

EFMLS NEWS

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Volume 68, Number 2
December 2020

KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Given the huge increase lately in the number of COVID-19 cases (and, it doesn't seem to be going to let up anytime soon), we ask that you obey the CDC guidelines to help keep the spread of the virus down. The CDC recommends at a minimum:

- (1) Wear a face mask
- (2) Keep social distancing six (6) feet apart
- (3) Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently
- (4) Depending upon your state's requirements, keep gatherings at a minimum
- (5) Avoid contact with those with the virus
- (6) Get tested for the COVID virus
- (7) If exposed to the virus, be sure to stay quarantined for the recommended time
- (8) When available, get vaccinated, especially if you are in a high-risk category

The last thing any of us want is to be responsible for passing the virus on to someone and that person ends up in the hospital on a ventilator or worse. Let's all do our part and not only try to keep ourselves safe, but all we come in contact with. A safe and healthy holiday season to all.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- January 10** Bulletin Editors Contest entries due (see page 6 for more details)
Webmaster Contest entries due to Alison Pacut. Contact Alison at pacutgarnet@gmail.com.
- April 21-25** AFMS Annual Convention in South Jordan, Utah. Check with amfed.org for more details.
- July 9-11** Mark your calendars for the 2021 EFMLS Annual Meeting Syracuse, New York. Sponsored by the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, New York. As the date draws nearer, more information will be forthcoming.

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Communications and involvement are our keys to success.

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2019-2020

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The EFMLS website can be found at www.EFMLS.org.

Deadline is the first of each month prior to publication date (i.e., March 1 for April issue). No issue is normally published during July nor August. Non-commercial reprint permission is granted unless otherwise reserved.
EFMLS News is the official newsletter of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.

EFMLS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

ROCK CLUBS - MY FAVORITE THINGS

Rock club = drive to the meeting, take a seat, listen to the business meeting, munch a smack, watch a program, go home. Really? REALLY???

Reality check -

Rock Clubs Are the Most Amazing Things

Rock Clubs Are My Most Favorite Things

Here is a small portion of what really happened: a search committee took months to find the best meeting spot, elections chose the best officers and they coordinated the best committees, a dedicated program committee scoured innumerable sources and speaker lists to select the best program, an executive board tended to routine business ahead of time to keep the business meeting short, the best cooks in the club made their signature refreshment goodies and additional caring members managed the necessary niceties, a bulletin editor used weeks of time to prepare the most informative newsletter imaginable, the webmaster kept the website up and posted the latest and greatest information including copies of the newsletter, the lapidary shop manager worked tirelessly to keep the shop running at peak interest and learning levels, just as the safety and field trip coordinator was tirelessly on the phone calling to secure permission (and many other details) for the next grand field trip and the show committee, and, and, and -- Phew! And that is not even the half of it.

Go to a meeting, watch a program, and go home. Just do that and one is missing most of the fun! Clubs are so very much more - the dedicated effort behind the scenes is positively enormous and totally dedicated to ones having a great rock club experience. One of the things they cannot do is guarantee that on the next field trip you will find an incredible treasure, but they will do their best.

But wait, there is one more reason to be amazed. Rock Clubs are trying to do all they do in the times of COVID-19. What incredible and resourceful people to be able to do what they need to do and be what they need to be. It is an amazing can-do effort -- can do and can be safe in the doing.

Oh, did I mentioned the other half of it. Here it is - people. People helping people. People making the best bulletin for others to enjoy. People working to keep business meetings short. People arranging digs so others can find treasures. People making meeting goodies (rockhounds seem to run best with some goodies in their tummies). People greeting people at the meeting room door. People taking pleasure in helping others. People caring. People being people.

That is why Rock Clubs are my favorite things. The real fun begins when one participates, shares in the joy of working with others, and when one shares some joy. Think of this the next time one goes to a meeting - it's about rocks -- and people. Please consider being thankful for both.

CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR (ACROY)

The Danbury (CT) Mineralogical Society would like to nominate our current club president, Peg Hedrick, as their Rockhound of the Year. Peg and her partner Dan Garrity were not members for very long before stepping up to take the reins of our venerable but not-very-active society. Peg has led us with cheerful and unflappable style through notable "conflicts of personality" among members, losses and deaths, annual shows with unexpected excitement, sudden venue changes, and other dramatic situations which we have seen create fuss and bickering in the past. Like many smaller clubs, we struggle with participation and program, and it would be easy to get discouraged, but Peg always has faith in us and keeps us positive. She is truly a Luminous Gem!



