

JON SPUNAUGLE



To those who knew him, Jon was larger than life. He used his background as an IRS agent to look at things with a different perspective. Analytical and stickler for detail, It was Jon who brought about the downfall of the AFMS Treasurer and Treasurer of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation (one and the same person). It was Jon who uncovered discrepancies in the funds of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation that led to the resignation

of a man who took thousands of dollars out of the Scholarship Fund.... something Jon made sure would never happen again by changing the bylaws and operating regulations pertaining to the Foundation.

Jon was President of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies in 1991-92 and was a pillar of the Northwest Federation with help with their Endowment Fund and investments right up to the point in 2015 when he learned he had terminal cancer.

Jon was also President of the fledgling American Lands Access Assn, the legislative arm of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. While balancing both the NFMS and ALAA jobs, Jon took on the infamous (for rockhounds) Max Baucus' Paleontological Resources Protection Act, S 3107. Jon, through his many Washington State contacts was able to secure an opposing bill that brought attention to what was occurring and the bill died in the Senate.

Jon was the Treasurer of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation from about 2003 to his diagnosis of cancer in 2015. He spent time researching all the earlier recipients of the Scholarships and wrote about them in the AFMS Newsletter from time to time. Jon did the investments of the Fund and took pleasure in sending checks to the twelve recipients each year.

On the lighter side, Jon enjoyed faceting and was involved with the Inter-Mountain Faceters until the organization retired. Involved with Ed Romack and the late Richard Glismann and the late Carl Unruh, and several others... the group became famous for their extraordinary large faceted stones.

Jon was also a barbecue chef of extraordinary talents and many times during the Northwest Federation shows shared his talents with him many friends throughout the rockhound world.

We mourn the loss of a great light, but know he is with his wife Sandy who was taken way too early in their marriage and who he never forgot.

Go with God, Jon,you deserve it.

Shirley Leeson,

AFMS Historian