



Reminder: All newsletter submissions must be received by the 25th of each month to be included in the following issue.



Letters from Executive Board Officers	1-2
Intro to New Volunteers	3
ROY Nominees	4-5
PR Zoom Meeting Info	5
Camp Hancock /Annual Show Info	6
Update from our September Show	7-8
Retreat Journal	9-10
Competitive Case Award Winners	11-12
Junior RockHound Newsletter	13-21
NFMS Shows	22-23
Drawing Winner	23
NFMS Annual Meeting Agenda	24-27
NFMS Executive Officers Info	28-29

Letters From Our Executive Board Officers:



Michael Rhodes - President

Another NFMS Annual meeting has come and gone, and with it several changes in my own life. I am now the NFMS President and am beginning to understand what the Federation really is. It is more than just 61 Rock, Gem, Mineral and Fossil clubs scattered across 6 states. The Federation is a repository of years of experience in those fields. I remember the first time I attended a meeting of the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society in 1964. I was there as a guest of my boss, Ray Ashcraft, of Ray's Rock shop in Tremonton, UT and his wife, Elna. I had just begun to learn a little bit about lapidary and was amazed at the experience of the "old people" at that meeting. I remember my first field trip, for red horn coral, and the work it took to get those beautiful pieces of gem material from the earth. I remember my first Gemstone Junction Rock Show, and the fun I had working at the table as a vendor. Fast forward 61 years, and I am one of the "old guys" at the meeting with all of the "experience," and am amazed how much I am learning from the newer members of the club. I am still learning more about our extensive and diverse hobby. Last weekend our club met for a few hours to assemble rock bags for our show next April. 40 people, ranging from 8 to 94 years old showed up and less than 2 hours had 1500 rock bags ready for the show.

Continued on page 2

Letters From Our Committee Officers Continued:

What was important to me wasn't just the work that we got done, but the social aspect of the gathering. Enjoying conversations with people sharing a common interest, punctuated with the occasional "what kind of rock is this?" Multiply this experience by 61 times! It is the shared knowledge and the social bonds that form at the meetings that are the backbone of this Federation, I enjoyed meeting people from other clubs that came to the annual meeting. I enjoyed the discussion before adopting changes to the bylaws and operating procedures. I enjoyed Judi Allison's song and dance plea for a new treasurer (twice, at the meeting and again at the banquet!) (By the way, it worked, we have a new treasurer for the federation!) I also enjoy the interaction with other members of the Executive board, in person, by email, and in online meetings. I enjoy hearing the concerns from the committee chairs, and I look forward to hearing your concerns as well. This is your federation! If you have concerns or questions feel free to let me know at mrmbrhodes(at)gmail.com. In my first message as second vice president I asked for your input. Now, as president I need it even more. Enjoy this hobby we share, and ROCK ON!.



**Judi Allison -
Secretary (Treasurer
Pro Tem)**

Secretary Report

Hi Folks, It is getting close to that time of the year again when we will be updating our membership and clubs paying their dues. I plan

to help our Directory Chair, Janel Lacey get things going again this year. And we will include our new Treasurer, Adam Pettitt so he will start to familiarize himself with the process.

With that being said, because of the savings from our electronic newsletter we have been brainstorming to come up with ideas of how our membership can benefit from these funds. There are certain regulations that must be followed as written in our Bylaws, but we want our membership to realize some benefits and be excited about participation. Our financial advisor, Jim Brain and Marysville Director,

Anna McKinney are working together to develop a google monkey survey to get input from you, our membership. We also encourage any additional ideas. The executive board has been brainstorming some exciting ideas in the hope of getting something in the works soon. So, keep your eyes and ears open. Let's make some dynamic things happen!

Treasurer Report

As you may have read elsewhere in this missive, we now have a Treasurer. But, as with all things financial, the wheels are turning slow. There has been a process to get him on board with the bank. And we don't want to just "dump" the job on him, so I am planning on working with him at least through the end of the year, then I am sure he can take the helm and deal with the numbers much better than I. And I can go back to playing Secretary. Yeah!! Have a great day and stay warm this winter whatever you are doing. March 20th will be here before we know it, then we can go enjoy the NFMS Show in Missoula, Montana. Check it out and plan on coming along. Montana is a beautiful state, and the Missoula area is very inviting. We look forward to being greeted by our hosts of the Hellgate Mineral Society. See you then!

Safety Chair Article:**Field trips in the Fall**

Now is the time of the year that I love to go into the mountains. The weather is no longer blistering hot and fire danger has decreased. It's not completely gone so we still must be aware and careful of our campfires.

The leaves are changing colors. Our rocks are still the same and the snow in most places hasn't started. Even though the weather is so beautiful, we do need to still do things to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. When leaving on a field trip make sure someone knows where you are going and when to expect you back. Take food, water and blankets just in case you get stranded. Take a map and a flashlight. You never know when it might come in handy.

Get out and enjoy! Winter is coming.

Kathryn Larson

NFMS Safety Chair

Introducing Our Newest Volunteers

Meet **Adam Pettitt**, who has volunteered to take on the duties of NFMS Treasurer (If you were at the meeting or the banquet, I want you to know, I'll do a song and dance anytime if I get as great results!) Adam works as an Inventory Control Specialist for the Oregon Fruit Company in Salem, Oregon.

He has lived exclusively in Oregon for the last 25 years. In his own words, he says, "I love living in Oregon because I am 1.5 hours from the beach and mountains, plus there are some great minerals here in the Pacific Northwest for digging up.

Outside of work I enjoy rockhounding of course, playing golf, attending beer/wine festivals with my wife, trips to the beach, spending time at home with the wife and dogs, and watching sports on TV.

This November I get to take a 2-week trip to Japan, which has been on the top of my bucket list since I was a teenager. Hopefully, I can convince my family to go rockhounding with me while we are there.

I have been an enthusiastic rockhound for about 4 years, since my youngest kid graduated high school and moved out. I was always interested in rocks but really did not have the time to focus on the hobby while I was raising 3 kids alone and even less time when my wife and I combined our families. Once my son moved out, I decided that I needed a hobby and started rockhounding and prospecting. I have been starting to gather lapidary machines, and raw materials so fill my winter with cabbing projects.

I officially joined Willamette Agate Mineral Society in 2023 and for the same reason most of us joined a club, to learn where to dig more rocks! As a member I really enjoyed going on field trips, attending meetings and found myself wanting to volunteer more. The Federation Director spot was open and even though I had no clue what that position fully entailed, I volunteered for it, and I am glad I did. I had a wonderful time in Walla Walla, met some friendly club and Federation members, bought a bunch of rock and this experience made me want to get more involved in the Federation. So, when Judi asked for volunteers for Treasurer, I jumped at the chance since my work skills matched up well. "

We now have a Secretary/Treasurer for the Endowment Fund! **Mikki Richard** has agreed to take on this position! She has done other volunteer activities and is eager to take on this. Mikki lives in Marysville. The Chair of the Endowment Fund Committee, Vicki Johnson said, "I think she will be a good asset."

Mikki says, "I am a relatively new member of the Marysville Gem and Mineral Club. I work from home for Always Designing for People (ADP). I've been at ADP for 25 years and was also a prior member of the Yakima Junior Chamber of Commerce as well as the Everett Junior Chamber of commerce, where I held various positions including chapter President.

(Mikki had also volunteered for the Treasurer position, and we want to thank her for her enthusiasm and excitement at the prospect of volunteering. Thanks also to Marysville member and Director, Anna McKinney for bringing her to our attention. Remember that we do not know everyone in your clubs, but we know there are some wonderful volunteers out there. We still have openings that need to be filled. If you know of some folks you think would make great additions, please pass on their names. I will gladly get in touch with anyone personally-Your Secretary, Judi Allison.)

Our third newest volunteer is not really a new volunteer. She simply volunteered to take on a new position. Lora Hall, our immediate Past President has chosen to take on the duties of the Education Chair. Lora is a great advocate for our Federation and when she believes in something she goes into it wholeheartedly. Look for some great things coming down the pike. I am sure she will let you know what is going on. For those of you who have entered the All-American Competition before, she will be handling that. And for those who don't know about it, I am sure you will get some information and urging from her.

A hearty thanks to all three of our newest volunteers! We appreciate your willingness to give of yourselves for the good of our Federation! Three Cheers! Hip, Hip Hooray!!!

