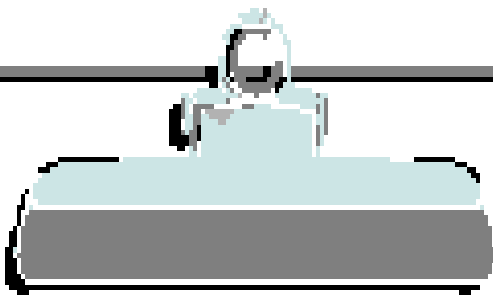


# South Central Federation Newsletter



**JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2013**

Member of: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



## IMPORTANT REMINDER

Attention Club Presidents and Secretaries,

### OFFICERS AND EDITORS FORM

The Officers and Editors Form is available on the SCFMS Website. It is important for this form to be filled out by your club and returned to Jonathan M. Moehring, SCFMS Executive Secretary. (See address on the Form). Deadline for receiving the form will be:

**FEBRUARY 15, 2013**

**DON'T DELAY**

**DO IT TODAY**

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAR - APR  
ISSUE IS: MARCH 15, 2013**

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**LET'S REMEMBER OUR TROOPS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES,  
WHO ARE IN THE MILITARY**



## SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.

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WWW.SCFMS.NET

### PURPOSE

To promote popular interest and education in the various earth sciences, in particular those hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the science of minerals, fossils, as well as their associated fields.

To cooperate with educational and scientific institutions or other groups engaged in increasing knowledge in the earth sciences.

To cooperate with or become members of similar Federations in the United States and elsewhere.

To assist in the formation of earth sciences societies in localities where public interest justifies their formation.

### E-MAIL ADDRESS CORRECTION AND CHANGES

It is each members responsibility to send your E-mail Addresses to the SCFMS Editor Paul W. Good, pmgood@verizon.net

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

#### DUPLICATION

Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes providing full credit is given. For Commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.

#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The DEADLINE for each Newsletter is the 15th of the following months: January - March - May - July - September and November. As a reminder! Shop hints and tips that are used in this Newsletter, have not been evaluated for safety or reliability by myself. Please use caution and safety when trying out any new idea.

Your Editor is a member of S.C.R.I.B.E.



## SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION CONVENTION NEWS

### ANNUAL SHOW

The ARK-LA-TEX Gem and Mineral Society, Bossier City, LA, will host the SCF Show in 2013, to be held on August 17-18, 2013. So, mark your calendar and plan to be there for that show. We will be having more information about the festivities as time goes on, which are being planned at this moment.

### ANNUAL MEETING:

The Federation's next annual meeting will be held on August 17, 2013.

### ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

The annual silent auction will be held during the SCF Show and Convention, August 17-18, 2013. Donations are greatly welcomed and needed. Rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry and hobby related items are among the items needed. Bring or send these items to the show. Proceeds from the silent auction go into the South Central Federation Endowment Fund.



## THE NASH RAMBLER

John Nash, President



**H**appy New Year, everybody! The new year has started out great. Now, if only I could get these other committees filled. It seems that everyone is busy. Of course if you have not been approached and are interested in serving, please let me know.

Ray Duplechain from Baton Rouge is handling the bulletin competition, Jim Marler from Alexandria, Louisiana is chairing the Audit committee, Wanda Reynolds from Austin is chairing the nominating committee, and Don Shurtz has agreed to handle the Web Page. Do not forget Phyllis George from Katy who is handling the Web Page competition.

This is by no means all the officers and committee members, it is just the ones that come to mind right off. If you want a copy of all officers and committee members, our web site has been updated and you can download a copy.

**Our Web-site is: WWW.SCFMS.NET.**

The Clubs that are members of SCFMS need to remember the AFMS Scholarship raffle. First, we need someone to head this up. The SCFMS Scholarship Honoree selects two graduate students in the earth sciences to receive scholarships. These scholarships are funded, in part, by this raffle.

Another thing that some clubs do not accomplish is the information list of its officers, bulletin editor, and Web Master. This list should be mailed/mailed to Jonathan Moehring of the SCFMS. This list helps the various clubs keep in contact with one another. Can you tell your club members when a certain club will have its show?

