UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

January 14, 2007: Ladd’s Mountain, Cartersville, GA for cave onyx, calcite, aragonite and dolomite. Cave formations and onyx can be found loose in the dirt as well as in pockets in the rock exposed by previous mining at the location. Hosts: Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society (Marietta, GA). See your local club newsletter for additional information.

“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 heir 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!”

EDITOR’S RAMBLINGS

President Ann Monroe suggested that I put this article on the first page of this issue of the Lodestar due to the seriousness that we both hold the issue that is addressed below.

I am still receiving Lodestar submittals within the bodies of emails instead of as attachments (Word or WordPerfect) to the emails. I will not continue to publish articles and/or forms which are submitted in this manner. Submitting your submittals within the body of your email creates several problems for me, especially if your submittal is a form. Several things happen: 1) artificial breaks in the middle of sentences, or other inconvenient places, are introduced into the submittal, 2) additional punctuation or other incomprehensible notations are sometimes introduced, and 3) invisible formatting is without exception added to your article. At best, submitting your articles/forms in this manner adds several steps to my editing process. At worst, I might as well be the author rather than the editor of the submittal since I have to guess at what you were attempting to submit.

In the case of forms, I really have no idea about how they are supposed to appear. This is important if the forms are to appear elsewhere (e.g., the SFMS website or the A.F.M.S Newsletter). We really do not want several different versions of any form to be floating around. There should be one official form which will be the same regardless of where it is to appear.

In addition, I really do not have the extra time to completely redo or write your submittals. If you do not know how to attach a document to an email, it would be better for me if you would mail me a copy of your submittal as you wish it to appear. I am the editor, not the author of your submittal, therefore, I should only have to make spelling or grammatical corrections and make the submittal fit the format and space of the Lodestar. If you have to send your submittal through the mail, you need to allow time for it to be delivered. Remember, submittals are due the 25th of the month prior to the month of the Lodestar issue you wish them to appear in.

On another note - I’d like to thank those who nominated me for and voted me into the AFMS Bulletin Hall of Fame as the editor of the Lodestar this year. I had no earthly idea that I would be receiving the honor at the December SFMS Annual Banquet or that I would indeed ever receive the honor.

Carolyn L. Daniels, Lodestar Editor

e-mail: sfms@amfed.org
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 Jan. 2007 *Lodestar* is Dec. 25, 2006.

Copyright© 2005 by the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in *Lodestar* provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed. Editor: Carolyn L. Daniels.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
December 2006

“AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT”

How time flies. As I reflect on the e-mails, snail mail, phone calls and face-to-face conversations of this past year, one word comes to mind; COMMUNICATION. Communication is the glue that holds our Federation together. There are two very important positions in our clubs that often are taken for granted. These positions are the Newsletter Editor and the Federation Liaison. We have already challenged our editors to do all that they can to inform their club members of what is going on, both in the club and in the Federation, with emphasis on our education programs. Now I am asking all Federation Liaisons to take a more active part in spreading the word by reading the Lodestar, passing on the information to club members, and making suggestions to the club Editor for material to be reprinted in the club newsletter. One very good way for the Liaison to become more informed about SFMS business is to attend the Federation meetings. Let’s all make sure that, when appointed, the Federation Liaison understands their responsibilities to the club and SFMS.

A special thank you to everyone for your support and assistance this year.

DON AND I WISH ALL OF YOU A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Ann Monroe, SFMS President

Be Safe – Be Well
Safety Committee – Don Monroe, Chairman

HO, HO, OH? Is the house on fire???

I want to wish all of you a most happy holiday season. I also want to point out that this is a most dangerous time of the year. Many experience accidents and injuries, all of which could be avoided. I want to spotlight a few situations.

- We must all be unusually careful about fire and the possibility of a fire at this time of year. Isn’t this about the time you will be turning on the heating system and maybe starting a fire in the fireplace? We must really take a look at our fireplace and see if it is ready for use. Is the flue clear? Have you checked for bird’s nests, leaves or other debris? How long has it been since you employed a certified chimney sweep? Do you throw a bunch of wrapping paper in the fireplace? Have you ever set the creosote in the chimney on fire? Bad, bad, bad. Do you use any type of space heater and, if so, how long since it has been checked? If you will have small children or grandchildren around the house, have you told talked with them about fire safety? Do you have a family evacuation plan?