Rockhound Of The Year Nominations:

Johnie and Ginger Pitman – Panorama Gem and Mineral Club, Colville, Washington

I'm nominating Johnie and Ginger Pitman for Rockhounds of the Year. They go above and beyond the call of duty to promote our hobby and club. Johnie serves as Chairman for our annual gem show. Due to his high energy and leadership our show exceeded our expectations with attendance and proceeds. Our vendors were very happy as well. One told me they had their best booth yet. Moreover, our club grew by 10% this year! In addition to the gem show, they attend every community event our club supports. These events include booths at two (2) local fairs and a display case at a regional-wide fair and another display case at the Stevens' County courthouse. They both arrive early and stay late for each event. Ginger lends her talent to beautify our booths, to make them approachable and appealing. This year, our club had to curtail the number of rockhounding trips due to fires in our area. Johnie and Ginger attended a dig for trilobites early in the Spring. They both shared their vast knowledge with members to help them find and identify their trilobites. Every month, Ginger and Johnie bring rocks for our silent auction during our club meetings. Johnie is our "go-to" guy to get advice on various rocks, rock tumbling, and lapidary work. Johnie is highly skilled in knapping techniques and makes wonderful quaint cottages. I would like to especially commend them for a special event they hosted this year in April. Twenty two adults and five children attended a Thunder Egg Hunt on their property. They hid over 100 thunder eggs. A flurry of excitement ensued as the hunt was on! Johnie gave an educational demonstration of rocks he had in his yard. Ginger brought out a corn-hole game to enhance the entertainment. She also set up tables for the pot-luck style luncheon. Several members wore fancy bonnets and hats to compete in a contest for the most elaborate. The winners received prizes. Johnie and Ginger not only provide direct support, they build esprit de corps. To say they are the lifeblood of our club is an understatement. I am grateful for their hard work, flexible attitudes, and enduring dedication.



Submitted by: Lynne Calvert, President

The Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club recognizes Mike Mineer as our 2025 Rockhound of the Year. Mike only joined in 2024, but his passion for rockhounding was quickly evident. Indefatigable when it comes to rocks, this year Mike has made well over a dozen trips to hunt agates and petrified wood. Red Top and Saddle Mountain are frequent haunts of his. After a complicated heart surgery that knocked him out of commission for more than a month, Mike rebounded and was back on the mountainside as soon as he got the all clear. As the LGMC field trip leader, Mike opens his trips up to interested members and has also led a Junior Club field trip. When not in the field, he's just as active when it comes to club events, whether it's volunteering at the club show or catering the club's annual picnic. We're all looking forward to many more adventures with Mike in the coming years.



The Everett Rock & Gem Club wishes to nominate our lifetime member Melvin Buhr. Mel has been a member since he joined the club at age seventeen, some sixty-seven years ago. Talk about tireless he has served as Treasurer for more than 20 years along with marshalling our Annual Show as Co-Chair for just as many years. Mel organizes a Spring Sale for Club members wishing to sell some of their rock, and plans his own "Pre-Estate" sale every summer. How could a person have that much rock you might ask? He started out collecting with his father as a kid. He never stopped collecting though now he seems to favor buying when possible. You might even recognize him as he attends Annual Shows throughout the Northwest along with stopping by the Tucson Show with his son Kevin.

Though Mel has been a stalwart member of the Club he is always in contact with many of the Clubs in the NW Federation. He visits most of their Annual Shows to talk with other club leaders, shop the vendors, always and every time passing out flyers promoting our Annual Show. Mel also likes to teach classes on tumbling. His tumblers are rarely idle, tumbling bucketfuls of agates for our Juniors Program and for our Annual Show. To say Mel is organized would be an understatement - he can identify his rocks, tell you how he got them and how much he paid for almost every rock he owns. We are very fortunate to have Mel in our midst and happily recognize him as our Rock Hound of the Year

Join a Zoom on PR through Community Involvement

Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

In the past two years, I've held an annual Zoom seminar open to members of all 7 regional federations comprising the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The first was on "Practicing Public Relations in the Age of Social Media." The second focused on "Sharing Best Practices in Public Relations." I'd like to continue the tradition with a third Zoom this coming November focused on the topic of "Public Relations through Community Involvement."

Public Relations is about more than advertising or posting your club events. It's about engaging with your community in ways that are mutually rewarding and beneficial, for instance, sharing your club's knowledge, resources, and volunteers to enhance a local school science night. Your local school and its students benefit from your knowledge and experience while your club benefits by raising its profile within the community and, potentially, attracting new family members and/or science teachers.

In what ways has your club endeavored to raise its profile through community action and involvement? Here's a chance to share your success stories and to learn from other clubs from across our varied regional federations. If you would like to join in on such a Zoom seminar, please contact me at jbraceth (at) roadrunner.com, and I'll keep you posted when a date is scheduled.

Camp Hancock

In 2025 we had an exciting camp with a local wildfire that came within 3 miles of Camp Hancock. On Thursday we had a lightening storm that started a wild fire. On Friday We had during the Oral Auction, we experienced an unusually strong thunder storm and pelting rain. The sound on the roof of Berrie Hall was so loud that the auctioneer had to yell to be heard. On Saturday while forming up for Dinner a Fire Marshal drove up and ordered us to evacuate the camp (Level 3 – Go Now). We immediately packed up all personel gear, equipment to evacuate the camp within 25 minutes. We evacuated with dinner still on the table.

We are looking forward to another great camp Sep 7th thru 13th 2026. Registration will Start March 1st, 2026.

Walt Butler, Chairman NW Rockhound Retreat

Treasures of the Northwest
Steve Stiff Vice President, Hellgate Mineral Society:

Hello from the mountains of Montana and welcome to the Hellgate Mineral Society (HMS) Annual Gem and Mineral Show, the Treasures of the Northwest, and the 2026 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (MFMS) Convention. The show is set for Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 2026.

The show is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 3720 N Reserve St, Missoula, MT 59808, Phone (406) 532-5300. The Hilton Garden has set aside ten rooms for NFMS members and vendors on a first come, first served basis.

Daily admission is \$5.00 per person, with children under 12 free when accompanied by a paying adult. The show will be offering exhibitions on wire wrapping, flint knapping, silver smithing, gold panning, and fossil prepping. Fun activities include raffles for rock-hounding paraphernalia, hourly door prizes of vendor-donated gems and minerals, the sale of grab bags of rock and mineral specimens, a silent auction, and a Spin-to-Win. Fun activities for the younger crowd include a mineral dig, geode cracking and a kids-only silent auction.

As the show is in March, and the show is in Missoula, the ability to have field trips is sharply curtailed. So, new this year, we are offering the opportunity participate in “onsite field trips” where attendees can sift for sapphires, sift for garnets, sift for sunstones, and pan for gold.

The HMS show is hosting eighteen vendors. There are also three club tables with six club members (three on Saturday and three on Sunday) displaying and selling their wares.

Please check out the Hellgate Mineral Society on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/HellgateMineralSociety/> and online at <https://hellgatemineralsociety.org/>

For show information, please contact: · Neil Maier, show co-chair and club president, nam56@yahoo.com 406-546-6013 · Ange Laridon, show co-chair and club secretary, angeange@msn.com 406-370-6318 · Steve Stiff, NFMS coordinator and club vice president, steven.stiff@bresnan.net 406-529-2671

For information on Missoula and the surrounding area, please check out the following:

- <https://destinationmissoula.org/where-to-stay>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/hotels-motels>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/bed-and-breakfasts>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/cabins>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/campgrounds>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/guest-ranches>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/lodges>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/pet-friendly>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/rv-parks>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/resorts>
- <https://destinationmissoula.org/vacation-homes>

“It’s Show Time”

The 2025 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) Show and convention hosted by the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society September 5-7 is all wrapped up. We want to thank the Marcus Whitman Club for all their hard work and congeniality.

We started the weekend with a lovely lunch hosted at the members’ clubhouse. The Annual meeting took place immediately after. You can find the minutes elsewhere in this issue. Our ALAA President, Jennifer Haley then conducted a short meeting about its work. You will find a report included with the Agenda/minutes that is being sent out to all the club contacts and Directors.

Friday evening allowed for free time with old friends and acquaintances.



At the Editors’ Breakfast, our Bulletin Aids Chairperson, Priscilla Hall-Ford gave out the awards that were earned at the AFMS Show. Please help your Newsletter Editors remember to enter articles, poems, reports and other items into the Bulletin Aids Contest. It is fun to get recognition and a great way to promote getting articles and information into your newsletters. We will strive to give you more information about this opportunity, so that members can better understand the process.

