

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXIX/Four

April 2004

Upcoming DMC Field Trip:

April 17, 2004 - Corydon Quarry and Sulphur Road-Cut near Corydon, IN for crystallized pink dolomite, calcite and other associated minerals and Late Mississippian fossils. Sponsored by the Kyana Geological Society of Louisville, KY. Check your local club newsletter for details.

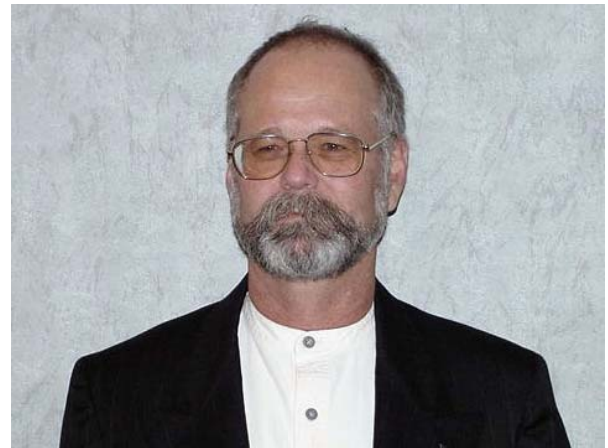
"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this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

Workshop Update: Seed Beading has been canceled for the April Wildacres Workshop Session. This is due to inadequate enrollment. Note that the Seed Beading class scheduled in September is not affected by this announcement. Please see a discussion of why classes get cancelled in the Education Chairman's column of this issue of Lodestar.

Note that classes are still available at the April session. Please get in touch with the registrar if you would like to take a course. Two rooms are available, but we expect the rooms to be assigned to another workshop group if our overall enrollment doesn't improve very soon.

Please take a look at the updated William Holland announcement in this issue. Some errors crept into the updated version published in the March 2004 Lodestar.

Fred Sias, SFMS Education Chairman



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Members,

I am pleased to announce that SFMS has a new insurance policy effective with no lapse in coverage. The Snellings Walters Insurance Agency in Atlanta are our agents and the Cincinnati Insurance Company is the underwriter. The cost to the clubs is \$1.15 per member and \$175 per show. Dottie Elam, SFMS Insurance Liaison Chair, will be reissuing the opportunity to participate in our insurance program very soon. If any clubs have immediate needs, please have them contact Dottie at 334.887.5356 to arrange certificates.

Thank you all for your help and support during this latest scramble. Special thanks to Betty James, Ken Anderson, Dottie Elam, Ann Monroe, Don Monroe, Leo Morris and Edna Morris for taking the time on VERY short notice to meet with Clay Snellings of Snellings Walters. Our optimism has won and we can continue providing a valued service to our members.

Hope to see everyone in Charleston on May 1st.

*Best wishes,
Bill
William G. 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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The article submittal due date for the May/June 2004 Lodestar is April 25, 2004.

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EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

I have to apologize to all of you regarding the lateness of this issue of the Lodestar. I thought that making an earlier deadline would facilitate the delivery to everyone's home. However, several things conspired against me this month.

March suddenly became a very busy month for me with every weekend taken up with activities for my children and/or my local gem and mineral society activities. This included preparing for the State (Georgia) Science Olympiad Division C (High School) competition at Emory University. For the last several years, the Georgia Mineral Society has been in charge of providing volunteers to man the Fossil or Rock and Mineral individual event, whichever was applicable to the year, and write the questions for the event at the state competition. Twenty eight schools are represented at the competition which were "weeded" out at regional competitions held approximately one month before.

This year's event was Fossils, and I was responsible for writing the majority of the questions and making sure that we had enough volunteers to proctor the event and help grade the tests. It takes me quite a bit of time to write the questions since they couldn't be your "run of the mill" questions, they had to be a true measure of the students' knowledge and abilities. The competitors are some of the brightest high school students in the state. The competition was a little earlier than usual and it caught me right in the middle of preparing this issue of the Lodestar.

