PRESIDENTIAL PEARLS

By
Ronna Watkins

"Wisdom"

Shop time is upon us! Winter is coming and in the Northwest from Friday, December 21, 2018 to Wednesday, March 20, 2019 we will either be in the shop or in the kitchen…or one of the lucky few that get to go south for the winter. Darrell and I were snowbirds for a time (in-between our big kids and our younger two). We loved it. The Colorado Coast is a great place to be when the weather turns cold. We really enjoyed Quartzsite and the shows held there. We enjoyed Lake Havasu City with its London Bridge and shops, too. But this winter we will spend in the shop, being mindful of shop safety after we check our fire extinguisher and our cords and grounds. I urge you to do the same. Well maintained equipment and safety wear are very important.

As I write, I should tell you we had a good turnout at our organizational meeting in Lewiston, ID. I want to thank our Hells Canyon Gem Club for hosting this important meeting. The meeting room was perfect and they brought us snacks, too. Thank you, Hells Canyon!

Some of the business covered included needed changes to the operating procedures of the Competitive Exhibits Committee that will be published and presented for approval at our Midyear Meeting, work by Ken Zahn to coordinate our chairs and committees with the AFMS’ chairs and committees, that will include up-dates to the newsletter’s second page, and reports and business of almost every chair and committee. It is honor and privilege to work with this capable and committed group of individuals.

More Notable Items:

I received a report from Lamar Tilgner that our Northwest Rockhound Retreat went off without a hitch and our next retreat is being planned. If you would like to attend this great event, Lamar assures me there are open spots. Contact him with your information. I would also, like to thank Lamar for his hours of work and dedication to the Rockhound Retreat. His years of service to make this happen have been a major contribution to our rockhound community.

Keep cutting out stamps for cancer! Lyle Vogelpohl reported $325 from stamps was sent to the project “Knitted Knockers”, with an additional $104 to start this fiscal year. Thank you to everyone that contributes stamps for the support of this great cause, including Paul Heesacker who donated fiber filling for the project.

News of our AFMS Scholarship Foundation 2018 Honoree, Evan Day, as written from the AFMS Newsletter, “Northwest Federation: Mr. Evan Day. Evan has held many positions in the Northwest Federation. Evan has chosen the following two students for the Northwest Federation: Mr. Keegan Melstrom is pursuing his PhD degree in Geology and Geophysics at University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. The second student, Mr. Tylor Birthsel is pursuing his Masters degree in Paleontology at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.” Congratulations to Evan and his student recipients.

We still have several chair positions and positions on committees that need to be filled. Vacancies are: Bulletin Aids, Education, Newsletter Editor, and Public Relations. We, also, need volunteers on the Competitive Exhibits Committee. Contact me if you are interested in supporting our hobby and societies in any of these capacities.

Since no one has stepped forward to help out with these duties, if your club has entries to the All American Club Contest and/or the Bulletin Editor’s Contest (which includes articles, features, and bulletins) send them to me and I will make sure our best get sent on to the AFMS contests. My address and contact info are on page 2. Call me if you have questions. The deadline for the Bulletin contest has to be December 15th, since the AFMS deadline is December 28th. Sorry for the short notice, but I had hoped someone would head up this important chair position. The deadline for the All American Club Contest will be January 15th and will cover the 2018 year from January to November. I would thank you to please send electronic copies to the bulletin contest for expedience.

Continued page 3
ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS

Where to send your money
To NFMS Treasurer for:
1. Dues and supplies
2. Donations for the general fund
3. Donations to Junior Achievement
   Advertisement
   Members, Non-members, clubs, etc. can advertise in the Northwest Newsletter. This service is provided to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and is encouraged by the Federation. The only criteria for the ad is that it be hobby related (e.g. rocks, equipment, grit, shows, etc.).
   For an additional 50% of the cost of the newsletter ad, you can have the same ad placed on the NFMS website for the same length of time. The Newsletter ad must be purchased to receive this additional advertisement.
   Do not send ads on colored paper because the back-ground will look gray in the ad. The Editor will send a billing statement to the customer which will include instructions to make payment to the NFMS Treasurer. For more information or questions, call, e-mail or write the Newsletter Editor.
PRESIDENTIAL PEARLS

(continued)

The 2019 Website Contest Entries should be sent to Cheri George as soon as possible. Guidelines for this contest have changed, so please get the form and the new information at the AFMS website and here ttp://northwestfederation.org/WebsiteContest.asp

