

# Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXIX/Two

February 2004

**Upcoming DMC Field Trip: February 28, 2004:** Epes, Sumter County, Alabama for marcasite, pyrite nodules and Cretaceous Age fossils. 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!"*

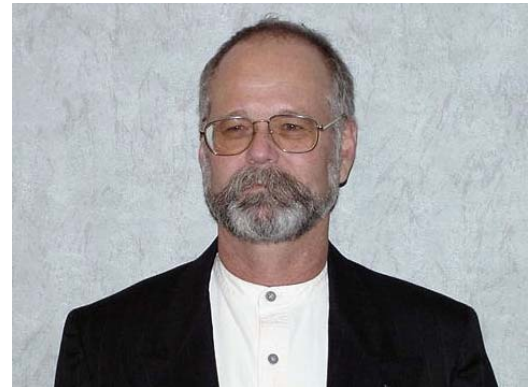
**Workshop Update:** This issue of the Lodestar contains the Course Descriptions and Biographical information on the rest of the instructors that were not included in the January issue. Please check the January Lodestar for the courses and instructors not included here.

Carol and Tom Boyle have withdrawn their offer to teach at the SFMS October William Holland Workshop. We will announce the names of instructors for these courses as soon as they are available.

Phil Stonebrook will be teaching Intermediate Faceting at the October SFMS William Holland Workshop.

Please examine the course announcements for both workshops in this issue of Lodestar. We have had to make several changes and have added a course in Stained Glass at the September Wildacres Session. The instructor is Julia Larson from St. Petersburg, FL.

It was announced that workshop applications for the first sessions of both workshops were to be mailed on or after February 16, 2004. Unfortunately, that is a Post Office holiday, so applications should be mailed and postmarked on or after February 17, 2004.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all:

The new year has brought cold weather, ice, snow, and winter hardships. It also has brought opportunities to clean out the rock pile, cull last summer's collecting buckets, and for many, ample time for lapidary work. For SFMS officers, winter time means planning for excellent summer and fall workshops. For MEFI directors, it means college students are applying for Mayo scholarship funds. For clubs across the nation, it means time to compile and submit their scrapbooks for the AFMS All-American Club competition. Many folks are in or on their way to Arizona for major buying sessions. For you it may be time to plan the next extended summer collecting trip or simply rest and dream of the museum quality specimen that you will find on your next trip out.

Whatever your plans are, last year is history. We reflect, second-guess decisions made, and wonder what would have happened if things had been done differently. Regardless, this year awaits our new efforts and new decisions. Hopefully this year we will all make the correct choices (but I am not holding my breath!!) See what you can do to help your club and your Federation make good choices that will benefit us all.

Please take a moment and remember John Ferguson, Past President of SFMS. He passed away on January 19, 2004 and will be missed at SFMS functions.

*Best wishes for the coming seasons,  
Bill 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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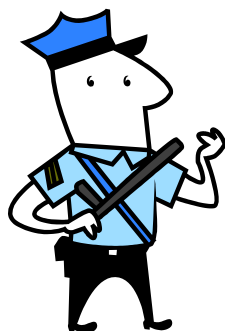
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**The article submittal due date for the March 2004 Lodestar is March 1, 2004.**

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**EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS.....**

I hope you all enjoy this issue of the Lodestar.

I have a request to make that will make my job significantly easier: when submitting your articles by email, please send a copy unformatted. I have been getting several submittals that have had formatting not compatible with the publishing software that I use to put the Lodestar together with, making the construction time excessively long for me. If you have a "preferred look" for your article, send me a formatted copy as well. I will make every attempt to present your words as you wish. However, I will have the final decision regarding the final presentation. I will contact you (assuming you have given me your email or telephone number) if major changes need to be made in order to fit the article into the newsletter.

Also, due to many of our members not receiving the January issue until the third week of January, I will most likely be revising the submittal deadline for the April 2004 issue. The announcement will be on the second page (and in the "Editor's Ramblings" ) of the March issue.

