

EFMLS NEWS

Information for Members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



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December 2023

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Contents

A Win-Win-Win with <i>Rock & Gem</i>	1
EOTO column:.....	3
Youth column:.....	3
Bulletin Editor's Competition	3
Safety with Sole	5
What is your Job?....	5
New Treasurer	6
Shows and Swaps ...	7
Wildacres	8
Access to Past Newsletters	9
EFMLS OFFICERS - 2023-2024	9
EFMLS Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2186, Lewiston, ME 04241	9
Regional Vice Presidents (RVP's)	10
EFMLS Committees and Chairpersons	10

A Win-Win-Win with *Rock & Gem*

Subscribe & Support both R&G & AFMS—& Get a Discount for Yourself!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS 4th VP & Public Relations Chair

Rock & Gem has long been recognized as the officially endorsed hobby magazine of AFMS and, by extension, the seven regional federations and their member clubs. The editor there, Pam Freeman, is offering a special deal to members of local gem and mineral societies affiliated with AFMS. It's a win-win-win deal in that *Rock & Gem* gets subscribers, we subscribers get a 61% discount, and AFMS gets a 15% commission on each subscription that will go into the Endowment Fund. This deal applies to both new and renewing subscriptions and has been approved and endorsed by the AFMS Executive Board, who designated me to serve as the liaison between AFMS and *Rock & Gem*.

Rock & Gem has produced a "Rock & Gem/AFMS Subscription" flyer/order form we hope to post to the websites of AFMS and the regional federations to ensure that a portion of your payment goes to AFMS. Those preferring to order online can use the QR code included on the flyer that can be scanned with your cell phone. By the way, the same deal applies to any subscriptions you might sell to members of the general public by having copies of the flyer/order form at, say, a take-one table at your annual club show. I can also send this form in pdf format as an attachment; email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com.

Here's to supporting our official hobby magazine as it, in turn, supports us as individuals and as a Federation!

Presidents Message December 2023

Hello Everyone. I trust everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We are all looking forward to the end of year holiday season and as President and on behalf of the Executive Board of the EFMLS, I wish you all safe and happy holiday season.



I don't believe I had a message last month due mainly to the FMPA Chapter Symposium crunch and of course my regular job work load. I'm in Radford VA doing a job at the Radford Army Ammo Plant this last week of November as of this writing, and have been to St Louis and Fort Gordon in Georgia in just the last month. No complaints, just happy to be busy.

A lot of good news to provide as many things have transpired since my last message. Here are some highlights:

- We voted to approve, unanimously I might add, to have the EFMLS pay for the Diamond Dan Mini-Miners publications for all of our clubs. The publications some of you already receive, and many may like to receive will now be available for download directly from our website with a password to be provided for designated club officers to access, and readable online as well, at no cost to our clubs! Look for additional information coming soon. If you have been paying you will no longer need to pay. Darryl Powell will likely contact existing customers directly to explain how it will work and to avoid interruption of service or any unnecessary payments or confusion. How about that?!
- The Annual Directory the Federation issues once every year is now a living document, downloadable by club officers with a password provided by the webmaster on request. It's Done! Its live and it's as up-to-date as the latest info we have from our member organizations. Gone are the days of licking envelopes and stamps, calling people up and manually preparing a document that was typical out of date the day it was issued. The new digital directory will now be accessible essentially on demand with credentials and can be downloaded and printed or viewed online. Contact the webmaster for access.
- The FMPA annual symposium and field trip was a success and brought together a whole new group of people. Our host, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Geology department provided excellent support and a stellar venue. At that venue, I am pleased to report that we had an opportunity to try out an Owl meeting camera and sound recording device, which worked so well that I will be getting a demo December 5th and probably purchasing a newer version of the device for upcoming meetings and conventions. I anticipate that the device will make it possible to operate fully autonomous hybrid and live streaming meetings in the future. No more paying for and relying on obsolete and/or incompatible sound and projection systems at convention venues, running hybrid meetings where the attendees are logged in remotely cannot see or when appropriate interact with the meeting hosts etc. stay tuned.
- As some of you may know, the Friends of Mineralogy National organization runs a symposium at and in conjunction with the annual Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (TGMS) at the convention center in Tucson every year. As some of you have heard me lament, and many of you running hybrid meetings know, you need two computers to run a hybrid meeting properly, one to share the screen for presenter's presentations, and one to monitor the attendees, assist with problems including making sure the screen is shared correctly, and assisting remote attendees with their issues. They have never had a volunteer to run a second computer and this year, the meeting was going to be in person only. Well, with this new Owl technology proof of performance at the PA Chapter symposium, I offered to run the live streaming meeting so this year's symposium could be opened up to anyone who would register and they accepted. Long Story short, register to attend remotely and I'll send you the link and you can see the finest and most noteworthy and influential experts in Pegmatites give their presentations at the TGMS/FM-National symposium Saturday, February 10, 2024. Stay tuned for specific instructions.
- The Executive Board, having completed edits to the electronic version of the Directory, will begin the daunting task of updating the operations manual starting in January. Our former Treasurer Barb Ringhiser will be leading the effort to update and streamline the traditional/existing operations manual to be more helpful for new officers and committee chairs alike, our new Social Media Director will draft the operations policies and procedures for the new executive board position of social media director and its associated committee members, our social media policies and procedures and the like, and will work with our outside webmaster, myself and others to develop the policies and procedures pertaining to electronic communications, the website, zoom and other electronic forms of communication. With the increasing reliance on technology, major modifications that have been made to the bylaws in recent years it is now time to bring the Operations Manual in compliance with those bylaws and our needs for safe and effective use of electronic communications, social media and the like. Our goal is to have this completed and approved before the end of my 2023-2024 term.

