



C.F.M.S. NEWSLETTER

XLI No. 1 _____ JANUARY 2005

Presidents Message

My first order of business is to thank everyone for the opportunity and privilege of serving you in this honored capacity. My objective will be, not only to maintain the functioning of this great society, but possibly to add even just a little something useful. I think I am smart enough to know that nothing can be accomplished without the cooperation and help from each and every one of you, and most of all the help from your other elected officers and 40-plus committee chairs and their committee people. I sincerely thank all of these generous people for donating their time, expertise, and effort to make things run smooth and progressive.

This being heartfelt said, I will tell you a little about my style and me. I have a very open door philosophy. The more I hear from you, the more we can get done, but I do not expect to hear a lot of adverse comments without adding a suggested solution. My background consists of two years as president of the Modesto Men's Bowling Assoc., one year as president of the Facetors Guild of Northern California, three years as president of the Mother Lode Mineral Society, and married 50 years to my one and only wife, Vivien. I spent some 30 plus years as a maintenance mechanic in four canneries. I consider myself being a professional student. If I'm not learning something, I feel like time is wasted.

If you want to call it a theme, I'm going to stress importance of communication all year long. The three people in each club who receive this letter each month are supposed to pass all of the information herein to all of your fellow club members. You as a director have their ear, you as the editor have their eyes, and you as the president have their attention. We, the president and newsletter editor, along with the other officers and committees, fully expect you to use those outlets to communicate with everyone. Please do this. It is to everyone's benefit.

Respectfully Submitted

Marion Roberts

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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CFMS Website

CFMS on the Internet is accessible at www.cfmsinc.org. Web Master is Don Ogden. Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this website.

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TO REPORT A CLAIM: Report claims as soon as possible to Patt McDaniel at 1 (800) 400-7288. If no one is immediately available and/or during non-business and weekend hours, call 1 (800) 252-4670.

**ARTICLES FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER
DUE TO EDITOR BY 5th OF MONTH**

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ANYTIME

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Send donations for AFMS Scholarship Fund to:

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OTHERS who provide articles each month.

Dick Pankey, Editor

CFMS CALENDAR 2005

JANUARY 1 2005 Federation dues due.

MARCH 15 All Am. Club Books due

APRIL 3 – 10 Earth Science Seminar at Zzyzx

APRIL 9 Open House at Zzyzx 20th. Anniversary

JUNE 10 – 12 CFMS Show

JUNE 11 Directors' Meeting

SEPTEMBER 11 – 17 Camp Paradise Earth Science Seminar

SEPTEMBER 18 - 24 Camp Paradise Earth Science Seminar

2006

MARCH 19-26 Zzyzx Earth Science Seminar

Officers and Committees send me event dates and due dates to include in this section

Promote rockhounding --
Proudly display your
ROCKHOUND STICKER



From The Editor's Desk

Hello from your new editor. I am really looking forward to the duties and challenges of being the editor for the CFMS Newsletter. This is my first attempt at being an editor, so please bear with me as I learn the job and my way around the intricacies of layout and formatting. As I understand this job I am the compiler and organizer of the articles and information that is provide to me by the Officers, Committees and others to disseminate information and facilitate the workings of the Federation. The CFMS Newsletter, along with the societies' Directors, is the communicative link between the Federation and the member societies and the society members.

My goals for this year are several: 1.) Get the news of and about the Federation to all member societies on time. 2.) Increase the information flow from the Officers and Committees with more articles from each and every committee. One article per month would be great; one every other month should be a minimum objective of the major committees; less than four per year and we are letting ourselves and our members down. 3.) Increase information to the members of each society. Three copies of the CFMS Newsletter are sent to each society. Typically to the Director, the Secretary or Bulletin Editor and the President. It is up to the people who get the Newsletter to get the information to the rest of the member. CFMS Newsletter articles may freely be republished in club bulletins. Pass articles on directly to society committee chairs for further action, i.e. Field Trip announcements/reports to your FT Chair, P.L.A.C. articles to your Ecology/government Relations Committee, Publicity articles to your Publicity Chair, etc. At some societies their Federation Directors reports to the membership by "reading" the highlights of each Newsletter then ripping out the articles and forms and passing them on to the right people.

