



# A. F. M. S. Newsletter

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## From the Desk of the President

David Wayment  
AFMS President 2019-2020



Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

It is now the first of September. I am sure none of us thought we would still be affected by a virus after 6 months. Hopefully, your lives are slowly returning to normal. My local club just held its first meeting since March.

The AFMS Annual Meeting will be a virtual meeting this year. This is permitted by our By-Laws for a state of catastrophe, which I think most will agree that this year has been a catastrophe.

As this meeting will not be in conjunction with a show or regional meeting, we have changed the day of the AFMS meeting to SATURDAY, October 17th. The URC meeting will be held on Friday evening, October 16th. Hopefully, we will accommodate more people who will not need to take time off from work to participate in the meeting.

Registration for the meeting will be mandatory to receive a link to the Zoom meeting which will be accessible by either phone or computer. Registration will be done with our secretary Donna Moore. There will be a different sign-in code for each meeting, so you will need to indicate which meetings you want to attend. Donna will send out links to the meeting to those who have registered.

This is an opportunity to get more people from the regional level and local club level to see what the AFMS does. I encourage everyone to send out the information about the meeting to the regional officers and newsletters and any email blasts. With no travel expenses involved, let's try to get more involvement from the regional/local level.

The meeting packet will come from Central Office in an email able or downloadable form. NO PACKETS WILL BE MAILED.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows.

**URC meeting**, Friday October 16th at 7PM Eastern time.

**AFMS Directors and Board Meeting**, Saturday October 17th at 11AM Eastern time.

**AFMS Scholarship Foundation Meeting**, Saturday October 17th at 1 PM Eastern time, or after Directors and Board Meeting if it runs over.

**ALAA Meeting**, Saturday October 17th at 3PM Eastern time.

**AFMS Awards Presentations**, Saturday October 17th at 5:30 PM Eastern time.

The Awards Presentation will include 1) installation of AFMS Officers, 2) All American Awards, 3) Scholarship Honoree Recognition, 4) Lillian Turner Award, 5) Special Recognition Award, 6) Past President Award, 7) Editors, Webmaster and all BEAC awards usually given at the Editors breakfast.

Time Sensitive Material—Please do not delay

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Official Magazine of the AFMS

## Remember

Information for the November issue must be to the editor by October 5. Thank you.

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**Seven Regional**  
**Federations**  
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## Safety Matters: Sharing Safety

by Ellery Borow,  
AFMS Safety Chair



We rock hounds and rock hobbyists are a curious lot. We like quiet reflection as we study our collections, as we organize them, as we identify the minerals in them. We also like boisterously sharing our passions for rocks at gems shows, with talking excitedly of our latest finds, with generously exhibiting our artistry of gems and minerals.

There was one key word mentioned above--*sharing*. At every opportunity we share with exuberance. We share our rock passions, our collecting localities, our finds, our treasures, and our ideas. Ours is a sharing kind of hobby.

How does all that relate to safety one might ask. Well, to answer that we return to the one word - *sharing*. Do you have a safer way to use a slab saw? Do you have a safer way to clean minerals? Do you have a safer way to organize a silver smithing workbench? Perhaps you have a safer way to hold a rock chisel? When we have great ideas regarding safety--we share them. Actually, whenever we have great ideas about anything, we share them willingly, freely, gladly.

In this modern age we have a great many ways to share our safety ideas with fellow club members—to share ideas we might use:

Club newsletters and websites

Phone calls to members who might benefit

E-Mails

Texts

Real honest-to-goodness letters in the US Postal Service

U-Tube videos

And all manner of social media outlets.

We have a plethora of ways and means to do one of the things we do best--share our ideas. We use all those means and methods to our advantage. We have, after all, a sharing kind of hobby.

This message then is a short note to recognize and thank all those who share so very much and encourage people to keep on doing what we do best—sharing.

## Rockhound of the Year: There's Still Time

Judi Allison, AFMS ROY Chair



Here's hoping that all of you are faring this whole experience with little ill effect. Of course, one of the things that has most probably been affected in many areas is the lack of physical monthly club meetings. I know that the two clubs I belong to here have struggled with this. One club finally “bit the bullet” and established a Zoom account for monthly meetings. The other club has a much smaller membership. We have tried to stay in touch with email, the newsletter and such. We were even able to sneak in a meeting before we landed back at a baseline. I know each state has different guidelines for dealing with Covid-19, and here in Oregon the reins are being held by our Governor. Whatever your case may be, I am guessing it has not been business as usual.