During the holidays, we often use extension cords for our lights on our Christmas trees and other decorations. These cords can really be hazardous. We often overload our circuits and put wires on the floor in areas where they can be damaged by furniture or foot traffic. If you must use auxiliary wiring, buy the good, heavy duty items, not the cheap, light duty cords. In the best of circumstances, we must always recognize that trees, particularly natural greenery that has begun to dry out, will flame up in a flash and create a raging fire in an instant.

Do you use candles to decorate the house? Can you imagine what it was like when people used lighted candles on their trees and wreaths? Makes me shiver to think about it since I can (unfortunately) remember when we did not have electricity in our farm house and kerosene lamps and candles were used extensively.

- Ladders: You may be tempted to get out your ladder (or borrow your neighbors) to hang decorations. After experiencing the loss or injury of several good friends, I have been forbidden to climb ladders unless it is a serious situation and I have a special dispensation from Ann who will stand right there until I am back on the ground. I wish I could say she is overreacting, but I fear she is right.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you during the coming year so please do what it takes to be with us and be healthy, wealthy and wise.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM REVISED FOR 2007

The registration form for Wildacres and William Holland workshops has been revised for the coming year. Instead of separate forms for each location, there will be a single form with spaces to check which workshops you want. Also, we want to emphasize communication via e-mail, so there is also a space for your e-mail address.

We are offering some new classes and new instructors, and we look forward to having both previous students and new ones in both places. Remember, the June session at William Holland is designated as Family Week, so sign up to bring your favorite juniors (ages 10 and up) with you. We hope you will review the new format carefully and note the changes when you select your workshop choices.

Julia Larson
Incoming Education Chair
FAMILY WEEK AT WILLIAM HOLLAND
JUNE 10-16, 2007

Tired of your kids spending the summer playing video games? Are theme parks out of the budget this year? Maybe you want to do something special with your grandchildren, nieces or nephews without spending a fortune? Look no further than the June 2007 workshop at William Holland.

Classes for juniors as well as adult are being offered in June 2007. Parents, grandparents, and others are encouraged to sign up their juniors for this exciting week. Juniors will take two classes while their accompanying adults choose from a variety of regular classes. A special field trip for juniors is being planned, along with an evening program at the Young Harris College planetarium. Other after-class events and activities are also in the works.

Look for details in the Lodestar and in your club newsletters. Plan to take advantage of this fun and economical learning vacation with your juniors.

Julia Larson
Incoming SFMS Education Chair

2007 SFMS BULLETIN CONTEST
ANNOUNCEMENT

It is time to submit bulletins and articles printed in 2006 for the annual SFMS Bulletin Editors Contest. The contest will be conducted the same as in 2006. All entries must be received by January 14, 2007.

CATEGORIES ARE:

- Mini Bulletins (4 pages or less, including one-page bulletins),
- Small Bulletins (11 pages or less but more than 4),
- Large Bulletins (12 pages or more),
- New Editors/New Bulletins (Any size bulletin. First-time editors only, eligible for first year only),
- Junior Articles (two classes: age 11 and under or age 12-18),
- Adult Articles,
- Advanced Adult Articles (previous 1st Place Adult winner, science career, published author, etc.),
- Poetry (Adult or Junior), and
- Special Publications

Contest entry forms will be provided on pages 5 through 9 of this issue of Lodestar, and are available on the SFMS website or from the SFMS Bulletin Contest Chairman by request. Editors must fill out the top portion of all forms completely and attach one to each entry. (Clubs with dual membership in SFMS/EFMLS should choose one federation only for each entry.) Two copies of each entry are required (so we have pristine, unmarked copies to send on to AFMS judges).

BULLETINS: Only ONE issue/month may be entered. You are to select the month to be judged. To enter, send TWO copies of your selected month’s bulletin to the above address. Note: a page is 8 inches by 11 inches with standard print. Legal-size sheet (8 inches by 14 inches) counts as 1.5 pages. Sheet printed on both sides is TWO pages. Cover sheets are not counted unless content changes in each issue.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES, ALL CLASSES: The EDITOR must select all articles to be judged. If a junior author, age MUST be included on entry form. Only one article is allowed per author. If published in several installments, only ONE part may be entered. Articles MUST be submitted AS PRINTED in the bulletin. Articles must be original, written expressly for the bulletin and related to the rockhound hobby. Minimum length of article is 250 words. Reports (minutes, field trip reports and information of interest only to your club members, etc.) are not Original Articles and should not be entered. Submit TWO copies of each entry.