- The Executive Board has discussed, and we will soon implement, generic website emails for the officers on the executive board and certain others. Several officers have had their emails hacked over the last few years and they get changed without general notification to those who need to know. And, of course, every time we have a change, few get the 411 and there is always some confusion about which email is current. On top of that, keeping track of EFMLS business emails, and keeping them separate from other business is a nightmare, at least for me. So, look for generic emails to be published most likely in the January or February newsletters for all of our executive board offices. Added benefits include the outside website host/management team will have all our communications archived for future reference without each of us being tasked with datamining our own emails, and we will have the added security afforded by the antivirus software and vigilance of our outside website folks.

That's a lot to digest I know, and guess what? Dues renewal and insurance time is approaching. Forms will be up on the website available for download soon, but we will prefer you log into your club profile and fill out the information there as well as that will save you and us time, effort and the potential for human error and/or delays. If you are concerned about how to do it, contact webmaster@efmls.org. Especially if you are the club officer/treasurer primarily responsible for dues and insurance payments. We can help. Note we have a new Treasurer, Sylvia Eppig, and a new address to send checks for this coming 2024 renewal.

All for now. Remember you can always reach me at President@efmls.org for support or concerns that do not involve the website and you can reach me and Steve Hart of Madhouse Graphics, our outside website manager/design firm by emailing webmaster@efmls.org, and if you have interest in posting something to our Facebook pages (there are 2 now), you can reach Andrew at efmls.social@efmls.org.

Cheers and have a happy Holiday Season! See you next year!

Sincerely,
Bill Stephens, PG, President

EOTO column:

Betsy Oberheim

BIG DECISION! I am looking for someone! Someone very special! Someone who is perhaps a member of your club who loves to share our interest in rocks, minerals and lapidary. Someone who enjoys sharing their knowledge with people outside the club. And maybe someone who just likes to tell people about the fascination of rocks!! Each One Teach One began to have a way to thank those people. Yes, we do have a wonderful group who come



together because of our interest, but we also love it too much to keep it a secret! When someone asks me "What do you do at a ROCK club" Well they had better sit down for a spell while I explain! And I'm sure you feel the same! We need to share our experiences. Some do it by going into schools, scout meetings, church groups, summer camps, etc. These are the wonderful people we would like to honor.

But I can't do it without you. Please just send me a paragraph or two about why they should be honored. I would appreciate it, and so will they!!

Youth column:

Betsy Oberheim

We are getting older; I can't do all I used to. and it hurts. But what hurts more is that our clubs are slowing down. Less people are showing up to work, we need new blood but where can we find it? In our pups!! Does your club encourage the kids to come, give them rocks, and help with the show and other activities. We have several activities for kids at our show, and they are run by our pups, very well run by the kids! We present them with a rock and a small plaque thanking them for helping, but they do it because it's fun! And those kids come back and grow up in the club. And incidentally, their young parents are valuable additions to the club, too. Our club is growing and thriving. and I can sit back and smile, watching the young'uns take over the things I used to do. You can't make a plant grow if you stop nurturing it, and you need to nurture your club! Our youth are our ~. future.... encourage them !!

Bulletin Editor's Competition

By the time you read this, the forms for the annual BEAC competition should be available on the EFMLS Website - <https://efmls.org> The forms have been updated to follow the AFMS forms more closely but are specific to the EFMLS so you should use these forms, not the ones on www.amfed.org.

Since our webmaster hasn't had time to add all the various forms to the website, I don't know the specific web page.

Important Dates

Deadline for submittal to Lucy Jackson is **January 17, 2024**. Her new e-mail should be available on the website, along with her address and the forms.







You must submit 2 hard copies and one electronic version

Editor's note – I thought it was more important to remind everyone about the BEAC competition, rather than waiting until the January newsletter, sorry for the lack of details.