In addition, my children accidentally downloaded some unknown programs onto my computer, knocking me off the web for a few days and then making it difficult to stay on for more than a few minutes at a time. I also couldn't open more than one program at a time without getting error messages and losing much of what I had edited or composed during that small amount of time. I think I am close to being back to normal at this time. For all the amazing things that technology can do, it can be a major issue when it lets one down.

I will also state that I am still getting submissions after the deadline, which also makes it difficult to get the Lodestar together and in your hands in a timely manner. Please remember that the next deadline is for the combined issue for May and June and is **April the 25, 2004**. If you are getting this issue after that date and need something in the May/June issue, call or email mail me immediately to let me know! The issue must be in the printers' hands no later than the 1st or 2nd of May.

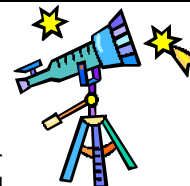
I also will not automatically print officer/committee chair reports unless notified of that officer/committee chair's wish to be published. Let me know what you want to be published!

Once again, I regret the lateness of this issue and hope that you enjoy it. I will do better next month.

Carolyn L. Daniels, Lodestar Editor

A Gem of a Star?...

by Doug Daniels, Georgia Mineral Society Member



I'm willing to bet that every rockhound desires a large diamond crystal for their collection. The largest documented rough diamond crystal found to date weighed about 3100 carats, and yielded the 530-carat Star-of-Africa gem, which is in the Crown Jewels of England. Want to top that? Astronomers believe they have found a much larger gem out amongst the stars.

A group at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics has recently found evidence that a white dwarf star in the constellation Centaurus may have a core of crystallized carbon, or "diamond". A white dwarf is what is left after a star (similar in mass to our Sun) "burns out". The star of interest (technically known as BPM 37093) is about 2500 miles in diameter, and weighs about 5 million trillion trillion pounds. This star, nick-named "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" (after the Beatles song), has been observed by several groups since the late 1990's, because of theories of how white dwarf stars evolve. The conclusion that this particular star has a crystallized carbon core was based on long-term observations of pulsations in the outer layers of the star. This process is similar to observing seismic measurements of the earth to determine the internal structure of our planet (albeit a bit more difficult). The analyses estimate that the core of the star contains a diamond of about 10 billion trillion trillion carats!!!!

Now, that's big. And, before you load up the SUV for a field trip, note that the star is located 50 light-years (or about 300 trillion miles) away (guess you'd better get up early....). And, there are a few other tidbits that should be posited before you book your trip.

First, the scientists only reported that the data suggest a stellar body with a crystallized core. Models of the evolution of a star leading to such a white dwarf suggest the core is composed largely of carbon. Most people assume that crystallized carbon means diamond. Well, graphite is also crystallized carbon. Second, the chemical composition of the core of such a star is not definitely known; it likely contains other elements, and may contain up to 50 percent oxygen (OK, maybe it's a colored diamond?). Third and foremost, the physical conditions within a white dwarf star are much more intense than those found in the interior of the earth. We cannot generate, in our labs, the temperatures and pressures present in the interior of a star. Thus, it may be that the crystalline carbon does not have the diamond structure. And, as one scientist suggested, even if you could go there and get a sample, it would likely explode because of pressure differences. (I forgot to mention there would be an atmosphere of hydrogen and helium surrounding that devilish gem.) Lastly, if meteorites give us any indication, the core would likely be a conglomeration of "diamond" crystals, not a single crystal.

Oh well. As rockhounds, we can always dream....

References:

www.iowastatedaily.com/vnews/display.v/ART/1998/05/26/3bf43e3e0d51a?in_archive=1

www.rednova.com/news/stories/1/2004/02/14/story001.html

from Tips and Trips (4/04)

SECOND QUARTER 2004 SFMS BOARD MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Low Country Gem and Mineral Society will be hosting the second quarter 2004 SFMS Board Meeting on May 1, 2004. Their annual show will be held at the Performing Arts Center in North Charleston during the same weekend. Below are the details regarding accommodations and activities during that weekend.

