

South Central Federation Newsletter



MARCH - APRIL, 2013

Member of: [American Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#)

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ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES

WE NEED YOUR OFFICERS AND EDITOR FORM

The Officers and Editor 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).

About half of the clubs in the SCFMS, have missed the Deadline for their Officers and Editor Form. Please, Please, get the form to Jonathan before the end of March.

DON'T DELAY -- DO IT TODAY



LET'S REMEMBER OUR
TROOPS IN THE MILITARY



SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.

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SOUTH CENTRAL FED. WEB-SITE:
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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, SCFMS Executive Vice-President

Hello to all out there in SCFMS Land.

Things have been rather hectic around here. A number of checks written to AFMS were returned due to the fact that the bank used by AFMS felt the checks were too "old". I was asked by Dee Holland to see if the club or person would replace the check with a current date. These checks were returned to the original issuer to be re-issued. There is only a few of the replacement checks still unaccounted for.

I have asked Virginia Adian if she would serve as Chair of the Scholarship Fund-AFMS and she agreed.

Send your scholarship donations to Virginia and she will send them to Jon Spunaugle of the AFMS.

The Endowment Fund-AFMS is now being handled by Catherine Rouchon from the Baton Rouge Club. I am sure she will be sending information to your club soon. Help Catherine by contacting her for raffle tickets to sell at your club meeting.

Jonathan Moehring has given notice that he is retiring from his position as Executive Secretary at the end of this fiscal year in October. Jonathan has held this position for many years and now is running out of steam. Check his duties and you can understand

why he is getting tired. Now comes the job of finding a replacement. Jonathan has agreed to train his replacement so one needs to be named now.

Wanda Reynolds is Chair of the Nominating Committee so if you want to volunteer, see Wanda.

All rockhounds throughout the States lost a great friend with the passing of Charlotte Harmon. Her beautiful smile and willing hands will surely be missed by each of us.

Until later,

John D



IN MEMORY



CHARLOTTE HARMON

East Texas Gem & Mineral Society

It is with a broken heart I must tell you that Charlotte has passed away. She left us at 12:21 PM Tuesday Feb. 26th 2013. The funeral was held on Tues. March 5th. Her last few days were spent in Hospice of East Texas and she was cared for by people who genuinely did care about her. She was surrounded by family when she passed.

I want to thank each and everyone of you for your support and prayers during this trying time. It meant the world to both Charlotte and me. In lieu of

flowers we have selected two charities, The American Federation Scholarship Fund and Hospice of East Texas.

Addresses for those are:
American Federation Scholarship Fund
 C/O Virginia Adian
 109 Katie Court
 Boerne, TX 78006

Hospice of East Texas Foundation
 4111 University Blvd
 Tyler, TX 75701

Again I want to thank you for your friendship and tell you what a blessing it is to have people like you in our lives.

Keith

To all the families who lost loved ones, listed on this page and the next page:

May God give you comfort
 At your time of sorrow
 And strength to carry on
 Through each new tomorrow.

By: Margaret Good





IN MEMORY



AL GRANVIL A. PENNINGTON

Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

Al Pennington passed away on January 28, from a heart attack. Al (a.k.a. "GAP") was born on January 31, 1944, in Lawton, OK. He attended OK University and got his degree in Physics at Southwestern State College in Weatherford. Al and his wife, Loyce have a son Brian and a daughter Kelley and one grandchild.

In 1967, Al joined NASA and he has been around the telemetry, communications, instrumentation, data, software arenas beginning with Apollo and continuing until his retirement. He was an INCO for early Space Shuttle and selected as a Flight Director in 1983, as "Polaris Flight" (22nd person to serve as a Flight Director since Chris Kraft as #1) he worked 28 missions, for 10 of these he was the Lead Flight Director...

Al had many talents...a drummer in a Big Band for over 30 years, very active in the Clear Lake Gem and Min. Soc., oil paintings, and an author of several Sci-Fi fantasy books:

<<<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/granvil-a-pennington>>>

Al was just named Honorary Member of the Clear Lake Gem & Min. Soc. We truly appreciated all his hard work for the club. Al also maintained the CLGMS web site. He was Annual Show Chairman and played an integral part of the planning, organizing and implementation of the show. He will be missed.