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golfing, basketball, and so many more activities have their own associated footwear. In other words, special footwear for special purposes. There is footwear for the stage, for walking on the moon with its dust and low gravity, footwear for wading in deep water and playing on a tennis court. There is no unique style of rock collecting shoe.

Think, if you will, of the rock, mineral, and fossil hobby specimen collecting activity. One might walk root encumbered trails, cross the occasional stream, navigate a talus slope, climb some rocks, traverse far reaching sand dunes, shuffle through snow covered ground, ford muddy areas, or walk steaming hot sand. Participating in our collecting activity requires being prepared for walking in a great many different conditions. The collector needs to be prepared for just about anything – with footwear to match those conditions.

While some mines and quarries have specific footwear requirements necessitating ANSI Code steel toed shoes, most collecting localities leave footwear decisions up the individual collector. In situations where the individual collectors choose their own footwear, there are a few recommended criteria for consideration such as:

- Use comfortable shoes
- Use shoes with suitable ankle support
- Select shoe soles with suitable traction
- Use shoes with the necessary arch support
- Make sure the footwear is durable
- Consider the conditions to be encountered when collecting:
 - Will there be steep slopes necessitating superior ankle support?
 - Will water-proof or water-repellent footwear be needed?
 - Will ground level collecting conditions be very hot, or cold?
 - Will the collecting site embankments be very loose or firm material?
 - Will rain be expected?



- Might a spare pair of boots be advisable to bring with one?

If a general, one-boot-for-all-conditions footwear is needed, a generic work boot may be suitable. Generally speaking, one should consider avoiding “flip-flops”, sandals, open toed shoes, and shoes with decorations (such as rhinestones) as the decorations are likely to be scuffed off the shoe. Shoes that do not protect the foot are inadvisable. Feet do us a great service, they deserve to be protected from harm.

Sometimes it can be difficult to find suitable footwear for small children. Their small feet can be injured rather easily. Specialty shoe stores sometimes carry durable boots for small children. When in doubt, small children should not be brought to sites where conditions can be problematic in assuring their safety.

The best advice is to use forethought and wisdom when selecting suitable footwear for collecting. Well protected feet, and boots with sole, can serve one for a lifetime of enjoyable collecting.

What is your Job?

Ellery Borow

What is your job in your club? Are you the official greeter of visitors and perspective members at your club meetings? Are you the program chairperson? Are you the club newsletter editor or social media director? Maybe you are the meeting refreshment committee chairperson, or club president perhaps? There are no unimportant jobs in a club. Every officer, committee chairperson, board of directors, member, and club member in general helps to make a club into a vibrant, active, engaging, learning, and public service organization.

What is your job in your club? Perhaps better questions may be – do you show up at meetings, volunteer at your club show, do you serve your club as best you can, do you enjoy serving your club and share that enjoyment with others, do you do your best to make your club be the best it can be, are you engaged with your club? Considering the active membership in most clubs, it is likely the answer is “yes” to all those questions.

It is likely that a great many members in your club deserved to be named as your clubs 2023 Club Rockhound of the Year. Many of the people in every club try to do the best they can, spend lots of time outside club meetings thinking of their “jobs” in the club, are active in promoting the club in public settings, and work in untold ways to make their club be the best it can be. Please consider participating in the American Federation program Club Rockhound of the Year to honor one of your outstanding members as your club’s 2023 Club Rockhound of the Year.

While time grows short for clubs to name their very own Club Rockhound of the Year (CROY) in 2023, if you act soon, it can be done.

It is easy to participate in the CROY program. Here is what you need to do to participate:

Select your CROY

Send to me (EFMLS CROY Chairperson) a brief (70 word or so) write-up of your CROYs accomplishments

Also send me your honorees name, the clubs name, and your name as the sender

There are a few rules:

One name per year, per club may be selected (or 2 names if a couple)

A junior's name may also be sent in (in addition to the adult honoree)

It is eazy-peazy to participate in the program. Once I have the above information, the club's honoree's name and write-up will be included in the AFMS and Eastern Federation's newsletters. In addition, a CROY certificate will be sent to the honoree.

Please contact me, Ellery Borow EFMLS Chair of the CROY program, if you have any questions. I may be reached at < rocknellery at fairpoint dot net >. We hope to hear from you soon to enter your club's 2023 CROY honoree. Thank you. Happy Holidays.

New Treasurer

Hello, Everyone,

Barbara Ringhiser has passed the Treasurer torch on to me for this next term. She deserves a huge round of applause for the work she did to straighten out the financial issues these last several years! The finances are clean and in good order and will be ready shortly to send to the CPA firm to file the IRS return.

