

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXX/Eight

October 2006

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

October 21, 2006: Standard Mineral Company, Glendon, NC. for quality specimen/cabinet grade pyrite, fluorite and micro-minerals.

"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!"

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

UPDATE – WHAT WE HAVE COMPLETED AND WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE

At this point in the year we have met twice – the Executive Board meeting in Franklin, NC and the Executive Board/Phase I Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN held in conjunction with the AFMS Convention. Our attendance has been good but we still missed seeing many of you and getting reports on those things which interest you.

Our major activity in SFMS is our workshop program and we will have conducted all of our sessions by the time you read this letter. Our attendance has not been as good as we wish and we are working hard to address this. Your Education Committee has met and considered which courses we need to offer and which instructors we need to use. The schedule continues to be a problem. We always know well in advance which weeks we will be teaching at William Holland but are not sure when Wildacres will be available until much later. We will send the information to you as soon as we get it so please read your *Lodestar*.

We are looking forward to the second phase of our annual meeting which is the most important meeting of the year. Iris McGehee and the Montgomery, AL club have planned a great meeting and show for us and we need each of you there, so register promptly to insure that we have a quorum. Our nominating committee has proposed a fine slate of officers to lead us next year and we need your vote at the election. This is also the time for you to provide your input into next year's program and it is not too early to begin discussing changes in our by-laws that we should consider next year. In addition, all voting members and committee chairs need to submit their reports for inclusion in the packets and those who will not be doing the same job next year need to provide all of the information necessary for the next person to do as good a job as you have done.

IMPORTANT NOTE!!!:

My E-mail address has changed to:

annmonroe@windstream.net

Ann Monroe, SFMS President

email: 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.

2006 SFMS Officers

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The article submittal due date for the Nov. 2006 Lodestar is Oct. 25, 2006.

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**Be Safe – Be Well
“Strangers in Paradise”**

Safety Committee – Don Monroe, Chairman

We all may tend to feel that we pretty well know our way around out in the woods or on field trips, yet probably are not aware of dangers that may exist in unfamiliar locations. Situations discussed with me at the recent AFMS/SFMS meeting in Nashville reminded me that there is so much that I don't know about conditions in any other areas and I'll bet that some of you don't know either.

Picture yourself out in the desert in the Southwest and you encounter an oil well that is being pumped or you find a pipeline pumping station. It may well be un-manned and may not be adequately fenced. Well, it looks fine but have you thought about



poison gases that may be present? Do you rely on your knowledge and sense of smell? I no longer feel comfortable in that situation. We all know about hydrogen sulfide and the “rotten egg” smell but may not know that it is an extremely deadly gas when concentrated. I lived close to an industrial plant that periodically released quantities of the noxious gas, which is very heavy and drifted over farmland where it killed both vegetation and livestock. Because of the foul odor, you would think that it would be difficult to get into trouble but that is not the case. Plant workers would become accustomed to the smell and not be able to differentiate between an irritating concentration and a deadly concentration of the gas. Fatalities did result. (Above a certain concentration, our sense of smell no longer works. - editor)



In the Southeast we have a small tan scorpion, which is often referred to as a pine scorpion. Yes, it will sting you and it really does hurt but is almost never fatal. In the West they have scorpions that really pack a wallop. They bear some

resemblance to their eastern cousins but they can kill. They also have snakes in the West as we find in most parts of the country but big western diamondback rattlesnakes can inject enough venom to kill quickly. There are many variables that influence the hazard of being bitten by a poisonous snake including snake size, type of snake, how recently the snake has attacked something, what part of the body is bitten and what you do following the bite. My advice? Think about doing the following:



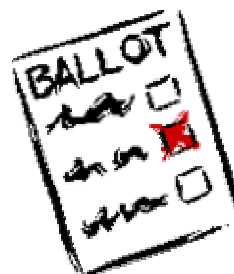
- Research a little and learn to identify poisonous snakes.

