

JULY-AUGUST, 2026

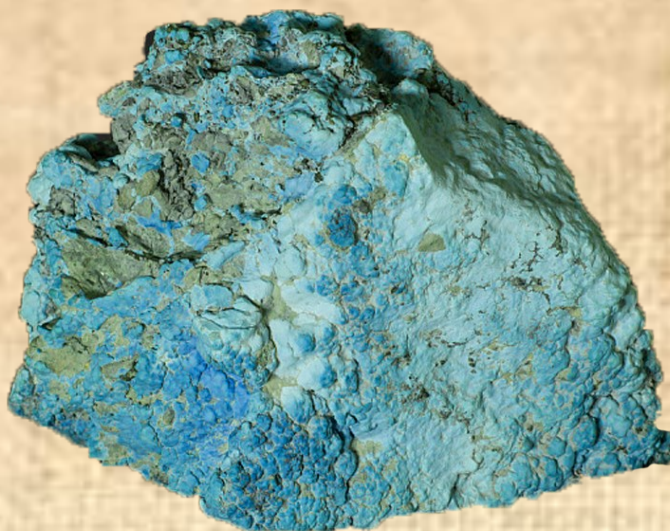
NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION
Of Mineral Societies



Member of: The American Federation of Mineral Societies

ON THE COVER

TURQUOISE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Front Cover | 10. Searching for Turquoise in Colorado |
| 2. Table of Contents | 11. Geology Lab for Kids |
| 3. SCFMS Information | 12. Geology Lab for Kids Continued |
| 4. President's Message /
Peabody Museum | 13. Gem and Mineral Wordsearch |
| 5. Peabody Museum Continued | 14. Fascinating Faceting |
| 6. HGMS Flyer / Dues and
Insurance Announcement | 15. National Rock Day |
| 7. SCFMS Dues and Insurance | 16. Bench Tips by Brad Smith |
| 8. SCFMS Club Officer Form 1 | 17. Bench Tips by Brad Smith Continued |
| 9. SCFMS Club Officer Form 2 | 18. SCFMS Shows/Thank You |

SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETIES, INC.

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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

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A NOTE FROM —THE EDITOR—

THE FINAL DEAD- LINE, 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 or the SCFMS. 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
NOVEMBER 14-15**

**ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14TH, 1 PM**

**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



President's Message



*Sigrid Stewart,
SCFMS President*

Well, it's July and we are all hiding from the sun. It is 100 degrees today, and most people are only outside if they can jump into pools! It is not a great season for rock hunts; you might say that it is kind of a shoulder season for clubs and shows, although both Ark-La-Tex and Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society have their shows in August. Most of us are waiting for fall, when the weather has a chance to cool off.

But... this is a great season to plan and prepare. It is time to start thinking about fall shows, particularly the SCFMS Convention on November 14th, which will be co-hosted by the Annual Houston Gem and Mineral Society Show which runs November 13th-15th at the Humble Civic Center in Humble, Texas. For those who attend, please don't worry too much about traffic. I have reserved hotel rooms one mile away from the show. If you can get there, you'll be fine. We can even arrange for a shuttle.

There is still a long way to go to revitalize the SCFMS. We need volunteers for some of our committees. Those committees feed information and work into AFMS committees, so without strong local federations, we may not have a strong national federation.

The problems are many, including an aging population of rockhounds, but I am seeing a resurgence of younger people who are interested in getting their hands on real rocks and doing something with them. Don't give up! We can't let young people think that quartz is only found in Minecraft!



Phosphophyllite Bolivia

I'll bet that most of us search for rock-hounding or museum experiences while visiting family members. After all you are away from home and looking for something different just around the corner!

My daughter and her family recently moved to Connecticut, and I wanted to see them in their new house. Husband Steve was willing to go but he had one demand: to visit the Peabody Museum at Yale in New Haven Connecticut to see a special mineral collection. He had read about a man called the Black Hole of the East Coast (that term explained below), — - Yampol, known for swooping in and buying all of a mine run or the best locality specimens of a mineral and then locking them away, never to be seen again. Of course never is a long time, and sadly Mr. Yampol passed away, leaving his heirs to handle his extensive collection. One of them arranged for an exhibit at the Peabody.

