FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
Jason Hamilton

It’s spring time, and I want to ensure everyone practices safe and fun collecting. Prepare for the worst, and hope for the best. Here are some items that will make your collecting experience more pleasurable:

- Take your vehicle in for a tune up and make sure you have emergency money for unexpected flat tires, broken belts and hoses that'll "SPRING" a leak.
- Take slightly more provisions and water than you think you'll need. Take a first aid kit, and make sure your cell phone is charged.
- Do the research on where you'll be collecting. Do you need special permission, do you have up to date maps? If your trip is scheduled for more than a day, does anyone know where you are going and make sure you check in with those people to let them know you are ok.

SFMS workshops are approaching fast. Make sure you get reservations made as soon as possible to ensure you get the class(es) you want. There are many SFMS volunteers working hard to ensure a great time will be had by all. Show them you care by attending and then thanking them for their hard work and devotion to you and to the SFMS.

SFMS optional Liability Insurance program renewals are now past due as of March 31st. If you haven't filled in the paperwork and mailed your clubs check, please visit this link for more information [http://www.amfed.org/sfms/insurance.html](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/insurance.html) or contact Gene Roberts at [icap3@bellsouth.net](mailto:icap3@bellsouth.net)

Rockbound of the Year is an honor given to club members by their peers in recognition of their contributions and/or sacrifices involved with our hobby. Rock Hound of the Year nominations must be received by the Coordinator no later than June 30, 2011. Until someone volunteers to Chair this committee, the responsibility falls on me. If you are interested in chairing this committee or if your club would like to submit a nominee for SFMS Rock Hound of the Year, please contact me. Other committees that still need to be filled are Youth Resources, Social Concerns, Uniform Rules, and Ways & Means. [Jasons.designs@comcast.net](mailto:Jasons.designs@comcast.net)

CARL’S EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

Our lead article concerns North Carolina emeralds that have been in the news lately when an anonymous donor provided the North Carolina Nature Research Center with a gift of a 64 carat, faceted emerald known as the “Carolina Emperor”.

Take notice, on Page 6, of some new rules on rockhounding and gold panning in North Carolina National Forests; these rules are growing in complexity and prohibition.

There’s a new-style SFMS quarterly meeting to be held next month at a Tennessee State Park. Details are on Page 7.

Winners of SFMS’ Junior Scholarship Essay Contest are on Page 8, and SFMS Workshop particulars start on Page 9.

In this year’s Lodestar publication schedule, there will be no editions in August or November.

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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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Articles for the May 2012 Lodestar are due by April 25, 2012.

The SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.

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their authors, other societies may use material published in Lodestar provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of
the material is not changed. - Editor: Carl Talbott
DMC FIELD TRIPS


DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
Official Field Trips of the Field Trip Committee are open to all members of clubs associated with the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS clubs/societies who provide their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the general public are NOT invited to these or any DMC program field trips.

******************************************************************************

UPCOMING SHOWS


May 3-6, 2012: Charlotte, NC. Charlotte Gem & Mineral Society. Annual show (coincides with the International Antiques & Collectibles Show), Metroline Tradeshows Expo; 7100 Statesville Rd., Bldg. B, Charlotte, NC. Hours: Thu. 9-6, Fri. & Sat 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Admission Fee: adults $5 (4-day pass). Contact Kay Jones (704) 864-3748; e-mail: kjones557@att.net


Sept 21-23, 2012: Jacksonville, FL. Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. 24th Annual Show, Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 Saint Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville. Hours: Fri 1-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Admission $4. Contact: Karen Olson (904) 448-5182 or e-mail jgmsnews@gmail.com

October 6-7, 2012: Lexington, KY. Rockhounds of Central Kentucky (ROCK). 22nd Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Road, Lexington, KY. Show includes minerals, jewelry, equipment dealers, club sales, exhibits, KY Agate, fluorescent displays, hourly prizes, and Grand Prize drawing. Admission: $1 adults, $0.50 children, $3 max family; Scouts in uniform free. Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5. Contact: Allen Ferrell, 859-277-2469 or kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com

