



NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER



Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Tom Burchard, Circulation
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VOLUME 60, NO. 4 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies DECEMBER 2020



President Beth Heesacker

First, a few THANK YOUS! I want to thank Ken Zahn for his leadership this past year. Also Ronna Watkins (retired Newsletter editor-pro-tem) for her efforts at keeping the Northwest Newsletter alive for us. I wish to thank Lyle Vogelpohl for his many years of dedication as Treasurer for the NFMS. I wish him a happy retirement and good health.

And thank you to Linda Harvey for accepting the NFMS Treasurer's position. Larry Hulstrom, 1st VP, and Lyle Vogelpohl, retired Treasurer, have vetted her and she has accepted my appointment of her as NFMS Treasurer. This is such a vital position and I am so happy that we have been able to fill it so rapidly.

Also, a big thank you to Paul Heesacker for volunteering as Newsletter Chair. This should get us back on track in our need to keep you all informed.

Second, I look forward to working with our NFMS Board that consists of some of the most experienced, capable and friendly people. There are still opportunities to come on board to help out. Please see page 10 for a list of positions that need to be filled this year. Email me for more information heesacker@coho.net.

Third, we need to plan ahead for 2021 meetings. We do not know at this time when we will be able to physically get together again but it does seem that late Summer or early Fall might be possible. We think that the Mid-year Meeting will need to be virtual via Zoom but hope later in the year might possibly be ok for a physical meeting. If you are a club that plans on holding its meeting in the later part of the year and would like to host the NFMS Annual Meeting, please contact me. We would need a room (which we will pay for if there is a cost) to hold our meetings – capacity of 50-75 people. Hosting our meetings draws more people to your show from all over the Pacific Northwest.

Fourth, now to what my project for my term as President of the NFMS. This has been quite a year! There have been so many losses including family members, friends, and economic ones too due to the Covid-19 virus. We have had to isolate ourselves from each other in order to save each other's lives. My hope and prayers are for a brighter 2021.

There has, in my opinion, been one bright point in the darkness. New technology has connected us to our hobby in new ways. Over the last month, I have gone on virtual field trips, attended my local rock club meeting, a mineral symposium (including display cases), a world-wide mineral meeting, the Annual AFMS meeting and the Annual NFMS meeting. Who would have thought that I could be so active just sitting at home? Many, but not all, have been posted on YouTube.

I know that some clubs have struggled to survive and keep in touch using computer programs such as Zoom for their meetings. There might be other clubs that have not tried this yet and are unsure how to do it. Over the next few months, I hope to contact all NFMS club Presidents to see what they are doing to keep their members connected. I will be emailing a questionnaire to the clubs to get their feedback and see if there is anything the NFMS can do to help them keep active.

We can survive as a hobby and get back together again when this virus is under control but until that happens, virtual meetings can keep us in touch and help us to continue to learn. Expect my questionnaire email after the first of the year and please respond so we can gather our community's expertise together for the good of all.



On page three are a few links showing some examples of meetings, etc. so you can see what is possible. Most of them are focused on minerals (since that is my focus) but there are lapidary ones too.

Stay safe and healthy!

And have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and also a Happy New Year!

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for issues is currently in flux.
The editor will send out a reminder in time
for all committees to respond.

For deadlines and to submit articles
contact

Paul Heesacker
nfmseditor@coho.net

NFMS Website:

<http://NorthwestFederation.org>

To see this newsletter in living color and
to see it usually by the first of the month go
to
[http://NorthwestFederation.org/
Newsletters.asp](http://NorthwestFederation.org/Newsletters.asp) and click on the month
you want to see.

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NFMS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2020-2021

PRESIDENT: **Beth Heesacker**, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corp., 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove OR, 97116, (503) 357-8804, **heesacker(at)coho.net**

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: **Larry Hulstrom** Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club, 5409 W 26th Ave.,Kennewick, WA 99338, rockhound132(at)charter.net

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: **Daryl Coyle**, Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 52, Corvallis, MT 59828, 406-961-5369, **coyled(at)bresnan.net**

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

TREASURER: **Linda Harvey**, Tualatin Valley Gem Club, 26495 NW Groveland Dr., Hillsboro, OR 97124, **dggr10(at)exede.net**

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

CIRCULATION: **Tom Burchard**, Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society, 875 E 4500 S, S. Ogden, UT 84403, (801) 479-4286, **Roxhund(at)aol.com**

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS:
RULES AND AWARDS CHAIR: OPEN
JUDGING DIRECTOR : **Darrell Coyle**, Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society, PO Box 52,Corvallis, MT 59828, (406) 274-6874, **coyled(at)bresnan.net**
REGISTRAR: OPEN: (pro tempore) **Darrell Coyle**

CREDENTIALS: **Del & Clara Walker**, Central Oregon Rock Collectors, 12377 SE Davis Loop, Prineville, OR 97754, 503-812-6540, **cdwalker(at)q.com**

CUSTODIAN: **2ND Vice President:** (see above)

DIRECTORY: **Carol Willey**, Oregon Coast Agate, 929 Ojalla Road, Siletz, OR, 97380 , 541-444-1360, **going4rocks(at)outlook.com**

EDUCATION: OPEN

ENDOWMENT FUND:
CHAIRMAN: OPEN
SECRETARY: OPEN
TREASURER: NFMS Treasurer (see above)
FINANCIAL ADVISOR: **Jim Brain**, Spokane Rock Rollers , 6410 W Sundance Dr., Spokane, WA 99208, 509-863-9883, **jrbrain233(at)outlook.com**

HISTORIAN: **Linda Barlow**, Idaho Gem Club, Inc., 3074 W. Newbury Ct, Eagle, Idaho 83616, 208-724-3309, **barlow596(at)gmail.com**

JUNIORS CHAIR: **Gayle Butler**, Columbia-Willamette Faceters Guild and Club at Large 14900 SW 141 Ave. Portland, OR 97224 503-641-5431, **Gaylesmail(at)comcast.net**

NEWSLETTER CHAIR: **Paul Heesacker**, Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corp., 4145 NW Heesacker Rd., Forest Grove OR, 97116, (503) 357-8804, **nfmseditor(at)coho.net**

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

NOMINATING CHAIRMAN: **Kenneth Zahn**, Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club, 146 Canyon Meadow Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718, 406-582-8752, **kc Zahn(at)littleappletech.com**

NORTHWEST ROCKHOUND RETREAT (Hancock):
Walter Butler, 8821 SW Equestrian Place, Crooked River Ranch, OR 97760, (503) 702-5748, **waltercbutler(at)comcast.net**

PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL: **Kenneth Zahn**, Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club, 146 Canyon Meadow Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718, 406-582-8752, **kc Zahn(at)littleappletech.com**

PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY: **Susie Koppert**, Mt. Hood Rock Club, 135 SE Marsh Rd., Sandy, OR 97055 **susiekopper(at)mail.com**

SLIDE/ VIDEO LIBRARIAN: **Darrell Watkins**, Yakima Rock and Mineral Club, P.O. Box 635,Tieton, WA 9894, (509)673-0085, **darrell848(at)aol.com**

RESOLUTIONS: **Audrey Vogelpohl**, West Seattle Rock Club, 8810 37th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98126-3617, (206) 932-3292, **avogelpohl(at)comcast.net**

SAFETY: **Kathy McLean**, Spokane Rock Rollers, 3029 W Hoffman Ave., Spokane, WA 99205, (509) 822-9776, **no email**

SCHOLARSHIP: **Mary Lou Northrup**, 1623 Powers Ave, Lewiston, ID 83501, (208) 763-6944, **mlandjl(at)yahoo.com**

SHOW CHAIRPERSON: OPEN

SHOW COORDINATOR: **Pat Lambert**, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club, 26106 S. Oak, Kennewick, WA 99337, **palambert(at)charter.net**

STAMPS: **Chuck Sonner**, Southern WA. Mineralogical Society, 165 Tingle Rd., Winlock, WA. 98596, (360) 785-3909, **chuckagate2(at)yahoo.com**

SUPPLIES: **Patty Amos**, Mt. Hood Rock Club, 15523 NE 214th Ave., Brush Prairie, WA98606, (360) 892-3716, **packrats2(at)q.com**

WAYS & MEANS: **Janice Van Cura**, Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc.,3448 NW Covey Run, Corvallis, OR 97330 (541)753-2401, **jvancura(at)peak.org**

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

NFMS SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BYLAWS REVISORY CHAIRMAN - Kenneth Zahn, Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club, 146 Canyon Meadow Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718, 406-582-8752, **kc Zahn(at)littleappletech.com**

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

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: **Laurie Ellis**, Hatrockhounds Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 3326, Irrigon, OR 97844, 541-626-3131, **65shark(at)gmail.com**

WEBSITE CONTEST: **Cheri George**, **charig1946(at)yahoo.com**

SHOW CHAIR 2021: OPEN

AFMS COMMITTEES (NFMS Representatives)

AFMS 5TH VP - Jim Bosley
ENDOWMENT FUND - Judi Allison
PROGRAM COMPETITION - Darrell Watkins
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, **Rockyfiv(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: Suzanne Webb, 9895 Kerrydale Court, Reno , Nevada 98521-4401, **editor(at)AMFED.org** 775-624-8446. 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 Cancer Research. 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**





YouTube videos of Meeting Possibilities

By Beth Heesacker



As I mentioned in my President's report, here are some examples of YouTube showing how meetings/presentations can still be done even with the limitations that Covid-19 presents:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck5EMuoci5xauo-HxDFWvvA> - Virtual display cases

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC29_RY_PZFX87iVnqX7BMWw - A worldwide mineral meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiHO5UuJfzo> - Tucson 2020 (there are lots of videos like this one)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2pH-pT9J9M> - Denver mineral show

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_DvGHgEsiY - Trip to a Museum

<https://www.youtube.com/user/bluecapproductions> - More videos on museums and personal collections

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaFCYSnp4X0> - Field trip to Lake Superior

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koPi793gvnQ> - Rough rock at Tucson

I will be getting in touch with our member club Presidents after the first of the year to see if there is anything we can do to help our clubs out. Maybe we will not need it, with the vaccine getting approved, but just in case . . .



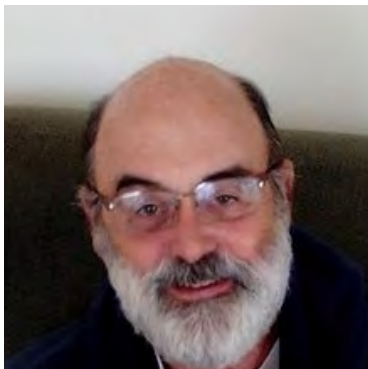
1st Vice President

Larry Hulstrom

As we round the corner and vaccines begin to roll out, and we see a twinkle of light at the end of the long tunnel we've been stuck in please remember all of those that we have lost. It seems like forever since we have seen our friends, relatives, and fellow club members. Reach out to them, even if it is just to say Seasons Greetings and see how they are doing. So many people have been isolated over these past months that I am sure a friendly voice on the telephone would be most welcome.

Let's put 2020 in the rearview mirror and look forward to 2021. Even though the spring shows could get delayed or cancelled let's try to support each other and all of the show dealers and clubs that have struggled this past year. I look forward to the time when we can get back outside, go collecting, and go to shows in our area.

I hope you got outside and enjoyed the Christmas lights around town and remember that we will get through this and get back to doing what we all enjoy.



2nd Vice President

Darrell Coyle

A year ago I never imagined myself accepting a leadership position with the Northwest Federation. In 2015 my club the Bitterroot Gem and Mineral Society applied for and was accepted as the Host Society for the 2017 Federation Show. Over the years my involvement in the NFMS has grown. I have gotten to know many of the people that keep the NFMS functioning. I have made many tremendous friends from different clubs and in the NFMS leadership. At every Federation Show I look forward to seeing my friends and renewing those bonds. When I was asked to accept this position I was humbled that the persons who asked, had me in mind. I have such deep respect and admiration for them. I have learned that this involvement is not a burden it is a gift. Keep this in mind when you are asked to help by being on a committee or having the honor of being nominated to an elected position. With over 60 clubs and thousands of members I am certain there are individuals that can and should raise their hands .I promise you will not regret it.

I know that currently the future of this year's Federation Show is uncertain, but I remain positive in that life will return to normal. With that normalcy there is a need for clubs to commit to being a Host Society for Federation Shows. Please consider it. Yes it is an extra day and some extra work, but our club doubled attendance and profit .We also increased our membership when we did it. The NFMS is willing to provide the help and knowledge to have a successful show if you decide to be a Host.