*Carolyn L. Daniels, Lodestar Editor*

**FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

I've had to change my email address. It is now memship4198@yahoo.com. Also, please do not forward me any email. If you have something you want me to have, please cut it out and paste it into a new email. Forwarded email will be deleted without being opened.

(I am having a battle with a parasite that someone shipped in here to me and it has messed my online services up big time.)

*Leo Morris, SFMS Membership Secretary*

**SFMS Nomination Committee**

I am pleased to announce the 2004 Nomination Committee:

Ron Denton, Chair, 6603 Widgeon Drive, Midland, GA 31820; 706.569.1219; rdenton@earthlink.net.

Marty Hart, TN State Director, 4935 Olivia Dr., Antioch, TN 37013-2690; 615.292.0697; webmaster@gemizo.com.

Leona Sheffield, 2440 Southshore Drive SE, St., Petersburg, FL 33705; 727.709.3236

Janie Hand, 253 Wanda Dr., Brandon, MS 39042; 601.825.3989; fossilfinder@aol.com.

Leo Morris, 1599 Nebo Rd., Dallas, GA 30157; 770.445.9274; memship4198@yahoo.com.

Alternate: David Tuttle, 994 Blackmon Rd., Yulee, FL, 32097; 904.225.0689; ddt@net-magic.net.

Please feel free to contact any Committee member with suggestions for candidates for 2005.

*Respectfully submitted, Bill Waggener  
SFMS President*

**OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME**

*by Betty M. James*

On March 1, just following the end of the SFMS meeting, you have the opportunity of a lifetime to view one of the world's most famous jewels -- the 41-carat Dresden green diamond surrounded by white diamonds and mounted in a gold and silver hat agraffe. This diamond, acquired by Elector-King August III in 1742, is the largest, and in fact, the only large naturally green diamond ever found. But it is only one of many pieces from the emerald, ruby, sapphire and other gems mounted in Dresden Baroque splendor to be exhibited at the Mississippi Arts Pavilion in Jackson, Mississippi opening March 1 and running through September 6, 2004.

"The Glory of Baroque Dresden" exhibition was organized by the Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange, Inc., in association with the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, and in keeping with their tradition for bringing the best of the old world's art to Jackson each summer. I personally believe this one will surpass all previous shows.

The exhibit consists of fifteen galleries with items drawn from eight of the State Art Collections Dresden from the famous Green Vault Dresden Castle, one of the most important and largest treasure chamber museums in the world.

Also shown are jeweled ceremonial arms and armor, horse decorations and saddles, sabers, shields, swords, and guns made from precious metals from the Rustkammer Collection. Paintings from the Old Masters Picture Gallery include one of the only three signed Vermeer paintings - The Procuress, 1656, and fine paintings from Rembrandt, Rubens, Titian, Montegna, Van Dyck, and more. Rare prints and drawings come from the Prints and Drawings Cabinet as well as portraits and other works by Durer, Bruegel the Elder, Rembrandt, and others. Included is one architectural sketch by Michelangelo. Many fine pieces of Meissen porcelain include some life-size animal figurines.

From the sculpture collection are included masterpieces from Balthazar Permoser and Paul Hermann and coins and silver furniture are drawn from both the Coins and Medals Cabinet and the Decorative Arts Collections. A lavish recreation of the Audience Hall of Dresden Castle features the Chair of State of August the Strong, a 45-foot ceiling painting and silver furnishings represent the beauty of the Baroque period.

These are just a few of the more than 400 treasured objects showcased in The Glory of Baroque Dresden exhibition which survived the 1945 firebombing by being secretly removed from the city and stored in the countryside. Even so, many were found by the Soviet troops and carried away to Russia. They were returned to Dresden in 1958. This is the first major Dresden exhibition presented in North America since the reunification of East and West Germany.

This is truly the OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME since you will already be in Jackson February 28 and 29 for the show. However, if you wish to attend on March 1, opening day, I would recommend that you order advance tickets from www.ticketmaster.com or phone 601.961.4762. Adult tickets are \$20.00 (\$18.00 for seniors 60+). Group rates are available. If you have any questions, you may contact Betty James, 601.856.3868 or at mineralid@jam.rr.com. If I do not have an answer, I will be able to get it and get back to you.

