

SPECIAL EDITION

EFMLS NEWS

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



Volume 67, Number 9
July 17, 2020

BREAKING NEWS & UPDATES

August **Wildacres** has been officially cancelled – see page 3

AFMS Annual Meeting October has been cancelled – see page 3

EFMLS CONVENTION

As of this writing, the convention October 22-26, 2020 sponsored by the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club is still scheduled to happen. See page 3 for more details. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Larry Huffman (Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club Liaison).

Registration – Even though your club may have registered for the Spring meeting, your club needs to officially re-register your delegate and alternate for the October meeting. See page 4 for instructions and deadlines from EFMLS Secretary Beverly Eisenacher.

REGIONS II, IV, VI AND VIII REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

Regional Vice President elections in the even number regions will be taking place soon. For more details, see page 4 from Ellery Borow, EFMLS First Vice President.

FROM THE EDITOR

Hope that all of you are safe and well; getting a lot done during the confinement, social distancing, etc., from the virus; and able to stay cool during this heat wave.

This special edition of the *EFMLS News* is being published to keep you up-to-date on what is happening in the Federation. The information in this Special Edition was not available at press time for the June 1 issue. Please see page 2 for the index of other items in this issue.

Mary Bateman, EFMLS News Editor

Communications and Involvement are our keys to our success.

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The EFMLS internet site can be found at www.EFMLS.org.

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AUGUST WILDACRES CANCELLED

Due to an increase in the number of cases of the virus, the August session of Wildacres is officially cancelled. It was not a decision we wanted to make, but one we felt had to be made given the circumstances. We hope that all of you that planned to attend in 2020 will attend in 2021 and those of you who did not plan on attending that you will consider doing so in 2021. As soon as plans for 2020 are finalized, they will be published in the *EFMLS News* and updated on the EFMLS.org website.

Steve Weinberger, Chairman of the Wildacres Committee

AFMS/SMFS OCTOBER 16-18 CONVENTION CANCELLED

This week, Teresa Polly of the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society (KGMS) sent the following notice to the officers of the AMFS:

“It is with great sadness to announce that the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society’s board has decided to cancel our October show due to the COVID 19 outbreak. JTV has also closed down the facility to outside visitors. Due to these circumstances KGMS will have to withdraw from hosting the AFMS and SFMS meeting and Uniform Rules judges training.”

Our AMFS President, David Wayment, called me this past week, to officially announce the cancellation of the annual convention which was to be held October 16-18, 2020. At one point Jacksonville in Florida was considering hosting the event, as a back-up, as well as a joint event with the EFMLS planned convention, the week of October 23-25 in Hickory, NC – a club which holds membership in both the EFMLS and SFMS. However, after discussing the situation with the Board, it has been decided that a virtual meeting of some type will be replacing the actual Board meeting. Committee chairs that have awards for the members of the seven federations will also participate in the announcement of winners via the same mechanism that will be utilized for the Annual Meeting.

Next year the AFMS Convention will be held in South Jordan, Utah, April 21-25, 2021. South Jordan is a city located approximately 20 miles south of Salt Lake City in the Salt Lake Valley. It is conveniently located off I-15 if traveling North–South or vice-a-versa and approx. 15 -20 miles from I-80, if traveling east to west or vice- a – versa. South Jordan is also conveniently located near the bank of the Jordan River, a river that flows 51 miles northwards through the Salt Lake Valley and empties into the Great Salt Lake.

Back to 2020 – once we have more information, Mary Bateman, editor of the *EFMLS News* will disseminate the information to the members of the EFMLS either in the September edition or as an e-mail post.

Cheryl Neary, AFMS Main Office

EFMLS CONVENTION

UPDATE FROM CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Hi, ya’ll!...from the Foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Spring has sprung and the birds and bees are all out. Like most of you, we are still in limited opening of business in Catawba County. The

Show Chairman and I have been in touch with the Hickory Metro Convention Center and the Hampton Inn Motel. All our March contracts for the site, motel rooms and food have been switched to October 22-26. We will be monitoring the Covid-19 state guidelines as the time approaches in October and will decide in early October as to the status of our show. As of right now, 20 of our 24 regular dealers will be displaying their fine inventory.

As I said, we will be monitoring what happens very closely between now and early October and will keep you informed of any Covid-19 information that relates to our area.

