

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2024

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION
Of Mineral Societies



Member of: American Federation of Mineral Societies

ON THE COVER

Arkansas waterfall over rocks

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SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.

2024 SCFMS OFFICERS

President: Don Shurtz

Executive V-P: Sigrid Stewart

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Henry Rojas

Web Master: Don Shurtz

**Exec. Secretary:
Liz Burford**

**AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle
for SCFMS: Walt Beneze**

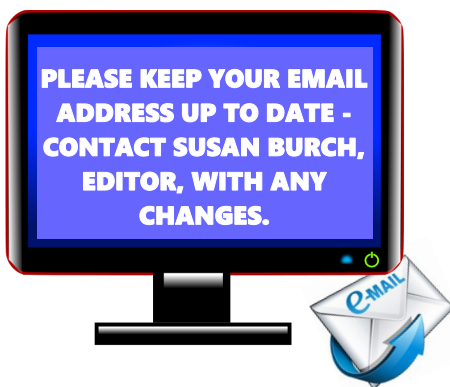
**SCFMS Endowment Fund
Treasurer: Walt Beneze**

**Nominating Committee –
Ron Carmen**

Past President: Roger Burford

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

scfmsinformation@gmail.com



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

DUPLICATION

In most instances material in this newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes providing full credit is given. There are exceptions, please do not assume permissions. For Commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for their approval.

A NOTE FROM —THE EDITOR—

THE FINAL DEADLINE, ETC.



For each newsletter the deadline is the 20th 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 give me a call, but send newsletter content via email.

ANNUAL SHOW 2024

November 23-24, 2024

ANNUAL MEETING

November 23, 2024

SCFMS WEB-SITE:
WWW.SCFMS.NET

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/BEAC:

Susan Burch
scfmseditor@yahoo.com





Our New Executive Secretary

I have appointed Susan Burch as the Executive Secretary to fill the position vacated by the passing of Liz Burford. You will soon get to know Susan (in the unlikely event that you do not already know her) as one of her responsibilities is to receive the dues and insurance payments from each club. Susan is also serving as the Newsletter Editor, the Bulletin Editor Advisory Committee (BEAC) Chair, and a member of the Directory Committee. It will be necessary to approve the appointment at the upcoming Convention.

Our SCFMS Convention

By the time you receive this, our Convention will almost be here. The SCFMS Convention will be on November 23, 2024, in Mesquite, Texas. The Convention is being hosted by the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society. The DGMS is putting a lot of effort into making this Convention a success. It is up to the members of the SCFMS to make it a success.

To make the convention an absolute success, every member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Secretary needs to be in attendance. The Board of Directors are the President, Executive Vice President, eight District Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the current Presidents of each member society. The Presidents of each member society may designate (in writing) a representative to attend the convention.

The SCFMS Officers are elected for a two-year term. The officers were elected at the 2023 Convention, so there will not be a need to elect new officers at the upcoming Convention. However, any appointed officer positions must be approved. We must also pass a budget for 2025. We may not have many items on the agenda for the Convention, but the ones that will be there are important.

SCFMS Status Report

The SCFMS has 13 Elected and one Appointed (and non-voting) Officers. There are currently three vacant elected Officer positions. They are the Secretary, District II Vice President (Southeast TX), and District V Vice President (West Texas).

The SCFMS has 30 committees. There are currently 14 Committee Chair positions that are vacant. They are the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle Chair, Auditing Chair, Boundaries (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Commemorative Stamps (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Constitution and By-Laws Chair, Education and All-American Award (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Golden Spark Plug Award Chair, Juniors Program (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Long Range Planning Chair, Nominating Committee Chair, Public Relations (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Rockhound of the Year (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Safety (AFMS Liaison) Chair, and Ways and Means Chair. That means 47% of the Committee Chair positions are vacant. As for the Committee Member positions, the story is even worse. Most of these positions only require a few hours per year of effort. We really need to start filling the Committee positions. I hate to suggest it, but we probably also need yet another Committee to look into the need for all the committees, new committees, or getting rid of some of the committees. Does anyone want to tackle that position?



THE EDITOR'S DESK
Susan Burch, SCFMS Editor



The Dallas Gem and Mineral Society combined show with the annual South Central Federation of Mineral Society's convention are right around the corner. I'm including the forms needed to enter events in this issue along with the Dues and Insurance, and Officer Forms for your convenience. Thank you to those who have already sent in your payment and updated information.

On the next several pages you will find more information about the Convention hotel, including a link to book rooms. The DGMS has a block of 20 rooms reserved but can expand that if there is a need. The hotel normally charges for parking, DGMS has arranged free parking, but you have to register your car and use a code. There is also a QR code to the right to pay for your Author and Editor's Breakfast and the Awards

Dinner fees and anything else needing to go to the DGMS. They will also accept mailed checks.