PLEASE NOTE: We have a new EFMLS mailing address: **PO Box 2186, Lewiston, ME 04241.**

So far, I'd like to report that 92 clubs paid dues this past year with 8257 adults and 957 junior members! The EFMLS covered the liability insurance for 6974 adults and 806 junior members. In addition, \$841.00 was raised from the Convention auction and raffle to support the Eastern Foundation Fund for special projects.

Besides the insurance, conference, awards and some supplies expenses, we paid our annual dues to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies for 7228 members (the prior year's total members). This shows that we had a significant increase in club participation this year!

Another expense worth noting, as Bill Stephens mentions in his President's report, working with our external website manager and many volunteer hours, a significant effort has been made this year to make the Directory into an interactive electronic format. This will save mailing funds and hours of volunteer work in the long run! The dues and insurance renewals will also be available on the website in an interactive electronic format, again saving time and money! The external website manager has also continued making improvements to the website and handled our electronic communications.

A final financial report for the 2022-2023 year will be presented at the next annual convention.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments regarding the finances at (321) 749-4553 or sweppig@gmail.com (for now, then Treasurer@efmls.org starting in January).

Best Regards,

Sylvia Eppig, Treasurer

Shows and Swaps

If you would like to see your club show, swap or other public event listed here, please send your information to the editor by the tenth of the month preceding the event or earlier.

December 2-3 - The MIAMI MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY GUILD (MMLG) is holding a Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show on Saturday and Sunday Dec 2 & 3, 2023, at the Westchester Cultural Arts Center, 7930 SW 40 Street, Miami, FL 33155. Saturday show hours are 10 AM to 6 PM, and Sunday hours are from 10 AM to 5 PM. Admission is \$5 – children under 12 admitted free (with paid adult admission). There will be mineral and artisan jewelry exhibits and displays, as well as vendors showcasing mineral & fossil specimens, gemstones, fine jewelry, and artisan-crafted collectibles. Children's activities include jewelry-making sessions, surprise grab-bags, gem mining, geode splitting and scavenger hunts. For full information – go to our website: www.miamigemandmineral.com.

March 2-3, 2024 - Delaware Mineralogical Society -60th Annual Earth Science Gem and Mineral Show - Location -- DoubleTree by Hilton; 4727 Concord Pike (Rt-202); Wilmington, Delaware 19803. Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 11-5. Admission: Seniors (60+) \$5, Adults (18 - 59) \$6 (\$5 with coupon), Juniors (12 – 17) \$3, Scouts in Uniform & Children under 12 Free when accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets only sold at the door This Family Friendly show features educational exhibits of mineral, lapidary and fossil specimens; a roster of fine dealers of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry and lapidary supplies; and a children's area, where youngsters may purchase inexpensive mineral and fossil specimens. Info and Coupons at www.DMSrocks.org , www.facebook.com/DEMineralShow or Christine Verdi - 1DMS.President@gmail.com (Show Chair)

WILDACRES

MAY 13-19, 2024

Wildacres is located in a beautiful and peaceful setting on top of a mountain. Its location makes it the perfect place to unwind while learning a new, refreshing an old, or updating a skill. New participants are welcomed with open arms as well as those returning. Lifetime friendships and even marriages have been forged due to participation in Wildacres. You may arrive as a stranger, but you go home with new friends. While at Wildacres, you are exposed to the beauty of the setting, with new ideas, expert teachers and talks by a well-known speaker-in-resident.



WILDACRES – May13-19

Mark your calendar for the 2024 session at Wildacres May 13-19 for your first or another great experience on top of the mountain. Final plans are in the works and will be printed in the *EFMLS News* and updated on the website when finalized. In the meantime, you may want to plan ahead and reserve the dates on your calendar. To date, classes in Intarsia, Beading and Wire Working have been confirmed. Other class offerings are in the process of being finalized.

The Speaker-in-Residence will be Mike Colella who will be accompanied by his wife, Sue. Mike is a man of many talents and has been a professional photographer for decades and speaking on his photography and many hobbies:

- Sands of the World, discussing his collecting from around the world and will show some of the more exotic samples of his collection.
- Suiseki, the ancient art of viewing stones, its history, collecting, and how he takes stones from collection to final display. Slides and live examples will be presented.
- Wood Art, how he creates it.
- Being a Professional Photographer, from photographing gems and minerals to wines of Europe and travels to Alaska.

Access to Past Newsletters

We've added a protected folder that will keep email spam bots from crawling the newsletters. <https://efmls.org/newsletters/> entry requires only a simple password: blackopal

You can share this freely by email. It's not high security but will keep out spammers and bots.

Regards, Steve Hart, EFMLS Webmaster

Deadline for the November 2023 Issue of the EFMLS News is October 15, 2023.
Send to Dan Imel (lapidry@aol.com)

Dan Imel, Editor, EFMLS News

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⁽¹⁾ EFMLS Representative to American Federation (AFMS) committee.
25, 2023