Kathy Moedl  
President

Why do you suppose you are getting a newsletter from some unknown NFMS organization? Who/What is the NFMS anyway? I have gotten comments like that from people I KNOW and within my own club. Those were my own thoughts when I first joined my local club. There was a series of events a few years ago that led to my education of the NFMS and what it is all about. It opened a whole new world for me.

My daughter, who was 13 at the time, decided to do a showcase for our local club show. She did such a great job of it that people were coming up to her saying she should enter her case in the NFMS show. Huh? What is that? Why? A few weeks later I got out that NFMS Newsletter that I had been getting from unknown people from other states and made a call to the NFMS Junior Chair.

That call led to association with many new and helpful people. They were willing to take the time to mentor my daughter, educate and encourage. She entered her case in the NFMS Federation show held in Ontario, Oregon that year. She then qualified to compete in the AFMS show (huh? Who?). There is a whole world of people and resources out there, folks, that we have available to us and sit dormant waiting for us to take advantage of what they offer (they certainly aren’t dormant but I’m making a point here).

We belong to rockhound clubs because we like to “rub elbows” with people who are interested in the same things that we enjoy. We want to share our experiences and benefit from the knowledge of other people. Our individual clubs then belong to the Northwest Federation (NFMS) to affiliate with other rockhound clubs throughout the Northwest to broaden our elbow rubbing and benefit from broader spectrum of knowledge. A very small part of your membership dues is paid by your club to the NFMS.

The NFMS is one of seven Federations that belong to the American Federal of Mineralogical Society (AFMS). Thereby affiliating with rockhounds NATION WIDE! An even smaller part of the membership dues to the NFMS is paid to the AFMS.

Of the seven federations the NFMS is the only federation to send their newsletter to every member. This gives all NFMS members a direct link to our NFMS and what it has to offer.

The NFMS Membership Directory lists all members, clubs, club officers and meeting locations with dates and places. This is a valuable reference source to locate people to assist you with field trips when you are out of your area.

REMINDER TO CLUB TREASURERS: Be sure your dues is sent by the 1st of January and make sure to include any changes to your members and correct information about your club to be listed in next year’s NFMS Directory. This information also makes sure that your new members receive the newsletter and don’t get left out of the loop.

Also, take a look at our new website at http://www.amfed.org/nfms/. Explore that website for all you ever need to know about our organization. Wow! Well done, Webmaster!

This is the last newsletter to come your way until after the New Year. Enjoy your holidays and we will be in touch next year!

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JAN/FEB NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE ON DECEMBER 15th

Contact
Beth Heesacker
Email: nfmseditor@coho.net

NFMS Website:
www.amfed.org/nfms

This is your combined November/December Northwest Newsletter.

The next issue will come out in January and will be for January/February.
NFMS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2012-2013

PRESIDENT:  Kathy Moedl, Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society, 149 E. 1st, N, Rexburg, ID 83440, (208) 859-3559, kathy@moedlj.org

1st VICE PRESIDENT:  Don Innes, Far West Lapidary, 54416 Arago-Fishtrap Rd., Myrtle Point, OR 97574, (541) 396-5772, donn11@hughes.net

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:  Warren Roos, Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral, 243 E. Birch, Walla Walla, WA 99362, warrenroo@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:  Joan Day, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 833 7th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99338, (509) 783-6310, jeanada@siuxa.net

TREASURER:  Lyle Vogelpohl, 10407 SE Davis Loop, Prineville, OR 97754, (541) 753-2401, lwvogel@frontier.com

AFFILIATE TREASURER:  NWFM Treasurer (see above)

BULLETIN AIDS:  Peggy Blickfeldt, 114 1st Ave., N, Moscow, ID 83843, (208) 465-1920, pblickfeldt@bresnan.net

SPEAKERS CHAIR:  Craig Montgomery, 1001 E. 1st Ave., Butte, MT, 59701, (406) 491-3587, monty.smith@charter.net

FINANCIAL ADVISOR:  Jon Spunaugle, 108 W. 2nd Ave., Hamilton, MT, 59840, (406) 364-6378, jspunaugle@bresnan.net

