The Lodestar is the newsletter of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. and is published electronically every month.

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sfms.lodestar@gmail.com

Postal service submission or communication:
Lodestar; 276 Lacy Lane;
Easley, SC 29640

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sfms.lodestar@gmail.com

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.
President's Report

- David Wayment, SFMS President

It is now March and hopefully spring is starting to arrive in your area. It also means it is time to pay for your liability insurance if your club chooses to participate in the SFMS insurance program.

One of the primary purposes of the SFMS is to promote the education of our hobby. One of the ways we do this is the SFMS sponsored workshops at William Holland and Wildacres. Make sure you check out the class schedules at www.SFMSworkshops.com. Get your registration in soon as some classes are already filling up. This is a great way to learn a new skill, advance your knowledge of your craft and spend time with other federation members and make new friends.

Our next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 5-7 at the Tannehill State Park near Birmingham, Alabama. Why not attend the meeting and then join us for the SFMS Workshop
at William Holland starting on June 7th? More information on the quarterly meeting will be posted on the website soon.

Our Annual Meeting this year will be in Melbourne, Florida November 6-8. Pencil it in on your calendar now.

**Safety Article**

Bob Green, Chairperson

Greetings all, it does look like winter will cease before July after all. Now with spring seemingly over it is time to catch up with our outside work. And after all of our sedentary winter activities like watching football and basket ball, we must now clean up after the winter storms and just the yucky weather.

This leads into this month’s article. If your yard looks like mine, there is an abundance of twigs, small limbs and some large limbs that need to be collected and disposed of properly. We live in the country so we can burn many of these in our fire pit. And remember the article several months ago about the dangers of fire. We humans seem to be drawn to the camp fire and the memories of our youth. Many of us played with fire too close and we paid a small price for it.

Back to the issue of cleaning up outside: The cleaning of the yard and the outside of the house can expose you to several hazards. For one the exertion is something that unless we were fortunate enough to have a nice snow so that we can get some outside exercise, we need to plan for the exercise. Proper stretching is needed and a bit of warm-up exercise can help prevent strains and pains. As we get older and getting older is preferable stretch our muscles and tendons. After I ruptured my Achilles tendon about 3 years ago, doing something really stupid, the doctor told me that as we get older the tendons tend to lose their flexibility and proper stretching is required to minimize the muscles saying yes and the tendon saying no. So that is recommendation number one.

Now on to number two: As you are moving your plants around, remember where the poison plants were from last year if you have any around. The tops of the plants are dormant, but the chemicals in the plant that cause the irritation are alive and well in the roots of these. Several years ago, I got into relocating some day lilies that were in the edge of the woods surrounding our house. I did a really great job, moved lots of these as they had just started poking their heads out of the ground. Unfortunately I had not remembered that I had a patch of poison ivy in the area. I was wearing a short sleeve shirt because it was a nice spring day and as a result of the roots of the ivy and my exposed skin, I got a magnificent case of the ivy rash. So, even if it is uncomfortable a long sleeve shirt and proper gloves, eye protection and long pants are suggested.

The last suggestion; is to keep hydrated. It is easy to forget that with the warm weather and the exercise that you can lose a lot of fluids. So take a break, drink water or one of the sports drinks to replenish the lost fluids. And enjoy the warmer weather, but do it safely.
Educational Workshops Report

- Danny Griffin, SFMS Education Co-Chair

Everyone that’s interested in taking an SFMS Workshop this year should check out the schedule, and class details, at www.sfmsworkshops.com. There are several classes that have never been offered before. Here’s a short list:

**William Holland June 7 – 13th, 2015**

- Silver Advanced – Channel Inlay
- Tool Making
- Jr. Rockhounding – Mineral ID
- Jr. Rockhounding – Wire Wrapping and Chain
- Wire for Beaders

**Wildacres August 17 – 23, 2015**

- Stakes and Hammers
- Meteorite – Symposium
- Stone Carving

**Wildacres Sept. 21-27, 2015**

- Advanced Flint Knapping
- Fused Chain-Maille
- Meteorite - Symposium

Many of the classes on this year’s schedule are returns that have been requested by prior attendees.

The ability to pay tuition via credit card has been setup for both locations. The details should be on the website very soon. There will be a 5% processing charge for each student paying by credit card. This is to offset the processing company’s fees to the SFMS. For details on paying your tuition with a credit card contact the Registrars listed at the bottom of the Registration form or visit the website at www.sfmsworkshops.com.