So people, it is up to all of us to get the **WORD** out. Our committees do a lot of good work. Write those articles about that work; pass on information. Let our membership know about all that the Federation is doing to **Promote** our hobby, **Keep** our collecting sites open, **Practice Safety**, **Provide** scholarships, **Go** on field trips, **Make** sure we are adequately insured, **Provide** museum displays, **Promote** exhibiting and **Conducting** competition, **Provide** education and Earth Science Studies, and all the other things that the Federation does. And to the Directors, Bulletin Editors, and whoever else gets the CFMS Newsletter pass on the information so that your societies and your members can benefit from all that the Federation does.

I look forward to your articles, your ideas, your comments and suggestion. And your criticisms, too. I want to carry on the fine work and tradition of the previous CFMS Newsletter Editors. With your help and input we can.

Dick Pankey, Editor

Publicity/ Public Relations Committee

By Stephen Blocksage, Publicity/Public Relations Committee

A new twist on the time honored club rock show. Instead of having the traditional club show a club realized the value of reaching out to the community as a whole. In this case the environment was Monterey Park a neighborhood just east of downtown Los Angeles. This area is Chinese in the great majority. As you might expect there is a great interest there in oriental based gems such as pearls and jade. The Club there recognized that there was not a great appeal for the traditional club rock show but they did recognize the traditional values of the community and sought a way to create interest in our hobby.

Instead of the club show they now use the Monterey Park Convention Center and twice yearly to have a community meeting. This meeting is a three part affair first a lecture in the oriental gems is given by and expert in that area. Then a dinner is held utilizing oriental foods and that is followed by a dance. The cost for this occasion is \$8.00 per person.

Apparently they are successful, as their club membership has grown by several hundred people over the last several years. Perhaps it is time to ask ourselves is what we do and have at rock shows entirely what the public in our area wants to see or do or are we pleasing ourselves. Certainly clubs rely on their shows to make money. Much of the advertising we do is to other rockhounds realizing it is they who will patronize our show. If we are lucky members and friends will come along bolstering attendance and therefore revenue. Some clubs are lucky enough to have large successful shows because of location and history but many are not.

Is it time to take fresh look at what we are doing in this area? Wouldn't it be great if 75% of the attendees were non-rockhounds attracted by the creativity of the show or event as mentioned above. Just think, if you got ten new young people to join your club each time you held such an event.

Recently my club got the use of a 7,500 square foot building that we used for no cost because it was vacant and going to be torn down to become a new fire station. We made the decision to do so in just 7 weeks, little time to advertise to other rock hound groups plus we were in a new location from our past shows. We had over 75% of the local populace, news coverage and we used public relations to draw on the local community. We were highly successful for a two-day show and I saw many new and eager faces in Boy Scout, Cub Scout and other groups as they were shown how to use a cab machine cut open a geode or bought a plant. The dealers we had made out like bandits because they got buyers who really liked their wares not rockhounds that react with "I've got a better sample at home or I could make that myself."

Creativity or thinking outside the nine dots is the key, "if you do what you did you'll get what you got", so you might want to change. The nine dots refer to connecting three rows of three dots with three lines. The only way to do so is going outside the area of the dots. Such as thinking, what else can you do with a rock? You could sculpt it, throw as a weapon using a catapult, make a weapon out of it, or build with it. Maybe make a mosaic or crush it and make a sand painting, or a sand castle. Kids love to dig for any thing, adults love to hunt for treasure and both can benefit from learning. What besides, just the hobby itself, will attract people. Perhaps an art show with art glass or stained glass; or quilts in theme with your rock show. Now I'm sure, there are many others who are more creative than myself, I see it in your jewelry, and lapidary work and the way you lay out a case. Time to see it in your club shows and even the CFMS show.

Congratulations! CFMS Scholarship 2005 Honorees

By Izzie Burns, CFMS Scholarship Chair

The CFMS Scholarship Committee is happy to congratulate the following three honorees for 2005:

Mark & Debbie Wartenberg were chosen for their active work with the Junior Group by leading them on field trips and providing interesting programs for them. They work with the Juniors at the Santa Clara Valley GMS Scholarship Booth to enable the Society to provide scholarships for the local colleges. This past year they sold at estate sales and helped the club make a substantial contribution to the CFMS and AFMS Scholarship Funds.

Peggy Ronning, Curator of the California State Mining and Mineral Museum at Mariposa was selected for her great work at the museum and the many hours that she donated to provide us an outstanding Show and Convention at Mariposa this last May. She has been very helpful in promoting the work of the CFMS. Peggy feels very strongly about the need for our young people to receive training in the earth sciences.