Enough griping on my part. I really do hope that each and every one of you has a happy new year but don't forget your duties.

John D

## SCFMS COMMITTEES NEEDING TO BE FILLED

Boundaires

Commemorative Stamps

Constitution & By-Laws

Public Relations

Ways & Means

AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle



## PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

### THE 2013 SCFMS FEDERATION SHOW



HOSTED BY THE

ARK-LA-TEX GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY



AUGUST 17-18

BOSSIER CITY CIVIC CENTER - BOSSIER CITY, LA



When the SCFMS needed a web site, Gravid "Al" Pennington stepped up. He developed the first SCFMS web site and maintained it for a good number of years. Al used a lot of programming techniques to make the SCFMS web site fast to load, yet it remained clear and easy to read. Al did this while spending a lot of time on business travel including travel outside of the United States. For all that Al did we own him a well deserved **THANK YOU.**



In late December myself and Ray Duplechain, the SCFMS BEAC, sent notes to John Nash, the SCFMS President, independently letting him know that we would be willing to assist Al with updates and maintenance of the SCFMS web site. In early January I received a call from John asking if I would be willing to become the webmaster. John is very hard to turn down, so I accepted.

After a bit of coordination with Al, we got the domain name transferred to my account on the host server. Al loaded up all the web files to my account and as of 10 January, I was the webmaster. It took a few days to get a very basic understand the programming behind the web files and to fix a couple of broken links. Since then I have uploaded the latest (2012) SCFMS directory for web access; I will

upload the 2013 directory when received. I have also updated the SCFMS 2013 Officer List, Committee Chair List, and the latest information available on the 2013 SCFMS Convention and show. If you look you will also find the latest SCFMS Newsletter (November-December 2012), links to the Editor and Author contest forms and the Web Site contest forms, and the latest SCFMS forms for club membership, insurance, and officers. The AFMS News section has also been updated. In the near future look for a page of links to the last two years of SCFMS newsletters.

I will do my best to keep the web site updated. If you notice any broken links or any problems with the web site, please let me know. If you have information to be posted, please send it to me at [don.shurtz@gmail.com](mailto:don.shurtz@gmail.com).

Don

## IN MEMORY

### Tessa Barnett Shier

To all who were acquainted with Lt. Col. Gene Shier. His beloved Tessa Barnett Shier of Amarillo passed way. She was 88 years old. She donated her body to science center (UTSA). Gene served as President of the SCFMS, 1989-1990 and was a Patron in the SCFMS Endowment Fund. Lt. Col and Mrs. Shier were members of the Austin Gem & Mineral Society in the 1990's.

Memorial service for Mrs. Shier, was held in Amarillo, Texas.

Donations may be made to the Charity of your choice. Gene and Tessa loved to travel to various Gem and Mineral shows and made many a friend. They will both be missed!

Submitted by Josie Middleton, SCFMS Uniform Rules



## SHOP HINTS

A good gadget to clean and polish silver can be purchased at the office supply store. Ask for a fiberglass eraser. It is sort of a brush, and gets down into the smallest crack and does a beautiful cleaning job. This is especially fine for intricate silver jewelry that you have hand cast.

To get a high polish on onyx and other stones that are difficult to polish, mix in a wide mouth jar 3 tablespoons of water with 1/2 tablespoon oxalic acid. Dip your cab in this...then polish.

(from Gem Time via the Rockytier, to us via S.I.E.S. CLUB NEWS.)



## SAFETY REPORT



by: Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator

**ALWAYS VIGILANT!**

In a recent article I mentioned a tactic I sometimes use when conducting safety meetings at work. I mention to the group or class that before I walked into the room I let two five and half foot diamond back rattlesnakes with heads the size of my fist loose on the ground and then closed the door. Then I tell them that they can leave. Everyone thinks I'm joking and yet there is a definite hesitation before anyone starts to get up.

The point being that you should always be vigilant and aware of your surroundings so that those metaphorical snakes don't reach out and strike you.

