

South Central Federation Newsletter



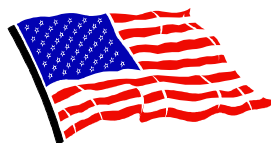
MARCH - APRIL, 2014

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

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WELCOME TO THE MARCH - APRIL SCFMS NEWSLETTER

This issue is dedicated to the Future Rockhounds from the South Central Federation. We hope this issue will encourage parents and clubs to involve their young Rockhounds.



LET'S REMEMBER OUR
TROOPS IN THE MILITARY

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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.

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



SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION CONVENTION NEWS

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.

ANNUAL MEETING:

The Federation's next annual meeting will be held on August 09, 2014.

ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

The annual silent auction will be held during the SCF Show and Convention, August 09-10, 2014. 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



I just finished looking through a small booklet published by Diamond Dan, or if you prefer, Darryl Powell. This made me think of the terminology used in rock and mineral collecting. What does our Club do to clarify terms used when talking to younger members?

The Club might set up a display illustrating terms such as acicular or botryoidal and other terms used. I would suggest that the specimens be large enough to see and common enough to be handled by the young member. Yes, some specimens will be damaged and some will turn up missing but with proper supervision this would be kept to a minimum.

The PCGMS, our local club, has attempted to attract and interest students and young people in our club

beginning with our Annual Show. Free admission and registration for a door prize for students only is offered. We also have the Spinning Wheel and at one time a special kids only section in the silent auction. A mining sluice was an added attraction at our last show.

We enlisted a youth group from one of the area churches to come and help move and set up the vendor tables and show area. This was helpful to our club members who are not able to physically do the labor required and financially beneficial to the youth group. This was also a first time for some of the junior and senior students to be 'exposed' to a rock show.

The date of our show makes it difficult to plan for field trips from the schools

since it is so near the beginning of the school year and there is no time to make those plans in advance.

We have found the last weeks before school holidays or school year end is a great time to have field trips with the students. Teachers are looking for activities after finals and before holidays to occupy the students. We had a day camp for the students set up at the club house. Different stations using a tumbler, a cabbing machine, and a wire-wrap demonstration were set up to illustrate some terms used by rockhounds.

Good luck with your pebble pups, may they become rockhounds.

John D

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".



ROCKY SAYS:

DEADLINE FOR MAY - JUNE ISSUE

WILL BE MAY 10, 2014



TO ALL BOY AND GIRLS

REMEMBER SMOKEY'S FRIENDS

DON'T PLAY WITH MATCHES!

BILL'S BLOTTER

Bill Halepeska, SCFMS Executive Vice-President

MIDLAND GEM & MINERAL SOCIETIE'S KIDS KAMP - 2013

All the volunteer help arrived on time for set-up, and even included a couple moms who decided to assist so they could keep a wary eye on the kids. Also, I thought, to assess the relative worth of the club's efforts in providing worthwhile activities for younger members/students. Things proceeded pretty well without incident. Activities included a video on volcanoes which was followed by a hands-on review of volcanic rocks. Some recent acquisitions which included some really neat minerals were set out for a quick show.

The kids were treated to a treasure hunt after which they each ended up with a 12 piece collection of neat rocks and minerals. A piece of dino bone and coprolite were included. (all kids are crazy about dinosaurs). An older member cut and polisher a nice cabachon while the kids looked on. The whole program was going so well that the moms were asking how soon we could schedule another "KAMP", and the kids were overjoyed.

Someone must have slammed a door and I woke up. **Man, what a dream!** A real nightmare to be exact. I remembered recent efforts to put together such a program in our club.

Most members agree that such a program is needed, for junior members, members' children (and grandchildren) as well as for potential members. So far; so good, but difficulties start almost immediately. I'll just list a few for starters:

First with the internal needs:

Members must want to take on such a project, and be willing to see that the program gets the backing needed;

Members not already loaded down with the nuts and bolts of the club's operation must be willing to pitch in with their time;

Materials must be provided (that's the easy part);

Program content must attract potential attendees, as well as, meet the general approval of parents.