Robert Fulton, Site Administrator for the Desert Studies Consortium, Cal State Fullerton was granted a honorarium for his assistance with our Earth Science Studies Program at Zzyzx for the last 20 years. Rob received his masters degree in Biological Sciences, but since working at Zzyzx with the students he has developed an interest in geology, mineralogy, and paleontology. He has contributed greatly to our programs by presenting evening programs, leading field tours, and helping with the services at the camp. It is with great pride and a feeling of long over due, that we honor Rob.

These Honorees have been notified of this honor and provided with information about choosing a College or University where they wish to have a student who is in their junior or senior year will be chosen to receive a \$2000.00 Scholarship next fall.

AFMS Scholarship Challenge

By Montella Lopez, AFMS Scholarship Chair

At the recent AFMS Scholarship Foundation meeting in Syracuse the Directors voted to suspend the second scholarship for the year 2005. This was necessary because of the low interest income from our investments and the expense connected with the investigation and loss of funds from the problems with our previous treasurer.

The Directors also voted to allow donors to contribute to "unrestricted funds" which could be used to cover the second scholarship for this one year. Keith Harmon, president of the South Central Federation, challenged all of the Federations to come up with the amount needed to cover this scholarship and make it possible for us to continue giving two each year.

At the recent Fall Business Meeting in Fresno the directors present "passed the hat" and collected enough money to send a check for \$123.00 to the AFMS Scholarship Treasurer. This made a start on a contribution from California to cover a portion of the \$12,000 needed to allow us to cover this second scholarship. If we could ask each club to ask their members to contribute loose change and send it to our Scholarship Chairman with a notation that it is for the unrestricted fund it would go a long way toward meeting this need. I would like to encourage each of you to work with your society to do what you can to help us meet this challenge for the coming year.

Let's all get together to put us "over the top."

Send donations for AFMS Scholarship Fund to: Montella Lopez
676 Hermitage Place
San Jose, CA 95134

EXHIBITING, the hobby needs you to exhibit your special collection and show the public what we are about

It's time to think again about displaying your treasures. If you're not quite ready for "prime time competition" but you want to share your personal interest in our hobby the coming federation show in Roseville, CA is a good place to start.

Does your club have a program each year to teach novice exhibitors how to make the most of their collections? Does someone give you tips on how to line the exhibit case, make labels and arrange a display that is pleasing to look at and educational too?

We have gotten away from exhibiting. The competitive exhibits have been dwindling for a number of years and we'd like to make a concerted effort to bring all exhibits back to the levels they were years ago. .

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITING. Things have changed over the past few years. If you exchange the word "judge" for "teacher" you'll come up with a concept that we are trying to obtain. It's not you against the judge; it's both working together to make the case the best it can be. We are also suggesting that the exhibitor be there when the case is being judged. In California, this hasn't been the case, but we'd like to see this implemented here and now. Not for the sake of "argument" but for clarification as to the rules and what judges are looking for. One of the biggest problems is that the exhibitor doesn't read the rules. No matter what you're competing in, you must read the rules. If AFMS Rules are intimidating, let us help you work to overcome this problem.

We are also suggesting the following: on the non-competitive exhibit form for 2005 there is a BOX to check. The box says, "If you would like a judge to help you to improve your exhibit, please let the Rules Chairman know". If you want to see what your case would score before you officially enter in competition, this is the way to go. You'll get the best possible advice in where to upgrade, how to layout your exhibit and what you need on your labels, according to what classification you are interested in entering. Rules Committee and judges will be available to go over your case with you after the CFMS Business Meeting on Saturday and Sunday. Anyone interested, please check the box and you'll be contacted.

If your club would like to host an "EXHIBITOR'S WORKSHOP" sometime before the CFMS show in June, please contact the CFMS 1st Vice President. If you would like to have judges there to help you, let me know. I will be attending the Calaveras Gem and Mineral Club meeting in January to help explain the rules book. If you need me, let me know and I'll try and schedule myself or someone else who is near your club.

Waiting to hear from you,
Dee Holland, Rules Committee, Chair
beauholland@salmoninternet.com and shirleyleeson@msn.com

Judging Conference for All Federations

By Ruth Bailey

The American Federation offered the opportunity for each Federation to send a representative to the Wildacres Retreat so that all of the Federations would be able to coordinate their judging methods and understanding of the Rules. This is a three-year program and the scholarships are being

covered by the AFMS Endowment Fund income. Norvie Enns was California's representative at the first session and I was happy to be able to attend this past year.