For additional details concerning tuition, cost, etc. see the registration form at www.sfmsworkshops.com.

Beginning in the next issue of the Lodestar I will highlight a class or two that will hopefully peak your interest.

**And most important** - If you are reading this article, please pass this information on to
2015 Bulletin Editor's Contest New Deadline is April 30

From Mark Easterbrook, SFMS Bulletin Editor’s Contest Chair

Greetings Fellow Editors,

The 2015 Bulletin Editor’s Contest is ongoing for 2015 with the submittal deadline next month. All of the details are found at the SFMS website. Please use the following link to access forms and instructions: www.amfed.org/sfms/bulletin

The deadline for entries has been extended through April 30 this year. I encourage all editors to enter the contest. This is a great way to see how you can improve your bulletin/newsletter and your writing and editing skills. I know this contest has helped me improve my skills over the years and I know that it can help you, as well. As of this writing (10 March 2015) I have not received any entries as yet and you now have until the end of April in which to send me your entries for this year’s contest. Remember, to qualify for the 2015 contest your entry must have been published exclusively for your club newsletter or bulletin during 2014 between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014. Please send me your submissions to the following address:

Bulletin Editor’s Contest

c/o Mark Easterbrook
6701 Dorchester Road, Apt. 1007
North Charleston, SC 29418

Email: asgardsgc@earthlink.net
Cell: 843-276-4016

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2015 SFMS WORKSHOP

The President of each SFMS club is encouraged to nominate a Junior Rockhound for a youth scholarship to the June 7 - 13th Workshop at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts.

* The President of the sponsoring adult club submits the junior’s name with an explanation of
the club's qualifications considered in recommending this youth.

* The youth submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop.

* Deadline for applying for the scholarship is March 31, 2015.

* Send recommendations to:
  SFMS Youth Resources
  Annette Gibney
  atgib@aol.com

When attending the SFMS workshop:

* Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.

* Responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

FOLLOWING THE SFMS WORKSHOP:

**After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship recipient is encouraged to write a Loadstar article about the experience.

DON'T LET YOUR JUNIOR ROCKHOUND MISS OUT The deadline for your chance to honor your club's Jr. Rockhound of the year has been extended to March 31st. All your club president needs to do is submit a nomination with a short note listing the reasons the nominee deserves recognition to Annette Gibney, Youth Chair, at atgib@aol.com. We will then send you a certificate for you to present to your chosen Junior Rockhound at your next meeting.

Please take a minute to recognize a valuable member and the future of your club TODAY.

2015 Website Contest

Jeff Ursillo, Webmaster

The deadline for submitting your entry in the 2015 SFMS Web Site contest is April 1st - not very far away. I recently sent an email out to all Federation webmasters and if no contact was available, to the club Presidents. I was very happy to have already received 2 entries for this years contest.

The entry forms for this years contest are one the SFMS website. From the home page, click on the "2015 website contest" link. The first PDF is a set of guidelines...lots of very good information and instructions that should be read before filling in your entry form and scoresheet. The next two PDFs are the Entry Form and the
Scoresheet. These are fillable PDFs. When you are done filling them in, please save them with the following title “2015 AFMS (insert your club name)” and email them to me at bnmjeff@aol.com. When the deadline for entries passes, all forms and scoresheets will be forwarded to the contest judges, who will evaluate your site to determine the results. During the process, they will visit your web site numerous times, so it’s important that you keep everything up-to-date.

Your web site is your club’s “Window to the World”. With so many people now relying on the internet for obtaining information, your site should be encouraging, inviting and full of information about your club to encourage visitors and potential new members to attend and join.

What are the advantages of entering?

• You will receive feedback via the score sheet that tells you what’s working well and what's not so that you can make adjustments for the future.

• Your club will gain publicity via the SFMS Newsletter, The Lodestar, when the results are announced (this happens after the Annual meeting in November when the awards will be presented). From past experience, once results are announced, many will go to your site to learn about your club.

• If your website scores within the top three in this contest, the information will be forwarded to AFMS for further evaluation by different judges who will look at entries from the six other regional federation competitions. (You’ll then gain publicity through the AFMS Newsletter!)

Remember, the deadline for sending in your application is April 1. Don’t let that important date pass you by...I’m anxious to see your club “Window to the World” and learn more about what your group is doing.

“GOING BACK TO GOLD”

By Thomas Pallanta, Jr.