POETRY: Original poems by Adults or Juniors may be submitted. If Junior, age must be on the entry form. Only one poem is allowed per author. Poems must be original, written expressly for the bulletin, and related to the earth science hobby. Submit two copies of each entry.

NOTE: Articles, poems, and Special Publications may have been published in ANY month of 2006. Author(s) must be member(s) in good standing of the club submitting the entry.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS are original publications, such as a workshop manual, field trip guide, show program (not flyer), club history or anniversary, etc. Clubs may have multiple entries in Special Publications if each entry covers a different subject area. Special Publications may be any length. Submit TWO copies of each entry.

Ed Johnson, 2007 Bulletin Contest Chairman
10215 Macon Road
Jacksonville, Fl. 32219
Phone (904)768-8442, e-mail: drejohnson@bellsouth.net
# SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

## 2007 Score Sheet for All Bulletin Classes

**BULLETIN NAME**

**CLASS (check one)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mini</th>
<th>Small</th>
<th>Large</th>
<th>New Editor</th>
<th>Month published</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Editor’s Name & Address**

**Club Name & Location**

*No penalty for type of reproduction.*

Maximum Deducted: **POINTS**

### 1. Vital information: *(Maximum – 15 points)*

- A. Bulletin title, club name, city & state on cover or front page: **3**
- B. Volume and issue number on cover or page 1: **2**
- C. Return address on outside cover/mailing area: **2**
- D. Editor’s name and address: **2**
- E. Club officers; club address or contact info; dues; purpose; Federation liaison: **4**
- F. Date, time and place of regular meetings: **2**

### 2. Format/Editorship: *(Maximum – 39 points)*

- A. Pages numbered and dated, bulletin name on each page: **3**
- B. Headings, margins, spacing acceptable; copy neat & clean: **8**
- D. Spelling and grammar acceptable: **5**
- E. ALL articles credited to writers or publications; borrowed articles credited to writer or publication and dated: **5**
- F. Information/articles appear correct – no glaring inaccuracies: **4**
- G. Appropriate use of illustrations *(graphics, maps, club logo, etc.)*: **2**
- H. Variety of material appears to fulfill needs of this club: **4**
- I. No apparent copyright violations: **5**

### 3. Club news: *(Maximum – 20 points: consider bulletin size in relation to contents)*

- A. Coming program announced; previous program reviewed: **3**
- B. Highlights or minutes of last meeting: **3**
- C. Committee/Board meeting reports; President’s message: **3**
- D. Field trips, workshops/classes, community/Federation projects: **3**
- E. Coming events or Calendar of club activities: **3**
- F. Events/shows/news of other clubs: **3**
- G. News of members: **2**

### 4 Federation news: *(Maximum – 8 points)*

- A. Southeast Federation news: **5**
- B. American Federation news: **3**

### 5. Articles: *(Maximum – 13 points)*

- A. Educational, hobby-related: **3**
- B. Hints and tips, safety information, book reviews, humor, etc.: **3**
- C. Original articles and items submitted by members: **4**
- D. Articles from exchange bulletins and other sources: **3**

### 6. General impression –outstanding features *(Maximum – 5 points)*

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS**: **100**

**TOTAL POINTS AWARDED**

Judged by ________________ Date ________________

(Judge’s comments on back of sheet) Checked by ________________
SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
2007 Score Sheet for Original Articles (Adult or Junior)

TITLE OF ARTICLE

AUTHOR

Adult  Junior(Age)

BULLETIN NAME

Month Published

Editor’s Name & Address

Club Name & Location

TYPE OF ARTICLE (Circle A, B, C, D, or E):
A. Informational (How-to, historical, lapidary, hints, etc.)
B. Collecting localities, old or new (Not travelogue)
C. Club activities/Member interests (editorials, shows, judging, community/civic affairs, etc.)
D. Science (mineralogy, geology, paleontology, etc.)
E. Humor (must relate to hobby, but can be 'fun' article)

Maximum Deducted:

