

C.F.M.S. Newsletter



XLVI #5

May 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Grow the Federation!

By Fred Ott

For quite some time, it has been apparent that the current system of accepting new societies into the Federation has been problematic at best.

At present, a society wanting to join the Federation must submit the required paperwork, together with the applicable insurance-and-dues payment, for review by the Executive Committee and a formal vote by the Directors at the twice-annual Directors meetings.

The two problems that the current system does not adequately address are: 1) the pro-ration of insurance and dues and 2) the extreme time-delay in having applications for membership approved.

I trust that most successful Rock and Gem Societies have adopted a pro-ration of dues schedule for new members. So, too, must the Federation address this issue. The matter is somewhat compounded by the Federation's annual insurance premium due date of October 16th. Nonetheless, a viable alternative to the current system must be established.

As for the extreme time-delay in having applications for CFMS membership approved, I trust that most (if not all) of the CFMS societies couldn't function in such a manner – requiring that an applicant for membership wait for many months before their application is approved. So, too, in this era of instant communication, must the Federation modernize its procedures.

The Executive Committee is currently in discussion about changing the approval process to require all applications for membership in the Federation be addressed in a timely basis (within 15 days of receipt of an application). This means that applications would not longer be held until a Directors meeting. Since this will be a change to the Federation's governing

documents, the proposal will be submitted to the Directors at the meeting on June 19th.

Please feel free to contact me at (530) 677-5322 or fred.ott.b8t5@statefarm.com with your comments.

Remember: rockhounding is MORE than a hobby; it's a PASSION!

- Fred Ott, President 2010

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NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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CFMS WEBSITE

CFMS on the Internet is accessible at www.cfmsinc.org. Web Master is Don Ogden. Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this web site.

2010 CFMS Calendar

- April 24 – Claims Seminar, Empire, CA**
- May 16 – 22 Camp Paradise 1st Week**
- May 23 – 29 Camp Paradise 2nd Week**
- June 4 - Deadline for Officer & Chairman Reports to be turned in to Pat for Directors Meeting**
- June 16 – Rules Committee Meeting**
- June 17 – AFMS Directors Meeting**
- June 17 - AFMS Scholarship Meeting**
- June 18 – 20 CFMS/AFMS Show & Convention**
- June 18 - CFMS Cracker Barrel**
- June 19 - CFMS Directors Meeting**
- June 19 - AFMS/CFMS Awards Banquet**
- June 20 – Editor’s Breakfast**
- Nov. 12 - 7:30 PM, Visalia Cracker Barrel**
- Nov. 13 - Fall Directors' Meeting, Holiday Inn, Visalia**
- Nov. 14 – 2011 Organizational Meeting**

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Executive

Secretary/Treasurer

Please submit Officer and Chairman Reports for the Director’s Meeting Packets to me no later than June 4th.

-Pat

CFMS INSURANCE CONTACTS

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Bud McMillin, Insurance Chair
1717 Oakdale Rd. Ste. O
Modesto, CA 95355-3066
(209) 524-3494

REPORTING A CLAIM

Report claims as soon as possible to Patt McDaniel 800-400-7288. If no one is immediately available, and/or during non-business or weekend hours, call 800-252-4670.

***REMEMBER *
ARTICLES FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER ARE
DUE TO THE EDITOR BY THE 5th OF THE
MONTH PRIOR TO THE MONTH OF
PUBLICATION!**



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Thank You to everyone submitting articles for this month’s newsletter. Articles for the May Newsletter and important dates for the CFMS calendar should be submitted by April 5th.



IN MEMORIAM:
LOIS GLADYS ALLMEN
1916-2010

By Jim Brace-Thompson

With great sadness, but also with great respect and admiration for her many accomplishments, I pass along news that Lois Allmen, 2004 CFMS President, passed away peacefully in her home on Sunday, March 28, surrounded by her loving family. Lois was born in Douglas, Arizona, on May 4, 1916, moving to California in 1926 when her father was transferred by the Southern Pacific Railroad. (Lois, who became a physical education teacher, apparently learned to swim in the water tanks used to fill Southern Pacific trains as they stopped on their journeys across America.)