Yale University was established in 1701, and the architecture is impressive! There is a lot of construction in the area, so the parking situation is difficult, but we arrived early enough to park in a nearby lot, free if your ticket is validated. According to Wikipedia, the Museum was founded by the philanthropist George Peabody in 1866 at the behest of his nephew Othniel Charles Marsh, an early paleontologist famous for his rivalry with Edward Drinker Cope to discover new dinosaurs during the Bone Wars. The original building was demolished and the museum moved to the current site in 1925, and the new building built in a style to harmonize with other older buildings of the Yale campus. Recently it underwent award-winning renovations and expansions to add labs, classrooms and public spaces, and to revamp display areas. It is probably best known for the Great Hall of Dinosaurs.



California Gold

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4



The Rocket

nately, it was up a steep road into very weedy looking territory. Probably full of ticks. In the state where Lyme disease was first identified! We decided maybe we would contact local clubs about the site and perhaps visit after a good frost.

The mineral display area is on the 3rd floor, but before we even made it to the elevator, we spotted a gorgeous display of gold specimens from California on the first floor. I could run out of adjectives describing that exhibit, but after a while, we headed upstairs.

We also looked for an abandoned local quarry in Cheshire, famous for —. It was mapped on Mindat, so we expected it would not be too hard to find. Sure enough, just off Quarry Road on Highway — in Cheshire we found the entrance. Unfortunately,

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peabody_Museum_of_Natural_History

<https://peabody.yale.edu/news/centerbrook-win-aia-award>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bone_Wars

**Beryl-MinasGerais,
Brazil**



Rhodochrosite



**Every rockhound
has one rock on the kitchen counter
“just because.”**

SCFMS ANNUAL DUES AND INSURANCE



DEADLINE IS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026,

For the 2026-2027 membership year.

Find the forms in this issue and at

<https://scfms.net/formsmembers.html>

HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

73rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

Nov 13 - 15, 2026

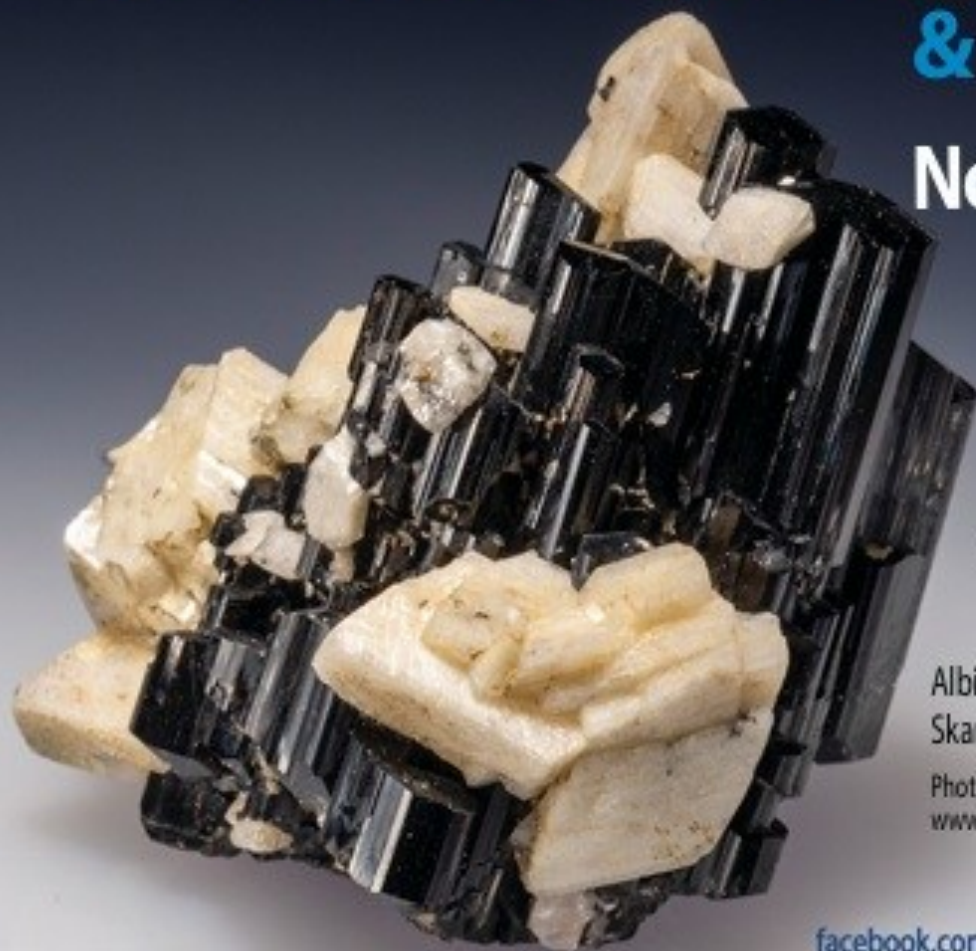
HUMBLE CIVIC CENTER

Tickets \$12

Good for all 3 days,

kids 10 & under get in free

(Purchase ahead online or in-person at the show)