CREDENTIALS:  Del & Clara Walker, 1984 F. St., Butte, MT, 59701, (406) 727-5714, the_spencers@comcast.net

WEBMASTER:  Brad Larson, Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society, 4112 E. Park Blvd., Nampa, ID 83687, (208) 465-1920, nfmswebmaster@gmail.com

WEB SITE: www.amfed.org/nfms

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES

FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN:  Doug True, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 2622 Broadwater, Billings, MT 59102, 406.670.0506, dtruefossils12@yahoo.com

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR:  Viola Jones, Skagit Rock & Gem Club, P. O. Box 2841, Mt. Vernon, WA, 98273, (360) 424-8340, rookhoundstoo1966@yahoo.com

WEBSITE CONTEST:  Cheri George

AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)


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 collectors, 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 membership fee of $25.00 helps support their activities. Club membership is $50 per year. Send dues to: ALAA, Bailey, 2857 Addison Pl., Santa Clara, CA 95051-1785. For more information contact: Shirley Leson, ALAA Vice President, P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID, 83687, ShirleyLeson@cox.net or beaullaholland@centurytel.net

ATTENTION CLUB TREASURERS

Where to send your money to:

1. Donations to Endowment Fund

2. Memorial contributions

Make check payable to NFMS Endowment Fund, send to Endowment Fund Treasurer.

To NFMS Scholarship Chairperson for:

1. Donations to AFMS Scholarship Fund

2. Memorial contributions to AFMS Scholarship Fund

Send to: Lyle Vogelpohl, see Treasurer this page.

To NFMS Endowment Fund:

1. Donations to AFMS Endowment Fund

2. Memorials

Send to: See AFMS Newsletter

To ALAA Treasurer for:

1. Memberships, new and renewals

2. Donations

Make check payable to ALAA

Send to: Joyce Hanscha, ALAA Treasurer, 6607 Sturdte Bridge Ln., Canton, MI 48187-2638

NFMS NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

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.). Ads for the Northwest Newsletter are $1.50 per square inch. Example: 3” x 4” ad – 12 inches x 1.50 x 8 = 18 per issue of the Newsletter.

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 or 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

NFMS NEWSLETTER

To see this newsletter in living color and to see it by the first of the month go to http://www.amfed.org/nfms/newsletters.asp and click on the month you want to see.
I was wondering the other day what a rock hound really is. They are people who love the great outdoors. The wide open spaces. They want to collect a very small proportion of the rocks or minerals available as U S citizens. A faceter can collect a 5 gal pail and it will last a lifetime. Most rock hounds only collect the amount they can use to fashion into a beautiful item, or he can display, or can donate or gift to someone else.

We do know one-third of the land area of the whole United States is owned by the Federal Government (we the citizens). It is controlled, regulated, licensed, and permitted by only a few people we elected to govern us. In turn the governing has been turned over to many un-elected government officials (bureaucrats).

We need personally to co-operate with the Powers that be and attend all their meetings we can fit in to our schedule. If we co-operate with them and they co-operate with us it seems it would be a good working relationship. We seem to have one obstacle, Environmentalists.

All of us should follow the AMFS rules for collecting, published in all of our local and State Bulletins as well as the American Federation Bulletin. As a group we are excellent environmentalists. Help us save our digs.

Warren Rood
2nd Vice President

Field trips are about sharing

We all understand that a great field trip involves collecting great material. Recently I realized that a great trip involves so much more. Our club, the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society of Walla Walla, WA, went on a trip to Topaz Mountain in Utah. This is quite a long trip and you don’t want to travel that far without being certain you are going to find great material. Unfortunately nobody in our club knew where the good material was. Fortunately, we knew somebody that did. We were led by an experienced rock hound friend from a club in Idaho that knew the Topaz Mountain area well. It was such a treat to have this person share the many sites that he had discovered on previous trips. We found many knew things, such as the old copper mine, a free area for trilobite collecting in shale, easy picking Dugway geodes, a mountain full of multi-colored agate and of course topaz.