The discussion exercise that follows is about "safe behaviors" and how we can teach ourselves to recognize haz-

ards in our work environment. Thus we will keep ourselves safer.

In our daily lives most of us have adopted a variety of safe behaviors both in and out of work. Holding the handrail on the stairs, wiping your feet dry on a mat when you come in from the rain, buckling your seat belt, not leaving candles unattended, etc. What we unfortunately see at work though is that our coworkers do all the right things here, but when they go home safety goes right out the window!

First things first, speeding home and rolling through stop signs. Something we don't do in our company trucks! Then on Saturday morning it's time to weed-eat the lawn, usually in flip flops, shorts and wearing sun glasses.

Maybe my favorite is cooking on the stove while barefooted! Nothing like hot oil flying off the stove and landing on top of your foot to ruin a romantic dinner... AND, we all know how to use PPE (personal protective equipment) and how to keep an eye out for hazards in our workplaces. So I simply want to encourage you to take the same precautions at home as you do at work. Check behind your car before pulling out. Put on safety glasses when mowing. Use ear plugs when using a chainsaw. Use an oven mitt and not a towel when getting something out of the oven. Do these things consciously and soon, like with seat belts, you will do them automatically and thus keep yourself a little bit safer every day.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! OWEN**

## EDUCATION

by: Margaret Good

Every member should be willing to  
 Do something to improve the club and help in  
 uniting our communities to further service  
 Centered in our schools.  
 All schools are generally short of funds;  
 Therefore, reach out for assistance  
 In all possible ways.  
 One way can be through rock talks and displays in as many schools as possible.  
 Naturally, our reward is seeing eager faces saying "Thank you for helping us".

## THE CRAFTSMAN'S WORK

by: Sally Odum

Born as is beauty in the heart of a man,  
 Conceived with a purpose by his mind,  
 Through craft and art well entwined.  
 Realized at last by the skill of his hand,  
 Not as art, for its sake alone;  
 Instead, to serve a common need  
 The craftsman's worth is fondly done.

from the "Rocky Reader" February, 1999



**ATTENTION:**

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH - APRIL SCFMS NEWS IS MARCH 15, 2012**





# SCFMS ENDOWMENT FUND



## Ed Ries, SCFMS CHAIR

### PATRONS

The Austin Gem & Mineral Society has honored three of their members by donating \$100.00 to the SCF Endowment Fund for each honored member.

Brian Wetzig -- Patron 197

Paul Bordovsky -- Patron 198

Alan Cherepon -- Patron 199

Since 1994, the Austin Gem & Mineral Society has honored thirty eight of their members this way.

### PATRON CLUB

The Austin Gem & Mineral Society sent a contribution to the SCF En-

dowment Fund from their silent auction at their October 2012 show, which brings the club to a PATRON CLUB 60 & 61.

### AUSTIN GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY 1999 PATRON 61 2012

The DeRidder G&M Society donated \$100. To the SCF Endowment Fund in memory of Jack Robinson, a charter member of the club.

Friends of Wayne Johnson made a donation of \$50. In his memory to the SCF Endowment Fund. He is the brother of Lois Pattillo.

The SCFMS Silent Auction at the Federation Show, was ran by members of the Pine County G&M Society at Jasper, TX, and made \$302,

for the SCF Endowment Fund. A job well done.

These contributions have been placed in a permanent fund of the SCF Endowment Fund from which only the interest can be used to help support SCF projects.

Thanks to all, for your continued support of your Federation Endowment Fund. Your club has invested in the future of your hobby and Federation.

Ed Ries



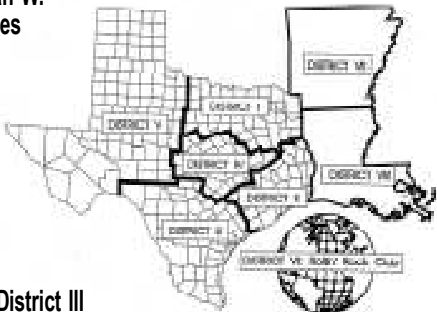
## EXCEPTION

Let me live in my house  
By the side of the road  
And be a friend to man...  
Except for the lout  
Who selects my lawn  
To deposit his bottle or can!