November 16-18, 2012: Marietta, GA. Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society. 27th Annual Rock, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Free Admission. Contact Mary Ingram: 404-915-3588 or mandmingram@gmail.com

Please Note
To ensure your show is listed here, send a written notice to the Lodestar Editor: Carl Talbott, 216 Spring View Drive, Murphy, NC 28906 or e-mail dtalbott@bellsouth.net. SFMS clubs/societies are also encouraged to register their event listings on the SFMS website at: www.amfed.org/sfms.
Of the 300+ minerals found in North Carolina, few are more valuable by weight than emerald. A form of beryl crystal, usually colored green by chromium, emerald was designated as the official North Carolina State Precious Stone in 1973. Perhaps this recognition was associated with the 1969-1971 discoveries of nine large emeralds in the Hiddenite District of Alexander County, North Carolina. These nine included the largest emerald ever discovered in North America at the time (found by Michael ‘Butch’ Finger at what is now the North American Emerald Mine) weighing 1,438 carats.

Finger’s record has since been surpassed by the 1,869 carat ‘Hill Emerald’ discovered in 2003 by James K. ‘Jamie’ Hill owner of the North American Emerald Mine (NAEM) not far from the city of Statesville, NC. This large emerald, valued at over $1 million, is now on display at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in Houston, Texas. According to Speer¹, “the total production of the Hiddenite district (1880-2007) is estimated to be 60,000 carats [of] emerald …”

Speer notes that local farmers in the 1800s often found ‘green bolts’ crystals in freshly plowed fields at first thought to be caused by lightning strikes. In 1875, Statesville (NC) naturalist, John Adlai D. Stephenson (b.1825, d.1897), began acquiring these crystals and later introduced mineralogist William Earl Hidden (b.1853, d.1918) to emerald discovery sites in Alexander County. Hidden had been in North Carolina searching for platinum to supply Thomas Edison’s electric light bulb with filament material. Hidden subsequently purchased a mining lease of Alexander County’s Warren Farm property and mined emeralds there from 1880 until 1888. An emerald twin crystal of 1,270 carats found there in 1881 is now in the Smithsonian Museum collection.

Although Hidden’s mining operation closed in 1888 as a result of property disputes, it reopened in the 1970s as a prospect-for-fee mine and is known today as the Adams mine. Although other small mining operations started at various times in the twentieth century, only the Rist mine (now the North American Emerald Mine), located several miles northeast of Hidden’s operation, continues as a dual-production mine. It produces road & construction gravel by crushing bedrock from a 6 acre open-pit mine while emerald-bearing quartz veins in the pit walls are carefully explored prior to destruction and incorporation into bedrock crushing.

As Jamie Hill² explained, his process of emerald mining is a stripping away of pit wall bedrock material (using explosives) between visible vertical seams of quartz and hand-tool searches for cavities (known as ‘pockets’) in the quartz seams. On average, one out of three of these cavities will contain emerald crystals, sometimes in large numbers. The emerald crystals and any other valuable minerals are carefully removed before the exploration process resumes. If the demand for gravel declines, then the emerald exploration process slows because the two are linked in that profit from gravel production in turn finances exploration of possible emerald locations.
In addition to the Adams Mine and the NAEM, both of which are closed to the public, the Hiddenite District encompasses the Emerald Hollow Mine where the public can dig for gem stones, sluice in the local creek, or purchase buckets of unsalted or salted mine ore for various fees. Much further to the west (in the Spruce Pine Mining District), near Spruce Pine, North Carolina, the 100+ year-old Crabtree Emerald Mine offers the public fee-based access to old mine-ore dump sites that likely contain a variety of gem stones including emerald. The mine shaft itself is now flooded, and thus, the dump sites are not being renewed.