- Learn the latest medical recommendations for first aid for snakebite. (In other words, don't cut and suck ...That is discouraged now. - editor)
- Stay alert and watch where you put your hands, feet and other body parts. The speed of a striking snake is awesome and it has been said that they can reach out a third of their length or more.
- Finally stay calm (if you can). Increasing your heart rate or blood pressure is counter-productive. Having been bitten as a kid, I know it is easy to do exactly the wrong thing. I ran like heck and my parents had to chase me to take me to the doctor.

Do you know if you have any severe allergies? Being allergic to insect stings can create a far more hazardous situation than snakebite. Wasps, hornets, biting flies, biting ants are all out there waiting for you.



Last, but not least, please remember that sunstroke, dehydration, sunburn, and many other outdoor problems can do bad things to you. We will talk about these other things some other day.



**2006 SFMS
SLATE OF NOMINEES**

The SFMS Nomination Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for officer elections to take place during Part 2 of the Annual SFMS Meeting in Montgomery, Alabama in December 2006:

President:	Buddy Shotts
1st Vice President:	Steve Heneger
2nd Vice President:	Betty James
Secretary:	Beryl Ferguson
Assistant Treasurer:	Roger Campbell
Lodestar Editor:	Carolyn Daniels
4th Vice President AFMS:	Don Monroe

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Eileen Price, SFMS Nomination Committee Chair

CORRECTION: BULLETIN CONTEST CHAIRMAN

Please note that I did not resign my current position as SFMS Bulletin Contest Chairman as reported by Buddy Shotts at the Nashville meeting. On Jan 13, 2006, I notified Buddy that I would not be available to serve in 2007, to give him sufficient time to find a 2007 chairman, so that they would be ready to start working on the 2007 contest, and to get the information and forms published in the Fall of 2006. Somehow, Buddy misunderstood what I said.

I will be completing my year and will be making the awards at the meeting in Montgomery in December.

*Thanks,
Anna Denton
SFMS Bulletin Contest Chairman*

**EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS**

I am sure that you will note that this issue of *Lodestar* is rather slim. This is because I have received very few articles from you. I am very busy with a project at work that must be finished by October 31, 2006 and I will be traveling to New

Mexico on November 1, 2006 to attend my eldest daughter's thesis defense. Therefore, I have had little time to search out articles and/or to nag people regarding their articles this month. Likewise, there will be little free time next month.

To avoid another slim issue, please get your articles to me by October 25th for the November issue of *Lodestar*. There will be no exceptions to the deadline for that issue.

Carolyn Daniels, Lodestar Editor

YOUTH RESOURCES

October will be a busy month for our youth who have been working toward the "JOY" award. The criteria are to be completed by the 31st of October and submitted by the 10th of November. It is not too late to get a copy of the criteria, by calling us at 727.894.2440. The winner will be announced at the annual SFMS Banquet in Montgomery, AL on December 2, 2006 and the plaque and gift will be presented at that time. We are eager to read about what you, our youth, have been doing this year. So please send us your forms by November 10th.

(Application form and criteria are included on pages 7 through 9 of this issue of *Lodestar*. - Editor)

*Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Your Resources Committee*

RAKU POTTERY

*by Elizabeth Siegfried,
2005 SFMS Junior Workshop Scholarship Winner*

As I was taking a flaming hot piece of pottery out of the kiln with yard long tongs, I started to wonder to myself: What am I doing here? I must be crazy to think I can do this! These were some of my thoughts during a pottery class I took in August at Wildacres. I had never done any kind of pottery before, so this was a new experience for me. This was what I was hoping for though, I taken jewelry classes for four years, and I wanted something different. Boy, did I get it!



Elizabeth (center) with Leona (left) and Hugh (right) Sheffield, SFMS Youth Resources Chairmen.

The week at Wildacres started when I got there Monday afternoon I ate supper and had an orientation for my class. There I met Cathy and Sarah House, who were our teachers for the week. A lot of people have not heard about *raku* pottery, so they do not know what the term means. It is regular pottery with the *raku* glaze painted on it to make it unique. The colors that the pottery ends up with are: copper, green, blue and iridescent.

