Official Monthly Publication of the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society Birmingham, Alabama

President's Message

Hello Folks,

First off, I hope this finds all doing well and continuing to be on guard. We don't need anyone else getting sick. If you know of someone who is ill, regardless of what it is please let me know. I hope all are ready for your vaccinations, I am. I can roll my sleeve up real quick!

We have several important items that need to be brought before the membership and our annual budget is one of them. Thanks to Reggie Bolton for putting together what his best guess would be in this crazy time. Please look it over and be prepared to discuss it and vote on it. I will attach it in a separate pdf.

Another item we need to discuss is having a show this year. The board of directors think an indoor show would be good and Labor Day weekend would be our target date. Many things have to happen to have a show: members handling the door, members taking care of the club booth, members loading up at the workshop and unloading, members taking care of the dealers needs, etc. You can see where this is going. We can't do a show without our members stepping up. The Bessemer Civic Center has some guidelines we will have to follow. I know from shows in the past, everything looked hopeless at the beginning then it just all fell into place and WE DID IT!!! Please be prepared to vote this up or down this Friday night via our ZOOM meeting. We need to get it in gear now one way or another. Check out the great door prizes on page 8. Onto our workshop, Levan and Yvonne have helped out a lot and are prepared to go even farther. Please read their part on page 7 and 8. Keep on rocking, Sandra Sullivan, President A.M.L.S.

Website: https://www.lapidaryclub.com



Sandra Sullivan President A.M.L.S.

Upcoming in February - NO CHANGE HERE

- Workshop open when you call Levan Foster
 He says the workshop is NOT getting anyone on
 Saturdays. So if you want to go use the workshop other than Thursdays, call, text, or email
 Levan Foster. He says Thursday afternoon is
 good for him. See page 2 for contact info.
- ZOOM Meeting date Feb. 12 th at 7 pm just like a regular meeting; the second Friday of the month. Board meetings on ZOOM scheduled for now the 4th Tuesday night 7 pm on ZOOM.

YES, WE ARE DOING ZOOM MEET-INGS! We need away of staying in touch with one another AND START TALKING ABOUT ROCKS AGAIN!
WHO WANTS A ROCK SHOW ????

Inside ~

President's Message, Calendar, Inside	Page	1
Slate of Officers, Board Members, New Members, Federation website addresses	Page	2
ZOOM Meeting minutes 1/8/21, ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes on 1/26/21	Page	3
Shows & Rock Swaps	Page	4
Bench Tips	Page	5
DMC info,	Page	6
Picture of Items made for a rock donor, Levan Foster saysTreasurer's Statement,	Page	7
Doorprizes, Note to the Membership, Leftovers, Yvonne Foster says	Page	8
Last page funnies, Club application	Page	9
Club Calendar and Club Information	Page	10

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Webmaster	Vacant
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For more information: AFMS, EFMLS, and SFMS Websites

The SFMS Newsletter, *the Lodestar*, and the AFMS Newsletter are now available for all members to read on line at http://www.amfed.org/sfms. And www.amfed.org Email: sfms. And www.amfed.org Email: sfms. And the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies or EFMLS https://www.efmls.org

A.M.L.S. WORKSHOP ADDRESS:

8036 Parkway Dr. Leeds, AL. 35094 (Across from The Pant Store)

Please welcome any new members with a handshake and tell them a bit about A.M.L.S. and what you like about it.

Laura Horne, Rick and Jacklyn Mc Conatha, and Coltlan Faulkner

If you know of someone who would like to visit or be interested in rocks, feel free to invite them to our meetings/workshop.

Members Serving on the Board of Directors:

Yvonne Foster	205-276-8786 levanfoster@gmail.com
Jinger Glasgow	205-515-2705 jingerssg@aol.com

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies				
President of EFMLS	Barbara Ringhiser 5678barb@aol			
Alabama State Representative to EFMLS				
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies				
President of SFMS	Melissa Hill Rader rocklick-			
Alabama State Representative to SFMS	Chris Rutherford ridgelandenv@gmail.com			

AMLS Zoom Board Meeting Minute 1/26/21

In attendance: Sandra Sullivan, John Wild, Reggie and Bunny Bolton, Robert Lorino, Vivian Melof, Jinger Glasgow, Levan and Yvonne Foster, John Gaston

