

# EFMLS NEWS

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

## EFMLS CELEBRATES 70 YEARS



Volume 69, Number 3  
January 2022

### EFMLS INSURANCE & DUES UPDATE

**EFMLS Insurance renewal forms** will be mailed to clubs shortly. If the 2021 club mailing addresses have changed, please pass the documents on to the new officers. We hope to offer an option to complete and send the documents electronically.

**EFMLS Club Information and Dues forms** will soon be mailed to all member clubs. We hope to offer an option to complete and send the documents electronically.

Note: The Insurance and Club Information documents are separate because they go to different people.

### Election of EFMLS Officers for 2021-2022

Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Officers:

Ellery Borow - President  
William (Bill) Stephens - First Vice President  
Larry Huffman - Second Vice President  
Karenne Snow - Secretary  
Barbara Ringhiser - Treasurer

The newly elected officers will begin their terms immediately.

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### 2022 EFMLS BEAC COMPETITION CANCELLED

It is with the greatest regret that the Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee 2022 competition within the EFMLS is being called off this year. No doubt some clubs have already begun the preparation of their competitive entries and we wished there could have been a competition for all that preparation. Suffice it to say, the decision to cancel was not an easy one and was made by taking into account

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*Communications and involvement are our keys to success.*

## **EFMLS OFFICERS 2021-2022**

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The EFMLS website can be found at [www.EFMLS.org](http://www.EFMLS.org).

**Deadline is the first of each month prior to publication date** (i.e., March 1 for April issue). If you cannot meet the deadline, please contact the editor. 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.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Lapidary, geology, mineral, fossil and jewelry clubs are dynamic entities. The people in them try new things, master old techniques, visit new places, meet new people, explore different ideas, use tried and true methods, and engage in new technologies.

Being dynamic organizations, clubs are made up of long-term members, brand new members and all manner of experiences in between. This diversity of experiences, backgrounds, ages, ideas, and goals ensures the continued presence of our hobbies in the future.

The Eastern Federation is much the same as an organization with a blend of many ideas and experiences. The people with those ideas and experiences are now engaged in preparing for a new year. Attention is being given to:

- Long-range planning in this high tech age is vital yet unpredictable as the pace of technological advancement is mind numbing.
- Field trips need significant attention as we all face ever increasing challenges to keep them available.
- Virtual media offers new and engaging opportunities with communication, cooperation and programs. Plans are being made to continue communications and discussions among and involving

club presidents, editors, webmasters, safety committee chairs by utilizing technologies that include as many participants as possible. Technology mismatches with have and have-nots need discussion.

- Newsletters, bulletins, websites, and social media need special attention so each meshes with the other to present the best possible impression to members and the public.
- Our hobby organization's activities need to carefully engage with the continuing COVID conundrum.

There are numerous additional areas of discussion and opportunity to be had as we build on our strengths. Those discussions need the diversity of ideas, opinions, experiences and abilities we have in the people of this hobby.

Every day affords opportunities to learn, opportunities to teach. Let's use those opportunities to tap the potential to share the enjoyment, engagement, and energy of our rock, mineral, fossil, lapidary, and jewelry activities with our members and the public at large.

Happy New Year with all the best to you and yours in 2022.

*Ellery Borow, President*

## **WILDACRES – 2022 SPRING SESSION**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

It is official—the dates for the spring 2022 session of Wildacres will be May 16-22. Wildacres is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Little Switzerland, NC.

We are very fortunate to have another fabulous Speaker-in-Residence for the Spring Session -- Dr. Nathalie Brandes. Dr. Brandes is a geologist, author and distinguished college professor and researcher. She is Professor of Geosciences at Lonestar College - Montgomery in Conroe, Texas where she has been teaching for the past 17 years. In 2019, she was presented the Faculty Excellence Award in recognition of outstanding teaching methods and dedication to student success in the classroom and beyond.

Her current research focuses on ancient mining techniques as well as the history and geology of classic mineral localities. Her Wildacres presentations will focus on the last major gold rush in the United States (Goldfield, Nevada), silver mines in Norway, Mining in the Ancient World, the History of Mineralogy, and the Geology of Birthstones.

A special thanks to Helen Serras-Herman for procuring the Speaker-in-Residence and for the above writeup and biography of Dr. Brandes.

Because the dates for the spring session were just verified, the class schedule was not available when *EFMLS News* went to press. Watch your inbox for the announcement.