I hope you enjoy the events and look forward to seeing you there.



DUES & INSURANCE

Dues and Insurance payments are due BEFORE

SEPTEMBER 30



You can find the form at http://www.scfms.net/forms_members.htm

You may only pay by check. Please, update your officers, meeting location, and show info and submit the fillable SCFMS Officer Form by email to our stand-in Directory Chair, Don Shurtz and cc the Executive Secretary (email addresses are on the form) or print and include with your Dues and Insurance Form and payment.

THANK YOU!

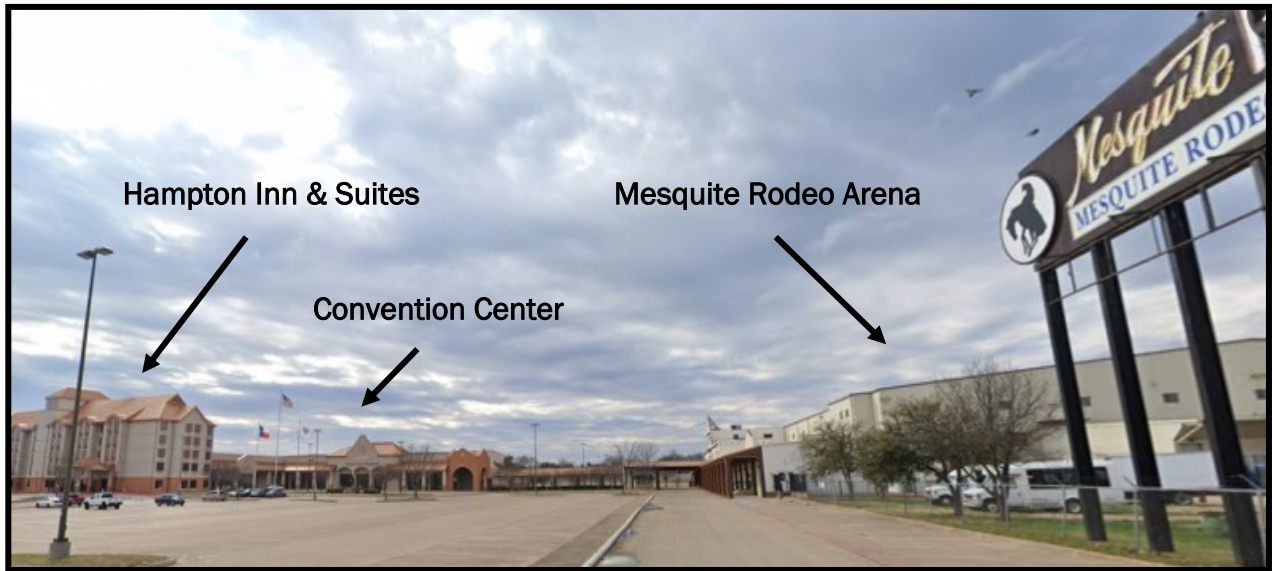


2024 SCFMS CONVENTION
hosted by
DALLAS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY



When: November 23, 2024

**Where: Mesquite, TX
CONVENTION CENTER,
1700 RODEO DRIVE
MESQUITE, TX 75149**



MORE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

MEETING ACCOMMODATIONS

MEETING SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION FOR EVENTS

APPLICATION TO EXHIBIT

DELEGATE FORM

Hello from Dallas Gem and Mineral Show 2024

The hotel charges for parking, however, we have arranged free parking. You must register your vehicle with a scannable QR code in the Parking Lot, Lobby (There will be a "box") or by scanning the attached document upon arrival. To receive the free parking, you must enter the code GEMS24, so you will not be charged. If you don't register, you will be charged for parking and DGMS won't be able to reimburse you.

This code will also be at the show's front area so that we can tell all our "guests" how to get parking free while they are paying to get in the show.

We also have a block of rooms for \$89.97+tax each, (\$102.50-total including tax):

The Booking link is:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=DALHSHX&arrivalDate=2024-11-22&departureDate=2024-11-24&groupCode=90G&room1NumAdults=1>

You can copy and paste the link in your browser for these rates or call the Hampton Hotel (The cut off is Friday November 1st) at 972-329-3100 and reference the Group Name or Code.

GROUP NAME: Dallas Gem and Mineral Show
GROUP CODE: 90G



**67th Annual
Dallas Gem & Mineral Show**

This year we are hosting the
South-Central Federation of Mineral Society's Annual Meeting

November 23, 2024
10am - 6pm

November 24, 2024
10am - 5pm

**Mesquite Convention Center, 1700 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite,
Texas. I - 635 & Military Parkway (Exit 4)**

Adults - \$8, Kids up to 12-\$4, Family of up to 4 - \$20
Veterans, Teachers & Humans over 65 w/ID - \$5,
Free Admission to Scouts in uniform, Parking is FREE

**Grand Prizes - Silent Auction - Raffles - Kids Area and Activities - Wheel of Fortune -
Fossils - Jewelry - Slabs - Rough - Beads - Fluorescent Display - Demonstrations
include - Wire-Wrapping - Knapping - Stone Polishing (Cabochons) - Faceting**

Facebook/DallasGemandMineralSociety **www.dallasgemandmineral.org**

www.premiumparking.co.uk

Welcome.

