

## Rocks That Look Like Food

As we head deeper into winter, most of us will soon stop for a day, gather with friends and family, and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Our tables will likely be laden with an abundance of attractive, delicious and savory dishes. The following series of pictures shows what appears to be an ordinary table set for such a Thanksgiving Day feast, but actually, there is no real, edible food on it. It is simply a display of stones and crystals arranged to look like tasty meals. Rockhounds will immediately recognize it as a “feast” the Lord created...a collection of beautiful—albeit inedible—rocks scattered throughout the earth for our wonder and enjoyment.

In 1982, Bill and Lois Pattillo of Robstown, TX, returned home from a gem and mineral show in Portland, OR, where they’d seen a clever exhibit of “pastries”, or rather an exhibit of rocks that looked like pastries. Soon an idea formed that they’d continue to nurture for the next 31 years – “Let’s exhibit a table of rocks that look like food.”



First they canvassed friends, family and rockhound acquaintances looking for rocks that looked like food. Whether purchased or hand collected on digs, they've stated that most of the Food Table rocks are in their natural state. Only a very few have been dyed and some have been cut and shaped to resemble the food they represent

Then they assembled those pieces and displayed the collection in 1983 at the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society show in Corpus Christi, TX. It was an instant hit and before they retired in 2014, the Pattillos had traveled over 100,000 miles and displayed the collection at 41 show locations throughout the Southeast and the mid-West.

Over the years, they've seen a lot of pointing, smiles and confused looks by folks seeing it for the first time. Despite the "Do Not Touch" signs on the table, people seem compelled to confirm what they are seeing. One young man even admitted having popped an item into his mouth thinking it was edible. Luckily he didn't break any teeth!

Fortunately for all of us, the Food Table lives on and will continue to travel from show to show thanks to Keith Harmon, who assumed responsibility for it when the Pattillos retired.







So, as you gather with loved ones this holiday season, take time to reflect not only on your personal blessings, but also on the connection you have with other likeminded individuals—Rockhounds—who recognize, appreciate and value the wonder and natural beauty of rocks. And, if you are so inclined, remember to offer thanks to the good Lord who provided them for our enjoyment.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**

Sources: <http://www.rockfoodtable.com/history.html>  
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<http://www.worthwhilesmile.com/rocks-food/>