BUILDING STRONGER CLUBS
(1st in a three-part series)
This is a re-cap of a seminar offered at the NFMS meeting in Longview, WA. It is being submitted to the NFMS News in hopes that it will be useful in helping clubs plan for growth and better membership retention.

The rockhounding hobby needs strong clubs with new and active members if it is to survive and prosper. We each face similar problems related to maintaining membership and creating a good group of willing volunteers. Many of our members are no longer able to carry the load that they have carried in the past. We need to encourage new members to take active leadership roles.

The first part of this series will review some issues related to basic needs and club activities. These topics relate to why a member might join a club, and what the clubs can do to reward the member for their membership. Consider discussing the following areas and giving your club a grade.

Club functions
1. Social: We all meet as a social outlet. It is supposed to be fun. We need to remember this when planning all of our activities. Some members are married to rock hounds and are not very interested in rocks. These are also important members in terms of officers and volunteers and the more we can keep them involved, the more the rockhound member will be active and involved. We need to make sure that the social aspects of the club are not ignored.

2. Educational: Most new members join our clubs hoping to learn more about the hobby. Some are interested in collecting, others want lapidary skills and others are interested in geology. Whatever the interest, we should try to fill the need through educational programs, demonstrations and special classes. Programs, classes and lapidary shops are an important part of member retention.

3. Collecting: Many members are collectors long before they join a club. Members are looking for new locations and new experiences and like-minded individuals to share their interest. This is an important aspect that cements new members and allows established members to get to know the new members. The field trip schedule should involve long and short trips for a variety of materials and should have trips that are appropriate for juniors. Field trip duties should be shared.

4. Shows: The shows that we sponsor fulfill many purposes. They are our most visible chance to let the general public share our hobby. They are an opportunity to show case the art and craftsmanship of the membership and the beauty that is locked up inside the rocks. It is a chance for members to find materials that are normally not available. The shows are also a chance to interact with other members and share in the activity of putting on the show.

5. Claims: We are losing many collecting areas to changes in land ownership, changes in government policy and restrictions due to private claimants. We can help our clubs and our hobbies by investing the time it takes to find, file, manage and utilize available resources. These claims should be made available to members of other clubs and utilized as a shared resource. We need to be pro-active as individuals and clubs to keep areas open for collecting.

6. Political: Land use and access is always an issue. This can be an important and challenging part of the hobby for those that can understand and work within the political process. There are constant issues that affect our ability to collect and sell our materials. Membership in the NFMS and ALAA will help to keep us informed of the changes that may affect our hobby. This area needs strong representation by individuals that are passionate about protecting our access to collecting.

For more information contact:
Keene Clay, Mt Hood Rock Club
503-558-8500, odroc@comcast.net

DEADLINE
for YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO
the next
NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER is
NOVEMBER 5th
(SUNDAY)
For the November 2006
ISSUE
509 371 1572
BRYAN SCHROEDER
NFMS NEWSLETTER EDITOR
nfmsnews@verizon.net

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NFMS Website
www.amfed.org/nfms
A show-chair book will help. What will help is to do an after-action report. One of our members started a list on what correction and changes were needed for next year. This list was passed around to the members. This was a great approach to solicit a variety of ideas and a great way to include new members.

What can we do for our older members? How about making a video? You could capture the creativity of the lapidary skills and a little of the club adventures from years’ past. More about that later.

As the summer comes to a close, we will be spending more time in our lapidary shops. Be safe! I have asked someone to take over the safety committee. If you have any ideas or would like to help, let me know.

Last is a little safety idea I used today. The West Nile Virus is now in our area. It is best to make sure there is no standing water around your home. As rockhounds, we sometimes have buckets full of rocks. If you have not drilled holes in the bottom and want a fast way to stop mosquito breeding, try vegetable oil. Pour enough to cover the water. This will keep the larva from stop mosquito breeding, try vegetable oil. Pour enough to cover the water. This will keep the larva from

Chuck Sonner
NFMS President.

The Federation show and our club show were only a month apart. That made for a very interesting four weeks. Our club does not have a permanent show chairman. What can we do to help that member?

