

EFMLS NEWS

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



EFMLS CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Convention and Convention for EFMLS is rapidly approaching. It is being held in Bristol, Connecticut the weekend of October 20 – 22. This an opportunity to meet with people from gem and mineral clubs throughout the eastern U.S.; talk about the issues we are all seeing; what other clubs are doing and what we can do better. The host club is the Bristol Gem and Mineral Club, and the convention is being held in conjunction with their 45th annual show. The theme of the show is the mineral diversity from the state of Connecticut and Southern New England. The club has a large membership with an active volunteer base, and they jointly offer a successful lapidary center with their "sister club" in Meriden.

Bristol is in the central part of Connecticut, about an hour and a half drive to either New York City or Boston. The third weekend in October is typically the peak for fall foliage and the quaint "back country" roads offer delightful combinations of rock walls, old cemeteries, and white-steeple churches with colorful foliage backdrops. Collecting at some of the old quarries and visits to the local Connecticut Mining Museum or David Friend Mineral Hall at Yale are a short drive from Bristol. The host hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton, across from ESPN headquarters in Bristol. This is a newly-renovated hotel with a saltwater indoor heated pool, workout room and sauna, business center, and guest laundry. Registration for the convention will be at the hotel on Friday afternoon beginning at 1:00. Stop by to pick up your registration package and welcome bag.

The convention activities officially kick off on Friday afternoon with a Cracker Barrel discussion from 4:00 to 5:30PM. The Cracker Barrel is an informal discussion of issues that affect clubs and the EFMLS. The annual meeting will follow in the hotel beginning promptly at 7:00 PM. On Saturday there will be the usual auction at 2:30 PM held at the show site (Beals Senior/ Community Center), about 3.5 miles from the hotel. The Awards Banquet will be held at the Doubletree Hotel beginning with a cash bar at 6:00 PM and a buffet dinner at 7:00. The Editor's Breakfast will be held Sunday morning at the Doubletree at 8:00 AM, and there will be a field trip to western Connecticut to visit the newly renovated Connecticut Mining Museum. Jack Pawlowski, the museum founder and curator will be on hand to greet you.

Additional information and forms for registration can be found on the Bristol Gem and Mineral Club website (www.bristolgem.org) or through the link to EFMLS on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org).

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Deadline is the first of each month prior to publication date (i.e. Feb. 1 for March issue). No issue is normally published during July or August.

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Dave Korzendorfer, President



Taking Stock

Welcome back to the first Newsletter after what seems like a long summer hiatus. Hopefully everyone had a good summer with some good collecting / rock hounding experiences. Over the summer I've had a chance to reflect on the challenges facing our Federation, what we've done over the past year, and what we need to do for the future.

This President's Note is a compilation of my thoughts about the strengths of the organization and how we can improve. As a former club president, I viewed myself as an outsider of EFMLS before I became President and had a limited understanding of what the organization was about. I agreed to get involved to try and make EFMLS more relevant to clubs' needs.

Strengths of the organization - To me, the primary goal of the Federation is to help member clubs, and there are many resources at EFMLS to do that. I cannot say enough about all the volunteers who donate their time and efforts to make the organization run smoothly. Club insurance and the Wildacres workshops are probably the two most visible EFMLS "products" to your club. Other resources include, but are not limited to, the program library, the BEAC (Bulletin Editors' Advisory Committee), newsletter, and junior activities. There is a bounty of experience and knowledge with the officers, directors, committee chairs and Regional VPs that club officers can call on for help.

How we can improve - There are several hurdles we need to overcome to offer more value to member clubs. Our clubs range in size from very large to very small and the needs each club has is different, but it seems to me that most clubs don't utilize the resources that the Federation provides. Part of the issue is club's awareness of what EFMLS offers and how to best use our resources. Are we offering what clubs need and if so, is our message being received in the way we need it to be received? One of the other hurdles is the EFMLS volunteer base. Many of our volunteers have been involved for a long time, and burn out is becoming an issue. When that happens, we don't do as good a job as we intend. We need to find ways to broaden our volunteer base to bring in more people who want to see the organization succeed.

I have been the president of EFMLS since November and will turn over the reins to the incoming president at the annual meeting in October. So far, I feel like we've made some small steps, but not much meaningful progress. It is important for clubs to provide some input back to EFMLS so we know how to move forward. Please consider contacting us to let us know what is important to you as a club and what resources you use or would like to have. Also consider coming to the Annual Meeting and Cracker Barrel discussion at the EFMLS Convention in Bristol, Connecticut on October 20. If you can't join us, contact your Regional Vice President (who is hopefully coming) and ask him or her to pass along your comments. Or you can email me directly at dkorzend27@comcast.net If you are interested in being more involved in the discussions about how to improve, please also let me know.

