

South Central Federation

Newsletter

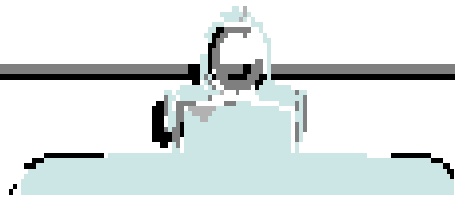


OUR 71st YEAR

DECEMBER 1943-2014

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2014

Member of: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



A REMINDER

ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES

THE OFFICERS AND EDITOR FORM IS DUE

Ray Duplechain, SCFMS Exec. Secretary has sent the Officers and Editor form to all SCFMS Clubs a few weeks ago. It is important for this form to be filled out by your club and returned to Ray Duplechain.

Ray Duplechain
P.O. Box 82980
Baton Rouge. LA. 70884

Deadline for receiving this form will be:
February 15, 2015

DON'T DELAY -- DO IT TODAY
DUE ARE ALSO DUE.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Reminder	1
Information About The Federation	2
Sue's Digs	3
A Salute To Our Veterans	3
Our Hobby	3
From Ann's View	4
2015 Annual Federation Show -- Austin	4
A Note From The SCFMS Executive Secretary	5
SCFMS Endowment Fund	5
From The SCFMS Bulletin Editor's Advisory Chair	6
Safety Report	7
Rhodochrosite	7
Future Rockhounds Corner Rocks, Rovers, & Robots	8
Tid-Bit Petrified Wood	8
Turquoise - My Child's Eyes, What Are Volunteers	9
Sixth Ann. 2014 SCFMS Web Site Competition	10
Voices From The Past	11
American Lands Access Association	12
What To Do In Quartzsite 2015	12
From The Editor's Desk	13
2015 Federation Shows	13
SCFMS Organizations Show Dates	14



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



SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.

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

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.

SOUTH CENTRAL, FEDERATION
WEB-SITE:
WWW.SCFMS.NET

E-MAIL ADDRESS CORRECTION AND
CHANGES

It is each members responsibility to send your E-mail Addresses to the SCFMS Newsletter Editor, Paul Good.

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED
BI-MONTHLY

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.

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.

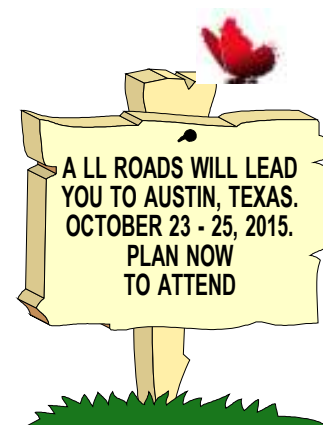
SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION'S ANNUAL MEETING:

The Federation's next annual meeting will be held on: **October 24, 2015.**
ANNUAL SHOW

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society, Austin, TX, will host the SCFMS Show in 2015, to be held on **October 23-25, 2015.** 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 SILENT AUCTION

The annual silent auction will be held during the SCFMS Show and convention. Donations are greatly welcomed and needed. Rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry and hobby related items are among the items needed. Bring or send all items to the show. Proceeds from the silent auction go in the SCFMS Endowment Fund.



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

SUE'S DIGS



Sue Dale Miller, SCFMS President

My name is Dale Miller. I have been a member of the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club since 1993. The first meeting was the Show Meeting. Wow! I was enthusiastic and signed up for set-up on Friday and every hour of the two day show. I was told the board meetings were open to members so I went and soon had a job. I have had a job doing something for the club every year since joining. The more you put into a club the more you get out of the club.

Although I have taken many classes my favorite is still rocks. Field trips to find rocks, sawing rocks and shaping rocks. 2015 was

going to be the first year I did not have a position in the Arlington Club. Time to rest. But when I was ask to serve a SCFMS President I realized I had one more year of work in me.

I beleve in the SCFMS. If the clubs in the SCFMS work together we will all be stronger.