Al also served as the SCFMS Webmaster for a number of years.

Submitted by: Annabel Brownfield, President CLGMS

DAVID CORDOVA TOM McCORMICK SHARON BABINEAUX

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club

The Arlington Gem & Mineral Club lost three members in the first six weeks of 2013, They were:

DAVID CORDOVA

David passed away the first week of February. Through one of many contacts the club was gifted with a huge quantity of rough material. This donation has been sold at our Show Auctions for several years.

TOM McCORMICK

Tom passed away Feb. 11, 2013. He served as president of the AGMC for 2012.

SHARON BABINEAUX

Sharon died of an infection acquired in the hospital after surgery. She was our Juniors Leader.

David, Tom, and Sharon will be missed by all.

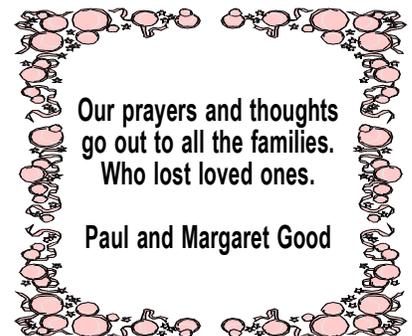
(Submitted by Sue Dale Miller, AGMC, member)

FRANK KELL CAHOON Midland Gem & Mineral Society

Frank passed away on Wednesday, January 30 in Midland at the age of 78. A memorial service was held Saturday, February 2. Midland Gem & Mineral Society has benefited tremendously from his association with Heritage Midland and local financial foundations to restore the historic Clarence Scharbauer home. The first person to arrive and sign our guest book at our first open house there was none other than Frank Kell Cahoon.

He will be greatly missed by us and all other organizations he supported.

(from the MGMS Newsletter, February, 2013).



FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS CORNER



THE TOUTISTS OF TODAY MEET THE MINE OF YESTERDAY by Jackson Skubal-age 10



Have you ever gone down a dark and scary tunnel? I actually had a tour of one! It was the Bachelor-Syracuse mine tour. If I were a judge, I'd rate the tour five "golden" stars! During the tour, the tour guide did something terrible! He threw a stick of well, better not break it to you. After the tour, I learned the value of shiny dust in a stream...

My family and I were camping at a KOA campground in Ouray, Colorado, during our summer vacation. My dad and I were going to the Bachelor-Syracuse mine while the girls were going to ride horses. Online the mine tour is described like this: "the Bachelor-Syracuse mine tour takes you 1,800 feet horizontally into Gold Hill, rich in gold, silver, and other precious metals. Guests are at all times accompanied by a thoroughly trained guide who has firsthand experience working in the mine. The guides are prepared to answer questions and eager to share the legend and lore of the mine." The Web site says the truth! Our tour guide certainly knew quite a lot about our mine.

While we were paying for the mine tour (it cost \$17 for adults and \$8.95 for children), the employee working at the cash register told us the rule was that we had to wear hard hats; however, jackets were optional (we were told it was cold in the mine; but, I didn't think it was too cold).

Then my Dad and I and our tour group got into a trammer and rode into the mine. A trammer can hold about 15



people, and it looks like boxes linked together like a train. Inside the trammer, there are red-cushioned benches (the seats faced back to back horizontally). The ride from the place next to the gold panning into the mine was about five minutes. Originally, the mine tunnel was actually just an air tunnel for another mine; however the miners found silver at a part of the air tunnel. There were about a dozen people in our mine tour. Our tour guide had a mustache and glasses. In the tunnel it was pretty dark, just light enough to see.