Margaret Stallknecht
Education Chair

Summer is coming to an end but we still have a lot of time left for rock hunting before it snows, and there are many rock shows still left. I hope that you still have a good time. We still have space on the calendar. $10.00 buys an advertisement good for 2 years. The T-shirts came out wonderful! $15.00 for your choice of color and the hats are $10.00. I hope to be able to bring them to some shows. We still have not gotten anyone to send information about the Education position. I will be at the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology’s Rock Party this month, the Idaho Science Teachers Work Shop in Boise in October, the Mountain Home Rock Show is October 14! Hope to see you there! Have a good fall rock hunting.

Attention Faceters

Last year’s auction for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation held in Longview, Washington went very well. We grossed $3705 and, after expenses for Gold Mounting, gem boxes and printing, the net was $3464.09.

I want to thank those who helped with the 2006 auction, Dee Holland, Lauren Williams, Glenn Lee, and auctioneer, Bob Carlson. Many thanks to the following people who bought the mounted gemstones during the AFMS Scholarship Auction: Shirley Leeson, Barbara Sack, Linda Keltz, Shirley Jiminez, Mel Buhr, Wilma Eads, Darlene Posthuma, Bev Dillon, Fran Berting and Glenn Lee.

Now I am asking all Northwest Faceters to send me some more faceted stones for the 2007 Auction. If possible, I would like them by December 15. I will be going to Tucson at the first of the year and would like to buy the gold mountings then.

2007 will be the AFMS’s 60th Anniversary and I would like to have a productive auction to help celebrate this special occasion.

Please send to Richard Glismann, 4326 S. 200 W. Ogden, Utah 84405

Sincerely,
Richard Glismann,
AFMS Scholarship Chairman

We Need Your Help...

Do we have a Federation member who knows how to make a movie using a standard video camera? What I am looking for is a “how to do a video” video.

The reason behind this request was mentioned in my monthly message. All clubs have members they would like to and should capture on tape. This would be something the club could cherish for years to come. The problem is how to make the video. If we could get several approaches, a member could choose the one that works best for them.

These ‘how to’ videos would be added to our library so please help.

Chuck Sonner

DARLENE’S DOODLES:

Well, it’s getting onto THAT time of year! After Labor Day & before Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Years! THAT TOO!!

But actually I’m talking about the 2007 Editor’s Breakfast & Awards Banquet, in conjunction with the NFMS Show in Butte, Montana, August 3-5. It’s never too early to see if you need, want, or have already, “spruced” up your club bulletin. At the next club meeting you might ask the members for their thoughts, and if they are getting all the information they need from the club bulletin. Is there something missing? What might that be?

Be sure to remind all members to contribute with articles & poems for publication. We know many of you can do that, if just asked & reminded.

Another item or idea you might not have thought of is your club coming up on 20, 25, 30 or more years of existence? How about printing up a “special” edition commemorating all those years? Who were the first officers? When did certain events start & what were they? such as Picnic, Auction, Field Trip, life-time membership given & the like. Perhaps a member (historian) has a copy of the first bulletin given out. All this information can make up a very “special” bulletin. Maybe your club doesn’t put out a monthly newsletter, but perhaps for a ‘one-time’ thing, a committee could get together & publish this EXTRA special bulletin. THINK ABOUT IT!

Keep up the good work Editors & keep on sending your bulletins to me each month.

Darlene Denton, Chairperson
5830 Haddon Ln
Anacortes WA 98221-4332

Toothpaste? Toothpaste with fluoride formula has the unique characteristic of penetrating stone, ceramics, brick or terra cotta and flushing dirt to the surface, where it can be washed away with water. It was used to restore Etruscan vases by New York’s most famous art and antique restorer.
SECOND ANNUAL ROCKHOUND RETREAT (2006)  
by Lamar Tilgner

Another educational experience has been completed. For those of you that did not get to participate; sorry, but we will give you another chance next year. Again this year, the sessions were held in Central Oregon, 20 miles west of Fossil, at Hancock Field Station. This facility is owned by Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, is of a rustic nature with a mountainous desert appearance to the landscape. The camp itself has enough cabins to house 50 plus people and ample space for campers, trailers, RV’s or tents with restroom and shower facilities available.