Location provided and time schedule which fits most volunteers and attendees/students

Now for the external needs:

When will the youth participants most likely be available with all the other local activities always on tap. Activities specifically organized for our youth just about cover the waterfront

in source, from schools, local churches, clubs, and so on (many backed by and funded by local companies or the United Way)

Parents must be fully aware of the activities provided, and make the decision as to which would most likely to benefit the kids; this goes back to the PR job that the club does, and how well they are recognized within the community

The list of needs and the cooperative efforts necessary could go on and on. How well the planning stage is executed will determine in the end if our efforts will be rewarded. Here in Midland, we are blessed with the Petroleum Museum whose staff offer a number of similar activities. MGMS members aid in their activities when rocks and minerals are a part of a given program. In that way, we are able to contribute to such activities on a much larger scale than when we "go it alone".

I think I'll just go back to sleep.

Bill



THE WISE OLE OWL SPEAKS TO MOM'S AND DAD'S

Mom's and Dad's! Do you remember how happy you were to start learning about the Science Field of Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and the hobby that you now enjoy. Be sure to do your best in teaching your children this great hobby.



SAFETY REPORT



by: Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator
Safely Planting the Seeds for Our Children

Anyone reading this article knows that at some point, usually in our childhood, the seeds of interest in "rocks" were planted. Where did it happen? At a museum or jewelry store? During school or with Scouts? Finding rocks while walking with grandpa on his farm? Reading National Geographic? Watching a dinosaur movie? Finding that first shark's tooth on the beach?

I became interested on the Jacksonville Beaches in 1974. The shark teeth I found were little ones. No Megalodon teeth-that came later!

So lots of fond memories and hopefully a lot of joy realized along the way. But as we get older, many of us think about how to pass on the legacy of our interest-usually it's to our kids or grandkids, and possibly to students or Scouts.

This time is also an opportunity to help our prodigies to grow their interest in

the right ways and in safe ways. For starters, always take the opportunity to get children to help in the planning stage while you are "planting the seeds."

As a "paleo" guy, I have to plan for travel, plan for what I'm carrying, how I will access a site, and how to return safely. Having taken Scouts on several "rock hunts," we first plan where we are going and what we will need to take. As the hunt approaches, we look at weather and conditions, hot or cold, dry or wet, and other variables like, "is it during DEER HUNTING season?" Do we need permission to access private properties? Do we need permits for hunting? Is special equipment needed for accessing sites? Ropes, ladders, boats, etc., and how do we safely use the equipment?

Once we get there, do we need PPE (personal protective equipment) like safety glasses, gloves, long pants and sleeves, bug spray, etc?

Okay, what I'm getting at is ensuring that the kids help make the "plan."

Once you have figured out where you are going, you can do the following:

1. Discuss what you are going there to do.
2. Identify any risks (falling down slopes, slipping on wet rocks, snakes, etc.)
3. Discuss in detail how to eliminate or mitigate the risks.
4. Discuss how to respond if something goes wrong.
5. Finally, determine when you plan on returning, and BE SURE to let your friends or families know, too!

Teaching our children the right and safe ways to enjoy their interests will allow them the best opportunity to do so for a lifetime.

Good luck, and thank you for your help!



APACHE TEARS

George Campbell



Just outside of the town of Superior, which is about 80 miles from Phoenix, in Pinal County, Arizona, is a cliff, which has as its name Apache Leap. As the story goes, the local Apache Indians were being pursued by another warlike tribe. They were chased to the edge of the cliff and, rather than be captured, they rode their horses right over the edge and fell to their deaths. Their wives and families cried and cried and their tears were turned into those obsidian nodules we now call Apache Tears.

(from Rocks & Fossils Newsgroup)

FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS CORNER



HOW TO RECOGNIZE MINERALS

Alice Copeland



The secret of identifying minerals quickly and successfully is to become familiar with their common physical properties. A property of a substance is any quality typical of it, or anything pertaining to its appearance. For example, a sweet taste is a property of sugar, a white color is a property of snow, and heaviness is property of lead.

Unless we can recognize a mineral by sight alone, it may seem to be any one of many minerals. Let's discuss a few easy step-by-step procedures that will help you to identify the minerals.

First, let's look at the luster of the mineral. Light is reflected from the surface of minerals in various ways. Every mineral has either a metallic or a nonmetallic luster. This serves to put any unknown mineral into one of two main groups. A metallic luster is simple to recognize. For example, gold, silver, lead, copper aluminum. Minerals having this luster are opaque, and when crushed they have a powder which is black or darker in color than the mineral itself. A non-metallic luster is more complex, be-

cause several kinds can be recognized. They become transparent on a thin edge, and when crushed they give a powder which is white or lighter in color than the solid mineral.

