



# The Rockette

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

A Publication of the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society (SGMS)

P. O. Box 1245, Redwood City, CA 94064

<http://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

## MEETING IN SEPTEMBER Date: September 18, 7 pm

### Field Trips Field Trips Field Trips

Would you like to lead a Field Trip but not sure you know how? Do you want to go on a Field Trip but don't know what to expect? What are the expectations, duties and responsibility of a Field Trip Leader? What is expected of a person who attends a Field Trip? These questions and more will be answered and discussed at the North Bay Field Trips Fall Meeting in September.

On Saturday, September 23, 2017 the Contra Costa M&GS will host the NBFT Fall meeting and FT Seminar in Pittsburg, CA. The announcement flyer with details and directions will be sent out in July. This seminar is for field trip leaders, and **all** rockhounds that enjoy collecting; **all** members and guests are welcome. The seminar is presented by Dick Pankey. This seminar is designed for field trip leaders and field trip attendees. We will discuss the duties, responsibilities and expectations of a Field Trip Leader: planning, announcing, conducting a FT. We will also present guidelines for FT attendees: responsibilities, expectations, duties (yes, attendees have duties, too). Other topics include: how to announce your trip, field trip safety, field trip etiquette and much more.

A field trip can be more than just picking up rocks, minerals or fossils. It is often a social event shared with friends and other rockhounds. Betty Pankey will discuss the social side of FT's -- potlucks, happy hours and campfires; how to hold a potluck, what to bring and etiquette.

If anyone wants to go, we can form a carpool! Game?

### SGMS Mission Statement

The Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society serves the community by providing education in the Earth Sciences and training in the lapidary arts and, in doing so, promotes ethical behavior, sound resource stewardship, and good fellowship. The Society fulfills its mission through year-round offerings of field trips, lapidary workshops, outreach presentations, public mineral displays, and monthly informational meetings open to the public.

### Member of:

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
North Bay Field Trip Association

Exchange bulletins are welcome. You are free to reprint if credit or citation is noted.

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## Great Photo!

Stan Bogosian has a new toy: Olympus TG-4 digital camera, that has a microscope mode and stacking photography (like an MRI). This is why nobody has seen him in the shop. Recently he finished converting an old (possibly Soviet) microscope into a functioning camera stand. Works well. Here is one of his shots of wulfenite, Rowley Mine, Maricopa Co., AZ. Beautiful! Thanks for sharing!



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## A fabulous Trip to the Center of the USA

By Catherine Fraser

0000k-lahoma, where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain, and the wavin' wheat can sure smell sweet, when the wind comes right behind the rain...

An iconic song and a good description of the Sooner State which is located almost smack dab in the middle of the USA.

A native of Altus, OK, I decided to take my 13 year old son, Michael, to visit cousins he's never even heard of (while he's still too young to say no) so we took off for a two week jaunt to the land of red dirt. There are a few rolling hills, yet Oklahoma is mostly a flat land...so flat in places some say you can see all the way to tomorrow and back to yesterday.

After a few days of good bonding with family, fishing and hiking in the Quartz Mountains (the beautiful tips of the oldest mountains on the North American continent), we headed north. First stop was to consume what was purported to be the best Chicken Fried Steak anywhere. That happened to be in a bowling alley restaurant in Fairview. The chef also handled the bowling part. (he did wash his hands after handing us our shoes) It did not disappoint. On the other hand our bowling scores did.

We stopped at the Sod House Museum in Aline. Built around the only remaining house made entirely of sod, the museum lets you explore the house and learn about the daily life

of a pioneer homesteader in the late 1800's. Are you aware that it takes a ½ acre of buffalo grass sod cut 4" deep, to create a two room house? The sod weighed approximately 96 tons! The curator told us it would have taken a man up to 50 hours of labor to produce 100 bushels of wheat. Nowadays it takes only three hours of labor to produce the same amount. Food for thought...

Next stop, the Gloss Mountains, famous for their Selenite content that looks like shiny glass. We hiked to the top of the mesa, where views of the Cimarron River and a breathtaking landscape could be seen for miles. There was an approaching storm —the thunder and lightning made a spectacular show. You could smell the rain in the breeze...then we had to high tail it out of there before it got too close. I didn't enjoy the thought of being skewered by a lightning bolt up there. We made it to the car just as the first drops fell. That same storm cell created a devastating tornado in Tulsa the soon after.

Next stop, the Great Salt Plains State Park. Composed of salt left over from an ocean covering Oklahoma during pre-historic times, this is a most unique state park. It is a salt-water lake, about half as salty as the ocean. On the edges you can find hourglass crystals that form just under the surface. There is even sand in the "hourglass" which makes a pretty cool crystal. I understand Oklahoma is the only place in the world these crystals can be found so it is understandable to know it is Oklahoma's state crystal.