That being said, I want to remind you of another way to help keep connected. Choose a member to receive the honor of **American Federation Rockhound of the Year**. Various clubs may have a specific method in place, but there is no set rule. As per guidelines, any member of your club can nominate someone. You may want to check for sure with your officers-or maybe you want to nominate one of your officers and have it be a surprise. Perhaps you could run it by another member. People sometimes have a misconception of what the honor is

(Continued, p. 3)





I think that every editor wonders if their bulletin or newsletter is actually read. When you ask a club member what they thought about that bulletin article about the new fossil found in the nearby area and get a blank or confused look it can be discouraging. While we can't prevent this in every case, here are some ideas for improving the odds of our bulletins being read!

1. Balance your newsletter content to be 90% educational and 10% promotional. The chances are your members don't want to hear about the club meetings and events 100% of the time. While they may love you and want to hear from you, there's only so much attention they can give to it. Put interesting articles in your bulletin that will keep their interest! With the abundance of information on the Internet, there is no limit on the resources we have!
2. Limit the "calls-to-action." All of our clubs have needs, shows, and projects, but try to limit the amount of space in the bulletin for these needs. Our members get it that there are needs, but they are reading for the enjoyment!
3. Make sure images have text. It great to have a photo of Gregory holding the perfect Ammonite he found on the field trip, but it is lost if the reader doesn't know what the photo is or has to guess. Put a small box or sub-text under the photo explaining who, what, where and when it is!
4. Set expectations. Many clubs are now using email to send their bulletins. This is an opportunity to set expectations for the reader! Instead of an email reading "Rock Peak Club Monthly Bulletin for October", try listing it as "Spectacular Fossil Found in Rock Creek!". That way you have a better chance that the member will download and read your bulletin sooner, rather than just before the meeting!

### 2021 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest

We are all excited to learn that the 2021 AFMS Convention will be April 21 in West Jordan, Utah! Editors will receive specific dates and rules for submitting 2020 bulletins, illustrations, poetry, and articles from your regional federation BEAC. The requirements for the 2021 AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest are unchanged from what is posted on the AFMS web site. However, in consideration of the unusual constraints imposed on clubs and editors by the COVID-19 virus, the rules restricting the winners from the past two years from entering their 2020 work in 2021 will be waived. This means that those editors whose 2018 and 2019 work won first place in 2019 and 2020 are not prevented from entering their 2020 work in the 2021 contest.

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In 1950, those attending the AFMS annual convention in Wisconsin had the opportunity to take an aerial field trip of the Wisconsin geology. Arrangements were made to charter two 21-passenger DC-3 planes. A tour director familiar with the geological aspects was on each two-hour flight, and each person on the trip was given a map of the terrain.

The cost of this flight per person was considerably less than the usual air travel rate at the time. The aerial field trip was only \$12.00 each to AFMS members. Those interested in taking the trip were able to sign up during the first day of the convention, or they could secure a seat on the planes by personally writing to the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies' Planning Committee to hold their reservation.

Highlighted in the bird's-eye-view aerial trip was the opportunity to compare the glaciated area of Wisconsin in relation to the small unglaciated terrain, the Devil's Lake region known as "a geologist's paradise," the Dells, the Drumlins, from the Green Bay Lobe and the Kettle Moraine country.

Wherever we go--out for a walk while looking along the ground for a new beautiful find, the society show and tell or program, or a road trip by any name and vehicle, the thrill never gets old for all of us involved in recreational rockhounding. Among the treasures that always last a lifetime even beyond our own, are the times cherished by those we've spent personal time with, inspiring them to fall in love with the lapidary arts and crafts, and falling in love with the rock and gem society participation we know as family.

**ROY**, continued

all about. The idea behind **Rockhound of the Year** is to honor some unsung hero who has contributed something special to your club THIS YEAR. It does not have to be someone who often is recognized for their contributions. In fact, in my opinion, it should be someone who steadily contributes without getting much recognition.

Perhaps there is someone in your club who has been instrumental in keeping things going during this time. Maybe it is the newsletter editor. Perhaps a member created a phone tree. Or maybe someone came up with a social distancing sub-group. I urge every club to take advantage of this simple endeavor. Please honor your deserving members.

Below are the names and emails of the Regional Rockhound of the Year Chairpersons. The process is simple. Choose a person (or couple) to honor. (Each club can also honor a Junior Member.) Write a paragraph about why they should be honored along with the name of your club. Lack of writing skills is no excuse, as we help you out and edit the piece if you need help with it. The write-up will appear in both your regional newsletter and the *American Federation Newsletter*. You will also receive a certificate of recognition to present to your honoree. As I said, simple. So, make a choice, write a paragraph and honor your unsung hero.