The tour guide told us about a range of mining tools. First, he told us that most of the miners were from foreign countries. Other workers could not pronounce the foreign names, so the miners just called themselves, and each other, "Jack." Then the tour guide showed us a sledge hammer and said, "You would call this a sledge hammer. Do you know what they called it in a mine? They called it a

single Jack, because it took one Jack to operate it." He also showed us a Double Jack which took two Jacks to operate it. One Jack would swing the hammer and one Jack would hold a chisel. After the hammer hit the chisel, the Jack holding the chisel would twist it. The tour guide also told us that no one was afraid of being hit with the Double Jack because every 10 minutes the miners would switch places. Then the tour guide asked us if we knew what payback is! He meant that if one miner got hit with the hammer, then when they switched places the Jack who got hit would hit the other Jack, on purpose!

After a hole is made with the double Jack, the miners would put some dynamite inside the hole. Then he showed us a stick of dynamite and told us that before they invented dynamite (before 1899), the miners used gun powder to blow holes in the rock. In the meantime, he was making hand gestures with the hand he was using to hold the dynamite. I knew that if he so much as tapped it, it would explode! I was thinking be careful with that thing! Then he tossed it to a girl in our tour group. She caught it and then the tour guide told us that it was fake dynamite...

When the miners were still working in the mine, it was in the time period when most people made \$1 a day, but the miners made \$3 a day. However, being a miner wasn't that good. The tour guide told us that a lot of miners

(Continued on page 7)



SAFETY REPORT



by: Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator



SPRING CLEANING!!!

Well down here in the Houston area the weather has started to warm up. Flowers are blooming and bees are buzzing. Similarly many of us have started to do some spring cleaning. Whether in our closets or garages or rock shops keep in mind that there can be many hazards.



Some of the spring cleaning hazards I've encountered already this year include:

1. A spilled box of roofing nails. Luckily I saw the box before stepping on one of the nails. On a side note I was barefooted in the garage so "finding" a nail the wrong way would have been quite painful.

2. Spilled pesticides in the garage. This wasn't much of a problem this time, but concentrated pesticide liquids can release toxic fumes into confined spaces like garages, closets or cabinets.

3. Expired chemicals and deteriorated containers. I was prying the lid off a rusted paint can and the screw driver (wrong tool) went through the lid. Luckily it didn't go through my hand. My next door neighbor was opening a can of paint thinner and when she opened it the liquid "sloshed" and splashed on her face. Missed her eyes though!

4. Filled up my old weed eater with gasoline and oil and fired it up. Well it wouldn't start so I set it down in the garage and went out to mow the yard. When I came back to the garage it was filled with gas fumes. Apparently the hose from the fuel tank had gotten brittle over the winter and had broken. All the gas leaked out and filled the garage with stinky and potentially flammable fumes.

5. Moving winter clothes around in the closet... one of the hangers broke and snapped back almost hitting me in the face.

OK - that's just a few hazards I've encountered in the past few weeks. I'd encourage you to be careful in your spring cleanups. Good lighting, the "right" tool, proper lifting techniques, use of gloves, safety glasses, boots, etc. And don't forget to read the labels on your chemicals so that you know how to use them and store them.

Be safe and I'll talk to you all again soon!

Happy Spring! Owen Martin



NOW IS THE TIME

TO START GATHERING ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION FOR THE SCFMS SHOW IN BOSSIER CITY, LA - AUGUST 17-18, 2013



SCFMS SILENT AUCTION BID SHEET

Donated by: _____
Minimum Bid: _____
Name of Material: _____

Please Print
Bidders Name

Bid



ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

Frank Rowell. SCFMS Chair

JOHN CURTTWRIGHT

Austin Gem & Min. Soc.

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society of Austin, TX, is honored to nominate John Curtwright as Club Rockhound of the year.

John has been fascinated with rocks for a long time, and after visiting the Gem Capers show in 2009, joined the club. He soon started helping with projects, including volunteering at Gem Capers, and tumbling over 50 pounds of rocks for the Gem Mine.

He has helped repair and maintain the club's equipment. He is quick to offer help to those in need and to share new rocks. He is also an avid fan of field trips. We feel John is very deserving of this honor.

