

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



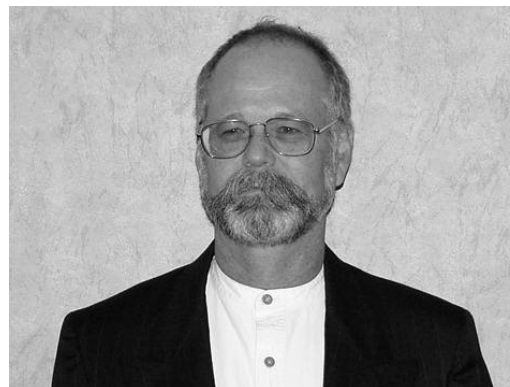
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXIX/One

January 2004

Upcoming DMC Field Trips

- **January 17, 2004:** Ruck's Pit, Ft. Drum, Florida for marine fossils, minerals (calcite) and partially mineral replaced fossils.
- **February 28, 2004:** Epes, Sumter County, Alabama for marcasite, pyrite nodules and Cretaceous Age fossils.



Check your local club newsletter for details.

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all on this Winter Solstice 2003,

We approach the New Year and celebrate the coming of the new spring. Lights and festivities cheer us in these times of short daylight and long nights. As rockhounds, we clean and sort through the bounty of last year, perform lapidary miracles (or watch enviously as others do) and plan excursions for the new collecting season. SFMS plans for workshops, junior programs, and scholarships grow and develop. We look forward to working together and accomplishing much more as a whole than we ever could as individuals.

I thank the SFMS membership for showing confidence in me and electing me to be the next SFMS President. Together we will promote and enjoy our hobby and further the education of all ages. From juniors to college students to Wildacres to William Holland, teaching and learning is what we share. New ideas are welcome, proven successful procedures will be heeded, and my ears (email, phone, and snail mail) are available to anyone interested enough to express their opinion. There is much to be done and only with the efforts and persistence of many folks can the SFMS continue forward with ongoing successful projects.

Welcome to all who view this message, whether by Internet, email or a hard copy of the Lodestar. Let us go forth and do good works.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bill Waggener*

THE SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.



A Non-Profit, Non-Commercial, Non-Political Organization and
Regional Federation of the American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



PURPOSE:

To bring about a closer association of Clubs and Societies devoted to the study of Earth Sciences and the practice of Lapidary Arts and Crafts in the Southeast part of the United States.

OBJECTIVE:

To cooperate with similar Federations to promote public interest in the Earth Sciences and the conservation of natural resources.

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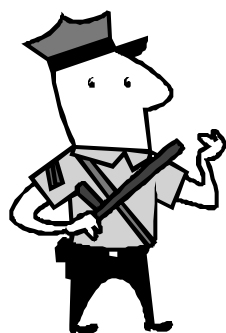
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The article submittal due date for the February 2004 Lodestar is February 1, 2004.

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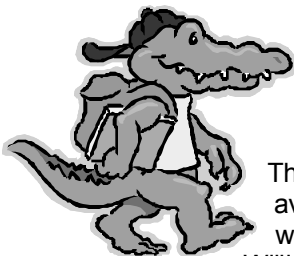
EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS.....

Well, I have finished my first issue of Lodestar and it was an experience! Thank you for submitting your articles in a timely manner. I will continue to set the deadline for article submittals as the first day of the month in which you want them to appear. If an article you submitted for publication did not appear, it was not time critical, and I will attempt to publish it at the earliest date possible.

I will continue to look forward to original article submittals in the future, and please don't forget to submit information regarding your individual society sponsored show. I cannot publish information that I do not have. Articles regarding special activities and/or accomplishments of our member clubs are always welcome. If you have hints applicable to our special interest/hobby, they are also welcome.

Thank you for making my first month as editor an enjoyable one. Keep those articles coming in!

Carolyn L. Daniels, Lodestar Editor

**JUNIOR FEDERATION WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIPS**

There are youth scholarships available for the SFMS 2004 workshops at Wildacres or William Holland. The Federation has most generously offered scholarships to deserving Junior (ages 12 to 18) Club Members of a Federation Club. The President of the sponsoring adult club should submit the junior's name with an explanation of the youth's qualifications that the club has considered in recommending the youth for a scholarship. Also the youth should submit a short essay explaining their interest in the hobby and why they would like to attend the workshop. A responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop and permission must be obtained from the workshop directors and the class teacher, which is usually not a problem.

The deadline for applying for a scholarship is:

MARCH 31, 2004.

All recommendations should be sent to:

Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resource Committee
2440 Southshore Dr. SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33705-3331

*Hugh and Leona Sheffield
SFMS Youth Resources Chairmen*

Thanks for a Great Meeting in Roanoke!

The Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society and The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg hosted our 2003 Annual Meeting and Show with great efficiency and coordination. The meetings went smoothly, the food was good and the hospitality was heart-warming. Their cooperation even extended to providing the next SFMS Assistant Treasurer, David Katt. Despite family gathering conflicts for some folks, the meeting was well attended and the annual SFMS business was concluded with a positive attitude.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all attendees, hosts and hostesses. It was a pleasure to see new faces and familiar faces in a new setting. I know that the new 2004 year will continue with the positive attitude and cooperation that ended 2003.



*Best wishes to everyone,
Bill Waggener, SFMS President*

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Holidays are finally over with and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's Eve. Let us all look forward to a Joyous 2004.