Other green-colored minerals and crystals, sometimes mistaken for emerald, include green corundum (known as "oriental emerald"), green garnet (known as demantoid), hiddenite, diopside, alexandrite, green tourmaline, and perhaps also chrysolite and dioptase. Each of these minerals has a higher specific gravity than the emerald. Moreover, the "oriental emerald" is much harder while the demantoid (the color of which has usually a yellowish tinge though sometimes very similar to that of the emerald) is singly refracting. Hiddenite is very rare and is considered to be more valuable than the emerald. Diopside is much more of a bottle-green color than is the emerald. Alexandrite is distinguished from emerald by its hardness and its remarkable dichroïsm. The color of green tourmaline, though often not dissimilar to that of pale emeralds, is frequently distinctly bluish in character; this mineral is easily distinguished from emerald, however, by its specific gravity, which is 3.07 g/cm$^3$. Chrysolite is yellowish-green, and can be distinguished from emerald by its color and its faint dichroïsm. Finally, dioptase is always of a very dark emerald-green color; it is only semi-transparent and far softer than the emerald.

Speaking of color, some enterprising marketers are selling Morganite as pink emerald. Morganite is pink beryl colored so by the presence of manganese. Using this marketing logic, we could have aquamarine peddled off as blue emerald; but this would be an illegal misrepresentation to the more ignorant of us gemstone buyers.

References:


****************************************************************************************************************************
Some visitors to the national forest like to try their hands at finding minerals or panning for gold. Visitors are asked to following these guidelines when rock-hounding or gold panning in the National Forests in North Carolina.

- Rockhounding and gold panning may take place on most national forest lands – provided only small quantities of material are removed for personal, non-commercial purposes.

- Recreational rockhounding and gold panning are not allowed in Congressionally-designated wilderness areas or in the corridors of designated wild and scenic rivers.

- Recreational rockhounding and gold panning are not allowed in forest areas where mineral rights are owned by a private party, or in an area that is under mineral lease to a private party.

- Permits are required for removal of mineral materials for scientific and research purposes.

- Commercial removal of minerals requires a prospecting permit from the Bureau of Land Management.

- Materials must be removed using small hand tools without mechanical means or motorized equipment. Removing mineral materials with a pick, shovel, sluice box or similar large tools can cause significant impacts to resources is considered mechanical so therefore not allowed.

- Suction dredges are not allowed by forest closure order.

- Gold pans may be used for gold panning in the beds of streams, but the banks of streams cannot be disturbed by digging or removing materials.

- Any disturbance to or removal of historical or archaeological artifacts is prohibited by federal law.

(Editor's Notes:

Defining a shovel (of any size) as a large, mechanical tool strikes me as arbitrary.

For your info, five North Carolina rivers have been designated “wild and scenic” under the federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act where rockhounding and gold panning are outlawed. These are Wilson Creek in the Pisgah National Forest, Chattooga River and Horsepasture River in the Nantahala National Forest, New River in the New River State Park, and Lumber River in the Lumber River State Park. See www.rivers.gov/wildriverslist/html for wild & scenic rivers in your state.

Some SFMS members have heard that gold panning restrictions in the field are far more severe than what is detailed here. If any member encounters a US Forest Ranger with different views from the above, please contact me.)
This is our first meeting in the style suggested by Jason Hamilton, SFMS President, during the January meeting and in his February Lodestar message.  It was met with such enthusiasm that we though we'd give it a try at this meeting. We hope you enjoy it.  Thanks!

About the park:
Fall-Creek-Falls is a Tennessee state park located on the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau in Bledsoe and Van Buren Counties, about 18 miles west of the town of Pikeville. The park can be reached via Highways 11 and 30. The Fall Creek Falls State Resort Park is one of the most spectacular in the state of Tennessee, and was voted "one of the five best parks in the southeastern U.S." by Southern Living Magazine. It's made up of cascading waterfalls, sparkling streams, gorges, thick forest and wildflowers. It's home to one of the highest waterfalls east of the Rocky Mountains, Fall Creek Falls, which plunges 256 feet into a cool, shaded pool at the base of its gorge. The park has three other falls; Piney, Cane Creek and Cane Creek Cascades. The forests are made up of oak and hickory, tulip poplar and hemlock, with wild mountain laurel and rhododendron throughout the park. The 19,000 acres of rugged parkland offers abundant recreational opportunities, including fifty miles of hiking trails, 25 miles of backpacking trails and 20 miles of biking trails. There is also a fishing lake, large swimming pool and golf course for those interested. Two naturalists are on duty year round who provide orientation slide shows, cave trips and tours of the park. The average high temperature for May is 78°F and low is 52°F. Park website:  http://tn.gov/environment/parks/FallCreekFalls/

