

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

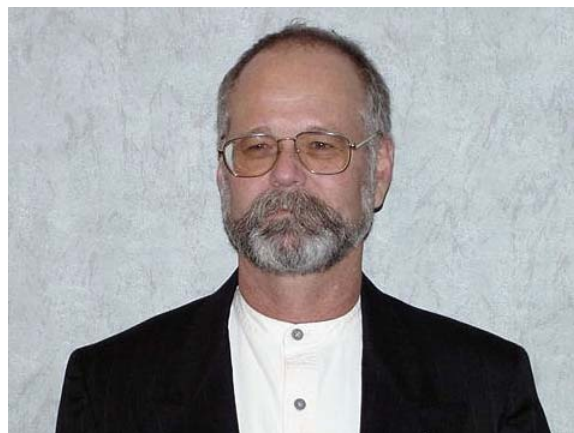
Volume XXIX/Seven

September 2004

Upcoming DMC Field Trip: September 18, 2004- Vulcan Materials Quarry, Parsons, TN. Marine invertebrate fossils such as corals, crinoids, brachiopods, sponges and trilobites. Sponsored by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. 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!"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to SFMS members and friends,

This summer has been full to over-flowing. My recovery after my first year teaching in the public secondary school system proceeded slowly. There was no simply sleep and rest time. SFMS business in New York at the AFMS meeting combined with a family reunion in Canada occupied most of June and July. Finishing school responsibilities on 3 June and returning to school on 26 July left little time to lie around and do nothing. But much was seen and collected and many AFMS friendships were renewed or begun. I enjoy the travel and enjoy even more returning to the southeast.

The AFMS business meeting was business as usual. Recognition of bulletins and authors included many awards going to SFMS club editors, articles, and authors. The banquet Saturday evening was well-attended by officers, delegates, and local club members.

In all, it was a good (if short) summer. The fall is quickly arriving to bring cool collecting weather and excellent workshops in the mountains. I look forward to seeing everyone in Norcross, GA on 11 and 12 December at the SFMS/GMS Annual meeting and Show.

*Best wishes to all,
William (Bill) G. Waggener, SFMS President*

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| SFMS Officers and State Directors | 2 |
| Editor's Ramblings | 3 |
| Views of the 2004 AFMS Annual Meeting and Banquet | 3 |
| Annual AFMS Scholarship Meeting Report | 3 |
| Junior Gem and Mineral Clubs Have Fun Learning | 4 |
| AFMS Bulletin/Article contest Winners | 4 |
| Wildacres Report | 5 |
| SFMS Long Range Planning Committee | 5 |
| Nominations for SFMS Officers | 5 |
| Class Openings for William Holland Lapidary School | 5 |
| Lawsuit to Challenge Neww Forest Service Regulations | 6 |
| 2004 SFMS Directory Corrections | 6 |
| 2004/2005 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Awards | 7 |
| Club Newsletter Editors (A Request from Scribe) | 7 |
| Mayo Education Foundation, Inc. Memorials & Honors Donations | 8 |
| Workshop Information and Applications | 9 |
| SFMS Annual Meeting Details, Reservation Form, etc. | 13 |
| First Annual Oktoberfest and Pot Luck Picnic (N. MS Gem & Mineral Society) | 17 |
| After Action Report: Ashland Garnet Trip | 17 |
| Looking Ahead | 18 |
| 2004 SFMS Committee Chairmen & Mayo Foundation Officers/ Directors | 19 |
| Lodestar Subscription Form | 20 |

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

Not a lot to say this month. However, I do want to thank two of the committee chairmen that sent me articles on diskette. They do not have connections to the Internet, but do type and format their articles on computers. Being able to copy and paste their articles helped me out tremendously. All I had to do was worry about editing for grammar/spelling and trying to fit their articles into the available space. One of the committee chairmen even gave me files of articles for the next two issues of Lodestar. If more of you would like to submit your articles by mailing files on diskette, let me know. I can provide you with blank floppy diskettes and mailers.

Please remember our Florida members affected by Hurricanes Charley and Frances in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
Carolyn L. Daniels, *Lodestar* Editor

VIEWS OF THE 2004 AFMS ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET



ANNUAL AFMS SCHOLARSHIP MEETING REPORT

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation (the Foundation) Annual Meeting of the Members and of the Board of Directors was held in Syracuse on July 8, 2004. The Foundation reported that the 80+-year old former Treasurer was serving a term of confinement and would be released on July 19, 2004. Then he would begin paying his fine of \$250 per month to the court until \$72,000 was repaid to the Foundation.

During the course of new business, by-law changes were introduced and passed. One change affecting the SFMS concerned defining the Members of the Foundation. The change essentially added one word to the definition: "participating". The Foundation is now made of Officers and Directors of "participating Federations" President Dee Holland in his discussion of the proposed change recognized that although SFMS and its member clubs did not contribute sufficient funds to receive scholarships from the Foundation, SFMS had an active Scholarship program. The reasoning presented for the change was that non-contributing Member Federations should not have a vote in the management or distribution of funds. After discussion, a hand vote to approve the change resulted in 14 yea and 3 nay votes. A caveat in the change allows for discussion and negotiation with the President and Board of Directors leading to inclusion as Members of the Foundation.