And finally, news of the Midyear Meeting, June 1st (time still to be determined), to be held in Coeur d’Alene hosted by the North Idaho Mineral Club during their 2019 show. A meeting space has been contracted at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds (4056 N Government Way, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815). The fairground has overnight RV camping that includes full hook ups for $40 per night. There are 28 available spots and you can reserve a space online at https://www.kcfairgrounds.com/p/facility/333. I have made arrangements for a block of rooms at Quality Inn & Suites 280 W. Appleyway Avenue, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814 (208) 664-0433 and (208) 765-5500. Rooms with one king or two queens at $132 per night; but, we must book ten rooms to get this great rate. Accommodations in Coeur d’Alene in June are expensive and fill up early, so please make arrangements for accommodations as soon as possible. I would like to see a huge attendance of Directors and Delegates at this meeting. Plan early for a great time!

In closing, I want to express what a great year I have had with the AFMS, the NFMS, and our club societies. We have had a great year! We had a great group attend the AFMS conference where our societies walked away with many awards and our leadership made many new friends from across the federations. We had a great turn out for our 80th annual show in Yakima and got some important business done. And, we have amazing, capable rockhounds in leadership to serve. I couldn’t be more excited for the NFMS than I am today. I wish each of you and yours the best of everything during this holiday season!

FIRST VICE PRESIDENTIAL VARISCITES

by

Kenneth Zahn

You may have noticed a not-so-subtle undertorrent in a few of my recent comments via this column — a slight “tug” toward getting you to also access the Federation's on-line website and explore certain offerings. You’re likely to soon say “there you go again” (as Ronald Reagan said famously in his 1980 debate with Jimmy Carter), as I’m about to do so again. I’m guessing that this one will be interesting to many of our newer members since it’s about some of our more well-liked field collecting sites. Here goes.

I began browsing older (archived) NFMS on-line newsletters from the years 2006 to 2009 to start a list of some of my favorite articles and found that my favorites fell into 4 general categories: (1) Certain field trip and material-handling discussions, (2) “Lessons-learned” and “how-to’s” of growing club membership and retaining new members, (3) Encouraging volunteerism, and (4) Good “club-newslettering” hints. Don’t worry — I’m only going to comment on some field trip articles here; and briefly at that.

To access any of the articles I reference below (or others in online archives), just go the NFMS archived Newsletter website at: http://northwestfederation.org/NewslettersArchive.asp, pull down the tab for the cited publication year, and click open the cited month of newsletter. Once opened, scroll to the appropriate page and enjoy the article. Pretty simple. Of course, things such as collecting-site accessibility and fee costs, if any, may have changed in the intervening 9 - 12 years, but such past articles are still fun to read. Besides, someone in your club will probably know the current collecting status of the site.

For 2006 - 2009 articles on opal trips and processing the material, try these:
• 2007 (September), pg 9. (Virgin Valley)
• 2006 (September), pgs 5 & 7 (Virgin Valley)
• 2007 (October), pg 4; and rebuttal comment in November issue, pg 3 (Spencer in the good old days)
• 2007 (May), pgs 9 & 11 (Virgin Valley)
• 2006 (June/July), pg 8. (working material)
For a summary of a 6,400 mile, 5-week field trip loop through the western U.S.: 2009 (Jan/Feb, pg 9; continued in March issue, pgs 9 & 10).

If you do open the older newsletters for some of these past articles, I’ll bet you — like I — also stopped to check out other articles, photos, and references on the way. If you do, and you continue to browse through other newsletters, I’ll have succeeded.

NFMS RULES & AWARDS COMMITTEE

By

BOB GIBSON

We are still in need of volunteers to join the Competitive Exhibits Committee. Lauren Williams has been working on putting on paper his comprehensive knowledge of the internal workings of the Committee. The Judging Manual is now complete. We will send a copy to anyone expressing interest in the inter-workings of the Judging Committee.

Anyone may make comments about any of its content. However since this manual is for the internal use of the Competitive Exhibits Committee it does not and will not be voted on. If you want a copy of the Manual send me your request with your email address to me Bob Gibson at gibcott@gmail.com or Lauren Williams at slharuir@msn.com.
Second Vice Presidential "Verdelites"

By Beth Heesacker

“As a volunteer leader... You can encourage your volunteers, engage and motivate them to grow, and become a source of inspiration!”

Words can work wonders. As a volunteer leader (President of your club, Show Chair, etc.), encourage, inspire, and motivate your volunteers. Stay connected to them by thanking them, by praising what they are doing, making sure that they know that they are needed and are special.