Lois discovered lapidary work relatively late in her long life while viewing displays during the 1970s in the gem and mineral building with her husband at the local county fair, then embraced it with a passion and remained active in our gem and mineral community to the very end. Just a few short weeks ago, we were helping her put an exhibit of her wonderful silver jewelry work into the Ventura club show, and despite failing eyesight and hearing, she continued attending and participating in the Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society membership and board meetings and was still teaching silversmithing classes for the Oxnard club and community just last year, well into her 90s, a class she had been teaching for the past 20 years. She loved working with silver and won many awards at gem and mineral shows, as well as Best of Show at the Ventura County Fair, where she frequently served as a volunteer and judge.

But lapidary work was not her only love. A teacher by profession, she taught both physical education and Spanish for over 20 years after earning degrees at Ventura College, the University of California-Santa Barbara, and California Lutheran University. She passed the love of teaching down the generations—one of her sons became a teacher, and one of her

grandsons was my son's math teacher and must have done a good job since my son is now engineering major. She and her husband of 65 years, William Henry Allmen, Sr., also loved travel, journeying throughout Mexico, South America, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, China, and Europe. I recently saw a photo of Lois, well into her 80s, atop an elephant in Thailand with Henry. And she loved music; whether playing the guitar or piano, she could often be heard singing in her home. A long-time member of St. John's Lutheran Church, she eventually served as choir director, and her soprano voice graced many a wedding and other events.

Finally, family was her greatest love. Nancy and I enjoyed a fond journey a couple of years ago, driving Lois to a CFMS Directors' Meeting while listening to stories of her family's colorful history and cast of characters, a cast that included survivors of the great hurricane and flood that swept away Galveston a century ago, Civil War actors on both sides of the divide, and even a pirate! Lois related it all with that characteristic smile and twinkle in her eye. That love of family extended from the past to the future, and Lois is survived by 6 children, 13 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren, who related loving memories during her celebration-of-life service. While CFMS members may remember Lois as always composed and the ultimate in grace, at her memorial service, I heard of the "evil eye" she could cast that would stop any misbehaving in its tracks. We also heard of the story of when Henry came a-courting at the unusually late hour of 8:00 PM one evening, asking if Lois was home. "Yes," she said as she came to the door. "And that's where *you* should be!" (She did, it turns out, let him in.)

Lois's family ask that any donations in her memory be made to either the St. John's Lutheran Church Memorial Fund (1500 North "C" Street, Oxnard, CA 93030) and/or the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Endowment Fund. I'll always treasure the memory of that characteristic smile and twinkle in the eye that Lois perpetually maintained. Here's to the memory of a truly good soul!

-Jim



AFMS/CFMS Activities
2010 Show & Convention
By: Loretta Ogden

The first thing I want to tell you about is the **Anaheim Park Hotel (877) 491-1011**. It is a very nice facility that is centrally located next to the 91 Freeway and Harbor Blvd. They have given us a fabulous **discount** and you will get that price as long as you want to stay. This will give you the opportunity to stay for the field trips and / or anything else you may want to do while you are down here.

My suggestion is **The Bowers Museum** in Santa Ana(just down the freeway from the hotel) has a 3800-year-old woman visiting from China. She is one of the most well preserved mummies ever discovered. She still has long red hair and long eyelashes. There are many other things to do down here so you may want to spend a few extra days here.

We will have set up on Thursday with a light meal of hot dogs, salads, chips etc. So come and **volunteer** to help set up and we will feed you.

On Friday evening at 7:00 PM we will have the **Cracker Barrel** at the recreation room at Friendly Village Mobile Home Park. This is a very nice facility and if the weather co-operates bring your swimwear. They have a lovely pool. Besides you may have heard that **some** may **walk** the **plank**. There will also be **treasure** to be found and pirate attire is appropriate if desired.. There will be refreshments, fun, games and fellowship. You will have an opportunity to meet the **officers** and hopefully committee chairs of both the **AFMS** and **CFMS**.