You will receive your convention information on registration and delegate forms on the EFMLS website and in the newsletter. Expect to see them published in the early fall.

As all of us await the return to the “new” normal of life after Covid-19, rest assured the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club will do everything in its power to make sure your stay in Hickory will be safe and fun.

Until next time, stay safe!

Larry Huffman, CVAGMC Liaison

UPDATE FROM EFMLS SECRETARY

I sincerely hope all of you are staying healthy and safe. As you know, because of the Covid-19, the 2020 convention and annual meeting scheduled in Hickory, NC, at the end of March has been rescheduled for October 23-25. As we have seen over the last four months, a great deal can occur in four months’ time. While we indeed need to and will make alternate plans if the worse-case scenario occurs, we also need to be prepared for the optimistic view that the convention can and will take place.

Unfortunately, you will need to re-register as delegates to the annual meeting. Some of those registered for March may not be able to attend in October and others who could not make the March date may be able to attend in October. The registration deadline is October 8, 2020. I know that this is an inconvenience. Registration forms may be sent by USPS or scanned and e-mailed. Please remember they must be signed by a club officer.

At the moment, I prefer to take the optimistic view that we will be able to meet in Hickory. Hope to see you there!

Beverly Eisenacher, EFMLS Secretary

EVEN REGION VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

According to the requirements and timetables in EFMLS Bylaws and Operating Procedures, we will soon be contacting member clubs seeking nominations for Regional Vice President positions. As this is 2020, an even numbered year, nominations are being sought for the even numbered regions - II, IV, VI and VIII. As a reminder, Region II includes New York (Metro, Long Island, Dutchess, Rockland and Westchester counties) and New Jersey. Region IV includes Delaware, Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia. Region VI includes North Carolina and South Carolina. Region VIII includes Florida.

Club presidents in those regions will soon receive letters requesting nominations for EFMLS Regional Vice President. This nomination and election process is a great opportunity to select candidates who will have an immediate and strong connection to the working of the EFMLS and help it serve member clubs. We look forward to your input and participation in this opportunity. Please stay safe and well.

Ellery Borow, EFMLS First Vice President

THANK YOU

While this particular message is not urgent, it is timely. On June 14th there was an internet Zoom discussion arranged by the EFMLS and addressed to EFMLS club presidents. Participation in the discussion was great and involved clubs coming forward to mention the Covid-19 issues being faced by their organizations, what impacts were being felt, and how avenues and opportunities were being found to work around or accommodate club needs. The EFMLS applauds your effort to maintain the integrity, connectivity, ingenuity and opportunity to find new ways to support your club and your willingness to share those stories of how to adapt and cope with the challenges during this pandemic. Thank you for staying rockhound strong as you support your clubs and communities. Please keep on sharing the great ideas and inspirations as we continue the activity and goals of our clubs. Please stay safe and well.

Ellery Borow, EFMLS First Vice President

EFMLS REVISED OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL

The EFMLS Executive Board has voted to accept the revisions to the Operating Procedures Manual proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee to review the Operating Procedures Manual and endorsed by the EFMLS Operating Procedures Committee. The Executive Board accepted the revisions by 9 to 7 non-votes. The Manual is now in the processes of being reformatted and will be sent to the Board of Directors when that is completed.

I want to thank my committee – Ellery Borow, Gary Bergtholdt, Mary Bateman, Cheryl Neary and David Korzendorfer – for their extreme devotion to completing what turned out to be a two-year task.

Barbara Ringhiser, Operating Procedures Ad Hoc Committee Chair

PEBBLE PUP CONTEST

Years ago Richard and Cheryl (of "the Rockhound Connection" on Facebook) came up with a wonderful idea to promote awareness of the hobby of rocks. They created the "Pebble pup contest"!! Every third Saturday (with few exceptions; Christmas, etc.) the contest appears with a wonderful assortment of crazy rock pictures and challenges for kids age 3 to 16. Some pictures are slabs of agates, picture rocks, strange formations, etc. Several of the administrators are very clever with photo shopping and create some amazing critters out of rocks. There are several administrators (I was flattered to be asked to be one) and each posts 2 or more times. They have comments and questions such as what is this guy thinking, where is this scene, name this rock group, etc. We get answers from all ages and they are delightful, some are so clever, others make you laugh and smile. We choose a winner for each contest and send out prizes--of course, rocks!! People contribute money for postage, which is getting quite expensive. Often the parents post pictures of the kids with their prize and the delight on their faces make it all worth while. Any kid can answer,

and we read their comments and respond to them. Many parents and grandparents have told us the pups cannot sleep the night before from excitement, and we are on the computer all day, with many hundreds of comments. The kids also send us pictures of their rockhounding experiences. We all know how important it is to encourage our next generation to share our interest in rocks and minerals and fossils, and what a fun way to do it! So, please remember the third Saturday and spread the word...PUPs rule!!! Pebblepups, of course.

