

South Central Federation

Newsletter



JULY - AUGUST, 2014

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

**THE BATON ROUGE GEM & MIN. SOC
INVITES YOU TO THEIR 50th
ANNUAL SHOW
AUGUST 9-10, 2014
BATON ROUGE MARRIOTT
5500 Hilton Ave.**



SCFMS REGIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE
Location: Marriott Hotel on Hilton Ave
Show Times: Saturday, August 9th: 10:00 – 5:00
and Sunday, August 10th 10:00 – 5:00
SCFMS Activities: Saturday, August 9th in the
Beauregard Room:
Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters: 8:00
SCFMS Meeting: 1:00pm
SCFMS Awards Banquet: 7: 00 pm
SCFMS Activities, Sunday, August 10th in the
Beauregard Room:
Rollin' Rock Club Meeting: 8:00 am

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**LET'S REMEMBER
OUR TROOPS
AND THEIR FAMIL-
LIES WHO ARE
SERVING IN THE
MILITARY**



SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.

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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

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The DEADLINE for each Newsletter is the 10th 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.

ANNUAL SHOW

The Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society, Baton Rouge, LA, will host the SCF Show in 2014, to be held on August 09-10, 2014. 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.



**PLEASE KEEP
YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS UP TO
DATE - CONTACT
PAUL GOOD,**

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





THE NASH RAMBLER

John D. Nash, SCFMS Executive Vice-President



Here it is 3:00 pm on Tuesday and I am trying to get everything ready to go to Tulsa for the AFMS meeting and show. I must also write this note for the SCFMS newsletter before I leave.

Therefore I will forget something because when I get back I must prepare for the SCFMS show and meeting in Baton Rouge.

Your worry is to get yourself ready for the SCFMS meet-

ing. Think about the election of new officers. If you have suggestions, contact Wanda Reynolds since she is Chair of the Nominating Committee.

There are some changes to the Constitution to be made.

--THINK ABOUT THIS--

Have you registered for the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters which will be held on Saturday at 8:00 am! Have you registered for

the Awards Banquet to be held Saturday night at 7:00! If you haven't do so by July 14, 2014.

See, I told you there were a lot of things for which we must prepare. I hope I do not forget my shoes for the Tulsa meeting. They would understand in Baton Rouge.

Hope to see you in Baton Rouge on August 9th & 10th.

John D

MARK YOUR



THE BATON ROUGE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW SCFMS REGIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

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 Rollin' Rock Club meeting: 8:00 am

SHOW TIME IS NOW

by Margaret Good

The south Central Federation
 Is for every generation
 The beginner and the old timer
 The flatlander or hill climber,
 Yep, show time here is any time
 Takes one upward to heights sublime,
 From January through December
 You can find a show you'll remember
 Visit a show when huntin' is poor
 Let no dust settle 'round your door'
 Enjoy your friends, both old and new
 Treasures you find may not be few
 There you'll see displays and dealers
 For as the years fly quickly by
 You'll be glad you went. Just give it a try.
 Visit a show that's near to you
 You'll come home smiling,
 You won't be blue.

**SAFETY REPORT**

HURRICANE SEASON
Just when you thought it was safe to go
back in the water...
by: Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator

So Hurricane Arthur has come and gone as the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season. Luckily it skirted the East coast for the most part and damage was negligible especially when compared to Hurricane Sandy. With that being said if Arthur had tracked just 5 degrees to the west once past North Carolina's Outer Banks it would have made a dead center hit on Boston!

Point being that this time of year we all need to be prepared for the impacts of tropical storms well past the time when they make first land fall. Hurricane Rita as an example missed Houston, but after it became an extra-tropical storm had a major impact all the way up in Syracuse, New York!

Preparation should take two forms. One if you plan to stay and ride out a storm, and two, if you need to evacuate. Keep in mind that if you stay you may have to survive for a period of time without power and other utilities. For many of us it is critically important to make sure that we have all of our prescription medications filled and for those of us who may need medicines like insulin that will need to stay refrigerated we also need to figure out how to keep these meds cool.

The two most basic things we need with respect for preparation are several gallons of water per person and filled gas tanks for all your vehicles. These will get you by and give you flexibility before, during or after the storm. As a general rule down here in Houston I fill all my gas tanks once any storm clears Cuba or Florida.

A different aspect of preparation is communications. Particularly with our loved ones and with work. The Red Cross has a great tool to help - their "safe and well" section of their website. www.redcross.org/find-help/contact-family/register-safe-listing

Register at Safe & Well - Safe & Well Webs...

List yourself and others as Safe & Well in the Safe & Well. Website.

Notify your family in times of emergency.

Just make sure you tell your "important people" that you plan to register BEFORE the storm hits! And as I mention every year, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/> for some great checklists that help with preparing for hurricane season. Be safe and have a great summer. Owen

Home - Ready, Gov

Ready.Gov has emergency preparedness publications available to the public at no cost.