The purpose of the SCFMS is to hold the member clubs together and help them grow. The district VPs are there to help the clubs communicate with the SCFMS. Who is your District VP? Call them. Let them know you want a visit. Maybe he or she can give a

program to your members. Maybe the District VP and the presidents of the clubs in his or her district can share the expenses to travel to the next SCFMS meeting. There were not many clubs represented at the SCFMS meeting in Baton Rouge. I cut my expenses in half by sharing a room in Baton Rouge. And it was more fun to have someone to go to meeting and meals.

Hope to see you at field trip or show soon.

Sue Dale Miller

A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



Veterans Day:

On the 11th of this month we celebrated Veterans Day in our great country. It was a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Our men and women fought wars brave and true, returned home honoring the red, white and blue.
Thanks to our veterans for your service.

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

DEADLINE FOR THE JAN-FEB NEWSLETTER

WILL BE JANUARY 10, 2015

SEND IN THE NEWS EARLY

DON'T DELAY



From Ann's View
SCFMS Executive Vice-President

Greetings SCFMS Rockhounds !!! As of November 1, 2014 I have the pleasure of serving the SCFMS as Executive Vice-President. Since you will be hearing from me quarterly, let me introduce myself.

My " bio" –well, it goes something like this. I am a Louisiana native who resided in "Cajun country" most of my life. My profession during that time was that of a registered dietitian in a major hospital located in Lafayette, Louisiana. In 1997, my husband, Paul and I moved to Houston where my world really expanded. I love rocks, stones AND jewelry so I began silversmithing via classes offered by the Art League of Houston. In searching for designer stones I attended an Inter-Gem show and happened upon the Houston Gem and Mineral Society Booth. The information provided by the group was intriguing and I immediately joined. By becoming involved with the HGMS, we were able to take advantage of the many classes offered by the club. I began focusing on wire-wrapping cabochons that Paul cut and polished. We exhibited and sold our work throughout Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi. In 2001, Paul and I moved to the "Big Thicket" area of southeast Texas. We were extremely happy to

find that the Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society (PCGMS) was only 15 miles away in Jasper. Over these years, the club has provided much by way of fellowship and growth surrounding my passion. Positions held in PCGMS include Secretary (2006, 2008), President (2008, 2011, and 2012), Board of Directors (2012-2014) and has served as Show Chair since 2012. SCFMS positions include District II Vice-President (2009-2011) and Secretary (2011-2014). AFMS positions include 3rd Vice President (2012-2013) and 2nd Vice-President (2013-2014). Aside from rock-related organizations, I participate in other community organizations. Currently, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Jasper Woman's Civic Club, Board of Directors for the Jasper Community Theatre and an Embassy Envoy for the Jasper Chamber of Commerce.

Although I no longer travel to exhibit and sell my work, I still have the opportunity to continue with my love of the rock world. Paul has built a "rock shop" for me on our property.

Until later,
Ann James

**MARK YOUR
AFMS/SCFMS COMBINED
FEDERATION SHOW
OCTOBER 23-25, 2015**



**---- AUSTIN, TX ----
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE.
MORE INFORMATION LATER
IN THIS NEWSLETTER**



A NOTE FROM THE SCFMS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Ray Duplechain



The Holidays are fast approaching and there are a couple things I would like to talk about. First of all, I would like to thank all the clubs for responding and getting their Ins. payments in on time. Things go so much better when we can submit funds as needed. But with that said, there are still 10 clubs that have not paid their Federation dues by the October 31st. deadline (you know who you are). If you are waiting to get your membership totals, just use your October 31st figures. Please submit so I can close out this year's books. Also, your latest officers forms helps us keep up with current club contacts. Send those in also if you haven't already done so.

Now, enough business stuff. Let me say how much I appreciate the confi-

dence you have shown in me by allowing me to continue the Executive Secretary position. I hope to always maintain integrity and your confidence in my honesty, as you certainly should expect.

Thank you Don Shurtz for constantly helping me stay alert and accountable. You are a great friend and Treasurer.

Thank you Paul & Margaret Good for all the help you gave me as I worked on the BEAC Contest. I certainly will continue to call on you for advice no matter what you two have in store for your future. You two have been a great asset to the Federation and are deserving of recognition.

Kimberly Brannon is rolling right along preparing for this coming year's BEAC Contest. We are in good hands with her.