Betsy Oberheim, Junior Activities Chair

NOTE: If you would like more information about the Pebblepups Contest, please contact Betsy at aoberheim3@comcast.net.

AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund was created 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, and the digitizing of slide programs, just to name a few.

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 ldhuff314@embarqmail.com or via my cell phone 828-612-4469 and please leave a message.

Over the years we have had over twenty plus specimens. Many of the specimens were from the EFMLS! Hats off to Carolyn Weinberger who not only was able to get the donations, she also sold the most amount of tickets – year after year! When I agreed to take on this position, I knew I had a high standard to live up to – and I hope that our members can help me meet that standard. In the past Carolyn was able to sell tickets and gather donations at Wildacres. With this current state of the pandemic, both sessions of Wildacres were cancelled and I lost my opportunity to sell and/or gather! I hope you will send your contributions/donations so EFMLS can continue Carolyn's legacy of donations and selling the most tickets. Please help me do that.

I have several suggestions:

1. Would your club consider purchasing \$100.00 worth of tickets – there is a great chance that your club could win one of the great specimens – with a minimum value of \$75.00. You could use it for a door prize or for an internal raffle or auction. In the past quite a few clubs in the EFMLS have been winners and in turn had one of their members a winner!
2. Especially in this time of quarantine or home-stays – ask your members – if they decide to clean out their collection, there may be something that they may consider to donate.
3. Ask your members if they are interested in donating to the Fund by purchasing tickets.

Each person, business or club that donates, especially early in the year (– like now!) will get free marketing since each donation has the donor's name and federation posted on the AFMS website. People appreciate the beautiful items that have been donated over the years – mineral specimens, jewelry, spheres, figurines, sculptures and equipment.

If you would like to help the fund and do not have an item to donate – then you can always buy tickets from me! Tickets for the drawing are **\$5.00 per ticket or 5 for \$20.00.**

The Southeast Federation hosted joint AFMS convention for October has been cancelled. The date for the Endowment Fund drawing will be announced in the near future. Will keep you informed of the date/decision concerning the drawing through the AFMS website and via the *EFMLS News*.

You can check out the donations to date on the AFMS website – www.amfed.org. Once on the home page scroll down to the 2020 AFMS Endowment Fund. At the time of the writing of this article there were six items posted. I have been informed by the AFMS Chairperson there are eight items to date – a beautiful ammonite and a gorgeous amethyst cathedral. Help me with my goals!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Larry Huffman, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

WHAT IS IT?

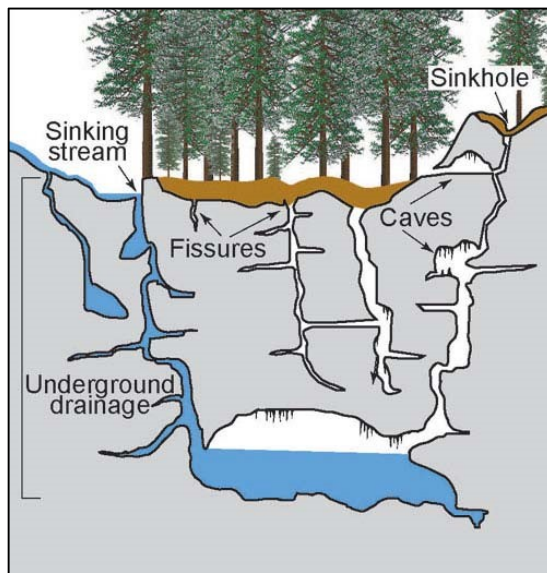
Karst

Recently, I came across the name **karst** while reading about the geology of an area in the U.S. and wondered what the term meant. Upon investigating, I found that karst is a type of topography characterized by sink-holes, caves and caverns, dry valleys, and underground drainage. The term "**karst**" is derived from a Slavic word that means *barren, stony ground*. It is also the name of a region in modern Slovenia near the border with Italy that is well known for its sinkholes and springs. The name **karst** has been adopted by geologists as the term for all such terrain.

