

## Safety from Outside Critters

by  
Bill Buckner, SFMS Safety Chair

There are many kinds of critters that may hurt us and a few that might cause us to hurt ourselves. I will list a few, along with the danger they threaten and where they might be found.



- **Mosquitoes**

Where: Anywhere outside of a closely screened house.

Danger: Some people are allergic to their bites. There are still a few dangerous illnesses caused by their bite.

Control: Keep stagnant water emptied and spread with a larvae killer. Wear long sleeves and long pants, use insect repellent on all uncovered parts of the body.

Stay inside in early morning and at twilight.

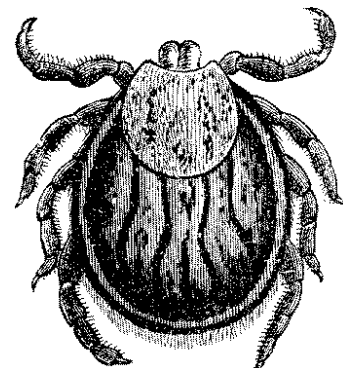
- **Ticks**

Where: Anywhere there are animals: yard, woods, parks, etc.

Danger: There are at least two diseases carried by ticks.

Some are hard to recognize. On one field trip I returned home with dozens of little red and black spots on my feet. I took a shower and washed as best I could. I washed them with alcohol. They still itched. The next morning I asked my wife to take a look at the spots. They had spread upward on my body. She saw some of them move. She picked off over a hundred of these little critters with tweezers.

Control: Use good repellent. If you get ticks, pick them off slowly so they will turn loose and let you heal. If you have swelling or discoloration, see a doctor as soon as you can.



- **Wasps, bees, hornets, yellow jackets, and other stinging insects**

Where: Anywhere near nests or source of food.

Danger: Most are usually not harmful unless you are near their nest or threaten them in some way. Another cause of concern for any of the above critters is that if they smell fear they prepare to fight. Some people are dangerously allergic to some of these. So be careful. If you are stung, check to see if they left a stinger. Bees usually do. Wasps usually do not. If there is a stinger, grasp it with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and gently pull it out.

Control: Be aware of your surroundings and avoid moving too close to their nests. There are some effective flying insect sprays, but they are not to be applied to your body.



- **Spiders**

Where: Anywhere, indoors or out.

Danger: Most spiders are not a threat. In fact, most are beneficial in controlling other insects. Some are dangerous, like black widows and brown recluses. If you are bitten by a spider, try to get a good look at the spider. If the site begins to swell or discolor, please see a doctor as soon as possible. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Control: Just look for their webs and avoid when possible. Be aware of your surroundings.





### COMMENTS FROM BULLETIN/ARTICLE CONTEST JUDGES

*compiled by Diane Dare  
SFMS Contest Chairman*

Editors and authors often wonder how judges make their decisions or interpret the score sheets. As a judge for many years and many categories and also a contest chairman, I find similar comments made year after year.'

**BULLETINS:** More points are lost for lack of Federation News and no review of previous month's program than anything else. These are federation-sponsored contests, so naturally, federation news items are important. "Members may not be interested in the Federation, but you should keep them informed." "Including a review of last month's program lets members not there know what they missed." Also, "serves as a historical record for the club."

Attribution/credits continue to be a problem. "Give only ' by (author) from (original newsletter) via (your source)' - leave out all the in-betweens." "Include date - how old or new info is."

Regarding fonts: "Don't use too many - two or three excluding the masthead are plenty." "Script or fancy fonts for articles or long messages may be difficult for some to read."

Layout/format: Try to avoid putting title and one or two lines of article at bottom of column and then continuing at top of next column."

News items: "Give some info on upcoming program, not just title. "Birthday list, Sunshine, Member news - these personalize bulletin at least once a year for everyone in the group." Also, "These make a 'club family'."

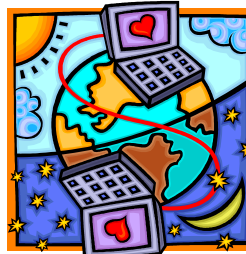
**ARTICLES:** Even with computer spell-check and other aids, punctuation, spelling and grammar errors occur. Commas and periods belong inside quotation marks, ? and ! outside UNLESS what is being quoted was a ? or !."

One outstanding article lost first place due to lack of references. Organization or order of information, especially in technical or Advanced Articles, sometimes would also benefit from rearranging.

A comment directed to the editor/typist: "Put white space (blank line) between paragraphs, and try to have only 4 or 5 sentences in a paragraph" "Font size too small, makes reading difficult."

Judges vary of course, but all agree on spelling/grammar, giving credits, etc. Articles often cover a vast range of topics and this can affect the scores. For instance, an expert faceter gave a fossil article a high score, and said the pictures were very helpful, while a fossil expert gave the same article a much lower score, citing 'chapter and verse' to note that the illustrations were of different species and the wrong age to accompany the article. Both judges were 'right' from their point of view!