Thanks! Dave

IMPORTANT CONVENTION NOTE

from Dave Korzendorfer

Due to some technical difficulties in reading basic contracts, it has come to our attention that we did not reserve a large enough block of rooms at the convention hotel for the Friday night. If you would like to stay at the Convention hotel (Doubletree in Bristol), there are still plenty of rooms available for Saturday night, but at this point Friday night is full.

We have arranged for another block of rooms at the Homewood Suites which is 2.8 miles down the road from the Doubletree in Southington. If you make a reservation at Homewood Suites for either Friday or Saturday or both, please ask for the EFMLS rate of \$139. (This price includes a hot breakfast!). We may have additional rooms open at the Doubletree on Friday night and if you prefer to be there, make a note on your reservation form that you would like to switch.

All Convention events will be at Doubletree as originally planned. The number for the Homewood Suites is (860) 276-3366. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

NOT ANOTHER "DUE DATE"!

by Betsy Oberheim

It seems there is always something due.; Dr. appointments, library books, forms, etc. The calendar is covered with red comments so you don't forget that important date.

But I need to add one more; the nominations for your candidate for Each One Teach One. are due on September 12!



Remember the person who had impressed you with the way they brought in new members because they gave a talk to the Senior Citizens, or did a flintknapping demonstration to the boy scouts, or set up a showcase in the library? They are the reason our clubs are flourishing, and they deserve recognition!

What better way then to present them with a beautiful plaque thanking them for spreading the word about our wonderful hobby. Quick, now, send in your recommendation to me before the deadline of Sept 12, and they will thank you!!

THE EASTERN FOUNDATION FUND

by Professor Michael Kessler

The Eastern Foundation Fund would like to recognize the generous donation by the **Island Rock Hounds** this May in the memory of the passing of Marty Besso. A letter was sent to his wife expressing our sadness. Marty was a member of three clubs and helped with club matters often. He passed along knowledge about our hobby for which we are so grateful. I knew Marty as a partner on field trips, and because he set up tables at many Mineral Shows on Long Island and New Jersey. He will be missed.

The Eastern Foundation Fund is a fine way to acknowledge those who have passed. Members who have passed will also be mentioned at the convention meeting in October in Bristol, Connecticut.

The Eastern Foundation Fund would also like to recognize the generous donation by the **Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club** this May.

We are accepting donations at any time. Those who send us donations will be mentioned at the convention as well. Make your checks out to The Eastern Foundation Fund, and mail it to Michael Kessler, 4 Longfellow Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. We wish you wonderful collecting and great mineral shows.

2017 SLATE OF CANDIDATES

by Larry Heath, Nominating Committee Chair

Elections for EFMLS officers to serve the Federation during the 2016-2017 year will be held during the annual business meeting in Bristol, CT on Friday, October 20. The slate of candidates is as follows:

President - **Barbara Ringhiser**. A member and past president of the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Barbara has also served as Region VIII Vice President, as EFMLS 2nd Vice President and is our current 1st Vice President.

1st Vice President - **David Nock**. Our current 2nd Vice President has been active in several Connecticut clubs and is employed as a Research Associate in the School of Medicine at Yale University.

2nd Vice President - **Ellery Borow**. A familiar face in EFMLS activities, having served as President in 2008, Ellery is both our current Safety and Club Rockhound of the Year chair and lives in Maine. Besides field collecting, Ellery enjoys writing, photography, and woodworking.

Treasurer - **Gary Bergtholdt**. Gary is a member of the Gem & Mineral Club of the Virginia Peninsula and is the current treasurer of his club.

Assistant Treasurer - Due to the resignation of current Asst. Treasurer Andy Celmer, the post of Assistant Treasurer must be filled for the one year remaining in Andy's term. We have two candidates: **Walter Priest** and **Ed Pitts**.

Both Walter and Ed are members of the Gem & Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula and have been active in the club for several years. Walter is the current president.

Nominating Committee: Two candidates for the nominating committee will be announced next month.

As always, additional nominations may be made from the floor during the annual meeting. If making such a nomination, please be certain that the candidate you nominate has previously agreed to serve if elected.