Just a couple of things to mention this month:

A.) With the signing of the Anti-spam legislation my bulk mail has risen from 25-30 pieces of spam to 150-200 pieces per day. Now Yahoo puts what it thinks is spam in bulk mail for me. I do not even bother to open bulk mail, I just automatically delete it. So, if you don't get an answer to an email you sent me, that is probably what happened - Yahoo sent it to bulk mail. Be sure you put a reference to the SFMS Membership Secretary in the subject line of all email that you send me.

B.) Last year all SFMS member clubs submitted their renewal applications to me in a timely manner and we were able to publish the 2003 Directory early. Let's say "Thank You" to all of you who made this possible. Believe it or not the Officers and Committee Chairs let it be known that they were very appreciative of this.

Now let's do it again! Thus far for 2004, I have received 19 renewals which is a good start. Remember, renewals are due between January 1, 2004 and January 31, 2004 and become delinquent February 1, 2004. Delinquent clubs forfeit: 1. Voting rights at the next Annual Meeting, 2. Use of Federation Slide/Video Programs, and 3. Participation in Federation Sponsored Workshops. Clubs failing to renew by March 1, 2004 will be deleted from the rolls of SFMS.

Delinquent clubs may be re-apply for membership in the SFMS as a new club by submitting an Application for Membership along with all dues and fees.

Make me proud of you once again by sending in your Renewal Applications in a timely manner. A renewal application was provided in the December 2003 issue of Lodestar. (Contact Carolyn Daniels, editor, if you need another copy, which will be sent via US mail.)

Leo Morris, SFMS Membership Secretary

January 2004

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

COME BE OUR GUESTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Betty James, SFMS Secretary

SFMS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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

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

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

DIRECTIONS TO THE RAMADA INN SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE CENTER

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

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

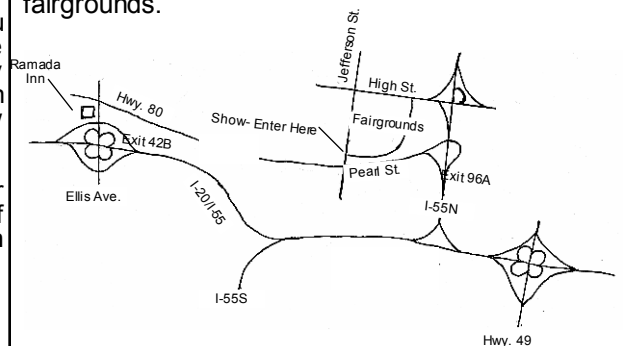
Traveling East on I-20: Exit 42B to Ellis Avenue North. This is a right hand exit that will bring you under the I-20 overpass.

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

DIRECTIONS TO THE SHOW

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

Full hookup camping is available at the fairgrounds.



**MINUTES OF THE 2003 ANNUAL SFMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, ROANOKE, VA
NOVEMBER 29, 2003
(Part One)**

The 2003 Annual Board of Directors Meeting of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. was held on November 29, at Roanoke, VA. The meeting was called to order at 1:50 p.m., by President Ron Denton, who gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Tuttle.

President Denton introduced Past Presidents, David Tuttle and Don Monroe.

David Katt of the Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society welcomed those attending the meeting.

The Secretary reported that a quorum was present.

The agenda was approved by motion of William Waggener, second by Frank Decaminada and unanimous consent of those present. David Tuttle was appointed Parliamentarian. The minutes of the last meeting were approved with one correction: Marty Hart is State Director of Tennessee, not North Carolina.

The president presented a certificate of appreciation for his service as newsletter editor to John Watkins.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President - Ron Denton: We have developed an insurance program with the lowest cost of any of the federations and are working toward fiduciary responsibility in all other areas.

1st Vice President - William G. Waggener: 2004 show and annual meeting will be held in Norcross, GA on 10-12 December, hosted by Georgia Mineral Society. First Executive Board meeting will be in Jackson, MS and Low Country Gem & Mineral Society, Charlotte, NC is considering the second Executive Board meeting.

2nd Vice President - Eileen Price: The only vacancy in State Directors is now North Carolina; there have been no nominations for that position.

Secretary - Betty James: Commented on pre-registration form and stated that e-mail registration is preferred.

Treasurer - Ken Anderson: Submitted written report: budgeted amount for 2003 - \$25,900.00; actual expenditures through 11/24/03 - \$15,259.86. Cash balance as of 11/29/03 - \$79,219.38; Stamp program - \$1,777.30; W. Holland \$1,500.00; Wildacres - \$1,500.00. Ken asked that expenditures for 2003 be submitted so that payment could be made before end of year.

Asst. Treasurer - VACANT.

Membership Secretary - Leo Morris: All member clubs renewed on time. One new club added, the Playground Gem & Mineral Society of Fort Walton Beach, FL. Total of 81 clubs, 7758 members.

Lodestar Editor - John Watkins: Asked for a by-laws change to be submitted to make editor's duties easier in the future. Gave a list of Lodestar Editor Duties.

STATE DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Alabama - Iris McGehee: Has visited Alabama clubs' shows and reports on interesting programs, workshops and community activities from all.

Florida - Jack Stamper: Not present, no report.

Georgia- Olin Banks: Tendered his resignation effective June, 2004, and offered much material and help for his replacement.

Kentucky - David Horn: Not present. Reported both clubs are active with shows and field trips but hopes to attract more young people.

Louisiana - Sid Drouant: Not present, no report.

Mississippi - Buddy Shotts: Reported on club shows, workshops and club picnic in Mississippi clubs.

North Carolina: VACANT

South Carolina - Fred Sias: There are 6 active SC clubs, 4 with annual show.

Tennessee - Marty Hart: Not present, no report.

Virginia: David Lipscomb, not present, no report.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)