Appreciate what they do and reward them. As show chair I started the tradition of providing coffee, bottles of cold water and treats during setup, during the show and during teardown for the volunteers and the vendors. The number of “thanks yous” I hear and the way the treats disappear over the duration of the show tell me that this chance for the volunteers to refresh themselves is appreciated. It also provides a meeting area where they can sit down and have a short chat before going back to their responsibilities, which fosters friendships.

On the flip side, listen to your volunteers. Listen to their problems they are having with their task or their co-workers. Listen to their ideas for making the work go more smoothly. They are the ones who are doing the work and know it the best.

Get in there and work alongside your volunteers. Sharing the load tells them that you care about them and the project. You will get to know them as persons, you can speak those words of encouragement mentioned above and you can listen in order to solve problems as they arise.

Let your volunteers know how important the job is and how it fits into the big picture. Make sure that they know what their work provides for the club and for themselves. Maybe for the club their work at their club show provides income for the club to continue their projects, provides an outreach to the community to encourage children to think about a career in geology, or provides awareness of the club so as to invite more people to join the club.

For themselves the experience as a volunteer may provide a chance for them to sharpen their skills in some way. Maybe someone desires to learn to interface better with others. Maybe you have youth who need to fulfill a senior project for school or for another group such as scouts. Maybe someone wants to learn to identify rocks. There can be a myriad of reasons for people to improve themselves. Tap into that need.

Show your appreciation by publicizing their hard work in your club newsletter. Pictures of them at work with smiles on their faces might give others the idea that to join them in the project next year. As some of us get older we need to encourage new younger volunteers to participate.

Your volunteers are priceless, let them know it!

Having Fun

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair

Join the Patricia Egolf Rock Pals Program to Have Fun Exchanging Rocks!

Before our Internet and Facebook era—way, way back when folks like I were mere youngsters—we had this thing called “mail” (minus the “e”). This thing involved pencils or pens and paper and stamps and envelopes that you licked. In that distant time, kids may have partnered with kids from schools in countries far-and-wide to become Pen Pals. Such letter-exchange programs enabled you to reach beyond your day-to-day experience to fly via letters to distant and exotic lands to broaden your horizons as you waited for weeks on end for a response to a letter you mailed in an honest-to-goodness mailbox. The cool stamps on the envelopes were as fun to receive and collect as the message inside! In 2011, Patricia Egolf of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, New York, suggested a new spin on this for junior rockhounds, namely, a “Rock Pals” program in conjunction with our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program.

Kids love the different rocks and fossils to be found across our great nation, but they and their parents can’t necessarily afford to buy them nor to travel widely to collect them. How wonderful it would be, Patricia thought, for juniors in a club to band together to collect local samples to trade with juniors in other clubs across the country. With that goal in mind, Pat helped us establish Rock Pals. A club gathers 20-25 or so local specimens in sizes small enough to fit in a medium-size flat-rate box available at the U.S. Post Office and, after making arrangements with another club, each mails a box to the other with samples and labels for what’s inside. This, amazingly enough, is simply not to be accomplished via emails or text-messages!

Sadly, Pat passed away all-too-soon in 2012. To honor her memory and spirit, we re-named this effort the “Patricia Egolf Rock Pals Program.” Participating clubs and contact persons are listed on the Kids Corner section of the AFMS website, http://amfed.org/fra/rock_pals.htm. To start a trade, email or call a local contact to make sure the club is still actively involved and to see how many kids are in that club and to make suitable arrangements for a rock swap.

In recent years this program has fallen into disuse. After receiving several queries about it, in the summer of 2018 I contacted all clubs affiliated with the AFMS/FRA Badge Program to see which might be interested in continuing our exchange program. I received 30 positive responses which I am using to update our listing on the AFMS website in hopes of refreshing, revitalizing, and renewing this program. AFMS/FRA-affiliated clubs interested in being added to (or removed from) our list should contact the AFMS Juniors Program Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson, jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577. The renewed list of participating clubs should appear any time now on the AFMS website. Meanwhile, here’s to honoring and maintaining Pat’s vision of kids all across America trading rocks while having fun!
Hi Folks,

Guess what! Things are always brewing and you can be part of the goodies in the pot! Remember, YOU are the Federation, so discussions and actions taken affect each one of you and are for your benefit. Although I am guessing others will touch base on this subject, I am going to attempt to give you some highlights (as I see them) of the NFMS Organizational Meeting held in Lewiston, Idaho on October 20th.

Have you ever noticed the second page of the Newsletter? It has A LOT of information about committees and such in very small print. Well, that page is not exactly as it should be, since it is supposed to align to the by-laws and operating procedures of the NMFS. Our First Vice President, Ken Zahn has volunteered to take on the task of getting everything straight on that page. I assure you, it is no small job, but he wants members to be able to access the proper information when seeking out a committee or a person.