The show featured many fine specimens of petrified wood to go along with the theme “Petrified in the West. The kids’ area was alive with activity as was the silent auction-lots of great dealers, too.



Saturday evening featured the Awards Banquet at the historic Marcus Whitman Hotel. Our hosts had great raffle prizes for all participants. Between local bottles of wine and beautifully polished woods, each attendee went home with a remembrance. New officers were installed, and past ones bade goodbye. Honors and awards were received. All in all, it was a lovely evening shared with great folks.

Sunday wrapped up the show with everyone feeling fulfilled, if a bit less “full-filled in the pockets”.



AFMS President, JC Moore and his wife, Donna, AFMS Secretary



AFMS President, JC Moore giving a special presentation to Bill Smith

Thanks Walla Walla for a great show!



Larry Hulstrom installing the new officers; Michael Rhodes, President, Jennifer Haley, 1st Vice President, June Dorning, 2nd Vice President, Judi Allison, Secretary



AFMS Scholarship Honorees, Mary Lou and Jerry Northrup being presented with a plaque by President, Lora Hall



Secretary, Judi Allison presenting outgoing President, Lora Hall with a commemorative hammer and certificate.

FB Chronicles of the Rockhound Retreat by Rhea Bowerly (printed here with her permission)**September 1**

Off for an adventure in Central Oregon. Headed to Hancock Rockhound Retreat to learn how to do more things with rocks!!! Well I made it down to John Day Fossil Beds. First I was out in the middle of nowhere driving thru rolling hills of golden wheat. Then I was winding thru basalt columned walls and Boy was it curvy with hairpin turns! It was 100 degrees when we were dragging all our stuff to the cabins!

It's 77 now and everyone else went to bed so I'm sitting outside in my chair alone, enjoying a light breeze, looking at millions of stars and watching for a chance to see the Northern Lights. Supposedly they might make an appearance tonight. There are lots of bats flying around and I used my UV light and found 6 scorpions, 4 of which were outside my cabin! Tomorrow we start our classes. I'll start with "doublets and triplets" then move on to Wire wrapping. Lots of nice people here and we ALL LOVE ROCKS!

September 2

Day 2 of the retreat was busy and HOT HOT HOT!!! Imagine 104 degrees and NO air conditioning!

I bought all these rechargeable fans you can wrap around your neck and sit on the table. They're supposed to last 8 hrs and I got maybe 2 hrs out of them! Not much help! I'm lying outside again tonight enjoying a breeze and watching satellites and airplanes cross the skies. I wire wrapped one of the cabs I made and I think it came out nice. I used copper wire on my pendant so I decided to do a chain to match. So I moved over to the "chainmail" class and got started on that. It's going to take some time to finish that. Working with all those little "rings" are hard on my eyes and feeble fingers!

The moon was cool tonight but I just couldn't get the rainbow rings around it to show up in pictures! I did get a couple good shots though!

September 3

Hancock Camp Day 3 Today was a little cooler. Like 2 degrees cooler but it didn't feel as bad as yesterday. Finished my chain for my pendant! What a relief! I forgot to take a picture of it until after dark. I improvised and put it in on my lawnchair with a flashlight as a spot light! I'll take a better one tomorrow. But at least you can see the chain. Found an interesting thing today while exploring the camp. A full sized skeleton of a horse! It even had an old saddle on it. That's not something you run into every day! We played rock Bingo tonight and I didn't win once but the s'mores made up for it! I drowned my disappointment in chocolate and marshmallows!!! Worked on some other things that I'm really excited about but you'll have to wait til tomorrow night to see them!

Was a little startled to see the scorpions (which are apparently territorial since they stay in the same area every night) but 2 of them had moved down into the path where I was walking! (Still wearing flip flops!) It's so cool to see them with the UV light, otherwise you'd never even notice them! The moon is so beautiful every night and it's so peaceful here.

September 4

Hancock Day 4...I had a productive day. Started with wire wrapping another stone. It's called "Rolling Hills Dolomite" and I had made it a few years ago. I have so many cabs that I have made that it's hard to choose which ones to wrap. I finished my "doublet" which I'm calling "Jellyfish agate". And my "Triplet" that the bottom layer is Basenite, then a thin layer of opal capped with a layer of Optical Quartz. I was working on a couple of amazing pieces of Rainbow Obsidian but one went flying while I was on the final polish and broke into pieces! The other piece will have to wait until tomorrow. (If we're still here)!

So far we have moved everything we don't need for tonight to our cars. It's required we back in our vehicles for a Fast getaway! I'm outside and I can't even smell any smoke. The moon is playing hide and seek but I got a couple of cool pictures. We'll see what tomorrow brings!

Nature is throwing us a curve tonight. We've been told to pack up essentials and move them to our cars. There is a fire about 5 miles away over the hill so we have to be ready to evacuate! Supposedly it's moving to the North but you never know when the winds might shift! To be continued..

September 5

Day 5 of Hancock Rockhound Retreat...Well the Black Rock fire is still burning but hasn't gotten us yet. Went swimming in the John Day River today and the fire crews were filling their tankers from the river. We thanked them for their service and told them we were at a camp on the other side of the hill. He said the fire is still spreading but they would not let it cross the river. That made us feel better. But then tonight we had a banger of a thunderstorm with lots of lightning. It just poured rain which is unusual for this area which is basically desert! Hope it didn't start a new fire on OUR side of the river! I took a picture of the glow from the fire over the hill since the moon isn't making an appearance tonight!

Didn't have a productive day today. It was sooo hot and humid, over 100 again! Everything I worked on gave me problems. So some of us headed to the river. It felt SOOOO good! Tonight was the auction to raise money for the camp. They made \$3000 dollars. Not so bad for a bunch of crazy rock hounds. These people are ALL crazy about rocks and all the artistic things you can do with them!

September 6

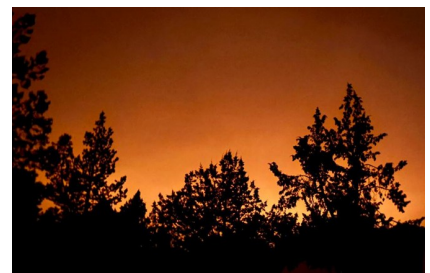
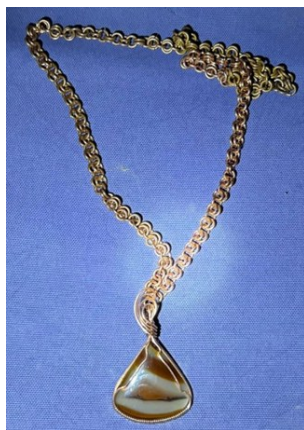
No more days at Hancock camp the fire is coming our way and we've been evacuated!

UPDATE...I made it home about 9:30. Safe and sound!

September 7

So day 6 of the Hancock Rockhound Retreat started out great. We were gearing up for "Show and Tell" night where everyone displays the projects they've made in the past week. I finished 2 more pendants one with copper and the other with silver. (Will try to post a pic. later!)

Just as we were about to have dinner an ugly rumor raised its head. The fire had jumped the river! Just minutes later an official came and announced that the fire had indeed jumped the river and was headed towards our camp! Immediate evacuation was necessary! The air horn started blaring which was our signal for fire danger. Fortunately there was still time to collect our belongings! We had been told two evenings previously to load everything in our vehicles that wasn't crucial for that night. Just in case...So most of my stuff was already in my car. I made 2 quick trips with my sleeping bag, pillows and lawn chair, ran in and grabbed some watermelon for the road and was out of there in minutes. It was an interesting drive filled with lots of wildlife and beauty, a gorgeous sunset, with wheat fields, basalt cliffs, pheasant, rabbits, hawks and deer. Thankfully none of them were suicidal and didn't jump in front of my car! I took some amazing pictures on the way home. A beautiful ending to a fun week and scary situation. Hopefully the camp won't burn so I can go again next year!



Some of Rhea's work and the Fire Glow on September 5th

**Competitive Award Winners
NFMS Annual Show
Walla Walla, WA 2025**

By Josh Hulstrom, NFMS Rules & Awards Chair

Thanks to Warren Rood, Janel Lacey, and the members of the Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society for putting on a great show and hosting the NFMS Annual meeting on September 6-7. Following are the awards and scores given to the participants for their excellent competitive displays.