Let's Keep American Clean.

## THE SCFMS DISTRICTS AND THE DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

District V Herman W. Jones	District 1 Steve Hilliard	District VII Raymond Lynch
District IV Chip Burnette		District VIII Jim Marler
District III Joe Grimes	District II Fred Brown	District VI Edith Guenther



## FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS CORNER

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair



## MIDWEST FEDERATION YOUTH POSTER CONTEST: FOSSILS OF THE WORLD



For the past few years, the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio has been sponsoring a poster contest for kids in conjunction with their annual show and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies convention. The contest is open to any kids within an AFMS-affiliated club, especially those who already may be involved in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program.

David Rich has emailed to let me know the tradition continues, and this year, the contest is focused around a theme of "Fossils of the World." Kids wishing to enter the contest should prepare a poster illustrating one or more fossils that interest them, from anywhere in the world.

The contest is open to kids in grades 1 through 8. Each grade level will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and 1st place winners will also receive a prize. Rules are as follows:

- \* all entries must be presented on 12X18-inch paper;
- \* artwork can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other artist's medium, but no three-dimensional posters accepted;
- \* include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of entry;
- \* the title maybe on front or back;
- \* list of names of the fossils and why you chose them; and
- \* all entries become the property of Summit Lapidary Club and the Midwest Federation.

Points will be awarded as follows: Originality & Art Work-30 points; Design-25 points; Title-25 points; Listing of Fossils and Reason You Chose Them-20 points. Entries must be postmarked by March 2, 2013, and should be mailed to: Jennifer Fike, P.O. Box 26276, Akron, Ohio 44319. Winners to be announced April 6, 2013, at the MWF convention. Further contest info may be found at

<http://Lapidaryclubofohio.org>,

and if you have questions, contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email at:

[SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com](mailto:SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com).

## HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

### Host an "Amazing Mineral Magic Show"

At the beginning of the year, I added five new badges to our AFMS/FRA Badge Program, and one has proven instantly popular beyond what I'd imagined: Special Effects. We've already awarded nearly 40 of these badges, which is three times as many as any of the other new units introduced this year. The Special Effects unit guides kids in exploring such

interesting mineralogical phenomena as magnetism, double refraction, fluorescence, triboluminescence, and more. A suggested activity is having your juniors host an "Amazing Mineral Magic Show" to demonstrate these phenomena to the rest of the club. Several clubs have already done just this, and they report that the adults in the room were just as amazed as the

kids who were demonstrating the effects. The Coquina Kids of the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society in Florida, the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club's Rock Retrievers, and the Jr. Geologists of the Flatirons Mineral Club in Colorado have all written to me of the success of this particular unit. Dennis Gertenbach, leader of the FMC Jr. (Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page)

Geologists, has even suggested new rocks to add to the Amazing Mineral Magic Show, including floating pyrite and rocks that "sing" when put in water. I hope to incorporate his suggestions into future revisions to the Badge Manual, and I encourage others to send in suggestions of rocks with special effects. (Email me at [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com).)

It sounds like this particular unit, with its hands-on activities, has gone over well, so I encourage your society to give it a try because it sounds like the adults, just as much as the kids, found it not only eye-opening, but also fun!

(NOTE: Both of the above articles were published in the AFMS Newsletter, December 2012 - January 2013.)

## FUTURE ROCKHOUDS OF AMERICA

### An Honor Roll

**K**ids participating in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program symbolically graduate from "future rockhound" to "full rockhound" status if they complete and earn at least 6 of the 15 individual badges offered within the program. To recognize and reward them for this accomplishment, they earn a Rockhound Badge. Following is our Honor Roll of kids, from the South Central Federation, who have attained this status.

#### GULF COAST G&M SOC. JUNIOR ROCKERS

JUNE 20, 2012

Austin Adams

Dylan Bailey

Hunter Carver

Reagan Carver

Ashley Hooten

Grace Hooten

Abigail Johnston

Joseph Johnston

Ransom Johnston

Sarah Johnston

Stephen Johnston

Jarrett Kernen

Graham King

Elizabeth Longo

Victoria Longo

Emma Perez

Jacob White

Tri-City G&M Soc.