1. Preliminaries: (Maximum – 6 points)
   A. Title catchy and/or appropriate ........................................... 3
   B. Author identified .............................................................. 3

2. Writing style: (Maximum - 31 points)
   A. Attracts and holds interest .................................................... 12
   B. Easy for average member to understand ................................ 6
   C. Spelling and grammar correct and/or appropriate .................. 13

3. Composition: (Maximum - 38 points)
   A. Purpose well-defined and appropriate ................................... 8
   B. Information relevant, not distorted ..................................... 8
   C. Long enough to achieve purpose ........................................ 7
   D. Facts accurate, up-to-date ................................................ 7
   E. All quotes/illustrations credited; references given or suggested reading .......................................................... 8

4. No apparent copyright violation ................................................ 5

5. Educational or entertainment value ........................................... 20

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS .................................................... 100

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED ________________________________________

Judged by ______________________________________ Date __________

(Judge’s comments on back of sheet) Checked by ____________________
# SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

2007 Score Sheet for Original Adult Articles – Advanced  
(Past SFMS 1st Place Winners, Earth Science Career, Articles or Books published, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE OF ARTICLE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason for “Advanced” status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULLETIN NAME</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month Published</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor’s Name &amp; Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Name &amp; Location</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Maximum Deducted:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. **Author's style and language: (Maximum – 20 points)**
   - A. Title catchy and/or appropriate………………………………………... 3
   - B. Author identified…………………………………………………………... 3
   - C. Writing interesting, easily understood, spelling & grammar correct/appropriate…. 10
   - D. Free from irrelevant material and distortion……………………………………... 4

2. **Article quality: subject appropriate, of general or special interest**  
   (Maximum – 20 points)  
   (Score only one section – circle A, B, C, D, or E)……………………………………... 20
   - A. Informational (How-to, identification, lapidary, historical, etc.)
   - B. Science (Mineralogy, geology, paleontology, etc.)
   - C. Collecting areas, old or new; includes technical data (Not travelogue)
   - D. Club activities/member interests (editorials, shows, community/civic/schools)
   - E. Humor (must be hobby related)

3. **Author’s effort: (Maximum – 40 points)**  
   (Select only one and circle choice – A-1, A-2, or A-3 )……………………………………... 10
   - A-1 Research required or information drawn from books, magazines, internet, etc.
   - A-2 Drawn from actual experience or observation
   - A-3 Combination of experience/observation and research
   - B. No apparent copyright violation………………………………………………... 5
   - C. References given for technical data, quotations/illustrations credited, etc............... 10
   - D. Appears to be accurate, facts seem correct……………………………………... 5
   - E. Subject adequately covered for purpose intended; long enough to achieve purpose,  
   _no longer than necessary…………………………………………………………... 10

4. **Educational value: (Maximum – 20 Points)**……………………………………... 20

  **TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS…………………………………………………………... 100**

  **TOTAL POINTS AWARDED…………………………………………………………...**

Judged by __________________________ Date __________________________

(Judge’s comments on back of sheet) Checked by __________________________
SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
2007 Score Sheet for Original Poems

TITLE OF POEM

AUTHOR

Adult  Junior (Age ___)

BULLETIN NAME

Month Published

Editor’s Name & Address

Club Name & Location

Maximum Deducted:  POINTS

A. Title appropriate; author identified ......................................................... 5

B. Appeal/Interest (Circle 1 or 2, use those criteria to score) ........................ 25
   1. General Audience (directed at hobbyists anywhere). Does it create interest in
      the subject? Inspire, encourage, broaden knowledge, give new insight, make reader
      smile, etc.?
   or 2. Specialized audience (directed at local club members, special group, etc.). Does
      it get message across in pleasant manner?

C. Meter/Rhythm (Circle 1 or 2, use those criteria to score) .......................... 20
   1. Open verse (unrhymed). Does rhythm flow? Are lines broken at places
      appropriate to rhythm and language/though content?
   or 2. Rhyming. Are meter and rhyme scheme consistent? Are rhyme words
      appropriate to cont, or used as ‘gimmicks’ to force rhyme?

D. Originality of subject material and/or approach. ...................................... 15
   Does it give new or unusual insights into familiar subjects? Does it use imagery,
   alliteration, or other poetic devices to enhance subject material? Is poetry an
   unusual approach to this subject?