This retreat is in North Carolina and is a very beautiful place to go. They have classes in various skills and studies and each evening there is a program session. Bob Jones was the featured speaker this past year and his programs are always interesting and educational. They have an auction to raise funds for the program and also have a show and tell night to give students a chance to show what they have done.

The Judging Classes were led by Jay Bowman of the Eastern Federation and the attendance was very good. We reviewed the entire Rules Book and had good discussions on all of the divisions and classes. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to make sure we are all "on the same page". Each Federation had at least one representative there and there were more than one from some of the Federations.

After we had considered the rulebooks we had several cases set up and were able to go over them in detail and make suggestions and see how they were presented. It is really important for each of us to realize that we don't need to pay attention to how our cases are displayed just for competition. Any time we set up cases in a pleasing manner and give good educational information we are helping educate ourselves and the public and that is about what we are all trying to do. Isn't it? Altogether, I feel that it has been a very helpful program and hope that many more people will be able to participate. Especially, I feel we should give a big thank you to Jay and to the rest of the committee that made this program possible.

Following the week at Wildacres I enjoyed driving from North Carolina to Syracuse and saw a lot of country that I had not seen before. After leaving Wildacres I drove to Asheville and visited the Biltmore Estate and spent the next day on the Blue Ridge Parkway, then through Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania and they stopped for a night at Niagara Falls. After that I went on to Syracuse and enjoyed the American Federation Convention and Show. It was a great show and it's always fun to see new display and to visit vendors that do not get to our part of the country. Now you know what I did on my summer vacation.

Winter Safety The Deceptive Killers (Part 1)

By Chuck McKie, Safety Chair

This preparedness guide explains the dangers of winter weather and suggests life-saving action YOU can take. With this information, YOU can recognize winter weather threats, develop an action plan and be ready when severe winter weather threatens. Remember... your safety is up to YOU.

Why Talk About Winter Weather?

- Each year, dozens of Americans die due to exposure to cold. Add to that number, vehicle accidents and fatalities, fires due to dangerous

use of heaters and other winter weather fatalities and you have a significant threat.

- Threats, such as hypothermia and frostbite, can lead to loss of fingers and toes or cause permanent kidney, pancreas and liver injury and even death. You must prepare properly to avoid these extreme dangers. You also need to know what to do if you see symptoms of these threats.
- A major winter storm can last for several days and be accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and cold temperatures.
- People can become trapped at home or in a car, without utilities or other assistance.
- Attempting to walk for help in a winter storm can be a deadly decision.
- The aftermath of a winter storm can have an impact on a community or region for days, weeks or even months.

- Extremely cold temperatures, heavy snow and coastal flooding can cause hazardous conditions and hidden problems.

Heavy Snow

Heavy snow can immobilize a region and paralyze a city, stranding commuters, closing airports, stopping the flow of supplies, and disrupting emergency and medical services. Accumulations of snow can cause roofs to collapse and knock down trees and power lines. Homes and farms may be isolated for days and unprotected livestock may be lost. In the mountains, heavy snow can lead to avalanches. The cost of snow removal, repairing damages, and the loss of business can have severe economic impacts on cities and towns. An avalanche is a mass of tumbling snow. More than 80 percent of midwinter avalanches are triggered by a rapid accumulation of snow, and 90 percent of those occur within 24 hours of snowfall. An avalanche may reach a mass of a million tons and travel at speeds of up to 200 mph.

Injuries Due To Ice and Snow

- About 70% result from vehicle accidents.
- About 25% occur in people caught out in a storm.
- Most happen to males over 40 years old.

Winter Flooding

Winter storms can generate coastal flooding; ice jams and snow melt, resulting in significant damage and loss of life.

Coastal Floods Winds generated from intense winter storms can cause widespread tidal flooding and severe beach erosion along coastal areas.

Ice Jams Long cold spells can cause rivers and lakes to freeze. A rise in the water level or a thaw breaks the ice into large chunks, which become jammed at man-made and natural obstructions. Ice jams can act as a dam, resulting in severe flooding.

Snow Melt Sudden thaw of a heavy snow pack often leads to flooding

Wind Chill

Wind chill is not the actual temperature but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also affected by wind chill; however, cars, plants and other objects are not.

