

June 2011

THUMBlickER

Newsletter of the Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society



CFMGS Officers, Committee Leaders and Instructors

President: Michelle Bogle

1st VP: John Piziak

2nd VP: Bob Cole

Webmaster: Linda Bycz

Treasurer: Wynn Taylor

Includes membership

Show Chairman: Byron Wertz

Field Trip/Activity Director: Paul
Bordenkirchen

Shop Director: Byron Wertz

Instructors

Cabochon: Michelle Bogle, Fred Tunderman,
Emilio Garcia, Hendric Allison, Byron Wertz

Faceting: Emilio Garcia, Fred Tunderman

Wire wrap: Linda Bycz, Byron Wertz

Silversmith: Tom Davis, John Piziak

Stained Glass: Emilio Garcia

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Publishing deadline is the first Saturday of each month. E-mail your information or send bulletin



items and exchange to the editor at the club address

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Winter Park, Florida 32792

The Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies.

The CFMGS was established in 1961 and now has 130 members and sponsors two (2) large Mineral and Gem shows each year.

Meeting called to order @ 7:30pm

Stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Directors' reports:

President – Michele Bogle

Thanks to everyone for coming. I'm happy to see some faces I haven't seen in awhile; and am very happy to see your return.

I'll start off by going over our discussions at the Board meeting. First, I went over Lifetime members. Our life time members should be a priority with us. Most of them have been in the dark about the goings on in their club. Over the past couple of years, we've had offices change fairly frequently. We went from using standard mail to emails. With this happening, there was some confusion with the responsibility as to who was sending our lifetime members their newsletters. So it seems. Most life timers don't use a computer; therefore they should still have been receiving a paper copy. They haven't been. Lifetime members are part of our life line, and without their dedication in the past, we may not have been a club today. We have come to an agreement that our Treasurer, Winn Taylor, will mail them out. Also, any important posts that get sent thru emails will be printed and sent to them. Bill Burrage, who is present tonight didn't know we were moving. If he had not made it to the meeting tonight, he may not have found out until he came to visit an empty building. So saying, we are to make them a priority on keeping them up to date.

Officer responsibilities. We are basically going back to our 2nd Vice President, Bob Cole announcing member and visitor attendance at meetings as part of his report. He will also continue to be in charge of door prize and 50/50 tickets.

The executive board will be going over our by laws and notating any changes they would

like to motion for change. Our by laws were changed with the past couple of Presidents. Some will revert back to original laws, some will be updated. We will be discussing these recommended changes over the next few board meetings and keep you posted.

We have two new officers. Paul Bordenkircher, who is a long time member and past Vice President, is back with us. He took an extended leave and has come back and agreed to be our new Fieldtrip coordinator. Paul is also a long time member of the Florida Fossil Hunters. He has been on numerous digs both instate and out. So saying, he knows where the gold is. This will be a great benefit to our club. Thank you Paul for coming back, and thank you for volunteering for this position; it is greatly appreciated.

As everyone knows, John Piziak stepped in, again, as Acting Show Chairman when Mark left. This was for our December show, and he stayed on through to our spring show. Most of knew this was to be temporary as John and his wife, Ann have some health issues. Ann just underwent knee replacement surgery and has physical therapy daily. the point; we have a volunteer to be our new Show Chairman. Motion was made and accepted tonight at the board meeting, and Byron Wertz was voted in for this position. Congratulations Byron, and many thanks for taking this on. As you know, Byron is our shop director, he keeps our equipment serviced, and fixes the stuff we break. He is also one of our wire wrap instructors. John will be aiding Byron with our Fall show. He will also need a dedicated committee. I know we have members that have been a part of the show committee for several years and will continue to show their support. Anyone else who would like to get involved with helping to make our shows the best they can be, please feel free to volunteer to be a part of this committee. Byron will need an assistant, or co- chair, someone who he will be working closely with to help him.