Order publications

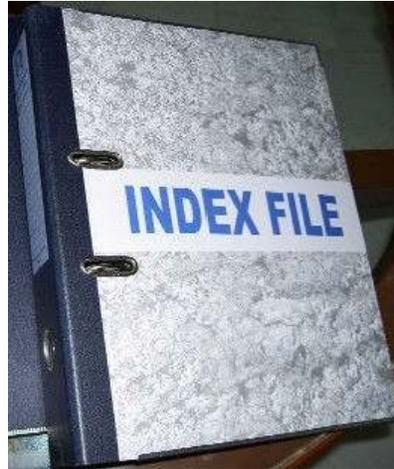
WHY HAVE AN INDEX? by Trudy Martin

Over the years, I have noticed that many of the US Club Bulletins had an INDEX on their front page, or on page 1 if they had a regular COVER PAGE.

“What a good idea !” I thought but somehow never got around to changing my established page format to include an index. Since I follow the same outline, month after month: Front Cover, Inside – list of Executive & Committees, Policy Statement, Dues. Page 1 lists the next 3 meeting dates and programs – Last Month, This Month, Next Month, and on it goes. Club news and happenings come first. The articles, hints and tips come next and finally Show Dates and Advertising.

So, if club members are looking for a Show To Go To or Equipment for Sale, they start at the back page and work their way forward. If they want to check out the program for the next 2 meetings, they start at the front and read through to the end.

Many years ago, when I had a lot more time and energy, I exercised my prerogative as EDITOR and wrote an editorial for each issue. It was called Sticks and Stones –



I'm sure you can get the drift of that. The editorial was always on page 5. Many members would start reading at page 5 to see who or what I was picking on that month. Topics covered everything from members who arrived late and disrupted the meeting to urging more members to VOLUNTEER for the various tasks that needed to be done --- setting out the tables and chairs and then putting them away when the meeting was over.

But I digress from the topic of printing an INDEX:

Last month I was copying an article I had saved from another bulletin. One sentence didn't make sense – something was missing. I looked at the credits. It was 'borrowed' from a newsletter I didn't exchange with. Then

I looked at the name of the author. “Oh, I know who that is ! ” This is where your SCRIBE CD's comes in handy. I checked the year the article was written, found that CD and put it into the machine. Scrolled through until I found the newsletter I wanted and, by checking the INDEX, I only had to try 3 newsletters before I found the one that had the original article. I e-mailed the editor and confirmed the missing words.

So – an INDEX is a valuable item to include in your bulletins. With a little luck, I'll try to include an index in my next newsletter. I only have 5 more issues before a NEW, computer literate whipper snapper takes over my job. The June 2012 issue will complete my 38 years as Editor. Had hoped to make it to 39 – that magic age – me and Jack Benny – but it is time to retire and let the YOUNG ONES take over.

(from SCRIBE NEWSLETTER, Jan. - Mar. 2012).

HOWDEE
HAVE A
GOOD
DAY





FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS CORNER

THE WALDO CANYON FIRE



By Jack Shimon, age 7
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

I live by the Waldo Canyon fire
I saw flames and smoke in the sky
My art teacher lost her house
How did this happen here?
We had a big drought
The trees are dry
We need more
Water
Now

Note: this poem is a nonet.
A nonet is a nine line poem..
The first line containing nine

syllables, the next line has eight syllables, the next line has seven syllables. That continues until the last line (the ninth line) which has one syllable. Nonets can be written about any subject. Rhyming is optional.

Author Bio: Jack Shimon is a member of the Colorado

Springs Mineralogical Society Pebble Pups and he participates with the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars on projects, field trips, and community outreach projects. He has fun in school and brings his dog, Cornet, to all Pebble Pup meetings. Comet is the mascot for the Pebble Pups.

SENDING A FEW WORDS TO OUR JUNIOR READERS

I would like to encourage our "Future Rockhounds" from the South Central Federation Clubs to sit down and write an article for your club's Newsletter. Then we would be able to send it on the SCFMS Bulletin Contest for 2013. The judging will be done in 2014 and announced at the SCFMS Convention in August 2014.

If you have written an article recently, you could send it to me and I will print it in this



ATTENTION STUDENTS

YOUR LESSON FOR THIS MONTH IS LEARNING ABOUT MINERALS 101

HALITE or common salt is sodium chloride (NaCl). Halite is colorless when pure, but is usually discolored some shade of yellow, red, gray, or brown. It is transparent to translucent, brittle, and with excellent cleavage parallel to its crystal

FLUORITE in commercial quantities occurs in both sedimentary and igneous rocks. Veins of fluorite (CaF₂) with quartz or calcite sometimes contain lead, copper, and zinc minerals. Fluorite is a most attractive

DOLOMITE (MgCa(CO₃)₂) occurs in large bedded deposits and as veins in other sediments. Dolomite is harder than calcite.