On Saturday the **CFMS Director's meeting** will be held at 9:00AM at the La Habra Community Center. It is just a little way northeast of the show. The doors will open at 8:00AM. Directly after that is the **ALAA** meeting and any committees that may also be meeting. At 4:00 PM everyone must be out so we can decorate for the banquet. We are doing a **Mexican Fiesta** so please dress accordingly if you wish. The foods will all be authentic

Mexican with a variety of meats and cheese main dishes, rice & beans, salad, salsa and dessert.

Sunday morning will bring the **Editors Breakfast** to be held at the Anaheim Park Hotel.

All of the **field trips** are planned for after the show so you need not miss any time over the weekend.

Two Tourmaline Mines in Two Days!
June 21st:

The Oceanview - Fee Dig \$50 (this is a \$25 discount per person)
Caravan to the Lake Henshaw Resort (I am working on a group rate reservation for the spaces next to the mine)

June 22nd:
The Himalaya - Fee Dig \$50 (this is a \$15 discount per person)

Fossil Hunters Choice!
June 23rd:
Trip One - Ant Hill - More Strenuous Option
Trip Two - Jalama Beach - lead by Jon Meredith - less strenuous option

Rock Hound or Tourist?
June 24th:
Trip One - Lavic Siding - lead by Jay Valle - More Strenuous Option
Trip Two - LA County Natural History Museum - lead by Dr. Larry Barnes - less strenuous option

When you are at the show there will be maps and times to the different events available at the front door.

We are including a pre-registration form in this publication for your convenience. Be sure to use it so your place is secure. Some of the events have limited space and time constraints.

If you need more information call.....626 330 8974 or 909 598 2456

See you in June! Remember I will be waiting at the door.

-Loretta



**AFMS/CFMS Show
Competitive Exhibits
YOUR FINAL NOTICE.....**

The last day we can accept competitive exhibit registrations is JUNE 1st. As you know this year the space will be very limited for any kind of exhibits. Competitive exhibits will have priority but only till June 1st.

Don't disappoint us, let's have a great showing, the rest of the nation will be here and watching.

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN IMMEDIATELY

Dee Holland
P.O. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468



**Bulletin Aids
By Doug Arnold**

The deadline for reservations for Breakfast with the Editors is fast approaching and this year's will be an important one. Not only will editors and writers from the CFMS competition be honored but also those from the AFMS competition. This will be a great breakfast.

Reservations for the breakfast can be made at the same time as you buy your tickets for June's CFMS/AFMS show and make your reservations for the dinner. The deadline for making your reservations is fast approaching. Don't forget.

If you have questions send me an email at oldjasper@verizon.net or mail me a note.

-Doug



**ALL AMERICAN REPORT
By Dot Beachler**

This year's entries, all two of them, have been judged and sent on to the AFMS for national judging. The results of all this judging will be announced at the AFMS/CFMS show in June.

Last month it was suggested that it was time to assemble information for next year's entry.

During the past year the entry form was reviewed section by section. It was reported that this was helpful to one club. What about all of the other clubs in the CFMS?

Without hearing from other clubs and so few books entered, is there some other information that would help? I would welcome your inquiries and suggestions.

Let me hear from you for a change!

- Dot



**Earth Science Studies
Camps Paradise & Zzyzx
By Marion Roberts**

Hello!!! Everyone,

At this time there is a lot going on but little to talk about. The signups for Camp Paradise are coming in a little slower than I would like to see. I live with the fear that I will have to go back to one week, so help me out here folks. John Christensen and I have 15 new tables complete and ready to fill; now it's in your court.

I will go soon to arrange the work days with Don and look forward to having a few people to help out.

I'm including the application for Zzyzx in this newsletter and on the web. Audry informed me that she is ready to go and is looking forward to camp.

The camp dates are:

- Camp Paradise May 16-22, 2010
- Camp Paradise May 23-29, 2010
- Camp Zzyzx November 14-21 2010

-Marion



Bylaws Committee
**By Theresa Kokinos &
Ruth Bailey**



Attached is a proposed Bylaw change (Article III, Section 7, Honorary Membership). This change was proposed by a CFMS Director and provides the CFMS newsletter to those elected to honorary membership.