Regional Chairpersons are listed at the left. (You may also email me. My information is in this newsletter. Judi) [See also p. 5]



**Having Fun: Junior Activities**     **Jim Brace-**  
**Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair**  
**Keep Your Kids' Program Active and Alive:**  
**It Is Still Possible, Even in a Pandemic!**

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I've been hearing reports like the following from clubs within the seven regional federations: "It is a sad year for our societies." Yes, the coronavirus pandemic has dealt us all a terrible blow. But that doesn't need to make it a sad year. It is only sad if you let it be!

I've heard of local clubs and societies all across America making sweet lemonade out of the bitter juice of lemons. My own Ventura club has blossomed with *Zoom*—including *Zoom* membership meetings, *Zoom* board meetings, and pebble pup gatherings conducted via *Zoom*. We've had guest speakers give *PowerPoint* presentations and videos and have even conducted an online rock auction. In the pages of our newsletter, members have offered "What I Did During Lockdown" articles and photos on lapidary projects they've been doing, from knapping to cabbing to beading to wire wrapping and more. We can bemoan and despair. Or we can take initiative and craft a new way forward until this pandemic is defeated. Just don't let the pandemic defeat you—or your society!

Proactive clubs all across AFMS are keeping their pebble pup and juniors' programs going strong in several ways that I've heard about. The prime ingredient is social media. Clubs have been posting regular updates, links to fun websites, and interactive games for their kids to play via their society *Facebook* pages and club websites. They've been using *Zoom* to gather kids together once a month with time for greetings and show-and-tell before a fun program that often includes sharing an activity from instructions that had been emailed in advance (such as making a baking-soda-and-vinegar volcano or growing crystals from sugar, salt, or borax at home, then sharing the results). And they've been hosting things like weekly "Name That Specimen" contests where a photo and brief description of a rock, mineral or fossil is emailed to Pebble Pup families once a week, with winners then awarded prizes through the mail. (One family in my own club has been so appreciative of such efforts that they recently made a \$200 voluntary donation to the program!)

Finally, we have our own AFMS/FRA Badge Program with the Badge Manual posted freely on the Kids Corner of our AFMS website. Many clubs have been encouraging their youngest members to work with parents in a "home schooling" sort of way to continue earning badges. In fact, just today I was pleased to mail seven badges to one club with three kids who remain quite active with the Badge Program. Guide parents in your club to [www.amfed.org/fra/fra\\_badge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm).

What has worked for you and your club? I welcome ideas large and small! Please send your thoughts and success stories to me via snail-mail, e-mail, or phone: 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003, jbraceth at roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577. I welcome *your* ideas to keep our youngest members enthused, involved, and excited—while having fun!



### **AFMS Land Use Policy**

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.





This year, after polling all the Federation Representatives, it was decided to postpone the actual drawing to next year (2021). The reason was due to the fact that many shows were cancelled due to concerns of COVID19. Without the opportunity to ask for donations, whether through the sale of tickets or through receiving specimen donations, it was decided to hold aside the tickets from this year separately. Tickets sale were extremely low.

However, we will be holding a special raffle next year for the 2020 ticket holders (for every 100 tickets that have been sold in 2020 there will be a gift card value at \$100.00). It is not too late to still purchase for 2020 from your Federation’s representative! Nor, is it too late to provide a donation – you may have had more time to clean out your collection due to “quarantine” restrictions!

Your donation, can be either of an item with a minimum value of \$75.00 or a weight limit of five (5) pounds. I request if you are sending a donation of a specimen that you please notify me via email at ciervo.neary at gmail.com or via my cell phone 516.449.5341 and leave a message.

The reason the Endowment Fund was created is to provide the Federation with a means to provide monies generated by the interest in the fund to support special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, just to name a few.

The endowment fund as of the date of this report, have eight (8) beautiful specimens that were donated to the fund for the annual drawing. All specimens are posted on the website; along with the information of the donor, value and the donor’s federation. This is also a way to market your club or a business!

If you are a member of SCFMS and you are interested in being the representative for your organization, please let me know. Joyce Speed will be “retiring” her position this year for “real”. She has told me that for several years now but this time – well it is time!