Two of the people that joined us were from another club in Western Washington that we had met at a gem and mineral show. They were so appreciative of the opportunity to join us and find great material that they volunteered to share some of the sites they had discovered on a trip next year. This is similar to what happens during our NFMS field trips, only on a smaller scale. If you are interested in sharing a field trip, you could start by having your field trip leader use the NFMS directory and contact a field trip leader from another club. They could share information and maybe work out a trip or two. Also just talking and networking between individuals of different clubs could turn into a nice field trip. This type of club to club sharing is a strength of our rock community. Everybody benefits.

SCRIBE Meeting for All Newsletter Editors

The meeting date for the 2013 S.C.R.I.B.E. meeting will be JAN. 26 AT 8:30 A.M. (MST). We will be meeting in the Senior Center on Moon Mountain Road just north of Main Street in Quartzsite, Ariz. 

S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors) is an international group of current and former amateur lapidary, gem, mineral and earth sciences club editors, writers, webmasters and others. The purpose of S.C.R.I.B.E. is to improve communication and public relations among these clubs, their federations, and other related organizations through involved bulletin editors. It serves as a resource to advise and assist new editors with old ideas and old editors with new ideas for publishing better bulletins.
Bulletin Editors!
By Peggy Blickfeldt
Bulletin Aides

Well, it is that time of year again, time to sort through those favorite newsletters and send in the best. Please remember to send in articles etc. and if you have juniors, please get them to send SOMETHING in. They will be due by the end of February 2013. If you have forgotten the rules or the requirements, please check the AFMS website under bulletins. You can also email me at pblick@ymail.com.

That Made My Day
By Lyle Vogelpohl,
Member West Seattle Rock Club

I have been fortunate to be able to participate in many rock and gem shows by entering a display and/or demonstrating the way I cut cabochons on my Ameritool Flat Lap Grinder.

I was demonstrating cabochon cutting at the recent Portland Regional Gem & Mineral Show, showing the steps I use to work a stone from start to finish. Friday had been a busy day ... with area schools out for the day there were many families with children present. It was getting late in the afternoon when a mother and her daughter approached where I was working at my machine. It took me a moment to realize that the daughter was carrying a white cane and was blind.

I described to them what I was doing and started by letting them feel the various grits on the grinding plates I use. Next I let the daughter feel the slice of material that had a cab marked on it. She could feel the rough edges of the piece. Then I gave her a piece that had been cut to size on the trim saw, and then a stone that had been trimmed to size including the bezel. Her hands went over each piece and felt the different shapes. I have a display of stones on dop sticks that show the steps I use to shape my cabs. I handed her each one and explained what I was doing. She felt the surfaces of each step, including the sanded stone to the smooth finished polished stone.

Watching this young lady smile as she examined each of the stones, and the appreciative thanks from her mother, That Made My Day.

From the Editor’s Rockpile
By Beth Heesacker

I am not going to write about rocks, rockhounding or my rock collection’s this month. What has affected me most recently have been the reports from some of my close rockhounding friends about their health. The daughter of a friend has been diagnosed and undergone surgery for breast cancer. Another friend has been diagnosed with throat cancer and is undergoing chemo therapy with all the aftermath that this causes. I know lots of other rockhounds that have been having cancer problems.

Please, get cancer screening! Do all the home checks for women, AND for men, that have been recommended by the health community. I know some of these checks are uncomfortable. I have had my parts squeezed and probed in the past and will continue to have my checkups in order that any cancer will be found early.

Please, the temporary discomfort is so much better than the long-term effects of advanced cancer on you, your family and friends.
ALAA - QUARTZSITE IS COMING

Here’s the information on: QUARTZSITE, January 25th and January 27th, 2013

ALAA meeting, Friday evening Jan 25th 6:30 pm, Quartzsite Alliance Church, plenty of parking.
720 Desert View - Northwest side of Quartzsite
From frontage road north of I-10, North on Moon Mountain Road  See ALAA website for map amlands.org
If you have observed problems, with either the Forest Service or the BLM, please contact president@amlands.org
If you have positive feed-back on something that's worked out, we need to know that too.
I NEED THIS INFORMATION IN WRITING.  Email me at: president@amlands.org

Sunday, Jan 27th location and time to be announced....
ALAA and Ye Old Timers are partnering with the BLM for the first ANNUAL Quartzsite area CLEAN-UP.  All participants will receive a certification of participation for this first annual event.  We'll have sign in sheets available.  Be part of the solution instead of the problem, don’t LITTER.