Frostbite

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold. A wind chill of -20° Fahrenheit (F)

will cause frostbite in just 30 minutes. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately! If you must wait for help, slowly re-warm affected areas. However, if the person is also showing signs of hypothermia, warm the body core before the extremities.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a condition brought on when the body temperature drops to less than 95°F. It can kill. For those who survive, there are likely to be lasting kidney, liver and pancreas problems. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. Take the person's temperature. If below 95°F, seek medical care immediately! If medical care is not available, warm the person slowly, starting with the body core. Warming the arms and legs first drives cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure. If necessary, use your body heat to help. Get the person into dry clothing and wrap in a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee or any hot beverage or food. Warm broth is the first food to offer. Exposure to cold can cause frostbite or hypothermia and become life threatening. Infants and elderly people are most susceptible. What constitutes extreme cold varies in different parts of the country. In the South, near freezing temperatures are considered extreme cold. Freezing temperatures can cause severe damage to citrus fruit crops and other vegetation. Pipes may freeze and burst in homes that are poorly insulated or without heat. In the North, extreme cold means temperatures well below zero.

Cold

Injuries Related to Cold

- 50% happen to people over 60 years old.
- More than 75% happen to males.
- About 20% occur in the home.

Winter Storm Hazards in the U.S.

How Winter Storms Form

There are many ways for winter storms to form; however, all have three key components.

Cold Air For snow and ice to form, the temperature must be below freezing in the clouds and near the ground.

Moisture Water evaporating from bodies of water, such as a large lake or the ocean, is an excellent source of moisture.

Lift Lift causes moisture to rise and form clouds and precipitation. An example of lift is warm air colliding with cold air and being forced to rise. Another example of lift is air flowing up a mountain side.

KEEP AHEAD OF THE STORM by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, and television for the latest winter storm warnings, watches and advisories. The National Weather Service issues outlooks, watches, warnings and advisories for all winter weather hazards. Here's what they mean and what to do. Use the information below to make an informed decision on your risk and what actions should be taken. Remember to listen to your local officials' recommendations and to NOAA Weather Radio for the latest winter storm information.

OUTLOOK Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2-5 days. Stay tuned to local media for updates the next 36-48 hours. Prepare now!

WARNING Life-threatening severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. Act now!

ADVISORY Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If you are cautious, these situations should not be life threatening. Stay informed!

Electronic Equipment

Equipment is available to receive weather information/NOAA broadcasts: Weather Radio, Radio, TV, Pager, Cell Phone, and Two-Way Radio.

What to Listen For

NOAA Weather Radio is the best means to receive warnings from the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service continuously broadcasts warnings and forecasts that can be received by NOAA Weather Radios, which are sold in many stores. The average range is 40 miles, depending on topography. Purchase a radio that has a battery backup and a Specific Area Message Encoder feature, which automatically alerts you when a watch or warning is issued for your county or parish.

At Home and Work

Primary concerns are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

Have Available:

Flashlight and extra batteries.

Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information. These may be your only links to the outside.

Extra food and water. Have high energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts and granola bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration.

Extra medicine and baby items.

First-aid supplies.

Heating fuel. Refuel before you are empty. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm.

Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, space heater.

- Use properly to prevent a fire.
- Ventilate properly.

Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm. Test smoke alarms once a month to ensure they work properly.

Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.

[via The American Red Cross]

SLIDE AND VIDEO ADDITIONS TO THE CFMS PROGRAM LIBRARY

By Bill Gissler, Slide and Video, Chair

New slides and videos, which were purchased with funds from the AFMS Endowment Funds, are now available in the CFMS slide and video program library. To borrow these slides and videos, contact your club Federation Director for an order form which was included in the 2004 Slide and Video Program Catalog distributed at the November 2004 CFMS Directors meeting. The Slide and Video Program Catalog with order forms can also be found on the CFMS web site or a hard copy can be obtained from Pat LaRue, Executive Secretary- Treasurer for \$1.50 plus \$0.85 postage, total \$2.35.

SLIDES:

F-149. RECENT COLLECTING AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINE; RUSH, ARKANSAS. 61 slides, 2004. Viewing the mine and smithsonite specimens.

F-150. THOSE FABULOUS THUNDER EGGS. 111 slides, 2004. View thunder eggs from throughout the world and a description of their origin.

VIDEOS:

V-106. EXOTIC TERRANE. 28 minutes, 1992. Story of mountains along Oregon-Idaho border and an explanation of marine fossils found there.

V-107. TREE STORIES. 28 minutes, 2004. An examination of specimens of petrified wood.

V-108. MINERALS, GEMS AND ORES. 25 minutes, 2003. Science for students What a mineral is and tests to identify.

