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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Presidents Message

Danny Griffin

I’d like to say it has been an honor to serve as your 2013 President! A lot of things have been accomplished this year and it’s all due to the efforts put forth by the great folks involved in this organization. I’d like to mention just a few of your accomplishments:

- An excellent 2013 AFMS/SFMS Annual meeting
- A reorganization of duties to streamline tracking of membership
- The organization and digitalization of many of our documents
- The addition of a large new club (the Meteorite Association of Georgia)
- Four excellent Workshops

There are many, many more accomplishments that I have left out, and all are deeply appreciated. Great job everyone!!

Now I’d like to tell the story of a rock collector my family and I have always respected. He was influential in getting me involved in my local club (Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society) and eventually the SFMS. This story starts too many years ago for me to remember exactly when it was, but here we go. I started rock collecting when I was a youngster, but my mother tried to discourage it because I was sneaking off to an old abandoned rock quarry to dig and climb. She feared that I would fall and break my neck (her words) or drown in the water filled pit. I stayed in trouble because no matter where I hid my finds she would eventually find them. She seemed to have radar when it came finding every new fossil I brought home. Eventually life, and what seemed like a couple of hundred spankings later, I no longer had time for collecting.

I had been to college and started a new family before a freak circumstance got my interest spurred again. One afternoon, I was walking with my family in an old style shopping center when we passed a local photographers shop. In the window display to the left of the door were several examples of his photo work, which I paid little attention to. As we passed the door the other window display held lots of mineral and fossil specimens. I was instantly mesmerized! I often wondered what would have happened, if I had been looking in the other direction as we passed those windows. With a little persuasion my wife and children went on to a shoe store while I went in to see what else was there.

This gentlemen, Gene Tipton, was very enthusiastic and took plenty of time to show me the specimens that were set aside for his small rock shop. He did not hesitate a second to tell me
everything I needed to know about Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society. He gave me a club brochure and invited me to the next meeting. His enthusiasm was catching and I couldn’t wait to attend the first meeting! After joining the club and attending a few field trips I was hooked for life.

Gene’s love of rock collecting, jewelry making and other related things never waivered. He taught classes in his home, at the SFMS Wildacres Wokshops, and any place else he could. He was always talking up the club from the day I met him until the day he passed away. The efforts of this one man got me and my family involved, and, I’m sure, a multitude of other.

If each of us could actively promote our local clubs as much as Gene we would be overflowing with members. As your club membership becomes stagnant or dwindles down, try and remember this story. Because, it only take one or two like Gene to get things going again. And if all of us could “be like Gene” just think what we could do!

And finally, please provide your total support to the incoming 2014 staff. I am confident they will take the SFMS to bigger and better things.

Be safe during your field trips and workshops.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Remember to try and “Be like Gene”!

Personal Safety
Bob Green, Safety Chair

This month being the last of the year and with all of the holiday festivities, we will look at personal safety for this holiday time. These are appropriate for not only this time of the year, but anytime. As stated last month; I work for a large Engineering, Procurement and Construction firm where safety in all situations is a paramount concern. Our motto for several projects was “get home safely every day”.

First, again, one of my favorite topics is driving. There are more cars on the road and these tend to be less observant than the normal rush hour traffic the rest of the year. The mall traffic is particularly bad. A lot of these drivers are headed for places they have not been to since the last shopping spree whenever that was for them. Their turn signals are far from any noticeable attention. Many are also looking for a parking space and not for the pedestrians. Many of these folks are looking for addresses and they creep along at about 15 miles per hour below the posted speed limit, becoming a moving traffic hazard. Several years ago, during a non-holiday rush hour a lady stopped in the left lane and waved down an on-coming motorist to ask for directions. She was less than polite to the folks behind her when they “politely” tapped on their horn to get her moving again. My company offices are beside one of the largest shopping malls in this area. And as such, there are many opportunities to witness, somewhat less than successful driving adventures.