Congratulations to our newly installed officers and I look forward to assisting you any way I can.

To all the members of The SCFMS, I want to wish all of you and your family a blessed Holiday season and may next year be your best year ever.

Ray Duplechain
SCFMS Executive Secretary
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225-978-0031
Rayduplechain@hotmail.com

SCFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

Ed Ries Chair

PATRONS

The Southwest Gem & Mineral Society has donated \$100.00 to the SCF Endowment Fund in memory of a long time active member:

**PAUL BATTERTON
PATRON 202**

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

**CAROLYN PERKINS
PATRON 203
RICHARD DORSEY
PATRON 204**

Since 1994 the Austin Gem & Mineral Society has honored 42 of their members this way.

PATRON CLUB

The Victoria Gem & Mineral Society has made a donation to the SCF Endowment Fund of \$50.00 and they are now a:



PATRON CLUB VIII.

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

Thanks for your continued support of your Federation Endowment Fund.

Your club has invested in the future of your hobby and Federation. Patrons wear your PATRON PIN proudly

Ed Ries, Chairman
SCFMS Endowment Fund



FROM THE SCFMS BULLETIN EDITORS ADVISORY CHAIR

Kimberly Brannon

To the SCFMS Presidents and Editors,

Some important dates and information to remember:
 *Deadline for the 2015 Editor and Author Contest (for bulletins, web pages, and special publications in 2014) is February 15, 2015.

*Entries will be accepted no later than end of day
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14th, 2015.
 (Happy Valentine's Day!)

*We will be using the same General Guidelines, Categories and Fillable Scoresheets as AFMS. These can be obtained online at <http://www.amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm> or <http://www.SCFMS.net>

*Mail your entries to: KIMBERLY J. BRANNON, SCFMS BEAC, P.O. BOX 836, TENAHA, TX 75974

*If you find time running out, and need to overnight entries, call for physical address.

*Beginning December 2014, I will mail/email updates and reminders to regional Club Presidents and Newsletter Editors as found in the 2013-2014 SCFMS Directory. Please make certain your club's President and Editor's information is current to remain informed of important contest related communications and deadlines.

*QUESTIONS? Kimberly J. Brannon
 225 620 5174 or email kimberlyarts@hotmail.com

Note from the SCFMS BEAC:

If you're anything like me, sometimes important projects get 'put to the side' until the last minute. Ok, almost always! What generally happens under such circumstances is a rushed job, important details are overlooked or forgotten, mistakes are made, my own work or someone else's suffers as a result.

I share this with you to urge clubs to begin selecting entries for the 2015 Editor and Author's Contest NOW!! You may not realize that there weren't as many entries in "YouthPoetry" (or another category) as expected. The benefit to starting early is that there is still time to reach out to club members and fill the gaps before the end of 2014!

Looking forward to your submissions and a great contest in 2015!

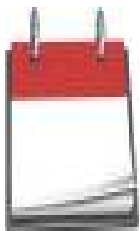
To find out "What Are Judges Looking For?"

Go to the SCFMS Web Site:
<http://www.scfms.net>

*** FOR VARIOUS SCFMS DEADLINES ***

OFFICERS & EDITOR FORMS = SEE = PAGE 1
 EDITOR AND AUTHOR CONTEST= SEE = PAGE 6
 WEB SITES CONTEST = SEE = PAGE 10

NEWSLETTER FOR JAN. - FEB. JAN. 10, 2015



REMEMBER THE
 DATES AND
 MARK THE DOWN



MINERALS-R-US

by Willie Heym

I looked at the label of my vitamin jar
 And got a glimpse of what we are;
 Calcium, magnesium, manganese and more.
 In all these bottles at the health food store.
 The same minerals that make our pretty rocks
 Are human body's building blocks,
 No wonder we are drawn to stones...
 They're literally in our very bones.
 2nd place winner, AFMS Poetry 2002



SAFETY REPORT



HOLIDAY SAFETY 2014

By OWEN MARTIN, SCFMS SAFETY CHAIR

The Holidays are upon us! What are you doing to help keep yourself and your family safe?

Here are a few things to consider around the Holidays this year.

