



NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Tom Burchard, Circulation
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NFMS PRESIDENT

Jennifer Haley



I consider the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies a very special place and consider it my home. We have a very fine federation filled with wonderful people and many talents. Thank you for asking me to join your executive committee two years ago, and for the opportunity to be your president for 2023-2024. I have been treasuring my time being on the committee, and am really looking forward to working with you this year.

As some of you may know, I was born and raised in the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies' region and was given the opportunity of being their federation's president twice over the years. The second time they asked me, I had to laugh to myself because at the end of my first time around I was wishing I could do it again after learning so much. Knowing a double presidency had only happened once since the 1930's, I was soon to find out that wishes do come true!

Shortly after my husband and I moved to Oregon, I got a nice call from Judi Allison saying, "we heard you have moved into our federation's region, might you consider joining the NFMS-EC as 2nd VP?" Of course, I said yes because I love what an earth science and lapidary arts federation is. I was also honored that you asked. I love the rockhounding community, and I knew a few of you from working together with the American Lands Access Association, AFMS, and through the various AFMS conventions over the years.

A big heartfelt thank you to Andrew Lacey for stepping up and stepping in to be our NFMS Treasurer. The EC was deeply concerned about being able to find someone for this very specialized position. Out of the blue during Billings, Andrew was recommended to us and he was at the event, even better so we had a chance to talk. He has an excellent background to do a good job for your federation. Thank you, Andrew!

Calling All Clubs!

This year, I invite all of you as the clubs of the NFMS to participate in selecting nominees for the AFMS Scholarship Honorary Award. Each year, awards are presented to an individual or a couple, from each participating Federation for achievement in outstanding contributions to our hobby and to the Earth Science Field.

Each Award Winner will have the privilege of selecting an Educational Institution in the United States, and will work with them in the selection of two post graduate students studying for their Master's or Doctor's Degree in the division of the Earth Sciences. These students will receive impressive scholarship grants.

Criteria for the nominations

- The Honorary Award Winner may receive this award only one time. For a list of previous awardees, please see, [NFMS Scholarships \(amfed.org\)](http://amfed.org)
- Your nominee must not be aware that you are nominating them for this award.
- Often the nominees have been Earth Science professors, but they don't have to be. It might be that wonderful geologist your club knows who brings a lot to their community in their participation. It could be that paleontologist who you know, that has been working on that "great" discovery. It can even be a NFMS past president who continues to make outstanding contributions to our hobby and earth science. Perhaps it is someone who is working to help keep our collecting sites open, while building a positive relationship between public land management and rockhounds. It could be a member of your club who discovered a new mineral which science has now documented. These just some examples of a special person or couple you know, who have achieved outstanding contributions to our hobby and to the Earth Science Field.
- Please send your nominations to me so they are received no later than January 2, 2024. Include the name of your club, and a good write up about who you are nominating. Thank you for helping with this project. As a federation with clubs in six states, I felt you would be all the wiser about who would make an amazing nominee.

I look forward to our year together. To all our clubs, go out and play, celebrate the joys of the Earth Sciences and the Practice of Lapidary Arts & Crafts. It is our gift to give, always has been and will always be. You are very a special community of people. Never forget to create fun and beautiful memories for others, for in time those memories will become a special part of our history together.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
The editor will send out a reminder in time for all committees to respond.
Estimated Deadline - Dec 9th

For deadlines and to submit articles
Contact:
Editor—Kathryn Larson
[http://NFMSeditor@hotmail.com](mailto:NFMSeditor@hotmail.com)

NFMS Website:
<http://NorthwestFederation.org>

To see this newsletter in living color go
to
<http://NorthwestFederation.org/Newsletters.asp>
and click on the month you want to see.



