

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2026

NEWSLETTER OF THE

SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION

Of Mineral Societies



2026

Member of: The American Federation of Mineral Societies

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Front Cover
2. Table of Contents
3. SCFMS Information
4. President's Message / Digital Distribution
5. Urgent
6. AFMS Code of Ethics/Land Use Policy
7. Text Art
8. Text Art Continued
9. Text Art Continued/Stone Crystals Show Flyer
10. Crack The News/Micro-mount Group
11. Geology Lab for Kids
12. Geology Lab for Kids Continued
13. My Bio/Test Your Knowledge
14. Test Your Knowledge Answers /The Program of CROY
15. Bench Tips by Brad Smith
16. SCFMS Shows/Thank You

SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.



2026 SCFMS OFFICERS

President: Sigrid Stewart

Executive V-P: Rick Price

Secretary: Vacant, Volunteer Needed

Treasurer: Henry Rojas

Web Master: Mike Smith

Exec. Secretary: Susan Burch

AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle for SCFMS: Walt Beneze

SCFMS Endowment Fund Treasurer: Walt Beneze

Nominating Committee - Ron Carman

Past President: Don Shurtz

For more information or to send information to the SCFMS or an officer, please email:

scfmsinformation@gmail.com



PLEASE KEEP YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS UP TO DATE - CONTACT SUSAN BURCH, EDITOR, WITH ANY CHANGES.



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 email address corrections to the SCFMS Editor:

Susan Burch,
scfmseditor@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY

SCFMS Website: www.scfms.net

Find back issues of the newsletter:
<https://www.scfms.net/newsletter.html>

The SCFMS is a member of the American Federation of Mineral Societies.
amfed.org

DUPLICATION

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

—THE FINAL DEADLINE, ETC.—

For each newsletter the deadline is the 25th of the month prior to scheduled publication. February-April-June-August-October-December all provide the deadline for the following bi-monthly issue. Although, the Editor may chose to adjust the deadline due to circumstances.

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. Please, if you have something urgent, send me a text, but send newsletter content via email.

ANNUAL SHOW 2026

TBD

ANNUAL MEETING

TBD

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/BEAC:

Susan Burch
scfmseditor@yahoo.com



President's Message



Happy New Year!

Hi, my name is Sigrid Stewart, and I'm the new President of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc. We also have a new Executive Vice-President, Rick Price. Henry Rojas remains Treasurer and Susan Burch will return as Executive Secretary and editor of the newsletter.

**Sigrid Stewart,
SCFMS President**

I look forward to communicating with all the clubs and reaching out to former members. I hope to introduce myself to many clubs and to attend some of their shows. And I want to hear from you! Think about working with the SCFMS! We have open positions that need to be filled and much to do to revitalize our hobby. I will work with the AFMS to promote the national society and bring more of its benefits to our region.

My hope for the SCFMS is to serve as a sounding board for our district, to promote STEM and encourage young rockhounds, and to help get those kids, and adults too, out in nature to see geology and collect a few rocks of their own. A wonderful idea proposed by members at the Austin Gem and Mineral Society at the 2025 SCFMS Convention in Austin, is for each club in the Federation to sponsor a field trip

which other club's members can attend. More field trips! I can't think of a better way to attract new members.

And finally, I want to thank Don Shurtz for his vision and guidance, and his patience while I was figuring out how the SCFMS was structured. I sincerely hope to call on his advice in the future!

A Little Bit About Me

Like you, I am a rockhound. At four years of age, I started picking up interesting rocks, and my grandmother was delighted – because she was a rockhound too, collecting in the golden age of rockhounding in California, and everywhere that her children settled. Today, I have a considerable collection of found and purchased mineral treasures, including some of my grandmother's. I like to hunt for agates and petrified wood, too. I love to cut cabs. I even married a mineral collector, so our home is decorated with minerals and agates and our flowerbeds are lined with petrified wood.

I have been a president of both the Midland Gem & Mineral Society and the Houston Gem and Mineral Society and am currently a newsletter editor. I have been a Show Chairman and helped set up, work and breakdown many shows. I have a geology degree and during my career worked as an IT professional for an oil company where I was surrounded by geologists and geophysicists. I think I have a lot in common with the folks in our membership.