Albite on Schorl
Skardu District, Pakistan

Photo by Steve Blyskal
www.trusconminerals.com



hgms.org

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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, 2025

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 **\$4.00 (\$2.25 for dues and \$1.75 for insurance)** per adult
- Yearly junior membership is **\$2.25 (\$0.50 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 \$4.00 ea. \$ _____

of Juniors (under 18): _____ x \$2.25 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



SCFMS CLUB OFFICER, EDITOR, AND WEBMASTER SUBMISSION FORM



CLUB INFORMATION:

CLUB NAME: _____

(Please pay special attention to "&" or "and")

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CLUB PHONE NUMBER: _____

MEETING LOCATION ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

MEETING TIME: _____

MEETING DATE: _____

OR MEETING RECURS MONTHLY ON THE: ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th WEEK

ON: ☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri. ☐ Sat. ☐ Sun.

EXCLUDED MONTHS: ☐ January ☐ February ☐ March ☐ April ☐ May ☐ June

☐ July ☐ August ☐ September ☐ October ☐ November ☐ December

CLUB WEBSITE: _____

CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE: _____

CLUB NEWSLETTER NAME: _____

OUR CLUB IS A 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION: ☐ YES ☐ NO

ANNUAL SHOW:

SHOW TITLE: _____

ANNUAL SHOW MONTH: ☐ January ☐ February ☐ March ☐ April ☐ May ☐ June

☐ July ☐ August ☐ September ☐ October ☐ November ☐ December

ANNUAL SHOW CALENDAR DATES: _____

ANNUAL SHOW OCCURS ON (select all days): ☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thurs. ☐ Fri. ☐ Sat. ☐ Sun.

DAY 1 SHOW OPEN TIME: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM CLOSE TIME: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM

DAY 2 SHOW OPEN TIME: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM CLOSE TIME: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM

DAY 3 SHOW OPEN TIME: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM CLOSE TIME: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM

DAY 4 SHOW OPEN TIME: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM CLOSE TIME: _____ ☐ AM ☐ PM

SHOW FACILITY NAME: _____

SHOW ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

NAME OF SHOW CHAIR OR SHOW CONTACT: _____

SHOW CHAIR PHONE NUMBER: _____

SHOW CHAIR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐ WE DO NOT HOLD AN ANNUAL SHOW

☐ WE HOLD MORE THAN ONE SHOW PER YEAR

List additional show information: _____

SCFMS CLUB OFFICER, EDITOR, AND WEBMASTER SUBMISSION FORM

CLUB OFFICER INFORMATION: CLUB NAME: _____

MONTH OF OFFICER ELECTIONS: ☐January ☐February ☐March ☐April ☐May ☐June
☐July ☐August ☐September ☐October ☐November ☐December

☐MAIN CONTACT (SELECT ONE OFFICER)

PRESIDENT NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐MAIN CONTACT (SELECT ONE OFFICER) ☐POSITION VACANT

1ST VICE PRESIDENT NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐MAIN CONTACT (SELECT ONE OFFICER) ☐POSITION VACANT

SECRETARY NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐MAIN CONTACT (SELECT ONE OFFICER) ☐POSITION VACANT TREASURER NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐MAIN CONTACT (SELECT ONE OFFICER) ☐POSITION VACANT

EDITOR NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐MAIN CONTACT (SELECT ONE OFFICER) ☐POSITION VACANT WEBMASTER NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SCFMS WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT CLUB ADDRESSES OR CLUB PHONE NUMBERS FOR CONTACT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MEMBER CLUBS. WE HAVE TAKEN MEASURES TO IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE USE OF THE DATA WE COLLECT AND PROTECT THE PERSONAL INFORMATION WE OBTAIN. PLEASE READ OUR [PRIVACY POLICY](#) AND CONTACT A CURRENT SCFMS OFFICER IF THERE ARE CONCERNS. OFFICER INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY WITH DUES FOR AND AGAIN BY FEBRUARY 1, 2026. YOU MAY UPDATE AS SOON AS ELECTIONS ARE HELD, AND SHOULD UPDATE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ANY CHANGE IN OFFICERS.