More information will be forthcoming as soon as it is available. In the meantime, if you have any questions please feel free to contact one of us.

Wildacres Workshop Staff  
Steve Weinberger, Chair ([cscrystals2@gmail.com](mailto:cscrystals2@gmail.com))  
Mark Kucera, Director ([mark\\_j\\_kucera@yahoo.com](mailto:mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com))  
Suzie Milligan, Registrar ([smilligan@stny.it](mailto:smilligan@stny.it))

## **ELECTION OF EFMLS Officers** *(Continued from Page 1)*

To conduct the 2021-2022 EFMLS Officer Election, the EFMLS Executive Board-elected Election Administrator e-mailed ballots to 109 EFMLS member clubs and USPS mailed to an additional four (4) member clubs without a known e-mail address.

The list of member clubs receiving ballots was based on address information from the EFMLS Club Information Forms submitted to the EFMLS in February and March 2021, with additional member club address information obtained from the 2020 EFMLS Directory of Member Clubs. The e-mail addresses which bounced back were researched, corrected, and resent.

Pursuant to EFMLS Bylaws Article IV: Membership, Section 5. "Each member society shall, when requested, furnish the Federation with the names of its officers, the mailing address to which all Federation mail is to be sent, meeting place and meeting time, and shall correct this information within 30 days of any change." To accommodate clubs tardy with reporting updated address information, the ballot forms sent to clubs included a request that "If this Ballot does not reach the current club president, please forward accordingly." Every attempt was made to insure a voting opportunity to all member clubs.

Accordingly, e-mail ballots received voting for the slate of officers as presented were: eligible Officers, 6 ballots received; Member Clubs, 21 ballots received; Member Clubs, 2 ballots received by voice mail. There was one Member Club abstaining. The tally met the Bylaws quorum requirement.

Special note: As the voting process was unavoidably compressed in time, there were several elected positions for which there were no nominees. According to EFMLS Bylaws Article VIII: Executive Board, Section 4. "The Executive Board shall have the authority to fill any vacancy that might occur in any General Office until the vacancy for the unexpired term can be filled by election at the next annual meeting." The General Offices include President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Editor. The positions left un-filled include Assistant Treasurer and Editor. It is the intent that the Executive Board will temporarily appoint persons to fill the vacant positions pending a regular or special election by the full Board of Directors.

Thank you to all who participated in the process.

Respectfully Submitted,  
EFMLS Executive Board, Nominating Committee, and Election Administrator

## **2022 EFMLS BEAC COMPETITION CANCELLED** *(continued from Page 1)*

numerous factors. We hope the energy and devotion to producing exceptional bulletins, and the articles therein, continue without waiver in the interim.

While many clubs utilize numerous media to distribute the news and happenings of their club, a sound, informative, and full-spectrum newsletter (used in conjunction with social media) is one of the best means to reach the full membership and the public at large. The purpose of the BEAC bulletin competition is meant to encourage, inform, and reward excellence in the production of a club's bulletin. Having a club bulletin be an example of the best it can be, reflective of the activities and fun in clubs,

and be a forum for sharing ideas and concerns is what bulletins do best. Bulletins have a heart and it beats to the rhythm of the club.

Please keep your bulletin strong, focused on servicing its club members, and a delight to receive each month. Please look for the restart of the EFMLS BEAC bulletin editor's competition in 2022.

*Ellery Borow, President*

## **CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR**

### **CROYING OUT LOUD 2022**

Yes, it is 2022. With the new year comes a new opportunity for clubs to speak up and honor one of their members, a member of outstanding service, dedication and volunteerism, as their Club Rockhound of the Year.

Clubs have a bevy of officers, committee chairs, and members who help with everything a club does - from the smallest to the grandest of effort, dedicated people make clubs work and work well. The Club Rockhound of the Year program is dedicated to encouraging clubs to honor and praise the effort of their volunteers. Clubs have a bright, shiny new opportunity to honor one of their own as their Club Rockhound of the Year in 2022.

Honoring one of a club's members as their Club Rockhound of the Year serves several important purposes. Yes, dedication and service to one's club is worthy of praise, but publicly praising members who do their best sends a message to all that their service, dedication, and doing their best is appreciated. Seeing public recognition of exemplary efforts renews our belief in doing the right thing.

Please consider using 2022 to thank someone special in your club. They deserve to be noticed and appreciated.