E. No apparent copyright violation ................................................................. 5

F. Clarity & appropriateness of message (Circle 1 or 2, use those criteria to score) 10
   1. Serious topic or purpose. Does it make reader think? Broaden their interests?
      Create appealing images through use of words?
   or 2. “Just for fun.” Is levity appropriate for the subject? Does it make reader
      smile or see something in a more humorous way?

G. Suitability of verse style for subject (Circle 1 or 2, use those criteria to score) 15
   1. Haiku (Is imagery concentrated? Clear? Has deeper meaning?)
      Limerick (Are words used cleverly, distinctly, originally?)
      Short stanza (Does subject lend itself to brevity?)
   or 2. Long stanza, two or more stanzas, ballad, narrative, etc. (Does it cover topic
      well or does it ‘ramble’? Does form used serve the subject matter?)

H. Spelling & Grammar. .................................................................................. 5
   Spelling errors or ‘typos’? If archaic phrasing is used, does it add or detract from
   understandability?

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS ............................................................................. 100

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED

Judged by __________________________________________________ Date__________

(Judge’s comments on back of sheet)  Checked by ________________________
SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

2007 Score Sheet for Special Publications

PUBLICATION TITLE ____________________________ Publication Date ________________

AUTHOR/EDITOR ________________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________________

CLUB NAME & LOCATION ____________________________

SCORE ONLY ONE SECTION: A OR B

Maximum Deducted: POINTS

A: PUBLICATION OF GENERAL INTEREST

1. Educational Value (Importance of subject, accuracy, use & interpretation of research, organization & conclusions) ...........35

2. Subject adequately covered for purpose intended .........................................................15

3. Originality: (Maximum – 20 points)
   A. References given for technical matters, quotations & illustrations credited ........15
   B. No apparent copyright violations .................................................................5

4. Presentation (Physical appearance – neat, attractive, legible; spelling & grammar correct and/or appropriate; author(s) identified; format; method of circulation or distribution & cost effectiveness)

5. Other considerations (Club participation/involvement, charts & drawings .............15
   commercial aspects or ads, etc.)

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS .............................................. 100

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED ____________________________

B: PUBLICATION FOR SPECIFIC GROUP

1. Value to specific group (Club, committee, class, Federation, etc.) .....................35

2. Accomplishment of specific purpose .................................................................15

3. Originality: (Maximum – 20 points)
   A. References given for technical matters; quotations & illustrations credited .........15
   B. No apparent copyright violations ..................................................................5

4. Presentation (Physical appearance – neat, attractive, legible; spelling & grammar correct and/or appropriate; format; author(s) identified; method of circulation/distribution & cost effectiveness)

5. Other considerations (Club participation/involvement, charts & drawings .............15
   commercial aspects or ads, etc.)

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS .............................................. 100

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED ____________________________

Judged by ____________________________ Date ____________________________

(Judge’s comments on back of sheet) 

Checked by ____________________________

Checked by ____________________________
Wanna Get Youngsters Interested In Rocks?
by
David Tuttle
Jacksonville (Florida) Gem & Mineral Society

At every Federation meeting the same topic comes up - How to get youngsters interested in our hobby?

I suppose some psychologist might call it “repetitive reinforcement” or something along those lines, but if youngsters are given many opportunities to see what can be done with “ordinary rocks” in the way of faceted stones, cabochons, crystal and mineral specimens, I think a spark will be ignited.

Recently my wife and I were invited to attend a meeting of educators and business leaders on the subject of the possibilities of creating a Space and Earth Science Center within our community. After the meeting, we were approached by a representative of the county PTA and asked if we couldn’t do something in our rock club for the school students. Our county has a resource center for teachers to gather free items as supplies for the classrooms. Donated items are put to good use.

I suggested that our club put together identified mineral specimens in egg cartons for teachers at all levels to use. Everyone involved worked hard and a local egg company provided the egg cartons and club members donated specimens for the project.

I asked for large specimens and was able to break them into the sizes I needed to fit in the egg cartons. Small quartz crystals were provided in abundance, as were some other specimens and we had a great time putting this together.

While in North Carolina, we went to the Vulcan mine near Spruce Pine and they donated specimens of the mica-laden black granite (beautiful material) to our cause. We had enough Ruck’s Pit calcite specimens to fill each carton.

