



Eastern Federation **REGION IV NEWS**

HOW TO RESCUE THE WORKSHOP

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Most of us who have been collecting minerals, fossils, and lapidary materials for some time have managed to accumulate not only a few additional specimens, but a whole lot of extra specimens. These specimens are usually stored in boxes on shelves, in buckets on the floor, piled on the floor without containers, or piled in the yard. Do you have to move some of these boxes and buckets to get to others? Do you step over containers to get from one part of the shop to the other part. Do you have boxes of material you haven't looked at since "I don't know when"?

That trading material you've been intending to sort and label from that great trip in the Steep Wall quarry just a few months - ah, maybe a couple of years ago, but some how just haven't found time as yet. It was terrific material. Especially the material from that vug that you and "Ed" found - it took some real effort to work that vug out, but you got some fantastic material, and it was worth all the effort - really solid enjoyment - the whole trip. Really got to get that material out real soon ... and.... How about that ten pounds of Stuff Agate or the three big pieces of what-do-you-call-it from over in Peaceful Valley that you've been intending to take over to the University to get help to make a positive identification. And don't forget that box of rocks and things that cousin Barbara brought you from her trip two years ago out to the Goodlands that you've been meaning to sort out ... Does any of this so far sound like someone you know (or yourself, or your workshop?)

It may sound like many of us, but even if it doesn't, and you have only been collecting a short time, chances are you still have accumulated some extra material that you don't intend to put in your collection as the very best specimen of its type that you have. It's only fair that you choose the very best of what was collected for your collection or "cabinet". But what about all that other material in boxes, in buckets, and in the yard? Most likely that other material is really good material that would be a credit to most any collection. Now why would you want to dispose of some or any of that other good material? Several reasons!

To start with, if you are able to clear some space in your work space or shop you will have more space to work on "some special project." More space so that you will not trip over some of that stored material (whether in boxes, buckets, or simply stacked on the floor.) It increases the safety aspects of your "shop". Remember, if you can see dust on the material, it's time to look at the material again. Next, you will enjoy looking at this material that you may not have seen in months or even longer. Most likely re-examining this material will give you a chance to relive some enjoyable field trip or that swap where you traded for a whole box of good material which you haven't yet looked over. Some of that material could be welcomed by a friend or club member who is new to the hobby or who was unable to go on that great field trip or attend that swap. Some of it may be from a worked-out location and is no longer available - except from you. Another reason, and a very special one, is that there may be junior activities within your club or there may be other juvenile groups that would welcome some of that good material as a way to learn to identify geological and mineralogical specimens - think about it!