{at this point, during the meeting, we have three people volunteering, Byron will choose his co - chair at a later date.}

Most of you know, I started a clubs facebook page. Facebook is not only a free way to advertise our events; it also puts us in contact with other clubs using facebook. Also, it allows us to share photos of our lapidary creations and to socialize via the internet with other rockhounds. With facebook, I get a weekly report that tells me how many more visitors we had this week from last week. How many "likes" we got, and with each post, it lets us know how many impressions that post has, which is how many times that post was viewed; not just on our wall, but on our fans' wall as well. For example; Gordon posted photos of his filigree work, there were 123 impressions, this post was viewed by our fans, and any "friends" that he has on his page. When someone clicks the like button, or they make a comment, it also goes to their wall for all their friends to see. It also gives a feedback rating, which is how many people commented on your post versus people viewing it. So this is an on going chain reaction type process, therefore one wonderful way to get our club and our events out to the public. With this said, I would like to ask for a volunteer to consider opening a club account with twitter. I don't know anything about twitter, but I didn't know anything about facebook prior to making my page a couple months ago. So, if you love using your computer, please consider using some of that time either on twitter or a blog or any other of the chat type groups on the web. We need more internet activities, if you want to manage one of these web chat groups? (I don't know what they're called) please let me know via email which one you will be managing. You don't have to come to meetings to give a report. They can be given thru emails to me or our editor; we can give the report for you. I know a lot of members don't get involved with helping out because of work schedules and not want to attend monthly meetings. If you are one of these members, I want to let you know that you can still be involved in many ways with out having to come to meetings. There are a lot of things can be done via the internet or over the phone with committee leaders.

If any of our members' blog, maybe they would volunteer to start a club blog. I don't know anything at all about blogging. I did look up blogging and found numerous links on starting a blog. If anyone wants to blog for the club ☺, please feel free to do so. I know some blogs charge a minimal fee, we can set this up through our Treasurer, Winn Taylor.

Kay Benham shared some info about a woman who started a blog for her cooking. She now will be hosting her show on one of the networks. This goes to show that with some effort, and the use of the internet, we can really excel. Check out Pioneer Woman's blogs.

Gordon announced to all facebook users, if you have photos to share, you don't have to list them all individually, you can create a slide show with them instead of posting numerous photo posts. This way, it will not take up an entire page.

I was asked to explain the difference between our clubs facebook page, and our clubs chat group as some members don't want their picture on the internet. If you post photos on our clubs facebook page, the entire world can see them. If you post them on our chat group, only those members who are in that group can see them. No one can access this group unless they are in that group. What this group is, is a group I created on my personal page. I have a group for game neighbors. And a group for club members. This allows people in these groups to interact with all members in that group either as a group or we can do private chats. To be a part of this group, I have to add you to it as I created it. So for those of you, who have some concerns about your picture being on facebook, don't worry, only club members that are in this group can see them. If someone posted your picture on our clubs page, let me know and I will remove it. The clubs page is open access to all to add photos or links to other sites, I want to encourage all members to post photos of their work or any photos they have from field trips or shows. But I don't want to invade privacies either.

This is an error correction, at the meeting I announced the Renaissance Resort sent me an email, when in fact it was the Wyndham Resort.

I received an email from the Wyndham Resort inviting us to host our holiday parties in one of their convention halls. I realize we don't need to do this, but it gave me an idea of possibly hosting one of our shows there. I believe we would benefit greatly from hosting a show there. We would have the benefit of hotel guests coming in, and the location is excellent. On the corner of Sandlake road and International drive, just off the I-4 exit. Advertising in the Dr. Phillips area is also a plus. I am asking for a volunteer to check into what expenses we would be looking at. If it is not much more than what we are paying the fairgrounds, this is something we want to consider.

Linda Bycz and Tom Davis has volunteered to check into this. Much thanks to them both for volunteering their time to look into it.

At last months meeting, the report was given on our advertising costs for the different newspapers we used. The costs were very high versus the response we got from them. We had very few coupons returned to us from these papers. Our door count was the same as it was at our last spring show. So it doesn't appear to have benefited our club to incur this expense. I don't think we should stop using newspaper advertising altogether, but maybe try some different ones. We may get a higher turn out from other papers, we just have to continue trying until we find the right ones. Being at the fairgrounds, in west Orlando, we should consider advertising in the West Orange Times, as its main focus is residents on the west end. I believe it may even go into Windermere.