Submitted by Richard Dorsey, 1st Vice President, AGMS

FRED BROWN

Pine Country Gem & Min. Soc.

Fred Brown has been selected as the 2013 Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society RockHound of the Year. Fred has always been very generous with his time even though he has to drive quite a distance to do so. His extensive donations of high quality materials to the club for auctions and shows have greatly benefited PCGMS.

Fred is a great ambassador for us by serving as a District 2 VP in the SCFMS. On a personal note, I appreciate Fred's generosity, good character, wit and humor.

Respectfully submitted by: Paul James

(Continued from page 5)

died when they were in their 30s because they got a lot of dust in their lungs. The tour guide told us to get back in the trammer, and we rode out of the tunnel...

It was very interesting how the mine worked. Also, it's fun to have the same name as hundreds of miners. The mine earned eight million dollars in gold and 90 million in silver! Finally, if you're looking for a family-friendly mine tour, then this is the place for you!

From The Backbender's Gazette, June 2012



Then place it in your container.

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

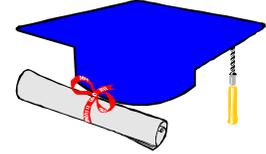
AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF YOUR CLUB, YOU ARE WORTH



CHANGES FOR AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FUND



by Virginia Adian



The American Scholarship Foundation Fund was established in 1964. Clubs and individuals, have donated all the money for this fund. Interest from the fund is used to award scholarships every year to graduate students in the earth sciences. Six Regional Federations (California, Eastern, Midwest, Rocky Mountain, South Central) chooses an honoree from nominations of people who have contributed toward earth science education. The six chosen regional honorees work with professors in a graduate school of their choice to select two worthy recipients in the earth sciences. AFMS then awards two \$4000 scholarships to the students selected in each federation. That is \$48,000 in scholarships every year!

There is no fund raising effort for this fund except for a spontaneous auction which is held at the AFMS meeting. Some beautiful faceted or rare stones have been donated for these auctions.

These scholarships have grown and been maintained, even in our recent economic decline, because of the generous donations from gem clubs. Records have been kept since the founding of this fund in 1964. When a club donates \$1 for each member, its percentage point moves up 100%. Reports are provided annually to clubs so they can perhaps set some goals for donations.

I am now the SCFMS member of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. Any donations for the AFMS Scholarship Fund should be sent to me. Jonathan Moehring remains Executive Secretary and receives dues and insurance, but the AFMS Scholarship Foundation member is separate and is appointed by the president.

I will record your club's donation, inform you of your percentage of donations, and then pass your donation on to AFMS. I will also submit a list of

clubs making contributions since the last publication for each SCFMS newsletter.

Checks should be made payable to AFMS Scholarship Foundation and mailed to

Virginia Adian
109 Katie Court
Boerne, TX 78006

You may contact me at 830-755-6105 or v.adian@gvtc.com

I urge your club to make a donation this year. You don't have to send \$1 per member every year or every donation. You can send any amount and it will go toward reaching your next percentage point.

(Editor's note: There are seven Federations in the American Federation. Southeastern Federation has their own Scholarship Fund).

SAFETY FIRST



The site where you dig should be left clean and neat. Leave no holes for another to stumble with his feet.

TID BIT - ARAGONITE:

Aragonite is a carbonate mineral. One of the tow common, naturally occurring, crystal forms of calcium carbonate CaCO_3 (the other form being the mineral calcite). It is formed by biological and physical processes, including precipitation form marine and freshwater environments.

Aragonite's crystal lattice differs from that of calcite, resulting in a different

crystal shape, an orthorhombic system with acicular crystals. Repeated twinning results in pseudo-hexagonal forms. Aragonite may be columnar or fibrous, occasionally in branching stalactitic forms called flos-ferri ("flowers of iron") from their association with the ores at the Carinthian iron minerals.

(from the Northeast LA G&M Soc., News, Jan. 27, 2013)

MARCH BIRTHSTONE - AQUAMARINE



From its name, what would you guess
This stone in color would be?
Aquamarine from the word seawater
Says it is blue-green, with variety.