We had 15 people register for the Retreat, and they were allowed to participate in 5 workshops; faceting, lapidary, wirewrapping, silversmithing, and intarsia. Thanks to our experienced instructors and a great interchange of information, the attendees went home with a greater knowledge of the hobby and a noticeable increase of expertise in multiple activities. Add this to the great food and wonderful fellowship along with some great fun, we all had a wonderful experience that will be remembered for some time (at least till next year).

For next year (2007) we will be adding two new workshops, Judges’ Training, and beadbeading. The Beading module will be available to all who want to learn those activities and will be further defined as we develop for next year. The Judges’ Training module will be an intensive training activity for the full length of the Retreat, and any one who enters would need knowledge of the area that they intend to judge, such as Lapidary, Fossils, Jewelry, Etc. We will not train the activity, just the rules and judging process. Along with the two new ones, we intend to maintain the five that we held this year.

For next year, if you are interested and only have two or three days available, we will prorate the costs for room and board depending upon days of attendance. The workshop fee must be paid in full. For further information, watch the Newsletter coverage of next year’s Retreat. I look forward to seeing all of you there (up to 50 people)

EDITOR’S CORNER

Where is my newsletter? says Ava, the editor’s grand-daughter

In the last month or so, I have had several people tell me that new members are not receiving their newsletter. This could be due to one or more of three reasons which I will discuss in detail below. Briefly, these three reasons could be: (1) Your club membership chairperson has not sent your address to the NFMS Circulation Chairperson, (2) The NFMS Circulation Chairperson has not input the name and address into the mailing address list, or (3) The address is invalid/incorrect. Unfortunately, the people who should be reading this column are not getting the newsletter to read it. Hopefully, those people that do read this column will pass the information to those who need to know.

Your Club Membership to NFMS

Your club may or may not have a designated membership chairperson, but someone from your club (or society) submits a list of its membership (as of 12/31) along with a fee of $3.50 for each member to the NFMS Treasurer. The Treasurer then forwards the membership list to the Directory (membership) chairperson followed by the Circulation Chairperson who is responsible for addresses for the newsletter. The $3.50 fee entitles one copy of this newsletter to each address. Note: there is usually more than one member at the same address.

If a new member joins your club during mid-year (after the club renews it’s membership with NFMS), the process discussed above is slightly different. First, there is no fee assessed until the following year, but the new member is still eligible to receive this newsletter. (The NFMS organization assumes this expense.) Secondly, the name and mailing address should be sent to the NFMS Circulation Chairperson. Sending new membership names and addresses to the NFMS Circulation Chairperson is the most efficient method for getting the newsletter.

The NFMS Circulation Chairperson

The NFMS Circulation Chairperson is responsible for maintaining the mailing list for this newsletter. This person also sends an updated mail list to the AFMS editor who then prints the addresses on mailing labels and sends them to the newsletter printer in Burley, ID – a little more on this later (below). Currently there are more than 3200 addresses on the mailing list. Approximate 5% of those addresses are not verifiable, which I will discuss later. Here are some things clubs can do to improve a successful mailing of the newsletter.

• Have the new member review their address before sending it to the Circulation Chairperson.
• Send an electronic version, such as e-mail. This will avoid interpreting someone handwriting and possible typing errors by the Circulation Chairperson.
• Many clubs maintain a membership list. It would be better to pull new members off this list and then send it to the Circulation Chairperson.
• If you have previously submitted new members to the Circulation Chairperson, it is suggested you resubmit their names and addresses to the new Circulation Chairwoman below.

The new Circulation Chairwoman is: 
Bev Schroeder
153 Spring St.
Richland, WA 99354
Phone: 509-371-1572
e-mail: nfmsnews@verizon.net

Invalid or Incorrect Mailing Address

In order to reduce mailing costs, we are using automated bulk mailing with the U.S. Post Office. This saves approximately $100 for each mailing of the newsletter as compared to our previous mailing method. To use this automated bulk mailing rate, a computer program is required which is somewhat expensive, and this program must be updated every three months to meet the U.S. Post Office requirements. And, the update is costly too. Since the AFMS editor (Carolyn Weinberger) was already using this automated bulk mailing system, we joined forces to split the cost.