I need to address the post sent out regarding our former silversmith instructor. I received a post from her indicating that all but two students that were taking her classes here, are now taking private classes at her home. This is fine, I don't have a problem with that. She has a lot to teach and you can

benefit greatly by learning from her. What I am asking is that, since she and her husband are no longer members of this club, for club business not to be discussed at her home classes. There would be no reason to. We have been having some problems with gossip and I want to put an end to it, that was the reason for the post; so there can be no one saying "I heard this" or "he said that". You get my meaning I'm sure. We had some problems with another club just recently with gossip. First of all, I would like to remind everyone that this is your club. When you start a gossip that will affect this club, you are causing problems for your own club. If this malicious gossip continues, it will be addressed to the executive board and the person or persons involved will have their membership terminated. This club is here for all of our enjoyment. It is a place to come and socialize, to learn new skills and get involved with activities that can be fun and self rewarding. We strive to constantly improve not only our equipment or events, but as a social club. People come in on Saturdays just to hang out and socialize, not everyone takes a class. People don't come here to hear someone speak ill of another member or club. There is no reason for anyone to talk poorly about another club. I know for a fact that we have members that don't come to the club anymore for this reason. We have also lost members for this reason. This is our little retreat from the daily grind of life. So please, whoever is involved with speaking ill of other clubs or members to just stop, lets move forward and have some fun.

Poor mouthing other members to anyone who will listen is another problem. I have been a victim of it myself. Gordon, who was treasurer when no one else wanted the position, has been a victim of it since he became treasurer. He resigned at elections when Winn Taylor ran and became the clubs editor, secretary and webmaster. He has been a great help to me as president and I greatly appreciate him. He wrote his resignation and sent it to me due to the malicious poor mouthing directed at him. I did convince him to remain editor as he would only have to have

direct contact with the secretary. At this time, both Gordon and I share the secretarial responsibilities. I write the newsletter (why it's always late) and he sends out all posts from board members and instructors. He was constantly being put down and basically remarks were made about his inability to perform his duties in his positions. I can say this, again, he has been a great help to me, and anyone that thinks they can do a better job is welcome to run for his positions. That's what elections are for. If you are not willing to step into any one these positions, then you have no right to undermine him as he does the best to his ability. And that is all you should expect, for officers to perform to the best of their ability. We all work in different ways, if you don't agree with the way things are handled, then you may bring it to our attention at the meetings or take the positions yourself.

Gordon commented that when he was treasurer, he was accused of stealing money. At the end of his term, the auditor found no discrepancies. He's just had it. He will keep helping me out with secretarial duties until we get a volunteer for that position. He knows who the persons are that have been giving him these problems and feels they need to be addressed. The board was actually discussing how to address this just prior to our recent other problems. So this stands as warning to the persons involved in attacking Gordon to stop or it will be addressed.

I really dislike having to stand here and have this conversation with our members or publish this in our newsletter. I shouldn't have to. We are all adults and something like this shouldn't even be an issue. I understand when you get a large group of people together, there will be conflicts. But they should be handled in an adult manner. If you just plain don't like some one, then don't socialize with them. However, the proper thing would to at least be civil. So lets put all of this behind us and move forward to a better tomorrow.

As you know, I have been trying to put together a timeline of some of our history. Bill Burrage just let me know he remembers that a

long time ago, it was stated that we had too much paper work and some one volunteered to dispose of it. So I am sure there is a lot of missing history. I unfortunately don't have the time to put into this that I would like to have, therefore, it's coming along slowly. I am having to reorganize the files as it looks like they may have been dropped at some point and papers just shoved in where ever. There is 1970's stuff in the 1961 file on so on. I can tell you little of what I read as I was sorting through the mess.

Prior to our clubs first show, we used to go to Colonial Plaza, Altamonte Mall and other shopping centers and have a little club show. Our very first Dealer show was first discussed at the November 27th 1968 meeting. It was accepted at the January 22nd 1969 meeting for it to be a Fall show on the dates of November 1st & 2nd 1969 at the Fairgrounds. This was our very first show. The Show chairman was Larry Graham and the Dealer Chairman was Dave Miller. There was a limit on how many dealers there would be. We had 10 dealers and each dealer had a 'booth'. Booth size was a minimum of 2 tables with a maximum of 5 tables. Each booth was \$100.00. It didn't matter how many tables you had in your booth. Paul Bordenkirchner stated that in 1969, that was like spending a \$1,000.00 now. Dealer set up was from 2pm - 10pm on Friday October 31st and continued on Saturday morning. Show hours were on Saturday from 10am - 10pm and Sunday from 10am - 6pm. We had adequate guard and watchmen. You had to have your resale certificate showing, and at the end of the show, a State of Florida sales tax representative would come by and collect your taxes, so you had to keep meticulous records during the show and be ready to pay up immediately. That's just a little first show history.