Since the great economic slump of 2008, gold has skyrocketed in price to $1800.00 a troy ounce (Editor’s Note: price currently less than $1,200 per troy ounce). In political circles, there is talk of returning America's monetary system to the gold standard. Certainly, enough people are buying up gold as an investment or a hedge against a depression.

The latter is not a wise decision. Gold has always been a volatile investment depending on supply and demand. Right now, the demand is greater than the supply. But if a major gold strike occurs, then the price can plunge drastically. As for protection from depression, I know of no retail business that is set up with equipment to handle payments in gold.

Since the time of King Croesus in the first Millennium BC, gold coinage was the measure of
wealth. However, it was a very uncertain measure. When Julius Caesar conquered Gaul, modern day France, the Romans had no gold. But, the Gauls were rich with gold.

They had over two hundred gold mines. After the conquest, the Romans minted gold coins for the first time. When Octavian conquered Egypt, he brought home so much gold and silver that Rome fell into a depression. The sudden abundance of gold caused the currency to crash. A similar thing happened when Trajan conquered the Kingdom of Dacia.

When the American Republic was founded in 1783, the new government was critically short of cash. In many places, people were using homemade whisky in place of money. When the government tried to tax whisky, the people rebelled, because they had no money to pay the tax.

In 1799, gold was discovered in the eastern hills of Georgia and the Carolinas. The government was so desperate for gold that the US army was used to drive the native peoples off of their lands so the gold could be exploited. This tragic prescient, would be repeated time and again throughout the 19th century.

But, the great gold strikes of the west never solved the nation’s problem. There simply was never enough gold to back the currency. A temporary solution was achieved when silver was also monetized. But, in the late 19th century, the great silver strikes of Leadville, Colorado; The Comstock, Nevada; and the Coeur d’Alene, Idaho so glutted the nation’s silver reserves that America went off of the silver standard in 1893. This move devastated the silver mining industry and plunged the great Silver Kings, like Horace Tabor into poverty overnight.

After the collapse of silver, the government set up a formula of multiples linked to our gold reserves. For instance, if only one billion dollars of gold was in the reserves and five billion dollars was in circulation, the formula would be that only one billion would be backed by gold. The remaining four billion would be backed by the promise of payment. Thus, with less money in circulation, there is higher cash value. With more money in circulation, there is less cash value.

So is going back to gold a good idea? Not really. The answer is quite simply good money management by responsible people in charge of the money supply. Responsibility and sensible regulation are the two pillars upon which the financial health of the nation rests.

Source: Rock Chatter, 2/2012

Gem and Mineral Shows

March 28 & 29, 2015; Lexington, KY

Lexington Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show
Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newton Pike, Lexington, KY. Near Exit 115 of I-75/I-64.

Hours: Sat March 28 10AM-6PM, Sun March 29 11AM-5PM.

Show includes minerals, jewelry, equipment dealers, exhibits, KY Agate, fluorescent displays, hourly prizes.

Admission: $2 Adults, $1 Children, $5 Max Family. Scouts in uniform free.

Info Jane Volk, lexgemshow@outlook.com or www.bggamc.homestead.com.

April 25 & 26, 2015, Memphis, TN

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show

“The Earth Wide Open”
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN

Saturday, April 25 9-6:00 and Sunday, April 26 10-5,

Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Grand and hourly door prizes. Kids Area with Rockzone featuring Gem Dig, Geode Bowling, and Rocks Around the Clock.

Adults $5.00, 2 day pass $8.00, Children 12 and under $2.00. Scouts in uniform Free

web: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com
email info@theearthwideopen.com.

Show Chair James Butchko 901 743-0058
Dealer Chair WC McDaniel 901-274-7706

May 2 & 3, 2015, North Charleston, SC


Location: Charleston Area Convention Center; Exhibit Hall A.

Location Address: 5000 Coliseum Drive, North Charleston, SC 29418

Hours: Sat. & Sun 10-5.
Directions: I-26 East to I-526 West. Take Exit 16 (first exit), stay in right lane, and turn left onto International Blvd. Turn right at the second stop light and you will be facing the convention center. Follow the road to the left to the parking lot.

FREE admission and FREE parking; hourly door prizes, club hospitality table, demonstrations, fossil dig, geode cracking.

Contact Karen Havenstein of Charleston, SC at (843) 795-2956; e-mail: fossils@comcast.net; Web site: www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org

May 8 - 10, 2015, Norcross, GA

The Georgia Mineral Society's 47th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show, at a new location, North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court, Norcross, GA, May 8-10, 2015. We will also be celebrating our 80th birthday with an open house at our club house. Contact person: Shelley Stubbs; email address: mayshow@gamineral.org; Web site: www.gamineral.org.