Shirley Leeson, ALAA President 2013
American Lands Access Assn.
Rockhound Activist
president@amlands.org

Having Fun: Junior Activities
Hands-On Activities from Ring of Fire
by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Program Chair

At last year’s Mother Lode Mineral Society Show in Turlock, California (a must-attend event for anyone anywhere near central California in mid-March!), I made my way straight to the Rocks In A Hardplace booth since they always have a great range of educationally oriented materials for the earth sciences (see www.rocksinahard-place.com). Per usual, I wasn’t disappointed and came away with nice specimens and educational rock kits. One item really caught my eye this time: a book rack containing a number of spiral-bound paperbacks accompanied by CDs. They were part of the “Myrna Martin” series, and I walked away with books and CDs for Myrna Martin’s Minerals: Hands-on Science, Myrna Martin’s Rock Cycle: Hands-on Science, and Myrna Martin’s Dinosaurs: Hands-on Activities.

“Who is Myrna Martin?” I wondered, so I went to her web site: www.RingofFireScience.com. Inspired by the eruption of Mount Saint Helens 90 miles from her Oregon home, she crafted a set of lesson plans on volcanoes. By 1998, those lesson plans had evolved into a home-based business she runs with husband Tom and son Brett: Ring of Fire Science Company LLC. Prior to that, Myrna had taught school for over 35 years, so she knew what she was doing when she began developing activity-based earth-science education books. She’s done her job so well, she was named the 2007 Professional of the Year for Science Textbook Publishing by Cambridge Who’s Who. She is now an author, science consultant, and workshop speaker, particularly for homeschooling conventions.

Ring of Fire offers over 30 books (available in print or on CDs), as well as 7 educational sets of rocks and DVDs containing video lessons by the author. Resources are geared to three levels: PreK – 2nd grade, 3rd – 6th grade, and middle – high school. Topics include dinosaurs, earthquakes, volcanoes, the rock cycle, mineral identification, the three rock types, and more. The books are beautifully designed and illustrated, with easy-to-follow instructions for each activity along with “Teacher’s Notes” that fill you in on lesson objectives, how the activity fulfills National Science Education Standards, and vocabulary with definitions. There are also quizzes with answer keys and bibliographies for further reading. I encourage you to check out this wealth of resources for the juniors in your society—for learning, and for having fun!

Via Oct 2012 AFMS Newsletter

Clubs, please note that any show information should go to Pat Lambert, Show Coordinator. She will then send the information out to the rock magazines, websites and to this newsletter.
All membership updates, including new members so they can receive this newsletter as soon as possible, should go to Tom Burchard, Circulation Chair and to Carol Willey, Directory Chair.
See the second page of this newsletter for address information for these Chairmen and Chairwomen.
Grateful
By Bert Kae-Je’

Gloriously colored layers of rock reach the mountain buttes, Fossil beds hold history reaching to rocky mountains.
Five mph on rough gravel –off the beaten path is OHFS.
Little spiders, geckos, holes in the screen, wooden bunk beds, Friendly Rock Hounds, excited and full of information.
Long awaited learning for which I’m soooo grateful!

Roommates….., be prepared, some with a guffaw yet unheard
Shoot the breeze, gurgle, and keep you awake till early morn,
Others dream of bugs, lizards, snakes and scorpions a-foot.
Twice now, I’ve had the greatest cabin-mate,
She is wise and caring, interesting yet quiet enough
Like an angel in a sweatshirt and jeans, I’m very grateful!

The decibel of the lunchroom --a chatterbox’s ecstasy,
Unflappable, constant, louder than an 80 grit,
For me, more private, I nearly go loco-en-la-cabaza.
But there’s a picnic table outside where one can sit
Soak up the sun; hear the quiet near to God.
For which I’m so very grateful!

Neonatal and experienced cabochon makers, happy as a Lark.
Heaven knows, I can hardly endure the routine of a cabochon,
Procedure and tedium always test fortitude and serenity,
Linear-logic thinkers –much like good nuclear engineers.
Lyle and Lamar on guard from afar, yet confident I will learn.
Free-form or no, skills needed much the same.
They even help me do it my way………I am grateful!