AWARD	SCORE	GROUP	DIVISION	CLASS	DISPLAY
<u>NFMS Competitive Displays</u>					
Bill Smith Chugach Gem & Mineral T-1 trophy	Anchorage, AK 94	Blue Ribbon Master	A	A-2	Open, Lapidary
Bill Smith Chugach Gem & Mineral T-18 trophy	Anchorage, AK 94	Blue Ribbon Master	C	CC-6	Cabochons, Traditional (1 material)
Warren Rood Marcus Whitman Gem Mineral	Walla Walla, WA 98	Blue Ribbon Advanced	G	G-2	Petrified Wood, Polished Flats or Contoured
William Smith Marcus Whitman Gem Mineral	Walla Walla, WA 95	Blue Ribbon Novice	E	EGC-4	Education, General (Fossils)
Yakima Rock & Mineral Club T-28 trophy	98	Yakima, WA Blue Ribbon Society	E	EGC-5	Education, General (Petrified Wood)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Sweepstakes award for "Best Exhibit" was given to William Smith for his excellent educational display of Dinosaur fossils.

Large Society Travelling Award was given to the Yakima Rock and Mineral Club for their educational display of petrified wood.

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 graciously helped evaluate the cases. I look forward to seeing you in Missoula, MT in March of 2026.



Bill Smith, Blue Ribbon Master, Open, Lapidary



Bill Smith, Blue Ribbon Master, Cabochons, Traditional (1 Material)



Warren Rood, Blue Ribbon Advanced, Petrifies Wood, Polished Flats, or Contoured

William Smith, Blue Ribbon Novice, Education, General (Fossils)



Yakima Mineral Rock & Mineral Club, Education, Mineral, Petrified Wood

Future Rockhounds of America

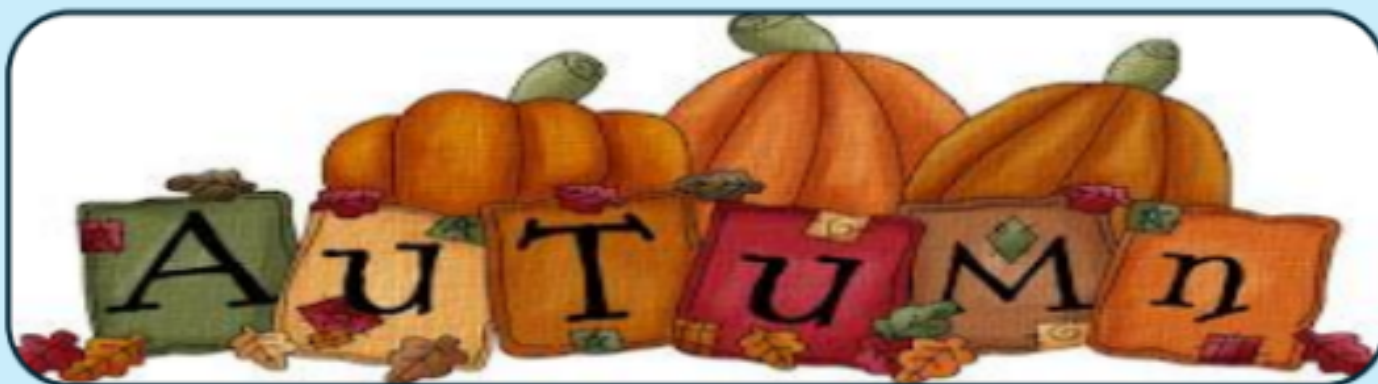
Hello, everyone!

I hope you all came through summertime with fond memories of field trips, fun with family and friends, and some cool specimens to show off! If you have time, you should consider making an article or drawing a picture for the Crack the News newsletter through the AFMS. This newsletter is made by kids and for kids. Anyone who submits gets a really cool George the Geode patch!

As we move into the holiday season, my wish for all of you is that the time is filled with laughter and love, and many memories are made.

Jennifer Fitch
NFMS Junior Chair

Joke of the Month
Why wasn't the geologist hungry?
He lost his apatite!



**2025
JUNIOR
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD
RECIPIENTS**

**ADDYLYN
LEAVITT**

OF THE
WILLAMETTE AGATE
AND MINERAL SOCIETY
AGE GROUP 8-11 YEARS OLD

**AHZIAH
MALLERY**

OF THE
LAKESIDE GEM AND
MINERAL CLUB
AGE GROUP 12-15 YEARS OLD

**ELISHEBA
FITCH**

OF THE
HELLGATE MINERAL
SOCIETY
AGE GROUP 12-15 YEARS OLD

CONGRATULATIONS!
Your entries were awesome!



~NEW FOR THIS YEAR~

Speaking of the Junior Achievement Award...now is the time to send in your entries for this year! We have made some changes to make it easier to apply, and one of the most awesome changes is that ALL juniors can enter every year!

Check out the new requirements and send me an entry! I can't wait to see what you have all done this year.

See the application and instructions below...

NFMS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Jennifer Fitch, NFMS Junior Committee Chairman

It is time for Junior Rockhounds to share their accomplishments
from the past year!

*The Northwest Federation wants to honor you! You must be paid up and listed
as a member of your Club and the NFMS.*

AGE GROUP CATEGORIES

Age Group 1: ages up to 12 years old

Age Group 2: ages 13 through 18 years old

Your age as of December 31st, 2025, determines your age category.

Your application and personal summary need to be either submitted by email or postmarked by
February 15, 2026. Winners will be notified soon after the NFMS judges vote on each candidate's
personal summary.

If any of this sounds too complicated or if you have any questions, just contact me at
jfitch2711@yahoo.com, or you can ask your parents, your Junior's Advisor, or the Federation Director
of your rock club. Everyone will be willing to help you with this opportunity!

Awards will be presented at the NFMS Annual Meeting in Missoula, Montana, on March 21, 2026.

Here are your three easy steps:

1. Write or type a short summary about yourself for the past year following the guidelines below.
2. Fill out the application and have your rock club representatives sign their spaces.
3. Email or mail your summary (resume/outline) and completed and signed application to:

Jennifer Fitch—NFMS Junior Committee Chairman
21148 Old US Hwy 93
Florence, MT 59833

-or-

jfitch2711@yahoo.com

****make sure to have it emailed or mailed in time to have a postmark by (February 15th, 2026)****

Guidelines for Junior Achievement Award

Section I – HOBBY RELATED (70 possible points)

Club involvement (field trips, show participation, workshops, clinics, seminars, club attendance, Future Rockhounds of America attendance, etc.)

Hobby craft involvement (faceting, lapidary, tumbling, wire wrapping, collecting, etc.)

Competitive involvement (display, articles, promotion, awards)

Section II – EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (10 possible points)

Scholastic (honor roll, advanced classes, improvement of grades)

Extracurricular (sports, drama, debate, drill team, music, homeschool activities, etc.)

Section III – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (20 possible points)

Community involvement (charity, volunteer, donation programs, work, etc.)

Group involvement (Scouts, Campfire, 4-H Club, and other community groups).

Anything else you want us to know about you that makes you special!

APPLICATION - Junior Achievement Award

(This information is confidential)

Applicant Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Age (as of 12/31/2025) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone number _____

Email Address _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Rock Club Name _____

Name of Junior Leader (if applicable) _____

I attest to the applicant being a paid-up member of the listed rock club and NFMS:

Club President's Printed Name _____

Club President's Signature _____

Email or mail your SUMMARY and APPLICATION to:

Jennifer Fitch – NFMS Junior Committee Chairman

21148 Old US Hwy 93

Florence, MT 59833

-or-

Jfitch2711@yahoo.com

*****If you are sending through the mail, please be sure to mail with a postmark by February 15th, 2026.******Thank you!***

~CONTEST~



We need YOU!

Are you creative?

PERFECT!



~Here is a contest with you in mind~

*It is time to use your talent to create a cool
patch for all the kiddos in the NFMS.*

Here is what to do!

1. Fill out the application
2. Create a design. Draw it on the application.
3. Send it to:

Jennifer Fitch, NFMS Junior Chair
21148 Old US Highway 93
Florence, MT 59833

*****Must be postmarked by December 15, 2025*****

The kids in the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies are really cool! You learn a lot about rocks, minerals, and fossils. You spend your time on field trips, in museums, doing lapidary projects, and helping at your rock shows. You are special to the NFMS!

