

South Central Federation

Newsletter



JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2015

Member of: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



A REMINDER

ATTENTION CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES

THE OFFICERS AND EDITOR FORM IS DUE

Several Clubs have not sent in their Officers and Editor Form for the 2015 year. This information is to go into the 2015 SCFMS Directory, which will be published next month. It includes the names of your officers and your meeting times and show dates.

It is important for this form to be filled out by your club and returned to the SCFMS Executive, Ray Duplechain.

Ray Duplechain
7200 Cypress Lakes Apt. Blvd. Apt 420
Baton Rouge. LA. 70809

Deadline for receiving this form will be:
February 15, 2015
DON'T DELAY -- DO IT TODAY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Reminder	1
Information About The Federation	2
Sue Digs	3
American Federation Of Mineral Societies	3
From Ann's View	4
AFMS & SCFMS Convention & Show	4
Safety Report	5-6
Hints And Tips	6
From the SCFMS Bulletin Ed. Advisory Chair	7
Tell Me About Aragonite	7
Future Rockhounds Corner	8
Let Me Tell You About Dolomite	8
Be Kind To Your Dealers	9
Fun Page	10
A Little Bit About Chrysocola	11
Dendrites	11
Friends and Gems	11
AFMS Code Of Ethics	12
Tid-Bit	12
From The Editor's Desk	13
Federations Convention And Shows	13
SCFMS Organizations Show Dates	14



LET'S REMEMBER OUR
MILITARY TROOPS AND
THEIR FAMILIES



SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.

SCFMS OFFICERS 2014-2015

President: Sue Dale Miller
3509 Wayland Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76133
817-229-0336
Sdalemiller@sbcglobal.net

Executive V-P: Ann James
2738 FM 92 South
Woodville, TX 75979
409-429-7444
earthscache3@yahoo.com

Secretary: Shiara Trumble
21142 Southern Colony Ct.
Katy, Texas 77449
281-463-7954
Shiaratrumble@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Don Shurtz
4004 Dublin Road
Allen, TX 75003
972-509-2821
don-shurtz@gmail.com

Exec. Secretary: Ray Duplechain
7200 Cypress Lakes Apt. Blvd. Apt. 420
Baton Rouge, LA 70884
225-978-0031
rayduplechain@hotmail.com

Past President: John Nash
737 FM 254 South
Jasper, TX, 75951
409-384-3974
jonnash1937@yahoo.com

SCFMS WEB-SITE:
WWW.SCFMS.NET



PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS CORRECTION AND CHANGES

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

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

DUPLICATION

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

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The DEADLINE for each Newsletter is the 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 Austin Gem and Mineral Society, Austin, TX will host the AFMS -SCFMS combined Show in 2015, to be held on **October 23-25..**

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 annual meeting will be held on **October 24, 2015..**

ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

The annual silent auction will be held during the Show. 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.

Newsletter Editor: Paul W. Good
150 Nel Court, Kyle, TX 78640
512-268-4555

pmgood@verizon.net
Your Editor is a member of S.C.R.I.B.E.



SUE'S DIGS



Sue Dale Miller, SCFMS President

Here it is 2015. I hope this year is better than 2014. Fewer trips to the Dr. and hospital. More gem shows and maybe a few field trips.

I hope each club in the SCFMS will plan a field trip to the Austin Gem show in October. Each club has one vote. The club president is the delegate for your club. If the president cannot attend then the club should designate someone else to attend the SCFMS meetings.

I know that a trip to a show is expensive. That is why I recommend sharing a ride as well as a room. Last year I shared a room with the president of the Williamson County Society. We had twice as much fun and it cost half as much.