Bill and Jan Burrage have been with us for a really long time. I haven't found the date of their membership, but I did find when they came to a meeting a guests on April 23rd 1969. They were from South Carolina.

Bill stated that he and Jan probably became a member directly after that meeting and worked on the 1969 show. I hope to keep adding to our history and eventually have everything in order and scrapbook it.

1st Vice President – John Piziak

As you all know, we will be moving into our new building over the next couple months. The people that we are leasing from are allowing us to go in and make whatever changes we need to make prior to our move. They have given us occupancy of the premises at no charge until July. In this, they are helping us with rental costs that could have been a major expense, paying double rents. This is giving us 2 ½ months at no charge to make whatever changes we need to make and plenty of time for the move before our lease is up here as our current landlord would not let us out of any of our contract. What John needs at this time is a carpenter, electrician, plumber and a couple handymen to come in and build stairs to the loft and cut out a doorway so we have inside access to each unit. We need a plumber to run plumbing to our kitchen as we will have a better kitchen with a double standard kitchen sink and counter. The electrical is minor little stuff; and the able bodied handymen for lifting and moving stuff and just helping out. John will be available Mon. – Sat., so if you want to help out, let him know.

The November show committee personal, we will need you to help the new Chairman as much as possible. When I was chairman, I took on too much of the responsibility myself. We need to do things differently in the future. As Michele told me, I should have used the committee more as that is what they were there for. So with this said, I want the committee members to be prepared to help out more. Byron has elected to take the chairmen's position and we have three volunteers for co chairman. We also need a show activity leader, who will be in charge of making sure things are set up and ready to go. This will include the sluice, silent auction area and kids corner, among other booths. We also need a food concession leader. Betty

Sumner and Anne Piziak have taken care of this in the past. Last year they had a friend help out who is not even a member. This year Anne will be unable to help out as she is having knee surgery. We also need someone in charge of set up; placing the tables in proper positions, putting on the covers and skirts and so forth. Paul Hayes is familiar with this as he has helped do this in the past.

Silent auction material; this is every ones responsibility, to donate items for auction. It does not have to be minerals and gems, it can be a new woman's bathing suit, I don't care, (much laughter) some one will bid on it. So please donate your unwanted items. John wanted to thank every one that has helped him as show chairman over the past seven years, he appreciates all of your hard work in helping him put together the shows in the past.

John mentioned a member Sandy Bennet that was going into the hospital for a double lung transplant. There was a benefit set up to help with her expenses. She passed away just after this meeting. The club is still donating money in her memory to the American Lung association. Any one that would like to donate on her behalf can contact any board member. We are saddened by her demise and pray for her family.

People have asked why we were looking for a new building, or why wasn't it discussed. It has been mentioned over the past several months. We are at a maximum rental rate that we can afford, with rent going up at the end of our lease. Actually we have been looking for the past couple of years along with looking to purchase our own building. It is our goal to own our land and building and we will continue to look. If you were unaware of this, it may be because it is not discussed at every meeting. To our newer members, if you know of a location for sale that would meet our requirements for our club, please contact John Piziak. It has been discussed in the past that we would like to have a small museum/rock shop as part of our club. So we would need space for this as well as our main workshop and meeting area.

John has been looking steady for the past eight months when he found this leasing organization. It is run by father & son; they showed John the current location we are going into. It is equivalent to what we have here, maybe a tad bigger in sq. ft. It's less cut up with space being more opened up. There are a couple of small individual rooms for office and kitchen. There is an entrance room that will have our displays in it. Our rent will be about \$250 less with what I think is a better location. I-4 is just around the corner. In August, our lease here would have increased by a minimum of 5%. This would have added an additional \$75 to our rent. So with this new location, we are actually saving almost \$300 a month. The new landlords understood we could not afford the double rents until the end of July, this is why they gave us the end of April, May and June rent free. They also understand that we want to buy our own building, they may be able to help us there. If they come across a property that will accommodate us, they will do a lease purchase with us, also letting us out of our current contract if this comes about. So this is may be a bigger benefit to us. For some of you, the drive may be a little longer, and others it will be closer. It is a good area and hopefully our monthly Rockfest will get more business.