Also, if you have any other ideas for raising more money for the endowment fund, please let me know – and hopefully it will come to fruition. In the past, we sold various Federation pins. I would like to perhaps put together an AFMS Federation rock kit – with a specimen from each federation that the federation’s club members may vote on. We could sell the kits at a very fair cost so that clubs would possibly be interested in purchasing them for their members- whether adults or pebble pups. Each kit sold would help support our Junior Activities – our Future Rockhounds of America! If you think this idea may work, please let me know. It is an idea that I have, and you may have better ones! I am open for your suggestions and look forward to hearing from you. As an incentive, if you have a suggestion and it approved by Endowment Fund representatives to be utilized to raise the funds, I will donate a Visa or Amex gift card with a value of \$25.00 – so present your idea(s). Thanks to all for your support throughout the years. Please continue to support the Fund. Buy tickets! Donate items! Present ideas!

Stay safe and healthy – and enjoy life!

Tickets for the drawing are \$5.00 per ticket or 5 for \$20.00. You may purchase your tickets from your Federation’s representative as follows:

Federation	Name	Address	Contact
California (CFMS)	Heidi Hall	9055 Trina Circle Stagecoach NV 89429	hdafler at yahoo.com
Eastern ((EFMLS)	Larry Huffman	PO Box 2444 Hickory, NC 28603	<a href="mailto:ldhuff314@embarqmail.com">ldhuff314 at embarqmail.com</a>
Midwest (MWF)	J.C. & Donna Moore	25235 N. State Route 97 Cuba, IL 61427	<a href="mailto:jcmoore3rd@gmail.com">jcmoore3rd at gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mwfsecretary@gmail.com">mwfsecretary at gmail.com</a>
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From p. 2

Rocky Mountain Federation Rockhound of the Year

The Flatirons Mineral Club (FMC) is located in Boulder, Colorado, nestled right up against the Fountain Formation (Pennsylvanian) which rises up nearly vertically just west of town to form the namesake “Flatirons”. By a vote of the club membership for 2020 Rockhound of the Year award, they have elected club president Brian Walko as the winner. Brian is a retired engineer, and currently maintains a mining and extractions consulting company, which keeps him very active in the Boulder County, CO mineral belt. Submitted by Gerry Naugle, FMC

From p. 6

When your wheel has worn down quite a bit, increase the RPM of the machine. In doing this you will compensate for wheel wear, thereby maintaining grinding efficiency. **The Tumble Rumble**

One excellent method used to sharpen saw blades is to mix cement--No Sand--and water in a milk carton. Let harden and cut three or four slices to clean and sharpen the blade. **The Diggers Digest**

When cutting petrified wood, cut across the grain for beauty. Sanding should always go with the grain to avoid tearing. If the grain is badly mixed, it is necessary to hand rub to polish. You can produce an excellent finish with dry crocus cloth and about an hour of hard rubbing before polishing. **Strata Gems**

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## **Trial by fire** *San Diego Mineral and Gem Society* *September/October Pegmatite*

MANY PEOPLE have managed to escape the claustrophobic confinement of the coronavirus lockdown and safely venture out to our Southern California mountains and deserts. What a welcome relief to enjoy their pristine beauty and the chance to be outdoors in wide open spaces. However, record-breaking heat and the worst air quality in 30+ years, thanks to fires raging up and down the state, may keep a lot of visitors and recreationalists away for some time to come. Over Labor Day weekend, a 20-year-old hiker died in Joshua Tree National Park as temperatures soared to 120 degrees. Dry lightning strikes have touched off fires everywhere since August. The desert has not been spared. In a particularly sad development, fire incinerated the Joshua Tree forest near Cima Dome, in the Mojave National Preserve.

The adaptation of native desert grasses makes them poor fuel for fire, but the proliferation of nonindigenous, invasive grasses and vegetation such as blackbrush exposes the fragile desert landscape to potentially catastrophic conflagrations, especially this year. For lovers of the de-



sert, it is soul-crushing.

## **Rockhound Soap Box** *AFMS - Conservation and Legislation Committee, John Martin Chair*



With more parts of the country starting the process to normalize, in this time of lock-downs, stay-at-home and cooling temperatures etc., you may have started attending or planning field trips to collect more specimens for your lapidary artwork. So here is another *Blast from the Past* on ideas for cutting your finds for 2020.

### **SHOP SUGGESTIONS**

Compiled by Bernice D. Schilling - 1975  
San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem Society  
**"SLAB and TRIM SAWS"**

For a lubricant in slab and trim saws, radiator antifreeze can be used as a cooling agent. It has no odor, and will not rust your saw or evaporate. In addition, it lubricates well and being very soluble in water, is easier to clean from the rocks and your hands.