The second thing to look at is the hardness of the mineral. Hardness means the resistance of the whole surface to being scratched. We use a scale called the Mohs scale. Talc is placed as the softest spot and a diamond is placed as the hardest. The higher placed minerals will scratch the softer placed mineral. Two minerals of the same hardness will scratch each other.

The next thing to look at is the color of the mineral. We cannot rely on this test alone to recognize the minerals because there are so many variables. Some of them are constant in their color such as yellow sulfur, pink rhodochrosite, blue azurite, and green malachite. However, most minerals are colored by chemical elements that are really minor impurities and that may cause a wide variety of different colors. For example, quartz comes in almost every color imaginable.

Minerals that break in irregular directions, like shattered glass, are said to fracture. When it has a series of arcs, it is known as conchoidal, meaning shell like. Quartz have this kind of fracture. Metals such as copper and silver have a hackly fracture, which gives a jagged surface uncomfortable to touch. Other kinds of fracture are called simply even, uneven, earthy, and so forth that describe their appearance.

Minerals also vary considerable in weight, some being heavy for their size, others light. The weight of a mineral is known as its specific gravity. Experience in handling different minerals will give you a surprising ability to estimate it closely.

These are just a few ways that may help you identify minerals. As you gain more experience these methods will come naturally to you and you will be able to recognize most any mineral.

(Source: How to Know The Minerals and Rocks, By Richard M. Pearl).
(from Cross Timbers Talk, Oct 2000)



Remember
to Reduce,
Reuse &
Recycle



CHALCANTHITE

by Dwight House, age 14

Last year, when we had the Lark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society Show, my grandmother gave my brother, my sister, and me some money to buy a pretty rock or other item at the show. My brother Reuben come across a beautiful mineral called chalcantnite. Reuben asked about it and the man selling it said it was grown artificially. Reuben had enough money so he bought it. I thought it was pretty cool but it stayed in Reuben's room. Last month dad said I had to do a report on a rock and suggested Reuben's chalcantnite, so I'll tell you about it.

Chalcantnite is made up of copper sulfate with water. Copper sulfate normally is a white powder or white crystals but that is without water being in it. When you put the crystals in water, it turns the water blue and then when the water evaporates, some of the water stays in the crystals and they are the pretty blue color you can see here. If you heat the crystal up to 150 degrees Celsius, the water evaporates from the crystal and it turns white again!

They call chalcantnite blue vitriol. It is used to test for the presence of water in liquid like alcohol. They put the white powder in the liquid and if water is in there it turns blue. If there is no water, it stays the same color. Sometimes it is important to know if water is in something you don't want it in. If you have water in gasoline it might mess up an engine.

I have found out this mineral is poisonous and therefore it should not be taste-tested or handled a lot. If you could taste it, they SAY it tastes sweet and metallic. Of course, I have not tested it myself because my mom would beat me with a wet noodle and I'd have to eat hospital food! My brother said for me to make sure not to touch it because it breaks really easy. He should know because he's broken it himself already.

Chalcantnite is useful for other things besides water testing. It is poisonous to people but also to insects, fungus, and algae so it is used to stop those things from growing. It is used

in copper-plating, dying things (probably blue) and wet-cell batteries. Natural chalcantnite crystals are very rare in nature and the experts say not as pretty. So if you see a really pretty crystal of it, it's almost for sure is not natural. My dad would like to see some nature crystals chalcantnite so let me know if you come across any. Thanks for listening to my report. I think it is a pretty okay rock.

Research data from Microsoft Encarta 1999

from the Rock Rattler 3/00 - 1st Place, 2001 SCFMS Original Junior Articles, 6th Place, 2001 AFMS Original Junior Articles.

(NOTE: To our SCFMS Future Rockhounds. This young man was 14 when he wrote this article and received a 1st Place in SCFMS Contest and a 6th Place. You could be the next winner in the contest, IF you write an article for your club Newsletter) .



HOOTY, THE OWL!

Hooty, the owl! Hooty, the owl,
Flyin' and a spyin' while out on the prowl,
He can spot a fire before it starts to flame,
That's when he starts a hootin' and that's
How he got his name!

TO ALL BOY AND GIRLS
HOOTY'S FRIENDS DON'T PLAY WITH
MATCHES!