This year there is another reason to share the cost of a room with another club. There is a major race planned in Austin for the same weekend. That means the motel rooms will be scarce and expensive. Maybe all the

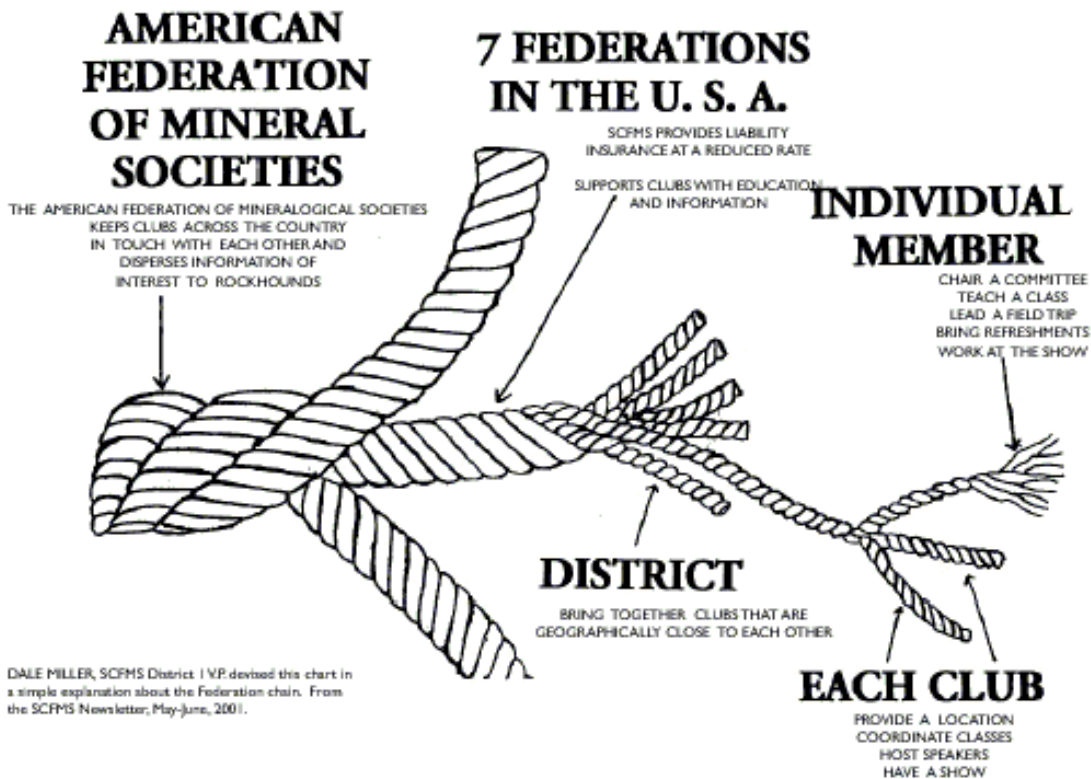
clubs in a district can get together to share rides and rooms. Perhaps include the District VP.

We only had 2 or 3 District VPs attend the last SCFMS meeting.

Let's have a good showing for this combined South Central Federation and American Federation Show.

Hope to see you at a show soon.

Dale Miller



DALE MILLER, SCFMS District 1 VP, devised this chart in a simple explanation about the Federation chain. From the SCFMS Newsletter, May-June, 2001.



From Ann's View
SCFMS Executive Vice-President

Greetings SCFMS Rockhounds:

Where has 2014 gone? It seems to have flown by with the blink of an eye. As the new year begins it is time for all of us to set goals and begin to make plans for 2015. What do you have in mind for club meetings and field trips? Think about how you can be more active in the federation. One way may be to write articles for the SCFMS newsletter. Share your knowledge and personal experiences with others of a like mind. Keep us informed on your club activities. That is a great way to network and provide ideas for other clubs to incorporate into their own programs. Also, since the SCFMS is hosting the AFMS Annual Meeting this year it would be great to have many

competition cases on exhibit. These are just a few suggestions to get you started as you ponder on ways to actively participate in our federation this year.