Let's share what we know and love with our fellow rockhounds and spread a little of the joy that we find in our hobby to the world.

AFMS NEWSLETTER - DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION

Linda Jaeger-AFMS Editor

Greetings & Welcome to 2026!

Here's hoping no one is blind-sided by this information. Beginning with the February 2026 issue, the AFMS Newsletter will be completely digital – no hard copies printed or mailed by the AFMS. Remember, this was a decision made at the 2025 AFMS Annual Convention.

Here is the email "tree" (maybe network is a better name?) for distribution:

- I will send the link to regional federation presidents and newsletter editors
- Regional newsletter editors send the link to the local club editors/presidents
- Club editors/presidents send the link to local club members
- Anyone along this path is welcome to print hard copies to share or mail at club expense

—I will also post the link as a hotlink on the AFMS website that will open the newsletter upon being clicked (just like what happens when you go to the AFMS website to view the newsletters already uploaded)

URGENT

Urgent Call for Host Clubs: SCFMS Conventions

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) is seeking host clubs for its upcoming annual conventions and encourages member societies to consider this important opportunity.

*** A host club is urgently needed for the 2026 SCFMS Convention***
Timely commitment is essential to ensure adequate planning and a successful event. Clubs that have ever considered hosting are strongly encouraged to explore this opportunity now.

SCFMS is also welcoming interest for 2027, 2028, and future years, allowing clubs to plan well in advance and tailor a convention to their capabilities.

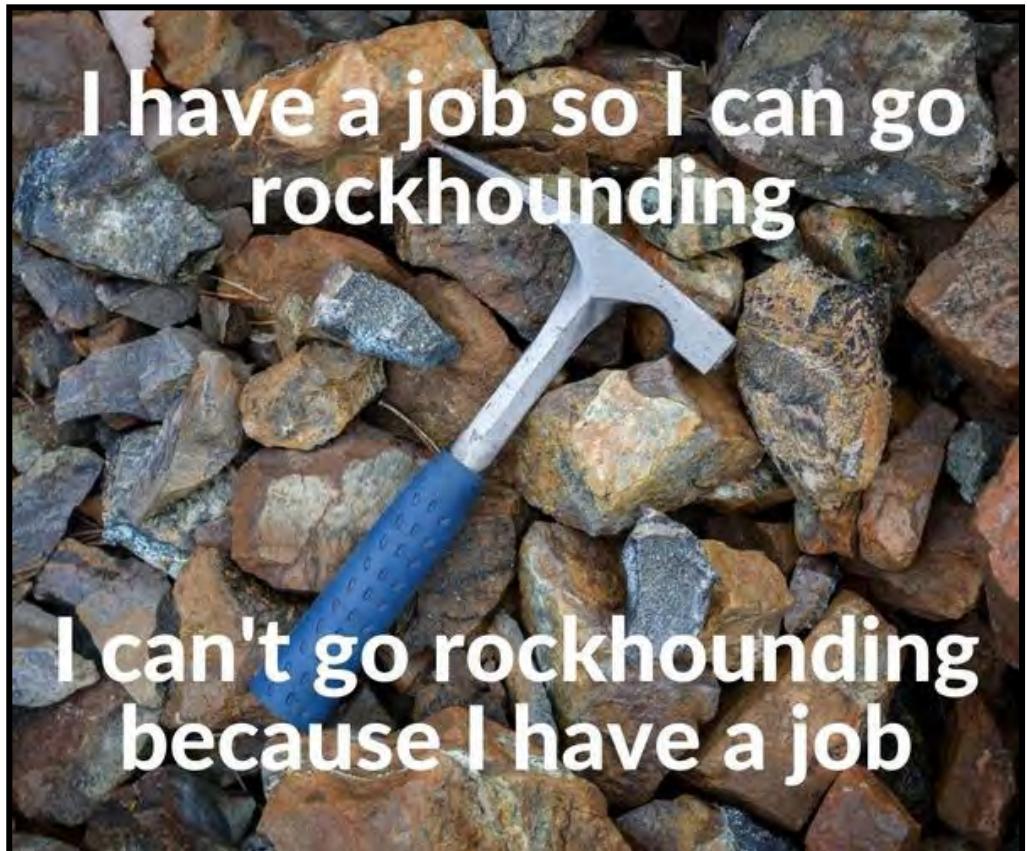
Hosting an SCFMS convention provides valuable benefits, including increased visibility within the gem and mineral community, stronger connections with regional and national societies, and the opportunity to highlight local geology, field trips, speakers, and educational programs. Conventions foster education, fellowship, and outreach while leaving a lasting impact on both the host club and its community.

