PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I ride (typing, not driving!) through Virginia after a quick weekend in Vienna visiting family, I regret having to work five days per week. The job is challenging and rewarding (teaching earth science to 8th graders), but it certainly curtails weekday travel to visit club meetings. After school activities close, meetings that are more than an hour away are out of reach. This limits my visitation to the greater metro Atlanta area. When I became President, I intended to visit as many clubs as possible. My enthusiasm has not abated, just my available travel time.

My situation brings to mind very acutely the responsibilities of our State Directors. Their job is to visit all their state’s clubs. The personal touch connecting the Federation often rests solely in the State Directors’ visits. These contacts let our member clubs know that they are more than just numbers and membership dues. As I regretfully watch the year’s meetings go past without my presence, I am very thankful that our State Directors are able to keep in touch with their clubs. We offer our Directors our sincere gratitude for helping to keep our Federation connected.

Of course, a Director’s visit may be viewed with some trepidation. One Director related a different reception to an unannounced visit. Part of the way through the meeting, a club member gathered the courage to ask why the State Director was visiting. There may have been concern that the Director might be spying on the club or plotting some nefarious deeds! All fears were calmed and the meeting ended with good feelings all around.

Currently we have a State Director for all of our members’ states. This is the first time in several years that we have a full slate of Directors. Please volunteer to help your State Director with visiting clubs in your area. Several states are too large for one person to cover and all Directors can use assistance with spreading the news of SFMS.

If your club has questions or wants the latest news about the Federation, please invite your State Director(s) to attend the next convenient meeting. I know that they will be happy to schedule a visit to your club.

Respectfully submitted,
William (Bill) G. Waggener, SFMS President

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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'd like to thank everyone for submitting their articles on time this month (some with a little prompting). Hopefully, this issue of the Lodestar reached you in a timely manner. For some reason, the mail was a little slow last month and most people did not receive their Lodestar until almost the last day of September. Submitting your articles by the 25th of the month preceding the month you want it to be published will help much in getting the issues to the recipients in a timely manner.

I have a special request of the SFMS officers and chairmen, please submit a copy of your annual reports (preferably electronically, if possible) when you submit them to Betty James, SFMS secretary. This will insure that I have a copy to publish in the issue of Lodestar following the annual meeting. (Assuming of course, that I am re-elected.)

Once again, please keep our members affected by the recent hurricanes in your thoughts and prayers. We hope that the remainder of the 2004 hurricane season will be peaceful.

Sincerely,
Carolyn L. Daniels, Lodestar Editor

SFMS LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

SFMS members may submit suggestions and recommendations to the Long Range Planning Committee for consideration prior to October 15, 2004.

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YOUTH RESOURCES REPORT

October is a busy month for our youth who have been working toward the JOY award. The criterion is to be completed by the 31st of October 2004 and submitted by the end of November 2004.

It is not too late to get a copy of the criteria, as printed in the January 2004 edition of the Lodestar or by calling us at 727.894.2440. The winner will be announced at the annual SFMS meeting in Atlanta in December and the award will be presented at that time.

We are eager to read about what our youth have been doing this year, so please send us your forms soon.

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resources Chairpersons

NOMINATIONS FOR SFMS OFFICERS

The following individuals are nominated by the SFMS nominating committee for open officer positions in 2005:

President - Eileen Price
1st Vice President - Ann Monroe
2nd Vice President - Buddy Shotts
Secretary - Betty James
Ass't Treasurer - David Katts
Editor - Carolyn Daniels

Elections for the above positions by the Federation Board of Directors will occur at the 2004 Annual Meeting in December 2004.

Ron Denton
Nominating Committee Chair

A Little Known Fact:

The world's strongest adhesive is barnacle glue that the barnacle uses to stick itself to the side of a ship or whatever. Chill it to 0° F, it still won't crack. No solvent known breaks it down. The holding power of a speck of it is rated at three tons per square inch. Now that's some glue, but it is not on the market!

from Petrified Digest (4/97) via Chats and Chips (9/04)
Let’s Play a Game!

One of the activities in a youth group that adds fun and knowledge about rocks and minerals is to play games. You can begin and/or end a gathering of youth with a game. Any time rocks and minerals are used, they should be identified and some of their properties discussed.

Try a relay race with two teams in lines. Each team is given a stone which will be carried on the head or foot without dropping it by the first player to a designated line and returned to the next player who will in turn continue the race until all have had a turn. The team who has had all members have a turn first, wins. If the stone is dropped the player may stop and put it in place and continue. The team must determine the name of the rock before playing the game.

You can hide rocks and let your players find them. If they can not identify what they find, they must leave it where they found it for someone else to find. When the rocks are all found, the finders will tell the other players about the rocks they have found.

You can lay several rocks out on the table and have the youth put them in alphabetical order, which is how they learn the rock names, how to spell them, and some of their properties.

Make up flash cards with names of rocks, minerals, gemstones, geological times, etc. on them and see who can get the cards in the right categories. They can work as a group or compete as individuals.

These are just a few ideas that have popped into my head and I am sure you can use your imagination or recruit the imaginations of the youth to create more games. Older youth can be very helpful in junior leadership roles and may even learn something too. HAVE FUN!

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resources Chairpersons