☐ **I HAVE READ THE SCFMS PRIVACY POLICY AND CONSENT TO SCFMS USE OF THE CLUB INFORMATION I HAVE PROVIDED.**

EMAIL FILLED FORMS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND DIRECTORY CHAIR:
LSUSAN BURCH, scfmseditor@yahoo.com AND DON SHURTZ, don.shurtz@gmail.com. QUESTIONS? 936-615-5397
OR YOU MAY PRINT AND MAIL TO: SUSAN BURCH, 10911 HOLLY SPRINGS DR, HOUSTON, TX 77042

SEARCHING FOR TURQUOISE IN COLORADO

By Susan Burch



Recently I spent a long weekend in Colorado with my honey. Besides enjoying the scenery, I usually pick up a rock or two to bring home. While on the trip, I called my mom — as I always do — to let her know where we'd gone, what we were seeing, and to send her a few scenic photos.

Then came the request: "If you see a turquoise ring, look for one for me."

My mom and I both love turquoise jewelry and have collected pieces over the years. Hers tend to be the darker, sometimes greener turquoise, while I love the sky-blue shades of Sleeping Beauty or Kingman. So I wanted to find something that suited *her* taste — something different from what she already owns. I could have researched the best turquoise spots in Colorado — I do enjoy rockhounding — but our time was limited, and her list of requirements was... slightly extensive.

It couldn't be just any turquoise ring. It had to be sterling, have a large stone, be a medium hue, stay under a certain price point, and — the kicker — be a size 11. My mom rarely asks for anything, so of course I set out to check every shop we passed. And since I silversmith occasionally and wire-wrap often, I also kept an eye out for a stone I could turn into a ring myself.

Most of the resort-town options were far above the price point and in much smaller sizes. Then, at High Country Gems and Minerals in Glenwood Springs, I found not just one but three likely candidates made by a local artisan.

I sent my mom a photo of the three rings so she could choose her favorite. Unfortunately, she didn't reply before we had to leave the area — and I couldn't walk out of that shop empty-handed. The ring on the right felt too masculine for her taste. The one on the left had beautiful band detail and a fancy bezel, but the stone wasn't quite "large." That left the middle ring: a slightly lighter-than-medium hue, but undeniably a large stone with a fancy bezel and split shank. That's the one

that came back to Texas with me.

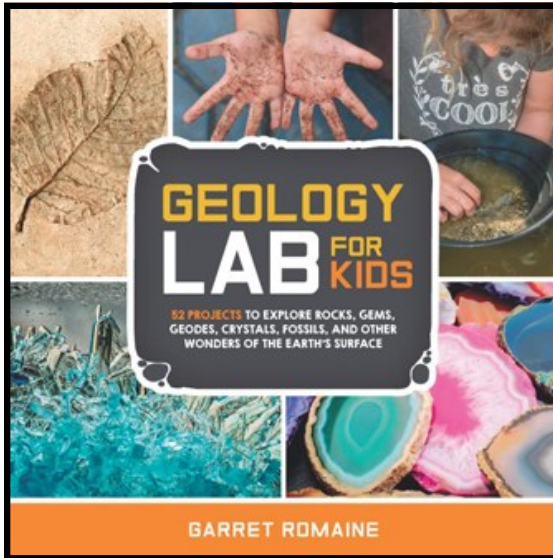
I decided I wanted it to be a gift rather than something she reimbursed me for. The shop even had a little purple box with a purple bow — her favorite color.

Once we flew home, her message finally came through. She liked the one on the left. Oops, I have the wrong ring.

After explaining to her that we'd already left Colorado without that ring, I heard the long sigh. And after a day or so of thinking it over, I knew she had to have the one she truly wanted. I called the shop, but they weren't sure which ring I meant — they had quite a few turquoise rings. I emailed the photo, and after several calls and messages, the ring was on its way to her in another purple box with a bow.