The shape of the crystals one can see
Are hexagonal, elongated, very clean.
'Tis found in Brazil, Africa, Pakistan.
In all types of jewelry, it is seen.

Hardness of seven and a half to eight;
Makes beautiful stones, as it cuts great.
High grade pure blue can be expensive;
A grand per carat, at any rate.

Aquamarine is a variety of Beryl
With small pyramidal faces.
It's said to bring intelligence,
Youth, happiness, courage, graces.

When the March winds come blowing in;
As this Aquamarine you wear;
You'll be delighted as its essence
Simply seems to purify the air.

By: Margaret Good



APRIL BIRTHSTONE - DIAMOND



Some think of diamonds as a girls best friend.
Used traditionally two hearts to blend.
In the form of a ring it will signify
Love for each other will never die.

Diamonds are certainly a precious gem.
They are pure carbon with hardness of ten,
Density three point five, non-metallic, brilliant luster.
In the rough it's found in a matrix cluster.

Though colorless, it has various tints of black,
Yellow, pink, blue, brown. Beauty it doesn't lack.
Equidimensional crystals diffuse light
Which to our eyes is a great delight.

South Africa, Russia, Brazil, Australia,
Borneo, Indonesia and India
Are places where this precious gem is mined.
By chance or easily diamonds you'll not find.

Industry has discovered important ways
To use non-gem quality diamonds today.
As an abrasive it's used by rockhounds
Embedded in saw blades as our hobby abounds.

By: Margaret Good

FROM THE SCFMS BULLETIN



AIDS CHAIRMAN

Ray Duplechain



Our Bulletin/Newsletter Contest is well underway. Entries have been turned in, sorted and mailed to the judges. I am so happy to have so many! Thanks to all the editors for their support and sending them. Now it is time to wait for the judges to do their job.

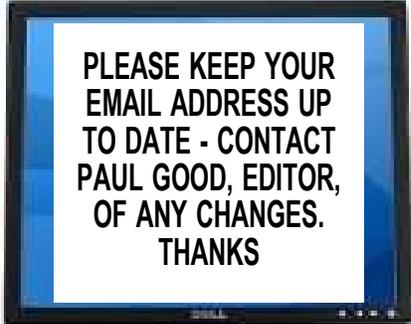
Newsletters can be such a great asset to clubs. I always enjoy looking through everyone's website

and reading the newsletters. Exciting stories of rockhounding adventures are my favorite. I get many great ideas for use in our club.

Updates will be posted as we progress.

Ray

rayduplechain@hotmail.com



PLEASE KEEP YOUR
EMAIL ADDRESS UP
TO DATE - CONTACT
PAUL GOOD, EDITOR,
OF ANY CHANGES.
THANKS



ARTIFICIAL WEATHERING

by Chuck Safris
Central Iowa Mineral Society

It is always a thrill to find a cracked concretion that separates cleanly in the field with a light tap of a rock hammer to reveal a beautiful fossil. More often, however, a promising looking concretion is not already cracked and resists being broken. When it finally breaks under the blows of a rock hammer, there is some shattering or uneven breaking which can damage the enclosed fossil. Even then, there is a chance that the enclosed fossil is not exposed. With a little patience, there is another way to expose the enclosed fossil. Artificial weathering is a simple alternative that may lead to the collection of fine, undamaged, fossils if the matrix material is suitable.

Freezing and thawing causes accelerated mechanical weathering of a rock. If water can seep into pores or micro cracks in the rock, the rock will become saturated. When the water expands as ice forms during a freezing cycle, pressure is exerted on the rock, leading to cracking or exfoliation. If the fossil is a carbon film, then the fossil is a natural weak spot in the concretion and with luck the subtle pressure of freezing will open the concretion so that the fossil is perfectly exposed and undamaged.