The SCFMS Board and Convention Committee offer guidance and support throughout the planning process. Clubs of varying sizes and experience levels have successfully hosted conventions, and events can be scaled to match a club's goals and resources.

Clubs are encouraged to discuss this opportunity internally and to reach out with questions or expressions of interest.

★ Looking Ahead: 2029 Joint SCFMS-AFMS Convention

The 2029 Convention will be held jointly with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), offering a unique national-level opportunity to showcase a host club and its region. Clubs seeking a high-visibility and memorable hosting experience are encouraged to consider this exceptional event.





AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

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

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—fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only 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 supply.

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.

AFMS LAND USE POLICY

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access



TEXT ART-A NEW FREE RESOURCE FOR A BIT OF PIZZAZ

Susan Burch, SCFMS Editor

Have you ever been adding an article, designing a graphic with wording, or just needing a bit of pizzaz in your newsletter? When I was editor for the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society, I designed the front page logo name of the newsletter to have a rock like texture and in the word Rose to have a carved rose rock as the letter O. This was just one aspect designed to make the newsletter I published be different and to have a little pizzaz.

Recently I came across a word art website that offers word logos free for personal and academic use. During my exploration of this site, I've found they have a multitude of pre-designed fonts, background, inner-patterns, color variations...way too many to describe here. However, I'd like to give you a taste of what I've found so far.

My reason for a new logo stems from South Central Federation of Mineral Societies acquiring a new president. That led to a new graphic for the President's Message. An idea sprouted that I wished for something that I could change up with each issue of the newsletter if I wanted. In this issue, I also used the site to design the '2026' graphic on the front page.

The home page of the site might seem a little overwhelming as it has a page of over 40 font graphic styles, the first of 15 pages. A warning before you jump in, the site has a LOT of ads, I just close or ignore them.



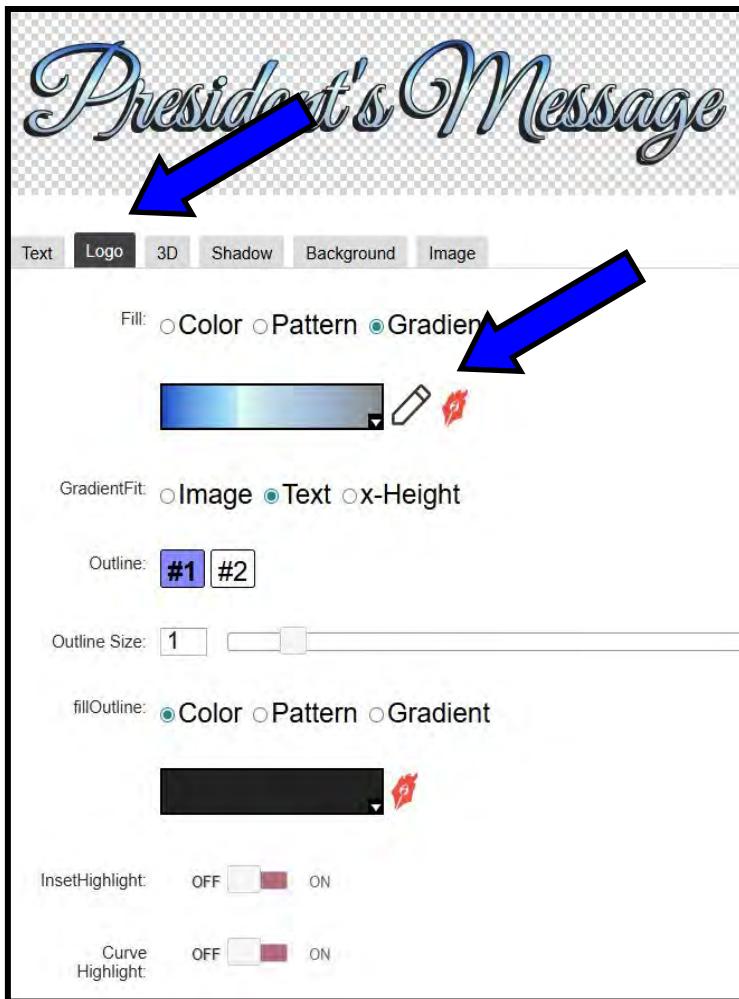
You can either type your wording into the 'Enter name or logo' box and hit 'Get started', or you can just hit the 'get started' button. However, I've found if you scroll through the presented logo styles to find which ones appeal to you is an easier way to find exactly what you want. While looking through the logo styles, I will right click and open each in a different tab.