Did you park with us?



CameraPay

Scan to pay
or text **P1214**
to 504504.

Apple Pay

Google Pay



Photo
Enforced 24/7



PREMIUM
PARKING

www.premiumparking.co.uk

PARKING CODE: GEMS24



South Central Federation of Mineral Societies
Arkansas • Louisiana • Texas

Annual Meeting Information

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Inc.'s 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with:

Dallas Gem and Mineral Society's 67th Annual Show

November 23-24, 2024

Mesquite Convention Center

1700 Rodeo Drive | Mesquite, Texas 75149

Hampton Inn & Suites Dallas-Mesquite

1700 Rodeo Dr, Mesquite, TX 75149 | (972) 329-3100

0.0 miles | \$89/night (room block – MUST be booked by Friday, November 1st)

Booking Link: [Dallas Gems & Mineral Show Reservation Link](#)

Or call (972)329-3100 Group Name: Hillis Family Reunion Group Code: 90G

Note: Limited RV parking in the back of Hampton Inn for \$50.00 per night – no water and power may or may not be available

Dallas Shady Oaks RV Park & Tiny Home Community

1911 Edd Rd, Dallas, TX 75253 | (972) 210-3742

7.4 miles | \$75/night

Plantation Place Dallas RV Park

345 Barnes Bridge Rd, Sunnyvale, TX 75182 | (469) 846-9839

10.4 miles | \$180/night

Lakeshore RV Resort

1233 E Interstate 30, Garland, TX 75043 | (469) 661-3827

10.8 miles | \$180-\$270/night

Lakeside RV Park

10216 FM2757, Forney, TX 75126 | (469) 224-0164

12.7 miles | \$45/night



South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Arkansas • Louisiana • Texas

Annual Meeting Information

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Inc.'s 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with:

Dallas Gem and Mineral Society's 67th Annual Show

November 23-24, 2024

Mesquite Convention Center

1700 Rodeo Drive | Mesquite, Texas 75149

Friday, November 22, 2024		
8:00 a.m.	Display Set-Up Begins	
9:00 p.m.	Display Set-Up Ends	

Saturday, November 23, 2024		
8:00 a.m.	SCFMS Editors & Webmasters Awards Breakfast	Riata*
10:00 a.m.	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Show Opens	
1:00 p.m.	SCFMS Annual Meeting	Riata*
6:00 p.m.	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Show closes for the day	
6:00 p.m.	SCFMS Social Hour	Riata*
7:00 p.m.	SCFMS Awards Banquet	Riata*

Sunday, November 24, 2024		
8:00 a.m.	Rolling Rock Club Meeting	Riata*
10:00 a.m.	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Show Opens	
11:30 a.m.	Field Trip - Perot Museum of Nature and Science	Perot
5:00 p.m.	Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Show closes for the day	

* Riata - a convention room in the adjoining Hampton Inn



South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Arkansas • Louisiana • Texas

2024 Registration Form

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Inc.'s 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with:

Dallas Gem and Mineral Society's 67th Annual Show

November 23-24, 2024

Mesquite Convention Center

1700 Rodeo Drive | Mesquite, Texas 75149

Please complete a form for each person attending

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Society Name: _____ Representative: _____

Editors/Webmaster Breakfast	.....	\$25	\$ _____
Plated Dinner			
champagne chicken	.....	\$50	\$ _____
chicken marsala	.....	\$50	\$ _____
grilled filet of atlantic salmon	.....	\$55	\$ _____
flat iron steak	.....	\$55	\$ _____
Optional: Trip to Perot Museum	.....	\$15	\$ _____
			<i>*Refunded if minimum not met</i>

Total: \$ _____

Please email completed form to DGMSannual@gmail.com

*Forms must be received by **Tuesday, October 15, 2024***

Checks should be made out to: Dallas Gem and Mineral Society Dallas

Please include "2024 SFMS" in memo field

Please mail payments to:

Dallas Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 550395

Dallas, Texas 75355-0395

*Payment must be received by **Friday November 1, 2024***



Dallas Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Show

November 23-24, 2024

Mesquite Convention Center

1700 Rodeo Drive | Mesquite, Texas 75149

2024 Application to Exhibit

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Society Name: _____

I would like to exhibit as a: Competitive Entry Non-competitive entry

For competitive entries:

Division: _____ Class: _____

Master Advanced Novice Society Junior (DOB: _____) Jr Society (DOB: _____)

I will need to borrow a case from Dallas Gem and Mineral Society (4'x2'x2')

I have my own case (please provide length, depth, height: _____)

"I hereby submit my application to exhibit and attest that all material displayed is my own property, or for lapidary or jewelry, all work was accomplished by me."