THE LILLIAN TURNER AWARD

Toby Cozens, AFMS Treasurer
tobycoz@aol.com

Several years ago a very special rockhound in the Washington DC area, realizing that the future of our hobby ultimately rests in the hands of those who are now "juniors", established --- strictly on her own and out of her own pocket --- a fund to make an award to that junior whose exhibit is judged best at the national show.

This makes the presentation rotate around the country, taking seven years for a complete cycle, following the seven regional federations who host the annual show on a rotating basis. First awarded in 1995 in Boise, Idaho with a \$50.00 savings bond, Mrs. Turner has since added to the fund so

that now the award is a \$100.00 bond with added "goodies" contributed by other interested and generous members of the rockhound community. Most recently it was awarded in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mrs. Turner was also instrumental in the issuance of the set of mineral stamps several years ago. At the national convention held in California she added a set of first day covers of these stamps to the bond award.

(From the American Federation Website)

ATTENTION ALL FUTURE SCFMS ROCKHOUNDS CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SHOW CHAIRPERSONS

I would like to take a moment to encourage our **SCFMS Future Rockhound Juniors** to enter displays in the Federation Show this year. The show will be held on August 09 and 10, 2014, in Baton Rouge, LA.

In 2015 the American Federation Show, which will be held in Austin, TX. It would be wonderful to see lots of their displays from our youth. At this show the Lillian Turner Award could be given to a junior student whose exhibit is judged best at the national show.

In addition to the Lillian Turner Award for the best display, kids entering any sort of display can earn the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America merit badge for Showmanship. Put awards and merit badges aside. Start planning, preparing, and setting up a display and attending a show. Seeing all the other displays and meeting with

those who prepared them is a great way to expand a child's horizons. The Junior could meet new and interesting people who are actively engaged with our hobby **while -- as always -- having fun.**

Now to the Club Presidents and Show Chairpersons.

This would be a great year for your club to encourage your Juniors to bring a Display to your Club Show this year and again next year. The Lillian Turner Award is only available at the American Federation Shows. Next year that show will be in our Federation. It sure would be nice to see several exhibits from our Junior Members entered into that show. This would certainly be an opportunity for a little bit of good experience.

Who Knows! Your Junior might be the one that would get interested enough

to be a Science Teacher in the future. I'm sure the parents of that Junior would really be proud of their child.

Sometimes it doesn't take much to get a young person interested. There are times when Mom and Dad exhibits at a show, the Junior will take note and say, that's what I want to do when I grow up. Well they can do it now and not wait until they grow up. So! Let's encourage our young people as much as we can to make our hobby -- their hobby.

Thanks for listening. I hope to see some exhibits at the shows and to have a SCFMS Junior Member to win that \$100 Bond. That would make my day. Your editor, Paul W. Good.

(Note: Part of the above information was taken from the AFMS Newsletter - June-July, 2006)

FEEDING THE PEBBLE PUPS

by: Nova Wells

When it's time to give a new pebble pup his/her first gift rock, I recommend starting with a piece of petrified wood. It doesn't need to be large or spectacular. There is something special about holding a rock in your hand that once was a part of a tree--live and growing. And if possible I'd probably make it a piece of palm wood because I could explain that petrified palm wood is the official state fossil of Texas.

Why petrified wood? Because it's common. Granted, the local supply of petrified wood is nonexistent, but any place a kid travels, especially where there is river gravel, there's an excellent chance of finding petrified wood. There's a tremendous quantity of pet-

rified wood in the world and much of it is beautiful.

Secondly, because petrified wood looks like wood, it is easy to recognize. Most wood that petrifies has been buried in water or sand and absorbed quartz as a replacement for the wood in a cell by cell process, often retaining microscopic bits of wood fiber. Even when the rock is sliced the wood grain shows and can be used to identify the tree species.

Limb cast are also considered to be petrified wood and show the outside of the tree. These are commonly associated with volcanic action where the tree was buried in hot ash or lava which burned away the wood but left

the pattern of the bark. Over the years, perhaps centuries, the cavity filled with minerals dissolved from the volcanic deposit. Blue Forest and Eden Valley petrified forests, both in Wyoming, are two famous locations for this kind of material. Precious opal has been found in limb casts formed in this manner.

(from The Hound's Tale, August 2011)



BLUE FOREST PETRIFIED WOOD WYO.

