

Bio for John R. Moffitt

A **theoretical astrophysicist** by education and currently working as an engineer, John Moffitt has worked in the oil fields and in the office as geophysicist, petrophysicist, exploration manager, systems analyst, and as a project manager for large engineering projects. He continues to publish papers and drawings, while giving frequent lectures in astrophysics, astronomy, mathematical geology, geophysics, and paleontology. In his professional career, John has served in mostly management positions as well as serving on the boards of three non-profit corporations. He's also an active volunteer for several non-profits especially in **earth science education**. John believes that for organizations to be stable and well attended over the long haul, meetings must be fun and something people look forward to attending. John is a published author and currently spends time as a moderator for astronomy, astrophysics and earth science on **Labroots.Com**. His love of geology, paleontology, and astrophysics, drive him to share his ideas and goals with others.



John is a multiple award-winning speaker as well as a past **International Director** for **Toastmasters International** and **Select Distinguished District Governor** for southwest Texas. He is the recipient of their **Excellence in Leadership** award and often gives keynote addresses for a fee. He usually speaks for free to local schools and other organizations including the SCFMS conference, other Gem and Mineral Societies, and the **Houston Museum of Natural Science** where he still works as a volunteer instructor.

John has been a member of the **Houston Gem and Mineral Society (HGMS)** since 1972 and is a **Past President** of that organization. During this time, he served as **Paleontology Section Chairman** three times, and was their field trip leader four times. During this same time, he has been an occasional member of the Dallas paleo club, the Austin paleo club, the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, and the Rolling Rock club. For the last 30 years, John has also been a member of **Mid-American Paleontology Society (MAPS)**, and has been a regular at their annual convention in Illinois and now in Glen Rose, Texas. John has been a frequent contributor to many newsletters and other publications. He has led many paleontology field trips for Texas school children and adults during his spare time. John is a frequent public speaker and has given lectures on fossils and certain localities as well as on quality fossil preparation and paleogeography. John's **collection of trilobites** is considered world-class and was featured in a special exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in 1995/1996. John also led several field trips to the **Sahara Desert**, and as a result of one of these trips ended up living in **Prague** 1998/1999 and working with the **Czech National Museum** to re-publish an important classic trilobite reference from 1852.

Upon John's return from living in Europe, John took on the job of **Show Chairman** for the annual Houston gem mineral and fossil show in September. He was able to move the show from the George R. Brown downtown to its present location at the Humble Convention Center and made it a successful and profitable show for its first year at the new location. John was selected as the **Rockhound of the Year Award** through the **AFMS** and was made an **honorary lifetime member of the HGMS**. He has also served as a Vice-President of the **South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SCFMS)**. John is also a member and supporter of the **Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences**, organized to create a professional association of commercial fossil and mineral collectors. John strives to show others how to respect collecting sites so future generations can also have public access to fossils and minerals. In 2001 John was first nominated, and in 2002 was inducted into the **Rockhound Hall of Fame**, for works in paleontology and for being a leader in the field for over 20 years. John is currently on a committee with the **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo** as well as being on a cooking team for the annual BBQ cookoff that takes place just before the rodeo.

Recently, John was invited to speak at a central Texas religious university that teaches a 6000 year-old universe. John was invited to teach about paleo-geography and our 13.7 billion year-old universe, in all its glory. He has added to this, presentations on Earth's 3 billion year-old history of life and evolution.