The budget must be voted on by the membership at the February meeting. It always involves some guess work but this year there are more than the usual unknowns. Annual expenses for the shop and other necessities will be around \$8000. which will need to be transferred from savings to checking since we don't have our usual sources of income like dues, auctions, classes and workshop use. If we have a show it could net us \$3000. or more. There may also be income from sales of some of our large inventory of rocks. Reggie moved that we bring to the membership a vote on transferring \$7000. to checking. John seconded and it passed. Sandra and Reggie will plan to meet at the bank to add Sandra as a signatory on the accounts and transfer the funds if if the membership agrees.

Robert suggested we need better long-range planning. Field trips and classes are ways to attract members but are a problem right now. A show is also a way to attract members but members are needed to put one on. Labor Day week-end is open at the Bessemer Civic Center which looks like our best bet for a venue right now. Levan motioned that we vote on asking the membership to okay putting a deposit down for that week-end for our show. The motion passed with one abstention.

A field trip is being planned for March to go to Wheeler Dam to hunt crinoids and nearby Second Creek for geodes. Perhaps we can look at Graves Mountain for April. It would be great to get back to having field trips again with masks and social distancing.

While it may be possible to hold our annual auction outside, we might also be able to hold one online. There are several ways to do this but all involve considerable work including pricing, packing and shipping in addition to getting pictures on the internet. John Gaston, who has vast knowledge of minerals, agreed to meet Levan at the workshop to work on pricing.

Robert said that because of his recent eye surgery it will be another 3 weeks or so before he can open the workshop on Tuesdays. Glad to know it was successful and he will be back up shortly. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Bunny Bolton, Recording Secretary

AMLS ZOOM Meeting 1/8/21

In attendance Sandra Sullivan, John and Judi Wild, Reggie and Bunny Bolton, Judith Johnson, Jinger Glasgow, Robert Lorino, Don & Jill Hill, Levan & Yvonne Foster, Vivian Melof, Rhonda Jordon, Bill Fowler, Michelle Reavis.

Reggie talked about Geology 365, a website being developed to help rock clubs with their websites, field trips and many other aspects of club life. Sandra sent a questionnaire to officers that can help them make decisions about how to proceed.

We're still looking at possible show dates and venues. The Bessemer Civic Center has September 10-12 open which is a weekend without conflicting SFMS shows. They require 1/2 down (\$1750.) as a deposit with the balance due 2 weeks before the show. We need to make sure the deposit is refundable if the world explodes. Concessions and the club's ability to provide refreshments to vendors needs to be researched. If the club charges vendors \$100. per table, with an average of 4 tables per vendor and 30 vendors we could raise about \$12,000. with another roughly \$1000. from ticket sales. A vote on whether to have the show was put off until we have more information. Having enough member volunteers is another issue which must be addressed.

Board positions that remain to be filled are historian, show chairman, webmaster (may hire someone for this), and field trip chairman (2nd vice president). Yvonne Foster will be member at large.

A regular auction seems impossible this year but we may be able to have one on line or outside in a park or in the back yard of the shop.

Reggie asked who has filled out membership applications for 2021. So far 22 applications have been processed. A roll over of 2020 dues has been offered but the form still needs to be turned in. The Federations we are part of need to have a count of the members soon.

February is the month we vote on a budget. There are so many variables that it is a juggling act to put one together. Some expenses remain the same like workshop rent and utilities but income is a mystery. Around \$8000. will need to be transferred from savings to checking to cover workshop and other expenses plus maybe \$6000. for show deposits and other up front show expenses.

Sandra drew names for door prizes and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Bunny Bolton, Recording Secretary Clubs and Societies Shows and Rock Swaps via RockNGem shows, SFMS website, and other sources

PLEASE CHECK WITH THE SHOW CLUB OR CHAIRMAN BEFORE GOING! THE SHOW COULD BE CANCELED DUE TO THE VIRUS!