Exhibitor's Signature: _____

For competitive exhibits, an officer of the exhibitor's society must sign below:

"I attest that the above-named exhibitor is a member of the _____ society."

Officer's Signature: _____ Office held: _____

The latest edition of the AFMS Uniform Rules will be used for judging.

Please email completed form to DGMSannual@gmail.com or mail them to:

Dallas Gem and Mineral Society P.O. Box 550395, Dallas, Texas 75355-0395

Forms must be received by Friday, November 1, 2024

For official use: Entry: _____ Class: _____



2024 SCFMS CONVENTION DELEGATE FORM
SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.
ARKANSAS - LOUISIANA - TEXAS

DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR DELEGATE/ALTERNATE FORM
SCFMS ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2024
MESQUITE CONVENTION CENTER
1700 RODEO DRIVE
MESQUITE, TX 75149

Please fill form or print it clearly and return it with the requested information provided.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION:

SCFMS DIRECTOR (Your Club President) with email address:

[The President of each Organization is a Director of the SCFMS. Please list the President's name only if the President plans to attend this meeting].

DIRECTOR'S DELEGATE/ALTERNATE with email address and Organization/Officer Title:

SIGNATURE OF CLUB PRESIDENT DIRECTOR:

DATE: _____

The information below is from the SCFMS Constitution and By-laws regarding Delegates:

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The board of Directors of this Federation shall be the President, Executive Vice President, eight District Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the current Presidents of each member society.

BYLAWS ARTICLE III – MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. It shall be the responsibility of each member society to send its President (who is the Federation Director) to the annual meeting.

Section 2. If the President cannot attend, a delegate shall be appointed and an alternate may be chosen if the member society desires.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of each member society to notify the Federation Secretary in writing of the names of its Director, Delegate, and/or Alternate who expects to attend the annual meeting at least thirty (30) days before the convening date of the annual meeting.

Section 4. Each member society represented at the annual meeting shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

Section 5. No proxy or absentee vote shall be accepted at the annual meeting.

Send Director/Delegate information **no later than October 24, 2024**, to Don Shurtz, SCFMS President, 4004 Dublin Rd., Allen, TX 75002, or don.shurtz@gmail.com



Member of the American Federation of Minera





THE SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES
Arkansas • Louisiana • Texas

SCFMS Combined Dues and Insurance Form

Dues and Insurance Payments MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

CLUB INFORMATION:

Club Name: _____

Club Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CONTACT PERSON FOR CLUB:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

SCFMS MEMBERSHIP DUES & INSURANCE:

- Use club membership count as of September 1
- Yearly adult membership is **\$3.75 (\$2.00 for dues and \$1.75 for insurance)** per adult
- Yearly junior membership is **\$2.15 (\$0.40 for dues and \$1.75 insurance)** per junior*
- *Junior members are those under 18 years of age on September 1
- There is a 10% late fee if payment is received after September 30
- You must download first, then fill/save/print and mail or email this completed form with a check payable to SCFMS or South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

of Adults: _____ x \$3.75 ea. \$ _____

of Juniors (under 18): _____ x \$2.15 ea. \$ _____

Late fee 10% if received after September 30: \$ _____

Total Dues and Insurance payment: = \$ _____

DATE: _____ CHECK #: _____

SEND PAYMENT TO: THE SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES

c/o SUSAN BURCH, SCFMS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

10911 HOLLY SPRINGS DR., HOUSTON, TX 77042

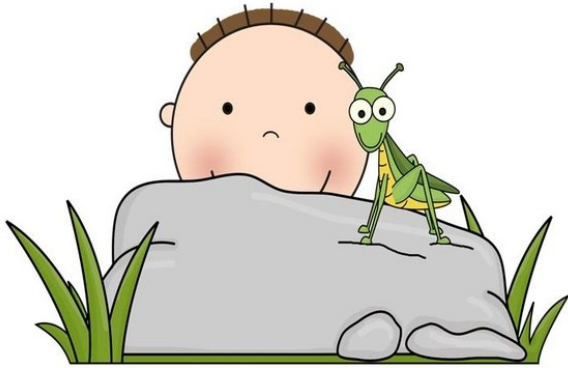
****To contact the Executive Secretary email: scfmseditor@yahoo.com or call 936-615-5397****



Member of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



I Like Rocks!



ARE YOU A NEW ROCKHOUND?

If you are new at rockhounding, click on these sites for an introduction to rockhounding.