First... Decorations. Especially for those of us who are not quite spring chickens any more it can be hazardous to do things like crawl in and out of the attic getting decorations, or putting up Christmas lights.

Using smaller boxes to store decorations can be very helpful as we maneuver through our attics, garages and basements. Hernias and slipped disks are NOT the kind of present you want to give yourself this year.

Step ladders are MUCH safer than chairs when setting up decorations inside your home. Considering that you can buy one for \$25 or less at most big box stores they are a great value for safety.

Hanging decorations outside can pose more serious risks. Make sure

you have a spotter whenever you are on a ladder. Over the years I've had several friends who have lost older family members from ladder falls this time of year. And then there are the electrical issues! How many of us are still using those Christmas lights from 1979??? Frayed wires, lack of fuses, overloaded plugs, all have the potential to cause fires or electrocutions! Consider upgrading your lights or going with a more modest presentation. There are also 3rd party services that will put lights up for you if you're willing to pay a little more.

Kitchen safety has a variety of elements to it so without going into too many details if you can make extra time to prepare what you will serve. Things will be a lot less chaotic and thus lessen the chance of things like cuts, burns and scalds.

With the above being said the most dangerous part of Holidays typically revolves around travel. Lots of

people on the roads. Every day I drive an hour each way in and out of downtown Houston for work. I'm used to it, but during the Holidays there are A LOT of people on the roads that are not used to the vagaries of heavy traffic. Consequently driver confusion and fatigue spikes during Holiday travel. Planning your trips and giving yourself extra time to get where you are going will help you minimize your risks. Finally, although we are all aware of it, there will be a lot of folks on the roads who have been drinking alcoholic beverages. The concentration of drunk drivers on our roads peaks after midnight and goes until 4:00 AM. Avoid driving at these hours.

Be safe out there.
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

Owen Martin
SCFMS Safety

RHODOCHROSITE

The classic color of this mineral is rose-pink, although it can also be brown or gray. It was named in 1800 from the Greek work "rhodokhros" "of rosy color". A manganese carbonate, most samples have some calcium and iron substituting for manganese, some also contain magnesium. It is found in hydrothermal ore veins formed at moderate temperatures, in high-temperature metamorphic deposits, and as a secondary mineral in sedimentary manganese deposits. In Butte, Montana, it is so abundant that it is mined as an ore of manganese. It is found in many countries around the world.

This from Rock and Gem by the Smithsonian, via Northeast LA Gem & Min. Soc. News, 8-28-11,



FUTURE ROCKHOUSES CORNER

ROCKS, ROVERS, AND ROBOTS..... OH MY!
By: Michelle Talcott



Let me introduce myself to everyone. My name is Michelle Talcott and I currently live in Jasper, Texas. I am in my third year of teaching Fifth grade science, after a 20 year career as an Environmental Geologist. I have a Bachelor and Master of Science Degree in Geology from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. I spent many years conducting soil and water monitoring at gas stations, landfills, and various other contaminated sites. I began my teaching career to allow more time with my nine year son, Carter.

As part of our science curriculum, our students are in their second year of participating in a Mars Rover project to develop their own "mission" to Mars. Last year we had 75% participation in this project!



This year I am also the sponsor for a Lego robotics club that is being organized through our local 4H. We have approximately 70 students that are participating after school to build and program the Lego EV3 robots. Our plan is to compete against other schools in the spring.

In October 2014 I also started our local Junior Rock club as an extension of the Pine Country Gem and Mineral Society

in Jasper, Texas. We have had 8-10 students that are really excited to learn, collect, and discuss rocks and minerals.

All of this to say that I have a heart for teaching students about science. I tell my students that "I am a scientist to the core" and that I love science. I feel a responsibility to pass along any knowledge that I have gained to the subsequent generations. I challenge everyone to do the same and pass along some of your knowledge to others.

Through this column I want to write about the student activities that I am involved in and how our new Junior Rock Program progresses.

GEODE

by: George "Chic" Chicacak

A solid rock I know about,
Its make-up doesn't faze me.
A hollow one is something else,
Its structure does amaze me.
Is it a hole within a rock?
This fact I often ponder.
Or is it a rock around a hole?
I'll never cease to wonder.