Feb.6 – 7 Merritt Island, FL Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club; Kiwanis Island Recreation Center, 951 Kiwanis Island Park; Sat.10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$4, free admission for children 12 and under; More than 20 vendors selling rocks, minerals, specimens, lapidary jewelry and supplies; silent auctions, displays, and activities for children; contact Roz Mestre, 1867 Longleaf Rd., Cocoa 32926, (321) 431-0159; Email: roz.mestre@att.net; Website: www.centralbrevardgems.org

Feb. 22 – 22 Jackson, MS. Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society 61st Gem Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show. Sat. 9 – 6, Sun.10 – 5. Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, 1200 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS. 39202 Adults \$6, Students \$3, Scouts & Leaders in Uniform \$2, Children 5 & under—Free. Additional information:

rock2lanes@gmail.com

MGMSClub website: www.missgems.org

FEB. 22 Lakeland, FL. Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society Sat. 9 - 4:30 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801Hourly door prizes, Spin & Win Mineral Wheel, Kids Treasure Dig, demonstrations and educational displays, Silent and Chinese auctions and over 25 dealers of rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts and hobby supplies. Contact Kim Price, Show chair, at (863) 412-9156 or email kprice1105@gmail.com. Facebook: Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club.

Website: www.bonevalley.net

Feb. 23 The Villages Gem & Mineral Society

Sun. 10 – 4, Sea Breeze Regional Recreation Center 2374 Buena Vista Blvd. The Villages, FL. 32162 50+ vendors, Gems, minerals, slabs, many forms of jewelry, chains, charms, yoga pillows, drums and more. Come see all the talent and enter for a chance to win 1 of 3 prize baskets! Raffles held every 1/2 hour. Show Chair - Diane Davis (248) 770-2409 jewelry16680@gmail.com

Society website:

http://thevillagesgemandmineralsociety.com/

Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

http://www.rockngem.com/showdates
http://www.jewelryshowguide.com/event/

Mar. 12 – 14 Live Oak, FL. SFMS ROCK-HOUND ROUND-UP - 2021 Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Who: All Members of all SFMS Clubs are Welcome From Clubs in good standing with SFMS. Members in good standing from over 74 Clubs in: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN.

What: A good old-fashion Rock-Swap. When: March 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2021. Where: Spirit of Suwannee Music Park 3076 95th Drive, Live Oak, FL 32060 (386) 364-1683 www.musicliveshere.com All buying is open to the general public.

Mar. 19 - 21 Marietta, GA. Annual Show Bellpoint; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, free admission for children under 15 when accompanied by a paying adult; Select dealers from near and far selling exquisite minerals, gems, jewelry, beads, rocks, geodes, healing stones, fossils, crystals; contact Damian; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

Mar. 19 - 21 Arden, N.C. MAGMA Annual show; Club and Jacquot & Son Mining; Camp Stephens, 263 Clayton Road; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; 12th bi-annual gem, mineral and fossil show, dozens of vendors from across the U.S. offering gems, minerals, fossils, and rocks; demonstrations; displays; contact Rick Jacquot, PO Box 542, 3897 New Leicester Hwy, LEICESTER, NC 28748, (828) 779-4501; Email: rick@wncrocks.com; Website: www.americanrockhound.com

Apr. 7 – 11 Edison, LA. Annual show; Eons Expos, RLLLP; NJ Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue; Wed. 12-8, Thu. 12-8, Fri. 12-8, Sat. 10-7; Wed-Fri \$15 (unlimited re-entry), Sat-Sun \$20 (unlimited re-entry), family pass (weekdays) \$30, family pass (Sunday) \$40; Wholesale and retail sale, free parking every day, all COVID-19 restrictions followed for your safety.; contact Lowell Carhart, 106 Horseguards Ave, Bossier City, LA 71111, (804) 291-6357; Email: lowellcarhart@yahoo.com; Website: https://ny-nj-gemshow.com

These shows could be a fieldtrip too !!!

Brad Smith - Bench Tips ~

BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. It works with regular bezels, with tube settings, and with prong settings. Stones can be set in as little as 30 seconds.

The working end is a concave cavity that fits over the bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

Find a round steel rod or bolt a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, centerpunch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Next, if it's a small stone, I inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.



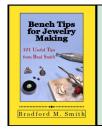


BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$36 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07. I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.