[Rockhounding 101: Everything You Need To Know About This Fun Rock Hunting Hobby \(methodshop.com\)](https://methodshop.com/rockhounding-rock-hunting/)

(<https://methodshop.com/rockhounding-rock-hunting/>)

[How to Start Rockhounding: The Ultimate Beginner's Guide – How to Find Rocks](https://howtofindrocks.com/how-to-start-rockhounding/)

(<https://howtofindrocks.com/how-to-start-rockhounding/>)

[PRO Tips for Beginner & Experienced Rockhounds + Safety Tips – How to Find Rocks](https://howtofindrocks.com/best-tips-for-rockhounding/)

(<https://howtofindrocks.com/best-tips-for-rockhounding/>)

[The Complete Guide: All Tools You Need for Rockhounding – How to Find Rocks](https://howtofindrocks.com/all-tools-you-need-for-rockhounding/)

(<https://howtofindrocks.com/all-tools-you-need-for-rockhounding/>)



SECOND BEST KNOWN ARKANSAS MINERAL

By Matthew Lybanon,
Editor of MAGS Rockhound News

When you think of Arkansas minerals, quartz comes to mind immediately. Several mines in the Hot Springs-Mount Ida area draw fair-sized crowds digging through tailings piles, looking for that perfect crystal. Quartz is one of the most common minerals on Earth. MAGS Members know about a less common Arkansas mineral: Wavellite. Wavellite was named by William Babbington in 1805 in honor of Dr. William Wavell, a physician, botanist, historian, and naturalist who discovered the mineral. Or if he didn't discover it, at least he was the first to send material to London for documentation. So the mineral's name is Wavellite. It is a classic radiating mineral, forming spectacular pinwheel aggregates emanating from a central core in spherulitic balls. Wavellite's chemical formula is $\text{Al}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_3 \cdot 5(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. Its color is light to dark green, yellowish-green, yellow, brown, gray. Rarely white or colorless. It may exhibit concentric multicolored zoning in radial cross-sections. Hardness 3.5-4. Single crystals, which are long prismatic, and usually striated, are rare. It's most often in radial and radiating aggregates, and in rounded, ball-shaped clusters of spherulitic masses. Also botryoidal, stalactitic, and acicular. The Wavellite specimen in the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History is from Dug Hill, Arkansas, near the community of Avant on the northeast end of Lake Ouachita in Garland County. According to Rockhounding Arkansas, it's called Dug Hill because so many past collectors have potholed the hillside. A second location is the now abandoned Montgomery County quarry, some 2.5 miles northwest of Mount Ida. This location is also known as Mauldin Mountain.

Ref: Mike and Darcy Howard, Rockhounding Arkansas: Wavellite in Arkansas, <http://rockhoundingar.com/wavellite.php>

Via MAGS Rockhound News, August 2024

Specimen Photo-Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, Wavellite from Dug Hill, Arkansas



Tri City Gem and Mineral Society
54th Annual Gem and Mineral Show

AFMS

October 12-13 2024
Saturday 10-6
Sunday 10-5

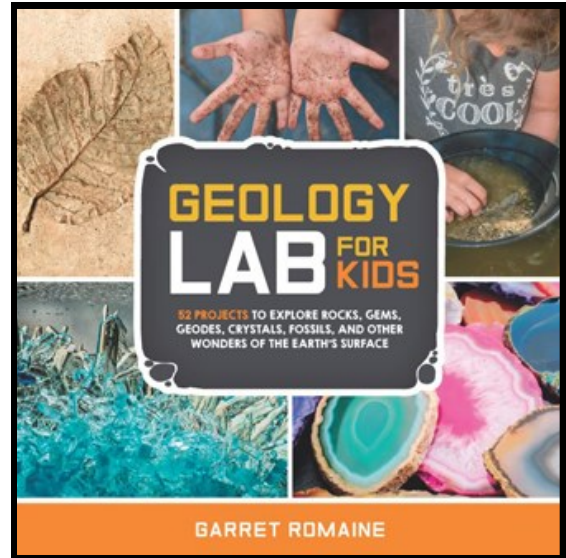
Rock

Grand Prize
Door Prizes
Rocks
Minerals
Fossils

Adults \$5.00 18 and up
Juniors \$3.00 17-13 years old
Kids 12 and under FREE

Rustlers

Frank W. Mayborn Civic And Convention Center
3303 N. 3rd St. Temple, Texas 76501
Ruth Rolston, Show Chair David Farhie, President
@TriCityGemMineral



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<https://www.amazon.com/Garret-Romaine/e/B0037187T8>

LAB
25

FINDING FAULTS

Use wood blocks to create your own fault and learn about some of the damage they can cause.

MATERIALS:

- 2 smooth rectangular blocks of wood, sanded with no splinters
- Sandpaper, any grit
- Staples
- Marker pen
- Sheet of white paper



Safety Tips- Avoid slivers and splinters when working with wood.