The proposed change was submitted last year but was not included in the package for voting by the Executive staff nor Directors at the November, 2009 meeting in Visalia. The Bylaws Committee concurs to the proposed amendment and Ruth and I would like to reinstate this section to the agenda for the June meeting in La Habra.

ARTICLE III

Section 7: Honorary Membership

a. Establishment
The Federation hereby establishes an Honorary Membership to consist of persons who have contributed materially to the advancement of Mineralogy, Crystallography, Geology and allied Sciences.

All issues of the newsletter shall be sent to honorary members. Free admission to the annual show shall also be provided.

-Theresa & Ruth



Education Thru Sharing
WILL IT BE YOURS?
AFMS Rock hound of the Year
By Loretta Ogden

It is not often these days that you can do some thing nice and not have it cost you a penny. So how about every club honoring one of their members, by writing a short (50-100 words) article about how your choice for

AFMS/CFMS Club Rockhound of the Year has contributed to the success of your club.

After you have chosen your member you can have your federation director mail it to your federations chairperson (that be me), they will sent it to me (no need for that) and I in turn will mail it to the AFMS & CFMS Newsletter editor for publication. That's it! Your member or couple will be so proud you chose them and also having it in print in the AFMS / CFMS Newsletter.

Come on now get busy and lets see what federation is going to have the most entrants. I will let you know in the January newsletter.

Now go out and make me proud. Please!
-Loretta

Education Thru Sharing
Rockhound of the Year
By Lorretta Ogden

Delvers Gem And Mineral Society
Rockhound of the year!

The Delvers Gem and Mineral Society would like to nominate **Jon Fults** for **Rockhound of the Year.**

Jon joined the Delvers in 1964 and led the field trips for many years. For about 25 years he led the long summer field trips eventually covering most of the Western half of the United States. You will find him recruiting new members at our Annual Show each year. Recently he "digitized" our history albums (weighing 120 lbs) and produced four DVDs from these albums. He has served on our Board of Directors for over 40 years and was President in 1980. For about five years Jon taught lapidary classes for the Bellflower Adult School. He often puts on the program for our monthly meetings. For about 20 years he assisted Ed Flutot in producing our newsletter, the "Delvings." When Ed Flutot retired as editor 23 years ago, Jon became the "Delvings" editor and has produced the newsletter 21 of the last 23 years. You can read our newsletter on Yahoo Groups (Group Delvers).

Jon is married to Lois Jean, also a past Delvers President. You will always find the two of them together helping set up our Shows or manning the Membership recruitment effort.

It is a pleasure to nominate JON FULTS as this year's Delver Rockhound of the Year.

Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society Rockhound of the year!

The Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society is nominating a couple whose enthusiasm and commitment have made a big difference for our club, Randy and June Harris. Randy has held the office of President for three of the past four years and is currently serving as Secretary. His enthusiasm and easygoing manner have helped increase the membership of our club. June has been the editor of our club bulletin for five years and is taking on the job again this year. Since taking over the Kid Area three years ago she has had about 6,000 boys and girls participating in this program. She has worked with a number of schools and with 11 different Scouting groups and these children are earning gem and mineral badges while being introduced to our Society and hobby. We are very proud of their contributions and appreciate all their efforts.

By Ruth Bailey

Pasadena Lapidary Gem and Mineral Society Rockhound of the year!

Joe and Marcia Goetz have been selected to be The Pasadena Lapidary Society's for Rockhounds of the Year 2010.

Joe and Marcia are long time members who have served in a number of offices over the years. Their positions have included field trip leaders, show chairmen, treasurer and vice president along the way.

During last four years, Joe has been President, twice elected for two year terms, while Marcia has been Treasurer during that same period of time. Despite the demands of being an officer during those four years, they have held secondary positions as field trip leaders and hosted committee meetings, club fund raisings and yard rock sales at their home. In addition to their excellent service to the Pasadena Lapidary Society they continue to give of their time to assist with the growth and development of other gem and mineral societies in Southern California.

The Pasadena Lapidary Society members are grateful to their energy, leadership and devotion to the continuing success of the club and its future.

-Loretta



FIELD TRIPS - NORTH

Austin Nevada Area

By Jonathan North

WHERE: Austin, Nevada Area

WHEN: June 12-13, 2010 with June 11 as a travel day.

