

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXXI/Three

March 2006

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Speak to me.

March 11-12, 2006: Fort Drum Crystal Mine Rock Swap/Field Trip, Ft. Drum, FL. Well-fossilized and calcified marine shells and other marine fossils. Fee: \$20/day/adult or \$8/day/child (15 and under). All minors are to be accompanied by an adult.

April 22, 2006: Standard Mineral Company, Glendon, NC., Pyrite cubes (loose and in matrix), green fluorite and micro-minerals.

Refer to your local club/society newsletter for further information on the above field trips.

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

We are almost into the second quarter and the first sessions at Wildacres and William Holland are coming up.

I really need to hear from you!

Enrollment at both schools is down, but we say that the best thing the SFMS has to offer is the workshops. There seems to be much less interest than in the past and we need to know why. What do you want in the way of classes and instructors? What can we do to improve our workshop program? We have something no other Federation has to offer so let's support it.

Ann Monroe, SFMS President

2006 SFMS WORKSHOP UPDATE

Registration forms are coming in slowly for this year's workshops. The Education Committee would like some feedback regarding the January start for registration. We felt that many persons find it necessary to schedule their vacations early in the year and that a January start would enable us to confirm SFMS members before opening up our classes to AFMS members outside of our Federation. An article has just been printed in the AFMS Newsletter inviting members of other federations to join us on a space-available basis.

Silversmithing classes at all three Wildacre sessions have already been filled. However, you may still request those classes as a first choice in case there are cancellations. You will be assigned to your second choice and later moved into a closed class on the basis of your postmark priority if there are cancellations. It may also be possible to add another class if there is sufficient demand and a classroom is available. But you must communicate with the registrars and directors so that we can meet your needs.

Advanced Faceting has been added to the August Wildacres class schedule. David Lonser who has been teaching at both retreats for many years will teach the course. This was not in the schedule published last November and we would appreciate it if Newsletter Editors would get the word out. Advanced Faceting has a prerequisite of Beginning Faceting and it is generally expected that advanced students have been faceting at home and will bring their own faceting machines.

Please keep a eye on the SFMS web site at www.amfed.org/sfms to keep up with the latest information on this year's workshops.

Fred Sias

SFMS Education Co-Chair

Inside this Issue:

SFMS Officers and State Directors

2

Editor's Ramblings

3

Youth Resources Report/Future Rockhounds of America

3

Be Safe - Be Well

4

A Letter From the Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society

4

2006 SFMS Workshop Synopses and Applications

5

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig" for 2006

9

Looking Ahead

10

2006 SFMS Committee Chairmen and Mayo Foundation Officers/Directors

11

THE SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.



A Non-Profit, Non-Commercial, Non-Political Organization and
Regional Federation of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PURPOSE:

To bring about a closer association of Clubs and Societies devoted to the study of Earth Sciences and the practice of Lapidary Arts and Crafts in the Southeast part of the United States.

OBJECTIVE:

To cooperate with similar Federations to promote public interest in the Earth Sciences and the conservation of natural resources.

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EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

I have been getting quite a few emails recently regarding receipt or in most cases, non-receipt, of mailed copies of the *Lodestar*. Article III, Section 8, Paragraph B of the SFMS By-Laws states, "The Editor shall distribute one (1) copy of each issue of the federation Newsletter to the **President, Secretary, Editor and Program Chairman of each member Club or Society of the Federation;** members of the Executive Board, State Directors, Committee Chairmen and Committee members, and to other persons who are active in the programs of the Federation, as they are requested or become known. The Editor shall also distribute copies to Officers of other Federations of like aims and purposes." The current *Lodestar* mailing list /electronic notification of posting on the SFMS website includes the four officers of each individual SFMS member Club/Society that is current with regards to its membership enrollment (paperwork and dues, etc.); current SFMS Board and Committee members; select other Federation officers/editors (including the AFMS); past SFMS presidents; other select persons active in the programs of the SFMS; paid subscribers; elected lifetime subscribers; and other exchange bulletins.

I have the SFMS Webmaster post an electronic version of the *Lodestar* on the SFMS website by the 10th of the month of publication. I try to have the hard copies of the same month's publication mailed by the 13th of the month. Please notify me if you are not receiving either a mailed copy of the *Lodestar* by the end of the month of publication or an notification of electronic posting by the 10th of the month (*Lodestar* is not published in June or August) if you are one of the persons listed above on the mailing list. Please make sure that your Club/Society has renewed its SFMS membership before notifying me. If you are not one of the person's listed above, you can subscribe to the *Lodestar* using the form at the back of this issue or as posted on the website. If you have access to the internet you can also download the current issue after the 10th of the month for free.

The post office has also been very slow in delivering some of the hard copies. If you have internet access, please download a copy of the *Lodestar* from the website and let me know when you receive your copy in the mail. Better yet, save your federation some money and opt out of the hard copy and ask to be place on the electronic notification list and download it from the website as soon as it become available. Thank you to the 107 persons opting to go electronically.

Please be patient at this time of year; Joan White, SFMS Membership Chairman, and I are updating the mailing list to include new member Club/Society information based on the 2006 membership renewals.

Carolyn Daniels, SFMS Editor

promote our hobby as well as consigning her wire wrap items at her local hospital gift shop. We received a letter from Elizabeth's Club president telling of the many ways that Elizabeth contributes to her Club. We know that Elizabeth will make good use of her week at a workshop and will write to tell us about it later in the year. CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, ELIZABETH.

FUTURE ROCKOUNDS OF AMERICA

This article is a reminder that youth have an opportunity to be members of the Future Rockhounds of America sponsored by the AFMS Youth Program.

How to Become A Member of the FRA, the AFMS Youth Program:

1. Your group must be a member of your regional federation. This can be either through a sponsoring club or through an independent application to your regional federation.
2. Dues only have to be paid to the regional federation and thus into AFMS. There are no special dues for FRA.
3. The number of youth is not important... you can have as few as 2 and as many as you can handle.
4. Age: In most clubs the age at which one becomes an adult is 18.

It is simple: there is no mystery to joining. Just fill out the application below and mail it in. We are here to help you.

*Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resources Co-Chairmen*

FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA – APPLICATION FORM

Please fill out the following questionnaire:

Name of Youth Group _____

Sponsoring Adult Group _____

Federation: Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Year Organized: _____ Current Number of Members _____

Mail to: Kathy & Bob Miller
1106 Clayton Drive, South Bend IN 46614

**SFMS YOUTH RESOURCES REPORT
2006 SFMS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The Youth Resources Committee Chairmen are pleased to announce that Elizabeth Siegfried is recipient of a 2006 Youth SFMS Workshop Scholarship. Elizabeth has attended SFMS workshops in the past both as self pay and as scholarship recipient. She has used her knowledge to

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