Past President Kenneth Zahn

• First, my thanks for being able to serve as President in 2020, even as there has been such disruption and turmoil since February. Like so many other club shows this past year, our 2020 Northwest Federation Show and Annual Convention and Meeting (scheduled to be held in April in conjunction with the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society of Ogden, Utah, annual show) were early casualties of the Covid-19 pandemic reaction by Utah officials when inside meetings were decreed on March 12th to be limited to 10 people. Both the Golden Spike and NFMS show were then cancelled, as was the planned AFMS training of judges for competitive display cases. Two alternative Oregon locations and dates for replacement of the NFMS show and Annual Director’s meeting in Ogden were also cancelled later due to the continuing Oregon State meeting restrictions. Thus, the election of the proposed slate of your 2021 Officers by Member Society Directors and Delegates was conducted November 14th, 2020, via a virtual (ZOOM-conducted) Annual Meeting, thanks to the great work of Chris Sorenson of the Lakeside Club in Washington. So I’m now a *Past* President !!

• One remaining crucial issue is that there is not an identified venue for a 2021 Federation Show and Meeting. Please discuss the possibility of volunteering to host the NFMS’ room-sized meetings with your Club’s Officers and membership in conjunction with your Club’s 2021 show this year, should it remain scheduled.

• Two essential Federation vacancies – one Officer and one Committee Chair – have resulted from health-related resignations in late-Summer/early-Fall: Lyle Vogelpohl, our outstanding and long-time Treasurer, and Ronna Watkins, our 2019-2020 Newsletter Editor pro tem, respectively. Thanks to Linda Harvey of the Tualatin Valley, Oregon, Club for stepping up to serve as Treasurer, and Paul Heesacker, of the Clackamette Club in Oregon, for volunteering to serve as Newsletter Editor.

• Note, from page 2 of the Newsletter, that there are a number of Committee Chair positions that have become vacant this “Covid Year.” Each of these volunteer Chairpersons serve the Federation to effectively conduct its business, help your club members grow and enjoy the hobby, and promote the recreational rock-hounding hobby in our cherished Northwest. PLEASE help by bringing to the Officers’ attention members whose talents and interests might be useful for filling these vacancies. The work is generally minimal, the sense of personal growth will be a great reward, and their attendance at area shows and associated field trips will be so educational. They’ll meet great people and quickly develop a network of fun-loving collecting/lapidary contacts as well.

• Two AFMS 2020 Scholarship Foundation awardees (Celine Beaucamp and Tiffany Ostenburg) from Montana Technological University, Butte, MT, were selected by Honoree Professor Chris Gammons and approved by AFMS to each receive \$4,000 for use during their 2020-2021

graduate-study year. We thank the AFMS Scholarship Foundation for their continued support of this worthy program. Please remember to donate to that Foundation through your memberships’ participations in the Foundation’s fundraising auctions and activities. You’ll find particulars in the AFMS Newsletter your Club and your President receive by mail.

• I see that the main 4-day TGMS annual show this coming February at the Tucson (Arizona) Convention Center has been cancelled, but believe that the many “vendor-group shows” and outlying Tucson-area sales outlets in January/February 2021 still are planning to open. Check the internet and rock-related magazines for the latest status. Similarly, Quartzsite’s POW WOW Gem and Mineral Show (Jan. 20-24, 2021) and the local sales/vendor venues are still showing as planning to be open January-February, although that, too, could change depending on later State-of-Arizona Covid-related restrictions. (See: <http://www.qiaarizona.org/POWWOW-Show.html>). Should you plan to attend the fabulous Quartzsite-area venues, please consider attending the annual meeting of the American Land Access Association (ALAA) (our only national recreational-rockhound-related group that can lobby on our behalf as a 501 (c)(4) non-profit). (See <http://amlands.org/6673.html>). Currently, ALAA is planning to meet there during the January 21-24 POW WOW. ALAA will post updates online and in regional Federation newsletters.

• If you have lands managed by the US Forest Service or BLM nearby, in which you collect, please also consider attending the next AFMS annual meeting in South Jordan, Utah, April 21-25, 2021 to be held in conjunction with the Wasatch Gem Society show and associated Rocky Mountain Federation Show/Meeting. An educational ALAA presentation on ways those Federal agencies apply the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to Forest and BLM Land-Use and Travel Plans and projects will be presented on April 22nd or 23rd, a topic that impacts our access to, and recreation within, those lands. Again, check the internet and the upcoming AFMS Newsletters to be sure the shows and meetings are not cancelled at the last minute.

Finally, I sincerely hope that the successful development of a 90 - 95%-effective vaccine against Covid virus announced by Pfizer, Moderna, and the Administration in mid-November, plus others to follow soon, will ease the pandemic’s destruction of normalcy and the lives of many of our elderly citizens. Similarly, the announcement of a pretty effective treatment regime when given early in the infection’s cycle is good news as well. Pray for continued rapid progress and advocate for equitable, risk-based priority on distribution of the first 100 million doses of vaccine (already funded by the Administration) to essential medical staff, the very elderly, and other essential workers and impacted publics.

“NEPA-For-Lovers” Program at April 21-25, 2021, AFMS/RMFMS Meeting in S. Jordan, Utah

--- Well, it’s really a program on “NEPA For Lovers *of continued access to Forest Service and BLM lands in which to collect.*”

American Land Access Association (ALAA) is planning a program presentation at April’s AFMS/RMFMS meeting in Utah on how to effectively engage the Forest Service and BLM when they conduct public meetings and seek comments on draft environmental documents that impact our access to collect on public lands.

It is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its new, revised, implementing regulations (Sept 24, 2020) that govern how those agencies must interact with the public when they propose major projects or wish to revise Forest Management Plans and associated Travel Management (access) Plans.

Dr. Ken Zahn of the Bozeman Gem and Mineral Club in MT, will review what NEPA requires of the Federal agencies and how best to provide powerful input to them when they seek public input or comments on their draft environmental impact and travel-access documents.

Ken has 25 years experience in applying the NEPA review process to Federal land projects and plans, and has both prepared and defended – as well as litigated -- Federal agencies over how they implement NEPA. He will discuss how the Forest Service/BLM typically conduct public meetings and NEPA reviews of draft documentation, how to provide key input during meetings at which access and recreation are discussed, and how to best give substantive comments to FS/BLM when draft project or planning documents are circulated for review.

Having a basic understanding of these processes will give you and your club members more confidence in making the voices of recreational rockhounds heard when those who seek to dominate the dialogue for a “lock-up” of the public lands strongly advocate for only “quiet and no-surface-disturbance” recreation.