With over 250 miles between us, I don't get to give her as much as I'd like. The ring was the perfect size — exactly what she'd hoped for — and she loved it. And I ended up with a little unexpected treasure for myself.





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



Create your own dinosaur footprint. If you don't want to create a dinosaur footprint, you can use any plastic animal or real seashell. But, come on, dinosaurs are more fun to play with.



MATERIALS

- Mold container (e.g., small plastic cap from a water bottle, tuna can, etc.)
- Small plastic sheets
- Pre-mixed spackling compound, plaster of Paris,

- or other clay
- Dinosaur toy with accurate feet
- Nonstick cooking spray

Safety Tips-



Clay can make a mess— don't do this lab on a carpet!



PROTOCOL

STEP 1: Make sure your plastic lid is clean.

STEP 2: Place a small square of plastic in the bottom of the lid so that you can remove the mold later.

STEP 3: Press in your clay, spackle, or other compound.

STEP 4: Spray the feet of your dinosaur toy with nonstick cooking oil. This will prevent any bits of clay from sticking to the toy.

STEP 5: Press the feet of the plastic dino saur toy into the compound to make an impression. Make sure you get a strong, even impression. Check the dinosaur feet for bits of clay that still cling to the plastic; if you need to try again, you can spray more nonstick cooking oil lightly on the plastic and smooth out the clay to try again.

STEP 6: Let the mold dry completely; then remove it from the plastic cap. You can trim the edges, paint it lightly with a water color, or coat it with shellac. You can also put it in a bezel or attach a hook to hang it as jewelry.

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 9

STEP 7: You can experiment with common lids you have around the house.



Creative Enrichment

1. How would you create a complete track, where the animal's footprints record it walking in a line for a distance?
2. Measure how big your foot is in relationship to how tall you are. How accurate is your model based on that math? If your dinosaur footprint were 7 feet (2 m) long, how big would the dinosaur be?



THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE FUN

If you've ever stepped in mud on a sunny day, you've made a mold of your footprint. If the mud were to dry hard after several days, that mold could last quite a while. Now just imagine if a storm rolled in and the area was severely flooded, with a new, thick layer of sand, silt, and clay covering your tracks. All you would need is more flooding, more burial, and if enough weight built up over it, the mud would turn to rock and preserve your footprint for a long, long time.

The first dinosaur tracks identified by scientists were found in 1802 in Massachusetts. However, Native Americans created petroglyphs near several recognized trackways in the western U.S., and these carvings translated to "location with bird tracks." The interesting thing is that the native people recognized the relationship between dinosaurs and birds long before paleontologists did.

Today, scientists can learn a lot about the dinosaur that laid down the tracks by measuring the depth of the imprint, the size of the track, and even the distance between tracks. There are places that seem to show a herd of dinosaurs all moving in a single direction, and there are sites that appear to show a predator chasing down their next meal.

GEM & MINERAL WORD SEARCH

By Susan Burch, SCFMS Editor

D G P S Q Z Y I F X O L S Q H R M O M N N V C O F X T V W B
 H W Z E L K F F S Y G V A M N T I O X A P R X G N C O C G H
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 P L E I I M S C F B H E Y M Y R E S S C A B X X C Q Q V A D
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 J Q U G B V L G S I T N M X O K Z J W Q Z D D P X A V A A O
 K F O D Q R I K O P T N E E G P M S N I I V W P M H U E R D
 T O Y W F P A F E Z Z Q P I P E A R K T G S D N V M G B M E
 L O J O F J I D B E I M X E S A M L Z F O Z V O F F A P O C
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 D J X D S U B F O R S C M V T T P N P H M A I C J O W E W N
 H Y G Y N V R R L Q I O C L W O L D I L D Y J W U Q X M A K
 F Z M I F O V U O C Y T G Q X T Q U A R T Z I X K U N M R R
 T D I A M O N D V O S L E P Y Z B G U X A H S O H I C Q A O
 Q D Y Z S E O D N C E K Z Q Y R R P C D I H O U E W A S M C
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 B C R Y S T A L I L M F T E X P I M L N L K C P J Z S G E E
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 D O J V T R U O R I V K B T A K V T E K R W F F O T M J D W
 Q T H W K Q W E Q T Z N Q F H D M F W D T Z V U S X S O P W
 M A Q N K U V Q T E Y O Z U T S K U G S R U L T U D C N M Z
 E P U G D D U I F F P Y U V F Q B Z C H B W S Y C W M M O Y
 V V M U W L X X T P D G Z O U M H L Z J P Y T M R W L A A M
 V Q E V W W U X T I J S L R I T Y R O C K K K Q Y P I P R P

