

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXIX/Five

May/June 2004

Upcoming DMC Field Trips: May 22 & 23, 2004 - Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine (May 22) and Baker Mountain Kyanite Mine (May 23), both near Farmville, VA. Sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. **-AND- June 5, 2004** - Chunky Gal Knob, Clay County, NC (Nantahala National Forest). Sponsored by the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Cornelia, GA). Check your local club newsletter for details.

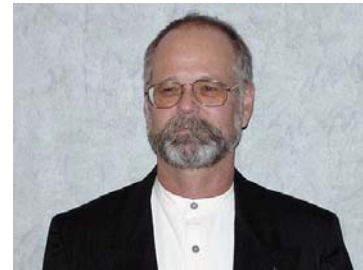
"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this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

IMPORTANT Workshop Update: Some unfortunate errors crept into the Workshop Announcements in the April Lodestar. Tom Wilkie's class was listed twice and Kathy Morris' class was left out. Please note that Kathy Morris is scheduled to teach Seed Beading at the September 13-19, 2004 Wildacres Workshop Session.

Two courses have been canceled at the June 13-19, 2004 SFMS workshop session at William Holland. Soapstone Carving and Seed Beading were both canceled because of insufficient enrollment. We hope that those who want to take the Seed Beading course will sign up at Wildacres in September. Soapstone Carving will be offered again in the future.

The cancellation notices and any other workshop changes will be sent to all members of the workshop email list. All registration forms and the most up-to-date information on SFMS Workshops are always available on the SFMS Website at: www.amfed.org/sfms.

Fred Sias, SFMS Education Chairman



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all:

At the risk of repeating old news, I am very pleased to see that SFMS has continuing insurance. Many hours of hard work and smoking

phones resulted in a new insurance agent and a new insurance company. I hope that no one in the near future has to undertake a similar venture.

I am very pleased to see the William Holland and Wildacres workshops are well on their way to serving students during the upcoming summer and fall seasons. The instructors and class offerings are excellent. Now we need to fill the classes and let folks learn new things or improve the skills they already have. I hope you all take the opportunity this year to attend a workshop.

New blood in any group often sparks self-inspection by that group. Our By-Laws and Constitution and Procedure Guidebooks are currently being examined and discussed by a number of folks. This appears to me to be a healthy introduction to the By-Laws and Constitution Review Committee's scheduled for next year. Lively discussions force us to examine closely who we are and how we wish for others to see us. We may also take care of typos, spelling, and uniformity corrections to our documents. I look forward to continued dialog among many persons as we approach the 2005 Review.

The new Lodestar puts an outstanding positive light upon the Federation. On-line versions in color certainly present a new face to the public. Web access to the Lodestar at NO additional cost to SFMS improves our public image and gives us the opportunity to introduce new people to our hobby. The hard copy continues to spread the word and will continue to do so.

The Mayo Foundation is considering applications for next year's scholarships. Outstanding candidates are vying for limited funds. The scholarship funds will be well spent, regardless of how they are distributed.

The arrangements for the upcoming Annual meeting in Atlanta are in full swing. SFMS will once again have an outstanding Show and Meeting. Please make your plans to attend.

Lastly, I am so proud of the work that our members and member clubs do all of the time. Sometimes the effort is not recognized or is over-looked. Please be assured that everyone benefits from your efforts. If you know of some person or club that needs to be recognized and thanked, let me or a Federation officer know, so that we can share their successes with the SFMS.

*Respectfully submitted,
William G. (Bill) Waggener*

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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

Once again, this newsletter was mailed late. This was primarily due to the fact that as of the April 25th deadline, there had been exactly two articles submitted for publication. Please remember that the NEW deadline is the 25th of the month prior to the issue you wish your article to appear. The next issue of Lodestar is the July/August combined issue. Therefore, the next Lodestar article deadline is JUNE 25, 2004. The next issue of the newsletter will be very slim if I do not receive your submissions by that date!

On another note, the 2004 SFMS directories have been printed and several were distributed at the May SFMS Board Meeting. Directories are provided to the following persons automatically: Current SFMS officers, directors and committee chairs; member club presidents, editors, program chairs, and secretaries; and other federation presidents and editors. Your club president or other SFMS representative may have picked yours up, please contact them to find out. The remaining directories were mailed out on May 17, 2004. I expect them to be in everyone's hands within a month of that date. Please let me know if you are one of the above listed members and do not receive at least one copy as of June 30, 2004.