Watch the next AFMS, ALAA, and Regional Federations’ Newsletters for details on where/when the program will be presented at the combined April 2021 AFMS/RMFMS meeting (most probably Thursday evening or Friday morning, April 22 or 23). ALAA hopes you will encourage interested club-level representatives from within each Federation to attend both this always-fantastic Wasatch Gem Society show and this important and timely ALAA program.





RIP
Dee Holland



Dee Holland passed away December 9, 2020. He was the last of a group of pioneers in the Northwest Federation. Dee, along with Ed Romack, John Spunaugle, Cliff Jackson, Dorothy & Glenn Lee and Richard Glissman all hung around together and created so many things we can all look back on with awe and reverence. The fellas were all involved in faceting, they were all involved in competitive rules and exhibiting, they were all involved in the formation of ALAA, American Lands Access Assn. Dee was NFMS president in 1987-88 and went on to be AFMS president and finally in his later years, he was president of AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

His great love was judging competitive exhibits all over the regional federation shows, and worked hard to update the AFMS Rules. Along with Jay Bowman, they created the first program of bringing people from all the regional federations to Wildacres for a week-long seminar of teaching how to judge competitive exhibits. Both Dee and Jay always said, 'you are not a judge, YOU are a teacher.'

Dee had been in bad health for many years, but he leaves a legacy we will not soon forget.

R.I.P.

Shirley Leeson, AFMS President 2008

Mark Your Calendars!



AFMS Meeting
April 21-25
South Jordan, Utah



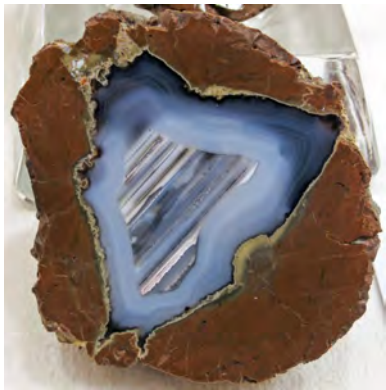
Multi-Federation Field Trip
Third Weekend in May
Blue Forest, Wyoming and Fish Fossils



NFMS Meeting
Dates and Place TBD



OFFICIAL STATE STONES, 1973-1978-OREGON



This is June Morse correspondent story as editor of the Oregon Rockhound, official bulletin of the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society. She tells the history of the Oregon state rock, THUNDEREGG. (“Thunderegg as one word was adopted by the Oregon Legislature for the name of the state rock and, therefore, is the correct spelling when referring to the state rock; however, in describing the geology and mineralogy of thunder eggs, the two-word spelling has priority, because of its use in the literature.”)

“The “thunderegg” owes its name to Warm Springs Indians who believed that the two adjacent snow-capped peaks—Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson—would at times become angry with one another and during these disputes, accompanied with thunder, Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson would hurl these spherical masses of rock at each other. Stray shots would land on the Indian reservation, hence the Indian name of thunder egg. It has also been stated that the Indians believed that these egg-shaped nodules were the eggs of the thunder bird.

“The origin of the thunderegg is not thoroughly understood and authorities differ in their explanations. John Sinkankas states that they were not ejected from a volcano as the Indian legend suggest but “actually form in an erode from very soft and friable volcanic ash beds. Thundereggs differ considerably from ordinary chalcedony nodules and geodes, both in respect to mode of formation and internal structure. Whereas ordinary nodules are chalcedony fillings of gas pockets and cavities in volcanic lava, Thundereggs invariably occur only as concretions in cinder beds and pumice deposits of considerable porosity. Apparently these porous deposits contained no large cavities to speak of and silica, borne by solutions, merely permeated the cinders until favorable points were reached where chalcedony could be deposited. Thus Thundereggs are not cavity fillings, but merely aggregations of chalcedony. However, at some time before solidification was complete, the center of the concretion split and drew apart, permitting additional material to fill the space so provided.

“Thunder eggs are spherical masses of rock that range in size from less than an inch to 4 feet in diameter. Most are about the size of a baseball. They have a knobby rind of drab, siliceous rock and a cavity filled with agate. From the outside they appear nondescript, but when sawn open and polished, they may reveal the most exquisite and colorful design ranging from five-pointed stars to miniature gardens. (”Thunderegg: Oregon’s State Rock” and “Origin and History of the Thunder Egg” by Dr. Lloyd W. Staples, Ore Bin, October 1965)

There are eight major locations of thunder egg beds in Oregon.

- 1. John Day Formation of the late Oligocene to early Miocene age.
- 2. Priday Ranch NE of Madras
- 3. Ochoco Mountains east of Prineville
- 4. Crowley deposit east of SH78
- 5. Succor Creek in Succor Creek Canyon
- 6. Ironside beds near east fork of Bridge Creek
- 7. Pike Cree deposit at the base of Steen Mountain
- 8. Dry Creek area along west side of Goose Lake few miles north of California border

“To summarize briefly, thundereggs are rock structures formed in welded tuffs and rhyolite, of spherical or ellipsoidal shape, containing cores of chalcedony and sometime quartz. The specimens consist of three concentric shells; an outer shell, usually brown in color with ribbed, warty surface, a contact zone which borders the former cavity; and a core representing the cavity filling and consisting chiefly of chalcedony but sometimes containing quartz, opal, and pseudoalgal structure. The contact zone between the core and the outer shell is sometimes only apparent microscopically. The most characteristic feature of thunder eggs is the devitrification of rhyolite glass by incipient crystallization forming spherulites, but sometime within them.

“The spherulitic growth produces the hardened outer shell, which becomes the residual structure in the surrounding rock as it alters to clay. Most specimens consist not of a single spherulite but rather of many of them intergrown, some of which may contain no cavities. The central filled cavity of many thunder eggs contain a hemispherical protuberance (button) on one side with a hole of a similar size on the opposites side, indicating that the cavity was formed around some spherulites and that the two sides were formerly joined.”

FROM THE DIGGERS GOLD HILL DIGGERS ROCK CLUB, POTLACH, IDAHO, page 95-99

Blessings to all our rockhounds and families : stay safe and healthy. HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Tidbits from the NFMS General Meeting - November 14, 2020

(The entire minutes are 27 pages long, too long to print.
Here are a few tidbits that the editor found interesting)



Ken then explained the difficulty of assuring that we were conducting a meeting that met the requirements of the Federation's By-laws for credentialing and voting. Since the Federation was incorporated in Washington, we were able to follow the Washington Governor's September 2, 2020 Amended Emergency Proclamation 20-51.7 under which State nonprofits can conduct business via remote means. (Thanks, Ronna Watkins, for the tip.) The guidelines are in effect through October, 2020 or termination of the emergency. (A copy of the Washington Secretary of State's guidance that implement the Governor's Amended Proclamation is included in the back of this packet) Ken then pointed out we need to consider updating our bylaws to reflect an ability to conduct official business via remote.