Every club should also go to the NFMS web site and look under “Clubs”. Check to see if your information is correct. If it isn’t, be sure to send our webmaster, Brad Larson the corrections and he can update it. Remember, this is a resource for someone to find your club, and I would guess you want the right information there.

Our Endowment Fund Chairman, Jack Edwards reported the fund “is holding its own.” He said the hardest part is to get clubs to offer ideas for utilizing some of the unrestricted funds for the benefit of all the members of the NFMS. The dollar reduction in dues per adult member last year and again this year reflect some of that usage, but since, like I said before, YOU are the Federation, we want your ideas. A few examples suggested at the meeting were to provide some training on how to do a competitive display, training on applying for non-profit status, the basics of filing a mining claim by a club, or provide trainings that would support each society’s officers. These are simply suggestions. Again, YOU the membership, represented by your Club’s Director, are the ones who need to bring the ideas to the table.

With the above being said: just a review of how all this works. The Federation conducts business via emails, mid-year, meetings, and annual meetings. The time of the Annual Meeting each year and the current President will dictate if there are mid-year and/or organizational meetings. There is only one time, at the Annual Meeting, which any voting takes place. Voting is done by EACH CLUB’S Director (or Delegate standing in the Director’s place) on all matters calling for a vote. This is why it is important for each club to have an active Director who is able to attend the meetings, report to his/her Club on the business conducted at the meetings and ask the club how they want to vote on particular issues.

So get on the band wagon and help your club be aware of the “goings on” of the Federation (YOU) by paying attention to the requests, asking your club director about issues, etc. (Even if they were not able to attend a meeting, as long as they have provided a working email, as Secretary, I send out all the minutes of the above meetings and any other information relevant to the member clubs). So if your director is not giving reports, you might ask if they are receiving the information. Each member of each society can help make certain that all are informed by being proactive in their clubs.

By the time this article appears I will have sent out the minutes from the October 20th Organizational Meeting to all those I have listed as Directors or contacts for their clubs. So ask your representative at your next regular meeting if they have information from the Federation and see if they are keeping up with their position. We (The Officers and Committee Personnel) all want everyone to be informed, so help make it happen, and we will be a strong, well-oiled force in advocacy for our hobby.

---

My Apology: In a September NFMS newsletter article the Endowment Fund Committee asked members to submit ideas on where endowment fund proceeds could be used that benefit the members of the federation. We included a format to submit your ideas on. The committee got no responses by the November 1 due date. I looked at the article last week again and noticed I had mistyped my own e-mail address.

So, if you previously tried to submit a potential project or program for consideration and it rejected or if you still have something you want the Endowment Fund Committee to consider please send it to me at jrbrain233@outlook.com. We have extended to response date to February 1, 2019. Sorry for the confusion.

Jim Brain, Endowment Committee financial advisor

---

**TREASURER’S TEKTITES**

*By JIM BRAIN*

My Apology: In a September NFMS newsletter article the Endowment Fund Committee asked members to submit ways endowment fund proceeds could be used that benefit the members of the federation. We included a format to submit your ideas on. The committee got no responses by the November 1 due date. I looked at the article last week again and noticed I had mistyped my own e-mail address.

So, if you previously tried to submit a potential project or program for consideration and it rejected or if you still have something you want the Endowment Fund Committee to consider please send it to me at jrbrain233@outlook.com. We have extended to response date to February 1, 2019. Sorry for the confusion.

Jim Brain, Endowment Committee financial advisor

---

**LIBRARIAN’S LAPIS LAZULI**

*By DARRELL WATKINS*

If you have anything for the NFMS Video/Slide Library program contest please send it to me, so I can get it to the American Federation Contest. Find the details in your October *Northwest Newsletter* or contact me. The deadline is December 31st, so there is still time. This, also, includes the kid’s productions. Everybody has a phone! Thanks
Dear All,

I just spoke with a member of my local rock Gem and Mineral Club. I tried one of their phone numbers not knowing if the line would be working or not, and by the grace of god, someone answered. I got goose bumps when someone picked up the phone. Carol Eggleston is who picked up the phone with her heart warming, cheery voice, just like a rockhound. She’s stationed in Chico on a couple of acres of property with 17 other club members. Some arrived in their RV’s, so they can all be together and lean on each other.

Carol said when the fire started, rockhounds true to their form, stepped in immediately in their heroism to help each other. One made sure their eldest member who lived alone on a hill came back with them. Everyone stepped in to check on each other.