(Photo courtesy Jerri Wiley)

Submitted by Elizabeth R. Appar Triano

ACROY (Continued)

Getting the Word Out

Sometimes the word seems to be a secret -- not a well-kept secret, but a secret. The word is CROY (Club Rockhound of the Year). What is secret about it?

Every club I have ever visited has many dedicated volunteers. This is no secret. These dedicated volunteers help with, well, everything. Clubs don't have paid positions. Everyone is a volunteer: every officer, every editor, every committee, every show chair, every webmaster. The secret seems to be that CROY is a program to encourage recognition of those volunteers and the wonderful work they do.

There are editors who serve for decades, presidents who do as well. There are treasurers who serve faithfully for decades, secretaries who do, too. Field trip chairs may serve for decades, show chairs who do so, too. But wait, as they say, there is more to this secret. It does not take time in grade to be a good, dedicated CROY honoree. A person can be the best refreshment chair for a whole year. A new field trip chair might arrange a trip to a brand-new pit. A just joined secretary may take the best notes ever. Maybe part of the secret is that the club determines who deserves to be recognized. The club decides how to select their honoree. It need not be by committee, nor vote nor executive board decision. The club decides the who, what, when, where and why to make the decision.

One thing that tends to make a selection process more difficult is that there are so many well deserving of recognition in every club from which to choose. But you'll figure it out. I know you will choose well especially with so many good people from whom to choose. The thing that might make the process easier is that you can choose another new honoree in every year.

The CROY program is available to all EFMLS clubs as a way to recognize members who go above and beyond in service to their club. Here is how it works. Your club selects a member who well serves their club. You write a brief, perhaps, 70-word description of that member's dedication, and send it to me. Then we take your write up and place it in the pages of the AFMS and EFMLS news to honor your member's dedicated service and let other clubs share in the honoring.

There are a few rules:

The club may only submit one honoree for their Club Rockhound of the Year (or two names in the event of a couple) per year. The club may, in addition, also offer the name of a junior member. Anyone in the club may offer the honorees name. Easy right.

Let's get the word out. CROY is no secret. We hope to hear from you because, now we are ready for your 2021 honorees. Let's work together and help honor your dedicated members. My contact information is: e-mail rocknellery@fairpoint.com, address Post Office Box 47, Waterville, Maine 04903-0047. Thanks. Please stay well and be safe.

Ellery Borow, Club Rockhound of the Year Committee Chair

EACH ONE TEACH ONE

TEACHING DURING THE COVID OF THE YEAR

The quarantine we are all going through certainly is restricting our teaching efforts. No longer can we work with the kids since there are no meetings or shows. We cannot speak to organizations since none are meeting. We need to really get creative to teach from a distance of six (6) feet. But let's get creative!!! Some clubs are still able to have field trips, and they need experts to help the excited novices identify and find their treasures!! Who is running these trips and helping rockhounds find and recognize rocks and minerals?? They really deserve recognition. A few clubs are having zoom meetings, in our club, Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral, Trent Meyers and Brittany Martin and Jeri Jones have done an amazing job of presenting programs!! The Rockhound Connection on Facebook just had their monthly Pebble Pup Contest and received about 2000 responses!!! Kids are eager to learn when you make it exciting and the computer can do that, too. What are your solutions?? Please share them with me and I will share them in the next newsletter!! And you just may win the Each One Teach One award for 2020!!! And, above all Be Safe!!!

Betsy Oberheim, Chair, Each One Teach One Committee

SAFETY

SAFETY IN KEEPING - SAFETY MATTERS

The bright shiny new club officers are now or soon will be taking their positions for a test ride. With some things, it is about putting the key in, turn it on, and go. Other things need a bit of preparation.

For preparation an editor turns over newsletter files to a new editor. A program chair turns over program files to the new program chair. Treasurer turns over records to a new treasurer. A safety chair should also follow the tradition to turn over safety files and records to the new safety chair. Your club does have something of a safety chair right?

What might be in a safety chairperson's safety files? For starters there would be a good or several good safety manuals and guides. Next would be club-specific safety needs - say safety concerns for any locally found minerals, show safety files, club workshop safety files, and maybe some safety guidelines about the meeting hall in which you have club meetings (occupancy limits, emergency exits, location of fire extinguishers, parking regulations, or whatever site specific needs there may be).

With the litigation common in today's world, safety should be paramount. It is all well and good to have insurance but having a bandage at the right time can be invaluable. Indeed, in today's current environment there can be so many safety concerns that a safety committee, instead of just one person, might be a good choice for a club - imagine having someone trained in first aid and CPR, another safety person trained in shop safety, a person dedicated to show safety, another dealing specifically with facilities safety, and another in procedures for field trip safety. Having, maintaining, keeping current and readily available safety materials may be invaluable, as with the bandage at the right time. What good is a first aid kit when it is back at the car over 3/4 mile walk away.