One of the things this program does is to dump those addresses that cannot be verified. On page 7 there is a list of 126 names where the address could not be verified. Ofentimes the problem is a simple one…a mistyped number or abbreviation. Most of these names are not those of new members but were derived from the membership list during the renewal period early in the year. Corrections to mailing addresses should also be sent to the Circulation Chairperson. This includes members who have moved or have died. Bulk mail will not be forwarded by the Post Office. Please note: if you forward your mail while snow birding in Arizona, your newsletter (since it is bulk mail) will not be forwarded. This could be the cause for some of the addresses listed on page 7

ADVERTISE YOUR SHOW FOR FREE

I just wanted to remind clubs that they have a handy-dandy, all-in-one way of getting some advertising out about their club show... and it is absolutely free.

Just send me an e-mail (preferred) or letter or give me a phone call and give me the information about your upcoming show. I will pass it on to the Northwest Newsletter, NFMS web site, Lapidary Journal, Rock and Gem and Rocks and Minerals.

You will always find my name and address and e-mail in the newsletter under the standing committees: "Show Coordination". If you get the information to me at least 6 months before your show you can be assured of getting it in all the magazines. Even if you don't get it to me until later, it will still get in the newsletter and on the web site.

Remember, this is one of the things that your federation does for you; as long as you take advantage of it. So, if you haven't already, let me know about your show, and I'll get the information out to all the places. Just think; you can send one offering and it will reach five different places. Now, isn't that easier than doing it all yourself? And I will let you know that I have received and passed on your information. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Judi Allison
Show Coordination
e-mail: njall@comi.com
BLUE RIBBON COALITION (BRC)
By Evan Day

At the NFMS Executive Board meeting at the end of the Longview Show, the Board expressed interest in the Blue Ribbon Coalition as a means of maintaining our access to rockhounding sites. As seen below, BRC is a nationwide organization of Off Highway Vehicle recreation enthusiasts. BRC primarily focuses on access, so we still need to independently protect our specific interests in resources or legislation such as the Fossil Bill, etc. Since our 4-wheel drive pickup is the only way my arthritic wife Joan (your Executive Secretary) can get to many locations, I volunteered to provide information on the BRC to the NFMS membership. As quoted from their website (www.sharetrails.org) their slogan is “Preserving Our Natural Resources FOR the public, Instead of FROM the Public.” This article (reprinted by enthusiastic permission) is a few paragraphs written by the BRC founder, Clark Collins, explaining what they do, www.offroad.com/brc/brocover.html.

BLUE RIBBON COALITION: AN OVERVIEW
By: Clark L. Collins
Executive Director
Blue Ribbon Coalition

The Blue Ribbon Coalition is a nationwide organization representing over 500,000 motorized recreationists and resource users (This figure represents the combined memberships of our member organizations. Our paid membership is 5,000). We work with land managers to provide recreation opportunities, preserve resources, and promote cooperation with other public land users.

Organized in 1987, the BRC has successfully combined the strength of the snowmobile, 4X4, ATV and off-highway motorcycle community into a potent team. Snowmobilers in Illinois get involved in issues affecting motorcyclists in the California desert. 4X4 enthusiasts from Georgia help protect snowmobiling in and around Yellowstone Park. OHV interests in Utah work with rock hounds (who use off highway vehicles in their activities) to block an outrageous Wilderness proposal in their state.

Our efforts are currently organized into four divisions: Public Policy, Land Use, Communications and Membership. These divisions are overseen by a Board of Directors who also elect line officers and an executive board. Following is additional information on the activities of the four divisions.