PROTOCOL

STEP 1: Inspect your wood and make sure it is smooth on the corners. Sand down the edges if they are too rough.

STEP 2: Staple a strip of sandpaper on one side of each block so you can rub them together. It's best if you align the staples crosswise, so they don't scrape too far at once.

STEP 3: Use your marker to indicate the exact middle of the wood block and draw a line across the width of the block.

Continued on Page 17

BREAKING IT DOWN

UNIT
7

Now that we've formed rocks in three different ways— igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic— let's see how we can break them down. Every rock and cliff at the surface of the Earth faces big challenges every day, from sun, air, water, plants, and gravity. You may not have thought about the Earth being an efficient recycler, but it is. Within seconds of a landslide breaking off from a cliff, the oxygen in the air will start to look for minerals it can attack. The wind will blow light material away, and the sun will bear down with heat and ultra-violet rays. Over time, even plants will get involved, using their seeds to find deep cracks where they can germinate and grow. In these labs, we'll learn how the Earth is always trying to recycle its rocks. Scientists use the term entropy to measure how fast things fall apart. It is the nature of all things to eventually break down and disappear: Mountains rise and fall; plants and animals grow and die. Some processes occur quickly, out in the open, and some occur slowly, hidden from sight. In these labs, you'll learn why it is inevitable that rocks fall apart.

Continued from Page 16



STEP 4: Face the wood sides of the blocks toward each other. Rub them together six or seven times and touch your finger to the wood where it rubbed. It should be slightly warm. This shows you how much heat can build up when wood moves only a few inches or centimeters.

STEP 5: Now place the blocks so that the sandpaper sides are touching, and repeat step 4. You should hear a scratching noise, and when you separate the blocks, you should see little bits of grit that fell off. This shows you how earthquakes can break down rocks.

STEP 6: Place the smooth sides of the block against each other, and hold one block in place. Move the other block a cou-

ple inches or centimeters to the left. This is called a left-lateral fault. If you move the block to the right, you made a right-lateral fault. These are called “normal” faults

STEP 7: Place the wood blocks together, standing on edge, and tilted to one side at a 45-degree angle. Push one block up about 2 inches (5 cm). This is called a thrust fault. The edge of the block that you can now see is called the hanging wall.

Creative Enrichment

1. When you moved the two blocks together without the sandpaper, did it shine up the wood a little? In the field, you would call this a slickenside. It’s common where you find faults.



THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE FUN

The structure of the rocks beneath our feet changes over time because the crust of the Earth is always moving. Structural geologists learn to see the Earth in three dimensions, and they know how to map a fault. Normal faults tend to be interesting at the surface, where rocks have moved alongside each other. Thrust faults are much more dramatic, because one rock pushes *above* another rock. In extreme cases, the faulting can be so unusual that the rocks completely flip, until older rocks end up on top of younger rocks.

When giant chunks of the crust bang into each other, something has to give. If they move alongside each other, like the San Andreas Fault in California, the motion along such a normal fault can be easy to measure and predict. Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey have measured the San Andreas Fault moving about $\frac{2}{3}$ inch (1.6 cm) per year. It would be great if it just moved the same amount all the time, but during some big earthquakes, rocks at the surface moved many feet, and then the fault was quiet for a few years after that. Earthquakes can be difficult to predict.

HOWLITE: ULTIMATE GUIDE (What It Is and Where To Find It)by [Jeremy Hall](#)

Howlite fits into a weird place in mineral collecting. For many of us it's considered to be an inferior stone, one which is frequently altered to pass for others. On the other hand, it's a beautiful stone in its own right and both cabochons and crystals are desirable specimens.

So, ready to learn a bit about howlite? Keep reading,

and we'll teach you everything you need to know about this stone.

What is Howlite?

Howlite is a calcium borosilicate hydroxide mineral, which is white or brown in color with black veins running throughout the material. It's found in large nodules, which have a bit of a cauliflower look to them.

Howlite is, perhaps, best known for being used to imitate other gemstones. The veining makes it look similar to many stones with a lot more cash value, [such as turquoise](#) and lapis. At least with [a bit of dye](#) added.

AKA White Buffalo Turquoise

The stone goes by a variety of misleading names. White Buffalo Turquoise is one of the more common ones and leads down a delightful rabbit hole of people arguing about *which* not-turquoise stone is the real White Buffalo.

The most common variety sold under that name is actually a magnesite and alumite mass found alongside turquoise in Dry Creek Mine in Nevada. It's... very similar to howlite by appearance and it's easy to see how the two could be confused.

Physical Traits of Howlite**Hardness**

On its own, howlite is a relatively soft mineral sitting at a 3.5 on the [Moh's hardness scale](#). This makes it very workable, and the truth is that the majority of white turquoise deposits are a chalky mass that's much softer.