(from the My Grader, Oct. 1983,
Via SCFMS Newsletter, Mar. 1999

TID-BIT-PETRIFIED WOOD

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially from the Northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of either chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates that the tree was green when it was hurried in the hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated, making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the area left between the wood and cast filled with chalcedony making, often, a beautiful piece of petrified wood.

(From The Stone Chipper,, Feb. 2005



Turquoise

by Luke Hudgins, age 7

I think that turquoise is special because it is rare. It displays vivid shades of green/blue. It has a chemical formula of $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

In New Mexico, mines are sadly vanishing in localities that have been serving turquoise for thousands of years. The places in the United States for it are Nevada, Colorado and Arizona. It is a white mineral inside. It oxidizes (which is reacting with oxygen in the air).

Turquoise is special because it's rare. It oxidizes from white to blue/green. You can scratch its color off! It is not poisonous. It is a semi-precious mineral. It displays vivid blue/green shades.

If you polish it in the right way, it can be valuable but you can enjoy it raw, too. Turquoise is amazing.

A YOUNG FUTURE SCIENTIST

BY: Paul W. Good

In the March - April issue of this Newsletter, I mentioned about visiting with Luke Hudgins, who was 7 years old and a first grader at the time.

He has enjoyed reading about the various types of minerals. He knows a lot about the hardness scale and can give you a quick answer for a lot of different minerals and rocks.

I asked him to write an article of his choice. He wrote the article above. I am very happy to have his article and I have tried to encourage all young Future Rockhounds to do the same. I hope that he will continue to study minerals and rocks and maybe we can read more about his studies a few years from now.

THANK YOU LUKE, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

MY CHILD'S EYES

By Catherine L. McFadden

My little girl came in one day
To tell me what she'd spied.
A "Diamond" in our Driveway,
She could not be denied.

The reflections of the Sunshine
On a tiny crystal face;
A reflection of a different type
Something I just could not quite place.

And then I realized to myself,
How symbolic, My little one.
She found beauty in plain gravel
Shown to her by the sun.

We look for Great and Powerful
For Dynamic and Superlative,
When to the tiny "Diamonds"
Our attentions we should give.

Yes, every lesson we need to know,
Is in our world given,
In every mountain, cave and stream,
Is a little bit of heaven

WHAT ARE VOLUNTEERS?

Volunteers are like Ford.
They have a better idea.
Volunteers are like Coke,
They're the real thing.
Volunteers are like Pan Am,
They make thee going great.
Volunteers are like Dial Soap,
They care more, don't you wish everybody did?
Volunteers are like VO-5 Hair Spray,
They hold up in all kinds of weather.
Volunteers are like Hallmark Cards.
They care enough to give the very best.
Volunteers are like Standard Oil,
You expect more and you get it.
BUT MOST OF ALL....
Volunteers ARE LIKE Frosted Flakes,
They're GRRRRRRRRRRREAT!!!!
(from Hourglass News, via
SCFMS News, Nov., 1998)

SAFETY

IS YOUR JOB, DO IT!

SIXTH ANNUAL 2015 WEB SITE COMPETITION

By Phyllis George SCFMS Web Site Contest Chair

It's time for YOUR club to plan to enter the 2015 SCFMS Web Site Competition! It only takes about 15 minutes for your webmaster to fill out the ONLINE entry form, to put information at the topes of the two ONLINE score sheet pages, save them to his or her hard drive, and then e-mail the two files to me at pgeorge4@comcast.net **by Sunday, March 1, 2015**. Please do not let the "far away" date lull you into a false sense of security----that might cause you to miss the deadline. :o(

This year this SCFMS is hosting the AFMS annual show, and it is scheduled for October 23-25, 2015. The March 1 due date allows the two SCFMS judges time to finish their thorough judging of all entries before the top three entries are forwarded to the AFMS Judge, Wes Lingerfelt. The results or **BOTH** the AFMS and SCFMS Web Site Contest will be announced during the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters October 25, 2015 in Austin, Texas. That is it in a nutshell.