NFMS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2022-2023

PRESIDENT: Jennifer Haley, Springfield Thunderegg Rock Club, P.O. Box 324, Murphy, OR 97533, (541) 660-1832, ladybuglane@napablogger.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Lora Hall, Hellgate Mineral Society of Missoula, MT, PO Box 1095, Frenchtown MT 59834 silvertipminis@msn.com.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Michael Rhodes, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 317 E 200 S, Brigham City, UT, 84302-2621, (435) 230 0403 mrmbrhodes@gmail.com

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

TREASURER: Andrew Lacey, Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, 43618 McKay Dr, Pendleton, OR, 97801, (541) 215-2850, awl1904@gmail.com

NFMS STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET: 1st Vice President (see above)

BULLETIN AIDS: Kat Koch Cascade Mineralogical Society, 4762 Whitworth Pl. S, Unit P104, Renton, WA98055 (425) 765-5408. bulletinaids@gmail.com

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

EDUCATION/ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARD :
OPEN

ENDOWMENT FUND:

CHAIRMAN: Vicki Johnson, Southern Washington Mineralogical Society, P.O.Box 611, Kelso, WA 98626 (360) 751-8031, vickijrocks@msn.com

SECRETARY: OPEN

TREASURER: Lyle Vogelpohl, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617, (206) 932-3292, lrvogelpohl@comcast.net

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

HISTORIAN: Robert Dalton, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club, 18485 SW Pacific DR Unit 92, Tualatin, OR 97062 (859) 533-0026, Robert.dalton1960@gmail.com

JUNIORS CHAIR: Jennifer Fitch, Billings Gem & Mineral Club, 21148 Old US Hwy 93, Florence, MT, 59833 (517) 281-7461, Fitchs4god@aol.com

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

NOMINATING CHAIRMAN: Darrell Coyle, Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 52, Corvallis, MT 59828, (406) 274-6874, coyled69@spectrum.net

NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT (Hancock): Walter Butler, 8821 SW Equestrian Place, Crooked River Ranch, OR 97760, (503) 702-5743, waltercbutler@comcast.net

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

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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@hotmail.com

JUDGING DIRECTOR: Charise Ash, Mount Hood Rock Club, 2331 N Mist Dr, Vermonia, OR 97064, charisemarie@gmail.com

EXHIBITS REGISTRAR: OPEN

SAFETY: OPEN

SCHOLARSHIP: Mary Lou Northrup, 1623 Powers Ave, Lewiston, ID 83501, (208) 743-6944, mldanj@yahoo.com

SHOW COORDINATOR: Faith Farley, Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, 392 Market St S, Corvallis, MT 59828-9190, (406) 961-3347, Farley.faith@yahoo.com

SLIDE/ VIDEO LIBRARIAN: Ronna Watkins, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, PO Box 635, Tieton WA 98947, (509) 673-0085, nfmsronna@gmail.com

STAMPS: Aaron Currier, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, 2182 Broadway Ct, Salem, OR, 97304 (503) 385-5649, fossils@curriergraphics.com
Ed Anderson, Sweet Home Rock & Mineral Society, 40182 Hilltop Dr, Lebanon, OR, 97355 (541) 451-1577, ela4rocks@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@gmail.com

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: Laurie Ellis, Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 3326, Irrigon, OR 97844, (541) 626-3131, nfmsroy@gmail.com

SHOW CHAIR 2023: Mike Filarski, Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 502, Irrigon, OR 97844, (541) 571-2593, stonemorlin1@netscape.net

WEBSITE CONTEST: Kat Koch Cascade Mineralogical Society, 4762 Whitworth Pl. S, Unit P104, Renton, WA98055 (425) 785-5408 bulletinaids@gmail.com

AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)

AFMS 2nd VP - Doug True

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@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@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 published at least six times per year. Each member is entitled to receive a mailed copy of this publication with their membership. Please check with your club membership person to assure you are receiving this means of keeping you informed of the activities and events pertaining to the business and services of the Federation. Club membership points of contact are encouraged to forward names and addresses of new club members, soon after they join, to both the Directory Chair and Circulation Chair, so that newsletter distribution by mail to them can be started as soon as practical. The newsletters are also posted to the Federation website electronically and archive there for members to review or download.

