



2003 Agate Days in Moose Lake, Minnesota.
Photographs by W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel.

the agate through lapidary work such as polishing, cabbing and sphere making. Both sides have convincing points of view and beautiful examples to back up their position. It boils down to each agate, its possibilities and personal preferences of the owner.

Leaving this field of agate dreams you enter the high school gym, containing the more traditional gem and mineral show. With a good mix of dealers and materials the indoor show could stand on its own without the tailgaters and agate stampede.

Another benefit of the indoor show was that the agate prices were a little lower than those in the parking lot. Mineral and fossil specimens and exhibits were somewhat limited in quality and quantity. These three events, coupled with other town activities, make this weekend celebration unique and worth the drive. Moose Lake is about 1,100 miles from Memphis and is located between St. Paul and Duluth. Agate Days are usually the third weekend of July.

The Lake Superior Agate is reported to be the oldest agate in the world. Formed over a billion years ago in an area rich in iron the agate's colors and patterns are among the most beautiful in the world. As geological time

progressed great glaciers dispersed the agate over a wide area. Most of the maps and literature show this journey stopping in what is now Iowa and Kansas. However, southern rockhounds who frequent the gravel bars, rivers and streams along those states that border the Mississippi River know that the glacial movement didn't stop distribution of the Lake Superior Agates at the Iowa border. Richardson's Landing just north of Memphis continues to produce Lake Superior Agates. While most are in the 1 to 3 ounce sizes, a very nice 6-ounce was found in the fall of 2002. It would bring about \$50 at Agate Days.

From *Mags Rockhound News* (9/03)

(*Lodestar* editor: My memories of collecting Lake Superior Agates as a child were of the cold water of Lake Superior and the numerous biting deer flies. I'm not sure how many agates we walked away with, but I do remember running to the car and driving away with all the windows down trying to get away from the flies.)



Tidbits

Cleaning Geodes: Save all your remnants of bars of soap. Put them into a plastic container. When you are lapping or facing a slab or geode that has a vug of crystal, soak the soap to a thick paste and fill the vug. When you have completed the lapping process, use a brush to wash out the soap. This will eliminate grit or slurry from filling the crystals.

Author unknown, Source *Golden Spike News* via *The Crystal Chronicle* (3/04).

Cutting Geodes in the right place can be tricky. Try rolling the geode on a flat floor several times and mark the "up" side each time. Then cut on a plane parallel with the floor. Crystal growth inside the geode is probably most developed at the top and bottom of its resting position.

Author unknown, Source *Toledo Bend Gems* (1/03) via *The Crystal Chronicle* (3/04)

Geode Cleaning: For a bright sparkle, mix denture powder as directed and soak your geodes with crystal centers and/or your crystal specimens.

Author unknown, Source *Golden Spike News* (2/03), via *The Crystal Chronicle* (3/04)

To open Geodes, soak a string in kerosene, tie it around a geode, burn the string, then plunge the geode in cold water. In many cases, this will crack the geode and a light tap with a hammer will finish the job.

Author unknown, Source *The Pterodactyl* (5/00), via *The Crystal Chronicle* (3/04)



March 2004

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

LOOKING AHEAD

2004 REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS & CONVENTIONS

California Federation/Mariposa Show & Convention
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, May 28-30, 2004
Hosts: Mariposa County Gem & Mineral Society

Eastern Federation & American Federation
Combined EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show
Syracuse, NY, July 8-11, 2004
Hosts: Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

Midwest Federation
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
April 23-25, 2004

Northwest Federation Annual Convention & Show
Boise, Idaho
July 23-25, 2004

Rocky Mountain Federation Annual Convention & Show
Wichita, KS
April 23-25, 2004
Hosts: Wichita Gem & Mineral Society

South Central Federation Annual Convention & Show
Houston, TX
September 24-26, 2004
Hosts: Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Southeast Federation Annual Convention & Show
Norcross, GA
December 10-12, 2004
Hosts: The Georgia Mineral Society

CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

March 12 – 14, 2004, Augusta, GA – Aiken and Augusta Gem and Mineral Societies. 16th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show at Julian Smith Casino, 2205 Broad St. Hours: 12th & 13th, 10 A.M.– 7 P.M.; 14th, 11 A.M.– 5 P.M. Contact: Constance Barrow at 706.547.0178.