I hope everyone reading this will encourage their club's webmaster to enter the contest. Their Web site will be better for having gone through the process of being judged. So how does a club webmaster enter the contest? The webmaster needs to download **THREE** files---a copy of the

2015 Entry Form, the 2015 Score Sheet, and the 2015 Score Sheet Guidelines from the AFMS Web site (www.amfed.org). Be SURE the files you download all have **2015** in their names. There are all **PDF** files that can be filled in and saved on your computer. At the time of this writing, those files are not yet on the Web site, but hopefully they will be there by the time you check for them.

Please make sure that you have installed a free copy of Adobe Reader 9 or later. Adobe Reader lets you fill in your information, save it, and have the ability to change some of your filled-in answers later if necessary. I urge you to use Adobe Reader for this task. Occasionally when another PDF maker is used, the filled-in blanks appear to be completely blank to the recipient. Not good! Adobe Reader 11 is now available for downloading at <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader>.

These forms are all PDF files. They can be filled out on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Fill out the one-page Entry Form completely, and fill out the top part of the Score Sheet of both pages. **When finished, e-mail both forms to me, Phyllis George (pgeorge4@comcast.net), no later than Sunday March 1, 2015**

WOODSY THE OWL SENDS THESE GREETINGS TO ALL THE ROCKHOUNDS IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION:

**"Thanks for helping spread the word."
"Give a Hoot - Don't Pollute"
Lend a Hand - Care for the Land"**



VOICES FROM THE PAST DULL SLAB SAW BLADE

By Dick Rathjen Constitution/By Laws Comm. Chair

After years of dealing with apparently inferior diamond blades in my slab saw, I found out that it was not the fault of the blade at all. Years ago when we bought the slab saw it was set up to run the blade at about 1175 RPM. It turns out that this was much too slow for the newer blades. I replaced the drive pulleys so that the blade is now turning at 3450 RPM. The saw now cuts through even the toughest agate with no trouble at

all. If you have been having trouble keeping your slab saw blade cutting properly, check the speed of the blade and run it according to the manufacturers recommendations. It makes a BIG difference.

(from the STONEY STATEMENTS, 7/94, to us from the SCFMS Newsletter, Jan.- Feb. 1995)

VOICES FROM THE PAST PAST PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Ed Immel, SCFMS President, 1963-64

I have been asked to write something for the Federation Newsletter. Having been around the Federation when it was first organized, I feel that I can speak for the need of such an organization as we saw it back in those early days.

When the first Gem & Mineral Societies were started here in the south central part of the country, we had no rules to guide us in the competition we started between the members. Each club had their own rules and no two were alike. When two or more clubs got together to compete, it took a long time to decide on what rules would be used. We could see that some kind of a formal organization was needed to bring the clubs together so they could help each other. It was decided that a Federation of clubs should be started where each member club would retain control of its own internal affairs while giving support

to the other member clubs. It was important then, and it is important now that each club of the Federation should give maximum support to the other clubs of the Federation, wherever possible.

We certainly do not have to waste our energy fighting with nonmember clubs. Neither should we waste our energy supporting nonmember clubs, who by their own free will choose not to support us.

I would urge all the clubs in our Federation to encourage their member to support the shows and projects of each club in the Federation while leaving it up to each individual as to how they personally want to respond to the activities of the nonmember clubs.

(from SCFMS Newsletter, Sep. - Oct. 1991)

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION



TOM NOE

Veritas@trinityschools.org

Subject: ALAA News excerpt for November

Happy Friday, Editors! Below is the ALAA excerpt for this month. It's not quite directly concerned with rock-hounding, but it's a good example of the kind of federal behavior that ALAA is worried about. It reminds me of what happened to a member of our club here in South Bend who has a mining claim in one of the Western states. The BLM had closed all the roads in the area, so he couldn't get to his claim except by walking miles, and he would have had to carry anything out on his back. He tried talking to the BLM but no success. According to the mining laws, he is guaranteed access to his claim, but it took him several years, working through our local congressional rep, before he could get the BLM to agree to the law. Then they allowed him access, but refused permission to use any of the water on the claim. Without water, he can't mine. He's still paying his claim fees, but it doesn't look like he'll ever be able to work it again.