### ***AFMS Newsletter***

When cleaning oil from your slab saw, put a shopping bag inside another one and put them into a five gallon can. Drain the oil into the sacks. After a day or two, the oil will filter through the bags and will be clean and ready to re-use. ***Chips and Facets***

Add a couple of tablespoons of liquid detergent to your cutting oil—if your saw has a plastic lid, this will be the first time you have been able to see through the top after cutting your slab.

### ***The Tumble Rumble***

After slabbing or trimming, all OIL should be removed from material by soaking in a strong solution of dish-washing detergent. Laundry detergents should never be used, since they all contain bleaches that will affect the color of many gemstones. Dishwashing detergents do not contain bleaches which can cause film and dullness, but rather they are made to break down oils, fats, and greases. ***Strata Gems***

When working with soft stones such as marble, onyx or howlite, soak it in water a day or two before cutting it in oil. The oil will not soak in and this will result in a much better finish when the polishing is done. ***Breccia***

Cutting for "sheen" on obsidian! Cut at an angle of about 50 degrees to degrees to the stripe of flow lines to insure a good sheen in the finished product. ***Rockhound's Rag***

Because JADE does not have the abrasive quality of some material, it DOES NOT WEAR AWAY THE METAL BOND ON DIAMOND SAW BLADES. Consequently the BLADES GLAZE when you cut jade, and it becomes necessary to clean and dress the saw blade by cutting through a building brick or a piece of discarded 200 grit wheel. ***Chip 'N Tumble***

There are three ways to cut palm root and each one will give a different effect. All palm root seems to have a ring of agate around the eye and a colored center. First, you can cut it right down the center. This gives the palm root a wood-grain effect that is striking but it does not show the eye. Second, you can cut squarely across the grain and bring out the round eyes. Lastly, you can cut it diagonally and get an elliptical eye effect. All will give patterns that make showy cabs. ***The Polished Slab***

Save wear and tear on your expensive diamond trim saw blade and cut your agate or jasper slab with a glass cutter. Use one with a carbide wheel, not tungsten and put a good handle on it so you can bear down hard. Use pliers to break the slab along the scored lines. ***The Agatizer***

Trim Sawing: Instead of pushing the slab into the blade and letting the oil spatter all over you — turn the whole unit around so that the saw blade rotates away from you. Then stand to the back side of it and pull the slab into the blade. You can see what you are doing better and your goggles do not get all oil-splattered.

### ***The Agatizer***

Continued p. 5

# AFMS Committees: 2019 – 20

*Here is the Committee Chairs list for 2019-20. You can contact these people if you need information, have questions or to share ideas with them. Please note that the @ sign in the email address has been replaced by the word “at” to foil bots that collect email addresses.*

---

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## Inter-Regional Field Trip

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## Nominating

Doug True (see Inter Regional Field Trip)

## Parliamentarian

Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

## Past President's Advisory

Doug True (See Inter Regional Field Trip)

## Photography

John Martin (see Conservation)

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## AFMS Scholarship Foundation

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Sandy Fuller, Vice President  
Margaret Kolaczyk. Secretary  
Barbara Ringhiser, Treasurer





Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is normally published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are usually sent to the President, Federation Director and Editor.

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Content: Letters, Editorial Comments, Submissions  
Any questions or other communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter should be sent to the Editor.  
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Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes provided credit is given this publication and the author. For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

From p. 5

In sawing geodes or agate-filled nodules, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in the upright position when the specimen was forming. Saw through this largest dome, and it is likely you will expose the best "picture" or surface. If the specimen is elongated or egg-shaped, saw length wise to obtain the best exposure. **Rocks and Gems**

Keep your diamond saw blade rotating in the same direction and occasionally to sharpen it, make a couple of cuts through a piece of obsidian. **AFMS Newsletter**

Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions

from Emerson Tucker

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeastern Federation
2020	June 25-28 Lodi, CA Cancelled	Tentatively Postponed to Oct. 23-25 Hickory, NC	Sept. 18 - 20 Howell, MI	April 10-12 Ogden, UT Cancelled	June 19-21 Big Piney, WY	October 10-11 Temple, TX Corrected Date	AFMS Oct. 16-18 Knoxville, TN Cancelled
2021	June Lodi, CA	July Syracuse, NY	Sept 10 - 12 Toledo, OH		AFMS April 21 - 25 So. Jordan, UT		
2022	Date TBA Lancaster, CA	Sept. Harrisburg, PA				AFMS January 29 - 30 Tyler, TX	
2023							