



# GEM SCOOPS



Vol. 52, No. 1

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

January 2014

## All About Fossils

### President's Remarks

A reminder that we are now meeting at the Clemson Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), 578 Issaqueena Trail, near the Patrick Square Subdivision.

Our January speaker is Dr. Alan Coulson from Clemson's Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences Department. Professor Coulson will give us a fossil talk: "From Golden Shells To Frozen Mammoths: How Fossils Are Formed." This petrifying presentation will occur at 7:00 PM on January 21, 2014. The talk abstract is the following:

"Fossils are abundant in some sedimentary rocks, but the formation of fossils is a relatively rare phenomenon. By some estimates, less than 5% of species are ever preserved in the fossil record. Several criteria must be met in order for fossilization to occur."

I encourage everyone to bring a couple of fossils to this meeting, especially if they lack identification. While our members cannot be fooled with gems and minerals, we seem very fallible with fossils. In fact, I'd say that we've over-

### FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society will be about Meteorites on February 18th.

### JANUARY MEETING

**WHEN:** January 21, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Charles K. Cheezem OLLI Education Center

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Alan Coulson, Clemson University

**TOPIC:** From Golden Shells to Frozen Mammoths.

**How Fossils are Formed**--Fossils are abundant in some sedimentary rocks, but the formation of fossils is a relatively rare phenomenon. By some estimates, less than 5% of species are ever preserved in the fossil record. Several criteria must be met in order for fossilization to occur. Come and learn how it happens, and view samples.

**Refreshments are served; visitors always welcome.**

looked the fossil aspects of rocks long enough – when have you gone into a rock store that didn't sell fossils? It's time that we leveled the playing field.

Speaking of different topics, February's (February 18th) talk will feature Russ Ligeikis and meteorites. Don't know what a chondrite, a tektite, or an achondrite is? Then show up for an out of this world presentation.

Moving forward, March's activity is a gem with a class on wax ring design. Taught by Fred Sias, this class is a prequel to an OLLI workshop series that commences on the same day. Partake in this and you'll be set to continue with the workshop.

There has been momentum to

make a club trip to the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. This museum contains the Weinman Mineral Gallery. I am hopeful that we can formalize plans at January's meeting. For the adventurous traveler, let me also mention the upcoming annual Tuscon Gem and Jewelry show in Tuscon, AZ January 30--February 10.

### Officers for 2014

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## Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society Minutes of General Meeting

December 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Location: OLLI Education Center

Attendance: 15 Persons

The December meeting of the Gem and Mineral Society was the club annual covered-dish Christmas Dinner. Good food and good talk.

### Dues Are Due

The Treasurer has asked me to remind everyone that dues should be paid during January so that we can submit the Club dues to the Southeast Federation.

### Regional Gem and Mineral Shows

#### Jan. 18-19 2014, DeLand, FL

Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society presents our 43rd annual Jewelry, Gem & Fossil Show and Sale. Show theme this year "Wonderful World of Quartz" Admission: \$4, Children under 12 free, Parking is free. Hours: Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm. Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Building, State Road 44, DeLand, FL ( ½ mile East of I-4, Exit 118 )

With admission you have a choice of a Shark Tooth or Pink Quartz to create something that is a one of a kind at one of our free demos. Silent auctions, Exhibits, Door Prizes, Faceting, Cabochon making, Jewelry making demonstrations. Our vendors will have mineral and fossil specimens, lapidary material, rough, cabochons, fine jewelry and gem stones, beads, crystals, supplies and so much more.

For more info: Show Chair Rosemary van Wandelen

rrborzoi@yahoo.com



### Make this Ring

**Jewelry Making by the Lost Wax Process** is a course that Fred Sias will be teaching in March. The course is being offered by both OLLI in the afternoon and the PDGMS in the evening. Each student will make the ring shown in the above photograph.

Lost-wax casting is an ancient craft that is still in regular use for making fine jewelry. Models are made of wax that is then embedded in a plaster-like material that becomes the mold for casting in silver or gold. This course will lead you through the steps for making a wax model for a ring. The wax model will then be sent to be cast in sterling silver at a shop in Georgia. The cast ring will be returned to be finished at the next class session. No previous experience is necessary, but some manual dexterity is helpful for manipulating a dental tool that is used to wax-weld the model together. An additional model for a pendant may be made by students who catch onto the basic wax-modeling skills quickly.

Reference: Fred R. Sias, Jr., "Cast

Friendship Ring," *Lapidary Journal and Jewelry Artist*, March, 2013.

We have made arrangements with the Osher Life-long Learning Institute (OLLI) for PDGMS members to take the course in the evening using the same classroom and supplies as the OLLI course. To take the course, a student must be a member of either OLLI or the PDGMS. There will be a Lab Fee of \$20 to cover the cost of supplies and having the ring cast in Sterling silver by a company in Georgia.

PDGMS members interested in taking the course should sign up at the January or February meeting. The March Club meeting will be the lecture and demonstration part of the course and the students who have signed up will continue to work on their projects. The other members may observe. There will be two more Thursday evening sessions for students to complete their projects.

. **Fred Sias** has taught at Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina and at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Georgia.