Reservations
For those that want to camp there are plenty of camp sites.  The contact number for reserving a campsite is (423) 881-5298.  For those that need a motel room the Fall Creek Fall Inn is inside the park.  The SFMS has a few rooms blocked for Friday night.  The average room rate is $79.00 plus taxes.  To ensure we get credit for the blocked rooms, please mention that you are with the SFMS when registering and checking in.  The reservation number is (423) 881-5241.There are also cabins on the lake and group cabins for rent.  The SFMS did not block any of these.  Call the reservation number listed above if you might be interested in one.

Meetings
All meetings will be held in a Fall Creek Falls Inn conference room at the times listed above.  There will be guidance at the Inn’s registration desk.

Activities
We will be having a cookout at a pavilion Saturday afternoon for those that want to participate.  We will be rock swapping, selling, and trading in a tailgate fashion during the cookout.  All items are allowed at the rock swap that fall into our areas of interest.  For example: rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, all metalsmithing and lapidary related items such as tools, rough, and books.  Please be sensible, we don’t want it to be a garage sale, we want it to be hobby related. The park rangers have approved our rock swap as long as we don’t go public with our sales.  It must be restricted to the pavilion and to folks within our group.  If we’re rained out at the pavilion we will be allowed to do the rock swap in the conference room at the Inn.  However, the cookout will have to remain at the pavilion.  Don’t forget to bring your camp stool!

If you plan on attending please notify me at GCJINC@comcast.net or (865) 406-8802.  We would like to get an accurate head count for the cookout.  If you plan on attending the cookout you may be contacted to bring something.

I suggest you get there a day early or stay an extra day just to see the waterfalls and unique geology of the park.  I guarantee you won’t be disappointed!  This is a spectacular park.

Danny Griffin
SFMS 1st Vice President
Combination Locks

I have recently received another alert via email; we all seem to be receiving emails warning us of various vices out there that are after us innocent people. Considering my age and generation, we would never think of many of these possibilities.

So here is the latest. Apparently if you own a combination lock, do not feel secure. Guess what; someone has figured out how to break into that type of lock. Many people use this kind of lock for garages, trailers, storage sheds and other uses.

If you find “cut up” soda cans with pieces left over lying around, you’d better be asking some questions! And, check out your combination lock. Don’t wait!

I would never have believed this warning if I hadn’t seen it first hand on the Internet.

Go to the following “youtube” website and see just how it can be accomplished.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-9A7W99BCE

SFMS Junior Scholarship Essay Contest

Congratulations to the following winners:

Remy Collins - North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society
Robert Snow - Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society
Kristen Hinton - Mobile Rock and Gem Society

Each Junior member submitted an essay on why they would like to be selected for a SFMS Junior Scholarship. Letters included interest in rock, minerals and fossil collecting, lapidary arts and club involvement. Each sponsoring club also submitted a letter of recommendation that further described the involvement and achievements of their junior member. These young people are very deserving of this prestigious honor. I look forward to seeing their future participation within the earth sciences and lapidary arts and activities that further the interest of our gem and mineral societies.

We wish all the best for these three Junior Members.

Jason Hamilton, SFMS President
2012 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

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Email: wadir2011@yahoo.com

William Holland Directors, Denise & Carl Talbott
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Email: dtalbott@bellsouth.net

Wildacres Registrars, David and Leslie Wayment
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Education Chairman, Kathy Morris
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252-571-5050
Email: klmorris45@hotmail.com

The intermediate and advanced classes listed with an asterisk (*) require some prior experience by the student. Experience in a class provided by your local club, Workshop class, or self study may be enough. If you're interested in any of these classes, please fill out an application (see Lodestar Page 10).