Regards,
Tom

EPA SEEKS AUTHORITY OVER ALL US WATERS

Note: The EPA's authority over "waters of the United States" was legislatively defined as applying only to "navigable" waters. Recently the EPA proposed new rules which omit the word "navigable," thus placing under its authority ALL waters and waterways, even temporary waterways such as drainage ditches.

FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: JUNE 25, 2014

Today, U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) called on the Senate to support his legislation to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing their March, 2014, proposed rule which would significantly expand federal authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Excerpted from Sen. Barrasso's remarks: I have very serious concerns about the EPA's proposed Clean Water

Act jurisdictional rule. . . . Through this recently proposed rule, federal agencies are attempting to expand the definition of "waters of the United States." They want to include ditches and other dry areas where water flows only for a short duration after a rainfall. The government wants to control even that. Federal regulations have never defined ditches and other upland drainage features as "Waters of the US." But this proposed rule does, and it will have a huge impact on farmers, on ranchers, on small businesses that need to put a shovel in the ground to make a living. . . . Congress never intended the Clean Water Act to be used this way."

FROM THE ALAA NEWSLETTER: JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2014

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.

WHAT TO DO IN QUARTZSITE 2015

- Thursday, Jan 22 Ye Old Timer Auction 7pm**
Sr Center, Shadow Mountain Road
- Friday, Jan 23 ALAA Meeting 7pm**
Quartzsite Alliance Church, 720 Desert View
- BLM Field Mgr John MacDonald re: La Posa,**
- Saturday, Jan 24 SCRIBE for Editors 9am**
Sr. Center, Shadow Mountain Road
- Sunday, Jan 25, ALAA Cleanup 8am-10am**
I-10 at Tom Wells Road, west of Quartzsite

2015 JANUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Paul W. Good



As of November 01, 2014, we have a new list of officers, who took over their new duties, so the Federation is Under New Management. The list is printed on page 2 of this newsletter. As members of the Federation, let's see if we can help them out in any way we can. If we all work together, it will turn out to be a good year.

The 2015 SCFMS Federation Show will be held in Austin, TX, this year on October 23-25, and hosted by the Austin Gem and Mineral Society. So you need to put those dates on your calendar and plan to be there for that show. It is also a combined Federation Show with the American Federation. A combined show with the AFMS and SCFMS happens every seven years. This being the National Federation Show will be a big one. It will be something to LOOK forward to a great show. More information will be available though out the year.

Various club shows are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Note some of the shows are listed as: (To be announced). When your club has set a date for a show in 2015, be sure to contact Mary Trammell, the SCFMS Show chairperson, so she can contact the SCFMS Editor and it then can be printed in the Newsletter.

Mary's address is: 1431 E. U.S. Highway 67, Stephenville, TX 76401. Phone: 254-965-3048, email trammell@our-town.com

A month or so ago I thought it was about time for me to give up the editing of this newsletter, as I was having

problems emailing multi-mailings. So I talked with the powers that be and with Kimberly Brannon. She is going to do the mailing to all the clubs, starting with the January - February issue. As time goes on she "might" take over the job of Editor and Directory Chair. We will see how this all goes.

I have finished seventeen years as your Editor and the Directory Chair for the SCFMS. George Browne was President when he asked me to do the jobs. I have enjoyed working with nine Presidents and starting on the tenth, (Sue Dale Miller). I have received a lot of encouragement from different people through the years and I want to say Thanks to all.

Before I sign off on this Newsletter, I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who contribute to this Newsletter: Sue Dale Miller; Ann James; Ray Duplechain, Ed Ries; Kimberly Brannon; Owen Martin; Michelle Talcott; Phyllis George; Luke Hudgins; Catherine McFadden; Tom Noe; Shirley Leeson and Mary Trammell. Wow! I don't believe that I have every had so many contributors for any one month. Thanks again.... Keep up the Good work.

Margaret and I send Holiday Greetings to each and every one who receives this Newsletter. We hope the New Year will be GOOD to us all and may our rock hunts be great also.