2nd Vice President – Bob Cole

We have 23 members in attendance. No guests.

Bob got a phone call from Jerry Abercrombie that wanted to know if some one can drill a hole in a piece amethyst. He stated that he wants to join the club but has a medical condition at the moment.

If anyone wants to use the clubs drill press and drill a hole for Jerry, contact Bob Cole.

Bob Passed out door prize tickets and sold 50/50 tickets.

Treasurer – Winn Taylor

For the month of April, our income was a little down. Our expenses were pretty high. We had some show expense in there that will be

deducted from the norm as it will be deducted from the show's final profits. We had to put a deposit down on the new building and pay the first month rent in advance. If I exclude these two expenses, we still have a normal expense that exceeds our income. So we need to generate some income. Members need to come use the clubs facility more and take some classes. So with that said, we are looking for a better May. We have some new silversmith classes coming up, hopefully this will help. On file, we have 126 members, this includes life time members. Life time members list may not be accurate. We need to go back to when Debra Pisner was President and check that list as that is when we started the free membership for life timers.

Secretary – 'Acting' Michele Bogle & Gordon Oakley

As stated earlier, Gordon and I are sharing this responsibility. We need a secretary. I have had two people offer to take this position, Belinda Corbin said she would take it after we move if no one else volunteers. Angie Howard just recently volunteered to be acting until elections. Michele went on to explain that the position is not a bad position. You take notes, or use the recording pulse pen, put it all to paper and send it to the editor to be formatted and sent out. Occasionally, the President or an instructor may send you a post and ask you to send it out to the members. It also has to be mailed to the members that don't use emails, which our Treasurer does, she just has to be reminded to print and send them. If we have an emergency board meeting or the board addresses a member for some reason, the secretary is to record this. The editor has been handling posts and may continue to do so if the new secretary & editor agree to it.

Gordon motioned to have exec board & non elect board members receive the same payment as instructors. Instructors get free shop time hour for hour for volunteering to have a set schedule and teach classes. He feels the board should get the same. Motion was accepted by **????**

John Piziak opposed it. He says board members do not incur any expense that is not reimbursed by the club, but he knows that instructors incur expenses that do not get reimbursed. John stated that he is a board member and doesn't feel he needs free shop time for it. Winn Taylor, our Treasurer, also a board member says "free shop time doesn't pay the bills guys. That's the bottom line. There's rent, utilities and other bills that don't get paid by everyone getting free shoptime"

Steve Dubin states that he is neutral but Gordon has a point. Steve says that every meeting he comes to, we are always asking people for help in some area. We don't seem to be getting much participation, but if there is an incentive, we may get more help.

Michele states that she understands where Gordon is coming from, as a member who held several offices and put a lot of effort into these positions, he see instructors come in for a couple of hours for class and he thinks they may be using more shop time than they are earning. After we move, we can come up with a way to keep track of earned shop time. Winn came up with the earned time for show volunteers that is used like money, we may have to do this with instructors. But we have instructors that have taught for years, some of them never used the shop until recently, they would be losing out on a lot of time. I can tell you just from the little bit of our past I have read, and talking with a President from another club, volunteers has, and probably will always be an issue. Clubs like ours are made and run by volunteers. In a large group the will always be the minority that keeps it all together for the majority. We do it because we want our club to succeed as a club. If it every one expected some type of payment, then it isn't volunteering anymore.

Michele explained to Steve that the reason he hears us ask for volunteers is because it is the same people over and over that that get stuff done, we are trying to get more people involved. It's not all work, it is fun and it is all a part of belonging to a club.

This discussion went on for a really long time, I cannot put it all to paper or everyone will fall asleep reading it. Paul Bordenkirchner got a little fed up and called for a vote on the motion. The motion was tabled until a later date. It will be discussed again at next meeting. If you want to hear the arguments and vote on this action, be sure to come to the next meeting.

Show Chairman – Byron Wertz

Byron scheduled a committee meeting after classes on Saturday 5/21/11

At approx. 12:30pm.

The show is the second weekend in November.

Shop Director – Byron Wertz

Everything's working at the moment. If there is any major breakdowns, I will wait until after we move to make repairs.

We need some supplies, I will make a list.