The club has not been able to reach two of their members, and as you can imagine they are deeply concerned. Carol wanted everyone to know that Mary Schisler is ok. She’s apparently in her 90’s.

The club always held their meetings at the Recreational Hall in Paradise. That building is still standing but doesn’t have electricity or water like the rest of the town. That club has over 100 members. All but two member’s homes have burned to the ground. All their personal lapidary equipment burned with it, and of course they are all worried about the state of their rocks collections. All their club lapidary equipment was kept in a trailer which they could haul around to shows etc. That trailer and all its contents has burned to the ground. Carol mentioned their club will need to start over, and if anyone has any old lapidary equipment stored away that they haven’t been using, they could sure use it to start the club over again.

They doubt they will move forward with a show this year given the circumstances. Carol said Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society has been wonderful. They even volunteered to help them put together a show, but given the personal circumstances the Paradise Gem and Mineral Club members are having to deal with, it’s not the best time to follow through with a show.

Someone in the Roseville Rock Rollers club has been helping with rescuing pets and animals in Paradise. Her members have been asking about Paradise members too, but it’s been hard to get information until now.

My next phone call is to the Feather River society, to check in with them since they are working closely with Paradise members. I will get back to you all as soon as I hear, and plan to send out an email blast once I find out better how fellow rockhounds might be able to assist them in some way. Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

---

HISTORIAN HIDDENITES
By Linda Barlow

Due to Paradise, California, fire I used this email by our AFMS Historian for your information about how we, as Rockhounds, work together as a community to help each other. Keep this in mind the coming year for your donations of equipment and rocks to help this club regain its workshop material.

---

EDITOR’S EMERALDS
By Linda Barlow

This week before Thanksgiving! Wow! The Holiday is upon us tomorrow but all the preparations are astounding. Am I talking about Thanksgiving? Yes & No! Thanksgiving in America is about being Thankful for all we have. Let me expound!

I have edited the newsletter for my local rockhound club for the past 4 years. That means putting the articles together, not writing them. I had it down pat: start right after the last newsletter with preparing the shell for incoming articles. Okay! Easy! I did this because spending more than one hour at the computer a day presents numbness of hands and sore neck. Now, just add those articles from the president, the workshop schedule and pictures, the field trip schedule and past trip pictures, the board and general meeting minutes from the secretary, & the treasurer/membership report including birthdays, new members, answering any questions from her. Oh don’t forget, those special occasions coming up: biographies for board nominations, auctions, ALAA business, AFMS & NFMS news, January Banquet (I did the flyer, menu, & tickets), & the yearly February Gem Show. What’s the holdup? Our Board Meeting is on first Tuesday, my deadline for submissions is that Friday, my printer deadline is Monday so it can be printed and distributed via snail mail before General Meeting the third Tuesday (Preferably in membership hands by Saturday). Also send out to our email list. Submissions don’t always arrive by Friday and many want exceptions. We all have a life! So do I!

Everything was going great this month! I received so much material that I ended with a 20 page newsletter! The largest I ever edited. That takes time which I freely donate. Okay it was submitted on Tuesday, late. I found corrections needed on my flyer so got up at 4am and redid the newsletter and re-submitted before 9am. Got a call from printer who is a dear! He printed Tuesday night! And they were being processed for mail! Okay let it go and I will correct for next month! The corrected flyer had to be sent to our president who would be separately printing and getting ready for General Meeting.

Now on to the next newsletter. Wow! Did I really do this to myself? I had previously done the Show Schedule as additions were sent to me. One big step done! Figure out how to make schedule into 2 pages? I was having difficulty with that process in publisher (not a problem with my own club’s publisher newsletter). Everyone on NFMS level had sent me their articles! Yeah! Just copy from emails to word, paste, copy to publisher, & paste. Simple. Nope! Placement becomes a problem when the length of the articles exceed my planned spacing! I like to have the newsletter go in or newsletter). Everyone on NFMS level had sent me their articles! Yeah! Just copy from emails to word, paste, copy to publisher done! Figure out how to make schedule into 2 pages? I was having difficulty with that process in publisher (not a problem with my own club’s publisher newsletter).