*It is time to show you how important you are to
the NFMS by creating a special patch just for all
you juniors!*

~~Prizes will be awarded~~

Any questions? Email me at Fitchs4God@aol.com or call (517)281-7461

NFMS Junior's Patch Application:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Club: _____

Show your design for a patch below :

The Willamette Agate Mineral Society in Salem, Oregon has had a pretty cool few months! Here are some things they have been doing!



WAMS Juniors have spent the months of June and July with an emphasis on the Fossils badge during their meetings (making casts and molds, tril-o-bite cookies) understanding how fossils are formed and a pretty good background on what is known of trilobites.

Also in June, 14 WAMS Juniors took a fieldtrip to Newport on the Oregon Coast, where they had the opportunity to meet with Kent Gibson, a nationally known fossil collector who has some of his incredible specimens on display in the Smithsonian Institution and other museums. With thousands of fossils that he has collected on display in his lab, workshop and at his home, Mr. Gibson led the Juniors in discussions on how to prepare and preserve fossils as well as where to find them nearby. In addition, each Junior was given a fossil vertebrae at the end of the discussion.



Also in June, a number of WAMS Juniors families traveled to Central Oregon for the Prineville Rock and Gem Show Pow-Wow. While there, some traveled to the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument (currently celebrating it's 50th anniversary), and some of the Juniors even dug fossilized plants (to include the Oregon State Fossil—the metasequoia) in the town of – you guessed it—Fossil, Oregon. –Brian Leavitt



Future Rockhounds of America

Here are some pretty amazing kiddos who have earned badges and patches since the last junior's inclusion in the newsletter. I apologize for the lapse in time. My emails that had the junior newsletter submissions were not making it to the newsletter editor. I am trying a different way now, and I hope this fixes everything!



New Members

Hellgate Mineral Society

Elias E.	Xavier M.
Kingston M.	Tony P.
Harper V.	Autumn V.
Dylan V.	Waylan V.
Delilah B.	Hadley G.
Ashley N.	Beau N.
Caleb N.	Brady N.
Brooklynn N.	Shaya P.



Field Trip

Hellgate Mineral Society

Tony P.	Autumn V.
Harper V.	Evelyn C.
Micky C.	Delilah B.

Hudson B.

Willamette Agate Mineral Society

Addy L.



Fossils

Willamette Agate Mineral Society

Clara G.
Henry L.
Addy L.



Showmanship

Willamette Agate Mineral Society

Henry L.
Addy L.



Sand and Sediment

Hellgate Mineral Society

Elisheba Fitch



Rocks and Minerals

Willamette Agate Mineral Society

Henry L.



Earth Processes

Willamette Agate Mineral Society

Addy L.



Special Effects

Willamette Agate Mineral Society

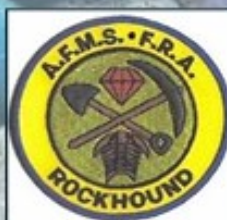
Addy L.



World in Miniature

Hellgate Mineral Society

Hudson B.

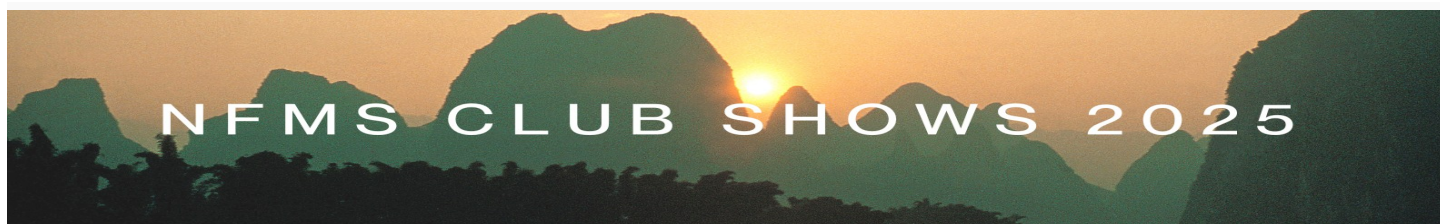


Rockhound Patch

This is given when a junior has earned six or more badges

Willamette Agate Mineral Society

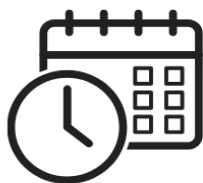
Addy L.



Nov 1st & 2nd Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 5	Maplewood Rock and Gem Show	Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse 8802 196th St. SW Edmonds, WA 98026	Michele McGraw shows.maplewoodrockngem@gmail.com info@maplewoodrockclub.com
Dec 6th & 7th Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 5	Maplewood Rock and Gem Show	Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse 8802 196th St. SW Edmonds, WA 98026	Michele McGraw shows.maplewoodrockngem@gmail.com info@maplewoodrockclub.com
Feb 14th & 15th Sat 9 - 5 Sun 9 - 5	Whidbey Island Gem Club	Oak Harbor Senior Center 8851 SE Jerome St. Oak Harbor, WA 98277	Victoria Lovett Vick o rama (at) hotmail.com info@maplewoodrockclub.com
April 10th - 12th Fri 10 - 5 Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 3	Mt. Hood Rock Club and Gem Show	Jackson Armory 6255 NE Cornfoot Rd. Portland, OR 97218	Roberta Hanson (503) 449-3543 Shane Gerrard (971) 322-6263 mthoodrockclub.com
April 10th - 12th Fri 9 - 6 Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 4	Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society	Golden Spike Event Center Weber County Fairground 1000 N. 1200 W. Ogden, UT 84401	Margie Miller (385) 205 - 9187 goldenspikegem.org
April 25th & 26th Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 5	West Seattle Rock Club	Alki Masonic Temple 4736 40th Ave SW West Seattle, WA	Annette Nelson show@westseattlerockclub.org westseattlerockclub.org

NFMS CLUB SHOWS 2025

AFMS FEDERATION SHOW DATES

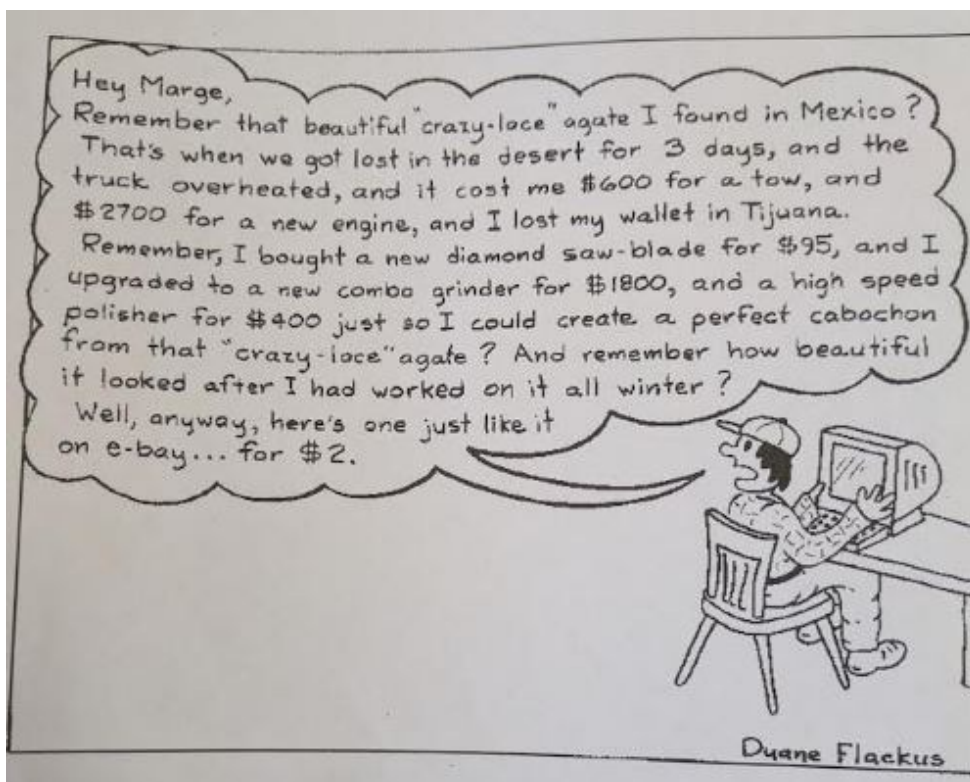


Shows in 2025:

- AFMS/EFMLS Hickory, NC**
March 27 - 30
- Midwest Federation Lincoln, NE April 5-6
- Northwest Federation Walla Walla, WA
Sept 5 - 7
- Rocky Mountain Federation Grand Junction,
CO Sept 19-21

Shows in 2026:

- Midwest Federation St. Charles, IL.
May 23-24



Featured Drawing Winner

NFMS ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**Friday, September 5th, 2025 – 1:00 pm****Marcus Whitman Club House, 6522 Old Highway 12, Walla Walla, Washington**

Parliamentarian-Evan Day

ORDER OF BUSINESS. . .