LABRADORITE

TURQUOISE

FELDSPAR

GEM

OBSIDIAN

SEDIMENT

CALCITE

VUG

CRYSTAL

DIAMOND

MINERAL

BASALT

FOSSIL

GARNET

GNEISS

PYRITE

QUARTZ

GEODE

MAGMA

OPAL

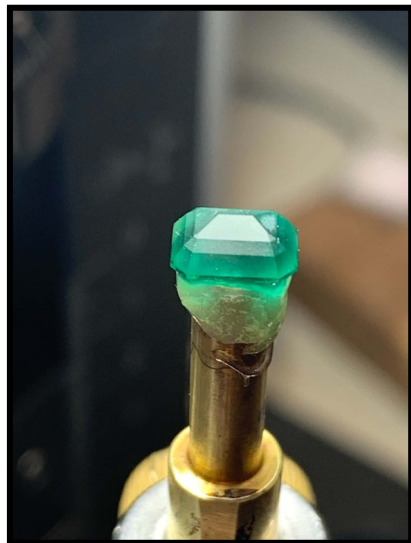
ROCK

RUBY

FASCENATING FASCETING

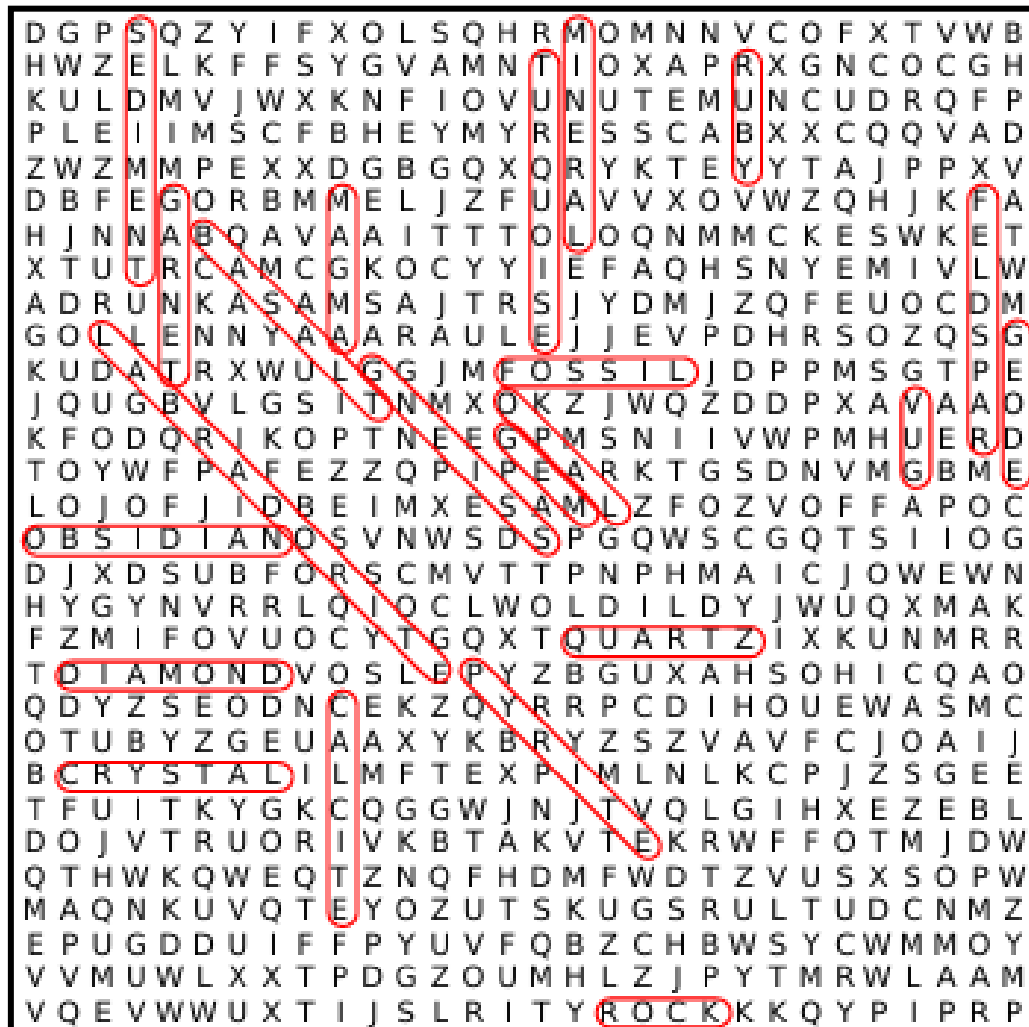
Randy Carlson, HGMS

My grandfather was a "rockhound" so my love for rocks goes further back than I can remember. I was introduced to faceting nearly 22 years ago and have been cutting rocks ever since. I'm the current Chairman of the Gemstones & Faceting Section of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society. I'm on the board of directors of the US Faceters Guild, and I am a trained Gemologist through the US Gemological Institute. Here are a few pieces I have cut....



Puzzle on Page 9

GEM & MINERAL WORD SEARCH ~SOLUTION~



NATIONAL ROCK DAY

(ALSO KNOWN AS
(INTERNATIONAL ROCK DAY))

IS CELEBRATED
ANNUALLY ON

JULY 13.

It is a day dedicated
to the study of **geology**,
the **Earth's diverse**
formations, and
appreciating the
science of **petrology**.



Carlsons Rock World LLC

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 scfm-seditor@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
SEPTEMBER-
OCTOBER, 2026
NEWSLETTER IS
AUGUST 25, 2026**

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it's handheld in a flexshaft or a Dremel. Bits can easily break with too much pressure or if they tilt a little while in the hole.



Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel and/or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers.



Continued on page 15

Continued from Page 14

Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see if it hangs straight.

FANCY RIVET HEADS

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.



The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin"