October 04, 2006

Allen Sirois

Brenna Cate Sirois

Lainey Sirois



**Then place it in your  
container.**

**It prevents LITTER.  
It prevents PESTS.  
It's the LAW.**

**LET'S KEEP OUR  
ENVIRONMENT  
CLEAN**

### AFMS/FRA BADGE PROGRAM

**T**he American Federation started the AFMS/FRA Badge Program. They now have twenty different badges for the students entering the Badge Program. They have the Membership Patch and a special Rockhound Badge, which is received upon joining.

The following is a list that Future Rockhounds can earn:

Rocks and Minerals  
Earth Resources  
Fossils  
Lapidary Arts  
Collecting  
Showmanship  
Communication  
Field Trips  
Leadership  
Earth Processes

Earth in Space  
Gold Panning and Prospecting  
Gemstones Lore and Legend  
Stone Age Tools and Art  
Rocking on the Computer  
World in Miniature  
Special Effects  
Fluorescent Minerals  
Maps  
Reaching Across Generations

To learn more about the program, log onto the AFMS Website -- [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)  
- click onto the Kids Corner. Then click onto Merit Badge Program.



## ADVERTISING AND PROMOTING GEM & MINERAL CLUBS

by Keith Harmon

The following is a synopsis of different methods of advertising and promoting the gem and mineral clubs. We thank Keith for his input.

The very best advertisement is to **mail a post card to the people who have attended the previous shows**. This entails registering attendees' mailing address, perhaps with the grand prize tickets, and keeping the addresses in a database for future mailings. After a couple of years of without attending the show, the names could be removed from the database. Have the attendees write on the cards for the grand prize drawing how they found out about the show, and that will give a good indication of how we should divide the advertising budget. The people are most likely to return the following year if they know when and where the show will be, so the post cards to the previous attendees is an absolute must for advertising.

**Publicize all events of the club**, such as field trips, work days, and meetings. (Most clubs have a calendar on the Web sites.) Newspapers, possibly TV and radio stations publish these as a public service. Always list when, where, and who to contact for more information. Do this with surrounding communities, as well as Waco. Do this monthly, and remember that some papers are published weekly, and have cutoff dates for information to be submitted.

If old members drop out for some reason, **drop them a note saying they are missed** and encourage them to return to the club. Their knowledge

and expertise is always valued and needed.

**Try to put up displays** in the public library, bank foyers, office buildings, city buildings. These can be display cases of a general nature of lapidary arts, fossil or mineral displays, jewelry crafted by members, spheres, etc. Have...club contact information on the display. Display for a week, or a month, and rotate to another location.

**Place newspaper advertisements** from the Sunday before the show up until the Saturday of the show. Since we're spending money for the advertising, have them do an article in the Women's/Local Events section on Wednesday of the week of the show. The article could have pictures of club members preparing for the show and making spheres, cabochons, jewelry, and items for the Wheel of Fortune. State the times and dates, location, admission fee, grand prize, vendor materials for sale-jewelry, minerals, fossils, decorator items, geodes, anything having to do with rockhounding. Fun for the entire Family! **Be sure to include contact information for the club**, including the monthly meeting time and location.

**Try to get them to send a photographer out on Friday** (for those having a three day show-on Thursday) afternoon for photos of some vendor booths and interviews with vendors or club members, to put in either Saturday or Sunday paper of "What's happening this weekend!" instead of "what you missed this weekend."

**Take advantage of all radio and TV public service announcements.** Call each one to get a contact name and what information they need to air it and WHEN it needs to be in their hands in order to get it on the air. Do the same for the monthly club meetings.

**Also take advantage of early morning service spots on TV and radio** to promote the show the week of the show. Most TV stations host a local event show and run your info for 2 to 3 minutes for free. For this you should have examples of what can be found at the show: jewelry, cut geodes, mineral specimens, fossils, etc. Contact the stations a month before the show, then follow up in two weeks. **Give free passes to the radio stations to give away on the air as prizes.** This will generate a mention of the show for free.