BIT O' GEM

DIAMOND

Diamonds are thought to be named for the Greek word "Adamas" and traditionally represent fearlessness and love. They are the hardest natural substance and are called "ice" because they diffuse light so well that they are naturally cold.

Diamonds are the April birthstone and are mined in South Africa, India, Russia, Australia, Brazil, Borneo, Indonesia and America.

Diamonds have a hardness of 10, density of 3.5 and a non-metallic, brilliant luster. Its habit is equidimensional crystals (octahedrons) somewhat perfect.

(Selected)

OUR HOBBY

Examine our hobby from any point of view. It's more of a sport than the usual spectator sports, because anyone who is interested can participate. It's a greater opportunity to get close to nature than hunting or fishing. It offers artistic challenges to bringing out of stone, by our own imagination and skill, the beauty found in nature.

Theologically also, the pursuit of our hobby cannot help but bring us to a greater awareness of God. We gain in this hobby, as we acquire a greater education of many earth sciences.

(Selected)

SHINE YOUR LIGHT ON ME

By Ann James
Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society

Rockhounds get so much joy when others show an interest in their passion, especially when it is children. They are the rockhounds of the future. Providing programs to educate them can be so rewarding.



One of my favorite presentations centers on fluorescent minerals, "Shine Your Light On Me". I have yet to see a child, no matter what age, that is not in awe when they view the fluorescent glow of these minerals. After viewing, I now have a captivated audience when providing the reasons why they glow as they do under UV lights. Subtopics of discussion include:

- a. What is Fluorescence?
- b. Electromagnetic Spectrum (Chart)
- c. Visible Light Spectrum (Chart)
- d. Ultraviolet Range of Light (Chart)
- e. Practical applications of UV lights
- f. Safety issues when using UV lights

When presenting a program, using many visuals will help to keep the audience attentive. Charts, slides and a large variety of fluorescent minerals makes it so easy. Upon completion, I always encourage them to consider fluorescent minerals and the electromagnetic spectrum/UV range of light as a topic to consider when selecting a science project.

A program educates but how can we, as rockhounds, encourage them to continue with our hobby. In the past, the only UV lights available were somewhat expensive but today we

are able to purchase handheld long wave UV lights for under \$10. These lights can be found online and such places as Harbor Freight. These are often sold for various purposes - stamp hobbyist, detection of pet stains, etc. Albeit, you are limited in the type of mineral to be viewed however, it allows one to begin collecting with a very small investment. When presenting to the children it would be advisable to use one of these in addition to your higher frequency lights so as to let them see that they can start collecting too.

View boxes are always nice to have, so look for my upcoming how-to article entitled "Fluorescent View Box on a Budget". This would be a good hands-on project when needing a follow-up program.

Ann

BENCH TIPS by Brad Smith

NO - MAR PLIERS

Pliers can often leave nicks and scratches on you work. If this is giving you a problem. First take a close look at the pliers jaws. New tools can be a little rough. I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks and give working areas a quick polish.

If that doesn't solve the problem, you probably need to cover the jaws. Plastic electrical tape provides a quick fix but can leave messy adhesive on the jaws. Dips don't seem to last very long.

A quick and easy way I've found is to slip a length of 1/8 dia vinyl tubing over each jaw. It's quick and leaves no sticky residue. Only problem is that it increases the size of the pliers jaws a bit. The tubing can be found in a store that sells aquarium supplies.

(From the Rockytier, March, 2014.)

CONGRESS TO BEGIN WORK ON RECREATION FEE LEGISLATION

Via Western Slope No-Fee Coalition

Recreation fees for parks and public lands are governed by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). Very soon, legislation to replace, revise or repeal FLREA is going to move forward in Congress. Now is the time for the public to weigh in.

You can sit back, do nothing, and let the American Recreation Coalition (ARC), the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service set the agenda. Or you can take action and make sure the members of Congress who will decide the issue take the public's concerns into account.

Here is what the ARC has announced it wants to see:

"Dynamic" pricing, to promote a shift in use to non-peak periods and less-

used places. In other words, pay extra for the most popular places at the best times of year.

Raising the price of senior lifetime passes from \$10 to \$80, and/or raising the eligibility age from 62 to 70.

Eliminating the free lifetime pass for those with a permanent disability and begin charging \$80 for it.

Lowering the age of free entry from 16 to 12.

ARC also wants a "prestige pass" at a premium price, for those who want to be able to go to the front of the line, use reserved close-in parking, and generally not have to mix with their fellow citizens of lesser means.

