

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXIX/Eight

October 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Upcoming DMC Field Trip: October 23, 2004- Yates Brooks, Shelby, NC. Green mica "books" and single crystals. Sponsored by the Charlotte (NC) Gem and Mineral Club. Check your local club newsletter for details.

"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!"



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.

SFMS Workshop Update: The 2005 SFMS Workshop Schedule is on page 5 of this issue of Lodestar.

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Respectfully submitted ,

William (Bill) G. Waggener, SFMS President

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 ontime 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.

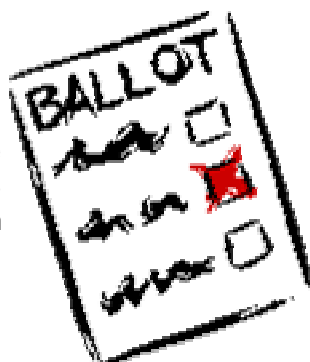
We are eager to read about what our youth have been doing this year, so please send us your forms soon.

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



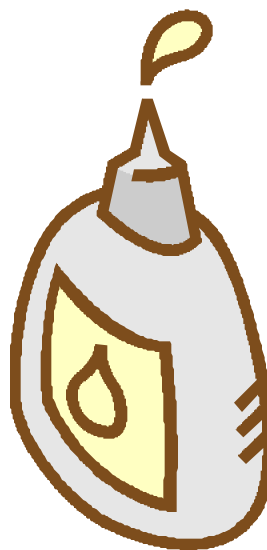
Elections for the above positions by the Federation Board of Directors will occur at the 2004 Annual Meeting in December 2004.

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)



October 2004

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.



LAST CALL FOR STAMP DONATIONS!!

We are fast nearing the cut-off time for stamp donations to be counted for this year. Granted, the annual meeting is later than usual this year, but we still need the stamps to be in early for two reasons. One reason being that we need time to check them and get them in order for sale. However, the main reason is, this has been the worst year we have ever had for the SFMS Stamp Program. We have received very few stamps when compared to years past, and what we have received have been of lesser quality than usual. At one time, two thirds of the SFMS member clubs were participating. At present, we have 33 clubs who have donated stamps this year, more than half of them have made only one donation weighing only five or six ounces. At one time, I was getting 20 or 30 pounds of stamps at each board meeting. I have received less than 10 pounds of stamps at the last three SFMS meetings combined!

In the last four years we have awarded 40 scholarships to attend workshops at William Holland and Wildacres. Many of these people probably would not have attended classes otherwise. This year we are going to be extremely lucky to be able to award five scholarships unless we get a lot of stamp donations in the next two months.

One good thing has happened this year since we started giving double credit for stamps removed from paper, in addition to saving me a lot of time, I have been able to get more for the stamps we have sold. We get on the average of \$30.00 per pound for large commemorative stamps and about \$6.50 per pound for the small definitive stamps. I rarely sell the commemorative stamps in bulk anymore. They are made up in small packets and sold that way on E-Bay. The un-canceled stamps are where we make most of our income since these bring us 50 to 60 percent of their face value. Most collectors desire the clean un-canceled stamps for their collections; unfortunately, some clubs are holding many of these stamps back. I had one club ask if it is OK to use them for their club mailings. My advice is not to do it, I am sure it is being done, but it is a violation of Federal Law to re-use postage stamps even though it visually appears that they have not been canceled.

The SFMS Annual Meeting is the 11th of December this year, which means that the cut off date for clubs to receive

credit on stamp donations this year is October 25, 2004. Please give all donations to me before that date. If they are removed from paper, that's great, but don't hold your donations back because they have not been removed from paper. We need the sales badly this year!!

The last two or three years I had something to offer on E-Bay every other week, if not every week. I have only had four auctions this entire year. I had nothing this week! At this time, I am trying to soak enough old foreign stamps to offer for auction next week. So, people, **Please put me back to work!!**

Jim Robinson
SFMS Stamp Program Chairman

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