SESSION ONE - WILLIAM HOLLAND
SUNDAY, June 10-16, 2012

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<td>Beading, Seed</td>
<td>Ron Midkiff</td>
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<td>Anita Westlake</td>
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<td>Casting</td>
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<td>Case Leeser</td>
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<td>Enameling</td>
<td>Bob Mattingly</td>
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<td>Fused Glass</td>
<td>Addy DePietro</td>
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<td>Opals</td>
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<td>Wire II</td>
<td>Ruth Ann Moore</td>
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SESSION TWO - WILDACRES
MONDAY, August 20 - 26, 2012

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<td>Digital Photography</td>
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<td>*Metalsmithing - Advanced</td>
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SESSION THREE - WILDACRES
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<td>Don Roberts</td>
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<td>Wire for Beaders</td>
<td>Leslie Wayment</td>
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SESSION FOUR - WILLLIAM HOLLAND
SUNDAY, October 7-12, 2012

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<td>Cabochons</td>
<td>Jerry Mason</td>
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<td>Casting</td>
<td>Joe DePietro</td>
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<td>Channeling</td>
<td>Don &amp; Ann Monroe</td>
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<td>Lampworking</td>
<td>Cindy Reed</td>
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<td>Opals</td>
<td>Sarah Lee Boyce &amp; Carl Talbott</td>
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<td>Silver I</td>
<td>Mac Thornton</td>
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<td>Silver Filigree</td>
<td>Paige Warrick &amp; Shannon Stafford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wire I</td>
<td>Diane Mason</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# 1 NAME
SFMS SOCIETY/CLUB (spell out) ______________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________________
City ___________________ ST __ ZIP ______ Email ____________________________
Home Phone (_____) ______________________ Cell Phone (_____) _____________________
Have you attended any other SFMS workshops?    _____
Do you want to be placed on standby if your class is filled when we get your application?  Y   N

# 2 (Spouse/Friend) NAME __________________________________________________________
(If club affiliation, address and phone info is different than above, please list on the back.)
Have you attended any other SFMS workshops?    _____
Do you want to be placed on standby if your class is filled when we get your application?  Y   N

**Single applicants only:** Do you have someone you want to share a room with? If yes, whom?

Age Group (used to determine a compatible roommate)  20-30  31-41  42-52  53-63  64-74  74 & up
Are you a smoker?  Y N  Are you an early riser? _______ or a night owl? _______

**Special Needs:**
Do you need a handicap room?  Y N  Can you negotiate stairs?  Y N  (elevator at Wm Holland only)

**Dietary:**
Diabetic ____________ Other __________________________
Anything else we need to know?  (i.e. snore loudly, can’t walk up hills, etc.) _______________________

**Camper:** (Wm Holland only) Type _______________________ Length _______ (40 ft. max.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Choice</th>
<th>1st time taking class?</th>
<th>Second Choice</th>
<th></th>
<th>Third Choice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student #1</td>
<td>Y N</td>
<td>Y N</td>
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<td>Y N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spouse #2</td>
<td>Y N</td>
<td>Y N</td>
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<td>Y N</td>
</tr>
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**Workshop Tuition**

NOTE: You are encouraged to pay the full amount at registration time.
However, a $25 non-refundable deposit per person must accompany your registration. If you send a $25 deposit the remaining balance is due one month before the beginning of class.

- * Tuition Cost per Person:
  - William Holland:
    - $330 double occupancy or $490 single.
    - $160 day student or camper.
  - Wildacres:
    - $345 double occupancy or $505 single.
    - $175 day student.
  - Non members add $50.00 to all Tuition fees

- * William Holland Campsite Fee: $140 per week. No meals are included for day students or campers. They are available from and payable directly to the facility.

**Cancellation Policy:** There is a non-refundable $25 administration fee. Other refunds are at the discretion of the director and Education Chair.

**Materials/Class Fees:** The INSTRUCTORS MAY CHARGE A MATERIALS FEE FOR THEIR CLASSES. THIS MATERIALS FEE IS NOT PART OF THE WORKSHOP TUITION.

**Mail** Application & Deposit to appropriate workshop Registrar.
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<td>Email Address:</td>
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<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>State:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Interests:</td>
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