It has come to my attention that some copies of the new directory may have been mistakenly picked up by the wrong persons at the board meeting. Each directory had a mailing label. Please look at the mailing labels on each of the directories you picked up, if you picked one up mistakenly, let me know so that I can make arrangements to deliver it to the correct person. Also, if you were eligible to receive more than one copy of the directory and received at least one copy, please consider making do with the one copy you received. I did not make a significant number of extra copies and cannot mail individual copies at the non-profit mailing rate.

For those of you not on the above automatic receipt list who wish to order a copy of the 2004 directory for a small fee, you may do so until supplies run out through Reba Shotts, SFMS Supplies Chair.

Carolyn L. Daniels, Lodestar Editor

Internet Website Update:

There were many significant additions made to the SFMS Internet Web presence this past federation quarter.

We have had several updates to the SFMS William Holland Workshop and SFMS Wildacres Workshop on-line information pages. We have reformatted and updated the SFMS Constitution and Bylaws in PDF format and in MS/Word 2000 DOC and RTF formats. Also added PDF versions of the SFMS Slide and Video catalog to the web site.

The most important addition to the SFMS website this quarter was the addition of the SFMS 2004 Directory of clubs in PDF format for all to view and print. We took this new information from the Directory and completely updated the SFMS 2004 club show listings and all of the contact information for all SFMS member clubs.

We continue to add to the electronic "LODESTAR" page where all SFMS members can now read and download the current copy of our federation newsletter. We also have provided an historical database of past "Lodestar" newsletters in PDF format starting with the January 2004 issue.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Flora, SFMS Webmaster*

Education Chairman's Report

May 1, 2004

The first SFMS Workshop of the season is now underway at Wildacres. We filled every space that was allocated to the Federation and shared the Retreat with another workshop group. The total count was 68 persons after a last minute cancellation due to illness.

I have just been informed (April 29, 2004) that the June session at William Holland is practically full with an enrollment of 43 students. There is space available in the campground.

May 3rd is the initial enrollment date for the August, September, and October workshop sessions. We would like to remind everyone that the best way to be assured of a specific class, is to have your registration forms submitted on the first permissible registration day since students have a priority based on the postmark on their registration submission.

During the past couple of years we have had trouble filling all of our Federation workshops. We realize that there have been conflicts such as scheduling over Easter. It is important to support the Federation workshops since we are always in danger of losing some of the rooms to another group or of having the specific workshop canceled completely. If there are other reasons that SFMS members are dissatisfied with the workshop curriculum, we would like to know. Input from the Federation Membership is always welcome since it helps us with year-to-year planning.

Each year the Education Committee finds it necessary to cancel Workshop classes because the enrollment is insufficient to financially support the classes. It might be desirable to explain the logic behind such cancellations to the SFMS membership because the financial constraints we face may force a reconsideration of some of our current Workshop policies. The Education Chair would like to make changes by consensus rather than by edict.

Most federation members probably have little concern with the SFMS budget and are probably not aware that the five Federation Workshops are a major source of income for the Federation. In fact, at the present time the Federation could not function without the income from the workshops. ***The dues received from the member clubs account for less than half of the Federation budget.*** Each year the members approve this budget at the annual Meeting. Let's look at the numbers and how they affect the way the Workshops are run.

As a starting point it might be worth looking at the income: according to the budget approximately \$7600 will be received in dues from member clubs and \$7500 will be received as profit at the end of the year from the William Holland and Wildacres Workshops. The only other Federation income is from interest received on CD's held by the Federation and from the sale of a small number of supplies. These total only about \$850. Using the above numbers it is possible to see that ***47 percent or almost half the income of the entire Federation is brought in by the workshops.*** The dues amount to less than half of the Federation income and this is insufficient to cover all of the expenses of the officers and chairpersons. It should be obvious that anything that affects the net proceeds of the workshops will have a major effect on the financial status of the Federation. ***It should also be obvious that the Workshops are not an "expense" of the Federation but rather are a significant source of Federation income.***

A look at the budget shows that the budgeted net cost of our newsletter, the *Lodestar*, is currently \$6,850 or 43 percent of our income - a little less than the net income from our workshops. Other publications are budgeted at \$1,700; thus Federation publications account for over half of the Federation expenses. It would not be desirable for the *Lodestar* budget to be seriously constrained by a significant loss in net Workshop income. This discussion has been expanded somewhat in the April issue of the *Lodestar*.

Fred Sias, SFMS Education Chair



SFMS YOUTH RESOURCES

We are often asked how clubs can stimulate the interest of the youth in our hobby. We have listened to what other clubs are doing and in sharing these ideas, maybe something will seem just right for your club. So here are some ways to encourage the youth to come to meetings. First, of course, it is necessary to have at least one enthusiastic and knowledgeable adult who will be consistently responsible to plan the program and lead the group. Other adult members or parents are asked to be helpers.