Just for fun, take a copy of the score sheets from the November 2003 Lodestar and judge your bulletin or some articles yourself. It can be quite an educational experience!



### Internet Website Update:

There were many significant additions made to the SFMS Internet Web presence this past federation quarter.

We have updated the SFMS William Holland Workshop and SFMS Wildacres Workshop on-line information and added the new 2004 Registration forms and 2004 workshop information in PDF format for download.

We have added a "Special Field Trips" page to highlight open field trips and rock swap information. There have been numerous updates to the SFMS 2004 club show listings and updates to the contact information for many of our SFMS clubs.

The most important addition to the SFMS website this quarter was the electronic "LODESTAR" page where all SFMS members can now read and download the current copy of our federation newsletter. We also will provide an historical database of past "Lodestar" newsletters in PDF format starting with the January 2004 issue.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Flora, SFMS Webmaster*



### SFMS Field Trip Committee:

#### "DMC FIELD TRIP PROGRAM REPORT"

The DMC field trip program conducted three field trips this past SFMS session. In December 2003, The Athens Rock and Gem club hosted a field trip to the Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, South Carolina. Participating clubs found an abundance of plates of well-formed milky quartz crystals, primarily in the form of "skeletal" quartz, as well as smoky quartz and even an occasional amethyst crystal

The January DMC trip was sponsored by the Jacksonville Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society (Jacksonville, FL). The club hosted a trip to Rucks' Pit, Fort Drum, FL to collect well-fossilized and calcified marine shells.

In February, the Mobile Rock and Gem Society (Mobile, AL) led a trip to Epes, Alabama to collect marcasite/pyrite nodules and fossils from the Cretaceous Period.

The SFMS Field Trip Committee currently has 32 member clubs in the DMC field trip sharing program.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Flora, Field Trip Committee Chair*

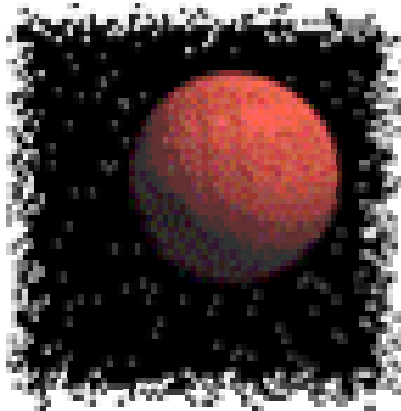
### Future Rockhounds

#### Scientists Need Your Help!

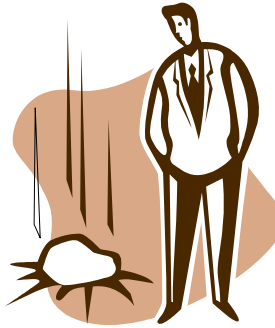
Mars scientists are asking students from around the world to help them understand the red planet. Send in a rock collected by you or your classroom from your region of the world, and we will use a special tool like the one on the rover to tell you what it's made of. Then everyone can compare their rocks to the ones found on Mars.

We'll post a picture of your rock on the web, and give you a report on what kind of rock it is. We'll also send you an official certificate and Mars sticker for your contribution.

Your rock will be kept in a special collection where scientists from around the world can come to study them.



### Here's how you can participate: Minimum to send:



- Rock - minimum 2"/maximum 6" (preferred 4" size)
- Name
- Age
- Address (to send certificate and sticker - not released)
- Name of city/village and country (include zipcode if U.S.)
- Clean rock - wash with water if dirty (make free of dirt)

*Note: Only first names, age and cities will be listed on the web.*

#### Optional:

- Latitude/longitude of sample site
- Name of Geographic feature (if it has one) where rock was collected
- Copy of map with location where rock was collected
- Picture of rock in person's hand for scale
- Picture of location where rock was collected (with no people)
- Short paragraph describing area where rock was collected



*(Lodestar editor: Although the above information is listed as "optional", items in the second through third bullets would be very helpful in order to make the rock sample scientifically meaningful. Don't be discouraged from participation if you do not have the "optional" information.)*



#### Place to Send Your Rock:

Dr. Phil Christensen  
Mars Space Flight Facility  
Arizona State University  
P.O. Box 876305  
Moeur Building, Rm 131  
Tempe, AZ 85287-6305

from <http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/classroom/schoolhouse/>  
via Rocky Mountain Federation News (3/04)

## From the Education Chair:

### The Future of SFMS Workshops

The Lapidary and Jewelry-making Workshops at Wildacres and William Holland are the pride of the Southeast Federation. Our weeklong advanced jewelry courses are particularly attractive. No other Federation in the country offers comparable workshops and we often receive applications from folks outside of the Southeast. Sometimes they join a club within our region so that they may receive top priority to attend our workshops.