Brad Smith <u>brad@greenheart.com</u>

BradSmithJewelry.com Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith

See the paperback edition at https://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285886/ and the Kindle edition at https://amazon.com/dp/B07D4B45JJ/





IMPORTANT: DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program. SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics (DMC Field Trip Sharing Program (amfed.org), but the general public is not and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. So unless the property owner has invited non-SFMS attendees, the general public is not allowed on DMC field trips. Please do not post DMC field trip information where the

general public can access it.

Please reply by e-mail to: sfms-dmc@amfed.org
World Wide Web site for the DMC is: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm
DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Copyright © All rights reserved.

"Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."

DMC Field Trips Cancelled for 2021 as of January 17, 2021

Schedule Moving Forward One Year

I hope everyone is healthy and safe as we enter this new year. COVID-19 vaccines are providing some post -COVID optimism. We are nearing a time when we can share field trips with one another again.

Unfortunately, even with vaccines available, it appears that the virus may still be a problem this year. Until we know for certain that we can gather together safely, we must approach the situation with great caution.

So in the interest of safety, I am moving the entire DMC schedule forward by another year.

All trips scheduled for 2021 are moved to 2022, 2022 to 2023, 2023 to 2024, and 2024 to 2025.

The new schedule is posted on the SFMS website here:

http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dixie-proposed-ft.htm

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks to all of the clubs who continue to support the DMC Field Trip Sharing Program as we work our way through this.

Stay healthy, stay safe.

Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator

sfms-dmc@amfed.org

dmc@gamineral.org



Spring Speaker in Residence to be announced for Spring 2021WILDACRES 2021

If all goes well, the dates for the EFMLS Wildacres Spring Session are May 17-23. The unknown, of course, is the situation regarding the Coronavirus. Because of this, we are not including a registration form, and asking everyone not to send in checks at this time.

Tentative classes include wire wrapping, chain mail, cabochon making, micromount preparation, faceting,

beading, and PMC. These may be subject to change as conditions change. The cost for the entire week will be \$435 which includes room and board, classes, lectures, and other activities. We hope to know by March if Wildacres will be able to open and if the conditions in the eastern states permit traveling. Stay tuned.

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Director



Pendants designed and made by Yvonne Foster for the grand daughters of Tamara Harrison



Levan Foster says ...

As many of you know a rock collection was donated to the club. We wish to thank the Harrison family for this donation. Last Thursday John Gaston came out to the workshop and we started pricing the rocks. We found some nice items, and we found many "souvenir" rocks (plain rocks picked up on travels as a souvenir). We have only made it through about a third of the collection. We have priced a lot of the rocks under \$10. The pricing will continue. We are trying decide which will be better an online auction or an online rock sale. I plan to set up the tables with the rocks displayed at workshop.

On another note *

This pandemic will end and we need new members. I would like to start planning some demos for when local libraries start to open back up. Please send me any ideas you have on locations and what to demo. Another note from the editor ... This member is really stepping up here. PLEASE Let's help him out and send him some ideas. JUMP START A.M.L.S. S.S.

Let's don't forget the little kids too! For more information concerning kids and rocks, check out this website too!

www.kidsloverocks.com



Great for kids having to learn remotely.

AMLS Treasurer's Statement 2021

AMLS started 2020 with a healthy checking balance. But, when the pandemic shut us down, we were unable to realize most of the income we had anticipated from shows, auctions, classes, and workshop usage. Our workshop was just hitting stride when we shut down. That alone accounted for almost all of the approximately \$7,000 we burned through in 2020. Unfortunately, there is a strong possibility that 2021 will turn out about the same. However, our checking balance is greatly diminished. As a result, I and the board are recommending we draw \$7,000 from our reserve funds to support operations for this year in hopes we can recover our equilibrium. We are working on an online auction that could help reduce our deficit. And we are making preliminary plans for a show in early September that may also help. But we need to be prepared for the worst while we hope for the best. The workshop will cost us over \$6,000 for rent and utilities. However, we could not rent storage space for our equipment and supplies for much less than that. And we would have to do (or pay for) a lot of moving work. If we cannot find a road to recovery this year, we may need to consider the drastic option of selling everything off and starting over from zero. I hope we can all find a way to work together to avoid that outcome.