Second, with the opportunity to be involved with snow, sleet and freezing rain as is frequent
this time of the year, there is a tendency to try to hurry though the “slush” or whatever and as a result you take a nasty fall. When the cold weather strikes, there is always the danger of icy patches. Several years ago, an icy patch persisted just outside one of our offices because of a water line break. This was not promptly repaired until a vice-president fell and tore his trousers as he was hastening to a client meeting. The repair was initiated very shortly thereafter. When you are at home, have a bag of “salt” to assist in breaking up the icy layers. Many years ago, I went to Philadelphia to work on a project that we were sharing with that office. One day, (we were fortunate to be lodging in a hotel just across the street from the office) a severe storm front rolled through. This front had a good bit of cold rain and was accompanied with substantial winds. My location was on the third floor of the building and as the storm reached its peak, there were countless umbrellas rendered totally useless by the wind. The one heartening thing was an elderly lady was trying to cross a side street directly in front of our office, she would slip into the wind and was blasted by the wind, about that time a policeman stopped his car, placed the lady in the front seat and drove about a block and a half and let her out in what apparently was her apartment. So, the lesson from that is help your fellow “pilgrims” as we endure the hardships of this winters blasts.

Third, if you are going to exercise outside, whether by choice or mother natures deposit of good tidings, dress in layers. It is very easy to become over-heated and perspire if you still have on your full layers of clothes. Then as your clothes become saturated, they quickly lose their insulating capacity. You are then susceptible to hypothermia. Other than a couple of instances where I was caught in a blizzard with totally unsuitable outer wear, the coldest I have ever been was a situation as above when I was hunting at the age of 16. My wife is constantly chiding me to “dress in layers” and I listen.

So, enjoy the season, no matter what religion or beliefs that you have, but always be safe.

State Director – Virginia

Dave Wayment, 2nd Vice President

I am happy to announce we have a new State Director for Virginia. William (Bill) Osburn, and his wife Eleanor, have been elected to be the Virginia State Directors. I’m sure everyone will give them their support. We have a nomination for the State Director for South Carolina, Bob Green. He has been appointed State Director pending the voting by the South Carolina clubs. That just leaves North Carolina, and I am working on a prospect, but all nominations are welcome. Please contact me if you wish to find out more about this position.

This is my last month as 2nd Vice President. Lisa Roberts will become the 2nd Vice President on the first of the year as I take on the role of 1st Vice President. I know Lisa will do a fantastic job working with all the State Directors.
SFMS WORKSHOPS UPDATE
Roy Deere, Education Committee Chair

We have just received confirmed dates for our 2014 Workshops. The dates for 2014 are: William Holland June 8-14, Wildacres August 18-24, Wildacres September 22-28, and William Holland October 12-18. These correspond with the same weeks that we had last year.

We have just recently gotten the dates and our Workshop Directors are working diligently to confirm the dates with the instructors and establish a firm schedule. This is a heads up on the dates for people who have to plan vacations early. The next issue of the Lodestar will have the full class schedules and registration forms.

The SFMS Education committee will be meeting this week to establish the rates for the classes so that it can be published soon.

I hope to have the SFMSworkshops.com updates with the classes and other information of our 2014 workshops shortly after the first of the year. Please consult the website in January or watch the Lodestar for detailed information on the workshops.

I encourage you to mark the workshop dates on your calendars and plan on joining us for a wonderful jewelry vacation at our enjoyable locations. See you there later this year.

Quarterly SFMS Meeting
January 25, 2013
To be arranged. Location will be near or at Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA. Announcement will be sent to all member clubs by the SFMS Secretary, Beryl Ferguson.