It took three months for me to patiently sit with a chisel in hand and breakup some of the specimens, pyrophyllite, for example and olivine; but we ended up with enough material to fill 550 egg cartons. Each spot in the cartons held a different identified mineral.

I mounted each specimen on a one inch square piece of 60-pound card stock and labeled each one. Using a hot-glue gun worked fine for gluing the specimens to the card stock. However, I did find out that the operative word is “hot” in hot-glue. Sometimes getting glue on the fingers was unavoidable because of small specimens such as tiny turquoise bits and such.

The group assembled over 6,000 egg carton ready specimens into the egg cartons in just over an hour and the ladies from the teachers supply were happy to get these to share with over 800 teachers in our school system.

Find out how you can do similar projects in your county and it will bring together the club in a worthwhile project. With an average of 25 students in a class, the impact will affect 13,750 students. Now there’s an outreach program!!!

2006 SFMS JOY AWARD

The 2006 SFMS Junior of the Year (“JOY”) was announced to be 11-year old RHENA A.V. SOUTH at the annual banquet on December 2, 2006 in Montgomery, Alabama. Rhena attended the banquet with her family and received a plaque and a beautiful Florida coral fossil specimen. This is the third year that Rhena has received the JOY award. The vest Rhena wore to the banquet was covered with badges and pins that display her interests in rockhounding.

Rhena belongs to the Memphiis Archaeological and Geological Society (MAGS) which has a very active youth group. She has had display cases in her club show, recruited new club members, loves field trips with her family and her club, writes articles for the MAGS Rockhound News, and attends adult and youth club meetings. Rhena is also in the Girl Scouts of America.

CONGRATULATIONS, RHENA!!

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resources Co-Chairmen

Above: Rhena A.V. South is announced as the 2006 SFMS JOY award winner by SFMS Youth Resources Committee Co-Chairmen Hugh and Leona Sheffield. (Photograph provided by Red Walker)
The following are the results of the SFMS Bulletin Contest as announced at the December 2, 2006 SFMS Annual Banquet in Montgomery, Alabama:

**New Editors**
No Entries

**Mini Bulletins**
No Entries

**Small Bulletins**

- **First Place** - Ed & Dianne Johnson - Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (Fourth Place in AFMS Contest)
- **Second Place** - Mike Baldwin - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (Honorable Mention in AFMS Contest)
- **Third Place** - David Jacobson - Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society ( Eighth Place in AFMS Contest)
- **Fourth Place** - Margaret L. Johnson - Henderson County Gem & Mineral
- **Fifth Place** - Terry Fetzer - Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society
- **Sixth Place** - Billie & John Wright - Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral
- **Seventh Place** - Pat & Joe Maguire - Greensboro Gem & Mineral Society
- **Eighth Place** - Dale Engler - Playland Gem & Mineral Society

**Large Bulletins**

- **First Place** - Linda Behr - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC (Tenth Place in AFMS Contest)
- **Third Place** - Natalie Darling - Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA (Ninth Place in AFMS Contest)

(Note: There was no second place award in this category)

**Junior Articles**
No entries

**Adult Poetry**

- **First Place** - Sharon Fogle - Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (Eighth Place in AFMS Contest)
- **Second Place** - Allen Helt - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (Honorable Mention in AFMS Contest)
- **Third Place** - Gloria Durfey - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
- **Fourth Place** - Tim Barton - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society
- **Fifth Place** - Mary Bedrick - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
- **Sixth Place** - Richard Jacquot - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society
- **Seventh Place** - Fred Plesner - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
- **Eighth Place** - Dale Engler - Playland Gem & Mineral Society
- **Ninth Place** - Dee Tinsley - Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg
- **Tenth Place** - Bill Farrell - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society
- **Eleventh Place** - Ted Robles - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
- **Twelfth Place** - Pearl F. G. Roth - Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society

**Advanced Adult Original Articles**

- **First Place** - Michael Wilson - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society
- **Second Place** - John Wright - Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society (Honorable Mention in AFMS Contest)
- **Third Place** - Steve Boylan - Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA (Fourth Place in AFMS Contest)

(Note: for 1st Place, an entry must score 90 or better; 2nd Place, between 80 and 89; 3rd Place, 70 to 79.)