The changes become effective at the beginning of the next fiscal year. I feel that this is an unfortunate, unnecessary change by the Foundation. I do believe that the SFMS is recognized as an important viable member Federation of AFMS. I understand that the level of contributions necessary to become a participating Federation in the Foundation is \$50,000. SFMS member clubs have contributed less than \$3,000. All clubs are encouraged to support the educational efforts of their choosing. In my opinion, the money could be better used to increase the Mayo Educational Foundation and directly benefit students of the SFMS.

This account is to the best of my recollection and notes. The minutes of the meeting are available, and I will be pleased to share them with all interested members.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Waggener, SFMS President



Top Photograph: Jim Robinson (second from left), AFMS 1st Vice President and SFMS Stamp Program Chairman hard at work at the annual meeting July 8, 2004

Bottom Left Photograph: SFMS members (Left to Right) Awilda and Jim Robinson, Joan White and Bill Waggener (SFMS President) at the AFMS Annual Banquet on July 10, 2004.

Bottom Right Photograph: (Left to Right) Joan White and Betty James (SFMS Secretary) at the AFMS Annual Banquet on July 10, 2004.

Photographs provided by Bill Waggener

JUNIOR GEM AND MINERAL CLUBS HAVE FUN LEARNING

We wish that every club could sponsor a Junior Club and enjoy the young folks who are so eager to learn about our hobby. We are excited because some Clubs have made enquiries about having programs for their youth. The May/June Lodestar had several suggestions about programs for the youth. I promised more information in the next issue, so here we go.

Many youth groups award badges for achievement in areas of interest. There are excellent activities and badges that are reasonably priced for our hobby available through:

Diamond Dan Publications
P.O. Box 143
Manchester, New York, 14504.

The contact person is Darryl at (585)289-4936 or E Mail
hdpowell@eznet.nct

Our club has discovered the "Earth Digger Club" activities from Diamond Dan Publication to be very helpful and practical and the badges are of excellent quality. Darryl will be happy to send you literature to help you decide if you can use them. Be sure to tell him you learned about him through us. The coloring book can be a great beginning resource around which to plan your first lessons. It can take several meetings to complete. Each of the other activity book suggestions will also take several meetings to complete so that the badges will only be given two or three times a year, possibly at a special occasion, not every month.

You may know of someone who can make simple vests, (with patch pockets, of course) on which to sew the patches. The youth can then wear their vests to meetings, shows and workshops.

I strongly encourage you to be in contact with Darryl. You will not be disappointed.

Games will be discussed in a future edition of this column. In the meantime, use your imaginations and adapt games from your youth. They were fun then and they still are. Children of all ages love games and games are a wonderful way to interact and learn.

Hugh and Leona Sheffield, SFMS Youth Resource Committee

Here's a Tip:

An aluminum scribe is often used with a template to outline stones. This same scribe can give you an idea as to the hardness of a particular stone. If you can see the mark but have to look carefully, the stone is about a 7 on the Mohs scale. If the mark is very bold, the stone is about a 5 on the Mohs scale. If the mark cannot be seen, the stone is more than a 7 on the Mohs scale.

*from Ft. Lewis Rock Club New (date unknown)
via Canaveral Moonstone (9/04)*

AFMS BULLETIN/ARTICLE CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our SFMS Editors and Authors who received national recognition at the American Federation convention's Editors Awards Breakfast in Syracuse NY on July 11, 2004:



1st Place Mini-Bulletins -
Lowcountry Diggings, Mark
Easterbrook

1st Place Large Bulletins - *Tips and Trips*, editor
Carolyn Daniels

1st Place Advanced Articles - Michael Wilson for
Oxygen, King of the Mineral World

2nd Place Poetry - Irene Madrak for *Rockin' U.S.A.*

3rd Place Small Bulletins - *Hound's Howl*, editor
Barbara Fenstermacher

4th Place Advanced Articles - Julian Gray for
Enhydro: Terminology That's All Wet

5th Place Adult Articles - Dorothy Hussey for *Kyanite*

7th Place Large Bulletins - *The Mountain Gem*, editor
Linda Behr

8th Place Junior Articles (Age 12-17) - Elizabeth
Siegfried for *My Trip to William Holland*

10th Place Poetry - Nancy Rojas for *Sapphire Garden*

10th Place Adult Articles - Roger Van Cleef for
*Napoleon's Lost Army: Gravesite Uncovered in
Lithuania*

Honorable Mention went to an additional seven SFMS
entries.

A special **Judges Award** was given to Mike Baldwin for
MAGS Explorer, a Junior Bulletin.

There were a total of 134 entries in eleven categories from the seven Regional Federations in the AFMS contests. Of these, 91 received "Top Ten" honors. SFMS had entries in eight of the categories. [No Special Publications, Junior Poetry or Junior Articles (Ages under 12)].

To qualify for AFMS entry, a bulletin, article or poem must be in the "Top Three" in its Regional competition. So now you all know who some of our SFMS trophy winners will be when our awards are announced at our Editors Awards Breakfast on December 12, 2004 in Atlanta. By the way, since the judges are different, the actual placements may **not** be the same. Come to the breakfast to find out who got what!

Diane Dare, SFMS Bulletin Contest Chairman