Tuesday morning class started, the teacher did an example piece and then we tried one. She showed the class how to make a bowl using a plastic form, and then we were on our own. We mostly did hand building or forming, where students take a piece of clay and flatten it. Then we took the flattened piece of clay and put it either on the inside or the outside of a bowl, with our hands pushing the clay over the bowls, other in some cases, other shaped forms. We then finished our pieces by putting designs or patterns on them. When our projects were bowls, we put feet on the bottoms for them to sit on. Then we had to let the pottery dry and harden for a few hours or overnight. Our teachers let us try throwing clay on a wheel, but most of us had little success with that.

We made pieces of pottery for the first two days and then the third day the pieces we had made were put in the kiln. Some of the items made by the students were: big and small bowls, plates, trays, boxes, candle holders, vases, buttons, anything we could think of. You really have to bring your imagination along to this class!

The forth day we started putting glazes on the pottery and firing them in the *raku* kiln. This was the fun part! Of course it was all fun but this was exciting! We chose glazes for our pieces, and then were anxious to see how they would turn out. We never really knew how it would look, a glaze turned out different on every piece of pottery. It was hard to say, "I want one that is that color," and actually get that color. There was no guarantee exactly how it would look when finished.

(Continued Next Page)

RAKU POTTERY

(Continued)

We put the first few pieces in that morning, and then built 'nests' to put the pottery in after it came out of the kiln. These 'nests' consisted of sawdust and newspaper. After the piece has been in the raku kiln for about 20-30 minutes we raised the lid of the kiln to take out our pieces. Of course, these pieces have just been fired at about 1200° F so you cannot just reach in and pick them up. We had to put on big gloves that went up to our elbows and grab a pair of huge tongs that were more than a yard long. There were only two pairs of tongs, but an average of four pieces in the kiln at one time. So we



View of the Raku kiln used by Elizabeth.

had to wait until the first person finished with the tongs, and then passed them to the next, and then the piece could be taken out, being careful not to drop it. The next step was to turn around and place the piece on a nest.



Elizabeth building her "nest" for her Raku piece.

Then came the surprise—whoosh! The sawdust and newspaper caught on fire from the heat of the pottery, and then we quickly put a metal pot or tub over the pottery while it was burning. All this must be done while not dropping it, as the broken pieces will go right through your shoes and clothes to burn *you*. Also running into anyone else carrying a flaming piece of pottery will result in the same tragedy. There were always other people around watching, so you had to keep an eye on them. After less than five minutes of crazy rushing around, the kiln is started again and we go back to sitting, reading, knitting or anything else to pass the time until the next adrenaline rush.

done around 7:30 P.M. we smelled like a campfire, or like we had been fighting a fire or *something* that was burning anyway! After the pieces cooled, we cleaned them up with water and scrub pads and a little Comet® to take off some of the black soot left on the piece. This was all you had to do, and *voila!* A beautiful piece of **RAKU POTTERY!** Now where to put it?



View of the fire generated when the Raku pottery piece was placed on a "nest" of newspaper and sawdust.

This process went on over and over for two days until all the pieces were fired. We had to take dinner in shifts so someone could stay with the kiln. By the time we were



View of the metal pot used to extinguish the flaming raku piece .

I really had a great time and I think all the other students did as well, it is an experience not to be missed. I learned a lot and; reward! After building the pieces, firing them in the kiln, and doing the finishing touches, I had eight beautiful pieces of unique *Raku* Pottery. Thanks to everyone for the opportunity to take this class, without the SFMS scholarship I never would have had such a wonderful time.

**SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
ANNUAL MEETING (PHASE 2)**

Hosted by
Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society
Montgomery, Alabama
Saturday, December 2, 2006

Hotel: Drury Inn & Suites located at I-85 & Eastern Boulevard, 1124 Eastern Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama. For reservations call: 1.800.325.0720 and use the code SFMS for the rate of \$64.00 for King Bed Deluxe or \$74.00 for two Queen Beds Deluxe (The rates are for up to six people per room). Rates are valid per room, per night plus tax. **Reservations must be made by November 1st for these special rates.**

Hotel amenities include: **Free** Hot! Quikstart Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, sausage, Belgian waffles, biscuits & gravy and more. **Free** Evening Beverages and Snacks. **Free** Long Distance: One Hour, Every Room, Every Night. **Free** High-Speed Internet Access in all rooms. **Free** Local Phone Calls. **Free** HBO, ESPN, CNN & More. Indoor/Outdoor Pool & Whirlpool. Well-Lit On-site Parking. **Plus much more!!**

Directions to Drury Inn & Suites: Exit I-85 at Eastern Boulevard. (Motel sign can be seen from the I-85.)

There are R.V. hookups at Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive, the site of the Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, for \$15.00 per day. The spots are on a first-come, first serve basis, and anyone desiring a spot should go to the Coliseum office any time from 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. (CST) to pay and be assigned a spot.

Directions to Coliseum from Drury Inn & Suites: Turn left on Eastern Bypass after leaving motel parking lot. Travel west approximately 4.2 miles to U.S. 231/Wetumpka exit, turn left and travel about 2.9 miles. Coliseum will be on the right side of Federal Drive (You can't miss it.)

Show Information: The 36th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, December 1-3. Show times: Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.; Saturday, 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.; Sunday, 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Free Admission & Parking.

Meeting: The meeting will be held in the Kiwanis Room at Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive.

The Banquet: The banquet will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum auditorium and will be served buffet style. It will feature roast beef, boneless chicken breast, tossed garden salad, potatoes O'Brien, buttered green beans almondine, bread, drink, and dessert. **Reservations must be made by November 1st and should include your check made payable to the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society for \$20.00 per person and returned to P.O. Box 3273, Montgomery, Alabama 36109-0273.**

Directions to Mann Museum from Drury Inn: Travel as if going to Garrett Coliseum. Instead of getting off on the Highway 231 go to Coliseum Blvd. exit. Turn left, go to Gardendale (there is a traffic light there). Turn right and go about 2 blocks to Fairground Road. Turn right again and following the road pass the Zoo on right. Look for Mann Museum sign and parking. It will be on the right hand side of the road.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Number Attending _____

Amount enclosed _____

APPLICATION FOR SFMS JUNIOR OF THE YEAR 2007

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

I, _____, certify that I am a member in good standing of the _____ Gem and Mineral Club, which is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. I am a paid member throughout the calendar Year 2007. All of the points on this application are for activities between November 1, 2006 and October 31, 2007. All entries are true and correct.

PRESIDENT OF THE SPONSORING CLUB

I _____, as President of the sponsoring Club believe that all the points recorded in this application are true and correct.

PARENT/ GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

ALL MATERIAL MUST BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 31, 2007

ALL MATERIAL MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 10, 2007

THE JUNIOR OF THE YEAR (JOY) WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE DECEMBER 2007 *LODESTAR* AND AT THE 2007 SFMS ANNUAL MEETING! GOOD LUCK!

SFMS JUNIOR OF THE YEAR 2007 CRITERIA

NOTE: On a separate sheet(s) of paper, list and identify/describe activities and the points attained for each individual activity (i.e. #2 Adult meetings attended: May 2005 (5 points), July 2005 (2 points) etc.).

- 1. Must be a current, paid Junior member of a club in the Southeast Federation, 5 points....._____points
- 2. Must attend at least one adult meeting, 5 points....._____points
Attendance at additional adult meetings, 2 points each....._____points
(5 points if there is no Junior meeting available to attend)
- 3. Attendance at Junior meetings/workshops, 5 points each....._____points
Serving as an officer, committee member or presenter 5 points each meeting_____points
- 4. Attendance at a Gem and Mineral Club Show other than your own. Show must be recognized by an organized Club or one of the major federations. (Obtain and save show ticket or program), 10 points....._____points

NOTE: Attendance at a primarily rock, gem, mineral, fossil, or earth science museum, National Park, or other exhibit related to our hobby will be considered a "show". Enter points above, 10 points each