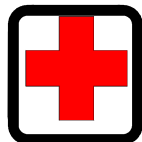
On a different note, it is an honor to announce that the 2015 SCFMS Scholarship Honoree has been recently selected and submitted to the AFMS. Our Honoree is Linda Simpson, member of the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society and Corpus Christi Geological Society. Linda has contributed much to the field of Earth Sciences on many levels. Start looking forward to reading about her accomplishments in next month's newsletter.

Until later,
Ann James

**WELCOME TO THE AMERICAN AND SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATIONS
CONVENTION AND SHOW, HOSTED BY THE
AUSTIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**

**Door Prizes - Kids Corner - Silent Auctions - Dealers
Live Demonstrations - Exhibits - Rocks - Gems - Minerals
Fossils - Jewelry - Beads - Rollin' Rock Club Meeting
OCTOBER 23 - 25, 2015
900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas**

**ALL ROADS WILL LEAD TO THE PALMER EVENT CENTER
AUSTIN, TX**



SAFETY REPORT

SAFETY IN THE SHOP

By Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety



A note on safety in your shop, lab, work room, basement, etc. As a fossil hunter sometimes the thing that I most look forward to and likewise dread the most is getting my “stuff” back to the house.

I may have to use a pressure washer to blast off mud from my fossilized wood or 40 pound ammonites, use some chemicals to clean lime off some invertebrates or maybe use some tools, be they hand or pneumatic, to chip off the tougher crust. Maybe if I ‘m lucky I found a good “round” of pet wood that I want to cut and polish down at the club. Ooooh, and I just found my first agate ever and I don’t even know what I can do to that yet!

What ever it is that I do there is almost always some inherent risk in the process. Below is a list of different hazards to consider in the lab.

Eye protection. As I mentioned above power washing is a good example of something a lot of us do that can potentially injure your eyes however certainly not the only thing. Almost every type of prep-work that we practice necessitates eye protection: grinding, polishing, cutting, shipping, sand blasting, soldering, chemical cleaning, etc. Different types of eye protection should be used depending on your activities. For most of us protective glasses are good, however, goggles may need to be worn when using chemicals or when grinding certain materials. As I co-worker of mine once said to a lady that liked to put on makeup while driving, “no matter how advanced modern medicine has become, glass eyes still don’t look real.”

Respiratory protection. Similar in some ways to eye protection respiratory protection can be very important when handling certain cleaning chemicals and when dealing with certain dusts. Asbestos is a common example of a respirable dust that although not inherently toxic can cause cancer, especially with smokers. Other dusts can temporarily clog breathing passages

thus impacting, sometimes critically, the body’s ability to get oxygen into the blood. Chemicals can be very bad, too, as the lungs can quickly introduce toxins into the blood. Of note some of the oils that we use in our cutting saws can be dangerous. Keep in mind that dust masks may not stop some dusts and certainly no airborne chemicals.

Chemical safety. The most common chemical accidents usually have something to do with the above mentioned issues and involve acids, soaps, other caustics and solvents. PLEASE READ the safety notes or MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) on all chemicals you may use. Some need to be used in areas where there is good ventilation, others require high-end respirators and still more may necessitate protective clothing. Not common in the shop, but you never know! Also, be aware of the potential danger of mixing chemicals and as a general rule don’t do it. Most of us have probably heard that mixing chlorine and ammonia, two of our most common household chemicals is bad. Essentially the mixing of the two releases chlorine into your air - very bad.

Hearing protection. What? You didn’t hear me the first time? Do you remember the pictures of all the trees blown down in the same direction after Mount St. Helens erupted? Loud noise does the same thing to the ear and much like the trees once the filial (hearing fibers) are damaged, they don’t stand themselves back up. If you think “maybe I should be wearing ear plugs’ then it’s usually a good indication that you already answered the question. Electrical and Fire hazards. If your shop is like mine, then it can get pretty cluttered. Bottles or boxes of old journals. Cleaning up the cluster has two (or more) benefits by reducing the fire hazards and making it more obvious where potential problems exist - like damaged electrical cords or overloaded outlets. Ideally flammable liquids will be

(Continued on the next page)

(Continued from previous page)

stored in a flammables storage cabinet. If you have a pretty good sized shop then one of these is a good investment. For most clubs the local fire code will require enough to handle what you have on site.