***Doug True** gave an overview of the Multi-Federation Field Trip that is planned for the third weekend in May. Watch Newsletters for updates and details. It will be at the Blue Forest in Wyoming with a fee dig for fish fossils nearby. He also reported that a number of people attended the June 12-15 Multi-Federation Field Trip south of the Big Piney, Wyoming area.*

*Judi [Allison] also mentioned that **Cheri George** asked that Denise Harrison's First Place AFMS Webmaster [from Clackamette Mineral and Gem] and Mark Hohn's First Place NFMS Webmaster awards be recognized. She also stated that she hopes more will enter the contest next year. Judi pointed out that entering is a great way to learn how to improve your site.*

*Ken also stated that Evan Day had suggested an update of the bylaws to bring the use of electronic means for meetings into compliance with doing business. Other aspects of the bylaws and operating procedures might also need to be reviewed and revised. With that, Ken appointed a **Special Committee**, titled: **Bylaws Revisory Committee**, for one year. The committee will be charged to look at updating text of the bylaws and operating procedures with special urgency to look at procedures for meetings. Proposed members: Immediate Past President, Ronna Watkins, Evan Day, Judi Allison.*

***Gayle Butler** reported there had been five entries for the Junior Achievement Award: Up to and including age seven, Wyatt Lind-Certificate, Yakima Club. Age 8-11 Greenly Blodgett and May Hart-Certificate, Owen Blodgett-\$25; all from the Yakima Club. Age 12-15 Nadine Marshall-\$50, Lakeside Club. Congratulations to all the Juniors. Please encourage your young people to take part in this award. They do not have to be a member of a separate Junior Club, but they must be listed as a member on your Club's roster when turned into the Treasurer in order to be eligible. Ken spoke to the merits of this program and also encouraged folks to get their Juniors engaged in the process. Lyle added that he would make certain the money goes to the two monetary winners. Gayle stated that she hoped to set up a Zoom meeting just for the kids. The awards could be presented then.*

*Ken then took up the issue of the **Newsletter**. Ronna Watkins withdrew as Editor pro-tem. This left a void, so, Ken appointed Paul Heesacker (with his agreement) as Newsletter Chairperson for the next year. He then gave a special callout and big thank you to Ronna and Linda Barlow for stepping in and keeping the communication going by filling in as Editors.*

***Walt Butler** spoke of the Northwest Rockhound Retreat at Camp Hancock. All was in place when Covid-19 arrived and eventually OMSI realized that it would not be feasible to have a camp under the circumstances. The deposit for camp was forwarded into the 2021 reservation. So, barring an extensive issue with the virus, camp will be a go for 2021.*

***Susie Koppert**, our new Public Lands Access Chair, reported that the new Director of the Bureau of Land Management is from the Pacific Northwest. As a child, he was a rockhound himself. He is in charge of Southeast Washington, Oregon, part of Utah and Northern California. Items on the agenda included improving and repairing roads. The rules and regulations are beginning to allow public access.*

*Judi also mentioned that **Cheri George** asked that Denise Harrison's First Place AFMS Webmaster and Mark Hohn's First Place NFMS Webmaster awards be recognized. She also stated that she hopes more will enter the contest next year. Judi pointed out that entering is a great way to learn how to improve your site.*

*Ken then gave a report on **ALAA**. He said the Quartzite meeting was held remotely and a public meeting showed a lot of support. Doug True stated*

there will be a meeting in January with a goal of "Let's Work Together". In other words, all clubs in the United State work together and coordinate to help preserve our ability to access the land for our recreational hobby. ALAA and individual Clubs can add information about their areas in the Newsletter. Evan suggested perhaps the Past President could write a report and there could possibly be a meeting put together on Zoom around the first of the year.

***Ronna Watkins** introduced the slate of nominees for the coming year. Beth Heesacker-President, Larry Hulstrom-1st Vice President, Darrell Coyle-2nd Vice President, Judi Allison-Secretary. Paul Heesacker moved to accept the nominations and Doug True seconded. Evan Day brought up a point of order. He stated nominations need to be called for from the floor. Ken then called for further nominations. With no further nominations, as pointed out as protocol by our parliamentarian, Ken named the nominees as accepted by declaration.*

Evan Day then conducted a brief installation of officers.

Ken thanked Lyle and presented him, on behalf of the Federation, a set of wine glasses with imbedded petrified wood. Judi presented a Certificate in thanks for 26 of 44 (read Audrey and Lyle's thank you and you will understand.) Beth also added her thanks for the help with creating the budget.

Beth gave a few words as our new President. She assured all that she will follow through with the groundwork that has been laid here with the review of the bylaws as well as finding volunteers and keeping lines of communication open. The last year has been tough and next year may be about as rough. Zoom can be helpful. She said she hopes to set up a Zoom forum for Presidents of the Clubs. Electronics can bring us together. Albert Whitehead from Alaska offered his assistance to Beth in some of this endeavor. Individual clubs can also use Zoom to keep in touch and conduct business. Let's keep such in mind for the future. But, also, as Beth stated, lets hope we are able to meet in person and enjoy our shows again.

President's Report – Ken Zahn

- Two AFMS 2020 Scholarship Foundation awardees (Celine Beaucamp and Tiffany Ostenburg) from Montana Technological University, Butte, MT, were selected by Honoree Professor Chris Gammons and approved by AFMS to each receive \$4,000 for use during their 2020-2021 graduate-study year. We thank the AFMS Scholarship Foundation for their continued support of this worthy program. Please remember to donate to that Foundation through your memberships' participations in the Foundation's fundraising auctions and activities. You'll find particulars in the AFMS Newsletter your Club and your President receive by mail.

Scholarship – Mary Lou Northrup

- As the head of the scholarship committee this year we have had very little action. The Clackamette Mineral and Gem Corp sent a \$100 donation in January. Hells Canyon Gem Club also sent a \$100 donation this year. I know many clubs had reduced income this year because of cancelled shows, but a new year is coming. Hopefully a better year. Your club may want to consider sending a donation, big or small, to the scholarship fund. Remember each year 2 \$4,000 scholarships come back to the Northwest Federation. Hope all are well and looking forward to a new year. Mary Lou Northrup Foundation through your memberships' participations in the Foundation's fundraising auctions and activities. You'll find particulars in the AFMS Newsletter your Club and your President receive by mail.