SPONSOR: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)

PARTICIPANTS: Open to all CFMS members and guests.

COLLECTION MATERIAL: Green and Purple fluorite, Snakeskin agate, and Blue chalcedony.

LEADER & CONTACT INFO: Jonathan North (916) 768-0137, jonnorth@comcast.net

PROPOSED SCHEDULE: Waiver sign-ins will be at 7:30 a.m. and trips start at 8 a.m.

Saturday morning: Dig for Fluorite in tailing piles, Lunch, Drive to Snake Skin agate area (no digging required). Sunday morning: Drive to Mt. Aerie area and collect Blue chalcedony in alluvial slopes (no digging required). Mt. Aerie area is on the way home.

CAMPSITE/MEETING LOCATION: This trip is an overnighter with dry camping near the fluorite mounds. Motels and RV parks are available in Austin, NV (32.6 mi). Take Hwy 305 north off Hwy 50 just before Austin, NV. Travel 26.1 miles north and turn right at the Iowa Canyon/Hall Creek sign. Travel 2.1 miles and take left fork and continue on for 3.3 miles, then right and travel 1.1 miles to the fluorite mounds. Park where you can. (Pie plate signs will be posted from the Iowa Canyon/Hall Creek turnoff by Friday afternoon.)

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS: Most areas are 2WD accessible, although care should be used in some areas where clearance could be a problem. A full tank of fuel is a must. Best place to get fuel is in Fallon, but it is available in Austin if needed.

CAMP/FACILITIES: The campsite should accommodate smaller RVs, tent trailers and tents, however, RVs should scout out the area before getting too far in. This is dry camping with no facilities. (Area will be checked before field trip to assess current camping capabilities)

TOOLS NEEDED: Easy digging tools like shovels, and hand tools.

SAFETY CONCERNS: Rocky and hilly in collecting areas, watch for snakes and other critters.

CLIMATE/WEATHER: Being a high desert area, it could be hot in the daytime and cold at night. Rain is unpredictable.

CLOTHING: Bring something for any kind of weather.

OTHER REMARKS: You must observe CFMS/AFMS Code of Ethics and sign a consent and assumption of risk waiver of liability form. Don't forget water, and food. We hope to have a potluck dinner on Saturday...to be determined once we make a final assessment of campsite capabilities.

Be aware that this is a remote and undeveloped area. Collect responsibly.

Please help preserve our collecting areas and pack out what you pack in. Let's leave it clean for future Rockhounds.

-Jonathan

morganites, garnets, lepidolite and aquamarine.

All mine rules MUST be obeyed. When making reservations please put (CFMS) next to your name for tracking purposes and notify either Shep or Adam that your reservation was made. The Oceanview can accommodate 75 spaces, the Himalaya 50 spaces. We will meet each morning at the individual mines at the appointed times. They will handle the Waiver of Liability sign-ins. Attendees of last year's trip found tourmaline crystals weighing over 60 grams. Please see www.cfmsinc.org and click "field trips" for pictures and reviews of last year's tourmaline trip.

Shep Koss CFMS Field Trip-South co-chair
freudonetoo@yahoo.com
land line: 661-248-0411

Adam Dean CFMS Field Trip-South co-chair
theagatehunter@verizon.net
cell: 909-489-4899

-Adam & Shep



Field Trips – South

Double Tourmaline Field Trip

By

Shep Koss & Adam Dean



Multi-Federation Field trip MEMORIAL WEEKEND BLUE FOREST CAMPOUT and FIELDTRIPS

The Multi-Federation trip is scheduled for May 28-June 2nd, there are several trips scheduled for different locations within a 40-50 mile radius of Fontanel, Wyoming (Blue forest petrified forest area)

The base camp will be at Slate Creek Campground, just east of Fontenelle, next to the Green River. This is a no fee campground with fire pits, tables and restrooms. We will post the area with signs marking camp area on Thursday May 21st. Trips will leave from the camp to the Blue Forest Dig area, one trip to the Eden Valley area, and others, Most of the trips will be related to collecting Petrified Wood. At the base camp we will have maps available for other areas. Like Algae, Turitella Agate, Agates and Fee Fossil areas in Kemmerer area and the Jade areas. There are millions of acres of wide open country, most of which will be BLM ground. **You are expected to follow all rules on the collecting of petrified wood on public lands.**