On the individual tabs, I then enter my text in the Logo Text box. Once this is done, you can decide the Font Size, and even change the font by clicking on the Font box.



Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 7



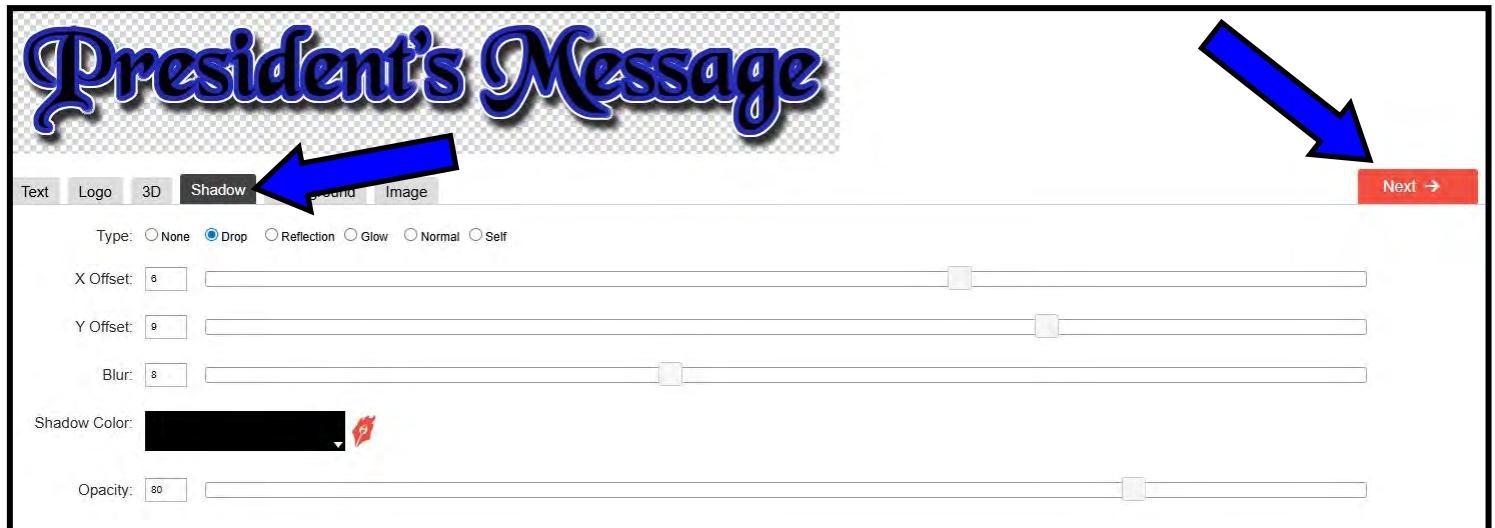
There are also options on most graphics to change the color, gradient, or pattern of the graphic, these options can be found in the Logo tab. If you click the little red flame beside each option, it offers a multitude of variants where you don't have to add your own colors. Some of the graphics have more than one color option, to where you can change the outline color or inner color.

I like to explore the Background tab also. There are many background options including patterns, sunbursts where you can change the color, gradients and more.



My favorite is the transparent option, if I have a graphic I want the lettering on top of which does not match a certain color or box around the graphic. In this way it blends seamlessly with the overall design.