Winn & Tom went shopping at FDJ to get some new silversmith supplies and to replace some of the recently missing items.

Michele announced that the clubs bracelet mandrel has recently come up missing. It was recently looked at and discussed that it needs to be polished, so we know it was here. If anyone knows anything about it and can make it anonymously re appear, no questions will be asked. We would just like to have it back.

Instructors –

Tom Davis, our silversmith instructor is having an orientation tomorrow, Wed. 18th at 6pm. Orientation is no charge so be sure to come in for it. Class will be the following Friday at 6pm May 20th. Tom will have his classes wed. & fri. evenings every other weekend unless he sends you prior notice. He will be begin with fusing metals. Tom will be doing step by step projects right along with you. He is very patient, if you need to ask him questions, feel free to do so. He promises not to get mad at you for asking the same question more than once. He also doesn't yell.

John asked him when can people who already know how to silversmith come and use the S.S. station. Tom replied that they can use it anytime except during classes as long as they clean up after themselves and put tools back where you got them. He spent a lot of time cleaning and organizing the area. It looks great. I haven't seen it that neat since we moved in here. He inventoried everything and made a list of supplies needed which were purchased by Winn & Tom.

It was brought up for Instructors to check for certification of members using that area.

Byron suggested making boxed tool kits that will be checked out, making that member responsible for those tools' return.

Linda Bycz stated that she doesn't think members use the website much, therefore they are not aware of scheduled classes. She liked it when Gordon sent out posts via the internet reminding all of upcoming classes. It was decided we would go back to doing this. Linda's next class is focused on bezels & bails.

Old Business – none

New Business – none

General Discussion

Steve Dubin asked how to find out how to contact board members. Gordon told him all board members and instructors' contact info is on our website. Jan Dubin brought up that members that receive the Thumblicker by standard mail will not have access to contact info. Gordon said he will mail them a contact sheet and be sure to mail an updated one as needed.

Michele mentioned that all contact info used to be on the front page of the Thumblicker and was taken off when we went to using the internet. She doesn't know why it was removed, and should be put back on the front page again. This will prevent any hardships to members wanting to contact a board member or instructor. She does know that info is on our website because she gets a lot of emails

from people asking all kinds of rock or gem related questions.

Door prizes won by:

Steve Dubin, Gordon Oakley, Linda Bycz, Keith Woodworth, Winn Taylor, Bob Cole, Paul Hayes, John Piziak, Anna Ekerd, Ray Miller and Judy Miller

50/50 won by:

Byron Wertz

Motion to adjourn for refreshments @ 9:30pm

No one brought anything to share for show and tell.

From the President

Be sure to come to the next meeting, we have a lot to discuss. I have Ideas for new positions (fun ones) and getting back involved with our Federations. Your opinion and votes count.

Also, I would like to let members know of the silversmith forum that is held on Saturday's at 12pm; it is free, and there is a lot of knowledge exchanged. Emilio Garcia, whom is good at everything he touches, shared his Filigree techniques with us. If you haven't seen his Filigree, let me tell you it is exquisite very delicate filigree! He showed us how to put the patterns together and solder the joins. Come in and join us! Also, we still have the Facetors' Forum on Saturday's for all you members that love to facet or want to learn faceting. This Forum is all free.

FEDERATION NEWS

The 2011 EFMLS/AFMS Convention and Show is approaching. It will be held in Syracuse, NY July 6 – 10. If you are planning on attending, be sure to make your hotel reservations now as Syracuse is a popular vacationing spot.

They will have 50 retailers and 11 wholesalers. Wholesale dates are the 9th & 10th of July. They are hoping for 70 – 80 exhibits. If you would like to participate in the exhibits, contact the eastern Federation Show Coordinator Matt Charskey. Matt will have a 12 foot length of cases from the Lillian Turner Estate. Lillian was the key person responsible for the first US Postal Mineral Stamps. Some minerals from her display will include some stunning Rutilated Quartz and replicas of some fabulous noted diamonds.

They have added an additional speaker to their roster, which will be beneficial to clubs. John Washburn will give a presentation on how to earn an additional \$2,000 - \$6,000 to clubs' show revenue with just a little extra work. This should be of great interest to all clubs that host annual shows. John will be speaking at the Ramada Inn on July 9th at 9:00am.