ANOTHER SAFETY TIP - THINK

It's not just the hard hat, the specs and the glove,
 That bring you home safe to the family you love.
 The guard on the grinder, the chain on the hose,
 The safety load blinder, the foul weather clothes,
 The latch on the load hook, the outrigger block,
 Emergency brakes, the standard wheel chocks,
 The safety valve feature on high pressure tanks,
 The cave-in protection on vertical banks.
 The well installed best guard, the safety toe shoes,
 The fire extinguisher ready to use,
 The seat belt that holds you inside the car,
 The road sign of safety, wherever you are,
 These things are mere tools, like a carpenter's plane
 They won't produce safety, or minimize pain
 Your health and your safety depend upon you:
 On whether you think about things that you do.
 So think before acting; make thinking a rule.
 Make use of your brain, your best safety tool.

(from the Roadrunner, March 2013)



**ROCKY SAYS:
 HAVE ANOTHER
 DAY -- BY
 BEING SAFE TODAY!**



**OPPS!
 (Editor's Note: Looks like some
 rockhound forgot his Rock
 Tools! Another sad day!**

THUNDEREGGS



A legend told by the Indians of the Northwest. Thunder eggs came about when one mountain got angry at another mountain and they started throwing rocks at each other. This was done, accompanied by great roars issued by the angry mountains. Thus "Thunder Eggs".



LOUISIANA PETRIFIED PALM WOOD

Petrified palm wood is the state fossil of Louisiana. It comes from palm trees in the Oligocene Epoch. The distinctive spotted look of palm wood comes from the rod like structures within the regular grain of wood that gave the wood its vertical strength. Depending upon the angle the lapidary uses to cut the stone, these structures show up as spots, tapering rods, or line. Petrified palm wood is very hard, around 7 1/2 on MOHS scale and takes a wonderful polish which makes it a great stone for jewelry.





ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

2014

Frank Rowell. SCFMS Chair

Wanda Page has been selected as Pine Country GMS Rock Hound Of The Year. Wanda has served as President and Treasurer, and is always willing to fill in when needed. She presently serves as the Club's representative to the Jasper Chamber of Commerce keeping the Club up-to-date on local activities. Wanda hardly ever misses a "work day" at the clubhouse and does not back down from climbing a ladder, painting, organizing the library or whatever jobs present them selves. She and Roger are very generous with their donations for the club auction. We can count on Wanda to be working at the show from set-up on Friday and to be one of the last to leave after clean up on Sunday night. A more deserving person would be hard to find.



IN MEMORY



KEITH LEOFFLER

Midland Gem & Mineral Soc.

Keith passed away on Sunday, April 27 in Midland of complications from a lengthy illness.

JAMES "RUSTY" MERCER

Show Dealer

James passed away on Saturday, March 15 in Tyler. Rusty and his wife, Ann were dealers at gem and mineral shows for over 36 years.

RAY TYLER

Lubbock Gem & Mineral Soc.

Ray was born in 1925 in Winters, TX, Ray passed away on Monday, April 12, 2014, in Lubbock.

He enlisted in July 1943 in the Army. He was a proud veteran who never went anywhere without one of his World War II caps on.

Ray had many interests in life, but his favorite was being a rockhound. He joined the

Lubbock Gem and Min. Soc. In 1966 and he served in "every position in the Lubbock Gem & Mineral Soc numerous times.

He always had rocks in his pockets which he handed out to everone he met. He was much loved and will be greatly missed.

(Information taken from the Midland G&MS Newsletter and the "Rockytier" of the Lubbock G&MS, May 2014.)

**BAG
YOUR
LITTER**

Then place it in your container.



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





THE AMERICAN FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Virginia Adian SCFMS Chair

The American Scholarship Foundation fund was established in 1964. Clubs 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. Each of the seven regional federations chooses an honoree from nominations of people who have contributed toward earth science education. The seven 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 \$56,000 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 % 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. Ray Duplechain is the 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 % 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 % point.

**DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER NEWLETTER
WILL BE SEPTEMBER 10. 2014**

SCFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

ED RIES CHAIRMAN

The Endowment Fund for the SCFMS was created at the Federation meeting in Waco, Texas, in March 1984. It was set up to be funded by voluntary donations of individual members and SCFMS organizations.

At each Federation show there is a silent auction of hobby related items that have been donated by individual members and SCFMS organizations. There has been a silent auction at every SCFMS meeting since 1985.

To help the Endowment Fund, the Patrons were established at the 1985 SCFMS meeting in Wichita Falls, Texas. A Patron is a member who donates \$100.00 or for



whom a \$100.00 donation was made to the Endowment Fund. There Patrons are recognized and given a special patron pin, a patron certificate, and have their name engraved on a bronze plate and placed on the patron plaque which is displayed at each SCFMS show and convention.

