

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

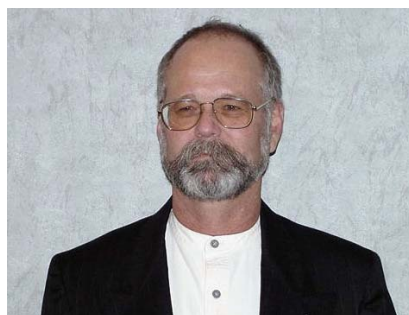
Volume XXIX/Ten

December 2004

Open Field Trip: February 26-27, 2004- Rucks' Pit, Ft. Drum, FL. Fossils. Fee Site. 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



Dear SFMS Members and Friends,

I am so grateful for this past year's opportunity to serve the rockhound community. I learned much about lapidary and lapidary education, insurance, the American rockhound community, the human resources within the Southeast, the willingness of friendly helping hands, and politics. (You can't please everyone all the time!!!)

As we all know, a whole can be more than just the sum of the pieces. This has been made most clear to me through working with the SFMS officers, Committee Chairs, and Committee members. Patience with the other party is a most useful trait. We may not agree completely, but we have compromised to a successful organization. Everyone doing their job and working together has resulted in an effective, caring, and involved Federation.

The meetings and field trips have allowed widespread clubs to get together to share ideas, swap specimens, and share "the one that was too big to collect" stories. The camaraderie helps us to better work together. Meeting new folks is always fun for me. I just wish I could remember their names. The *Lodestar* and website help spread the word and introduce SFMS to the World. (Your *Lodestar* will be received more timely now that Carolyn will not have to wait for my column.)

I look forward to working with you and the new Officers in the upcoming years. Let's keep working together and continue the good works of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

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

2005 SFMS Workshop Schedule Finalized

The complete SFMS 2005 Workshop schedule is as follows:

- Session 1, Wildacres -- April 18-24, 2005
- Session 2, William Holland -- June 12-18, 2005
- Session 3, Wildacres -- Aug. 22-28, 2005
- Session 4, Wildacres -- Sep. 19-25, 2005
- Session 5, William Holland -- Oct. 9-15, 2005

Please note that all Wildacres sessions start on Monday and end on Sunday and both William Holland sessions start on Sunday and end on Saturday.

Please check out the complete workshop schedules inside this issue of the Lodestar.

Fred Sias, SFMS Education Chair

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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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EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

I'd like to wish every a happy holiday season. The SFMS Annual Show/ Meeting, Banquet and Editor's Breakfast will be over by the time you receive this issue of Lodestar. I will be printing as many of the annual officer and committee chairman reports and meeting minutes as I can fit into the January 2005 issue. (Assuming I'm re-elected, of course!) If the officers/chairmen have electronic copies of their reports, I would really appreciate receiving them from you in that format. It cuts down on the time I spend producing the Lodestar and reduces editor-induced errors.

In addition, I know that that are several AFMS deadlines for contests, etc. coming up. If you are an SFMS Chairman in charge of gathering the applications, etc. for submittal to the AFMS, please provide me with an article outlining your requirements and deadlines for submittal to you. I can't provide this information in the Lodestar if you don't provide it. (And I wouldn't want to commit you to requirements and deadlines that I makeup out of the blue!)

I have to say that I have enjoyed being the Lodestar editor this past year and hope that I haven't had too many major errors in producing it. I look forward to the next two years if re-elected.

Here's hoping that you and your families have a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,
Carolyn L. Daniels, Lodestar Editor

YOUTH RESOURCES REPORT "JUNIOR OF THE YEAR"

The "Junior of the Year" ("JOY") will be announced at the December 11, 2004 Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting in Suwanee, Georgia. The final day for receiving the applications for "JOY" was November 30, 2004 and the deadline for the Lodestar is November 25, 2004, so the details about the winner will be in the January issue of the Lodestar. A very lovely fossil and a plaque await the winner.

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resources Chairpersons



MAYO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. UPDATE

The Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. (MEFI) received the following note from a 2004 grant recipient attending Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia:

Dear Mrs. Dare,

Thank you and the scholarship committee for selecting me to receive the Vesta Mayo Scholarship Award! I am grateful for the books I was able to buy and the field work expenses I could offset with the scholarship. This fall semester is off to a good start-I'm taking one class, teaching two classes, conducting my research, and working at the USGS. I'm certainly busy this semester, but I'm learning a lot and enjoying every minute of it!