AFMS Endowment Fund

By Judi Allison

Tickets Anyone? Win a Prize!

Attention, attention! I have tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing to be held at the AFMS Show in South Jordan, Utah during the AFMS Show April 21-25, 2021. Since the show will be taking place before we have a meeting, I won't have an opportunity to sell tickets at a meeting. I know some of you have been great supporters of the Endowment Fund through purchase of these tickets and I want to offer them to you on a timely basis. Please call me at 541-720-4950 or email at jms46@outlook.com to get some to sell to your club members or for yourself. Thanks for helping to

support the fund! You can view a list of the items in the AFMS Newsletters. You can also donate something to the cause. Information for this is also in the AFMS Newsletter, or I can help you with the process.



Howdy Hounds!

By Laurie Ellis

It's been a rocky year, and bad puns can only help, right? Many of you may be feeling a bit sedimentary, but you wouldn't want to take for granite did opportunity to showcase one of the gems in your club, by nominating them for Rockhound Of the Year!

Let's clean the slate and be a little boulder in 2021. Remember to stop and smell the rose quartz. I hope these schist puns didn't make you lose your appetite.



Traveling South This Winter???

Some of you maybe considering traveling south to Quartzsite, Tucson, etc. Please be sure to check out the websites for cancellations so that you will not be disappointed.

Remember that both the Tucson and the Quartzsite shows are made up of many shows and even though one or more may be cancelled, others might still be held.

<https://www.visittucson.org/visit/events/tucson-gem-mineral-fossil-showcase>

<http://www.qiaarizona.org/POWWOW-Show.html>



An Update on the Status of the NFMS Endowment Fund

By Jim Brain, Endowment Fund committee

Over the past several years the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies has been building a quasi-Endowment Fund using proceeds from a variety of fund raising activities and donations from various member societies. The purpose was to provide a recurrent source of money to *fund activities that benefitted the federation as a whole*.

The Fund's monies have been invested conservatively in the stock market which has allowed the current balance to grow to around \$250,000. In 2018 the federation delegates approved an Endowment Fund Spending Policy that in essence authorized an annual expenditure from the fund of 4% of the three year average end of year balance. This is about \$10,000 a year. The 4% figure is less than the average annual growth of the invested funds but was select to allow the fund to grow over time to accommodate the effects of inflation.

The activities of the Endowment Fund Committee are overseen by a committee consisting of a Chairperson, a secretary, the treasurer of the federation, the 1st vice president of the federation and a financial advisor. Currently the Chairperson and secretary positions are vacant. Neither position takes much time but are critical to provide a couple of other individuals to bounce ideas off of. If you are interested in either, let President Beth Heesaker know and she can make the appointments.

In recent years we have used monies from the Endowment Fund to allow the \$1.00 per member reduction of the dues paid by individual societies to the federation. This has run about \$6,000 per year since it was instituted. We have also used funds to defray some of the extra ordinary costs associated with hosting the annual federation meeting. In 2019 delegates at the annual meeting in Lewiston agreed to extend the \$1.00 offset for another 5 years **unless higher priority needs arise**.

It is now time to be thinking if there are other ways to use the available Endowment Fund proceeds. The primary requirement is that the projects or programs must provide a benefit to the federation as a whole, not just an individual club.

If you have any suggested program or projects proposals for the committee to consider, please contact Jim Brain, fund financial advisor at 509-863-9883 or send them to jrbrain233@outlook.com. We need more than just an idea; we need a plan. Please provide enough information to answer the following questions regarding the proposal. What will it take to accomplish it, who will take the lead, what are the benefits to the federation, when will it be accomplished, and how much will it cost?

A final thing to think about. The Endowment Fund Committee is always accepting monetary donations to help continue to build the fund. We encourage the practice of clubs making donations as memorials in memory of deceased members. This has been a good fund raising tool in the past and is encouraged to continue.

Zoom, Zoom

By Judi Allison, Secretary



Finally, after many attempts on the part of our President, Ken Zahn to have an in person meeting, on November 14, 2020 we “bit the bullet” and held a Zoom meeting – the salvation of the year of Covid-19. We had 36 directors/delegates representing 27 clubs join in. One of the advantages of the meeting was that even Alaska was able to easily attend.

We had two Clubs dropped from the rolls this year. Puyallup Valley chose to withdraw from the Federation. Clallam County was dropped for nonpayment of dues. (Hopefully, though, according to the current President, they will be seeking reinstatement.) We also added two new clubs into our fold. Salmon Valley Club in Idaho joined with 77 adults and 19 juniors. Cache Valley Rock and Gem from Utah bring 52 adults and 18 juniors.

It appears we will have a Multi-Federation field trip next Memorial Day weekend to the Blue Forest in Wyoming with a fee dig for fish fossils nearby. Watch your newsletters for further details and updates on this trip. The plan is also for the NFMS Rockhound Retreat to take place the week after Labor Day. If you haven’t taken part in this, you should check it out.

There were five entries for the Junior Achievement Award this year – not too bad considering meetings have been difficult. We would sure like to see more entries. The award is divided into age categories and is gaged on the junior’s activities outside the club as well as within. The junior doesn’t have to belong to a separate club to be eligible, but their name needs to be listed on the club’s roster, showing that payment has been made for their membership. Please encourage the youth in your clubs to enter. At the least, they will receive a certificate, and they might even get a cash award.

Although Ronna Watkins and Linda Barlow, our pro tem editors, were unable to continue, a solution was found. Paul Heesacker is the new chairperson for the NFMS Newsletter. That’s great news, as it means we will continue to have our vital communication through this medium. Thanks to Ronna and Linda for filling in.

Your Club Directors and Delegates should have all received an electronic copy of the complete minutes and reports. They are available to be shared with you. Please take a few minutes and read all the things your committees do for you.

An official order of business was to elect the new officers for the 2020-2021 year. Beth Heesacker takes on the gavel as our President, Larry Hulstrom fills the position of 1st Vice President, Darrell Coyle steps into the position of 2nd Vice President and Judi Allison continues as Secretary. You will notice the position of Treasurer was not mentioned. I am certain you will find information elsewhere in this newsletter that will give you an answer to that omission.

We are still without a venue for the 2021 NFMS Show and Meeting. With the state of the country right now, we may have to again resort to a remote gathering. We all hope that doesn’t happen. We are hoping some club will take up the challenge and offer to host the Federation in 2021. A venue later in the year will hopefully be a viable option. Let’s all hope for an in person show and meetings for 2021. In the meantime, let’s all follow safety guidelines and stay healthy.