For matters related to this newsletter (i.e. content, advertising, etc.) contact the editor. For matters related to this newsletter distribution (new members, address changes, etc.) contact the Circulation Chair.

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/>

See the NFMS on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NFMS1>

(for the desktop/laptop/tablets)

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/NFMS1>

(for mobile devices like phones)

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

12 inches x \$1.50 = \$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 on colored paper because the back-ground will look gray in the ad. The Editor will send a billing statement to the customer which will include instructions to make payment to the NFMS Treasurer. For more information or questions, call, e-mail or write the **Newsletter Chair**



NFMS 1st Vice President

Lora R. Hall

Future Rockhounds of America is now on Facebook



In addition to our website, www.juniors.amfed.org, Future Rockhounds of America is now on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AFMS.FRA/. Michelle Cauley has volunteered to serve as our moderator. Please help spread the word and grow our page by leaving us a “like” and be sure to “follow” us and “share” our page with others. This gives us another way to keep in touch and share information.

Junior News from the AFMS Convention in Billings, Montana

We had some outstanding junior exhibits at the NFMS/AFMS Convention in Billings, and we hope to see more junior exhibitors next year!

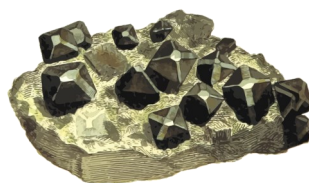
We had a fantastic turn out for the Juniors Cracker Barrel, with over 25 folks coming to exchange ideas, learn about new programs, and revisit old favorites. A huge thank you to Jenifer Haley for the awesome FRA tote bags and to Judi Allison and Joan Stoker for stuffing them full of information and goodies. The FRA Information Table staffed by Joan and Craig Stoker, and Dennis Gertenbach entertained and educated dozens, and dozens of prospective new junior members. A great time was had by all!

Juniors Newsletter “Crack the News”

The new Juniors Newsletter was unveiled in Billings along with the winners of the mascot and newsletter name contests. We had entries from across the country and one of the 1st places winners was our very own Gabe Murphy from the Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, Hellgate Mineral Society, and Montana 4-H. Yes, Gabe is a busy young man!

Congratulations Gabe Murphy!

Copies of the newsletter can be downloaded at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter> and be sure to send your articles, poems, and art work in for the next issue.



Lora Hall
NFMS 1st VP
AFMS Junior Programs Chair

NFMS 2nd Vice President

Michael Rhodes



This is my opportunity to introduce myself. I am currently serving my 4th and final year as president of the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society in Ogden, UT. I have always been interested in rocks, but got my “official” start when I began an apprenticeship at Ray’s Rock Shop in Tremonton, Utah at 14. I learned to cut and polish cabochons and maintain the equipment from Ray Ashcraft. He also took me out on a few rockhounding field trips, which began my collecting (my wife says :hoarding) of rocks and minerals.

I spent 20 years in the USAF and had the opportunity to teach lapidary at an AF Hobby Shop in Nebraska and at a Navy Hobby Shop in Keflavik, Iceland. After a second retirement, I had time to return to this hobby and teach lapidary at the Golden Hours Senior Activity Center in Ogden.

My career in the USAF was in communications. I always remember a poster at a desk in my office that showed dolphins. The caption at the bottom read “Humans move their mouths and make sounds and think they are communicating.” It makes me think about the importance of communication in our clubs and also as a federation.

In our club we send out a newsletter electronically every month. Our internet editor maintains an updated list of club members to receive the newsletter. Communication is key to keeping him updated as new people join our club. He also uses this list to broadcast changes and cancellations to field trips based on weather. Communication is key!

Our board meets monthly on Zoom. I send out an agenda a few days before the meeting then the secretary sends out the minutes for both the previous board meeting and club meeting for approval. Our treasurer sends out an updated sheet of income and expenses before the board meeting. Again, Communication is the key.