PUBLIC POLICY
The Blue-Ribbon Coalition, by participating in the political process, has been able to advance opportunities for motorized recreationists. Many bills are proposed each year that threaten recreation access and other multiple uses. We respond to these threats. We work with our member organizations on Wilderness bills and other legislation that would negatively impact balanced recreation and resource use. We organize letter writing and testify at hearings in opposition to these proposals. We mobilize broad based opposition to threats to any individual group. We stress unity. Our highly effective national network reaches activists in nearly every Congressional District. Regional issues now have a national constituency.

For too long the multiple use community’s political action has been primarily reactive. This unfortunate era in political action ended with the passage of the National Recreational Trail Fund Act (NRTFA). For the first time, the Federal Government recognized the need to provide recreational facilities that include motorized recreationists, set aside money to do so and established a balanced committee to oversee the expenditures. The Blue-Ribbon Coalition took a leadership role in advancing this legislation. We organized support among the recreation and multiple use communities, as well as among state recreation administrators. The passage of the National Recreational Trails Fund Act was a major proactive victory for recreation and multiple uses.

LAND USE
Our land use program works directly with providers to maintain and expand trails and roads for motorized and equestrian recreation. While we work extensively with federal public land managers, we also work with agencies in states where there is little or no public land. We promote multiple use and cooperation among users. We seek to eliminate user conflict as a basis for discriminatory land management decisions. Our Public Lands Director makes sure recreationists are treated fairly and equally. Working with our member organizations, we have had many successes in preventing closures and even reversing land management decisions. We promote cooperation with resource industries, wise use of the resources and cooperation among users.

We participate in processes that determine the national direction of land management policy. We attend national conferences, representing the interests of motorized recreation. We maintain contact with national public land managers and decision makers as well as with members of Congress who affect public lands policy. In these national based efforts, we are working toward a change in national policy that promotes balanced recreation and improves motorized recreation opportunities.

The Public Lands Director contributes a regular column in BlueRibbon Magazine describing problems as well as the successful resolution of recreation issues as they have occurred in specific parts of the country. It discusses ways to work with land managers, and educates users about the land management planning process.

A LITTLE ABOUT LIGHTNING RIDGE
From “The Future Eaters” by Tim Flannery, c. 1995

Lightning Ridge is a dusty inland town, as different from wet and hilly Cape Paterson as anywhere in Australia. Yet they both have something very important in common, for the rocks that underlay them were formed about 120 million years ago. At Lightning Ridge the actual fossil bones have long since gone, dissolved by acidic groundwater. The spaces that the bones left in the rock remain and in many instances they have been filled with an unusual form of silica known as opal. Thus, at Lightning Ridge, when a miner sinks his shaft in search of opal, he occasionally runs across the most exquisite natural casts of the bones of animals that existed over 100 million years ago. Many of the creatures whose remains have been found are similar to those found in Victoria although, perhaps because Lightning Ridge lay further from the South Pole than Cape Paterson, the remains of larger dinosaurs are also found there but labyrinthodonts are absent.

By far the most striking fossil ever discovered at Lightning Ridge is a small jaw with three teeth in it. It is beautifully preserved in transparent opal, so that tiny details of the root and nerve canals can all be seen. When examined by palaeontologists it proved to be the jaw bone of an ancient relative of the platypus. Named Steropodon galmani in honour of Mr Galman, it remains Australia’s most ancient mammal fossil by some 60 million years.

SAFETY REPORT
George Browne, SCFMS Safety Chair

We are fortunate that we are in an area where we can go on field trips most of the year. However late fall and early winter is usually the time when we spend more time inside. So perhaps we should consider a little inside rockhound safety. There are numerous subjects we could discuss but let’s limit this topic to dust. Rock dust is far more dangerous than most rockhounds realize. We encounter rock dust when we clean our rocks or fossils, when we saw, grind, sand, and polish. If you are going to work with rocks and fossils you are going to encounter rock dust. Why is rock dust a safety issue? Because rock dust is the cause of silicosis.

Silicosis is a creeping killer. Every time we inhale rock dust it affects the lungs. It may take 10 to 20 years for it to create enough scar tissue to do any damage but when the damage is done it is irreversible. In other words there is no cure. Therefore it is essential that we prevent the inhalation of the dust. If you can equip your shop with exhaust hoods that’s fantastic. But at least use a proper respirator. Be sure the respirator is the proper type. A respirator that you would use for paint fumes would not be proper for particulates. Check with your supplier for the proper type.