I apologize for this edition’s late arrival. This Thanksgiving and every day I am thankful for his safety and my cold preventing me traveling and missing that rock! Hope your Thanksgiving was thankful and you coming holiday is joyous and fulfilling.
NEBULA NOTICES

"Inspiring"

"ATTN WEBMASTERS: The Website Contest for 2019 is coming on fast! The entry forms can be located on the AFMS Website as well as the NFMS Website. Please note the many changes for the coming year. All Entries are due not later than 6 January, 2019 due to the AFMS Convention being in March. Even if you have won 1st place in NFMS prior to this year, if you DID NOT win 1st place in AFMS, you can enter again this year. Looking forward to seeing many entries for our federation on 2019."

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR (ROY)

Somehow, our 2017 ROY article fell through the cracks…

Susie Koppert earned this honor through her hard work, skill and dedication since joining MHRC in 2013. She is a true asset to our leadership team as Board member at Large, Lapidary Shop Host/Committee member and serves the entire rock hounding community by actively participating in Oregon Council, US Forest Service Land Access & BLM Regional Advisory Committee meetings throughout the Pacific Northwest. Susie is a dependable resource for rock identification and knowledge of Metaphysical Healing Stone History. She generously passes on the legacy of double/triplet skills & lapidary art learned from deceased member Pat Lloyd & other Camp Hancock instructors. Her silversmithing, knapping & display talents are remarkable!

Thank you, Susie, for all you do!

Mt. Hood Rock Club is pleased to recognize Roberta Hanson as our 2018, Rock Hound of the Year!

Roberta is a Third generation rock hound and grew up surrounded by family who shared related passions. She joined MHRC in 2015 & recently moved from Second to First Vice President of Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Association. Her service in the fields of Show Coordinator, Greeter, Monitor, Raffle & Auction for both organizations, contributes greatly to show success! Roberta shares her skills by hosting/teaching at the MHRC Lapidary Shop and is always on the front lines when help is needed with rock sales, estates, field trips, club activities, etc.!

Regardless of the task, she will arrive with her sleeves rolled up! Thank You Roberta!!

DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

03: First Day of Hanukkah
06: St. Nicholas Day
07: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
08: Bodhi Day
10: Last Day of Hanukkah
15: (Utah) Bill of Rights Day
21: Solstice & Yule Day
25: Christmas
26: St. Stephen’s Day
26: Kwanzaa until Jan. 1
31: New Year’s Eve
Boise National Forest
1249 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 200
Boise, Idaho 83709
(208) 373-4100
https://www.fs.usda.gov/boise
Contact: Venetia Gempler
Phone: (208) 373-4105
Email: gempler@fs.fed.us

Boise National Forest visitors asked to participate in recreation surveys
Boise, Idaho, Oct. 3, 2018 -- Beginning in October and continuing through next September, visitors to the Boise National Forest may see employees gathering information for the National Visitor Use Monitoring Program (NVUM). The program was developed to gather information about recreation sites along Forest Service roads. Employees will wear bright orange vests and be near a sign that says “Traffic Survey Ahead.” A similar survey was conducted five years ago.

The approximately 10 minute confidential surveys gather basic visitor information. Questions include: where they recreated on the Forest, how many people they traveled with, how long they stayed, what other recreation sites they visited, and how satisfied they were with the facilities and services provided. About a third of the visitors will be asked to complete a confidential survey on recreation spending during their trip.

“These well-trained interviewers will use the information about a visit to the national forest to help with forest planning and local community tourism planning,” said Danelle Highfill, Boise National Forest Recreation Program Manager. “It is entirely voluntary, and the information will indicate recreation trends over the years which improve facility development and economic benefit in our local area.”

Information gathered provides an estimate of how many people actually recreate on federal lands and what activities they engage in. It also includes how satisfied people were with their visit and the economic effect on the local economy.

This periodic on-going national forest survey was last conducted in 2014. The current survey updates information previously gathered and looks at recreation trends over time.

Information collected is used in local forest planning, at the state level, and even by Congress. The information helps managers provide better service.

“Although the survey is entirely voluntary, we sure would appreciate it if local and out-of-area visitors would pull up and answer a few questions,” Highfill added. Further information about this program is at: https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION
The ALAA is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby 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 land managers. Contributions to the ALAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.

(Annual Membership Fees - Clubs and Societies $50.00 --- Individual/Family $25.00)
Annual Membership Fees are due on or before January 1st of each year. Membership not renewed becomes delinquent on February 15th of each year.