Bulletin Editors’ Contest

By Kat Koch, NFMS BEAC

It's Time to Recognize Your Volunteers



2020 has been a hard year for our rock clubs. I know a lot of you have not been able to hold meetings since February. Since I am president of my own club, I know all of us have been very concerned and working hard to keep our clubs intact by continuing to publish the monthly news bulletins, maintaining websites and conducting field trips. So this coming January is no better time to recognize everyone's efforts in keeping our club bulletins going. Annually the NFMS and AFMS hold a contest for the best club bulletin, articles and website. I am the NFMS Bulletins Editors Aids Chairman for the monthly bulletin and articles. In the past years we have had very few clubs submit entries for the various categories. There are 67 clubs in the NFMS and year after year only about 4 or 5 clubs submit any entries. If you are interested in submitting your club website for competition you can find the link at <http://northwestfederation.org> as a different person handles this contest.

Any bulletin or article publish during the 2020 calendar year can be entered. The deadline for entries is January 20, 2021. I am asking each of you to submit your bulletin and articles so we can have a real contest between our clubs. If you are unable to do it, please appoint someone within your club to do so.

The following instructions and forms for the **monthly bulletin and article contests**:
Go to <https://www.amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm> and look for the files and download or print them out.

Bulletin categories for competition include, “New Editors” (any size bulletins), “Mini” (six pages or less), “Small” (7-11 pages), and “Large” (more than eleven pages). In determining page count do not count any page that information generally doesn't change like the club contact page, the mailing label page and full advertising pages. “Original Adult Articles”, “Advanced Adult Articles”, “Written Features”, and “Drawn Features” should be submitted. But what is the difference? Generally, an article is educational in nature, and the author has given references and suggestions for additional reading. A feature is generally short, such as president or field trip reports, hobby-related humor, shop hints, member biography/accolade, or a book review (and many more). Original Advanced Adult Articles are written by authors who have won a 1st place trophy in AFMS Adult Articles, or have earned a living in the earth science field, or have had an article or book professionally published. And, please, don’t forget to submit the “Junior Articles” and the “Special Publications”. Use the Fillable Features form for drawn features like an original drawn cartoon, puzzle, quiz, sketch or drawing.

There are 5 different article categories plus the feature categories and special publications. **Only ONE ENTRY is allowed per author or editor, per category, per club.** If this rule is not followed then all entries, for that category, for your club will be removed from competition. The only exception is in the SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS category (different types of publications for the club). IF A CLUB BELONGS TO MORE THAN ONE REGIONAL FEDERATION, the editor must pick ONE federation contest in which to participate.

In 2020 many things and events around us have been canceled. But we have not been canceled; as individuals, as a family member, as a friend or as a rock club member. Please seriously consider recognizing your volunteers that have helped keep your club going this year.

I would prefer submission be made by email to bulletinaids@gmail.com If you would like to mail your entries please send them to Bulletin Contest, c/o Katherine Koch, 4762 Whitworth Pl S – Unit #P104, Renton, WA 98055. All entries submitted by email or regular mail be received by January 20, 2021.

I am also looking for a few volunteer judges. It requires reading the entries I send you which will have a score sheet attached. Fill out the score sheet and return the entries and score sheet back to me in a timely manner. There will probably be no more than 2 or 3 articles or monthly bulletins to read and score. If you are interested in being a NFMS judge please send me an email to bulletinaids@gmail.com . All communications for judging will be done electronically via email. Reading and scoring will probably be the easiest on a desktop or laptop computer rather than a cellphone.

Let's have a good contest this year!



To Our New Treasurer, Linda Harvey



**It is my privilege to announce my appointment of
Linda Harvey as our new NFMS Treasurer.**

She has experience with the Bank of America and in various positions in rock clubs including the Tualatin Valley Gem Club, North American Research Group, Columbia Willamette Faceters' Guild, Mt. Hood Rock Club, the Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show and the Rice Museum. Welcome Linda!!



To Our New Newsletter Chairperson, Paul Heesacker



**It is my privilege to announce the appointment of
Paul Heesacker as our new NFMS Newsletter Chair.**

Paul is a Past President of the NFMS. He has appointed a committee to help him consisting of his wife, Beth Heesacker.

Help Wanted

By Beth Heesacker, NFMS President

As of this writing we have a number of NFMS positions OPEN. Please, we need your help. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these positions or if you know of someone else who would be able to help. If you have any questions, please ask. Beth Heesacker, NFMS President, heesacker@coho.net

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS: | ENDOWMENT FUND: | EDUCATION |
| RULES AND AWARDS CHAIR | CHAIRMAN | |
| REGISTRAR | SECRETARY | |

SHOW CHAIRPERSON (of course this will depend on where and when we can have our next show)

Thank you.



THANK YOU and It is Time

By Lyle and Audrey Vogelpohl

We would like to thank all of you for allowing us to serve on various committees and as an officer of the NFMS for 26 of the last 44 years. It has been the most rewarding time of our lives.

It all started in 1976 when Lyle was asked to "fill-in" for the Treasurer who had resigned mid-year. He was then elected Treasurer at the Coos Bay, Oregon convention in 1976 and served as Treasurer until 1980 when he was elected Vice-President. In 1981 he was honored to serve as President. In 2000 Lyle was asked to serve again as Treasurer of the NFMS ... Who knew that would last until 2020?

Attending shows/conventions has led to many acquaintances becoming lifelong friends whose friendships we value so greatly. Also, attending all the shows/conventions has allowed us to visit and get to know many areas in our Federation we probably would not have visited. Many memories have been made during these travels. During our trips we have seen the displays of fabulous collections so many of you work to develop. We have had the privilege in meeting and getting to know so many of the true artisans of our hobby who display their work and are always willing to share their skills and secrets. Greatly appreciated by all.

Audrey became actively involved when she realized that she was attending events that she could participate in. And so she volunteered to be Directory Chair (when the Directory was a size to fit in the auto's glove compartment). This was followed by chairing Advertising, Resolutions, and coordinating with the AFMS Junior Program. Some she held more than once. Working with like-minded rockhounds has been a very special reward of life-long friends.

For the past 15 years we have been able to participate in the NFMS Rockhound Retreat at Camp Hancock, Oregon. What a joy it has been. Instructors and students willing to share their skills. So many friends and memories made.

So many memories thru the years – but it is time for someone else to start their memories. Health issues this past year are telling both of us to stop.