V-109. GLACIERS. 50 minutes, 2003. How glaciers are formed and the terms used to describe them.

V-110. SEARCHING FOR THE ORIGINS OF LIFE. 50 minutes, 2001 From Yellowstone to Mars, follow scientists as they search for the clues.

V-111. MYSTERY IN THE ANDES. 50 minutes, 1996. In the mountains of South America, paleontologist discovers fossilized remains of mammals.

V-112. VOICES IN THE STONES. 50 minutes, 1996. How pictograms of Mayans are revealing their secrets and travel deep in a gold mine.

Bulletin Aids

By Anna Christiansen, Chair, Bulletin Aids

Have you ever wondered how a great bulletin comes about? It takes hard work and a lot of time. Exchange bulletins are a great source of information. Also, experienced Editors are usually more than happy to help you. Another great source of information is the S.C.R.I.B.E. For the very reasonable price of \$6.00 for singles and \$8.00 for couples you can receive bulletins with many great tips. This past one had an article on getting your club members to submit articles for your bulletin. There were also some great grammar tips (which I always find very interesting). You can also receive a CD with a lot of information and examples of bulletins to help you along. The application form is on the AFMS website under Other Links and then Other Organizations. I encourage all Editors to think about joining this organization. The information they provide is worth every penny it costs to join.

THE MUSEUM CORNER

By Debbie Bunn, Chair, Museum Committee

The Museum Committee has been working on developing a list of museums located within the CFMS borders. Our new editor--Dick Pankey--has suggested that we begin to share this information thru a monthly column in the CFMS newsletter. Good idea Dick!

It seems appropriate to begin with the **Buena Vista Museum of Natural History** in Bakersfield, CA. This is where the CFMS California Minerals live when they are not at the annual CFMS show. If you are a fossil buff this is a must see museum. The Sharks tooth Hill Bone bed is a type locality for marine Miocene fossils. The Buena Vista is the repository for the Bob and Mary Ernst collection of Kern county fossil collection which includes sharks from 6 inches to 60 feet long, ancestral sea lions, dolphins, whales, dugongs, turtles, crocodiles, and seabirds. There are even some terrestrial Miocene fossils including ancestral horse, rhino, camel, deer, and elephant. Petrified wood, pinecones, and nuts have also been found. The first floor includes the fossil display and a very nice little gift shop with scientific books and toys for the kids. Even some fossil specimens for sale. On the second floor you can find some very nice petrified wood displays, minerals--including the CFMS minerals--and local Native American artifacts from the San Joaquin Valley. There are also some stuffed modern animals from North America, Africa, etc.

The Buena Vista is open Thursday thru Saturday, 10-5 with the last admission at 4pm. Other hours can be arranged by appointment. Cost is adults \$3, children and seniors \$2, and children under 5 free. If you join the museum membership program there are special activities including closed digs, classes on fossil preparation, special lectures, etc. Membership starts at \$25 and up. The address for the Buena Vista is 2018 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, phone (661)-324-6350. This museum would make a fine one-day fieldtrip for any club. You can probably arrange to see their prep. lab and maybe learn about fossil preparation. I encourage everyone who gets a chance, to visit the Buena Vista Museum in Bakersfield. There's a lot to see.

Optional Additional Insurance Coverage

By Fred Ott, Insurance Chair

One of the benefits available to member societies of the Federation is the ability purchase optional additional insurance coverage for the following situations:

- 1) If your club has "exclusive" use of a premise (such as a meeting room, workshop location, storage facility, etc.), a separate premises liability insurance coverage needs to be purchased in order to provide liability protection for these locations. Please refer to Section F*.
- 2) If your club owns a claim, liability insurance coverage should be obtained through the Federation's policy (the rate is remarkably low!); refer to sections F* and G*.
- 3) If your club has equipment and supplies that you would want insured against loss by fire, theft, vandalism, etc., refer to Section F*.

Submit applications and premiums for the above coverage directly to McDaniel Insurance Services, Inc. using the forms found on the Federation's website, www.cfmsinc.org. Requests for liability insurance will require underwriter approval before becoming effective.

Note: (*) Sections F and G refer to the Insurance Sections of the Federation's website: www.cfmsinc.org.