Gwen Erdlitz
Wife of Bob Erdlitz, past assistant treasurer of the Southeast Federation, she was 96 years young. She was a member of the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society. She was the sister of Elizabeth Tuttle. She was an instructor at William Holland in basket weaving. She served many generations in her nursing profession. She is survived by two sons, a daughter and three grandchildren. (submitted by Ed Price)
Gem and Mineral Shows

**January 10-12, 2014 Largo, FL**

The Pinellas Geological Society, Inc. announces our Thirty Eigth Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale. Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday Noon to 5 PM at the Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive, Largo, FL. Free Admission, Donation $1.50 for drawing.

Unique jewelry has fascinated mankind since cave days. Today that still holds true as men and women create wonderful gem and mineral ornaments from nature's abundant rocks and minerals. Members of the Gem and Mineral Clubs in our area gather together monthly to share their hobby.

The members of the Pineallas Geological Society and other local Gem and Mineral Clubs will be showing their cut gems, silver and gold jewelry, wire wrap, beading, cabochons, and collections of rocks and minerals for your viewing pleasure and purchase. The show is for the public of all ages who are fascinated by and enjoy seeing and learning about nature's beauty in gems, rocks and minerals. For more information about the show or joining the club, call Leona at (727) 894-2440.

Contact Person: Leona Sheffield, Co-Chairperson; 2440 Southshore Dr., SE; St. Petersburg, FL 33705

**January 18-19 2014, DeLand, FL**

Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society presents our 43rd annual Jewelry, Gem & Fossil Show and Sale.

Show theme this year "Wonderful World of Quartz"

Admission: $4, Children under 12 free, Parking is free

Hours: Saturday 10am to 6pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm

Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Building, State Road 44, DeLand ,FL

(½ mile East of I-4, Exit 118)

With admission you have a choice of a Shark Tooth or Pink Quartz to create something that is a one of a kind at one of our free demos.

Silent auctions, Exhibits, Door Prizes, Faceting, Cabochon making, Jewelry making demonstrations.

Our vendors will have mineral and fossil specimens, lapidary material, rough, cabochons, fine jewelry and gem stones, beads, crystals, supplies and so much more.

For more info:
Show Chair Rosemary van Wandelen  
rrborzoi@yahoo.com

Vendor Chair Francisca Pitts  
info@tomokagms.org

**February 8 & 9, 2014 Merritt Island, FL**

37th Annual Symphony of Gemstones show and sale

Sponsored by Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club

Kiwanis Island Recreation Center
951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd.  
off SR 520 Exit on I95 going East, entrance is just east of the Merritt Island Mall, turn at the sign

Sat./Sun 10AM - 5 PM  
adults $5 ($1 discount coupon on Website) children under 12 are free accompanied by adult

Hand-crafted and fine jewelry, rough and cut gems, fossils, minerals, beads, slabs, cabs, equipment and tools.

Demonstrations, hourly prizes, grand prize, children's activities and silent auction.

Contact: Roz Mestre, (321) 431-0159/ (321) 632=8281  
email: roz.mestre@att.net  
club website: www.centralbrevardgems.org

**February 22, 2014 Lakeland, FL**

Annual Show and Sale

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society

Saturday 9:30am - 4:30pm

175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, Fl. 33801

Hourly door prizes, Spin & Win Mineral Wheel, Kids Treasure Dig, demonstrations and educational displays, Silent and Chinese auctions and over 30 dealers of rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts and hobby supplies.

Contact Kim Price, Show chair, at (863) 412-9156, or email ibvgmfs@gmail.com.  
Facebook: Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society,  
Website: www.bonevalley.net
March 7-9, 2014 St. Petersburg, FL
44th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale
THE SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
Fri: 10 AM to 6PM; Sat: 10AM-6PM; Sun: 10am-5PM
The Minnreg Building
6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773
HOURLY DOOR PRIZES!
GRAND DRAWING AT END OF SHOW!
$1.50 GRAB BAGS, FREE PARKING
15+ Dealers
Demonstration exhibits on Beading, Wire Wrapping, Cabbing, Faceting, Metal Work.
Club display cases and exhibits.
Refreshments available.
Show contact: Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279
Email contact: SGAMSgemshow@gmail.com
http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html

