon Gem Club	Nez Perce County Fair Grounds 1229 Burrell Avenue Lewiston ID 83501	Mary Lou Northrup (208) 816-8329 mlandjl@yahoo.com
Oct 28th & 29th Sat 10 - 7 Sun 12 - 6	Chugach Gem & Mineral Society	Midtown Mall 600 E Northern Lights Blvd Anchorage AK	Paul Burger cavemonpaul@hotmail.com
Nov 11th & 12th Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Skagit Rock & Gem Club	Sedro Woolley Community Center 703 Pacific Street Sedro Woolley, WA	Debbie Frank skagitrockandgem@gmail.com www.skagitrockandgem.com

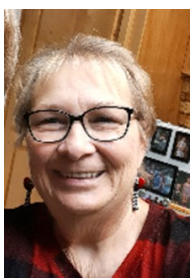
Do You Get Your Newsletter?

A matter of members from various clubs stating that they never received the printed copy was one of the issues during the discussion of the printed newsletter. We are hoping to help educate the clubs better and will continue to strive for a better understanding by all of the process. Each club should have a membership person or some other person who will be responsible for reporting the addition of new members to the proper people.

If the Circulation chair does not get updates during the year, the newer members are not going to receive the newsletter. He maintains a very extensive list of households and addresses. That list is forwarded and used to label the newsletters to go to households. If a name and address has not been turned in to the circulation chair or if a needed address change was not submitted, the person is not going to receive a paper.

So, the issue of someone not receiving a newsletter has to start at the club level. If the club has done its job, then the next step would be to check with circulation. If that doesn't work, reach out to the Executive committee. Opportunities are provided for our membership, but we all have to work together to get the job done. Remember that any member can reach out to the board.

I send most correspondence though email, and I can only assume that it is arriving at its destination, as I rarely get a response from the recipients. (I don't get undeliverable messages-and I have broken down the number of emails I send at one time, so the possibility is strong that individuals are receiving the information.) If you are not, you might check your spam and be certain that you are allowing mail from NFMS. And, again, please reach out if you are having issues. We can only guess if no one says anything.



Submitted by Judi Allison
NFMS Secretary