- 5. Participation in a Gem and Mineral Club sponsored (or Dixie Mineral Council sponsored) field trip, including Junior Club field trips, 15 points each....._____points
- 6. Participation in a family field trip or field trip with a group other than those listed above, 10 points per trip....._____points
- 7. In keeping with the "Each one Teach one" program, a Junior club member can earn 10 points per occasion for sharing our hobby with others by teaching them a defined skill (example - Gem tree making at your club show or presenting a program)....._____points
- 8. In the spirit of sharing our hobby and encouraging growth of the clubs in our Federation, a Junior may earn 5 points for sponsoring a new Junior or adult member and an additional 5 points for attending a meeting to introduce them_____points

NOTE: Articles accepted by the Editor but not yet published by October, 2006 can be counted for this or next year, but for one year only.

(Continued Next Page)

SFMS JUNIOR OF THE YEAR 2007 CRITERIA

(Continued)

9. Publication of a well-researched educational article on some phase of our hobby or the earth sciences in your club bulletin. Accuracy of information and references required. 25 points_____points

10. Publication of a report in your club bulletin on a Junior Club meeting, workshop or field trip, 10 points each_____points

11. A Junior Club member winning a regional or national award for articles published in a club bulletin and submitted for competition will receive 25 points for each such recognition....._____points

NOTE: You may receive points for publication of an article one year and receive points for the same article for recognition the next year....._____points

12. Junior sharing our hobby at schools or in other groups by making a presentation may receive 5 points for each presentation if a written verification is obtained at the time from the adult in charge....._____points

13. Junior recognized in school, regional or state Science Fairs for exhibits related to our hobby or to Federation purposes will receive 20 points per recognition....._____points

14. Junior having an exhibit in your club show, 20 points per exhibit....._____points

15. Junior working at the annual club show will receive 5 points for each hour verified work period....._____points

TOTAL POINTS_____

For a possible tie breaker describe any other hobby related information regarding publications, activities, or recognitions achieved this past year that might help us evaluate your enthusiasm for winning this JOY award.

October 2006

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

LOOKING AHEAD

CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

(Check with show contact for admission charges, if any)

November 4-5, 2006, Ft. Pierce, FL - St. Lucie County

Rock & Gem Club. Rock and Gem Show. St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, Midway Road. Hours: 4th & 5th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contacts: Dealer Chairman, Dennis Ponte @ 772.288.3296 or dennisponte@msn.com and Show Chairman, Norm Holbert @ 772.873.0787 or normholbert@bellsouth.net.

November 10-12, 2006, Pascagoula, MS - Mississippi

Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. 17th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Contact: John M. Wright, 228.875.9192 or osjbw@datasync.com.

November 17-19, 2006, Marietta, GA—Cobb County

Gem & Mineral Society. 21st Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Cobb Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway. Hours: 17th & 18th, 10:00 A.M.—6:00 P.M. and 19th, 10:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. Contact: Mary Ingram at 770.427.1108, www.cobbcountymineral.org/event.html or mimgram@mindspring.com.

December 8-10, 2006, Norcross, GA - Georgia Mineral

Society. 13th Annual Gem & Mineral Holiday Show. North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court. Hours: 8th and 9th, 10:00 - 6:00 P.M. and 10th, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Kim Cochran @ 770.979.8331.

December 11-12, 2006, Deland, FL - Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society (of the Greater Daytona Beach & Holly Hill, Florida Area).

Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Arena, State Rd 44 (One-mile east of I-4 Exit 118). Hours: 11th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 12th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Pollyan Darling @ 386.428.7696 or gemdarlings@cfl.rr.com. Website: www.tomokagemmineralsociety.com.

Februaru 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.

March 9-11, 2007, Augusta, GA—Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society and the Augusta Gem and Mineral Society.

19th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street. Contact: Shellie T. Newell at 305 Fairway Drive, Graniteville, SC 29829; aa.qmfs@earthlink.net; or www.homestead.com/aikengms.

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
December 1-3, 2006
(See page 6)

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.

2006 SFMS Committee Chairmen

Nominations

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Bulletin Contest

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