Thought it a shortcut…..quick to finish & beautiful,
But I’m in for a surprise with Doublets maybe Triplets.
Won’t take long, and then I realize -- oh, oh, oh.
This isn’t just gluing on a quartz cap…. and standing back,
Now, I have to dome this sandwich like a caaaaabochon.
Not so sure….. But I am grateful, maybe.

Mr. Lloyd is there encouraging us each one,
He says, my pansy and ammonite quartz triplet is one of a kind,
To rock and roll, --- get rid of that flat spot.
Showing us how to make our own opal dreams come true.
Examining the end product……no,no scratches anywhere!
For Instructors wisdom and support, I am grateful.

Lyle shows me the easy way to make a cabochon.
John shows me how to conquer the slab saw…and Lamar looks very tired. Wonder why?
No one works harder for us to have this OMSI Retreat.
We owe him a great deal for all the joy, and delight,
Skill and creativeness enabled…We are grateful.

There are those beaders finding a way to
Make use of the flatter cabochons ---
As if they were made for the seed-a-bead.
Blue green and borealis---Delica and Bicone all beautiful!
Color, a gift of God for which I am grateful!

Those persevering faceters pop a stone just fixing a girdle.
But wow, when they get it, they got it! And
Instructors with a century of wisdom pass the trade,
As do the torching silver-smithers with easy and hard solder.

Cast a cuddle bone fish or carve a wax,
Find a way to wrap-a-wire or go with Miss Carol,
Expression in Intarsia beyond imagination,
Lots of choices, I am so grateful.

Bring your stuff …..Swap night, swap your heart out.
Judy’s a subtle marketer at the bench.
Helps one rid of the ordinary as if it were
A long awaited gem and gain a beauty in a swap.
It feeds a feisty soul, and so grateful you will be!

Jewelry cleaners, casting flasks, Rhyolite, and Opal,
Earrings, crystal bracelets, lots of slabs, and some of Dennis’s Pens.
Quartz logs, Picasso-Jasper, Malecite, Mookite, and Michigan Copper,
From thunder eggs to personalized etchings, 50 cents to $250 value.
Soooooooooooooooooo Fun, what a hoot, I’m so Grateful

OMSI staff pleasant and informative as can be,
Red Tail Hawks, Great Horn Owls, telescopes and stars they share.
Stars burn brightly in the sky, some seldom seen.
They dance like ballerinas on a navy-blue-velvet carpet.
So awesome…..I am grateful,

The food is good, Vegan and Gluten’s remembered.
Salads, applesauce, turkey and brats,
Spaghetti, peanut butter, French toast, and mandarin oranges…
Lunch, sack-a-bag with your name…..stretch to last the week.
Save a tree….Hence, I am grateful!

Wrinkled bag stored in the frig –left over from day before,
Banana skin black and cheesy goldfish a bit soggy…but
Always cold milk, orange juice and water too.
Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate….. I am so grateful.

Before every meal we have a moment of silence,
After which Lamar simply says, “Thank-you”…..
What a week….plan now, don’t miss next year.
And PS……………………………
This year we all stayed well. ….Indeed, we are Grateful

Dr. Bert Kae-Je’, is a Licensed Psychologist, Board certified Art Therapist and Pastoral Counselor. A happy Rock-hound from Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, Kennewick, WA. This was her 2nd year at the Rock-hound Retreat held at Oregon Hancock Field Station, a great experience for which she says thank-you to all who make it possible and especially to her Instructors.
HANCOCK RETREAT PICTURES

Pictures from the Hancock Retreat, provided by Bert Kae-Je’
May all your holidays be filled with joy and love!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 9 - 11</td>
<td>Cascade Mineralogical Society &amp; NW Opal Association</td>
<td>Lyle Jorgensen</td>
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<td>November 10 - 11</td>
<td>Skagit Rock and Gem Club</td>
<td>David Britten</td>
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<td>November 17 - 18</td>
<td>North Idaho Mineral Club</td>
<td>Bev Bockman</td>
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