April 26-27, 2014 Memphis, TN
Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
“The Earth Wide Open”
Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN
Saturday, April 26, 9-6:00 and Sunday, April 27 10-5,
Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Kids Area with Rockzone featuring Gem Dig, Geode Bowling, Rocks Around the Clock.
Adults $5.00, Children 12 and under $2.00.
web: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com,
email info@theearthwideopen.com.
Show Chair James Butchko 901 743-0058
Dealer Chair WC McDaniel 901-274-7706

May 23 - 25, 2014 Gulfport, MS
Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.’s 35th Anniversary Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show; Courtyard Marriott; 1600 E. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, MS; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4;
adults $5, children (10 and under) free with adult; demonstrations, displays, Stump the
Expert, hourly door prizes; contact Karen Johnston at (228) 467-5465; or e-mail: johnstonkaren@bellsouth or Kathleen Becnel at kgbecnel@gmail.com.
### 2013 SFMS Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
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<td>904-220-3957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
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<td>904-786-7605</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFMS President</td>
<td>Don Monroe</td>
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<td>706.379-9662</td>
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<td>President Mayo Education</td>
<td>William (Bill) Waggener</td>
<td>1909 Moores Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30318-1309</td>
<td>404.354.8752</td>
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<td>Foundation</td>
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<td>2013 SFMS State Directors</td>
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<td>Alabama</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>South Carolina</td>
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# 2013 SFMS Committee Chairs

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<tr>
<th>Nominations</th>
<th>Long Range Planning</th>
<th>Bulletin Editors Contest</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Hamilton</td>
<td>John Wright</td>
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<td>Travis Paris</td>
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<td>7141 Natal Ave.</td>
<td>3304 Nottingham Rd.</td>
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<td>5064 Maimsbury Rd.</td>
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<td>Ocean Springs, MS 39564</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Flora</td>
<td>Roy Deere</td>
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<td>Performed by Assistant Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7041 Rodes Place</td>
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<td>(Darlene Gunsolus)</td>
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<td>Beryl Ferguson</td>
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<td>Freda Hull</td>
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<td>Carolyn Grothaus</td>
<td>Barbara Green</td>
<td>Jim Robinson</td>
<td>Performed by 1st Vice-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>-OPEN-</td>
<td>Jason Hamilton</td>
<td>Jim Flora</td>
<td>Herb Whittington</td>
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<td>7141 Natal Ave.</td>
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2013 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Officers/Directors

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director
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2013 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees

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<th>Club Rockhound of the Year</th>
<th>Boundaries</th>
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<td>-OPEN-</td>
<td>Janie Hand</td>
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<th>Conservation and Legislation</th>
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<td>John Wright</td>
<td>Mike Streeter</td>
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<td>Juniors Program Performed by SFMS Youth Resources Chairperson</td>
<td>Program Competition Freeda Hull P.O. Box 115 Grant, FL 32949 (321) 725-0847 <a href="mailto:frehull@bellsouth.net">frehull@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Supplies and Publications Performed by SFMS Supplies and Publication Chairperson</td>
<td>Uniform Rules Leslie Wayment 8802 N US Hwy 1 Suite 10 Sebastian, FL 32958 (772) 532-6432 (772) 539-2409 <a href="mailto:aastainedglass@bellsouth.net">aastainedglass@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<td>Ways and Means Performed by SFMS 1st Vice President</td>
<td>Public Relations Herb Whittington</td>
<td>Safety Performed by SFMS Safety Chairperson</td>
<td>Webmaster Jim Flora P.O. Box 608 Hiawassee, GA 30546 (706) 896-8040 <a href="mailto:jimflora@windstream.net">jimflora@windstream.net</a></td>
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**Workshop Schedule**

To be announced for 2014.

**Workshop Registration Form**

To be designed for 2014

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