At our club show we have a table set up with interest for the youth and someone is at that table to talk about our Youth Club and have the young folks sign up with a phone number and email address. There are no age restrictions, but the children usually are between 5 and 14 years of age. Also, you can contact the local public school administration and ask that every science teacher and elementary teacher receive an email to share with her class about the Youth Club and encourage the teachers to ask for a speaker to come to their class (we can promote our club at that time). You can ask to have posters at libraries and park centers and can speak to Girl Scout or Boy Scout groups or other community youth groups, especially those who are working on badges. One club provides a week of summer activities like a Rock Camp, which has become very popular in the community.

There should be a time set aside for just the youth to gather. Our club has a youth meeting at 6:30 P.M., one hour before the regular meeting. The leader only has one night out and other members are more eager to come help just by coming an hour early.

The format your group takes is entirely up to the leadership and interest of the youth. The children may be seated around a table and discussions conducted in a classroom-like atmosphere. We suggest that there be a planned topic or learning experience, a rock swap opportunity, a show and tell (it is amazing what we all learn from the youth), a group table game, and a rock given to each attendee at each meeting. Refreshments are always a welcomed addition, but not absolutely necessary.

Next month we will discuss some sources of materials you can use to plan the topic for the meeting as well as some game ideas. When a club is well-established, there are other activities they may want to participate in. One club publishes their own newsletter and others have regular articles in the club bulletin. Family field trips are always a fun learning time. There are so many things the youth will enjoy doing when they realize there are others interested also.

If your club has ideas to share, please let us know. And a special thank you for all who work with our youth!

Hugh and Leona Sheffield, SFMS Youth Resources Chairmen

SFMS SUPPLIES CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENT:

Reba Shotts will be "Out-of-Pocket" from June 1, 2004 through the beginning of September 2004. Please make sure your requests for supplies, etc. are made before June 1, 2004. Requests received after that date will not be mailed until mid-September 2004.

verbally submitted to the editor by Reba Shotts

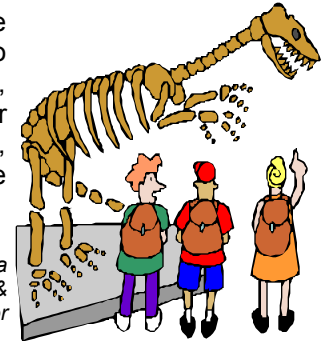
WEINMAN MINERAL MUSEUM

I-75 Exit 293 at Hwy 411
* 770.386.0576*

www.weinmanmuseum.org

SPECIAL EVENT - 16th Annual ROCKFEST! Saturday, June 12, 2004

This popular event features mineral, gem and fossil dealers showcasing their wares on the grounds of the museum. Free admission to the museum, a silent auction, a sale in the gift shop, door prizes, mineral identification, food and family fun add to the festive atmosphere.



*from Jose Santamaria
Georgia Mineral Society Member &
Weinman Mineral Museum Director*

SFMS Field Trip Committee: "DMC FIELD TRIP PROGRAM REPORT"

The DMC field trip program conducted three field trips this past SFMS session. On Saturday, March 13, 2004. The GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE PALM BEACHES, INC hosted a field trip to the CARGILL PHOSPHATE MINE near Tampa, Florida. Participating clubs found sharks teeth, shells, marine life from fish to mammals - large and small specimens from tiny teeth to whale vertebrates, sting ray, dugong fossils. On Sunday, March 14, 2004, everyone was invited to attend the Tampa Bay Fossil Club Show, on the Florida State Fairgrounds

The April 17, 2004 DMC trip was sponsored by the KYANA Geological Society (Louisville, KY). This DMC club hosted a trip to the CORYDON QUARRY in Corydon, IN for pink dolomite, calcite, fluorite, millerite, barite, and quartz. The afternoon field trip was to the SULPHUR ROAD-CUT for blastoids, crinoid heads, *Archimedes* bryozoans, brachiopods and a few trilobites.

In May, the Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc led two field trips. On Saturday, May 22, 2004 to Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine to collect kyanite, pyrite, red mica, muscovite, hematite coated kyanite, quartz and some rare apatite, trolleite, augelite, enargite, topaz, lazulite, variscite and goyazite. The second field trip on Sunday, May 23rd. was to the Baker Mountain kyanite mine for blue kyanite crystals, quartz, pyrite, green mica (fuchsite), red mica (iron stained).

The SFMS Field Trip Committee added the High Point Mineral Club (High Point, NC) to it's list of member clubs. The DMC currently has 33 member clubs in the DMC field trip sharing program

*Respectfully submitted,
Jim Flora, SFMS Field Trip Committee Chairman*