In 1986 in order to recognize the donations from the various organizations, the "Patron Clubs" of the SCFMS Endowment Fund was established. All SCFMS organizations that donate \$100.00 plus \$1.00 per member are recognized as a Patron Club. Additional donations by the organization which equal \$100.00 plus \$1.00 per member bring the organization to a Patron II, III, etc. Each organization is recognized and given a patron certificate and the organization's name is engraved on a bronze plate and placed on the Patron Club plaque, which is displayed at the SCFMS show and convention.

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.

The Endowment Fund is a permanent fund. Only the interest can be used to help support the activities of the Federation.

Contributions should be sent to: Endowment Fund Chair

Ed Ries,
4611 37th Street,
Lubbock, TX 79414-2616

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Paul W. Good

Looking at the Calendar. I see we only have one month and a few days before the SCFMS and Baton Rouge combined show will be off and running. This will be the first show that I have attended in Baton Rouge. From what I have heard about their shows, it will probably be a very good one and you wouldn't want to miss this one. This will be the 50th year as a club. **Congratulations .**

So that brings up another subject. Did you send in your Pre-Registration Form? The deadline is **JULY 14, 2014**.

The Editor's and Webmasters Breakfast will be on Saturday, August 9 at 8:00 am. This is when we will find out "who the winners were in the Bulletin Editor's and the Webmasters Contests". I think Ray Duplechain, the chairman of the Bulletin Contest.

Saturday evening at 7:00 pm will be another exciting part of the show, when we meet together to enjoy a fine meal at the SCFMS Annual Banquet. Several awards are usually

given at the Banquet and a great time is enjoyed by all.

Be sure to remember to include a few items for the Annual Silent Auction, which will be held during the show. Donations are always welcomed and needed. Any thing that pertains to our hobby, such as: 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.

I want to take a moment to say "Thank You" to the following who sent in an article for this issue: John Nash; Owen Martin; Ed Ries, Virginia Adian and Margaret Good.

Every year I try to print articles by Ed and Virginia, in order to encourage everyone to remember those funds.

I guess that is all for now. Talk to you later in the next issue. **PAUL**

BENCH TIPS by BRAD SMITH

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers.

Easiest way to cut a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw or your pliers is with a cutoff wheel and then do a rough polish with a knife-edge silicone wheel.

(from the Rockytier, June 2013)



SCFMS ORGANIZATIONS SHOW DATES FOR 2014

Mary Trammell, SCFMS Show Co-ordinator

July 25 - 26, 2014
Fort Worth, TX
Lockheed Martin
RA Stone Steppers
LMRA Picnic Area

August 09-10, 2014
Baton Rouge, LA
SCFMS Convention & Show
Baton Rouge G&MS
The Marriott

August 16-17, 2014
Bossier City, LA
Bossier City Civic Ctr.
ARK-LA-TEX G&MS

August 23-24, 2014
Jasper, TX
Pine Country G&MS
Events Center

October 11-12, 2014
Temple, TX
Tri-City G&MS
Mayborn Civic Ctr.

October 17-19, 2014
Victoria, TX
Victoria G&MS
Community Ctr.
2905 East North St.

October 17-19, 2014
Austin, TX
Austin G&MS
Palmer Events Ctr.

November 01-02, 2014
Amarillo, TX
Golden Spread G&MS
Amarillo Civic Ctr.
Exhibition Hall

November 01-02, 2014
Midland, TX
Midland G&MS
Midland Ctr.

November 07-09, 2014
Humble, TX
Houston G&MS
Humble Civic Ctr.
8233 Will Clayton Pkway

November 15-16, 2014
Round Rock, TX
Paleontological Soc. Of
Austin
Old Settlers Park
Hwy 29 E



November 22 - 23, 2014
Dallas, TX
Dallas G&MS
Restiol Expo Ctr.
Mesquite, TX



2014 REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS

**South Central
Federation**
August 09-10, 2014
Baton Rouge, LA

**Northwest
Federation**
August 15-17, 2014
Hermiston, OR

**Midwest
Federation**
October 18-19, 2014
Des Moines, IA

ONE LAST REMINDER

BE SURE YOU REMEMBER TO BRING AN ITEM OR TWO FOR THE SILENT AUCTION. ALSO YOU MIGHT WANT TO BRING AN EXTRA AMOUNT OF CASH SO YOU CAN BID ON THE BEAUTIFUL ROCK THAT YOU HAVE WANTED FOR A LONG TIME. IT MIGHT JUST BE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN L@@KING FOR.

SCFMS SILENT AUCTION BID SHEET

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

Please Print
Bidders Name

Bid