Anna Denton, SFMS Bulletin Contest Chairman
TREAT YOUR EDITOR (OR YOURSELF!)  
by Carolyn Weinberger

Editors are the glue that holds clubs together. Without our hard working editors, club newsletters would be nonexistent and members would not easily learn of upcoming club activities, news of members or gain a broader view via educational articles pertaining to our wonderful hobby. Editing your club newsletter is a time consuming process; one that usually goes unrecognized by the membership. Most editors find the task most rewarding - why else would so many continue as club editor year after year after year.

There is an organization out there designed to help club newsletter editors. It’s called S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing involved Bulletin Editors). It’s purposes are to:

- improve communication and public relations among gem and mineral societies, their federations, and other related organizations through involved bulletin editors and
- advise and assist new editors with old ideas and old editors with new ideas while giving all editors a share in all ideas for publishing better bulletins.

Now that’s a mouthful!

S.C.R.I.B.E. publishes four newsletters a year and each is jam-packed with useful articles, hints and tips that editors can use in their own club bulletins or learn something from. (One recent issue, for example, had a wonderful article on fluorescent minerals and another on often misspelled words.

Membership in S.C.R.I.B.E. is a very reasonable $6 per year ($8 for dual membership) and includes the four yearly newsletters plus an annual CD-Rom that’s jam-packed with newsletters, newsletter articles, clip art and other useful items for your editor to use in your club publication. Membership is truly a bargain!

Visit the S.C.R.I.B.E. website to obtain more information and to find a membership application. Treat your club editor to a membership...and while you’re at it, why not treat yourself too. I doubt if you’ll be disappointed.


DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCES THE NEW  
"America the Beautiful Pass"  
12-06-2006

This pass will be needed to use certain facilities and access certain areas on public land. The new program replaces the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and the Golden Access Passports as well as the National Parks Pass. Existing passes will remain valid until expired, lost or stolen.

This means the lifetime passes will be valid unless lost or stolen at which time they will need to be replaced. Cost of the four different passes in the new interagency program are:

1. A new annual interagency pass costing $80--For visitors to multiple federal sites, the pass offers unlimited coverage of entrance and standard amenity recreation fees for a specific period of time, typically a year, beginning from the date of first use.
2. A $10 lifetime senior pass for U.S. citizens 62 or over;
3. A free lifetime access pass for citizens with permanent disabilities ; and
4. A new, free annual volunteer pass for volunteers acquiring 500 hours of service on a cumulative basis. Information on the new pass can be found on the INTERNET at:


   Jon Spunaugle
   Director of the ALAA

Here is another site comparing the different passes and what they replace:

   http://www.recreation.gov/recpass.jsp

(ALSO see the Internet at http://store.usgs.gov/pass/.)

email forwarded by Jim Flora  
SFMS Field Trip Chairman

Note from the Editor: Minutes and photographs of the SFMS Annual Board Meeting (Phase 2), Show and Banquet will be provided in the January 2007 issue of Lodestar. Select committee reports will also appear in that issue.

Carolyn L. Daniels, SFMS Editor
BARICITE FOUND AT NONCONNAH CREEK
LOCATION

by Marvin Nutt

(Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Member)

Over the past year I have found almost 200 rocks at one location on Nonconnah Creek (in Memphis) with an unusual mineral on them. I showed several of them to some of our members at a meeting, and their first impressions of the rocks were that they had pollution on them. I was not convinced and continued to collect them. I brought three of the better specimens that I had found most recently to the March, 2006 meeting.

I showed them to Idajean, and she thought that they were interesting. So, she showed them to Bill Pryor, an Arkansas state geologist and the speaker for the night at the end of the meeting. He spent a little time analyzing them with his magnifying glass and said that they were probable crystals known as vivianite. He asked for permission to take them back to his lab in Arkansas and examine them with other geologists with works. After a couple of weeks he sent them back to me with a short note confirming them to be vivianite. I had never heard of vivianite, but his confirmation started a fire under me. I got on the internet and looked up vivianite. I called and corresponded with Tennessee state geologists, and one of them indicated that there were only two previous occurrences of vivianite in Tennessee. One location didn't exist anymore, and the other location had not been recorded.