The SFMS Board meeting will be held on May 1, 2004. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. and the meeting begins at 9:00 A.M.

Carolyn Daniels, Lodestar Editor

Hotel and Meeting Room: Best Western Charleston Airport located at 6099 Fain Street in North Charleston. For reservations call: toll free at 1.866.823.0504 and either ask for reservations or hotel manager Tammy Ward. Please use the code "SFMS Board Meeting" for a special rate of \$72.00 plus tax good through April 6, 2004.

Hotel amenities include dataports, high speed Internet access, coffee/tea maker, hair dryer, ironing board, microwave, refrigerator, full service breakfast in restaurant, laundry, exercise facilities, and free parking.

(The above group room price is actually lower than the Internet price for seniors, AAA, or other rates listed. I checked this myself. If members make reservations via the Internet then that does not get counted toward the 10-room hold and the SFMS could potentially end up partially paying for the meeting room on a sliding scale depending on the number of rooms that are registered from those held. Also, if anyone who wishes to register after the April 6 deadline he/she can do so based on space availability at the hotel group price that was agreed upon. The hotel just cannot hold the rooms past that date.)

DIRECTIONS TO THE BEST WESTERN CHARLESTON AIRPORT

From the North: Take I-26 east to Exit 211A. The Best Western Charleston Airport is located on your right on the frontage road (Fain Street).

From the South: Take US 17 north to I-526 east. Go west on I-26. Get off on Exit 211A or take I-95 north to I-26. Head east and get off at Exit 211A. The hotel is located at the exit.

From the East: Take I-26 west to Exit 211A. The hotel is located at the exit.

From the West: Take US 17 south to I-526 west. Go to I-26 west. Get off on Exit 211A. If you prefer, take I-95 south to I-26 east, and get off on Exit 211A. The hotel is located at the exit.

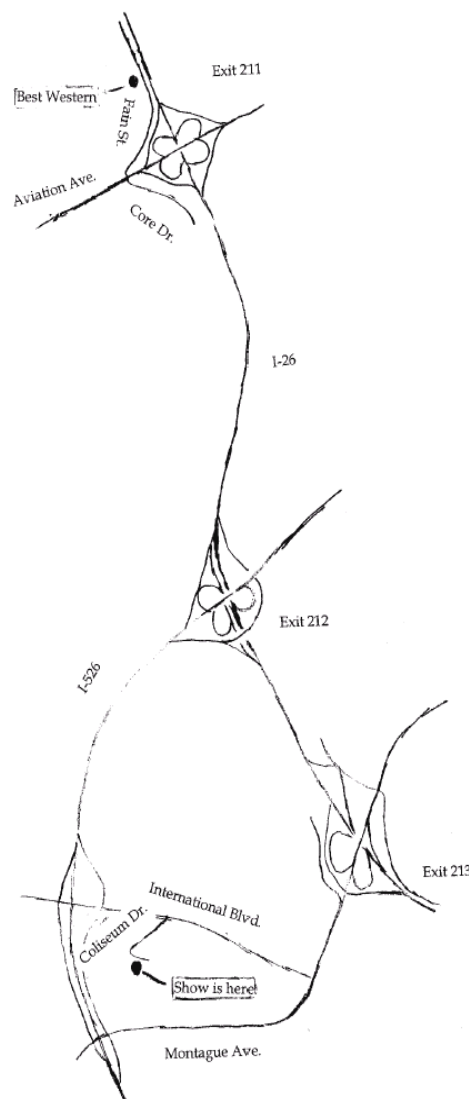
Special Information: The show is part of the North Charleston Performing Arts Festival. Parking and admission are free with flyer. Festival flyers will be available at the board meeting.

DIRECTIONS TO THE SHOW

Traveling to the show from the Best Western: Turn left on Aviation Ave. from Fain Street. Take I-26 east towards Charleston. Take Exit 212B-C/I-526 towards Savannah. You are now on I-526 west. Stay in right lane and take the airport exit (International Blvd.). Turn left on International Blvd. and go 0.4 mile. Turn right at the light - Coliseum Drive. Be sure to show your Performing Arts Festival flyer to parking attendant for free parking and admission. Show is located in Exhibit Hall A.