May 8, 9, & 10, 2015, Franklin, NC

Retail Club Show: Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
Fri. & Sat., May 8th & 9th, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sun., May 10th, 10:00 AM - 4:00PM
Location: Carpenter Community Center, 1288 Georgia Rd. (US441), Franklin, NC
No admission charge, rough and finished gemstones and jewelry, minerals and local crafts.
Contact: Norm Holbert, 828 634-0350, normholbert@comcast.net

May 22 - 24 2015, Biloxi, Mississippi

36th Annual Show
Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Friday 10-6; Saturday 10-6; Sunday 10-4
Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center
2350 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, Mississippi
Adults $5, children (10 and under) free with adult; demonstrations, displays, Stump the Expert, hourly door prizes;
Contact Lynn Tate (228) 342-2963 or GulfportGemShow@gmail.com for additional Information

June 6 & 7, 2015, McCalla, AL

Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society 42nd annual Tannehill Historical Park Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show is FREE with paid admission to the park. The
show is held in the Tannehill Historical Ironworks State Park where three counties meet. They are Jefferson, Bibb, and Tuscaloosa. The address is: 12632 Confederate Parkway Mc Calla, AL 35111. So pack a lunch and take I-459/20 to exit #100 or I-459 to exit #1 and follow the signs. http://lapidaryclub.com

**June 13 - 14, 2015 Cartersville, GA**

**Gem and Mineral Show and Sale**

**Tellus Science Museum**

Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM

**Tellus Science Museum**

I-75 at exit 293, directly behind the Clarion Inn

Calling all rock hounds, jewelry collectors, families and everyone fascinated by the Earth’s treasures! RockFest returns to Tellus for two full days that will delight the whole family. Mark this indoor/outdoor event as a summer “must-do” on your calendar.

**Dealers** from all over the country will bring their wares for you to browse. Some will feature rare and exotic jewelry, while others will showcase ancient fossils or colorful specimens. You will have an opportunity to purchase a one-of-a-kind find at this unique festival of merchants. And what’s even better? Most **dealers** will also honor the Tellus member discount – that means members save 10% off your purchase! **Dealers** will be set up outside on the back lawn and inside the Museum in the Banquet Rooms.

- Hourly door prizes
- Free mineral specimens for the first 200 guests each day
- Bring your mystery mineral specimen for free mineral or fossil identification
- Kid’s activities

Show contact: Mary Vinson, Event Coordinator, (770) 606-5700 ext 402
Email contact: maryv@tellusmuseum.org

**October 23 – 25, 2015, Austin, TX**

AFMS Convention and Show, hosted by the South Central Federation. More details to come.

**November 21-22, 2015, West Palm Beach, Fl**

49th annual gem, mineral, jewelry, bead and fossil show

**Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches**

Saturday (Nov. 21st) 9am-6pm, Sunday (Nov. 22nd) 10am-5pm.
South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach Florida
Over 80 dealers, Door prizes, hourly prize drawings, Scholarship Fund Raffle, Fossil Dig, Gem Mining, Geode Cracking, Displays, Demonstrations, Speakers

Admission $9, children under 12 free. Visit website for $2 off coupon. 2 day admission $12. Free Parking

Show chairman, Jeff Slutzky 561-585-2080

email: show@gemandmineral.cc

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**2015 SFMS Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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**2015 SFMS State Directors**
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<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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### 2015 SFMS Committee Chairs

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<td>Field Trips</td>
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<td>Performed by Assistant Treasurer</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Slide/Video Programs</td>
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Public Relations  

-OPEN-  

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## 2015 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Rockhound of the Year</th>
<th>Boundaries</th>
<th>Bulletin Editors</th>
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<td>-OPEN-</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Lucedale, MS 39452</td>
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<td>(601) 466-0690</td>
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<td>Annette Gibney</td>
<td>Freda Hull</td>
<td>Barbara Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>6367 Birling Drive</td>
<td>P.O. Box 115</td>
<td>115 Sycamore Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus, GA 31909</td>
<td>Grant, FL 32949</td>
<td>Marietta, SC 29661</td>
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<tr>
<td>(706) 561-0325</td>
<td>(321) 725-0847</td>
<td>(864) 836-5896</td>
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<td>Jeff Ursillo</td>
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