The development of karst occurs whenever acidic water starts to break down the surface of bedrock near its cracks, or bedding planes. As the bedrock (typically limestone or dolomite) continues to degrade, its cracks tend to get bigger. As time goes on, these fractures will become wider, and eventually a drainage system of some sort may start to form underneath. If this underground drainage system does form, it will speed up the development of karst formations because more water will be able to flow through the area, giving it more erosive power.

Karst regions usually occur in areas of moderate to abundant rainfall and contain aquifers that are capable of providing large supplies of water. More than 25 percent of the world's population either lives on or obtains its water from karst aquifers. Subterranean drainage may limit surface water, with few to no rivers or lakes. However, there are regions where the dissolved bedrock is covered (perhaps by debris) or confined by one or more superimposed non-soluble rock strata so that distinctive karst features may occur only at subsurface levels and cannot be totally seen above ground.

Fundamentally, there are two major classes of karst: 1) those that develop downward by the dissolution of soluble rocks (such as limestone, dolomite and gypsum) beneath the soil mantle, without physically affecting the surrounding rock and 2) those produced by the collapse of rock over an underground space.¹ **Sinkholes** are the most common topographic forms of karst terrain. Sinkholes are depressions varying in depth from slight indentations to 30 m or more in size. **Karst plains** are flat areas showing karst features that develop in regions of nearly horizontal limestone strata.



Features of a karst system.²

A few prominent karst areas include the following:³

- The Nullarbor Plain in Australia is the world's largest limestone karst.
- Slovenia has the world's highest risk of sinkholes.
- The Western Highland Rim in eastern United States has the second highest risk of karst sinkholes.
- Mexico has a couple of important karstic regions in the Yucatán peninsula and Chiapas.
- The karstic cave system of Tham Luang Nang Non in northern Thailand was made famous by the 2018 rescue of a junior soccer team.
- The South China karsts in the provinces of Guizhou, Guangxi and Yunnan are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

A list of worldwide karst areas is found at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_karst_areas#Japan

After preparing this article, I now have a better understanding of what karst is, and hope that you too have learned a little bit about karst. More detailed information on dissolution chemistry and hydrology involved in karst formation is available on the internet.

References:

1. Dorothy Farris Lapidus 1987. **The Facts on File Dictionary of Geology & Geophysics**, New York, NY and Oxford, England.
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karst>
3. <https://web.archive.org/web/20060516002856/http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/caves/karst.php>
Article by Brendan Dunn, July 2020 Rockhound Register, Page 7

Morris Museum Mineral Society

Our thanks to Brendan for bringing this little known geological term to our attention.



Our thoughts, prayers and condolences continue to be with the grieving loved ones and friends of those who have lost the battle with their lives to the coronavirus.

VISIT A SHOW OR SWAP

If you would like to see your club show, swap or other public event listed here, please send your information to the editor by August 10 for September and/or October events or the first of the month preceding the event. For example, if your event is March 2, you may want to submit it on January 1 so that it appears in two issues of EFMLS News (February and March). In any event, the minimum amount of time needed is the first of the month preceding the event, i.e., if event is January 2, to have it listed, your information should be in by December 1 to be listed in the January issue. Send to EFMLSNews.editor@gmail.com.

July 25-26 – **CANCELLED** Burlington Gem and Mineral Club, 41st Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. Dealers, exhibits, lectures, demonstrations, children’s activities, silent auction, door prizes, refreshments, free parking. Saturday and Sunday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, \$4 Adults (16-59), seniors (60+) \$3, children under 16 free with paying adult. Handicapped accessible. INFO: Andy Simmons at bgmcut@yahoo.com or <http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html>.

NEW HISTORIAN CHAIR

Congratulations to Alan Holmes on his appointment by President David Nock as the EFMLS Historian. Alan is also serving as the Supplies Chair. His contact information appears under “Historian” on the EFMLS Committees and Chairpersons list on the next page.

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(1) EFMLS Representative to American Federation (AFMS) committee.