**You must not let yourself miss this exhibit!**

February 2004

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

## COME BE OUR GUESTS

The Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society (MGMS) is pleased to have the SFMS Executive Board as our guests at the MGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show at the Fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi February 28 and 29, 2004, and we would like to tell you some of the things you might see and do during your stay here.

The show begins for us on Friday with set-up followed by supper for the workers and dealers. **We extend a special invitation to you to join us for this meal.** When the show opens Saturday morning, you will want to register for the beautiful amethyst cathedral door prize and purchase tickets for the raffle which is for the benefit of our Wendell Johnson Youth Scholarship -- a work scholarship sponsoring one youth each summer to work at the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson.

Since our first show, we have featured competitive exhibits judged by certified judges using the American Federation Uniform Rules. We also have non-competitive exhibits but we insist that these use the same standards of labeling and showmanship as required in the competitive cases.

You are invited to join us in competition. Just request an application from me, Betty James, at 167 Florence Circle, Florence, MS 39073, or by E-mail at [mineralid@jam.rr.com](mailto:mineralid@jam.rr.com), but hurry because your application needs to be returned by the first of February. A trophy won here at the local level does not qualify one to enter the American Competition but it does help to prepare your exhibit for a regional federation competition. We have cases to lend and information as to size of cases is included on the application, but competitive exhibitors get first choice.

This year we have over thirty dealers featuring everything needed for the rockhound including sellers of fine minerals, gemstones both rough and finished, fossils, jewelry and jewelry making supplies, and necessary tools for all areas of interest to the rockhound. There will be special exhibits from the state colleges and universities and from the Pink Palace in Memphis.

Throughout the show our members will be demonstrating skills such as faceting, silversmithing, cabochons, beading, etc. Our junior members demonstrate gem tree making and teach the art to young (and sometimes old) show goers. Each junior attending the show gets a rock from our own Bobby V. who collects all year just for this purpose.

Also, spend some time at the Girl Scout booth. Several years ago, Rena Everett spearheaded a coalition of MGMS members and Mississippi Girl Scout leaders who put together a program for girls to earn a three-part badge over a three-year period at our show. Take time to talk with the leaders in charge. They will gladly share the idea and the program with your club and your state Girl Scout leaders.

Also just for the juniors, we will place a huge quantity of rocks from the Citrinelle Formation on the grounds. This gravel contains abundant jasper, fossils, banded agate, some petrified wood, and an occasional geode. Rarely, small quartz crystals are found.

This year the show will be held on the A & I Buildings as some of you remember from the past. Of course, we will miss the luxury of the Trademart Building but in February, air conditioning is not really necessary. We ask that you enter the fairgrounds from the Jefferson Street as shown on the map, so that you will be nearer the show buildings and will not be charged for parking.

We reserved a block of twenty-five rooms which is far too many just for the SFMS officers and delegates so we ask that you take advantage of the **special rate of \$52.00 plus tax and join us at the Ramada Inn Southwest Conference Center, 1525 Ellis Avenue.**

**We look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting and the show.**

(For further information, contact Betty James at 167 Florence Circle, Florence, MS 39073, 601.345.3868, or [mineralid@jam.rr.com](mailto:mineralid@jam.rr.com).)

*Betty James, SFMS Secretary*

## SFMS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Hosted by  
Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Saturday, February 28, 2003

**Hotel and Meeting Room:** Ramada Inn Southwest Conference Center located at 1525 Ellis Avenue. For reservations call: **1.800.272.6232** and use code SFMS for special rate of **\$52.00** plus tax good through **February 5, 2004.**

Hotel amenities include microwave, refrigerator, coffee, ironing board, hair dryer, exercise room, laundry, continental breakfast, and parking lot security.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE RAMADA INN SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE CENTER

**Traveling North or South on I-55:** Exit I-20 West. Approximately 3 miles on I-20 West, take Exit 42B to Ellis Avenue North. The Ramada Inn SW Conference Center is immediately on your left.