Full hookup camping is available at Fain's RV Park at I-26 Exit 211A near the Best Western. Call 843.744.1005 for information.

Mark Easterbrook, Low Country Gem & Mineral Society



YOUTH RESOURCES REPORT

Youth SFMS Workshop Scholarships Elizabeth Siegfried and Chelsey Tyler

CONGRATULATIONS to our recipients of the Youth SFMS Workshop Scholarships for 2004, Elizabeth Siegfried and Chelsey Tyler.

Elizabeth is greatly respected in her community for her many areas of involvement in her gem club. She is a collector, especially at field trips, and also loves the lapidary arts. She facets and wire wraps and is eager to learn new skills that the workshops provide. Elizabeth also teaches classes in wire wrapping and goes to area schools to tell about her hobby. She works at the club show and also in the club museum. The skills and interpersonal relationships learned at the workshops will greatly enhance her life and interest in this lifelong avocation. The letter from the president of her club is very descriptive and complimentary. Elizabeth wrote an article and submitted a photo, both of which were published in the January 2004 issue of *Lodestar*. The article relates her enthusiasm about her hobby and the workshop experience.

Chelsey is an active member of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club. She participates in the stamp collecting program and has helped at the club meetings by setting up and tearing down the tables and chairs and serving refreshments. She has also worked at the club show in the ticket booth and demonstrating cabbing. Chelsey has attended several workshop classes and has set up a silver studio in her home. She recently designed and crafted a bracelet for her school auction. She would like to take a casting class in June at William Holland to enhance her jewelry making skills. The president of Chelsey's club has written an enthusiastic and comprehensive letter as a recommendation for Chelsey to receive a scholarship and we know she will greatly benefit by the workshop she attends.



CONGRATULATIONS, ELIZABETH and CHELSEY!!

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resources Chairmen

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

On behalf of SFMS and all the member clubs, I wish to express a very special THANK YOU to Joan White, GMS President, for her long hours and hard work in updating and providing the mail labels for the Lodestar newsletter. She has spent many hours to insure that the Lodestar goes to the correct interested persons all over the country. This is an invisible task that must be done in a timely and conscientious manner.

THANK YOU JOAN!!!

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

BULLETIN AND ARTICLE CONTEST UPDATE



The SFMS judges have completed their work and I know who will get what awards -- but **YOU** won't know until the Editors Awards Breakfast at the convention in December! However, **I can** give you a hint. As you know, the

top three entries in each class not only get SFMS plaques or trophies, they also go on to the AFMS contests to compete with other regional top winners. Those awards will be announced at the AFMS convention in July.

We had a total of 57 entries this year, in 8 of 9 classes (no Special Publications):

Mini Bulletins - 2	Large Bulletins - 3
Small Bulletins - 5	New Editors - 1
Junior Articles - 1	Adult Articles - 31
Advanced Articles - 12	Poems - 2

As a result, 18 entries have been sent to AFMS, including **all** the Mini and Large Bulletins, New Editor, Junior Article and Poetry entries and the top three Small Bulletins, Adult and Advanced Articles. So - some of you now know you won SFMS awards and could win AFMS awards.

The 2003 SFMS Directory indicates that 68 clubs publish a bulletin. Yet only eleven (11) clubs entered the annual contest. That means 57 clubs did not - and I would like to know, **WHY NOT???** The breakdown by state, number of clubs with bulletins, and number entered is:

Alabama - 5,1	Florida, 17,4
Georgia - 9,1	Kentucky - 2,0
Louisiana - 2,0	Mississippi - 5,0
North Carolina - 13, 3	South Carolina - 6,1
Tennessee - 7,1	Virginia - 2,0

I would like to thank the 11 clubs that kept my committee active this year. By the way, of the 57 entries I received, **37** came from the three North Carolina clubs.

Thanks, Tarheels!
Diane Dare
Bulletin Contest Chairman