I then went to The University of Memphis and met with Dr. George Swihart of the geology department. He is the professor in the department that is most interested in minerals, and he was interested in the crystals I showed him. He asked if he could have them to study, and I agreed. In a short time, he called me in and asked me if I would mind his breaking a couple of the crystals up into powder in order to test them by X-Ray diffraction in the physics department. I agreed and even watched as he chose and prepared the crystals for the test. The next time he asked me to meet with him, he showed me the results of the test. He determined that the minerals were in the vivianite family of minerals, but were more like baricite than vivianite. He said that he needs to do further examination to determine if they are indeed baricite, or perhaps, a new mineral altogether.

He sent me to the chemistry library, and the earthquake center, where the geology library is located to do some guided research. I have done so, and shared my finding with him. At present baricite has been found in these locations: The Yukon in Canada, New Zealand, and Russia. If what I found is baricite, that will be exciting, because it will be the first occurrence reported in the United States. If it is a new mineral, that will be even more exciting, because I will have the honor of giving it a name. I have decided upon a name, but that must wait.

It may be a short time before I find out for sure what I have discovered. If you are interested I will let you know when I get a definitive answer from Dr Swihart.

No matter what it ends up being, I owe a great deal to the encouragement I have gotten from Mike and Sherri Baldwin, Idajean Jordan, and many others in the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society.

This is a page showing the data I obtained from the research study that I did with the information that he had obtained on one of my samples at the University of Memphis Physics Dept. I shared it with him today (November 15) and he was very pleased with it. As I mentioned above, he is going to test one more sample, to see if it will be any different from the first. If it is determined to be baricite then he will advise me as to how to write a report making a claim for the first discovery of baricite in the U.S.A.

X-ray powder data for baricite and three confirmed vivianite samples from the article "X-ray diffraction studies of vivianite, metavivianite, and baricite" by T. Sameshima, et.al. in Mineralogical Magazine, March 1985, Vol. 49 p.82 compared to a recently discovered crystal found at Nonconnah Creek in Memphis, Tn. Tentatively identified as baricite.

Vivianite 1. Earthy, cryptocrystalline vivianite, Waiotu, New Zealand. Au:2473

Note. The colors above have the following significance: Red shows when the suspected baricite resembles the known baricite more that vivianite; Blue shows when the suspected baricite resembles vivianite more that the known baricite; Green shows when no marked resemblance exists to either one over the other; brown is used when no figures are given for both the known baricite and the vivianite samples to which the suspected baricite can be compared.

This article was written by MAGS member, Marvin Nutt, November 16, 2006. Photo of one of Marvin’s specimens taken by Mike Baldwin.

from MAGS website at http://www.memphisgeology.org/g_baricite.htm
Looking Ahead

Club & Society Shows/Swaps
(Check with show contact for admission charges, if any)

January 12-14, 2007, Largo, FL - Pinellas Geological Society. Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 1’05 Central Park Drive. Hours: 12th & 13th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. and 14th, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Hugh Sheffield at 727.894.2440 or 2440 Southshore Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

February 24-25, 2007, Jackson, MS - Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Trade Mart Building, State Fairgrounds, I-55 and High Street. Hours: 24th, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. and 25th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Betty James at 601.914.6747 or mineralid@jam.rr.com.


June 2-3, 2007, Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 34th Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show. Tannehill Historical State Park. Hours: 9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. Contact: Rick Kittinger at rick.kittinger@bellsouth.com or James Carr (publicity) at james@lapidaryclub.com. Check out the website as well at www.lapidaryclub.com.

2006 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

California Federation
Lancaster, California
June 15-17, 2007

Eastern Federation
Hosts: Gem and Mineral Society of Palm Beaches, Inc.
West Palm Beach, Florida
November 17-19, 2006

Midwest Federation
Hosts: Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society
Houghton, Michigan
August 11-12, 2007

Northwest Federation
Butte, MT
August 3-5, 2007

Rocky Mountain Federation and AFMS Convention
Roswell, NM
June 5-10, 2007

South Central Federation
Hosts: Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society
Bossier City, Louisiana
Held: August 19-20, 2006

Southeast Federation (Phase 2)
Hosts: Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society
Montgomery, Alabama

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.

The policy of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. is that neither the name nor the logo of the Federation may be used for commercial purposes. If any commercial ventures using the name or the logo of the Federation are found, Member Societies and their member are requested to advise Federation Officers.
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

December 2006

Lodestar

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