To honor one of your members here are the guidelines for participation in the CROY program. After your club selects a person to honor, put together a brief write-up of their effort, send the write up to me and we will ensure that your honoree is mentioned in the pages of the AFMS and EFMLS newsletters. Please keep the write-up to about 70 words. The limit is one person (or a couple) per year per club, please. Also, one junior member may be honored per club per year. In addition to the write up we will need the honorees name(s), name of club and person submitting the name. Send us the information and we will do the rest.

Please thank your members who do their best in serving your club. Thanking them as your 2022 CROY honoree is a great way to show your club's recognition and appreciation. Contact information for participating in the program is listed in the EFMLS Committees and Chairpersons section of the newsletter under Club Rockhound of the Year.

*Ellery Borow*



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 and its variants.

## **SAFETY**

### **Safety Matters – Morning Person Safety**

Are you not a morning person? Can't do anything before coffee (or OJ, croissant, tea, bagel, sausage or whatever)? You are not alone. Many people need a boost to get going and are not really ready to do much beforehand.

What does it feel like before that morning coffee? Not coordinated, not focused, not awake, not listening? People who are not morning persons understand the wisdom of refraining from doing anything that needs coordination, focusing and listening - right? Being safe means knowing not to do any critical task until one is ready, awake, trained, aware, and alert. Safety is, in part, knowing one's limits.

If you are a morning person, afternoon person, or evening person, that is an important safety consideration. Additional considerations when making decisions include knowing one's skill set, knowledge of a task, level of training, having a safety kit at hand, and being aware of one's current tiredness.

Suppose one is not an evening person but must perform an activity needing focused attention in the evening hours, can evening work be accomplished? Yes, it can, but knowing and understanding one's limits means that they can be accommodated so long as extra care, attention and alertness are present. That does not mean one can charge ahead with abandon. It does mean one should carefully consider the task's requirements and one's limits when making judgements as to how to proceed.

People make judgements all the time - roads too slippery, night too foggy, feeling too tired, what would be the best wait before orienting the first slab saw cut, is one concerned about being too pressured - these are all judgement decisions. Before using a torch, operating lapidary machinery, hammering a rock, driving to a club meeting, being an afternoon person, judgements need be made about one's limits. There are a great many aspects of our hobby where knowing one's limits is advisable.

Please be safe by knowing and respecting your limits. Your limits and safety, matter.

*Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Committee*

## **VISIT A SHOW OR SWAP**

**March 5-6, 2022** - 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, sponsored by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 4727 Concord Pike (Route 202), Wilmington, DE.

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Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Juniors \$4, children under 12 and scouts in uniform free with an adult. March 5 – 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, March 6 - 11:00 AM–5:00 PM. Info and discount ticket: [www.DMSrocks.org](http://www.DMSrocks.org).

**March 25-27, 2022** - Catawba Valle Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show, Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, 1960 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive, SE, Hickory, NC. Friday and Saturday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm,

Sunday 10:00 M TO 5:00 PM. Admission \$5.00 for all three days, children 12 and under admitted free. Club web page [www.cvgmc.com](http://www.cvgmc.com). Contact Dean Russell, [cvgmcsecretary@aol.com](mailto:cvgmcsecretary@aol.com) or 828-303-1448.

**March 26-27, 2022** - Che -Hanna Rock & Mineral Club 2nd Annual Show. Wysox Volunteer Fire Co. Social Hall, 111 Lake Road, Wysox, PA. March 26 – 9:00 AM-5:00PM, March 27 – 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Adults \$3, Students \$1.

**March 26-27, 2022** - Western Mass. Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show, sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club, Castle of Knights Meeting and Banquet House, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA. (2 miles off of Mass Turnpike) Admission \$5, Children 12 and under free with paid adult. Scouts in uniform free. Door Prize Drawings and Exhibits. March 26 - 9:30 am to 5 pm and March 27 - 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

**May 16-22, 2022** – EFMLS Wildacres Workshop Spring Session.

**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.**

## COMING SOON TO YOUR INBOX

Watch your inbox for the following coming soon:

- Club insurance information
- Dues information
- Wildacres class schedule

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Region 5	Open		
Region 6	Larry Huffman	1-828-612-4469	ldhuff314@embarqmail.com
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ALL AMERICAN AWARD <sup>(1)</sup>	Open		
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BYLAWS	Open		
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EASTERN FIELD TRIP ALIANCE (EFTA)	Open		
EASTERN FOUNDATION FUND	Open		
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE			

<sup>(1)</sup> EFMLS Representative to American Federation (AFMS) committee.

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