The hazards involving fire and electrical vary in type and risk level. Having been "grounded" on four different occasions I can tell you that water and electrical cords do not mix! I used to work as a caretaker for saltwater fish tanks and it had its challenges. Overloaded plugs can be a problem in our shops. Keep in mind that just because a tool isn't turned on doesn't necessarily mean that electricity still isn't running through it. Fire and shock are both risks in this situation. It's safer to keep

your equipment unplugged and properly stored when not in use.

For some general rules: Always wear eye protection. Keep your shops cleaned and well organized. Make sure electrical chords are in good condition. Keep reactive things away from each other, be they chemicals, electrical, fire hazards or combinations of each. Don't mix chemicals. Practice safety in your shops!

As always, if anyone has a safety incident or issue that they would like to share with the organization please contact me at :

owenmartin@yahoo.com - thanks!

HINTS AND TIPS

How to find the Fire in fire Agate: Fire agate is a quartz-based rock with layers of iron oxide in chalcedony which results in iridescence. It occurs in nodules of milky or grayish translucent chalcedony. Sometimes it is found in botryoidal growths in geodes and in chalcedony roses.

Fire agate appears as a dull, reddish brown layer, but when the surface layers are removed the rainbow colors or iridescence are exposed. The fire is brought out by tumbling, trimming, and grinding off the outer layers to expose the iridescence.

Polishing magnifies the fire.

To find the fire, remove the matrix, then tumble polish the stones, Tumbling removed the excess chalcedony. When polished, remove excess stone around the edges, then polish and set. Allow the stone to retain its irregular shape and polish slowly, so you don't go through the fire layers. The graceful natural shapes are superior to those cut to calibrated sizes, as the best fire doesn't always fit a mold. To set it off, mount the fire agate in a custom-made gold or silver setting. Fire agates are most often found in Arizona, California, Idaho, and Mexico, among other locales.

From Breccia 7/01 via SCRIBE archive

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH - APRIL NEWSLETTER
WILL BE MARCH 10, 2015**

FROM THE SCFMS BULLETIN EDITORS ADVISORY CHAIR



Kimberly J. Brannon
225-620-5174 kimberleyarts@hotmail.com P.O. Box 836, Temaha, TX

January 9, 2015
To the SCFMS Presidents and Editors,

The deadline for the 2015 Editor and Author Contest is right around the corner!! Have you reviewed your submissions for 2014?? It's been a whirlwind of a year, but hopefully you've given some time and attention to the pieces you'd like to submit.

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](http://www.amfed.org/editor/BEAC/contest.htm) or <http://www.SCFMS.net>

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

QUESTIONS? Kimberly J. Brannon 225 620 5174 or email kimberleyarts@hotmail.com
Note from the SCFMS BEAC:

I've had no internet at home! Hard to believe in this day and age, but this is a rural area and I am still working through internet issues (or lack of) and praying to have that resolved shortly. Despite the inconvenience, my hope is that the contest is on your minds and your selections are coming together to meet the deadline on February 15.

Some "tips" to assist Editors in their selections have been posted to the SCFMS web page. I've written a detailed description of "What Judges are Looking For" and included links to the fillable forms hosted at the AFMS site. For those that have participated in previous years, it'll serve as a great refresher, and for new editors, I expect it to be invaluable in walking you through the process. As always, you may reach out to me anytime with questions and if I don't have the answers, I'll certainly do my best to dig deep and find them!

Looking forward to your submissions.

TELL ME ABOUT ARAGONITE

ARAGONITE is chemically the same as calcite (CaCO_3) but is less common and crystallizes in the orthorhombic system. It is slightly harder and heavier - H. 3.5 to 4; Sp. Gr. 2.9. Aragonite does not cleave as distinctly as calcite, although it, too, bubbles strongly in dilute hydrochloric acid. Aragonite is usually white, gray or cream. The mother-of-pearl lining of sea shells is aragonite. Flos ferri is a branching growth of pure white aragonite in mines and caves. Coral, formed by plants and animals in warm seas, is also aragonite. Precious coral is valued for gem and ornamental use.

FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS CORNER



By: Michelle Talcott



Happy New Year - 2015!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and end of the year activities. As I said in my introductory column, I want to write about our newly formed Junior Rock Club and any other student activities in our area.

We are having a great time with the Junior Rock Club! There have been 8-10 students that have attended each meeting with new students still joining. I know there are several more students that are interested but their schedules are too busy right now.

The first meeting we talked about how to display and properly label each sample in their collection. This is the basis of the "Rock and Mineral" badge. Organizing our collections will be an ongoing activity as we add new samples. At the next meeting, I talked about the three types of rocks (sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic) and generally

how they are formed. As often as I can, I show them samples because most students are visual learners.

We spend the majority of each meeting allowing the students to show and talk about any rocks or minerals that they have brought. This is my favorite part of our meeting because I love seeing them excited about their own collection!

As I have mentioned, many of our students participated in a Mars Rover Celebration project to develop their own "mission" to Mars. We had our local competition in December and have 9 teams that will compete at the University of Houston on January 31, 2015. Many of the students that will compete in Houston are also members of the Junior Rock Club. As one of the parents commented, "they are your little science protégés." I love it and hope they do too!



LET ME TELL ABOUT DOLOMITE

DOLOMITE ($MgCa(CO_3)_2$) occurs in large bedded deposits and as veins in other sediments. There are extensive deposits in the Austrian Tyrol--the Dolomite Alps. Dolomite is both a rock and a mineral. The best mineral specimens came from veins or limestone cavities, and include crystals with curved faces. Dolomite is harder than calcite (H. 3.5 to 5; Sp. Gr. 2.8), but similar in crystal form and cleavage. Reacts slowly with hydrochloric acid. White or varicolored. Widely distributed.

Ref: Rocks and Minerals, by Herbert S. Zim & Paul R. Shaffer

BE KIND TO YOUR DEALERS

By Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS Past President

I recently attended a show, and read about another one, that had many dealers and very few customers. Result: Many of the dealers did not cover their expenses. Oh, they might have covered dealer's fees and their production costs; but when the customer's aren't there, they don't cover their transportation, lodging or food that are necessary expenses for them to attend the show. Result: They lose money; it costs them more to attend the show than they take in. In short, they could have saved money by staying home.

The dealer's fees are what make a show happen. Their fees cover the rent of the facility, the advertising, and some of the miscellaneous expenses. But they need sales to be able to exist.

The Rockhounds at the show are primarily interested in the raw materials, as opposed to finished pieces. Whether it be vacating rough, minerals, cabbing material or jewelry supplies, most Rockhound already have extensive collections and are only looking for something that is exceptional or unusual. They do a lot of looking, but not a lot of buying. The dealers, therefore, need to have a large number of products that are aimed at sales to the general public. Inexpensive things for the children, and medium to high quality goods for the adults -- at a substantial saving over the local jewelry stores. Thus,

most of their sales are aimed at the public that come through the front door.

But, if for whatever reason, the public does not come through the front door? The dealers go home hungry. And, if they lose money over a couple of years, they are not likely to come to your show again.

I have painted a bleak picture. How can it be improved?

Show committees need to be more realistic, rather than optimistic, about the number of people who will come through the front door. Each person has only a limited number of dollar's that can be spread among the dealers. The larger the number of dealers, the thinner is the spread.

Keep good records of the number of people that come through the front door. Canvas the dealers to see how they did, and what kind of items were their biggest sells. Get an estimate of the dollars that come through the front door, and plan the next year's show accordingly. Get the number and type of dealers down. To the point where they can all make money.

Remember, without dealers, your show cannot exist.