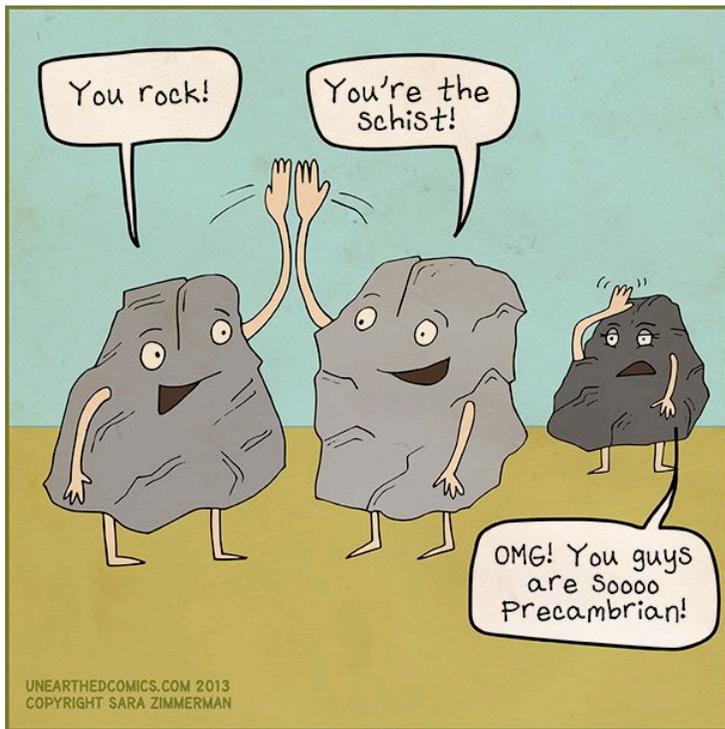
Enid was our next stop to see the Midgley Museum. It is known by locals as the Rock House, and with good reason. Each room inside this unique home built in 1947 takes you to Africa, Alaska or one of the Midgley's many other destinations. The eclectic assortment of objects and artifacts tell the story of this adventurous couple, and the entire home is covered with rock specimens and fossils. This is a must-see for gem and mineral enthusiasts.

We also visited Johnson's Jewelry and Rocks, a good size space with a great assortment of reasonably priced specimens. John Haacke, the proprietor, is also the current president of the Enid Rock and Mineral Society. The shop boasts a great space to create! Classes in lapidary, faceting, simple metal projects, silversmithing, beading and more are offered. Michael and I chose to make bracelets using the air chasing method and a copper pipe. What boy wouldn't enjoy beating a pipe as much as you like? The hour-long project turned into chatting the rest of the day, a gift of local rocks and dinner with Steve Ruther (our instructor) and wife, Karla. A terrific experience!

Oklahoma is a great place for rock hounds. One can find fossils of dinosaurs and mammoths, trilobites and snails. Galena, quartz, dolomite, Aragonite (or Indian Money), many forms of gypsum, alabaster, barite roses, gold, hematite, malachite, calcite, pyrite and more are found. I actually never knew there was so much!

This was certainly a successful trip in many ways. We got our fill of fried foods (a 7<sup>th</sup> food group in that part of the country), limeades and okra. My son and I have memories to carry a lifetime, and a lot of souvenirs of local rocks. We will return! "We're only sayin' "You're doing fine **Oklahoma, Oklahoma OK.-L -A -H -O -M -A!**"

**If you would like to see pictures of our adventures, find me on FaceBook.**



## **Lapidary!!! See our website for more information.**

**If you would like to learn, or use the cutting and polishing equipment, come on by!  
The cost is only \$7 for members.**

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**USGS Lecture: Thursday September 28 @ 7:00 PM  
What's in a species Name?**

**How wildlife management relies on modern systematic research and museum collections**

**by John B. French, Jr., Center Director USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center**

What have museum collections taught us about invasive diseases?

When is an endangered species not a species?

How can birds in a museum help protect airline passengers?

How do geology and biology govern what species we find on the Channel Islands?

Rambo Auditorium/Bldg. 3, 345 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park

## **GEOSCIENCE AND CALIFORNIA—INTERESTING NUMBERS**

- \$3.5 billion: value of nonfuel mineral production in 2016
- 46,600: geoscience employees (non-federal/self-employed)

- 21,100: jobs in extractive industries in 2015
- 35 flooding disaster declarations since 1953
- \$957.3 million: NSF grants awarded in California in 20161
- \$178.5 million: NSF GEO grants awarded in California in 20161

## **WORKFORCE IN CALIFORNIA**

- 46,600: geoscience employees (non-federal/selfemployed) in 2015
- \$87,900: average median geoscience employee salary
- 21,100: jobs in extractive industries in 2015
- 115: academic geoscience departments

## **WATER IN CALIFORNIA**

- 12.7 billion gallons/day: total groundwater withdrawal
- 25.3 billion gallons/day: total surface water withdrawal
- 6.3 billion gallons/day: public supply water withdrawal
- 23.1 billion gallons/day: water withdrawal for irrigation
- 400 million gallons/day: self-supplied industrial fresh water withdrawal4
- 93% of the population is served by public water supplies
- 57 counties in 2015, and 51 counties in 2016, designated as primary natural disaster areas caused by drought
- 250 USGS stream gages in California

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## **Dates of SGMS FALL meetings for 2017:**

September 18, October 16, November 20.

Unless specified, the meetings will be held at the usual place, The Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society holds its General Meetings from 7-9pm on the third Monday of the month (with exceptions for holidays, or during July and December). Each meeting features a presentation, raffle drawings for specimens, a member Show & Tell, and access to the club library. **Guests are welcome to join us!**  
Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA 94062

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# **SGMS Officers Needed**

Spend some much needed time for the club and become an officer! We have several positions open and need to fill them! And since we are having a show in 2018 it is crucial to get more folks involved.

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## **SEPTEMBER SHOWS:**

### **September 16 - 17: CHICO, CA**

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society

Silver Dollar Fairgrounds

2357 Fair Street

Hours: Sat 9:30 - 5; Sun 9:30 - 4

John Scott, (530) 321-6331

Email: [jweazel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jweazel@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.featherriverrocks.org](http://www.featherriverrocks.org)

### **September 23 - 24: LODI, CA**

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds

413 East Lockford Street

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Jerold Kyle, (209) 368-9411

Email: [jeroldkyle@yahoo.com](mailto:jeroldkyle@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.stocktonlapidary.com](http://www.stocktonlapidary.com)

### **September 23 - 24: MONTEREY, CA**

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Monterey Fairgrounds

2004 Fairgrounds Road

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311

Email: [janis12@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janis12@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.cvgms.org](http://www.cvgms.org)