The Shadow tab has an option to add a drop shadow or glow around your lettering. Really making it pop or stand out. After finishing all of your changes, click the 'Next' button to complete your design.



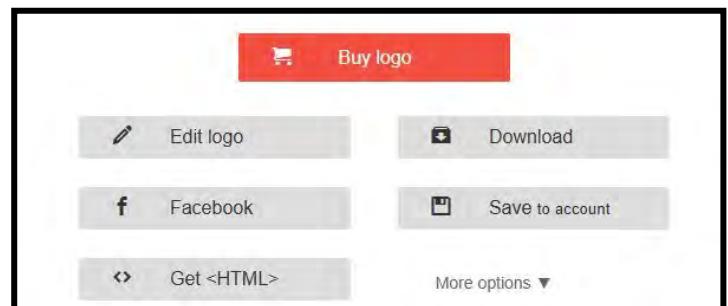
Continued on Page 9

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The next page has your finished logo. It also contains the permission to use the logo free for educational or personal use.

FREE for personal and academic use
For commercial use: click buy logo

To download your logo for free, click on the Download button, or you can even go back to change something by clicking the 'Edit logo' button. Save your logo to your computer and voilà, you have bit more pizzaz where you need it. Have fun creating !



The name of this site is FlamingText and the address to this site is <https://www.flamingtext.com/>

Source: Screen shots taken from <https://www.flamingtext.com/>

HOSTED BY STONE CRYSTALS

TYLER GEM MINERAL FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW



FEBRUARY 7-8, 2026

TYLER ROSE GARDEN CENTER
420 SOUTH ROSE PARK DRIVE, TYLER, TEXAS

SHOW HOURS		ADMISSION	
SATURDAY	10AM-5PM	ADULTS	\$5.00
SUNDAY	10AM-4PM	STUDENTS	\$2.00

SCOUTS IN UNIFORM GET IN FREE!

COME SEE YOUR FAVORITE VENDORS!

AMBER WAY JEWELRY	ETERNAL ROCK	MONARCH
BLUE LLAMA	FANTASTIC STONES	PEPPER'S JEWELRY
EARTHWORKS	JERRY HOWARD	STONE CRYSTALS
EDDIE'S ROCKS AND RELICS	L & M ROCKS	

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM! @STONECRYSTALS10

CRACK THE NEWS

Dennis Gertenbach-Crack the News Editor

The latest edition of Crack the News, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' newsletter for kids and teens, written by kids and teens is posted at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. I hope you enjoy reading about the rock-hounding interests of kids and teens across the country, including their juniors club, the Hope Diamond, and what to do with their badges, plus created artwork illustrating prehistoric crayfish, Stegosaurus, horn coral, and the Chalk Emerald. We also recognized past contributors to Crack the News who won juniors awards in last year's AFMS bulletin contest and introduced the new Future Rockhounds of America membership patch.



MICRO-MOUNT GROUP?

Bill Beiriger of the Livermore Valley Lithophiles G&M Society, CFMS, of Livermore, CA wrote to me recently. He asked if we have any Micro-mount groups in our federation. He requests that the groups contact him via email at xyzx@xyzx.com. He does not prefer Facebook. If you have a micro-mount section or group in your club, please reach out to Bill. SB



CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

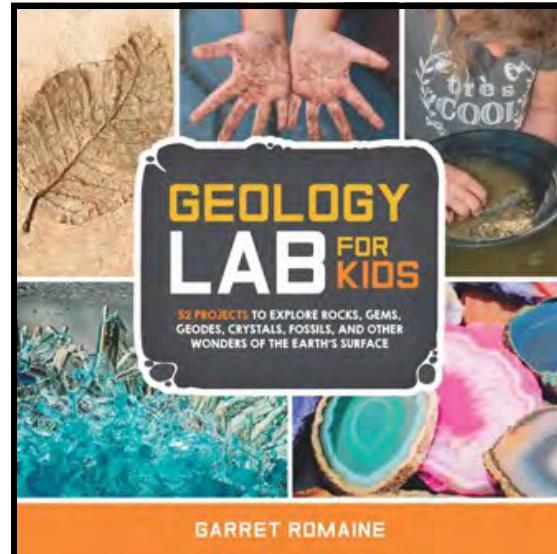
SCFMS exists for the benefit of our member clubs and we are all volunteers. Please consider enriching our club by making a photo, drawing, or written contribution to the newsletter about a geology or earth science related topic.