The process is very simple for any rock that will take up water. A container (other than glass, which might break during the freezing process) suitable for the specimen's size is selected and the concretion is covered with water

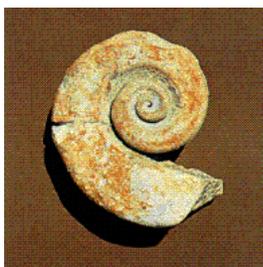
and allowed to soak for several days. Then a series of freezing and thawing cycles are achieved by using the freezer in the summer or the back porch in the winter. By achieving a freeze thaw cycle every day, the process is accelerated. It is important that loosened residue from each cycle be removed and examined because if there are any fossils revealed, the next freeze cycle could destroy them.

If you live in a northern climate and there is no hurry, the suitable rocks could be placed in container full of water and simply left outdoors all winter where the daily temperature swings would do all the work. It has been reported that thousands of Mazon Creek (IL) fossils have been exposed using accelerated artificial weathering this way.

In Iowa, fossil collectors are on the lookout for blade shaped nodules of limey shale in Pennsylvanian exposures and stream beds. With any luck and some artificial weathering, a well preserved, beautiful fern frond is likely to join your fossil collection.

Source: "Freezing and Thawing of Fossils"; J. Pojeta and M. Balanc, U. S. Geological Survey, Reston VA, Undated.

Chuck Safris
Des Moines, Iowa



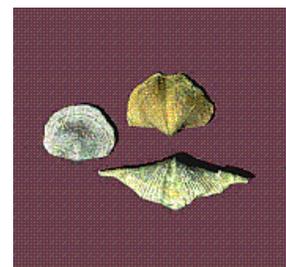
GASTROPOD



CRINOIDS



CRINOID



BROCHIOPODS

PICTURES OF THE ABOVE FOSSILS WERE TAKEN FROM THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

USPS 2013 FOLDED SELF-MAILER STANDARDS

Highlights Affecting Newsletter Editors
by Mark Nelson, SCRIBE Vice President

1. Lapidary club bulletins which are 8.5 x 11 inch sheets folded to a final 8.5 x 5.5 inches for mailing are considered **Folded Self-Mailers (FSM)**. Other sizes of informational mailers may also be included in the folded self-mailer standards. Refer to the printed standards or look on the web sites referenced in item #10 below.
2. As a result of the high incidence of damage caused to the mailers, and to the modern high-speed processing machines, new U.S. standards have been put in place effective January 5th, 2013 (January 14th in Canada). These standards are:
3. Maximum dimensions:
 - A. Height of 3.5"-6" max, length of 5"-10.5"
 - B. Canada: max 245 mm in length, 156 mm in width and 5 mm in thickness
4. Weight: Up to 3oz (Canada - 50 grams or 1.7 oz)
5. Paper minimum weights:
 - A. 1oz or less = 70 lb book grade paper (28 lb bond paper)
 - B. Over 1oz up to 3oz = 80 lb book grade paper (31 lb bond paper)
 - C. Canada: 60 lb book grade paper (24 lb bond paper)
6. Folding: It is very important to make the final fold on bottom edge.
7. Panels: are formed when sheets of paper are folded for mailing.
 - A. A typical small 8-page newsletter of 4 two-sided 8 ½" x 11" pages, folded in half for mailing, will result in 8 two-sided panels.
 - B. The maximum number of panels allowed is 12.
8. Sealing:
 - A. Use 1" round mailing seals - white or clear.
 - B. Do not use staples. The use of staples puts the mailer in the "hand-process" category and will cost the sender an additional 20¢ each.
 - C. Place one mailing seal high on the leading edge (right side as you look at the address).
 - D. Place a second mailing seal high on the following edge (left side as you look at the address).
9. Address panel: Allow a 5/8" clear space along the bottom of the piece above the fold line for the postal service routing barcode to be applied.
10. Standards can be referenced on-line at:
 - A. [Http://usps.com/text/dmm300/dmm300_landing.htm](http://usps.com/text/dmm300/dmm300_landing.htm)
 - B. **Google:** postal explorer dmm
 - C. [Http://ribbs.usps.gov/](http://ribbs.usps.gov/)
 - D. **Google:** postal explorer ribbs
11. Some Post Offices and postal sorting stations are currently returning FSM mailers that do not meet the standards. All postal stations are expected to enforce the standards this year. When mail is returned the reason for the return is not always specified, and left for the editor/MAILER to figure out.
12. SCRIBE, the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors, keeps its member editors current on postal standards and supplied with tips for getting new editors started to produce quality newsletters. Ask your club's editor to become a member of SCRIBE. Membership is only \$6 per year. Contact Mark Nelson at mnelsonair@aol.com for information and an application.