In addition, don't forget to attend the most important ALAA meeting scheduled for Wednesday July 6th at 7:00pm at the Ramada Inn. This meeting is in regards to our ability to Rockhound around the country.

Complete information about the Convention, including motels and registration forms may be obtained by visiting the AFMS website.

www.amfed.org/show2011.htm or the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse website www.gmss.us/gemshow.htm

Note

To facebook fans, you can go to our clubs page and click on the AFMS & EFMLS logos' to get to their sites.

From the Top!

by Betsy Oberheim, EFMLS President

You may have seen the message that has made the rounds on e-mail; it begins "They came for the communists, but I wasn't a communist so I said nothing,..." then it goes through different religions; "I wasn't Jewish so I said nothing". Then ends, chillingly; "they came for me and there was no one to say anything"!! Of course its an exaggeration, but it is beginning to hit home with some suggested legislation and local situations. "They may close some BLM land out west to collectors, but I never got out there so it doesn't matter. They may close AZ's Rockhound State Park, but its for tourists, there's other places to go, so it doesn't matter. They plan to close Arkansas's Diamond State Park, well, not many people really find good diamonds there, so it doesn't matter. Many good sites and quarries are being covered by developments and shopping centers. But we can't fight big developers, so what can I do?" Suddenly it hits home; we have no field trips because there is no place to go! Now it matters; but its too late!! If we turn a deaf ear to the warnings, we (and our children) will ultimately pay the price. Advocacy groups in America began when a few people cared about an injustice that affected a realm larger than their own. In a democracy the majority rules, but the minority still get to speak and perhaps influence that majority's decisions. The reasons for closing and restricting these places are vague. One I heard is to "preserve it for posterity"; aren't our children posterity?! If on a hike on public lands, your child or grandchild picks up a fossil (that, once weathered out of the ground and will disintegrate in time anyway) you could be severely fined. The future of rockhounding could be limited to "illegal activities". We can't say it doesn't matter if we are passionate about future generations of rockhounds. To get very concrete about this looming threat what can you, personally, do? First, join and support the American Land Access Association (ALAA)! There is strength in numbers and having concerned groups of knowledgeable people with you (and your club's) backing is a huge step. Second, you and your members can contact your elected officials and let them know how you feel (again; use the ALAA website, <www.amlands.org> for information). And third, spread the word to club members and friends; they may not be aware of the potential loss of our collecting grounds. Remember the 60's song; "they paved Paradise and put up a parking lot, they cut down the trees and put

them in a tree museum". I hope my grandchildren won't have to only go to a "rock museum" to see rocks and fossils, and never have the pleasure of discovering a treasure for themselves. Please help! Our EFMLS Convention is coming up next month. I hope that each of our clubs has at least one representative present at the Friday evening (July 8) annual meeting. In order to vote during the meeting, your club needs to register it's Director, Delegate and alternates no later than June 23rd. . Not registered? Come to the meeting anyway - we don't lock the doors - and find out what's going

The Award

by Ellery Borow, ACROY Chair

Many clubs present awards to their members for meritorious service to their club. Often those awards are presented at a club's annual meeting, award banquet, or other special occasion. While we at the Club Rockhound of the Year would enjoy being present at each and every such club gathering so that we might officially read the submission made on behalf of the honoree, the logistics and travel required would not be within our capacity. Instead of being present to read the name and accomplishments of your club's candidate, we go one better – we print the information about your club's honoree in an issue of EFMLS News so that all EFMLS member clubs may also learn about your club's hard workers and dedicated members. We know that each club has their own "stars" – dedicated members who should be recognized. Let's see those names up in lights! ... or at least on the printed page of the EFMLS News and also the AFMS Newsletter for national recognition. The rules are simple – each club may submit the name of one person (or couple) per year. Each club may also submit the name of one junior member each year. Along with the name of your honoree, submit a brief (75 words or less) write-up of their story in supporting your club. Any club member may make a submission for their club – the first received is the one that's counted for the year. Thanks, and hope to hear from your club soon.

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AFMS Annual Meeting - Thursday
AFMS-EFMLS Cracker Barrel Social - Thursday
EFMLS Annual Meeting – Friday evening
Huge show at the NY State Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday
EFMLS Auction - Saturday
Awards Banquet - Saturday Night
Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters – Sunday morning

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