From AFMS Newsletter, September, 2006



GET YOUR BAG ALL PACKED AND READY TO GO IN MARCH TO FIND SOME MORE SPECIMENS, SO YOUR COLLECTION WILL GROW

THE WEATHER WILL BE A LOT NICER AT THAT TIME. MAY YOU HAVE A GOOD COLLECTING YEAR IN 2015

PUT THE FUN BACK

By Bill Burns

According to Webster's Dictionary, a hobby is an activity or interest that is undertaken for pleasure or relaxation in one's spare time. I am certain that is why so many of us become interested in this hobby. It is exciting to go on field trips and find beautiful gems and minerals. What a joy it is to cut a slag and see the beautiful colors and designs, or to clean a mineral and view nature's perfection, or to discover a good fossil specimen. Then taking these prizes to a club meeting or a show to share with others brings even more satisfaction.

Gem and mineral collecting is versatile; a person can enjoy it out on the desert, in a shop, at a society meeting, or at a show. But we have to become involved to gain the pleasure that we are seeking. People can not receive gratification from organizations unless they participate. The ninety year old man could not have enjoyed the field trip if he had not attended it.

We have a great hobby-let's put the fun back into it. Get a little cab making going; get a little silversmithing started; get a little faceting done, get into rockhounding, WE'RE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!

(from Cobb-L-Stones, 10-95, via SCFMS Newsletter< Nov 1998)

WOODSY THE OWL

Woodsy the Owl sends these greetings to all the



"Thanks for helping spread the Word." "Give a

SMILE A WHILE



DAFFY NITIONS

- Agate** - The door in a fence
- Cabochon** - A small French taxi
- Faceting** - A complex way to ruin a good jewel
- Facet** - Aussralians' answer to a water tap
- Field Trip** - When you all down outside
- Findings** - Stuff you find!
- Flint knapping** - Sleepy stone
- Fossils** - People or social security
- Garnet** - Something you catch a long fish In

Via StrataGems, 6/13; via Golden Spike News,

KEEPING A RESOLUTION

A man went to get his family some sandwiches for lunch at a fast food restaurant on December 31, 2014, After they had eaten he thought that he should make a resolution. So he said to his family, "I have resolved to not go to any fast food restaurants any more this year." Well, he didn't go to any and lost two pounds.

SHOP HINT

When shaping and polishing your stones, do not press hard. Let the machine do the work'. By pressing hard all you do is wear out the wheels, yourself, and cut deep scratches in the stone. You have better control over your work with a light touch. Grind your stone on high speed, sand on medium speed, and polish on a low speed, all with a light touch.

(from Gneiss Gnews, July, 2000 via SCFMS Newsletter Nov. 2000

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT CHRYSOCOLLA

Chrysocolla is a minor ore about copper and is also used as an ornamental stone. The name is derived from the Greek word Chrysos for gold and Kolla for glue in reference to a similar looking material that was used in soldering gold. The popularity of using chrysocolla as a gem material was not widespread until a long time later.

Professional mineralogists thought of chrysocolla as a pretty blue copper ore. They identified it as a somewhat brittle, hydrous silicate of copper or a secondary mineral formed by the action of air and water on primary copper deposits. To rockhounds today, chrysocolla is that beautiful blue agate-like material best suited for turning into gems and jewelry. Actually, gem grade chrysocolla is a copper stained chalcedony that was probably formed by percolating waters that picked up silica and copper, and then deposited it in seams and fissures. In Arizona, it

was valued as a gemstone for many years. The old Dominican Mine at Globe had started as a silver producer and produced some of the finest gem chrysocolla. Tiffany's of New York brought a large quantity of this blue material to cut into gemstones.

This was at the turn of the 20th century. In other mines in Arizona, large deposits of chrysocolla were found, but unfortunately were sent to the crushers and on to the leaching plants for recovery of the copper contents. Many rockhounds and miners found they could sell the "blue rock" for money, and the operators of the mine had to place guards about the areas. Any employee picking up chrysocolla was fired on the spot. Nevertheless, a lot of chrysocolla found its way to the market.