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION NEWS

by Steve Weinberger

Does your club contribute to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation? Do you personally contribute? If your answer to either or both of these questions is "yes", I thank you on behalf of the Scholarship Foundation. If your answer is "no", please take a moment or two to reconsider your decision. Donating to the foundation is a worthy cause and your contributions are tax deductible.

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation currently awards twelve \$4,000 scholarships to students working towards their Masters or Ph.D degrees here in the U.S. Each of our participating regional Federations gets to select an "honorary" scholarship recipient -- a college professor, prominent member of the rockhounding community, etc. who in turn selects two worthy graduate students to receive the monetary award. Neither the AFMS nor the EFMLS is directly involved in making the student selection.

Monies given come from the interest earned in the accumulated assets of the Foundation. We know interest rates are low, so every \$1 you contribute to the fund helps earn interest to offset that low earnings rate. Each time your club is credited with giving \$1 per member, your contribution level rises 100%.

I'd like to thank the following for their generous contributions in the past few months.

Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club
in memory of Bob Jewett and Monty Reese
current contribution level - 1,300%

Nittany Mineralogical Society
in memory of Joann Snell, Charlotte Smith,
Mike Sincak, John Passaneau, and Jeanne Dague
current contribution level - 800%

Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club
current contribution level - 4,800%

Southeastern New Hampshire Mineral Club
current contribution level - 15,800%

My contact info for sending in your donations is on the next to last page of this issue. Checks should be made payable to "AFMS Scholarship Foundation."

EDITORS CORNER

by Mary Bateman, BEAC Chair

I hope everyone has had a safe, healthy, relaxing summer. It's now time to focus on your newsletter and the next few months before submission for the 2017 bulletin contest.



Important Notice Change of Submission Date

The AFMS convention is very early next year. The deadline for submissions for the national bulletin contest is February 1. This presents a problem getting submissions for the EFMLS contest early enough to allow you to submit your best entries and give the judges enough time to fairly judge the entries. It also makes it more difficult to find good judges who are willing to judge a category in a short amount of time.

To conform with the AFMS time frame, we are asking that all entries for 2017 bulletins, articles, etc., be submitted by November 20. This still gives you time to submit your best entries for this year. If this is confusing and/or you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Bateman at mbateman1@verizon.net or [973-993-3192](tel:973-993-3192). More information as to the EFMLS contest (who is eligible, guidelines, etc.) will be forthcoming. In the meantime, the forms on the EFMLS internet site are correct with no changes.

The Decade Club

It's that time of year, again, to update the Decade Club roster. If you are not already on the list and have served your club as editor for ten (10) or more years, please let Mary know by OCTOBER 1, 2017 (see contact information in above paragraph). New members to the Decade Club will be acknowledged at the Editors' and Webmasters Breakfast at the annual meeting,

Editors and Webmasters Breakfast

The Editors and Webmasters Breakfast will be held at 8:00 AM on Sunday, October 22nd. If you would like to attend, but do not wish to have the breakfast, that's okay. Just come about 8:30. The awards portion of the breakfast will be over by 10:00 (or sooner) and will include the awards for the web contest.

The BEAC hopes you will attend. Through the generosity of lots of people and businesses, we have a plethora of door prizes all hobby and editorial related. They range in value from \$1 to \$50. Depending upon how many attend the breakfast, we may even be able to give out two door prizes per person.

Many of you were disappointed last year that you didn't win the wooden tool chest. Well guess what?!? We have another one this year that again will be given out at a special drawing at the end of the program. The value of the chest is over \$300.

Sign up and join us for a good time, comradery, ideas and best of all, receiving your rewards for your entries. Your club will be excited when you present the awards at your next meeting and, who knows, you may get a few new entries from it.

Have a safe trip and see you in October at the convention in Connecticut.

TIME'S RUNNING SHORT

from Ellery Borow

Have you submitted the name and a brief write up about your 2017 Club Rockhound of the Year? If your answer is "No", then my next question becomes "Why Not?"

Every EFMLS club should be bragging to all our other clubs about that one special person who does special things for your club. Please take a few minutes, write down the name of the member you wish to recognize plus a brief (100 words or less) paragraph telling why your member is just so special and send it to me no later than December of this year.

Each club may submit the name of an individual (or couple) each year.

Take those few minutes, make your selection and send your write up to me You'll have the info about your person printed in an upcoming EFMLS and AFMS Newsletter so you can "brag" to the world about your good fortune.