I recently talked with the president of a club that had left our federation. He had several reasons, but they all boiled down to a lack of communication between the federation and the club leadership. My favorite line from the movie Cool Hand Luke is this - “What we have here, is a failure to communicate.” It is my hope that as we move forth in the future, we as leaders can focus on improving our communication with member clubs.

If you have concerns that you would like to address to the federation feel free to email our president or either vice president with your concerns. Our email addresses are listed in the bulletin. Mine is: mrmbrhodes0@gmail.com. I hope that we can show both transparency and responsibility in our communications with you. As I always end my club president’s message in our newsletter,
ROCK ON!

Michael Rhodes
2nd VP NFMS



Meet the People

One of our goals going into the future is to make certain that our membership feels a part of our big picture and realizes the importance of each and every one of us. We all have unique perspectives and talents, and collectively, we make a great organization. Following is the first of a collection of introductions to our worker bees in the forefront. We decided to start with the new folks, and as the months go on, bring you some profiles of our more seasoned and long-time committee chairs. We hope you enjoy learning a bit more about these folks as you get to know them better.

Meet Your New Directory Chair: Janel Lacey holding a piece of Canyon Rim Geode she found in 2023



Janel grew up in a suburb of Chicago and developed a lifelong passion for rocks on family vacations to the Rockies. That also ignited her career trajectory in the US Forest Service. She graduated from Iowa State with a B.S. in Forest Management in 1987. In 1988/89 she and her husband Andrew served in the Peace Corps doing agroforestry work on the island of Marinduque, Philippines. She worked 33 years for the Forest Service—first as a Planner working within the parameters of the National Environmental Policy Act, then as the Recreation Manager for the south half of the Umatilla National Forest before retiring in 2022. Janel lives in Pendleton, OR, renowned for its rodeo (Let 'R Buck!), and has 2 sons. Nick works for the Forest Service rappelling out of helicopters to fight wildfires while John Ryan is a rocket engineer. In 2010, she joined the Marcus Whitman Gem & Mineral Society in Walla Walla, WA. She learned much from its members and began cabling and making jewelry after attending several sessions of “Rock School” (her name for the NW Rockhound Retreat). She has served MWGMS as field trip coordinator for 5 years, newsletter editor for 4 years, and club director for 2 years. She retired in 2022 and is excited to broaden her service to the NW Federation and ALAA and meet rockhounds from around the US.

Meet Your New Junior Chair: Jennifer Fitch with her Family

Hello! I would like to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Jennifer Fitch, and I am the new NFMS Junior Chairwoman. I live in beautiful western Montana with my hubby and children. While I have collected rocks as far back as I can remember, I started to intentionally collect along with my family over a decade ago when my husband retired from the Army. Our adventures began with a trip to find sapphires at Gem Mountain in Philipsburg, MT, and we were hooked! After discussing our joy in rocks and minerals, some friends invited us to join the Hellgate Mineral Society, our local rock club, and we quickly became members. We started to attend field trips to gather specimens and met many new friends along the way.

About seven years ago, a friend suggested that she and I start a 4-H Geology project locally and run it coinciding with our local rock group's juniors. Just like that, the Hellgate Mineral Society's juniors' group was born! In the seven years our club has had the juniors' group active,

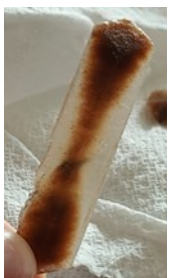
I have enjoyed watching the children learn about rocks, minerals, and fossils, and have used the FRA badge program to help them excel in their knowledge. We have had four kiddos complete earning all the badges, and one kiddo (my youngest daughter) is now working towards earning them all a second time! Seeing these children's eyes light up while on field trips or learning something new in class is what keeps me striving to help all kids know more about geology and what they can do with the stuff they find.