Ask the vendors to give away the 5 or 6 passes you provide to folks they meet at a restaurant, gas station, shopping center, or wherever. Ask that the vendor makes sure the person he gives it to is someone who doesn't know about the show or wasn't already planning to come. Send these passes out with the contracts (or later) to all vendors, with a note of how it works.

**Invest a couple hundred dollars in yard signs** (like political campaigns) that are reusable. Include no dates, and these will be reusable for years. Place these in members' yards the week of the show. They should read:

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

**Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show  
Saturday and Sunday  
Extraco Events Center**

(Be sure to research city ordinances about sign sizes, etc., before placing any signs on public property.)

If city ordinance allows it, place some signs along roads that see a lot of traffic.

**Hand out flyers** to post on bulletin boards and in windows of gas stations, convenience stores, Doctor or Dentist Offices, and anywhere the public

goes-restaurants, banks, hospitals (perhaps employee lounges)-anywhere you can place them. (Editor's Note: Remind the owners or managers that we are a nonprofit organization, dedicated to public education about the lapidary arts.)

**Talk to school science teachers.** Encourage them to come and have the students bring a questionnaire for extra credit. Give the teachers free passes for his/her family as an incentive. The educational benefit for the students is that they will see things found only at gem and mineral shows. This is a fun event, and it is family oriented. This approach would also

work with college professors and students, and could lead to future programs for the club meetings. Remember to give family passes to the teachers to encourage participation.

One publicity chairperson would have to have **help** in order to accomplish these things. A committee would work best.

(Keith is Show Chair of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Club in Tyler, TX)

(From Gritty Greetings 08/2012, Via The Backbender's Gazette, September 2012)

**FROM THE SCFMS BULLETIN AIDS CHAIRMAN**



**Ray Duplechain, Chair**

**N**ow that the holiday season is over and we are into another calendar year, most of us are busy preparing for all our club's yearly activities. So many great ideas are being formed and implemented. Some of the regular functions that we do annually are always looked forward to. One such thing that should be part of our clubs regular activities is the Bulletin Contest. The contest can be an avenue to promote articles from our memberships in our newsletters. Everyone

enjoys competition and recognition of ones work is always fruitful.

So as the deadline for getting your entries back to me gets closer (Feb. 16th), I encourage everyone to begin downloading the forms and putting packets together. Remember to contact me to expect your package once you send it out. I will also let you know as I receive it. Again, thanks for all you do to help promote your newsletter and I look forward to hearing you and

your club's name being announced as winners at this year's Editors Breakfast at the convention in Bossier City, La.

My email address is:  
rayduplechain@hotmail.com

Phone 225.072.0024

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
FEBURARY 16th - DEADLINE  
FOR BULLETIN CONTEST**



**"ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT  
PRAIRIE FIRES."  
TO ALL BOYS AND GIRLES  
REMEMBER--SMOKEY'S FRIENDS  
DON'T PLAY WITH MATCHES!**



## A BIT OF HISTORY

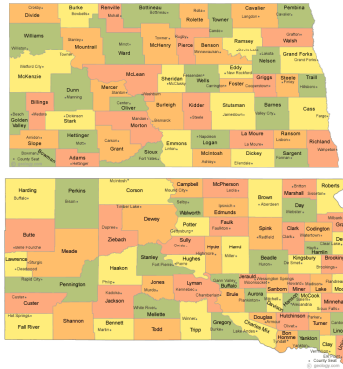
### QUARTZ MARKERS SEPARATE NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA

The boundary between North and South Dakota is the only border between two states marked every half mile with Quartzite markers.

In 1890, the United States Congress appropriated \$25,000 for the project. The markers, cut from a quartzite quarry at Sioux Falls, SD, are seven feet tall and ten inches square and are set three and a half feet in the ground. Surveyor Charles H. Bates placed 720 monuments along the boundary, only two of which could not be placed in precise locations because of rivers.