(Author unknown, from Petrified Digest, 1995, to us via The Rollin' Rock Newsletter, Apr. 2005)

DENDRITES

Mossy or treelike patterns on the inside of a mineral or on the surface of a rock are known as dendrites. These are the branching designs that make moss agate the distinctive gem it is, showing "external landscapes in stone." Mineral matter, usually manganese oxide in the form of pyrolusite, or sometimes iron oxide, is deposited where it can spread out and crystallize in the way that frost forms on a window pane.

Dendrites in moss agate are typically black or brown, but fibers of chlorite are green, resembling seaweed, and some plume agate splashes an array of colors. Moss agate from India has long been known as Mocha Stone.

(from Chips and Tips, via The Rockytier, Sep. 2013)

FRIENDS AND GEMS

Rockhounds who have been in the hobby for some time begin to realize that the most precious gems they have collected are the friends they have made along the way.

Some are still in the rough, some are highly polished, some are dull and colorless until viewed in the right light.

And like every gemstone in nature, they also have inclusions, sometimes referred to as flaws. If we enjoy them as they are, realizing that their warmth and beauty make up for their imperfections, if we concentrate on their better aspects, the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of individuality.

from Golden Spike News.



THE AMERICAN FEDERATION CODE OF ETHICS



I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them. I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

TID-BIT - OILED STONES:

Oiled stones - Jewelry stones which have been soaked in kerosene, three-in-one oil or some other petroleum product to intensify their color (turquoise, etc) or to minimize the visibility of open flaws (emeralds, etc) might also be applied to Amber heated in oil to develop the spangle often seen in modern pale numbers.

Gemstones have been enhanced through various methods for hundreds of years. Even the prettiest stones can come out of the ground looking like average rocks, but with a lapidary's skillful cutting and, sometimes, the application of enhancements like simple heat or more advance procedures, their beauty is revealed.

While some stones like peridot and various garnets are usually not enhanced, many others are sometimes, regularly, or even always enhanced. Those enhancements are common, accepted, and even expected to the industry. Enhancements also help determine how to best care for your gemstones.

(from the Northeast Louisiana Gem & mineral Newsletter - Author unknown)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Paul W. Good



Margaret and I would like to take a moment to wish every reader of this Newsletter a **Happy and SAFE NEW YEAR.** We hope your rock hunting trips will be very profitable. Be sure you are always practicing SAFETY when you are looking for that special find.

With this issue of the Newsletter, Margaret and I have finished our 17th year, by being your Editor and Margaret being the proof-reader. It has been an enjoyable 17 years. We have made a lot of new rockhound friends during these years.

I would like to encourage all club Presidents and Show Chairpersons to be sure to look at their show dates. If your show dates are listed as (to be announced), on the show page of this Newsletter, you need to contact the SCFMS, Show Coordinator, Mary Trammell, and give her the correct dates. Also, if you see the incorrect date for your show, please let me or Mary know.

Contact Mary at: 141 E. U.S. Highway 67, Stephenville, TX 76401; 254-965-3948; trammel@our-town.com.

The 2015 Show season starts this month, with Fredericksburg Rockhounds and The East Texas G&MS hosting the first shows of the year. We hope all clubs will have a great show this year and may many people learn more and more about our hobby.

I would like to encourage the Officers, Committee Chairs to remember to send an article for the Newsletter from time to time. We can all learn more and more as we read various articles about our hobby. Will YOU be one that will do that this year?

I would like to send a big thank you to all that sent in their articles for this issue:

Sue Dale Miller; Ann James Michelle Talcott; Kimberley Brannon; Owen Martin; Mary Trammell and a special Thank you to Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS Newsletter Editor, for her help on the AFMS Rope. Another thank you to Ann James for sending the Newsletter via email.