For the ARC, it's all about generating revenue, not about finding ways to

encourage more people to enjoy healthy, active, outdoor activities.

If you agree with these proposals, then by all means do nothing.

(More ARC proposals are in the online article, along with help in contacting legislators. Go to www.amlands.org, under "Newsletters.")

--Edited and excerpted from the Oct. to Dec., 2013, ALAA Newsletter

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

Submitted by Shirley Leeson, ALAA



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.



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.

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:

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



LEARNING ABOUT BARITE

BARITE (BaSO_4) is a sulfate of barium, a silvery metal. Barite is fairly soft: Hardness 2.5 to 3.5 but heavy Specific Gravity 4.5 mineral, colorless to white, yellow, gray, and brown. Luster, glassy, sometimes pearly; streak, white. Sometimes granular or earthy.

LEARNING ABOUT CALCITE

CALCITE (CaCO_3) most common and widespread of the carbonate minerals. Calcite crystals are common. The Hardness is 3 and the Specific Gravity is 2.7. Cleavage: perfect, rhombohedral. Most calcite is opaque, and is found in: yellow, orange, green shades. Calcite is often fluorescent.



**THE BATON ROUGE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW
and
SCFMS REGIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE
Marriott Hotel
Hilton Ave.**

Show Times:

Saturday, August 9th - 10:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, August 10th - 10:00am - 5:00pm

SCFMS Activities: Saturday, August 9th in the Beauregard Room

Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters:8:00am

SCFMS Meeting:1:00pm

SCFMS Awards Banquet:7:00pm

Sunday, August 10th in the Beauregard Room

Rolling Rock Club Meeting:8:00am

Room Rate Discounts will be available





IN MEMORY

Dr Edward C. Jonas
July 24, 1924 - January 9, 2014



Dr. Edward C. Jonas passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at the Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Kyle, TX. He was 89 years old. He married Martha Sullivan in 1949. Martha passed away in 2013. He is survived by his two children, Peter Jonas and Ruth McReynolds. This picture on the right, of Dr. Jonas and his wife, Martha, was taken in 1988



Dr. Jones, Professor of Geological Sciences, University of Texas, was a native of San Antonio. He received his BS from Rice University and his Ph.D in Geology from the University of Illinois. Professional assignments included Illinois State and University of Texas, where he was a Professor of Geology since 1966. He is a fellow of the Geological Society of American and American Association for the Advancement of Science as well as the Geological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He has a number of publications.

At one time he was a member of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society and worked with them in setting up meetings and lectures. He worked at their shows in various ways. He would set up the "Gem Mine" for the children. He would bring sand and/or gravel and put it into a big tub. Then he would put some nice rocks, minerals into the tub for the children to hunt. Anything the children would find would be theirs to keep.

Dr. Jonas was chosen as the SCFMS/AFMS as a Scholarship Awardee in 1974. This was the fourth year for this award to be presented. He chose two students from the University of Texas to receive scholarships from the AFMS. He chose Steven McLean, who was pursuing his Ph.D in Geology, and Susan Levy, who was working on her Ph.D in Geology. Steven received a two year, \$1500 scholarship and Susan received a special one year, \$750 scholarship.

(The above information was received from his daughter, Ruth, and from Josie Middleton, Austin Gem and Mineral Society, the History of the AFMS Scholarship Fund and the University of Texas website. Thanks to all for the information.)

I, Paul Good, had the privilege of meeting Dr. Jonas and his family at the Legend Oaks Nursing Home, when Margaret was there for a few weeks.

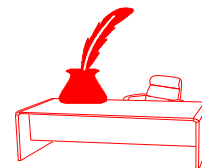
DID YOU KNOW?

Petrified wood is a type of FOSSIL, in which the tissues of a dead PLANT are replaced with MINERALS (most often a SILICATE, such as QUARTZ). The PETRIFICATION process occurs underground, when wood or woody materials suddenly become buried under sediment.

Mineral-rich water flowing through the sediment deposits minerals in the plant's cells and as the plant's LIGNIN and CELLULOSE decays away, a STONE cast is left in place

from T-Town Rockhound 6-05, via The Roadrunner

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Paul W. Good

Greetings. As of February this year, Margaret and I completed our 44th year of taking displays to schools, universities, and public libraries. It has been an enjoyable part of our hobby.