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION
New Membership and Annual Renewal Form

Where is Safety?
by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Where is safety? A short story if I may. Of the 6 or so folks who read these Safety Matters articles, one of those readers related a story of a recent safety matter she experienced. While digging a hole in her back yard to plant a plant, she encountered a large rock. Being a rock person, she gathered her rock cracking hammer and chisel and proceeded to reduce the size of the rock using her tools. She related what she might call a “thought bubble” over her head which read “Shouldn’t I be wearing my safety glasses?” That one reader thought of safety glasses while breaking a rock to plant a plant is what I would call a success. Safety is a full time responsibility. Where is safety? Safety matters relate to planting a plant, breaking a rock, driving to a field trip, and grinding a stone. Safety matters do not end when one leaves the quarry, or the office or drives back in the garage. Where is safety? Safety matters are everywhere. In the many and varied areas of our rock hobby, safety matters are everywhere - at our club meetings; our shows; our workshops; our collecting trips; our talking about the hobby in school, church, or civic groups; our rock trimming and identification activities. Safety matters abound in all aspects of our hobby. Some safety matters are well documented and clear. Some safety matters hide in the dark and are unique to a situation. Being safe means being mindful of rules, guidelines, obvious and less obvious hazards, and, perhaps most of all, being prepared and well aware of the potential danger in every situation. Being safe is not complicated. We pretty much know what we need to do to be safe so it mostly a matter of doing that which we know is the right thing.
Would you like to be able to collect rocks, minerals, petrified wood and common invertebrate fossils on some of the lands that have been off limits to hobby collecting in Southern Utah since 1996?

Now is your chance to let the BLM know. The agency is proposing to restore hobby collecting but needs supporting comments from the public.

Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS) has drafted a great comment letter that recreational users of public lands can support.

Clubs, Societies and Individuals are invited to join SCPS and ask the BLM to restore casual collecting in GSENM-KEPA. One authoritative letter supported by many organizations and individuals is effective!

SCPS Deadline: November 27, 2018

Hobby collecting may be allowed for the first time in more than 20 years in Southern Utah Nat’l Monuments but the BLM needs to hear from the public by Nov 30th.

Individual personalized letters are great! But instead of or in addition to sending a personal letter or sending an over-used boilerplate letter (which is ineffective, by the way), please consider signing onto a well-crafted letter that has already been prepared. The Southern California Paleontological Society (SCPS) has written a great letter on behalf of the paleontological community and rock-hounds. Ask your club or regional federation or professional organization to sign onto it - the strength of numbers will reinforce the authority of the message. We encourage everyone, especially members of AFMS affiliated clubs and its regional federations, to sign the SCPS letter.

There are three easy steps:

Download the SCPS letter
(available on the SDMG website at short URL: https://goo.gl/5f32p4)

Take the SCPS letter to your organization's board ASAP.

Upon approval, send an email to Karol McQueary (socalpaleo@yahoo.com) with your club signature info to add to the letter.

SCPS needs to hear back from you no later than Nov. 27th.

Read more details about which of BLM’s proposed alternatives is good for hobby collecting.

Got questions, need help?

Email: Karol McQueary - editor@sdmg.org

Download the GSENM-KEPA flyer »

Want to submit your own personal letter to the BLM?

Deadline: November 30, 2018

669 S Hwy 89
Kanab, UT 84741
Alt: Matt Betenson

Be sure to include a Subject reference:


Download a flyer on what's effective and what's not in a comment letter »

USDA Forest Service announces public meetings on Greater Sage-grouse Plan amendments

OGDEN, Utah - The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will hold four public meetings in Idaho regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for its Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments. On Oct. 5, 2018, the USDA Forest Service published a Notice of Availability (NOA) announcing the release of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with proposed amendments to Forest Service land management plans for greater sage-grouse. The affected plans occur within five western states: Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah. The purpose of the proposed changes is to improve the clarity, efficiency, and implementation of the current greater sage-grouse plans, including promoting landscape-scale alignment with state efforts. The USFS is encouraging the public to attend one of the four DEIS public comment open house meetings in Idaho:

Boise, Nov. 26, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Idaho Fish and Game Headquarters
Jerome, Nov. 29, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Idaho Fish and Game, 324 South 417 East;
Challis, Dec. 17, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Challis Community Center, 411 Clinic Road;
Idaho Falls, Dec. 18, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Caribou-Targhee Forest Headquarters Office, 1405 Hollipark Drive.

Several information stations will be located within the meeting venue that will present information on key issues, the planning process and the public commenting process. Forest Service staff will give a short introduction at 5:30 p.m. Attendees can learn about the amendment comment process, ask questions, and provide comments on the actions being considered.