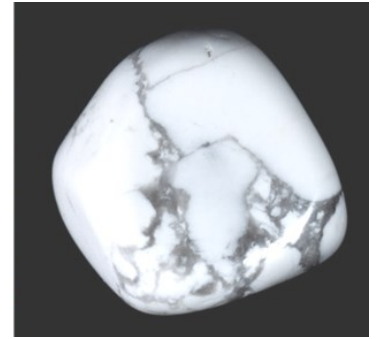
Size and Appearance

Howlite is found in nodules that range from fist-sized to much larger, with the upper end of found nodules appearing to be around 110lbs (50kg). The nodules have a mott-



led appearance with a discolored matrix, often appearing black or grey.

The better samples are pure white in color, with grey or black veins running through the material. Some samples are brown, but not to be confused with the dyed variety usually sold as brown howlite.

**A Bit of Howlite History**

Howlite had a heyday in the 1950s-1970s, when the location where the material was collected was open to the public and it could be gathered by the bucketful with no real effort. It's unknown how much material was removed from the site but howlite is one of the most common finds in estate sales of folks who had a lapidary interest.

When the area was closed to the public the massive amount of howlite still on the market ended up being dyed just about every shade imaginable as people sought to get rid of it. Today you can sometimes find magnesite sold as howlite.

Dyed Howlite and Counterfeits

Howlite has a sour reputation among some collectors. It's one of the best fakes for turquoise out there and more than one person has ended up being tricked into buying dyed howlite instead of their highly-valued turquoise.

Howlite takes dye very well due to the porous nature of the stone. The dye can seep in and change the color throughout the stone. Add in the veining that resembles that found in turquoise and you have a recipe for fake turquoise that almost writes itself.

Howlite vs Turquoise

Unfortunately, it's a close enough match that it's hard to impossible to tell from pictures alone. On the plus side, you can easily distinguish them with a hardness test. Howlite's 3.5 on the Moh's scale can be differentiated very easily from the 5-6 that most turquoise varieties have.

Howlite is also commonly seen with a deep blue dye being sold as lapis, which is a bit more obvious but can pass casual inspection. Add red... and it can be sold as coral, which is harder to distinguish with basic tests.

You might notice that all of these are used extensively in Southwestern style jewelry. As a different, and less expensive market than traditional fine jewelry, it's easier to slip through fakes for the unwary collector.

Continued from Page 18



Howlite Used as Fake Turquoise

Dyed howlite is often labeled in odd ways. **Spend some extra time reading the description if you're buying anything labeled as turquoise, red coral, or lapis.** Few sellers based in the US are going to risk litigation by not labeling the stone as dyed, but they'll definitely hide that information deep in the description if they're less than honest.

Howlite works so well as a fake because of its appearance. Turquoise and a well-done fake in howlite aren't something you can distinguish with pictures. The problem isn't as rampant as it used to be, but **you should always be on your toes buying turquoise.** It's not just howlite you have to worry about in that case, the high prices of turquoise have attracted a lot of cons to the market.

Some older dyed howlite is put into some impressive neon colors. While a bit gaudy, they're readily identifiable as dyed and there's a market for them the same way that heavily dyed chalcedony is commonly sold.

Where Can I Find Howlite?

Howlite was originally found in Nova Scotia, where it was identified by a geologist named [Henry How](#). The name was eventually given to the stone by another geologist to honor the discovery.

Today, however, the vast majority of the stuff comes from Southern California. Specifically, the best place to collect is to explore the area around Tick Canyon, which is a bit Northeast of Santa Clarita on Davenport Road.

How To Get There

To get there, you just need to go northeast on the Sierra Highway from Santa Clarita. You'll follow it for a few miles before a righthand turn puts you on Davenport Road. Roughly a mile and a half down the road you'll see piles of tailings on the right-hand side. This is a good place to start looking.

Where To Look

The mine is currently fenced off and closed in, so what you need to do is take a look around the perimeter. The mine there is a borax mine and howlite wasn't considered to have any economic value so it was unceremoniously dumped in with the mine tailings. You can even find it used as base rock in concrete in the area.

Seriously, until the short craze for howlite started it was

considered a complete waste product. That means hundreds of tons of it were dragged from the earth and thrown to the side for rockhounds to later find.

There are a few areas where the tailings were pushed out of the immediate, closed-off area. If you can find one, these piles of discarded stone are rich with howlite. Filling a five-gallon bucket is an easy task at that point.

A Word of Caution

If you do head out there, be cautious and don't give in to the temptation to get on the fenced property. You can find more than enough for a season of cutting without having to break the law or risk the dangers immediately around the borax mine.

Additional Places To Find Howlite

In the US, you can also find howlite in the Muddy Mountains Mining District in Nevada. It can be reached by taking the 15 northeast of Las Vegas for about 18 miles. You'll be able to take the turn off to Valley of Fire Road from there, the Muddy Mountains will appear on your right.