For those not camping at Slate Creek and need a Motel there is one at Farson ,about 35 minutes to the east **Sitzmans**, (307) 273 9246, this is a

June 26 & 27 Double Tourmaline Field Trip

WHERE: The Oceanview and Himalaya Tourmaline Mines east of Escondido in the Pala Mining District

WHEN: Saturday & Sunday June 26 & 27. The Oceanview on Saturday and Himalaya on Sunday

TIME: As set by each individual mine. PLEASE check their websites.

COST: Both mines are pay sites. Cost will be determined by number of CFMS attendees. Each mine has a limited number of spaces so reserve early. First come, first served.

WEBSITES: 1) Oceanview: www.digforgems.com for location, directions, mine info, costs and making reservations.

2) Himalaya: www.highdesertgemsandminerals.com for location, mine info, costs, and places to stay

MATERIAL: tourmalines, quartzes, kunzites,

small motel only 6 rooms so make your reservations now. Rates = 1 person \$50+ tax, 2 per \$58.+ tax (one Queen Bed) 2 Beds \$65.plus tax. Farson also has Gas and Groceries. There are more motels in Kemmerer also: Fossil Butte Motel (307) 8773996, Fairview Motel (307) 877-3938, Frontier Suites (307) 8773377, Energy Inn (307) 877-6901, Antler's Inn (307-877-4461. There is also an RV Park in Farson and several in Kemmerer. Kemmerer is about 25 miles from our base camp. You can also get gas and some supplies in Fontenelle.

The schedule for the weekend will be as listed. On Friday a group will leave for the Blue Forest dig area at 9.am. Then on Saturday at 9 a.m. to Blue Forest and at 6pm we will have a potluck and camp fire, get to know each other and share stories.

On Sunday a trip to Eden valley area will leave at 8:30 a.m. Sunday evening is set aside for a swap session, so bring some good trade material. Monday there will be another unnamed trip leaving at 9 a.m. and an open day for you to go anywhere you like.

A few safety notes: The elevation of the area is around 7000 ft. and the days can be nice, nights can be cold. The wind blows most of the time in this country so bring warm clothes. It is a little early for bugs, **BUT** bring bug spray anyway just in case. I have never heard of or seen a rattlesnake in the area.

Tools needed: Shovel and pick, Rock pick, Gloves, and Steel Probe. Hat and sun screen

There are lots of sandy roads in the area and ATV's can be used, stay on the sand and off the brush or plants, and please follow all local rules and regulations. If you pack it in pack it out. And most of all have fun.

See you all at Slate Creek Campground

Doug True e-mail: dtruefossils@yahoo.com

Phone (406) 670-0506



**CFMS Historian
Natural History Museum
of Los Angeles County
By Shirley Leeson**

The CFMS houses our **Gold** and **Benotite** specimens in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. This event may be of interest to some of our Clubs/Societies, who may want to participate in this event.

The Gem and Mineral Council of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a gala event on Sunday, May 2nd, 2010. Billed as "An Evening to Remember", the event will include dinner and drinks, silent and live auctions, historical photo essays, special museum tours and time for past, current and, hopefully, future members to socialize in the beautiful setting of the museum and its world renowned Hall of Gems and Minerals. The exciting evening will culminate with a fascinating retrospective of the past 25 years in the world of gems and minerals by one of its most dynamic "players", the inimitable Bill Larson.

The public is invited, with a special invitation to past members. Tickets are \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members. RSVP required Jean Brandt (213) 763-3326 by April 24th.

FYI- The Gem & Mineral Council, a members' group at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, (www.nhm.org/gmc) offers its members opportunities to advance their knowledge and enjoyment of gems and minerals within the unique context of the museum, including a varied schedule of activities including exciting field trips, educational lectures, and exclusive social events. Through their membership and participation in fundraising activities, Council members actively support the museum's Mineral Sciences Department and the museum's Hall of Gems and Minerals

-Shirley



Insurance
**Bringing Down
Insurance Costs**



By Bud McMillin & Patt McDaniel

Our question for you this month is one asked of me several times a month around the dues and insurance paying time. "Why is our insurance so expensive and what can we do, as society members, to help make our insurance less expensive?"