Another good tradition might be, instead of simply handing over a stack of safety files, would be to go over the information in the files with the incoming safety chairperson. Over many years a club might have accumulated a good measure of safety information. Going through the accumulations with the new person might be most helpful, especially before the next emergency.

Safety records should get the attention they deserve because your safety matters and so does everyone's.

Ellery Borow, Safety Chairman



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.

EDITORS CORNER

It is that time of year, again – time to submit your newsletter/bulletin, articles, poems drawings, etc. for the EFMLS Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee's Annual Bulletin Editors Contest. Entry forms and guidelines were sent to all editors on November 28. If you are an editor and did not receive the e-mail containing this information or were unable to download it or have any questions, please let Mary Bateman, BEAC Chair, know (mbateman1@verizon.net, 973-993-3192 or 52 Harrison Street, Morristown, NJ 07960). **Entries from January 1 to December 31, 2020 bulletins are due January 10, 2021.**

During this trying time, it is more important than ever to let our members know that we appreciate their contributions to our bulletins. What better way to do that than to submit their contribution(s) to the BEAC contest. Note: Because of the fewer bulletins published in 2020, your entries stand a better chance of winning one of the top prizes in each category.

Because many clubs did not publish their usual bulletins during 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and to promote as much participation as possible, we are relaxing a few of the 2021 (ONLY) contest rules: (1) Each club can enter up to five (5) entries in each category. (2) You can submit entries in all categories for those who have received trophies in the past two years from either EFMLS or AFMS. In other words, there are no restrictions on who you can submit as long as you are within the five (5) entry limit.

EFMLS restrictions for entry into the AFMS contest remain the same – in order for an entry to be eligible to be considered to be sent to the AFMS contest, an entry must receive a judge's score of 90 or above—only top scorers will be submitted. Guidelines are also available on the website (www.efmls.org under BEAC) as are the forms for submission. Forms have not changed from last year. Remember, only the BEAC Chair can submit entries to the AFMS contest.

Looking forward to receiving your entries.

VISIT A SHOW OR SWAP

Editor's Note: *If you are considering attending any of the events listed below, not marked cancelled nor postponed, please check with the contact listed before leaving home.* The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has forced many clubs to either postpone or cancel regularly scheduled events which include meetings, shows, swaps, etc. Not all postponement dates have been re-scheduled.

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.

June 5-6 – Monroe, NY – Orange County Mineral Society's Annual Mineral, Gem Jewelry and Fossil Show, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM outdoor event, rain, or shine. Museum Village, 1010 Route 17M, Monroe, New York 10950.

June 13, 2020 – **POSTPONED TO JANUARY 16, 2021** Newton, MA -- Boston Mineral Club Annual Auction, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, American Legion Nonantum Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton, MA. Includes voice auction of more than 200 lots of mineral specimens, gems, equipment, and reference material, with a silent auction of more than 100 flats of mineral specimen, lapidary rough, equipment and books. INFO: Mike Haritos, 857-991-2294, mharitos@comcast.net, www.bostonmineralclub.org.

CLUB OF THE MONTH

If you would like your club to be highlighted as a Club of the Month, please contact the editor at efmlsnew.editor@gmail.com or 973-993-3192.

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DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 2021 ISSUE – DECEMBER 15, 2020

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Region 4	Bill Stephens	1-302- 540-3453	bstephens@stephensv.com
Region 5	Susie Lamb	1-304-989-7558	lambcheryl@hotmail.com
Region 6	Larry Huffman	1-828-612-4469	ldhuff314@embarqmail.com
Region 7	Joe Cooper	1-706-499-9322	jcooper@hallcounty.org
Region 8	K.C. Foster	1-561-968-5287	katrinkaper@yahoo.com

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AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND ⁽¹⁾	Larry Huffman	828-612-4469	ldhuff314 at embarqmail.com
AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ⁽¹⁾	Steve Weinberger	410-833-7926	cscrystals2 at gmail.com
AFMS WAYS AND MEANS ⁽¹⁾	To be appointed		
ALL AMERICAN AWARD⁽¹⁾	Open		
AUCTION	Cheryl Neary	516-499-5341	ciervo.neary at gmail.com
AUDIT/REVIEW	Open		
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EASTERN FIELD TRIP ALIANCE (EFTA)	Open		
EASTERN FOUNDATION FUND	Open		
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OPERATING PROCEDURES	Open		
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⁽¹⁾ EFMLS Representative to American Federation (AFMS) committee.