March 19-21, 2004, Rome, GA - Rome, Georgia Gem & Mineral Society. Garden Lakes Gym, Rome, GA. Hours: 19th & 20th, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.; 21st, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contact: Jose Santamaria at 706.233.9828/706.386.0576 ext. 401 or joses@weinmanmuseum.org.

March 26 – 28, 2004, Raleigh, NC – Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club. 28th Annual Capital Area Gem Festival, Scott Bldg. at State Fairground, 1025 Blue Ridge Road. Hours: 26th, 5 P.M.–9 P.M.; 27th, 10 A.M.–7P.M.; 28th, 10 A.M.–5 P.M. Contact: Prep Maynard, 3300 Julian Dr., Raleigh, NC 27604 or 919.876.3434.

April 24-25, 2004, Memphis, TN - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society. 25th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show, Pipkin Building, Midsouth Fairgrounds, Central and East Parkway. Hours: 24th, 9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 25th, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contact: W.C. McDaniel at 901.274.7706 or cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net. Web link at www.memphisgeology.org.

May 1-2, 2004, North Charleston, SC - Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society. Performing Arts Center, Montague Avenue, North Charleston, SC. Hours: 1st, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M. and 2nd, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contact: Karen Havenstein at fossil@home.com. SFMS Board Meeting on May 1, 2004.

May 7-9, 2004, Marietta, GA - The Georgia Mineral Society. The 36th Annual Gem and Mineral Mother's Day Weekend Show. Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Parkway (at Fairgrounds Street), Marietta, GA 30339. Hours: 7th and 8th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 9th, Noon-5:00 P.M. Door Prizes and Free Admission/Parking. Auction open to public on 8th at 2:00 P.M. Contact: Jay Gorday at 770.986.0822 or gms@gamineral.org. Web link at <http://gamineral.org/may-show.htm>.

June 5-6, 2004, Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 31st Tannehill Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show at Tannehill Furnace historical Park near Birmingham, AL. Hours: 5th and 6th: 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Show admission free to public with \$1 to \$2 admission fee to enter the park. Contact Rick Kittinger, 1612 Coleburg Circle, Hoover, AL 35226 or Rick.Kittinger@bellsouth.com.

June 11-13, 2004, Charlotte, NC - Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. 604 Daniels Burnham Way, Charlotte, NC. Contact: Clarence Johnson at 704.573.1116 or cj47@carlonia.pp.com.

July 21-25, 2004, Franklin, NC - The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. Macon County Community Building, 1288 GA Hwy, Franklin, NC. Hours: 21st through 24th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 25th, Noon-5:00 P.M. Contact: Fred Plesner at willa@dnet.net.

September 3-6, 2004, Hendersonville, NC - Henderson county Gem and Mineral Society. 23rd Annual Gem and Mineral Spectacular & Sale. Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Road, Hendersonville, NC. Hours: 3rd, 4th & 5th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 6th, 1:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Margaret L. Johnson, P.O. Box 6391, Hendersonville, NC 28739-6391, 828.692.12.49.

September 4, 2004, Hendersonville, NC - Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society. 15th Annual Micromount Symposium, Salvation Army Building, Grove Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues, Hendersonville, NC. Hours: 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Contact: Emily Adams, 355 Pelham Road, Greenville, SC 29615, 864.271.3877.

September 10-12, 2004, Winston-Salem, NC - Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. 33rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Education building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, gate 5, Deacon Blvd. Hours: 11th & 12th, 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.; 12th, 12:00 Noon - 6:00 P.M. Contact: Paul Burton, Show Chairman, 2001 Walker Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106, 336.924.8510.

September 18-19, 2004, Jacksonville, FL- Jacsonville Gem & Mineral Society. Hours: 18th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 19th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Mary Chambliss, lvorey Towers@msn.com.

September 25-26, 2004, Hiddenite, NC - Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society. 16th Annual Hiddenite Gem & Mineral Show, Hiddenite Educational Complex, Sulpher Springs Road, Hiddenite, NC. Hours: 25th, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., 26th, 12 Noon - 5:00 P.M. Rock Swap, 26th, 12:00 noon - 4:00 P.M. **Minerals Only! NO DEALERS!** Contacts: Jerry Hedrick, 828.396.4576 and/or Linda Moser, 828.459.7622.