Call to Order-Lora Hall, President

Pledge of Allegiance – Lora Hall, President

Introduction of Officers & Chairs-Lora Hall, President

Introduction of Past Presidents and VIPs-Michael Rhodes, 1st Vice President

Introduction of Attendees – Directors/Delegates-Jennifer Haley, 2nd Vice President

Invocation-Evan Day

Moment of Silence for Those Lost-Lora Hall, President (See last page for list)

Committee Reports – Acknowledgements, additional information – Committee Chairpersons

Old Business*Continued Plea for Treasurer candidates-Judi Allison**Additional Old Business?***New Business***Reinstatement of Central Montana Prospectors & Malheur Rock and Gem Society-Judi Allison**Adoption of Proposed Budget-Michael Rhodes**Endowment Fund Projects-Jim Brain**Introduction of Executive Board Nominees and Vote-Larry Hulstrom**Director/Delegate Acknowledgement-Lora Hall**Adoption of Bylaws and Op Updates/Revisions w/ Friendly Amendment-Darrell Coyle, Michael Rhodes**Acceptance of 2026 NFMS Hosts-Larry Hulstrom (With Plea for 2027, 28)**Additional Business?**Adjournment***COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS-REPORTS IN PACKET**

President-Lora Hall

Executive Secretary-Judi Allison

Treasurer-Judi Allison, pro tem

Budget /1st Vice President-Michael Rhodes

Bulletin Aids-Pricilla Hall-Ford

Credentials-Clara & Del Walker

Custodian-2nd Vice President-Jennifer Haley

Directory-Janel Lacey

All American Club Award/Education -Open

Endowment Fund-Vicki Johnson/Jim Brain

Field Trip-Doug True

Historian-Open Ronna Watkins, pro tem

Juniors-Jennifer Fitch

Newsletter Editor-Jessica Himple

Nominating-Jennifer Haley

Northwest Rockhound Retreat-Walt Butler

Rules & Awards-Joshua Hulstrom

Safety-Kathy Larson

Scholarship-Mary Lou Northrup

Show Coordination-Faith Farley

Slide/Video- Ronna Watkins

Stamps-Aaron Currier/Ed Anderson

Supplies-Open

Ways & Means-Open

Webmaster-Brad Larson

Website Competition-Open

ALAA-Jennifer Haley

AFMS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:

AFMS President Elect-Ronna Watkins

AFMS Junior Program Chair-Lora Hall

Endowment Fund-Judi Allison

Program Competition-DeLane Cox

Scholarship Foundation-Mary Lou Northrup

Past Presidents Council-Larry Hulstrom

Public Lands Advisory-Susie Koppert

Public Relations-Open

Resolutions-Audrey Vogelpohl

Rockhound of the Year-Laurie Ellis

Minutes of the Meeting.**Marcus Whitman Club House, September 5th, 2025, 1:20pm***Janel Lacey first took the microphone to welcome all to their clubhouse and the show.**President, **Lora Hall** then called for the **Pledge of Allegiance**. She then introduced the executive Board members. Committee Chairs were introduced next: Janel Lacey, Darrell Coyle, Kathy Larson, Josh Hulstrom, Ronna Watkins, Clara and Del Walker, Mary Lou Northrup, Jim Brain and Larry Hulstrom.****Michael Rhodes** introduced **American Federation President, JC Moore and Secretary Donna Moore**. It was pointed out that Ronna Watkins will step into the position of President on November 1.**Past NFMS Presidents attending were Bill Smith, Ronna Watkins, Darrell Coyle, Larry Hulstrom, Judi Allison, and Jennifer Haley.**Tony Fender, former California Federation President, current 3rd Vice President of AFMS and Sandie Fender, President of the AFMS Scholarship Committee are part of the Club at Large.**The Directors and Delegates present were Ed Moser, Owyhee; Debbie Mitchell, Idaho Gem; June Dorning, Yakima; Michelle Ernsberger, Golden Spike; Jim Brain, Club at Large; Anna McKinney, Marysville; Lynn and Michael Richards, Hellgate; Clara and Del Walker, Prineville; Brian Paleck, Clackamette; Bill and Janet Smith, Chugach; Jon Elmgren, Everett; Larry and Josh Hulstrom, Lakeside; Mary Lou and Jerry Northrup, Hells Canyon; Karli Cook, Hatrockhounds; Mike Marsh, Mt Baker; Janel Lacey, Marcus Whitman; Adam Pettitt, Willamette; Ronna Watkins, Yakima; Darrell Coyle, Bitterroot; Don Dixon, Owyhee.**After introductions and before we got down to business, we had a raffle drawing for a dinosaur bone donated by Jennifer Haley. Jon Elmgren was the lucky recipient.**As a final introduction Janel Lacey presented two of the Marcus Whitman volunteers who had been instrumental in helping the show be a success: Kathy Lynch and Sara Carlson.****Invocation** for a productive meeting and the wellbeing and safety of our attendees was delivered by our Pastor/Parliamentarian **Evan Day**.****Lora Hall** then called for a **Moment of Silence** to honor who have passed in the last year.****Credentials** reported there were 23 representatives from 16 clubs with credentials. Clara Walker moved to accept the additional uncredentialed individuals with a second from Darrell Coyle. Motion carried. With the additional representatives, there were 27 Directors and Delegates representing 19 clubs.**President, Lora Hall thanked all the attendees then asked for **committee reports**. **Most were in the packet**.*****Michael Rhodes, as Budget Chair**, pointed out there was a mistake in his proposed budget. The revenue line items referring to Junior interest amounts need to be moved up one. The Junior CD should be read at \$600 and the Junior Savings \$2 with the next item blank.*****Custodian, Jennifer Haley** added that the T-shirts and hats that have been in the supplies for a long period were donated to the Juniors Program for prizes or whatever they deemed appropriate. "Under the Past Presidents Council- this committee no longer has the supplies listed as written in the report. All of the t-shirts, caps, were given to the Juniors committee at the Billings Show in 2024 to be used as additional rewards for juniors. Past NFMS Show pins will be given to their appropriate clubs. It is unknown where the 4-drawer file cabinet is.*****Jim Brain** reported that the **Endowment** ended the current year a little better than what was shown in the report.***Information from the AFMS Committee representatives******The ALAA** report was available **on the back table**.*****Incoming AFMS President, Ronna Watkins**, mentioned the **AFMS Show and Convention** will be held in **St Charles, Illinois May 23-26** and that the **AFMS newsletter** will be going digital in February.**AFMS President, JC Moore added that the Convention was being hosted by the Midwest Federation. It will be a fantastic show with camping facilities and a time for wholesale as well as retail sales. The show committee is working on the possibility of getting admission into the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts at no charge,*****Judi Allison** stated that the prizes for the **AFMS Endowment Fund** are just being gathered. She will have tickets for purchase at the Annual meeting in Missoula in March.****Lora Hall** stated that there are **new Junior Clubs** joining from all the Federations, although we **need to get NFMS clubs enrolled**. Jennifer Fitch, NFMS Chair, was unable to attend, so there will not be a Junior leader meeting on Sunday.*

Old Business

Judi Allison did a poorly executed literal song and dance **plea for a Treasurer**. She stated she is willing to continue collecting the dues. Lora added a more serious plea. (Between this plea and additional song and dance at the banquet, we may have success. Keep your fingers crossed and look for further developments.) I don't want to jinx anything, so hold tight on that thought. Judi

New Business

***Central Montana Prospectors** paid their dues after the cutoff time and **Malheur County Rock and Gem Club** sent their dues to rejoin the Federation. They had previously been members before COVID. Bill Smith moved to **accept both clubs for full membership**. Clara Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

***Michael Rhodes** created a motion to accept the **proposed budget with the ability to move funds within its boundaries as needed**. Larry Hulstrom seconded the motion. **Motion passed by a show of paddles**.