Respectfully submitted, Reggie Bolton, Treasurer

DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS-

Many events are being changed to a later date or cancelled totally. Please stay tuned! We are trying folks but we need to hear from you. Please contact Pres. Sandra Sullivan, VP John Wild, or another board member (see page 2 for contacts) to let us know what your thinking. We need your participation if we have a good working club. S.S,

DOOR PRIZES to be given away at this ZOOM meeting ~















Please forgive my misnumbering and being one short of eight. S.S.

DON'T FORGET TO LET SANDRA KNOW IF YOU WANT TO BE IN THE DRAWING AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM. PLEASE DECIDE AHEAD OF TIME WHICH DOORPRIZE YOU WANT! As the drawing winds down so does your number of selected items you have to choose from. Make a mental choice up to say 3pieces before the meeting. If all goes well this time, we can continue to do this at each ZOOM meeting. Maybe with more items too. Let me know if the pictures are ok or if you can it to enlarge. S.S.



UNCLAIMED DOORPRIZS FROM LAST MONTH

Please contact Sandra if you won either of these prizes. Email or phone - contact info on page 2

Yvonne Foster says ...

For those who are interested in a silver class, please call her with what you would like to learn. She will teach only one at a time at the workshop in Leeds, AL. for \$50. for 2 day consecutive sessions in order to raise more \$\$ for the workshop. Each session will be 6 hours each and she will have her silver set-

up there ready to begin teaching. Please contact her a week or two beforehand for a supply list and maybe some "Homework". Her contact information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.



Last page funnies ...

What can point in every direction but can't reach the destination by itself? Your Finger

I make two people out of one. What am I? A Mirror

Why is Europe like a frying pan? Because it has Greece at the bottom

I am white when I am dirty, and black when I am clean. What am I? A Blackboard.

Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth? Mount Everest

There are two monkeys on a tree and one jumps off. Why does the other monkey jump too? *Monkey see monkey do.*

The more you take away, the more I become. What am I? A Hole

Jokes -- n -- Riddles OUTCROPPINGS DECEMBER 2020 VOLUME 35, NO. 12

A.M	L.S. Applic	ation for Membership	New	_ Renewal	Year
		STATE			
HOME PHONE		WORK/CELL PHONE			
E-MAIL ADDRESS	(S)				
		Junior / Student \$15			

ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY

8036 Parkway Dr. Leeds, Al. 35094

and mail to *Or bring to a meeting!*

Info: Usual Meeting Date: Second Friday of each month except for the month of June. The Oak Mountain State Park Show takes the place of the June meeting.

Meeting place: Cahaba Heights United Methodists Church 3139 Cahaba Heights Rd.

Cahaba Heights, AL. 35243

Meeting time: 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY



	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	Workshop Times 1pm until Contact Levan	12 ZOOM Regular Meeting 7pm	13
14	15	16	17	Foster 18	19	20
Valentine's Day 21	Presidents' Day 22	23 ZOOM Board Meeting 7 pm	24	25	26	27

ALABAMA MINERAL & LAPIDARY SOCIETY Birmingham, Alabama



28

The Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society is a non-profit organization for people interested in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Membership is open to all people interested in the objectives of the society. Dues for the calendar year 2020 are \$25.00 family, \$20.00 single, and Juniors / Students \$15.00. Checks should be made payable to the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society and given to the treasurer. The society holds regular meetings on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm (except the month of June because of the Oak Mountain St. Park Show). Meetings are currently held at the Cahaba Heights United Methodist Church and usually last an hour and a half. There is a half hour of snacks and fellowship preceding the meeting.

The society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Reprint rights are granted for any information in the bulletin except minutes and copy right articles with permission to print one time only in ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP, provided credit is given to the author and the original publication as well as the bulletin. Exchange bulletins should be addressed to the editor.



THE SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC. and THE EASTERN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETIES

A NON-PROFIT, NON-COMMERCIAL, NON POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND REGIONAL FEDERATION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

PURPOSE:

To bring about a closer association of clubs and societies devoted to the study of the Earth Sciences and the practice of the lapidary arts and crafts in the southeastern part of the United States.

OBJECTIVE:

To cooperate with similar Federations to promote public interest in the Earth Sciences and the conservation of natural resources.