Don’t be fooled that just because you saw with oil or grind and sand wet that you are eliminating all the dust. The oil and water does remove a lot of the dust but not all of it. Did you ever notice how much dust accumulates around your sander and grinders? Your polishing compounds also contain particles that can cause silicosis. Just be careful about what you breathe.

For more information on this topic or other safety issues, check the American Federation web site. Go to amfed.org and then click on The AFMS and then click on Safety in the left hand column. You will find a lot of safety articles from the American Federation and several of the regional federations. These articles are for you to read or publish in your club bulletin. I am flattered that I occasionally see this SCFMS safety article published in our club bulletins but I rarely ever see any AFMS articles published. There are enough articles available that every club bulletin could have a safety article in every issue. Keep your members informed and safe.
Since volunteering to be the NFMS Juniors Committee Chairman in 2001, one of my annual responsibilities is the facilitation of the NFMS Junior Achievement Award. Fortunately, every year we have had at least one Junior Achievement Award Winner who excels in the hobby of Rockhounding, scholastic or school endeavors, community service activities and work related activities. Unfortunately, almost every year there has been some sort of gaffe or snafu in the process of making the Award(s).

In Longview, at the 2006 NFMS Annual Show and Convention, Kathy McClure and Jim McClure of Kitsap Mineral & Gem Society (WA) pointed out extreme concern for how delivery of the Junior Achievement Awards seemed questionable and unfair to both the Winners and their families, specifically in regards to notification and attendance at the Annual Awards Banquet. I agreed 100% with their observations and comments, but in keeping with the spirit of tradition of how we had been doing things for the past five years, did not make any changes on the spot because of the late moment.

After the Annual Show I began some discovery into the origins of this Award and the process of presenting the Award(s). After reviewing every page in the three boxes of Juniors Committee Archives, I only found four documents (letters) that alluded to the Junior Achievement Award, but no formal document of origination. Neither the updated (2006) Operation Procedures for the NFMS Juniors Committee nor the updated (2006) NFMS Junior Achievement Trust Fund OP attends to or mentions the relevant issues of concern. So I contacted NFMS Historian Shirley Leeson to inquire if any formal documents were retained in the Official Record. Shirley consulted with Dee Holland to discover that there was no formal originating document for the NFMS Junior Achievement Award program, only a set of rules and criteria that were written up by the 1989 NFMS President and the late Sue Holland, who was NFMS Juniors Committee Chairman at that time. Again, I additionally confirmed this from other sources.

So, after consulting with NFMS Officers, I realized that the issues in question could be remedied within the Juniors Committee. If necessary, these improvements can be added as an OP in the future, but some changes are required as soon as possible so the next cycle of Junior Achievement Award Winners will have a smooth and comfortable delivery of their Awards. My plan is to write a detailed outline of how the Junior Achievement Award program is successfully carried out during each annual cycle, make it part of the Juniors Committee Archives for future reference and be sure that it is completed by the end of November, 2006. Here are the key components and envisions that will be included now and as part of my Mid Year Report for the NFMS Juniors Committee:
1) The rules and criteria of the Application/Resume’ remain the same because they have been very workable and have not been a source of controversy, question or concern during the past five years.
2) Postmark deadline for submitting Applications and Resumes will be standardized to April 1st every year, rather than floating with a variable date of 45 days prior to the Annual Banquet.
3) Junior Achievement Award Winners and parents will be notified by May 1st (not the day of the Banquet) so their family can plan ahead and have the choice of attendance.
4) I have confirmed from multiple sources that Winners and their families can attend the Awards portion of the Banquet without dining or buying a Banquet ticket. This has been an unwritten rule in the past, but soon will be a part of the written version and published so we can all be on the same page.

Like everyone else that wins awards, Junior Achievement Award Winners may purchase tickets and attend the whole Banquet with their families.