With this issue we would like to encourage others to get involved in showing our hobby to our younger generation.

At one time we had eleven schools and one university in which we took a display case at the beginning of the year and then we change the exhibit every six weeks. This year we have only eight schools in Hays county, TX plus Texas State University in San Marcos, because some schools were running out of space to allow the cases to be in their libraries.

We have received a lot of comments from the teachers, students about our displays. A few times we didn't get the displays changed at the end of the six weeks and a few students went to the Librarian and said, "Isn't it time for them to change the display".

Another time, a fifth grader came up to me as I was changing the display and said, "Thank you Mr. Good". I said, "Why are you thanking me". He put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a key change which had an Ocho (geode) from Brazil. He said, "I have carried this in my pocket for a couple of years and didn't know what it was called, until I saw your display of them.

From time to time we get nice letters from the teachers or those in administration, such as follows:

I am so appreciative of what you do for those schools. Thank you for sharing the stories of the rocks, minerals, and fossils with our students! You're officially one of the coolest people I know. Thanks again,

Christina A. Courson, Communication Specialist, Hays CISD

I want to thank the following people for their articles for this month's issue: John Nash, Margaret Good, Bill Halepeska, Owen Martin, Shirley Leeson, Ed Ries, Ruth McReynolds, Josie Middleton and Ann James.

With this issue I have finished my 15th year as your editor. It has been enjoyable getting to know a lot of people with the same interest in our hobby. So until next time, **BE GOOD.**

A YOUNG FUTURE ROCKHOUND SCIENTIST

By Paul W. Good

On February 28, I was talking to Nancy, a friend of mine, who had dinner with a family that had three children. She was impressed with Luke Hudgins, age 7, and a first grader at the Cox Elementary School, in Sachse, TX. After Luke had eaten, he began reading from the National Audobon Society First Field Guide.

Nancy knew that I had a rock collection, so she told me that I should visit with his parents and Luke. After

talking to him, I found out that he likes to collect rock and has had a few people to give him some rocks. He regularly quizzes his parents about the hardness and types of rocks and minerals. He reads at an extremely high level and had always had an affinity for science and math. He's also a huge fan of chemistry and really enjoys studying the periodic table.

After that night, I went home and found some rocks that I could give to

him. I found a couple of boxes full and was showing them to him. I explained that I had wrapped an amethyst crystal in bubble wrap. His comment was, "you didn't need to do that, as amethyst is a 7 on the hardness scale".

It was a joy to visit and get to know his family. So another young rockhound is learning more about our hobby.

Good job Luke. Keep on studying.



SCFMS ORGANIZATIONS SHOW DATES FOR 2014

Mary Trammell, SCFMS Show Co-ordinator

March 15-16, 2014
San Antonio, TX
Southwest G&MS
Events Center
Marbach @ loop 410

April 12-13, 2014
Abilene, TX
Central Texas G&MS
Abilene Civic Ctr.
North 6th & Pine

April 12-13, 2014
Waco, TX
Waco G&MS
Extraco Events Ctr.

April 17-20, 2014
Alpine, TX
Chihuahua G&MS
Alpine Civic Ctr.

April 26-27, 2014
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Civic Ctr.

May 24-25, 2014
Fort Worth, TX
Fort Worth G&MS
Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.

May 31 - June 1, 2014
DeRidder, LA
DeRidder G&MS
Beaugard Parish
610 West Street

June 07-08, 2014
Grapevine, TX
Arlington G&MS
Grapevine Convention Ctr.

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.

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

September 27-28, 2014
Dallas, TX
Dallas G&MS
Restiol Expo Ctr.
Mesquite, TX

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

October 11-12, 2014
Fort Worth, TX
Lockheed Martin
RA Stone Steppers
LMRA Picnic Area
3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.

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.

October 25-26, 2014
Glen Rose, TX
Paleo. Soc. Of Austin
Somervell Expo Ctr.
Hwy 67

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

December 05-06, 2014
Round Rock, TX
Paleontological Soc. Of
Austin
Old Settlers Park
Hwy 29 E
Round Rock, TX

2014 REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS AND SHOWS

Eastern
Federation
March 29-30, 2014
Plymouth Mtg, PA

California
Federation
May 30-June 01, 2014
Pomona, CA

Rocky Mountain & AFMS
Federations
July 09-13, 2014
Tulsa, OK

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

Southeast
Federation
To Be Announced