Bates placed the monuments in 1891 and 1892. The monuments were shipped to the border via railroad and Missouri River steamboat.

The initial monument was placed where the borders of North and South Dakota and Minnesota touch, and the



final monument (360 miles from the initial stone) was placed in August 1892 at the junction of the North and South Dakota and Montana Borders.

Bates joked that he should be an honorary member of the Humane Society for having erected 720 "superb cattle scratching posts".

One of the easiest to spot of these markers today, is located where scenic Highway 1804 intersects with the border in Southern Emmons county.

from the Emmons County (ND) Tourist Brochure.

## HINTS AND TIPS

Stones sometimes develop fine, thread like scratches while being polished. These may be due to grit that has penetrated the polishing buff. (One grain will do it.) To clean, hold a strip of soft plywood firmly against the butt. The grit will imbed itself in the wood, leaving the buff clean. I have also heard that a rubber eraser will work too, also a crepe rubber shoe sole.

For that glass finish on tiger eye, polish once, dry the stone then put a drop of vinegar on it. Let it dry a few minutes, then give it a second polish.

Hmmm... Most people think that there are three kinds of rocks, namely igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. To a rockhound there are still three, but not the three mentioned above. The three, to a rockhound are, "pretty rocks, interesting rocks, and pretty interesting rocks." (Swirlite could very well be one of those.) Just thought you'd like to know.

Selected

## THE AFMS NEWSLETTER

The AFMS Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August. Three copies of the Newsletter are mailed to each member club (usually to the President, bulletin Editor and one to a member of your choice). Each club should notify the AFMS Central Office as to who they would like to receive the AFMS News.

If you know or if your organization changes officers, be sure to send the new information to Steve Weinberger as well.

Remember, it is YOUR responsibility to give notice of address or officer changes.

Subscriptions to the AFMS Newsletter are available at \$4.50 per year. Make checks payable to "The American Federation" and mail them to:

Steve Weinberger  
PO Box 302  
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302  
Central\_office@amfed.org

## THE AMERICAN FEDERATION CODE OF ETHICS

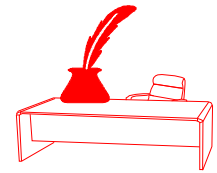
- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
  - I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
  - I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
  - I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
  - I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind -- fences, signs, buildings, etc..
  - I will leave all gates as found.
  - I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
  - I will discard no burning material -- matches, cigarettes, etc..
  - I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
  - I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
  - I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
  - I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
  - I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter, Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
  - I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
  - I will report to my Club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
  - I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
  - I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoors Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and "Public Image" of rockhounds everywhere.
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## AFMS LAND USE POLICY

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement effecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" at recreational collectors.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Paul W. Good



Margaret and I would like to take a moment to wish every reader of this Newsletter a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**. We hope your rock hunting trips will be as profitable as the Snowman's trips have been. Also, be sure you always practice SAFETY when you are out looking for the special find.

I regret that I wasn't able to get this issue out sooner than this. We had to leave town to attend a funeral of a dear friend in Stephenville, TX. Then when I returned home I had some computer problems.

I would like for all club Presidents and Editors to be sure to look at their show dates. We regret that in the last issue we had some bad ones given to us and I think we have them corrected at this time. Also if during the year, you have date changes for your shows, be sure to let me know. My e-mail is: <pmgood@verizon.net>.



Speaking of Shows, This year the Federation starts the New Year with their Annual Shows booked for the next three years. It is really GOOD to have them booked that far in advance, as it gives the clubs a lot of time for planning. The 2013 show will be in Bossier City, LA, hosted by the ARK-LA-TEX G&M Soc. The Baton Rouge G&M Soc will host the 2014 show and the Austin G&M Soc. Will host the 2015 Show, which will be the AFMS/SCFMS Show.

I want to say a big THANK YOU to the following, who sent in articles for this issue: Ray Duplechain, John Nash, Don Shurtz, Owen Martin, Ed Ries, Keith Harmon, Mary Trammell, Josie Middleton, and Margaret Good.