When I am not rockhounding or preparing for my next Future Rockhounds of America class, I keep busy by homeschooling my children, running a 4-H Club, instructing youth archery, teaching a junior church class in my church, and spending time with my family. We love to travel when possible. In May of this year, we went on a three week, round the country trip to see my daughter graduate from college in Florida, and along the way, we stopped in various places to collect sand or rockhound. I have always been intrigued by bowtie selenite crystals, which are also called hourglass selenite, and sometimes called Cherokee stars by the natives of Oklahoma. During this trip I was able to see a dream I have had since I was 8 years old come true...I got to dig some for myself on the Great Salt Plains in northwestern Oklahoma! This is the only place in the world where this type of selenite crystal can be found. My hubby, two of my kiddos, and I had an amazing time making memories, and I now have some bowtie selenite that I dug up out of the earth myself!

My hope for my position in the NFMS is to be able to help the kiddos around our region learn about the different ways they can increase their knowledge about rocks, minerals, and fossils. I hope to do this by encouraging them to apply for the Youth Achievement Award, inspire them to work on earning badges in the Future Rockhounds of America badge program, and offering them incentives such as contests, notoriety, and fun things just for them! Being a kid in this region of the country means they have many opportunities at their fingertips...they just need to know where to go! Thank you for this opportunity to serve the youth in this capacity! It is an honor.

Meet Your New Show Chair: Faith Farley

I am a third generation rockhound joining the Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society in 2014. I hunted all types of rocks in California, Oregon, Washington Nevada and Idaho, with my parents. I helped my parents with the large annual shows of the Antelope Valley, CA. I've served as President, Secretary, Show Chair, and built the clubs first website. I enjoy researching and collecting antiques. I am currently focused on working fire agates.



Bowtie Selenite

Submitted by Judi Allison
NFMS Secretary



Meet Your New Treasurer: Andrew Lacey

Andrew has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Management with a minor in Business from Oregon State University. He is a GIS Analyst, Spatial Data Administrator for the Umatilla National Forest. Andrew has been Treasurer for Cub Scouts and currently serves as Treasurer for his local club, the Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Club in Walla Walla, Washington. He also acts as Secretary for the Knights of Pythias in Pendleton, Oregon.

As a Plans Chief for a Forest Service Disaster Response Management Team, he generates Daily Plans of Operation with a team of people. This plan is then presented both in writing and through public briefings. He participates with audits of his club’s finances with a team of auditors yearly.

Andrew states, “The Treasurer role is to manage the finances of the club, create reports on financial performance, and lead fundraising efforts to help ensure the club has necessary funds to operate. The objective is to oversee the flow of cash and all financial aspects of the club.”



Andrew volunteered for the position at the Annual Meeting, and after viewing his credentials, the Executive team unanimously supported his appointment until the next annual meeting when the Assembly of Directors can officially cast their votes. Thank you, Andrew, for stepping forward.

Submitted by Judi Allison
NFMS Secretary

NORTHWEST FEDERATION ROY NOMINEE

- Name of honoree: Deb Strickland
- Year: 2023
- Club: Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society
- Submitted by: Faith Farley, BGMS President



Deb Strickland is current Vice President of the **Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society**. She is also a Past President and has been a Show Chair for three years. Deb is our current Newspaper Editor as well as helping support this year’s Show Chair. She was our Delegate to the AFMS/NFMS show in Billings this year and is always working behind the scenes to help our club where she can. She is currently the Commander of the American Legion in Hamilton, MT. She never runs out of energy!

2024 NFMS ANNUAL SHOW AND CONVENTION

Experience “Natures Treasures Under Foot” at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center (EOTEC) Hermiston, Oregon May 10-12.