Pick a topic that interests you and give it a go. Please send it me at scfmseditor@yahoo.com by the 25th of the month prior to the expected publication date and I would be glad to work with you to finalize your item for this newsletter.

Please, be sure to send me your show flyer at least several months in advance so, I can share it in our newsletter.

Susan Burch, Editor

**DEADLINE
FOR THE
MARCH-APRIL, 2026
NEWSLETTER IS
FEBRUARY 25, 2026**



Reprinted with permission from Author, Garret Romaine. Please, include the link below.

<https://www.amazon.com/Garret-Romaine/e/B0037I87T8>



Make your own stratigraphic column— you'll change the way you look at cliffs!



MATERIALS

- Cliff face, such as a quarry or riverbank
- Lab notebook and pen or pencil
- Ruler (optional)
- Tape measure (optional)
- Camera (optional)

Continued from Page

**Safety Tips**

Find a cliff that is safe to access.
Don't climb around or risk injury from falling rocks.

**Creative Enrichment**

1. In the photo on this page, calculate the thickness of each of the three rock sections, assuming that the car is 4 feet (1.2 m) tall.

PROTOCOL

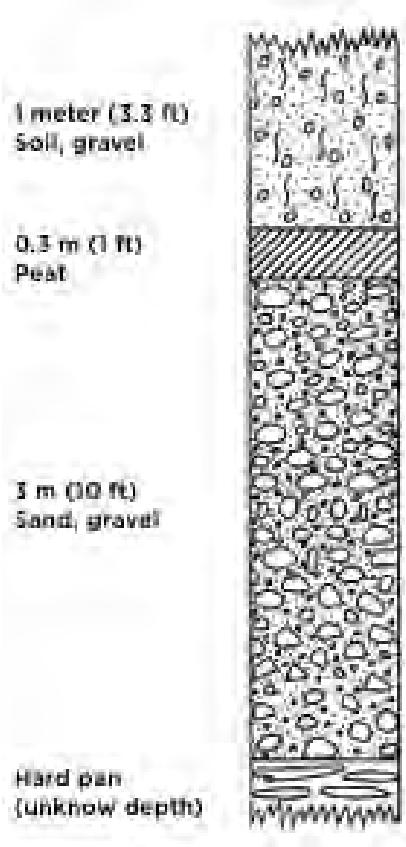
STEP 1: The best way to complete this lab is to find a cliff, such as in a quarry or a road cut, made of sedimentary rock. Geologists call that an outcrop—a place where the rocks poke out from the soil. If you can't safely access an outcrop with an adult, you can probably find a photo online.

STEP 2: Estimate the size of the total exposure of rocks. Geologists do this with a tape measure, but you can hold a pencil out in front of you and slide your thumb so that what you guess to be the bottom 10 feet (3 m) on the outcrop relates to a couple of inches or centimeters of pencil. You don't have to be exact. Make a mental note of where the first 10 feet (3 m) ends, and move the pencil in your view to guess where the next 10 feet (3 m) ends. Do that again and again until you've estimated how many pencil sections fit into the whole outcrop. Multiply by ten (three, if you're using meters) to get the total number of feet or meters.

STEP 3: Sketch the outcrop into your lab book by making a tall rectangle or column. Put a zero on the bottom left and put the total number of feet or meters you estimated it to be on the top left.

STEP 4: Look for any horizontal lines in the rock face. These layers are called strata. Guess how far up the cliff each one is and make a line across the column in your book to match.

STEP 5: Finish your drawing and indicate the width that you guessed for each layer. If you don't know the names of the rocks, just use "red layer" or "black layer" or whatever



THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE FUN

Stratigraphy, the study of how rocks stack up, helps you learn how rocks are organized even when they're underground.

Unlike the rings in a tree, rocks in a cliff face do not always show a complete record of time. There can be big breaks in time between layers; we call that an *unconformity*. In some cases, earthquakes may cause shifting or erosion could wipe out a layer. In other cases, both layers might be flat and only a detailed study of fossils would reveal if there is missing time.