Bud

Patt: Expensive is a relative term. Most clubs have found the program's insurance to be less expensive than what they could obtain elsewhere and the quality of coverage is amongst the best in the industry. I have shopped the insurance every chance I get and I have not yet found another company that is willing to provide a quote for a program to cover the kinds of activities that the Federation's clubs have. There are many factors in insurance pricing that we do not have control over but there are at least a couple of ways that we can avoid higher costs and perhaps even reduce them. Risk management awareness is one way to prevent claims and the resulting potential price increases. Another way, because a portion of your cost pays for services provided by McDaniel Insurance Services, is to help us be very efficient in our processes.

Risk management simply means being aware of safety and other factors that may contribute to injury to a visitor or damage to property of others. Whether it is a show or meeting or workshop, take a look around for hazards. Correct or avoid loose or uneven flooring, carpeting or pavement, wobbly steps, poorly lit areas, rough areas or projections that can scrape or snag, steps without railings. Keep hot coffee or food away from where young children might be. If you are going on a field trip, the trip leader should be very familiar with the area or do a pre-check trip before the time of the trip. Trails in natural areas can change dramatically with weather and you would not

want to lead a group of people into a hazardous situation. There are thousands of ways to be more aware of the safety of an area. The "loss ratio" (how companies evaluate claims activity) is fairly good for the Federation so keep up the good work.

Finally, McDaniel Insurance Services bases its fees on an estimate of how long it takes to perform the services needed by the Federation and its member clubs. We find that sometimes we get forms and questionnaires returned that are incomplete, illegible or difficult to understand. We really do need the information on the forms to do our job correctly, and in the case of the Directors and Officers applications, they must meet the requirements of the company. We find that it sometimes takes a considerable amount of time to email, fax and phone back and forth to obtain the complete information and then we need to be sure that everything is documented in writing and the various pieces of information are gathered together so that we can figure out what happened a year later when no one remembers. You will hear rounds of cheers in the office when we receive a Directors and Officers application that is completely and correctly done on the very first try! (It only happens once or twice a year.) Would we reduce our costs if we were able to do the work in a shorter amount of time? Yes we would!! We want a successful program for the Federation that no competitor can touch! (I actually think we already have that, but I would like to see the membership delighted with it as well.)

-Patt Wilson McDaniel



JUNIORS ACTIVITIES
**Juniors Activities Roundtable
Revisited**

By Jim Brace-Thompson

Do you want to start a juniors rockhound group in your club or society but are afraid you don't know enough to get one going? Do you have a juniors rockhound group and want to see how to make it better by gathering ideas for more kids'

activities and programs you might implement? Or perhaps you already have a successful juniors group that's going like gangbusters. Would you be willing to share your experiences to benefit fellow clubs within the Federation?

We asked all these questions and more in March at the annual show of the Mother Lode Mineral Society. Terry McMillin and the MLMS show committee invited me to come to their show to moderate a **Juniors Activities Roundtable Discussion**. I offer my sincere thanks to Terry and to MLMS for the invitation and for their gracious hospitality throughout their show. They went above and beyond, and it's appreciated! If you've never been to the MLMS show, make a point to visit next year. It's one of the best! Plus, I'm happy to report the roundtable discussion went great, with excellent participation among 15 good people working with kids via their local clubs. I trust that we all walked away with new ideas to try in our own clubs. I know I did!

I've been talking with members of the show committee for the upcoming AFMS/CFMS show in La Habra/Whittier about the possibility of holding a repeat performance of this roundtable at the show in June. Because most of the folks participating during the MLMS show were from northern California, repeating the roundtable in Whittier would allow for folks from SoCal to participate. If you or the juniors activities chair in your club might be interested in participating in this, please contact me as soon as possible (805-659-3577, jbraceth@roadrunner.com). Whether we can hold this depends on scheduling and facilities, which are still being worked out as of this date. If all does work out as we hope, I look forward to seeing you there, to sharing ideas, and to having fun!