EARTH SCIENCES STUDIES

By Cal Clason, Chair, Earth Science Studies

Another year gone but the Earth Sciences will pretty much continue as it has in the past. I was requested to remain as chairman and gladly accepted the position. With the aid of the committee, we will endeavor to continue the tradition. As with everything else, changes are inevitable; but we hope they will be for the improvement of the program. As I mentioned in the previously, Jack Williams has been appointed as the Coordinator of Camp Paradise and I am sure he will do an outstanding job handling the operation of that venue. For the present I will continue to do Zzyzx. The application for Camp Paradise should be released in the May issue of the CFMS Newsletter, and on the web page at the same time. In filling them out we request that you follow the instructions. There are some changes in the procedures for registration, which we felt were needed to alleviate some concern by numerous people about selective acceptance. Again, I would like to express my concept of the program that it is meant to introduce participants to new areas with which they are not familiar and to expose them to new methods of accomplishing time honored ways of doing projects. There are those who probably disagree with this statement and they may express their thoughts to me at anytime; but that is the way I see it. So much for the soapbox, I'll get off it.

Elsewhere in this newsletter and on the web page (www.cfmsinc.org) you should find the registration form for a planned OPEN HOUSE at ZZYZX to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Earth Science Studies. This will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2005. We will exhibit projects done by students, instructors will explain their methods of teaching, a guided tour of the facility explaining the flora and fauna of the area, it's past history, present function and the future plans for the Desert Studies Center. For a \$12.50 donation you can get a steak or chicken barbecue dinner. Pre-registration is necessary to allow the kitchen crew to have enough food on hand.

Join us to celebrate 20 years of one of the outstanding programs offered by CFMS.

Your Help is Urgently Needed

Lois Allmen, Chair, Officers and Chairmen's Manual

Despite the fact that an Operating Regulations change was approved at our Fresno meeting in November, wherein the Officers and Chairmen's Manual would be updated by a designated and appointed Chairperson, I volunteered to handle that function temporarily until an ongoing Chairperson is appointed.

The last update for the manual was done in 1999. For starters, I need to update several sections of the manual with historical data, such as the listing of Past Presidents (page 63A), Convention Locations, sponsoring clubs and convention dates (page 65), Golden Bear Awardees (page 66), Honorary Members (page 66), and CFMS Scholarship Honorees (page 67).

I would like to ask for your help in supplying information to update the above listings. If your Club hosted the Show and Convention since 1999, please send me a note giving the location, club name, and dates. The Chairmen of the Golden Bear and CFMS Scholarship Committees please let me know who the Honorees were for the years 1999 to 2004.

If you are privy to any information about the addition of Honorary Members of CFMS, then I would appreciate being informed.

I would like to present these updates in the packets at the Directors Meeting in Roseville in June. You can mail me the information at 407 Magnolia Ave., Oxnard, CA 93030-5309, or e-mail me at allmen@vcss.k12.ca.us. Your help is appreciated!

The BLAST: 2005 CFMS SHOW

By Gloria Tomczyk, Show Chair.

The Best of a New Year to all of you! The November's Director's meeting was the official kickoff "**BLAST**" for the 2005 Convention & Show in Roseville. As the 2005 Show Chair, via this monthly newsletter, I will be providing information on this years' show. We have an excellent team working very diligently in several areas, making this show very inviting & fun for everyone. The entire fairgrounds in Roseville will be utilized, including camping spaces, with the Best Western in Roseville, as the Headquarters Hotel. We plan to have vendors inside and outside, along with many other activities within the grounds for children & adults, including "Gold panning". One highlighted field trip will be to the "Original Sixteen to One" underground gold mine. We have lined up renowned professionals to lecture all three days of the show, in addition to Museum & Special Exhibits, and approximately 100 display cases. There is so much in the planning stages right now it is overwhelming! This year the Director's meeting on Saturday will have a -- **GOLD NUGGET RAFFLE!** Yes, Gold Nuggets will be raffled off, to those present at the meeting, so make your plans early to attend this exceptional show. Also, please don't let this information stop here, pass this show info onto your local club members either through your report or reprint of this note. The "BLAST" is going to happen in Roseville come June, please be a part of it. You may visit our web site for more info - www.rockrollers.com. See you soon!

All American Awards Program

By Dot Beachler, All American Club, Chair

The All American Club Award is meant to:

- Encourage local club members to share their expertise and enthusiasm for the hobby within their respective regions
- Provide a model for organizing an annual historical account for the posterity of each club
- Offer an opportunity for national recognition of exceptional clubs.

This is not a competition of one club against others. This is an Evaluation of Quality based on a standard of excellence. Now is the time to begin preparations to enter this All American. Awards program based upon your club's 2004 activities. The forms for 2004 are included in this issue so that you can see how easy it is. Since all five clubs that entered this past year received both regional and national awards, I encourage ALL clubs to make the effort to enter this year.