SCFMS 2013

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES



AFMS ENDOWMENT DRAWING FOR 2013



DRAWING TO BE HELD DURING THE AFMS CONVENTION AND SHOW
September 18-22, 2013
Jacksonville, FL

Interest from AFMS Endowment Fund investments is used to support numerous programs that benefit our affiliated member clubs. In the past several years, interest money has:

- * Purchased badges for the juniors program which are given at no charge to clubs with organized junior activities programs.

- * Digitized the old AFMS slide programs that have been distributed at no charge to the regional federations.

- * Purchased new commercially produced programs for the regional federation libraries.

- * Supported the Judges Training Program.

TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20.

Many door prizes have been collected.

Such as: Caveman Clothes Pin- estimated value: \$75 (NFMS), Float Copper Specimen-estimated value: \$75 (MWF), An agate and jasper channel inlay in the style of Scottish Victorian jewelry of the 1800's-estimated value of \$350 (AFMS), and many many more.

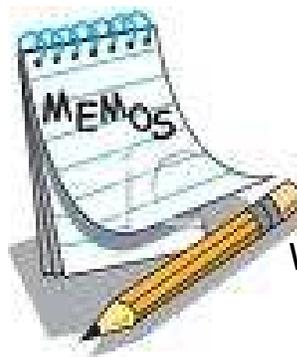
Deadline to have tickets returned to your regional federation representative

Catherine Rouchon of Baton Rouge G&M is August 2.
5845 Winchester Lane, Clinton La 70722
225-683-9264
rouchonc@starband.net

LAUGH-A-WHILE

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A PENCIL

There was a story told many years ago about the space program as they were working on things to assist the astronauts in their duties. The planning committee sent a request to the research department asking for a writing instrument that would work in places where there was no gravity, and could write at any angle. The committee was shocked when a young intern suggest they use a pencil.



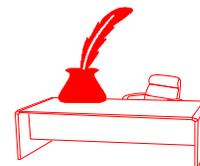
DEADLINE
FOR THE
MAY - JUNE
SCFMS NEWS
WILL BE MAY 15.

VISIT THE SCFMS WEB-SITE

WWW.SCFMS.NET

BE ON THE
L@KOUT
FOR THE 2013 SCFMS DIRECTORY
COMING TO YOUR COMPUTER
VERY SOON

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Paul W. Good

John in his "Nash Rambler" mentioned that things have been rather hectic around here. It also was full of frantic activity here at my desk. In the middle of February, I lost my computer and could not get it started. I took it to a place that says they "fix computers". After a couple of days, the place called and said, "We can not fix your computer, it is broken and we can't do anything for you."

I thought that I need to do something quick, because I have a March 15 deadline for the March - April Newsletter and the same day is the deadline for the 2013 SCFMS Directory. I went ahead and bought a new computer. It took them a week to get all my data off the old computer and put it onto the new one.

After trying to work with the new computer for a few days and getting used to Windows 8, I could tell it was going to be more than this "old" man could do. I thought about it for a few days and finally pick up the old computer and took it to a computer repair man down the street. We talked about it for a while and I needed to be somewhere for a meeting, so he said he would give me a call as soon as he found out what was wrong. He called my house fifty-five minutes after I left for my meeting. He told Margaret, "It's ready to go. All it needed was a new switch to turn it off and on. What a blessing it was to see the old computer working again.

The next day, I returned the new computer back to the store and they

refunded most of my money, except for some labor, and I'm back in business.