Hosted by the Hatrockhound Gem and Mineral Society

Friday, May 10, 10-6

1:00 pm Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 11, 10-5

8:30-10:00 Editors/Webmasters Breakfast

6:00-9:00 Awards Banquet

Sunday, May 12, 10-4 (Special door prize drawings for Moms)

12-2 Past President/Committee Members/Judges Luncheon

You can find registration forms and more about our show by going to Hatrockhounds.org

Hermiston is a small town in an agricultural area in Northeastern Oregon. We are well known for our Hermiston Watermelons, but we also raise and process such things as onions, potatoes, carrots and cantaloupe, to name a few. The mighty Columbia River runs by just six miles from town. You will find a small town atmosphere with a progressive feel. Our downtown Festival Street is home to a number of special activities throughout the year. You will find family restaurants and eateries ranging from Mexican to Bistro foods. The Wildhorse Casino is not far on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Take in the offerings at the SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture and Energy) Center in Boardman. Enjoy the Columbia at Umatilla, Irrigon or Boardman Marina Parks. Go for a stroll on the Oxbow Trail that leads to the town’s Riverfront Park. We look forward to seeing you, so save the date!

Submitted by Judi Allison

NFMS JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Jennifer Fitch, NFMS Junior Committee Chairman

It is time for Junior Rockhounds to share their accomplishments from the past two years
(2022 and 2023)!

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 7 years old
- Age Group 2: ages 8 through 11 years old
- Age Group 3: ages 12 through 15 years old
- Age Group 4: ages 16 through 18 years old

Your age as of December 31st, 2023, determines your age category. If you won an award last time (in 2023), you will need to wait until 2024 to enter again unless you have moved up into the next age category.

Your resume and application together require a postmark by February 15, 2024. Winners will be notified soon after the NFMS judges vote on each candidate’s 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 delighted to help you in the quest of achieving fame!

Awards will be presented at the NFMS Annual Meeting in Hermiston, Oregon, May 11, 2024.

Here are your three easy steps:

Write or type a short summary (resume/outline) about what your achievements are for the past two years (2022 and 2023), following sections I, II, III, and IV from the guideline below.

Photocopy the application from the Northwest Newsletter. Fill out the application and have your rock club representatives sign their spaces.

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

******make sure to have it mailed in time to have a postmark by (February 15th, 2024)******

Guidelines for Junior Achievement Award

Section I – HOBBY RELATED (45 possible points) Club involvement (*field trips, committees, show participation*) Hobby craft involvement (*faceting, lapidary, metals, collecting*) Competitive involvement (*display, articles, promotion, awards*)

Section II – EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (25 possible points) Scholastic (*honor roll, advanced classes, improvement of grades*) Extracurricular (*sports, drama, debate, drill team, music*)

Section III – COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT (20 possible points) Events involvement (*charity, volunteer, donation programs*) Scouts, Campfire, 4-H Club, other community groups.

Section IV – WORK RELATED (10 possible points)

APPLICATION ~ Junior Achievement Award
(This information is confidential)

Applicant Name _____
 Date of Birth _____ Age (as of 12/31/2023) _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____
 Phone number _____
 Email Address _____
 Applicant’s Signature _____ Date _____

Rock Club Name _____
 Name of Junior Advisor _____

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

Federation Director’s Printed Name _____
 Federation Director’s Signature _____
 Club President’s Printed Name _____
 Club President’s Signature _____

Mail your SUMMARY (resume/outline) and APPLICATION to:

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

****Please be sure to mail with a postmark by February 15th, 2024. Thank you!**

Kids Korner

Northwest Federation 2022 Junior Rockhounds of the Year



Teddy Bunch - Hatrockhounds Gem & Mineral Society, OR

Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society of Hermiston, Oregon, wish to nominate Teddy Bunch as our AFMS Junior Rockhound of the Year. Teddy is a busy Junior with the support of his Mom and Grandma. He is an active participant in our Junior meetings and helps in the kids' corner at our annual show. This year, Teddy refined his educational display case on "Rocks of the World" and entered it in competition at the NFMS Gem and Mineral Show. He received a blue ribbon, a trophy from the Regional Club, and two plaques from the NFMS for his efforts! We are very proud of Teddy and so very happy to have him as one of our members. Way to go, Teddy!