Entry due date is March 15,2005

CFMS Cab Cases

By Bob Pevahouse, Cab Cases - North

Has your club had the CFMS Cab Cases as a display in your show? Just making a request can make them available in most instances. The CFMS has three sets of cabochon display cases. Each set consists of two lighted cases that are each 3 feet wide, 2 feet high and 8 inches deep. They are filled mostly with cabochons but with a few other items, which were donated and identified by member clubs. It is interesting to see the various materials and where they are from and makes a nice addition to any show. The CFMS is divided into three sections, North, Central and South with each section having a set of the cases.

It is not difficult to request the cases for your show. Just check in the CFMS directory at the end of the CFMS newsletter for the listings under Cab Cases North, Central or South for the names of the Chairmen of the section in which your club belongs and contact that Chairman. There are addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to contact. Unless there are conflicting shows on the dates of your show, every effort will be made to make the cases available. That is all there is to it. So make plans now to request the cases for your next show.

CFMS Web Site

By Don Ogden, Web Master

I recently received an email asking if the Slide and Video information was on the CFMS web site. I answered, that it had been on the web site for over a year and gave a description on how to access it. How many other federation members do not know what information is on the web site and how to access it. A brief description of the information contained on the web site and how to access it is as follows:

Web Site Part of WWW - The CFMS web site is part of the WWW (World Wide Web). The WWW is a loosely organized set of computer sites that publish information, which any one can read on their browser via the Internet.

Information on the Internet is arranged in a web of tremendous size. Each web page includes information, menu choices, and underlined words which links the user to further information, either from the same site or any site in the world. The links are created by the author of each web page.

HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is the basic language used to publish information on the Internet. HTML is a set of codes that can be inserted in text files to indicate special typefaces, inserted images, and links to other web site documents. As an example: <p> is the code for paragraph, and <i> is the code for italics. Even with no special codes in it, a text file is still a valid HTML document.

Web Site Organization - The CFMS web site was organized using **Frames**. With frames, more than one page at a time can be displayed on the screen.

Across the top of the screen is a **stationary** frame that includes an abbreviated table of contents for navigation. Let's call it the **Navigation Frame**.

The main area of the screen below the Navigation Frame is devoted to the contents. Let's call it the **Contents Frame**. The Contents Frame changes each time you click on a new subject in the Navigation Frame. Then, each new Contents Frame contains a new web page subject.

For example, the Welcome page appears in the Contents Frame when the web page is first turned on. After that, the Contents Frame changes as different subjects are selected. But, the Navigation Frame stays the same for navigational purposes.

Navigational Frame Contents - The Navigational Frame contains links to the following 12 web pages that come up in the Contents Frame:

1. **Welcome Page** - This page contains the Message Board, linkable photos, and quick links to Federation Insurance forms, etc.
2. **Manuals** - This page links to the following manuals: **a)** CFMS Slide & Video Programs, **b)** Podium People & Speakers Directory, **c)** Tips (Excerpts from the old Safety Manual) **d)** Society Aids Manual, **e)** CFMS Brochure, **f)** CFMS Publicity Manual, and **g)** 2004 CFMS Supplementary Rules. **h)** The CFMS Society Roster was used as an input to the Clubs page. **i)** The Officers & Chairs Manual is not included on the web site.
3. **Forms** - This page lists all the CFMS forms that can be printed from the Internet. Adobe Reader is required to view and print the PDF files. Adobe Reader is free and can be downloaded from the Internet.
4. **Calendar** - This page lists due dates, etc. information.
5. **Clubs** - This page lists pertinent information about all CFMS member clubs.
6. **Email List** - This page contains email addresses for members, editors, and clubs.
7. **Field Trips** - This page contains the AFMS Code of Ethics, AFMS Land Use Policy, up and coming field trips, and photos/description of 12 field trips.
8. **Links** - This page contains links to AFMS, other Federation, CFMS Clubs, and other web sites.
9. **Newsletters** - This page contains links to all CFMS newsletters from December 1998.
10. **Photos** - This page contains links to club and federation events from 1999.
11. **Shows** - This page links to current CFMS club shows and AFMS regional shows.
12. **Team** - This page links to Current Officers, Current Committees Members, Current Directors, Past Presidents, Golden Bear Awardees, and AFMS Past Presidents from the CFMS,

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