Until next Time. Paul

2015 FEDERATION SHOWS

EASTERN
March 27-29, 2015
Hickory, NC

NORTHWEST
April 10-12, 2015
Ogden, UT

MIDWEST
May 23-24, 2015
Wheaton, IL

CALIFORNIA
June 12-15, 2015
Lodi, CA

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
July 16-18, 2015
Cody, WY

AMERICAN & SOUTH CENTRAL
October 23-25, 2015
Austin, TX

SOUTHEAST
(To Be Announced)



SCFMS ORGANIZATIONS SHOW DATES FOR 2014 & 2015

Mary Trammell, SCFMS Show Co-ordinator

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

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

January 17-18 2015
Fredericksburg, TX
Fredericksburg
Rockhounds
Lady Bird Johnson Park

January 23-24 2015
Tyler TX
East Texas G&MS
Rose Garden Ctr.

February 14-15, 2015
Georgetown, TX
Williamson Co. G&MS
San Gabriel Park

February 14-15, 2015
Plainview, TX
Hi-Plains G&MS
Ollie Liner Ctr.

March 07-08, 2015
Big Spring, TX
Big Spring
Prospectors Club
Howard Co. Fair Barn

March 07-08, 2015
Robstown, TX
Gulf coast G&MS
Regional Fairgrounds

March 07-08, 2015
Pasadena, TX
Clear Lake G&MS
Pasadena Convention Ctr.

March 14-15, 2015
Live Oak, TX
(San Antonio)
Southwest G&MS
Live Oak Civic Ctr.
8101 Pat Booker RD

April 11-12, 2015
Abilene, TX
Central Texas G&MS
Abilene Civic Ctr.
North 6th & Pine

April 16-19, 2015
Alpine, TX
Chihuahua G&MS
Alpine Civic Ctr.

(To be announced)
Waco, TX
Waco G&MS
Extraco Events Ctr.

April 25-26, 2015
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock G&MS
Lubbock Civic Ctr.

May 23-24, 2015
Fort Worth, TX
Fort Worth G&MS
Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.

August 08-09, 2015
Baton Rouge, LA
Baton Rouge, LA G&MS
Fraternal Order of Police

August 15-16, 2015
Bossier City, LA
Ark-LA-Tex G&MS
Bossier City Civic Ctr.

August 22-23, 2015
Jasper, TX
Pine Country G&MS
Events Center

(To be announced)
Grapevine, TX
Arlington G&MS
Grapevine Convention Ctr.

September 26-27, 2015
Dallas, TX
Dallas G&MS
Restiol Expo Ctr.
Mesquite, TX

October 10-11, 2015
Temple, TX
Tri-City G&MS
Mayborn Civic Ctr.

(To be announced)
Fort Worth, TX
Lockheed Martin
RA Stone Steppers
LMRA Picnic Area
3400 Bryant Irvin Rd.

(To be announced)
Victoria, TX
Victoria G&MS
Community Ctr.
2905 East North St.

October 23-25, 2015
Austin, TX
Austin G&MS
Palmer Events Ctr.

(To be announced)
Amarillo, TX
Golden Spread G&MS
Amarillo Civic Ctr.
Exhibition Hall

(To be announced)
Glen Rose, TX
Paleo. Soc. Of Austin
Somervell Expo Ctr.
Hwy 67

(To be announced)
Midland, TX
Midland G&MS
Midland Ctr.

(To be announced)
Humble, TX
Houston G&MS
Humble Civic Ctr.
8233 Will Clayton Pkway

(To be announced)
Round Rock, TX
Paleontological Soc. Of
Austin
Old Settlers Park
Hwy 29 E
Round Rock, TX

(To be announced)
DeRidder, LA
DeRidder G&MS
Beaugard Parish
Fairgrounds
506 West Dr.

(A note to all club
Presidents and
Show Chairpersons,
PLEASE

L@@K

over the dates listed for
your show. If you find a
mistake, let me know about
it as soon as possible.
Thank you.
Your Editor Paul W. Good

OR
If your club has scheduled
your 2015 show dates,
Please notify
Mary Trammell
245-965-2948
Trammell@our-town.com

DO IT TODAY. THANKS