- Jim



CFMS JURY OF AWARDS

Seeking Nominations for AFMS 2011 Scholarship Foundation Honoree

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom

To make a nomination, send in the name/s of your nominee/s along with a brief background explaining why you believe your nominee

deserves this award. Please consider service that has been long and reaches beyond the regional level. You may submit your nominations by contacting me by phone at (661-943-1861), mail (42122-52nd Street West, Quartz Hill, CA 93536), or e-mail (slchaisson@yahoo.com). Thank you in advance for your nominees!

- Susan

Membership

Silver Bullets – Field Trips

By Elizabeth “Beth” Myers

Field trips are one of the more popular functions of many Rock and Gem Societies and having an active field trip program goes a long way to attracting (and retaining) members. All too often, a Society's Field Trip Chairperson assumes the sole responsibility for developing and scheduling field trips without capitalizing on a very effective tool that can easily be incorporated into your society.

Consider scheduling a Field Trip Planning Meeting during January of each year and inviting everyone in your society to attend, particularly those who have led field trips in the past. By doing this in January, those rockhounds who need to schedule their annual vacations with their employers will have a 'heads-up' regarding their society's field trip schedule for that year.

- Elizabeth



Safety

Driving & Cruise Control

By Bural LaRue

Along with Spring and great weather come thoughts of hitting the road and exploring our great state. Your cruise control is a great tool to prevent driver fatigue, speeding and help with fuel economy during long trips on flat straight roads.

While using cruise control keep both feet flat on the driver's side and ready for braking or maneuvering in case you need to suddenly slow

or make an emergency stop. Don't curl your feet up underneath you or on the dash, window, and etc. while driving. Don't use cruise control on any road wet from rain, snow or ice. If you do step on the brakes to stop, slow or turn off the cruise control, the change in tire speed can also cause the wheels to slip, lose traction and skid out of control.

A word of caution might save you a traffic ticket. I set my cruise control one mile per hour under the legal speed limit and witnessed many tickets being issued to motorists who passed me. I had a friend who set his cruise control two miles over the speed limit. When stopped, the driver informed the officer that the cruise control was set two miles per hour over the speed limit and basically admitted to speeding. A citation was issued.

Bural



AFMS Scholarship
**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
NEEDED**
By Betty Pankey

Since the last Federation Show, I have received 8 donations. Somehow the word about the unrestricted funds has not sunk in very well.

The AFMS Scholarship program was revised at the Billings AFMS Scholarship meeting. Starting 2011, the scholarship will be for ONE year and \$4000. per student for each of the two students chosen by the AFMS Honoree from CFMS.

This year, there will be two students who will receive \$2000. for one year unless we collect enough UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS to cover for 2010 only the extra \$24,000. needed for each student to receive the additional \$2000. to make the total \$4000. per student for one year-2010.

Our CFMS is way behind in donations, compared to the several other regional federations, who have met their goals.

-Betty



CFMS SCHOLARSHIP

By Jennifer Haley

Congratulations to our Honoree this year Frank Monez. Frank chose a SJSU student, Bret Joseph Treece for the CFMS Scholarship. Brett has a bright career ahead of him with interests in marine geology, geodynamics and magmatic processes. Brett will be attending SJSU field camp this summer so we look forward to writing about his experience in future newsletters.

-Jennifer



**AFMS ENDOWMENT
RAFFLE TICKETS**

FOR SALE

\$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20

By Colleen McGann

**BUY TICKETS FOR YOUR CLUB AND BUY
FOR YOURSELF!**

Raffle drawing to be held at the AFMS/CFMS Show June 18-20. 2010. Some of the auction items are a 2" Eudialyte sphere, a faceted amethyst pendant and earring set, a pear cut amethyst ring, a 13 " high amethyst cathedral, and a chrysoprase wire wrapped pendant.

For tickets contact:

Colleen McGann

PO Box 224, Santa Clara, CA 95052-0224

(831)212-1951 or colleen.mcgann@hds.com.