***Jim Brain** took the floor to **discuss possibilities for utilizing expendable funds from the Endowment Fund**. He stated that the committee has been attempting for a period of time to get input from the membership. In essence, the proposals he will bring forth are from the Executive Board and Committee members. Since we are a 501C3 there are some rules from the articles of incorporation. Since we are a nonprofit charitable group, we should be showing how we give back. He stated there is "not much charitable going on." Speakers and lectures at shows and other events such as meetings and banquets are starting to lack. We can make donations to grants through the Federation. We need to do things that will improve involvement in the Federation. Following are numerous suggestions and ideas.

-Monetary awards for miscellaneous activities such as participation in exhibiting, entry into the Bulletin Aids Contests, creation of an All-American booklet, etc.

-Club liability policy-pay or reduced rate. (Anna McKinney pointed out that rules may vary from state to state. Janel Lacey suggested allocation of a percentage to each club.)

-Canned programs or You Tube presentations to be used at any level of presentation in the Federation

-How-to videos: maybe students could develop-give a grant for the development

-Donations to non-profit museums such as Rice Museum in exchange for free admission. (Anna McKinney pointed out that some clubs do not issue membership cards. How would membership be verified? The suggestion was that the museum could have a club roster at its disposal.

Lora Hall suggested members look through the list. Remember someone needs to be willing to do the leg work. Bill Smith said he will bring the suggestions to his club. Michelle Ernsberger stated it needs to be at the club level-grass roots.

Additional Suggestions:

-Peterson Rock Garden out of Redmond, Oregon is attempting to refurbish and upgrade from the deterioration it has suffered over the years. The Prineville Pow Wow donated \$9000 to help with the restoration. A grant of \$5000 from the Federation was a suggestion.

-Also, \$1.00 dues reduction. Jim doesn't like this because last time we were locked in for five years without the ability to utilize funds for anything else.

Anna McKinney stated she is willing to **create a Google survey** so the data gathered can be put into a spreadsheet **showing preferences throughout the Federation**. It was agreed that this could be a very useful informative tool. She will create one with the various suggestions given above. **Secretary Judi Allison** will then **send the survey to Directors and Newsletter recipients** to have them follow through with their respective clubs.

Janel Lacey stated that as **Directory Chair**, as **deadlines** for various things approach, (for example: time to turn in submissions for the Bulletin Aids Contest, time to submit applications for the Junior Achievement Awards, deadline to submit for the All-American Award, etc.)she is willing to **send out a notice**. In so doing, perhaps we can garner more entries into these various contests and awards.

Jim then related a story about how he was a member when the original purchase of the Marcus Whitman Clubhouse was signed, as he in fact signed it. He admitted that at the time he was a Doubting Thomas, but he watched the transformation and is very pleasantly surprised by the outcome.

Darrell Coyle introduced the **slate of nominees** as was outlined in the agenda. He then brought to attention that our 1st Vice President candidate, Jennifer Haley has moved back to Northern California, although she is an NFMS member through the Club at Large. He moved that the exception of her being out of boundaries be waived so that she may serve through the officer positions. Jerry Northrup seconded the motion. Motion passed with a show of paddles. Bill Smith then **moved to accept the slate of nominees as the official inductees. This was accepted by the voting membership.**

As Parliamentarian, Evan Day explained that as the Head of the Bylaw Revisory Committee Darrell Coyle cannot vote on a proposal, but he will present his report, then “change hats” and as a club member of the Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, will present a proposal for voting purposes.

Darrell then took the floor and offered information as the **Revisory Committee Chair**. He asked that the **changes** brought forward be **voted on as a whole**. The committee asked for additional input and added and corrected as the revisions took place. He pointed out that the administrative dates have already been changed to September 5 instead of the 12th. After asking if there were any questions regarding the proposal packed and receiving none, he stated there was one change to add to the packet under Meetings, Section 8, Delete “but not vote”.

As **director for Bitterroot Darrell then moved to accept the Bylaw revision packet**. Brian Paleck seconded the motion. The proposal passed by a vote of the Assembly.

A **proposed addition** to the Bylaws was brought forward from the **Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society as a Friendly Amendment**. Michael Rhodes presented the amendment as a member of Golden Spike stating that it had been brought before the Chair of the Bylaws Revisory committee (Darrell) with no objections, so he turned it back over to Darrell. Darrell then moved to accept the Amendment with a second from Anna McKinney. **Accepted.**

The matter of the **Operation Procedures** was then brought up. Darrell has been working on revisions that align with the proposed Bylaw changes. He has added Parliamentarian duties, Long Range Planning and Operations Review. He requested to delete “no person can serve more than one term as President” and change it to two. Anna McKinney asked why not three years or such. Darrell explained that one could make a motion if necessary to waive the exception. Jim Brain commented that they found that they had to work backward for revisions and with such were able to wade through the bulk of the job.

Bill Smith moved to accept the Operation Procedure changes and Jerry Northrup seconded it. **The changes were approved with a show of paddles and the motion carried.**

Lora thanked the Directors and Delegates with Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Larry Hulstrom presented the **proposal from the Hellgate Mineral Society of Missoula, Montana to host the 2026 show March 21-22**. It will again be a two-day show with **meetings on the 20th**. Bill Smith moved to accept the proposal and Anna McKinney seconded with a hardy acceptance to the plan.

Judi put in a plea for hosts for following years; 2027, 2028 and beyond. Please note we are working with clubs in any way we can to help make it easier to host a show.

Michael stated that with the Bylaw change, we will **now have a 16-month year for the period through December**. He is prepared to take over **the Presidential duties** through that period and continue through the fiscal and calendar year **at the end of 2026**. Ronna Watkins moved to accept this plan and Anna McKinney seconded the motion. With an agreement from all, the meeting was adjourned.

NFMS EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS 2025-2026

PRESIDENT: Michael Rhodes, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 317 E 200 S, Brigham City, UT, 84302-2621, (435) 230 0403 [mrmbrhodes0\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mrmbrhodes0(at)gmail.com)

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Jennifer Haley 2490 Spring Mountain Rd. St. Helena, CA 94574 541-660-1832 [lady-buglane\(at\)napablogger.com](mailto:lady-buglane(at)napablogger.com)

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: June Dorning Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, 590 Culdorn Drive, Yakima, WA 98903 (509) 930-1323, [dorningjune\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:dorningjune(at)gmail.com)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Judi Allison, Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11th. St., Hermiston, OR, 97882, (541) 720-4950, [nfmssec\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmssec(at)gmail.com)

TREASURER: Adam Pettitt, Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, 2035 Center St. SE, Albany. OR 97322, 971-226-6193, [nfmstreasurer\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmstreasurer(at)gmail.com)

Judi Allison (pro tem), Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, 1701 NW 11th. St., Hermiston, OR, 97882, (541) 720-4950, [nfmssec\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmssec(at)gmail.com)

NFMS STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET: 1st Vice President (see above)

BULLETIN AIDS: Priscilla Hall-Ford Oregon Agate & Mineral Society, P.O.Box 818, La Center, WA 98629 (360) 518-7829. [Rockhounder2019\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:Rockhounder2019(at)comcast.net)

CREDENTIALS: Del & Clara Walker, Tualatin Valley Gem Club, 12377 SE Davis Loop, Prineville, OR, 97754, (503) 812-6540, [cwalk12377\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:cwalk12377(at)gmail.com)

CUSTODIAN: 2ND Vice President: (see above)

DIRECTORY: Janel Lacey, Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, 43618 SW McKay Dr, Pendleton, OR, 97801, (541) 215-2839, [jclaw16461\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jclaw16461(at)gmail.com)

* Clubs need only to send contact info for their board members. Contact clubs directly to reach out to specific members.