The study of rock layers dates back to Nicolaus Steno (1638-1686), a Danish scientist who laid out three basic laws: in almost all cases, the rocks on the bottom are the oldest; sedimentary rocks are usually laid down flat; and similar rocks found miles away are probably the same. In 1815, William Smith used those ideas to create the first geology map of a country, a giant colored display of England.

Introducing SCFMS' new Webmaster-

MY BIO

Michael Smith, PhD, PE-SCFMS Webmaster

I started collecting fossils when my son was 12 and interested in dinosaurs. I got books, took him various places, all without a huge amount of luck. I then discovered the Central Texas Paleontology Society. Every month they took us somewhere we could actually find things.



My son lost interest in fossils a few years later, something to do with tennis, school, etc. But that was over 30 years ago and I am still collecting.

I been involved in Central Texas paleontology clubs now for 33 years. I am past President, Show Chair, Editor, Webmaster, and Treasurer of the Paleontological Society of Austin (PSA). I created the IRS submission for our 501(c)3 designation, built our first website, and created the membership database.

Currently I am part of the Fossil ID team for the national Paleontological Society and volunteer one day a week at the UT Non-vertebrate Lab, helping to improve the data for their over 4 million specimens.

I have a little over 15,000 catalogued fossils in my collection. I asked my son which ones he would like - he took 7. So, I decided to donate what I have to the UT lab. A lot of them are fairly common, but some are unusual and a fair amount are from sites that no longer exist. So far, 22 boxes have gone to their collection.

I rebuilt the SCFMS website (scfms.net) last August. The organization and content are roughly the same, though it should be easier to maintain and displays better on phones. The links to member clubs have been checked and corrected. Nothing fancy, no server-side code, just HTML and some JavaScript.

If you look under the **Show Calendar** (<https://www.scfms.net/localShows.html>) you will see where I have captured what I know about shows and their locations and dates. But I am lacking detail on a number of them. I would greatly appreciate club webmasters and editors notifying me of dates and details of their shows and any changes in their club status.

I am also looking for any corrections and suggestions for improvements to the website.

Paleontology as an avocation has been a boon to me. Not only was it a terrific change from sitting in front of

a computer monitor all day - half of my best friends have come through the shared experience of collecting.

Michael Smith, PhD, PE (inactive)



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

How Much Do You Know About...
Cleaning Quartz Crystals?
Rockseeker.com

1. What common household item is recommended for washing quartz crystals?

- A) Vinegar
- B) Baking soda
- C) Dish soap
- D) Alcohol



2. Which product is recommended for removing iron stains from quartz crystals?

- A) Bleach
- B) Baking soda
- C) Iron Out
- D) Muriatic acid

3. What is used to neutralize the cleaning solution on quartz crystals?

- A) Baking soda solution
- B) Lemon juice
- C) Bleach water
- D) Alcohol rinse

4. What tool is recommended for removing dirt from crevices in quartz crystals?

- A) Steel wool
- B) Toothbrush
- C) Dental pick
- D) Knife

Find the answers on Page 14 or read the full article on this topic for the answers, *How To Clean Quartz Crystals (Step-by-Step Process)* by Jeremy Hall <https://rockseeker.com/how-to-clean-quartz-crystals/>

Via Rockseeker email

Continued on Page 14

Continued from Page 13

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE
ANSWERS

1. What common household items recommended for washing quartz crystals?
C) Dish soap
2. Which product is recommended for removing iron stains from quartz crystals?
C) Iron Out
3. What is used to neutralize the cleaning solution on quartz crystals?
A) Baking soda solution
4. What tool is recommended for removing dirt from crevices in quartz crystals?
C) Dental pick



The SCFMS has a CROY acknowledgement program. Please, send your Club Rockhound of the Year to me, Susan Burch. Include a photo if possible and why they are your CROY. I will put this information in the newsletter and also forward the info to the AFMS.

THE PROGRAM OF CROY -

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS CROY program chair.