I want to **thank** those who sent in an article for this Newsletter: Virginia Adian, Annabel Brownfield, Ray Dupechain, Keith Harmon, Owen Martin, Sue Dale Miller, John Nash, Mark Nelson, Catherine Rouchen, Frank Rowell, Jackson Skubal, Mary Trammell and Margaret Good.



TID-BIT - MALACHITE AND AZURITE

Malachite is an important copper mineral that also makes an attractive gemstone. It has been known and used in jewelry since the days ancient Egypt, as early as 4000 B.C. For millennia it was considered a magical stone with potent powers. Crystals are rare and highly esteemed among mineral collectors. Massive banded material is much more abundant.

In many localities malachite, which is always some shade of green, is mixed with blue azurite. Both minerals are copper carbonates. Their association

is widespread, and azurite. Both minerals are copper carbonates. Their association is widespread, and azurite is frequently found altering to malachite.

Malachite is soft, only 3 ½ - 4 on the Mohs scale; the same is true of azurite. Both minerals take a high polish, but the polish is lost relatively quickly with wear, do to scratching.

From the Northeast LA Gem & Mineral Newsletter, July 2012

Have you checked with your local school to see if they would like to have a display of Rocks, Minerals or Fossils. They might say yes and you could brighten a child's day. The ten schools that we take displays to, the students really love it and we get a lot of feed back from the students and teachers. Today, we were changing the display at one school library and the students came over to where we were and said, "Oh good, they are changing the rocks."

Until next time, have a **GOOD** one and enjoy the shows and hope you hunting days will also be a **GOOD** one.

Paul & Margaret



SCFMS ORGANIZATIONS SHOW DATES FOR 2013

Mary Trammell, SCFMS Show Co-ordinator

April 13-14, 2013
Abilene, TX
Central Texas G&MS
Abilene Civic Ctr.
North 6th & Pine

April 19-20-21, 2013
Alpine, TX
Chihuahua G&MS
Alpine Civic Ctr.

April 20-21, 2013
Waco, TX
Waco G&MS
Extraco Events Ctr.
(Formerly Heart of TX
Fairgrounds)

April 20-21, 2013
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Civic Ctr.

May 25-26, 2013
Fort Worth, TX
Fort Worth G&MS
Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.

August 10-11, 2013
Baton Rouge, LA
Baton Rouge G&MS
The Marriott

August 17-18, 2013
Bossier City, LA
SCFMS Convention & Show
Ark-La-Tex G&MS
Bossier City Civic Ctr.

August 24-25, 2013
Jasper, TX
Pine Country G&MS
Events Center

September 14-15, 2013
Grapevine, TX
Arlington G&MS
Grapevine Convention
Center

September 21-22, 2013
Denison, TX
Texoma Rockhounds
Denison Senior Ctr.

September 28-29, 2013
Dallas, TX - Dallas G&MS
Restiol Expo Ctr.
Mesquite, TX

October 12-13, 2013
Temple, TX
Tri-City G&MS
Mayborn Civic Ctr.

October 12-13, 2013
Fort Worth, TX
Lockheed Martin
RA Stone Steppers
LMRA Picnic Area
3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.

October 18-19-20, 2013
Victoria, TX
Victoria G&MS
Community Ctr.
2905 East North St.

October 18-19-20, 2013
Austin, TX
Austin G&MS
Palmer Events Ctr.

October 26-27, 2013
Glen Rose, TX
Paleo. Soc. Of Austin
Somervell Expo Ctr.
Hwy 67

November 02-03, 2013
Midland, TX
Midland G&MS
Midland Ctr.

November 08-09-10, 2013
Humble, TX
Houston G&MS
Humble Civic Ctr.
8233 Will Clayton Pkway

Nov. 30 Dec. 01, 2013
Round Rock, TX
Paleontological Soc. Of
Austin
Old Settlers Park
Hwy 29 E
Round Rock, TX

December 07-08, 2013
DeRidder, LA
DeRidder G&MS
Beaugard Parish
Fairgrounds
506 West Dr.

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