JEMEZ OPAL
By Ken Zahn, 5 July 76

Past the Tent Rocks’ ash and pumice
Up Peralta’s gentle course
With thoughts of Jemez campfires
Or Cochiti on horse.

From Colle to La Jara
I trek the rugged hills
In search of precious opal
Hidden in tuffaceous sills.

How can I show my pleasure
At the sight of sparkling blue
Which glints back from the geode
To serve as my first clue.

Oh, to see the subtle color
In siliceous milky gel
Triggers scenes of Coober Pedy
Or of Spencer – who can tell?

Scrambling back through cold, clear water
I am taken by the spell
Of this silent, empty wildness
Of great beauty worn so well.

In an hour, back in traffic
As I plan for work and home
The pines of Jemez whisper
To return and search – alone.



Jemez Mountains.
Picture compliments of Wikipedia



Background

The Jemez Mountains north-northwest of the Cochiti Pueblo (north of Albuquerque, New Mexico) are rugged volcanics that are part of an ancient caldera. At an Albuquerque Club meeting I attended when in town on Army business to Los Alamos National Laboratory and Kirtland Air Force Base in the 1970s, I heard some whispers of one former Club-member rockhound having found opal in partially potch-filled gas bubbles within (primarily) Jemez rhyolite. I was hooked, of course, and usually rented a “rent-a-wreck” car on several future trips, then spent a day after the business was completed to search for the elusive "opal-filled," thunderegg-like gas bubbles in the Jemez. After one of my last hikes on July 5, 1976, I penned this poem on a paper napkin.



RULES AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

By Darrel Coyle

As we move into the new year there will be changes in leadership and committee positions. In regards to the Rules and Awards Committee the title may be somewhat confusing. This committee is in control of the Judging and Awards associated with



Competitive Show Cases. The Committee consists of three positions , the Chairman, the Judging Director and the Registrar. Currently only one of the positions is filled. I am the sole member of this committee at present and I am asking for individuals to step up. Normally this would be a three year commitment. Whoever assumes the Judging Director position would be skipping the first year as the Registrar. There is also a need for Judges and Clerks. These are not difficult positions and generally only require a few hours of familiarization with your duties, a few hours preparing for the Federation Show and then being present on the Friday morning for distributing the forms for judging. I got on this committee as I saw a need and I was already coming to the Federation Shows as the Delegate for my club. If you are interested in being on this committee you can find out more in the NFMS By laws Article X, section 1 and OP Committee -2, Rules and Awards Committee.

This coming year is my last year on the committee as I am moving into the Second Vice President Position. I am available to discuss this with you and answer questions. Even if we do not have a Federation Show in 2021, which I hope is not the case, we still need to bring people into the committee and pass the information on to them. A person is allowed to rotate back into the committee after moving through the positions as required by the By Laws.The AFMS Rule Book is lengthy, but it is mostly descriptions of the different categories, points and criteria for each category. Section 1 is the general guidance and is only a few pages. It does not take long to go through and grasp what is required.

Final Thought: Are you a delegate or director for your club and coming to the Federation Show? Why not give a few hours to help. The Competitive Cases are a major part of the Show and can not be done without your help.





Reminder: NFMS DUES are DUE
Linda Harvey, NFMS Treasurer



Your club should receive a packet of information and forms soon. NFMS dues need to be sent to me by January 10, 2021, along with the other requested information. If your club does not receive this packet, please let me know right away. The packet contains 3 items.

Item 1) A letter of instruction on how to complete the other items in the packet. NFMS dues are based on who was a member of your club in 2020 ... \$3.50** for EACH ADULT member and \$1.00 for EACH JUNIOR (18 and under). (NOT based on who has already paid their dues for 2021.) The NFMS pays the AFMS \$.75 for each adult and junior member from these amounts.

**Note:: At the Annual Meeting, October 18, in Lewiston, Idaho, a motion was made and carried, that earnings from the NFMS Endowment Fund would be used to pay \$1.00 for each ADULT members in all NFMS Clubs. This motion is being carried on for this year. Adult Dues will be \$2.50 (with the Endowment Fund paying the other \$1.00). Juniors dues remain at \$1.00 each. The Instruction Sheet also contains order information about the 2021 NFMS Directory. The NFMS Directory includes NFMS Officer and Committee information; all society/club and members information; NFMS Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and the NFMS Program Library catalogue. Each club is provided a free copy each year. Individuals may purchase their own copy for \$10.00.

Item 2) A sheet for your club’s information, including club name, website, mailing address, meeting place and time, contact person, and your 2021 officer and committee list. There is space on this form for the names of the 3 persons in your club to whom the AFMS News-letter will be sent. I forward those names to the AFMS. The final items on the sheet are spaces for the calculation of your club’s dues – adults and juniors, and for Directory orders.

Item 3) This item is the one that I will ask for the most assistance from your club. We ask that you please update the paper membership list we send to your club. Please do NOT send a computer generated print-out of your club roster. Think of it this way, the NFMS files contain over 3600 names, addresses, and phone numbers. If you send your club roster it must be checked line by line against the data base ... a tremendously time consuming task. We ask that you update our list by crossing out names of members who are no longer with your club. And list on a separate sheet of paper the information on your unlisted members, and updating of information on existing members

Thank you for your help in seeing that your club gets the job done promptly ... dues are due by the 10th of January.

NFMS Clubs’ Show Schedule -- 2021

Please note that due to the Covid-19 virus, schedules may be changed. Please check with the show contact for any updates.

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| March 27 & 28 Sat – 10 – 6 Sun – 10 – 5 | Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Society | Sweet Home High School Gym 1641 Long Street Sweet Home OR | Joe Cota 541 451 2740 or Ed Anderson 541 451 1577 ela4rocks@gmail.com |
| April 23, 24, & 25 Fri – 10 - 4 Sat – 10 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4 | Yakima Rock and Mineral Club | Central Washington State Fair Park Modern Living Building 1301 South Fair Avenue Yakima WA 98901 | Marti Sondgeroth evening 509 248 6401 (leave a message); daytime cell 509 910 3484; marthams@q.com 2013 South 4 th Avenue , Yakima, WA 98903 www.yakimarockclub.com www.facebook.com/YakimaRockandMineraClub |
| June 5 & 6 Sat – 9 – 5 Sun – 10 – 4 | North Idaho Mineral Club | Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Jacklin Building #25 4056 North Government Way, (Kathleen & Gov’t Way) Gates C & D, Coeur d’Alene, ID | Mike Rose NIMCshowchairman@gmail.com |