REMEMBER - to insure your show is listed here, send a written notice to the Lodestar Editor: Carolyn L. Daniels, 3660 Prince Way, Tucker, GA 30084-8317 or email at: dpdaniels@mindspring.com. ALL SFMS CLUBS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER THEIR EVENT LISTINGS ON THE SFMS WEBSITE AT: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>. Choose "Submission Guidelines" under the SFMS Shows Column heading to find out how to apply.

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Nominations

Ronald (Ron) Denton
6603 Widgeon Drive
Midland, GA 31820
706.569.1219
rondenton@earthlink.net

Long Range Planning

John Wright
3304 Nottingham Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564-4113
228.875.9192
osjbw@datasync.com

Bulletin Contest

Diane Dare
3331 Hampshire Drive
Holiday, FL 34690-1926
727.937.8080

Constitution/By-Laws

Robert (Red) Walker
164 Sexton Loop
Oakdale, TN 37829-2323
423.369.3077
walkerr@highland.net

SFMS Field Trip Committee

Jim Flora
P.O. Box 605
Hiawassee, GA 30546
706.896.8040
jimflora@alltel.net

Education

Fred Sias
120 Holly Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
864.654.6833
sfmsedchair@mindspring.com

Historian

Charlotte Mayo Bryant
506 Rain Song Road
Dalton, GA 30270
706.278.8344

Insurance Liaison

Dorothy Elam
240 Ivy Lane
Auburn, AL 36830
334.887.5356

Publications

Vacant

Safety

William (Bill) Buckner
528 Des Moines Drive
Hermitage, TN 37076-1405
931.358.3970

Slide/Video Programs

Freda Hull
P.O. Box 115
Grant, FL 32949
321.725.0847
freehull@juno.com

Social Concerns

Edna Morris
1599 Nebo Road
Dallas, GA 30157
770.445.9274
memship4198@yahoo.com

Stamp Program

Jim Robinson
1058 Wilderland Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32225
904.221.5038
jhr30@netzero.net

Supplies

Reba Shotts
14283 Hwy 26W
Lucedale, MS 39452-9780
601.947.7245
rholland@datasync.com

Uniform Rules

Flora Walker
164 Sexton Loop
Oakdale, TN 37829-2323
423.369.3077
floralee@highland.net

Ways & Means

Frank Decaminada
795 Nile Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30022
770.992.8039
carrie128@comcast.net

Youth Resources

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
2440 Southshore Drive SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
727.894.2440

2004 Annual Meeting Host

Chairmen

Olin and Jeanette Banks
119 Eddie Lane
Mableton, GA 30126
770.948.8444
onjbanks@comcast.com

Wildacres Directors

Jerry & Deborah Miller
805 Roanoke Drive
Cary, NC 27513
913.467.6613
nccomnidm@alo.com

William Holland Director

Polly Carman
603 Breezeway Drive
Cocoa, FL 32926
321.632.5739
carmanrp@telsurf.net



William Holland Registrars

Dana and Ray Gonzalez
6226 Seaton Drive
Columbus, GA 31909
706.327.4474
drg@mchi.com

Wildacres Registrars

Kerri and Bill Wetzel
5010 Sunset Drive
Easley, SC 29642
864.306.6749
wwetzel@earthlink.net



2004 MAYO FOUNDATION Officers/Directors

President

Diane Dare
3331 Hampshire Drive
Holiday, FL 34690-1926
727.937.8080

Vice-President

William (Bill) G. Waggener
1909 Moores Mill Road
Atlanta, GA 30318-1309
770.478.5734 or 404.355.7377
wgwaggenerii@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Frank Decaminada
795 Nile Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30022
770.992.8039
carrie128@comcast.net

SFMS Education Chair

Fred Sias
120 Holly Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
864.654.6833
sfmsedchair@mindspring.com

Director

Charlotte Mayo Bryant
506 Rain Song Road
Dalton, GA 30270
706.278.8344

Director

Jeanette Banks
119 Eddie Lane
Mableton, GA 30126
770.948.8444
onjbanks@comcast.net

Secretary

Ronald (Ron) Denton
6603 Widgeon Drive
Midland, GA 31820
706.569.1219
rondenton@earthlink.net

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Carolyn L. Daniels, Editor
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