Until next time, have a good safe 2015.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2015 REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS AND SHOWS

Eastern
Federation
March 27-30, 2015
Hickory, NC

Northwest
Federation
April 10-12, 2015
Ogden, UT

Midwest
Federation
May 23-24, 2015
Wheaton, IL

California
Federation
June 12-15, 2015
Lodi, CA

Rocky Mountain
Federation
August 15-17, 2014
Hermiston, OR

South Central & American
Federations
October 23-25, 2015
Austin TX

Southeast
Federation
To Be Announced



SCFMS ORGANIZATIONS SHOW DATES FOR 2015

Mary Trammell, SCFMS Show Co-ordinator

<p>January 17-18, 2015 Fredericksburg, TX Fredericksburg Rockhounds Lady Bird Johnson Park</p>	<p>April 11-12, 2015 Abilene, TX Central Texas G&MS Abilene Civic Ctr. North 6th & Pine April 17-19, 2015 Alpine, TX Chihuahua G&MS Alpine Civic Ctr.</p>	<p>August 08-09, 2015 Baton Rouge, LA Baton Rouge, LA G&MS Fraternal Order of Police</p>	<p>Number 07-08, 2015 Amarillo, TX Golden Spread G&MS Amarillo Civic Ctr. Exhibition Hall</p>
<p>January 23-26, 2015 Tyler TX East Texas G&MS Rose Garden Ctr.</p>	<p>May 02-03, 2015 Waco, TX Waco G&MS Extraco Events Ctr.</p>	<p>August 15-16, 2015 Bossier City, LA Ark-LA-Tex G&MS Bossier City Civic Ctr.</p>	<p>November 07-08, 2015 Midland, TX Midland G&MS Midland Ctr.</p>
<p>February 14-15, 2015 Georgetown, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park</p>	<p>May 02-03, 2015 Lubbock, TX Lubbock G&MS Lubbock Civic Ctr.</p>	<p>August 22-23, 2015 Jasper, TX Pine Country G&MS Events Center</p>	<p>November 21-22, 2015 Mesquite, TX Dallas G&MS Restiol Ctr. Exhibit Hall</p>
<p>February 28-March 01, 2015 Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&MS Ollie Liner Ctr.</p>	<p>May 16-17, 2015 DeRidder, LA DeRidder G&MS Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds 506 West Dr.</p>	<p>September 25-27, 2015 Humble, TX Houston G&MS Humble Civic Center</p>	<p>November 29-30, 2015 Round Rock, TX Paleo Soc. Of Austin Old Settlers Park Hwy 79 E</p>
<p>March 07-08, 2015 Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn</p>	<p>May 23-24, 2015 Fort Worth, TX Fort Worth G&MS Will Rogers Mem. Ctr.</p>	<p>October 10-11, 2015 Temple, TX Tri-City G&MS Mayborn Civic Ctr.</p>	<p>(A note to all club Presidents and Show Chairpersons, PLEASE L@@K</p>
<p>March 07-08, 2015 Robstown, TX Gulf coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds</p>	<p>June 13-14, 2015 Grapevine, TX Arlington G&MS Grapevine Convention Ctr.</p>	<p>October 10-11, 2015 Fort Worth, TX Cowtown GM&GlassSoc CERA</p>	<p>over the dates listed for your show. If you find a mistake, let me know about it as soon as possible.</p>
<p>March 07-08, 2015 Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Ctr.</p>	<p>July 04-05, 2015 Fort Worth, TX Cowtown G&MGlassSoc Brookaven College</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>AFMS-SCFMS <u>October 23-25, 2015</u> <u>Austin, TX</u> <u>Austin G&MS</u> <u>Palmer Events Ctr.</u></p> </div>	<p>WE NEED YOUR HELP</p>
<p>March 14-15, 2015 San Antonio Southwest G&MS San Antonio Event Ctr. 8111 Meadow Leaf Drive</p>	<p>October 25-26, 2015 Glen Rose, TX Paleo. Soc. Of Austin Somervell Expo Ctr. Hwy 67</p>	<p>Thank you. Your Editor Paul W. Good</p>	