The CROY is shorthand for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Club Rockhound of the Year program. Using CROY saves a good measure of typing. Just about everywhere one travels in the rockhound, or rock collector, community, one finds truly amazing people. These amazing people are cleverly disguised as club field trip chairpersons, club bulletin editors, treasurers, show chairpersons, program and event organizers, helpers of all types, lapidary shop administrators, club officers, meeting refreshment coordinators, class instructors in the club (for mineral ID, mineral cleaning, wire wrapping, jewelry making, etc.), juniors program organizers, and on and on and on. Amazing people are all around us in our clubs. These amazing people are not trying to get into the history books, not working to have their names up in lights, not seeking accolades of any kind. They do their work all for the sake of maintaining our rock, mineral, fossil, lapidary and jewelry clubs to be the best they can be. The CROY program is designed and offered by the AFMS to encourage clubs to recognize the dedicated, outstanding and amazing people we have in all our clubs. The program does this in a simple, straightforward manner. If, say, a club has a truly outstanding program coordinator. To participate in the CROY program, the club would send us the name of that outstanding program coordinator, with that submission the club would include a brief write-up of the outstanding nature of that program coordinators effort. We will then publish that person's name and accomplishments in the pages of the Eastern and American Federation's Newsletters. We will also mention the club's name. Club members so mentioned will receive a certificate from the CROY program. It is that easy to participate. As with most programs, there are a few rules and guidelines to utilize the CROY program. Clubs are asked to submit just one outstanding member per year (or two if they are a couple). Clubs may, in addition, submit the name of an outstanding junior member. We also need the name and title of the person in the club submitting the CROY nominee's name to the program. Each year there is a new opportunity to send in another honoree's name to the CROY program. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding participation in the CROY program. rocknellery@fairpoint.net From EFMLS News



BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH



OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltols.us/ and kingsley-north.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto a silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.



FOREDOM MAINTENANCE

If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with



the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of instructions on how to do everything.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. You can access it at <https://www.foedom.net/product-category/maintenance-and-replacement-parts/>. Any repair parts needed are available from the Foredom site or from many jewelry supply catalogs. If you have any question about their products, a phone call or an email will get quick answers.



JUST A DROP

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.

Making jewelry involves a multitude of skills, intricate hand work, and a lot of problem solving. In this book series find help to:

- Broaden your metalworking skills
- Improve productivity at the bench
- Save money on tools and supplies

[See Other Tips in my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Problems <http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>](http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ)

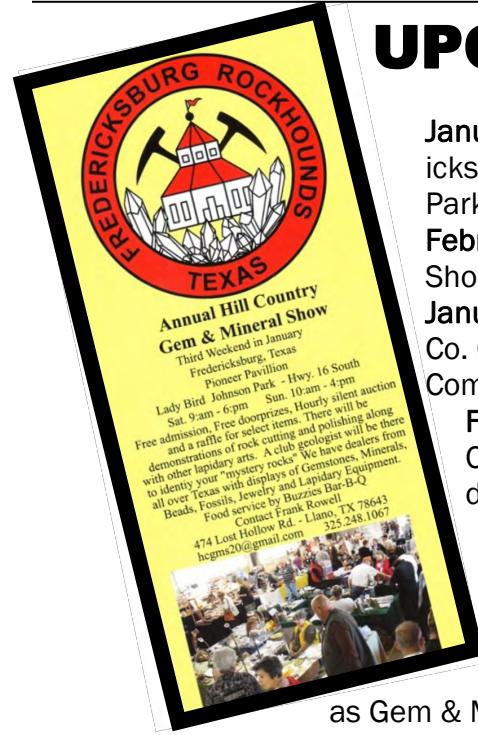


Happy hammering,
- Brad Smith

BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

Please, check out more Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

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UPCOMING SHOWS 2026

January 17-18, Fredericksburg, TX. Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park - Pioneer Pavillion

February 7-8, Tyler, TX. (Stone Crystals Show) Tyler Rose Garden Center

January 14-15, Georgetown, TX. Williamson Co. Gem & Mineral Society, Georgetown Community Center

February 28-March 1, Clear Lake, TX, Clearlake Gem & Mineral Society, Pasadena Convention Center

March 7-8, Corpus Christi, TX, Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall A

March 14-15, Abilene, TX, Central Tex- as Gem & Mineral Society, Taylor County Expo Ctr.

Information from Keith Harmon