The NFMS Officers and the Juniors Committee are clearly unanimous that the Junior Achievement Award Winners and their families need to have the opportunity to enjoy the presentation of the Awards at the Annual Banquet. With the aforementioned improvements we can all live happily ever after and our future leaders will not experience any “rocky road” when they win the NFMS Junior Achievement Award.
Jerry Hughes and Juli Dahl are the Advisors for the Alsea Youth Lapidary Club in Waldport, Oregon. A famous member of that Juniors Club is NATHEN PLOUGH, age 17, who is also a member of the Oregon Coast Agate Club. NATHEN authored a poem titled "I am rock" which won First Place in the 2006 NFMS (Longview) and First Place in the 2006 AFMS (Nashville) Poem Writing Competitions that we do not hear about very often.

NATHEN is in the photo holding the Certificate and Trophy, standing by Juli Dahl who made sure his poetic acumen was promoted. NATHEN PLOUGH is also a member of the Young Writers Group, a program of the Seashore Family Literacy Center in Waldport. NATHEN has a great eye for cabochon cutting, but prefers freeform, usually in a triangular shape. He did a beautiful teardrop charoite piece for his girlfriend and put it on a necklace using rainbow moonstone chips, clear quartz chips and a couple of amethyst beads. Here is his poem:

"I am rock"
To be known is to be heard
To be heard is to be seen
To be seen is to move
but I can't move
I am a rock
I've been hit, kicked
and thrown around
but I feel no pain
for I am a rock
Yes, I get a chip here
and there
but it does not hurt
for I am still
just dirt

By NATHEN PLOUGH

September 16-17 was a big day for Missoula! First Home Game for the Montana State Grizzlies, the Hempfest and most importantly the Hellgate Mineral Society Show at Ruby's.

BENJAMIN RIGGS, age 11, standing by his display case is Grandson of Show Chairman Bob Riggs and has been in the Rock Club for 2 years. BENJAMIN has been on many Field Trips and liked them all. His display had 12 mixed mineral specimens from Silent Auctions at the Hellgate meetings. BENJAMIN is very confident in his hobby and stands tall as the only Junior in this Rock Club at this time.

The 2006 Hellgate Mineral Society Show had Junior Rockhounds panning for gems with the able help of volunteer Jeanee Moodey (standing back left in photo). One mother said she brings her 3 kids to this show every year, so she received a Northwest Newsletter and invitation to join the Rock Club and be the Juniors Advisor so her kids could have fun every month rather than once a year!

The 2006 Hellgate Mineral Society Show had Junior Rockhounds panning for gems with the able help of volunteer Jeannce Moodey (standing back left in photo). One mother said she brings her 3 kids to this show every year, so she received a Northwest Newsletter and invitation to join the Rock Club and be the Juniors Advisor so her kids could have fun every month rather than once a year!

Endowment Fund Annual Report (continued from Page 5)

Contributions for the 12 months ending July 1, 2006 totaled $743.27. Fund raising activity from the NFMS Show at Longview has not as yet been reported to, or deposited with, the endowment fund Treasurer.

Club Contributions included:

- $ 50.00
- $ 100.00 Eugene Mineral Club
- $ 25.00
- $ 76.50 Oregon Coast Agate Club
- $ 491.76 Idaho Falls Mineral Club
- $ 743.26

Sincerely,
Jon Spunaugle
Treasurer
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The addresses shown on this page cannot be verified, hence they are not eligible for automated bulk mailing (see page 3). Contact the Circulation Chairwoman with address corrections.
What’s The Purpose?  
by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office

Someone recently asked me “What’s the purpose of the AFMS?!” Good question, and one that caused me to do a little research so I could give the individual the “official” answer. My probe took me back to the AFMS Articles of Incorporation, which state:

“Article II - Objects and Purposes
Section 1. GENERAL PURPOSES: To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.”

That statement was written almost sixty (60) years ago, and we’re still holding true to it. The number of regional federation members has grown to seven and through their efforts as well as our own, we’re educating the public through local clubs, shows, field trips, newsletters, websites, etc. We’re also helping the field “grow” through our scholarship foundation with two dozen students receiving financial assistance each year.