For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers with a slight groove on one jaw.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the quickest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a separating disc. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.

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>

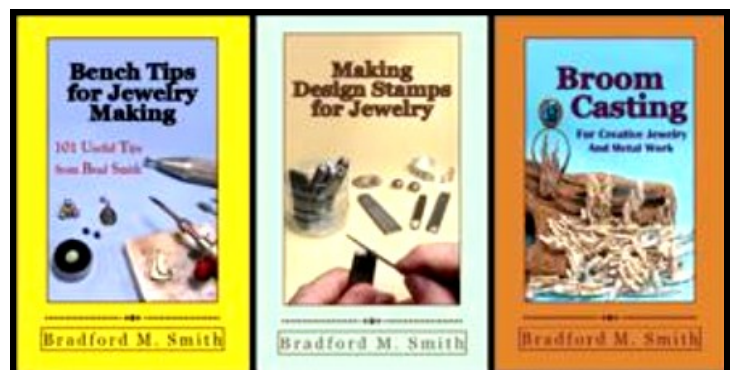
Happy hammering,

- Brad Smith

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

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith



UPCOMING SHOWS 2026

August 8-9—GONZALES, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Society; Lamar Dixon Expo Center - Trademart Building email: mercymom3@gmail.com

August 15-16—BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA: Annual show; Arklatex Gem & Mineral Society; Bossier City Civic Center Email: larockclub@gmail.com; Website: larockclub.com

September 5-6—Forth Worth, TX: Annual Show CERA Gem, Mineral, Glass, & Jewelry Club; CERA Recreation Complex; Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CowtownGMG>

September 26-27—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: Annual show; Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center; Email: walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org; Website: www.LubbockGemandMineral.org

October 23-25—AUSTIN, TEXAS: Annual show; Austin Gem & Mineral Society (AGMS); Palmer Events Center; Website: <https://www.agms-tx.org/>

October 31-November 1—AMARILLO, TEXAS: Annual show; Golden Spread Gem Mineral & Treasure Society; Amarillo Civic Center; Email: Kassidy.gsgmts@outlook.com

November 14-15—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Annual show; Southwest Gem & Mineral Society; San Antonio Garden Center; Website: <http://www.swgms.org/>

November 13-15—HUMBLE, TEXAS: Annual show; Houston Gem and Mineral Society; Combination show hosting the SCFMS; Humble Civic Center; Email: fossilwood@comcast.net; Website: <https://www.hgms.org/>



To those who helped make this issue possible...

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