Sincerely,
Donna Khalouf

Isn't it nice to know the SFMS, through MEFI, is helping this student?

Diane Dare
President, MEFI

(Editor-Please see page 10 of this issue of Lodestar for an MEFI Donation Form)



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Diane Dare has stepped down from the position of SFMS

Bulletin Contest Chairman. We are looking for a volunteer to fill her shoes. If you are interested, please contact Eileen Price at 865.694.4071 or email at rfmprice@yahoo.com. We need to fill this position as soon as possible for the 2005 bulletin contest (covering the year 2004).

Details regarding the 2005 bulletin contest will be forthcoming as soon as the above position is filled.

Carolyn L. Daniels, Editor
based on an email from Eileen Price

December 2004

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Going to a Southeast Federation Workshop

by Elizabeth Siegfried

Have you ever wanted to try something in the lapidary field? Maybe you already know one thing, but would like to learn another, or maybe you are new to rockhounding. Whatever the case, going to William Holland or Wildacres is a wonderful experience for anyone.

I have received scholarships made possible by the stamp program for junior members to go to a Southeast Federation workshop three times. The first two times I went to William Holland, and the third was just recently to Wildacres. I have, along with my mother, taken Beginning Wirecraft, Advanced Wirecraft, and Intermediate Wirecraft. I have enjoyed them all very much. It is wonderful to have a whole week to spend working in your class and talking with the many other rockhounds. There are auctions and trading and many things to keep you occupied all week long, before you know it, it is time to go home!

Anyone who is thinking about going or interested should definitely go. It is a very enjoyable experience.

Thank you SFMS for having these scholarships, and everyone please remember to cut out those stamps!!

November 13, 2004

Subject: 2005 Renewals







To: All SFMS Club/Society Renewal Persons

From: Leo Morris, SFMS Membership Secretary

Greetings. The holidays are fast approaching which means frenzied shopping, preparing for that road trip to see the folks, getting those turkeys on to cook, and **renewing your membership in the Southeast Federation**. Which means there is a lot to do. So, lets get started.

There are major changes in the Renewal Applications this year. Changes that we hope will help the federation serve you better. Additional information regarding insurance coverage, activities besides club/society shows, has been requested. **Please read this application carefully before you begin to fill it out.**

One of the main problems we were confronted with last year was illegibility of writing in the application. There were many phone calls and emails to clubs/societies asking for clarification of names, addresses and other information. This caused considerable delay in publishing the 2004 Directory in a timely manner. These applications are the basis for many things:

-  Lodestar mailing lists,
-  The Annual Directory,
-  Workshop Registrars verify eligibility for workshop participation,
-  Eligibility to participate in the Federation Liability Insurance Program is determined
-  The SFMS Secretary uses them to verify memberships,
-  And of course the Membership Secretary has the official federation record copy

So you can see just how important this document is, why it must be done in a neat and legible manner.

The deadline for returning the completed application is 1 January 2005. As of 1 February 2005 if the application is not returned the club/society is considered delinquent. At this point the club/society is no longer eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting, Participate in SFMS Workshops, Receive federation Lodestar. As of 1 March 2005 the club/society will be removed from the rolls of the federation and must reapply for membership as a new club. Now we don't want that to happen do we?

Now to another matter. In light of the storms that ripped through the southeast there may be problems with addresses, people having to move, or have moved, are maybe still in shelters, and other problems. The federation is going to need all the help available in making sure these letters are delivered to the right persons. Therefore, I am sending copies to all the SFMS Officers and State Directors asking that they do their best to help monitor this mailing as best they are able. I have also included a copy of the mailing list in the SFMS packages for their use as needed.

Your cooperation in this matter will be deeply appreciated. Return the completed application of me at the address listed above. If you have questions I am available by telephone or email as listed above, feel free to contact me. If you contact me via email please put (SFMS) in the subject line otherwise the message will be deleted without being opened.

c: SFMS Officers
State Directors

(Author's Note: This is an update from the original letter to include last paragraph.)