This location doesn't have as much data, but people have found samples there. For that reason, I'd recommend stopping off at Tick Canyon if you're looking to collect your own specimens. Mindat has a [few other locales](#) listed in SoCal, but it's incredibly easy to collect from the borax mine tailings at Tick Canyon and the location is public knowledge.

From recent reports, the only things you really need to collect howlite in the area is your hands, a bucket, and some water for the desert heat.

Field Identifying Howlite

If you're in a location that's suspected to have howlite, you'll need to know how to identify it in the field. It's not quite as easy to spot when it's not already cut.

Dark Matrix

The biggest thing to look for is a dark matrix with bits of white poking out. Some howlite chunks have been broken recently (ie: within the last fifty years) and can be identified by the bright white interior as well.

Cauliflower Appearance

Howlite forms as a conglomerate mass from individual round masses of crystals. Cauliflower is a good description for those who've never seen a raw bit before. Specimens without a broken side can look great when cleaned up.

Color and Feel-Essentially, you're just looking for black/brown and white stones. Anything that's broken should have a porcelain-like "feel" where the stone is peeking through, rather than being granular.

Howlite is an easy stone to find and field-identify for the most part. You just need to be in the right location when you're looking for it!

From Rock Seeker, August 7, 2024. don@rockseeker.com
[Find the original article here.](#)

TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR CLUB SHOW 'OUT THERE'

Remember:

Advertise your show in as many free locations as possible!

- **Local newspapers**
- **Current events sections**
- **Local TV stations**
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Advertise in the Rock & Gem Magazine!

Send the information in early so it's published in the magazine as well as online:

www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/

Above from CFMS Newsletter April 2024 via Rocky Mountain Federation News 7/24

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 to 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
NOVEMBER-
DECEMBER, 2024
NEWSLETTER IS
OCTOBER 25, 2024**

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH



NEW MELTING DISH

A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated.

The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle.



When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don't forget to coat the pouring spout itself.

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>

Happy hammering,
- Brad Smith

BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

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Elizabeth Claire Burford

MARCH 11, 1964 – AUGUST 13, 2024
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Elizabeth C. Burford passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She was born on March 11, 1964, in Metairie, Louisiana to the late Frank M. and Terry M. Ritchie.

Liz was the beloved wife of Roger M. Burford, for 24 years. She was the loving sister of John Patrick Ritchie (Pat), Anne Ritchie Borne (Dennis), and Stephen Ritchie. She was also a loving sister-in-law of Pamela Ross (Gary) and Emily Tang Shehane. She was the proud stepmother of Jessica Henchy and Shiloh Fuscello. "Lizzie" leaves behind several nieces and nephews that she absolutely adored.

Liz was a graduate of Ridgewood High School in Metairie and received her bookkeeping degree from the University of Phoenix. She was the Executive Secretary of the South Central Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies, but her most rewarding position was owner of her company Lagniappe Lapidary.

At a future date a private inurnment will be held, along with a celebration of life.



UPCOMING SHOWS 2024

September 28-29—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: Show and sale; Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; \$5 Age 12 and up, \$3 age 6 - 12, 5 and under free; Website: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

October 4-6—WESTWEGO, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana, New Orleans; Alario Center, 2000 Segnette Blvd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$7 per adult, weekend admission; \$3 per child, age 12-16; free, age 11 years and under; Kids rock pit, kids area, cabbing demonstrations, dinosaur bones display, silent auction, door prizes, grand prize and much more; Website: gmsofla.org

October 12-13—TEMPLE, TEXAS: Annual show; Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society; Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, 3301 N. 3rd Street; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5 Adults, \$3 13-17 years, children free when with adult or guardian;

October 18-20—AUSTIN, TEXAS: Annual show; Austin Gem and Mineral Society (AGMS); Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$8, Seniors and Military ID \$7, Ages 13-18 \$2, Children ages 12 and under free; Website: www.agms-tx.org

November 2-3—AMARILLO, TEXAS: Annual show; Golden Spread Gem, Mineral & Treasure Society; Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$5 Adults, under 13, first responders and Boy Scouts in uniform get in Free; Golden Spread Gem, Mineral & Treasure Society 62nd Annual Show, Hourly Door prizes, Grand Prize and Silent Auction; ; Website: golden-spreadgemmineraltreasuresociety.com

November 8-10—HUMBLE, TEXAS: Annual show; Houston Gem and Mineral Society; Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; \$12.00; Grand Door Prize, Kids Day on Friday, Dino Dig, Swap Area, Fluorescent exhibit; Website: hgms.org

November 23-24, MESQUITE, TX, DALLAS G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, see more details elsewhere in this issue. Website: www.dallasgemandmineral.org. COMBINED WITH SCFMS CONVENTION

To those who helped make this issue possible...



Don Shurtz
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TCGMS
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Don Gerig
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CFMS
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