Elisheba Fitch - Hellgate Mineral Society, MT

Elisheba has been a junior in our club for quite a few years, attending club meetings alongside her family. She was very excited when we started our Junior's program several years ago, and has never lost that excitement. In fact, she now shares that zeal with other kids in the community as she invites them to join our group. Due to her enthusiasm, we have gained several families in our club, as well as more kids in the junior's group. Elisheba is always volunteering her time, whether it be to help during the meetings or to participate during our annual rock and gem show. All her volunteer work for the club helped her to achieve earning the new AFMS Junior Volunteer Award. Elisheba was the first junior who decided to have an entry in our local show, and her entry last year showed off her rock animal collection. She also enters geology exhibits into our county fair and placed best in show for her volcano entry last summer. In 2021 at the age of 11, Elisheba completed earning ALL of the Future Rockhounds of America badges! Currently, she has been working on earning all of them for a second time and has already achieved six of the twenty! She loves attending field trips and always seems to find some of the best specimens. We are very proud of Elisheba and are very blessed to have her in our club!

From AFMS Juniors Webpage

www.juniors.amfed.org

NFMS Clubs' Show Schedule -- 2023 - 2024

Nov 11 th & 12 th 2023 Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Skagit Rock & Gem Club	Sedro Woolley Community Center 703 Pacific Street Sedro Woolley, WA	Debbie Frank skagitrockandgem@gmail.com www.skagitrockandgem.com
Feb 10 th & 11 th 2024 Sat 9 - 5 Sun 9 - 5	Whidbey Island Gem & Mineral Club	Oak Harbor Senior Center 51 SE Jerome St Oak Harbor WA 98277	Victoria Lovett 2024 WIGC Show committee Chair vick_o_rama@hotmail.com
Feb 23 rd , 24 th & 25 th 2024 Fri 9 - 5:30 Sat 9 - 5:30 Sun 9 - 5	Oregon Agate & Mineral 73rd Annual Show	OMSI Oregon Museum and Industry 1945 SE Water Ave Portland OR 97214	Sonia Watt, Show Chair & VP sonywatt@yahoo.com
March 2 nd & 3 rd 2024 Sat 10 - 6 Sun 10 - 5	East KingCo Rock & Gem Show	Pickering Barn 1730 10th Ave NW Issaquah WA 98027	Kim Villines (425) 828-3872 eastkingco@gmail.com
Mar 23 rd & 24 th 2024 Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 5	Southeast Idaho Gem & Mineral Society(SEIGMS)	Bannock County Event Center 10588 Fairgrounds Pocatello ID 83201	Joe Rodriguez rodrid4@msn.com
Apr 20 th & 21 st 2024 Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club	27th Annual Rock Gem and Mineral Show Benton Co. Fairgrounds 1500 South Oak St, Kennewick WA	Larry Hulstrom (509) 308-8312 rockhound132@charter.net
Apr 27 th & 28 th 2024 Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 5	West Seattle Rock Club	Alki Masonic Temple (West Seattle) 4736 40th Avenue SW West Seattle WA	Annette Nelson show@westseattlerockclub.org www.westseattlerockclub.org
May 4 th & 5 th 2024 Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Umpqua Gem and Mineral Club	Douglas County Fairgrounds 2110 Frear Ave Roseburg, OR 97470	Jay Thomas (503) 400-2090 jrthoms2@gmail.com Dustin Hall
May 4 th & 5 th 2024 Sat 10 - 5 Sun 10 - 5	Everett Rock & Gem Club	Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Weikel Event Center 18359 Cascade View Dr, near Monroe WA Use East Entrance & watch for signs	Mel Buhr (360) 658-7435 everettrockclub@hotmail.com
Jun 14 th , 15 th & 16 th 2024 Fri 10 - 5 Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 4	Lower Umpqua Gem & Mineral Society	In memory of Bill Hendrickson Reedsport Community Center 451 Winchester Ave Reedsport OR 97467	Bambi Darling (541) 420-8014 100 River Bend Rd Sp 68 Reedsport OR 97467 reedsportrockshow@gmail.com