SAFETY MATTERS – WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair



What do you know?

The brain has a remarkable ability to forget things. I've often thought that such an ability to be very useful for quite a number of reasons. One of those reasons is to clear out the clutter that accumulates and in doing so makes room for new stuff.

So, what do you know?

What new information are you stuffing into the places where information has been forgotten? Are you filling the new-found storage in your head with good and useful information?

May I offer the following quote - "Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right", by Laurens VanDerPost. Over the years I have heard many variations of those words such as, "It's not what one knows, but what one doesn't know - that's the problem." and "It's not what one knows, it's what one knows that isn't so." Please permit me to mention some examples of rockhound safety information that may be less often known:

Oxalic acid - There is a common understanding that oxalic acid is relatively safe. Here are some facts -- compared to many acids oxalic is relatively weak. An acid's strength is measured by how readily hydrogen is given up in water - it's Ka value. Oxalic acid has a Ka of 0.0054 (primary) and 0.0000523 (tertiary), so when compared with hydrochloric acid's Ka of 1.0 or nitric's Ka of 27.79 oxalic is comparatively weak. One large issue that is often omitted in the rockhound community is that there is no correlation between an acid's strength and its toxicity. So while the rockhound community understands that oxalic acid may be relatively weak, what is not well known is that, gram for gram, oxalic acid is highly toxic. Its toxic potential can be inhaled or readily absorbed through the skin. Very strict safety measures must be followed to address oxalic's toxicity.

Grindstone safety. I can't tell you how many times I have seen lapidary workers standing or sitting in front of rapidly rotating grind stones while doing their work.

Each time I see such a body position chills run up

and down my spine. One should not sit or stand directly in front of a grindstone while one is starting the machine or shutting it down. Nor is it wise to position oneself in front of it while it is running. The reason is that grindstones have the potential to break apart.

Admittedly, the risk is small but never-the-less it exists. Equipment guards do mitigate some of the risk potential but, according to machine instructions, not all the risk. I have personally seen the evidence of a self-destructed grindstone and been in the shop when one was self-destructing.

Needless to say, a great deal of damage can be done by such an event. So, I highly recommend not standing in the path of anything that can injure oneself. Diamond and belted wheels are considerably less problematic.

Eye protective goggles are great - but there is more to the story. Have you ever noticed that when one is digging for minerals, hammering on big boulders, or doing some extensive lapidary work that a good measure of dust accumulates on the inside of one's goggles? I have noticed that effect quite often. Most goggles are ventilated to prevent fogging and that venting, in addition to some mysterious force, permits accumulation of dust on the inside surfaces of the goggles. Here's the thing - we have protected our eyes with the goggles and those goggles have provided notice that there is a large amount of dust present which is most likely not being addressed by the wearing of a dust mask. In these, less than obvious instances, dust protection is advisable.

So now you know. When one is filling their head with new information please make sure safety issues are considered. Let's put the new found memory space to its highest and best use.

Please be safe out there!

THE CONNECTICUT MUSEUM OF MINING AND MINERAL SCIENCE IS OPENING A NEW WING

by Jack Pawloski, Curator

Connecticut's importance to the development of industry in the United States can be traced back to its abundant natural resources. Even before the discovery of iron in Pennsylvania, Connecticut was one of the main producers of this strategically critical metal. The Litchfield Hills are dotted with the ghosts of our early iron industry. The Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science highlights the glorious history and minerals associated with this illustrious past.

One of the activities planned in conjunction with the October 20-22nd EFMLS Convention is the opportunity to visit the Museum of Mining located in Kent, CT. Located about an hour from Bristol, the mining museum is one of twelve buildings of the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association Museum campus. It has become a favorite destination for collectors, schools, and the general public.

The primary focus of the museum is on the geology, mineralogy, and mining history of the state. This museum has the largest display of Connecticut minerals in the state. Because of the public's demand for "more", another wing will soon open: The Hall of Connecticut Geology.

A preview of the exciting new exhibits, which describe the geological evolution of Connecticut, will be open for EFMLS members and their guests.

The museum is located at 31 Kent-Cornwall Rd (Route 7), Kent, CT. For more info, visit their website <ctamachinery.com> or call 860-927-0050. The museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 am until 4 pm.



AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Ellery Borow

The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County Maryland recognizes **Doug Baum** as our 2017 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Doug initially became involved with the club to support his son's interest in our youth program. He soon volunteered to be our membership chairperson. He subsequently assumed responsibility for our show publicity and expanded outlets that reached many newcomers and managed the Student Learning program. Additionally, he generated interest in the club by setting up and maintaining our Facebook page. Doug is a stalwart volunteer; cheerfully helping out in a variety of ways; his calm steadiness and good humor are especially appreciated. This is a much deserved honor.



submitted by GL&MSMC, Board of Directors

Morris Museum Mineralogical Society (MMMS), Morristown New Jersey, is delighted to honor **John Sanfaçon** as MMMS AFMS 2017 Club Rockhound of the Year. John is the backbone of ongoing MMMS activities, always expressing great attitude and dedication as he faithfully represents the Society in many capacities. John currently serves as the MMM as Treasurer, Program Chairman, and Delegate to the New Jersey Earth Science Association. He also coordinates the annual fall MMM Rock and Mineral weekend, manages the annual Mineral Sale, and volunteers at the Morris Museum with acquisition, identification and labeling.



submitted by Kathy Francis, President



Eastern Federation

of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.

Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.



67th Annual EFMLS Board of Directors' Meeting
Bristol, Connecticut
October 20, 2017

Please print all information requested clearly.

NAME OF SOCIETY: _____

DIRECTOR: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

(The president of each society is a Director of EFMLS. Please list the president's name only if the president plans to attend this meeting.)

DIRECTOR'S

ALTERNATE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

(To represent the society if the president cannot attend the meeting)

DELEGATE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

(Elected by society members)

ALTERNATE

DELEGATE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

(To represent society if Delegate cannot attend meeting)

SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF SOCIETY OFFICER

From the EFMLS Constitution

(Article V, Sec. 3)

It shall be the responsibility of each Member Society to notify the Secretary in writing of the names of its Director, Delegate and alternate who expect to attend the Annual Meeting fifteen (15) days prior to the convening date.

Please **RETURN** by **October 5, 2017** to:

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EFMLS NEWS

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VISIT A SHOW

from Carolyn Weinberger

If you are an EFMLS member club and would like to have your show or swap listed here, send information to Carolyn Weinberger, EFMLS Show Coordinator at PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 or e-mail at <cscrystals2 at gmail.>

September:

16-17: Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Central PA Rock & Mineral Club. Zembo Shrine, Third & Division Sts; Harrisburg, PA. Contact: Betsy Oberheim aoberheim3@comcast.net

16-17: 49th Annual Gem & Mineral Show & Sale sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Valley Gem & Mineral Society. Gold's Gym and Family Sports Center, 258 Titusville Rd; Poughkeepsie, NY. Info: Carolyn Reynard sunstone33@verizon.net

22-23: 53rd Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard Co. Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Info: gemcuttersguild.com

October:

6 – 8: Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society. Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S Fern Creek Ave; Orlando, FL 32806. Info: bettys@cfl.rr.com

7: Macungie, PA - 2017 Autumn Mineralfest Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association. Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. www.mineralfest.com

13-15: Annual Desautels Micromount Symposium hosted by the Baltimore Mineral Society. Info and Registration baltimoremineralsociety.org

21-22: 45th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 67th Eastern Federation Convention. Beals Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave., Bristol, Connecticut. Info: amfed.org/efmls
EFMLS Annual Meeting: Friday, October 20.

21-22: 44th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale sponsored by the Kanawha Rock & Gem Club. So. Charleston Community Center, 601 Jefferson Rd; So. Charleston, WV.

November:

11-12: Fall New York City Gem & Mineral Show hosted by the New York Mineralogical Club. Watson Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn at 57th St), 440 West 57th St; New York, NY. Contact: Tony Nikischer: www.excaliburmineral.com

18-19: 51st Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead & Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. So. Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd; West Palm Beach FL. Info: Walt Triche, 561-628-1031 or wtriche@gmail.com

18-19: 26th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. NEW LOCATION: George Mason University Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, Braddock Rd & Rte 123; Fairfax, VA. Contact: www.novamineralclub.org

18 – 19: 42nd Annual Jewelry, Gem, Fossil & Mineral Show sponsored by the Worcester Mineral Club. Worcester Mass. National Guard Armory, 701 Lincoln St; Worcester, Mass. Info: Dave at <thestonemanswife@gmail.com>

25-26: Rock and Mineral Weekend sponsored by the Morris Museum Mineralogical Society. Morris Museum, 6 Normany Heights Rd; Morristown, NJ. Info: kfrancis@morrismuseum.org