EDUCATION/ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARD :

LORA HALL HELLGATE MINERAL SOCIETY, PO BOX2095, FRENCH-TOWN, MT 59834, [SILVERTIPMINIS\(AT\)MSN.COM](mailto:SILVERTIPMINIS(AT)MSN.COM)

ENDOWMENT FUND:

CHAIRMAN: Vicki Johnson, Southern Washington Mineralogical Society, 1574 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Kelso, WA 98626 (360) 751-8031, [vickijrocks\(at\)msn.com](mailto:vickijrocks(at)msn.com)

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Mikki Richard, Marysville Rock and Gem Club, Inc., 425-387-4591, [mikki.richard\(at\)adp.com](mailto:mikki.richard(at)adp.com)

FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Jim Brain, NFMS Club-At-Large, 6410 W Sundance Dr., Spokane, WA 99208, (509) 863-9883, [jrbrain233\(at\)outlook.com](mailto:jrbrain233(at)outlook.com)

HISTORIAN: OPEN

JUNIORS CHAIR: Jennifer Fitch, Hellgate Mineral Society, 21148 Old US Hwy 93, Florence, MT, 59833 (517) 281-7461, [Fitchs4god\(at\)aol.com](mailto:Fitchs4god(at)aol.com)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Jessica Himple, Everett Rock and Gem Club (425) 622-3504, [nfmseditor\(at\)outlook.com](mailto:nfmseditor(at)outlook.com)

NFMS CLUB-AT-LARGE: 1ST Vice President (see above)

NOMINATING CHAIRMAN:

Lora Hall Hellgate Mineral Society, PO Box 2095, Frenchtown, MT 59834, [Silvertipminis\(at\)msn.com](mailto:Silvertipminis(at)msn.com)

NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT (Hancock):

Walter Butler, 8821 SW Equestrian Place, Crooked River Ranch, OR 97760, (503) 702-5743, [waltercbutler\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:waltercbutler(at)comcast.net)

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL: Larry Hulstrom, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W 26th Ave. Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 308-8312, [rockhound132\(at\)charter.net](mailto:rockhound132(at)charter.net)

PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY:

Susie Koppert, Mt. Hood Rock Club, 135 SE Marsh Rd., Sandy, OR 97055 [susiekopper\(at\)mail.com](mailto:susiekopper(at)mail.com)

RESOLUTIONS: Audrey Vogelpohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617,

(206) 932-3292, [avogelpohl\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:avogelpohl(at)comcast.net)

RULES AND AWARDS COMMITTEE: RULES AND AWARDS CHAIR :

Joshua Hulstrom, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W 26th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 306-0385, [josh_hulstrom\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:josh_hulstrom(at)hotmail.com)

JUDGING DIRECTOR : Charise

Ash, Mount Hood Rock Club, 2331 N Mist Dr, Vernonia, OR 97064, [charisemarie\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:charisemarie(at)gmail.com)

EXHIBITS REGISTRAR: Larry Hulstrom, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W 26th Ave. Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 308-8312, [rockhound132\(at\)charter.net](mailto:rockhound132(at)charter.net)

SAFETY: Kathryn Larson, Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 4102 S Auburn St, Kennewick, WA 99337 [misaique\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:misaique(at)hotmail.com)

SCHOLARSHIP: Mary Lou Northrup, 1623 Powers Ave, Lewiston, ID 83501, (208) 743-6944, [mlandjl\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:mlandjl(at)yahoo.com)

SHOW COORDINATOR: Faith Farley, Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, 392 Market St S, Corvallis, MT 59828, (406) 961-3347 [earthmother169\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:earthmother169(at)gmail.com)

SLIDE/ VIDEO LIBRARIAN:

Ronna Watkins, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, PO Box 635, Tieton WA 98947, (509) 673-0085

[nfmsronna\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmsronna(at)gmail.com)

STAMPS: Aaron Currier, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, 2182 Broadway Ct, Salem, OR, 97304 (503) 385-5649, [fossils\(at\)curriergraphics.com](mailto:fossils(at)curriergraphics.com)

Ed Anderson, Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society, 40182 Hilltop Dr, Lebanon, OR, 97355 (541) 451-1577, [ela4rocks\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ela4rocks(at)gmail.com)

SUPPLIES: OPEN WAYS & MEANS: OPEN

WEBMASTER: Brad Larson, Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society, 6010 W. Cruzen St., Boise, ID 83704 (208) 465-1920, [nfms.webmaster\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfms.webmaster(at)gmail.com)

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN: Doug True,
Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622
Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102,
(406) 670-0506,
[dtruefossils12\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:dtruefossils12(at)yahoo.com)

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Laurie Ellis,
Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral
Society, 57462 Clarks Canyon Rd,
Heppener, OR 97836, (541) 626-3131,
[nfmsroy\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:nfmsroy(at)gmail.com)

SHOW CHAIRMAN 2026:
Steven Stiff, 4013 Thomas Place, Missoula, MT 59803, [steven.stiff\(at\)bresnan.net](mailto:steven.stiff(at)bresnan.net), 406-529-2671

Janel Lacey, Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, 43618 SW McKay Dr, Pendleton, OR, 97801, (541) 215-2839,
[jclaw6461\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jclaw6461(at)gmail.com)

WEBSITE CONTEST: OPEN**AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)**

AFMS 1st VP - Ronna Watkins
AFMS Junior Program Chair - Lora Hall

ENDOWMENT FUND - Judi Allison
PROGRAM COMPETITION - DeLane Cox

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION- Mary Lou Northrup

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The **AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION (ALAA)** is a 501(c)(4) organization. Its purpose is to promote and ensure the right of amateur hobby fossil and mineral collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public lands managers. Your annual individual/couple membership fee is \$25 which helps support their activities. Club membership is \$50 per year. Send to Treasurer, P.O. Box 54398, San Jose, CA 95154. Make checks payable to: American Lands Access Assn. Applications can be downloaded at: www.amlands.org on the left side of the page. For more information contact: Frank Mullaney, 408-266-1791, cell: 408-691-2655, [Rockyfv\(at\)aol.com](mailto:Rockyfv(at)aol.com)

The **AFMS NEWSLETTER** is published monthly except Jan-Jul-Aug by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Each NFMS member society should have three people (usually the Pres, Secretary and Editor) receiving the AFMS Newsletter. If they are not, or if anyone else wants to subscribe (\$5 per year). Contact: Linda Jaeger, 3515 E 88th St, Tulsa, OK 74137, [AFMSeditor\(at\)AMFED.org](mailto:AFMSeditor(at)AMFED.org) (918) 630-6498 or (918) 481-0249. Make checks payable to "AFMS".

The **NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER** is the official publication of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) and is sent to each club electronically in PDF form between six to ten times per year. It is the responsibility of each club to forward the newsletter to the membership. The newsletters are also posted to the Federation website electronically and archived there for members to review or download.

For matters related to this newsletter (i.e. content, advertising, etc.) contact the editor.

SHOW COORDINATION. Your Federation provides a free service for NFMS members by listing your show in this Newsletter, on the NFMS website, two magazines ("Rocks and Minerals" and "Rock and Gem") and the on-line calendar from "Lapidary Journal". Please provide the date and time for the show, the club name and show title (if applicable), the location of the show, admission price, and most important a contact person with address, e-mail address and/or phone (e-mail is preferred). Please send your show information four to six months in advance to the Show Coordination Chairperson. If you see an error once your show is listed, or if your show is not listed, contact the Newsletter Chair

SAVE STAMPS PROGRAM. NFMS members are encouraged to use and save commemorative stamps. The money generated from the sale of these used (cancelled) stamps is then donated to Junior Fund. The collected stamps can be sent to the **Stamps Chairperson**, brought to the NFMS Annual Show or given to your Federation Director in your club.

ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS**Where to send your money**

To NFMS Treasurer for:

1. Dues (new and renewal) and supplies
2. Donations for the general fund

3. Donations to Junior Achievement
 4. Advertisement in this Newsletter
- Send to: see Treasurer this page.

To NFMS Endowment Fund Treasurer for:

1. Donations to Endowment Fund
 2. Memorial contributions
- Make check payable to NFMS Endowment Fund, send to Endowment Fund Treasurer, 8810 37th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

1. Donations to AFMS Scholarship Fund
 2. Memorial contributions to AFMS Scholarship
- Make check payable to AFMS Scholarship Fund.
Send to: Mary Lou Northrup (see Scholarship this page).

To AFMS Endowment Fund for:

1. Donations to AFMS Endowment
 2. Memorials
- Send to: See AFMS Newsletter

To ALAA Treasurer for:

- Memberships, new and renewals
Donations
Make check payable to ALAA
(American Lands Access Assn) Treasurer, P.O. Box
54398, San Jose, CA 95154

NFMS WEB SITE: www.amfed.org/nfms
or

<http://northwestfederation.org/>

***Due to changing to an electronic newsletter, clubs are no longer required to send contact information throughout the year for members who are added or removed from their roster. Directory will now only require the contact information for the board members of each club. If you would like to contact a specific person in another club, please contact their club.**