John is helping the 2013 Snowman to gather his finds and he is putting them in a bag for safe keeping. Thanks John for your help.

Well, I guess I should stop my message and finish getting this Newsletter to all of you. Take care and may this year be a healthy one for each of you.

### 2013 FEDERATION SHOWS

**MIDWEST**  
April 06-07, 2013  
Lincoln, NE

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**  
May 17-18, 2013  
Sandy, UT

**CALIFORNIA**  
May 31-June 02, 2013  
Ventura, CA

**EASTERN**  
June 01-02, 2013  
Plainview, NY

**NORTHWEST**  
August 16-18, 2013  
Butte, MT

**SOUTH CENTRAL**  
August 17-18, 2013  
Bossier City, LA

**SOUTHEAST & AFMS**  
September 20-22, 2013  
Jacksonville, FL





## SCFMS ORGANIZATIONS SHOW DATES FOR 2013

Mary Trammell, SCFMS Show Co-ordinator

January 19-20, 2013 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rockhounds Lady Bird Johnson Park	April 13-14, 2013 Abilene, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Ctr. North 6th & Pine	September 14-15, 2013 Arlington, TX Arlington G&MS 1010 Event Ctr. Collins/Randoll Mill Rd.	October 26-27, 2013 Glen Rose, TX Paleo. Soc. Of Austin Somervell Expo Ctr. Hwy 67
January 25-26-27, 2013 Tyler TX East Texas G&MS Rose Garden Ctr.	April 19-20-21, 2013 Alpine, TX Chihuahua G&MS Alpine Civic Ctr.	September 21-22, 2013 Denison, TX Texoma Rockhounds Denison Senior Ctr.	November 02-03, 2013 Midland, TX Midland G&MS Midland Ctr.
February 16-17, 2013 Georgetown, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park	April 20-21, 2013 Waco, TX Waco G&MS Extraco Events Ctr. (Formerly Heart of TX Fairgrounds)	September 28-29, 2013 Dallas, TX Dallas G&MS Restiol Expo Ctr. Mesquite, TX	November 08-09-10, 2013 Humble, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Ctr. 8233 Will Clayton Pkway
February 16-17, 2013 Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&MS Ollie Liner Ctr.	April 27-28, 2013 Lubbock, TX Lubbock G&MS Lubbock Civic Ctr.	October 12-13, 2013 Temple, TX Tri-City G&MS Mayborn Civic Ctr.	Nov. 30 Dec. 01, 2013 Round Rock, TX Paleontological Soc. Of Austin Old Settlers Park Hwy 29 E Round Rock, TX
February 23-24, 2013 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Ctr.	May 25-26, 2013 Fort Worth, TX Fort Worth G&MS Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.	October 12-13, 2013 Fort Worth, TX Lockheed Martin RA Stone Steppers LMRA Picnic Area 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.	December 07-08, 2013 DeRidder, LA DeRidder G&MS Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds 506 West Dr.
March 02-03, 2013 Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn	August 10-11, 2013 Baton Rouge, LA Baton Rouge G&MS The Marriott	October 18-19-20, 2013 Victoria, TX Victoria G&MS Community Ctr. 2905 East North St.	(Just a note: I want to say a big <u>THANK YOU</u> to all that sent in corrections for their <u>Show Dates</u> . I Think we have them corrected now and if you see any that still need to be changed, please let me know. Your Editor, Paul)
March 02-03, 2013 Robstown, TX Gulf coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds	<b>August 17-18, 2013</b> <b>Bossier City, LA</b> <b>SCFMS Convention &amp; Show</b> <b>Ark-La-Tex G&amp;MS</b> <b>Bossier City Civic Ctr.</b>	October 18-19-20, 2013 Austin, TX Austin G&MS Palmer Events Ctr.	
March 16-17, 2013 Live Oak, TX (San Antonio) Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr. 8101 Pat Booker RD	August 24-25, 2013 Jasper, TX Pine Country G&MS Events Center		

**2015 AFMS & SCFMS SHOW - HOSTED BY AUSTIN G&M SOC.  
AUSTIN, TX - PALMER EVENTS CENTER**