To read and comment on the DEIS please visit the Forest Service Intermountain Region webpage: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/id/home/?cid=stelprdr3843381. For more information, please contact: Sandra Underhill, Capitol City Region webpage: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r4/OGDEN - USDA.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

USDA Forest Service announces public meetings on Greater Sage-grouse Plan amendments.pdf

CALENDAR DEADLINES

November 27 & 30: SCPS Deadline
November 26 & 29: USDA Forest Service Meetings
December 15: Bulletin Editor’s Contest
December 17 & 18: USDA Forest Service Meetings
December 31: Video/Side Library Program Contest
January 6: Website Contest
### NFMS Clubs’ Show Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Show Location</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 29, 2019 - October 1, 2019</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th St SW, Edmonds WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29, 30, &amp; 31</td>
<td>Oak Harbor Senior Center, 51 SE Jerome, Oak Harbor WA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22, 23, 24</td>
<td>Oregon Agate &amp; Mineral Society Annual Show</td>
<td>OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science &amp; Industry) Auditorium 1945 SE Water Avenue Portland OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23 &amp; 24</td>
<td>Idaho Gem Club</td>
<td>Expo Idaho Building (Fairgrounds) 5610 Glennwood Boise, ID 83714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>East KingCo Rock Club</td>
<td>Pickering Barn 1730 10th Avenue NW Issaquah, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Owyhee Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>O’Comer Field House 2200 Blaine Caldwell, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Pumpkin Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>Colville Fairground Colville Ag &amp; Trade Center 317 West Astor Colville WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8, 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Tualatin Valley Gem Club 61st Annual Rock &amp; Mineral Show</td>
<td>Forest Grove National Guard Amory 2950 Taylor Way Forest Grove OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Rock and Arrowhead Club</td>
<td>Klamath Co. Fairgrounds 3331 South 6th St or Klamath Falls OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Magic Valley Gem Club</td>
<td>Twin Falls County Fairgrounds 215 Fair Avenue Filer ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15, 16, &amp; 17</td>
<td>Timpanogos Gem and Mineral Society</td>
<td>“Parade of Gems” 475 South Main Street Spanish Fork, UT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Hellgate Mineral Society</td>
<td>Hilton Garden Inn 3720 North Reserve St Missoula MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29, 30, &amp; 31</td>
<td>Mr. Baker Rock &amp; Gem Club</td>
<td>Rock Rollers Club of Spokane WA Spokane County Fair &amp; Expo Center N.404 Havana at Broadway Spokane WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30 &amp; 31</td>
<td>South East Idaho Gem and Mineral Society (SEIGMS)</td>
<td>63rd Annual Rock and Gem Show North Hancock County Fairgrounds 10588 Fairground Dr. pocatello ID 83201 or Larry Manhart 208 705 7273 <a href="mailto:maltryl17@gmail.com">maltryl17@gmail.com</a> Joe Rodriguez 208 237 6941 <a href="mailto:joe.rodriguez@id.igov.gov">joe.rodriguez@id.igov.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30 &amp; 31</td>
<td>Sweet Home Rock &amp; Mineral Society, 71st Annual Gem &amp; Mineral Show “Petrifed Wood”</td>
<td>Sweet Home High School Gym 1641 Long Street Sweet Home OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club</td>
<td>Williamalane Adult Activity Center 215 W C Street Springfield, Or 97477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12, 13, &amp; 14</td>
<td>Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society</td>
<td>Golden Spike Event Center Weber County Fairgrounds 1000 N 1200 W Ogden UT 88440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Idaho Falls Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Idaho Falls Recreation Center Corner of Memorial Drive &amp; B Street Idaho Falls ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club</td>
<td>Annual Rock, Gem, and Mineral Show Benton County Fairgrounds 1500 South Oak Kennewick WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club - April Sale</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse, 8802 196th St SW, Edmonds WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Show Title</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27 &amp; 28</td>
<td>West Seattle Rock Club</td>
<td>Sat. 10 – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Billings Gem and Mineral Club</td>
<td>Sat. 10-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Umpqua Gem &amp; Mineral Club 49th Annual Show</td>
<td>Sat. 9-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Hayrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society</td>
<td>Sat. 10-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 18, &amp; 19</td>
<td>Mt. Hood Rock Club's Rock &amp; Gem Show</td>
<td>Fri. 10-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Bitterroot Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>Sat. 10-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31, June 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Puyallup Valley Gem &amp; Mineral Club</td>
<td>Fri. 10-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14, 15, &amp; 16</td>
<td>Lower Umpqua Gem &amp; Lapidary Society</td>
<td>Fri. 10-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club - Rock and Mineral Sale</td>
<td>Sat. 9 – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club - Show</td>
<td>Sat. 9 – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Maplewood Rock and Gem Club - Rock and Mineral Sale</td>
<td>Sat. 9 – 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>