**Traveling West on I-20:** Approximately 3 miles past I-55 Interchange, take Exit 42B to Ellis Avenue North.

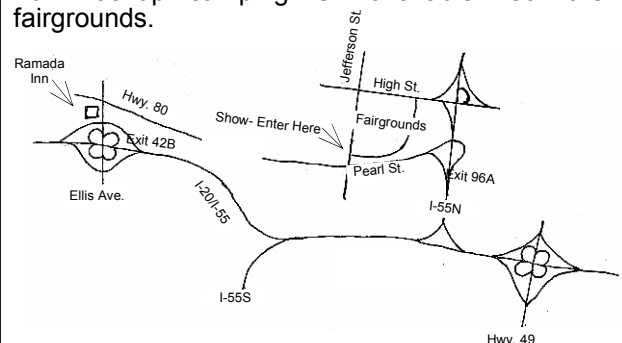
**Traveling East on I-20:** Exit 42B to Ellis Avenue North. This is a right hand exit that will bring you under the I-20 overpass.

**Traveling North on Highway 49:** Take I-20 West. Approximately 3 miles past I-55 Interchange, take Exit 42B to Ellis Avenue North.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE SHOW

**Traveling to the show from the Ramada:** Take Ellis Avenue South to I-20 East. Exit left to I-55 North and from there to Exit 96A (Pearl Street) to Jefferson Street. Turn right and enter the fairgrounds at the Jefferson Street gate for free parking.

Full hookup camping is available at the fairgrounds.



**MINUTES OF THE 2003 ANNUAL SFMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, ROANOKE, VA  
NOVEMBER 29, 2003  
(Part Two - Continued from the January 2004 issue of Lodestar)**

**AFMS COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

AFMS Newsletter - John Watkins: Nothing to report.

Boundaries - Janie Hand: Nothing to report.

Club Publications - Diane Dare: SFMS had 17 entries in bulletin and article contest placing 11 in top ten and three in top three, in a total of 129 entries.

Club Rockhound of the Year - Billie Wright: Not present, no report.

Collecting Sites - Arthur Mott: Not present; nothing to report.

Conservation/Legislation - John Wright: Not present, no report.

Education/All American - David Tuttle: No report.

Juniors' Program - Hugh/Leona Sheffield: No report.

Lewis & Clark - Diane Dare: Last communication from Brenda Hankins was 8-29-03 reporting completed draft.

Program Competitions - Freda Hull: Not present, no report.

Public Relations - Jim Robinson: Not present, no report.

Safety - Bill Buckner: Not present, no report.

Supplies/Publications - Flora Lee Walker: Nothing to report

Uniform Rules - Betty James: Report on AFMS judging seminar at EFMLS fall session at Wildacres. This seminar is being furnished free on a trial basis for three years. Full participation by all regional federations with positive feedback will help to make it a permanent program. It is much needed throughout all federations.

Ways & Means - Frank Decaminada: Nothing to report.

Web Master - Jim Flora: No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A) Canceled Stamps - Selection of Awards. After the banquet 10 club names will be drawn for scholarship awards. (Those clubs receiving scholarships were Cotton Indian, Carolina Faceters, Canaveral G&M, G&M Club of Deland, Central Brevard, Pinellas Geological Soc., Montgomery G&M, Kyana G&M, Carolina Faceters, Charlotte G&M. Note: Two scholarships won by Carolina Faceters.)
- B) Constitution and Bylaws - Proposed Changes. Amendment proposals as printed in the October and November issues of the Lodestar were next taken up.
1. Proposal to amend bylaws of Mayo Education Foundation re Board of Directors. Motion made by Bill Waggener, seconded by Fred Sias, passed unanimously.
  2. Proposal to amend bylaws re term limits for State Directors. Motion made by Bill Waggener, seconded by Buddy Shotts with discussion following. Question called by Joan White, seconded by David Katt, passed unanimously. Vote on previous motion was unanimous against. Denton, seconded by Buddy Shotts. After discussion, motion withdrawn.
  3. Proposal to amend bylaws re. making workshop treasurer an elected office. Motion made by Anna Denton, seconded by Buddy Shotts. After discussion, motion withdrawn.

(CONTINUED NEXT ON PAGE)