Back in the 1980s there were only two SFMS workshops available at Wildacres. These were usually oversubscribed with long waiting lists. We were able to add the April session by agreeing to be the first group to use the retreat each season. Then Harold Sparks, a former President of the Southeast Federation, opened the William Holland School with a lot of help from members of SFMS clubs. Many SFMS club members donated both time and money to building and equipping the William Holland School. The Southeast Federation originally leased the William Holland facilities for three SFMS sessions but we were not able to fill all three and soon dropped back to only two workshops at William Holland.

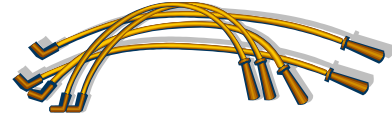
The June SFMS session at William Holland is the only Federation sponsored workshop that occurs when children or folks associated with the school system are able to attend. We have long recognized this problem but have been unable to obtain a Wildacres workshop week scheduled between June and the middle of August.

At the present time we are suffering from reduced enrollment at several of the SFMS workshops at both Wildacres and William Holland. We are in danger of losing one or more of our workshop sessions. Many persons apparently do not distinguish between the regular William Holland sessions and the two sessions that are sponsored by the Southeast Federation. Many instructors teach both for the SFMS and for the William Holland School.

We need your support and help to continue to offer one of the best bargains in the United States. This help must come from both your attendance at SFMS sponsored workshops *and* by your suggestions regarding what we offer in the line of courses at our Workshops. We try to be the first to offer new and advanced workshop courses. Each year our directors look at the questionnaires you fill out after attending a workshop to find out what you want us to offer the following year.

Please give us all the ideas you have. Contact us at any time at the following email address: [sfmsedchair@mindspring.com](mailto:sfmsedchair@mindspring.com).

Betty Baxter will be teaching intermediate wirecraft at the August Wildacres Workshop. The following is her Course Description and Bio:



*Intermediate Wirecraft:* A variety of pendants, bracelets, earrings and a ring will be made in this class. A limited supply of gold and silver wire, cabochons, and beads for use in the class are available for purchase. Students are encouraged to bring their own wire and stones to use. A lab fee may apply. Students are expected to provide their own tools for this class and must have previously taken wirecraft courses.

Betty has worked in the lapidary arts since 1990; she is a member of three lapidary societies in the Atlanta, GA area. She has taught wirecraft for several years at Wildacres and the William Holland School. Her course begins with a review of basic wirewrapping techniques.

In addition, John Runkle, from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, has agreed to step in to replace an instructor who canceled and teach intermediate chainmaking at the October SFMS Workshop at William Holland. Here is his Course Description and Bio:



*Intermediate Chainmaking:* Each student will learn to close and solder silver jump rings to make chains of different patterns. John also teaches how to make rings, earrings and bracelets from chain mail. Basic tools will be supplied for this class. Students will need to bring an Optivisor or other magnifier and, if they have one, a small hand torch. There will be a \$20.00 class fee.

Pre-cut sterling silver jump rings for each project will be available for purchase. These are priced from \$6.00 to \$16.00 for each project kit. The cost of this class may total from \$60.00 to \$120.00 depending upon what the student wants to make.

*Fred Sias, SFMS Education Chairman*

## SFMS 2004 Wildacres Workshop at Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, NC

### 2004 Workshop Dates

April.....Monday, April 19 to Sunday, April 25, 2004  
 August....Monday, August 23 to Sunday, August 29, 2004  
 September.....Monday, Sept. 13 to Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004

**Wildacres Retreat** is a conference center dedicated in 1946 by I.D. Blumenthal and Madolyn Blumenthal of Charlotte, NC, to the improvement of human relations. It is situated on 1400 acres at an elevation of 3,300 feet atop a mountain called Pompey's Knob. It is in Little Switzerland, approximately half way between Asheville and Blow-ing Rock, NC just off the Blue Ridge Parkway.

There are two lodges, a dining hall, where meals are served family style, a library/auditorium building, mineral and lapi-dary shops plus a pottery studio.

### Fees

**Lodge Accommodations:** \$260 per person, including meals. **Day Students:** \$115 per person, no meals are included.

### Registration Procedures

Applications from members of SFMS clubs will be accepted first; however, members of other AFMS clubs may apply and will be scheduled following SFMS applicants.

Applications for the April session will be accepted begin-ning on February 16, 2004, and on May 3, 2004 for the Au-gust and September sessions. The postmark date on or after these dates determines the order of acceptance. First-time attendees have an extra priority.

Students under age 18 are welcome, but they must be ac-companied by a responsible adult and must be approved by the workshop director and instructor.

### Reservation Deposit

A deposit of 50% of the registration fee must accompany all applications. The full amount may be remitted with the application if the applicant wishes. (It is easier for the Registrar.) The balance is due 4 weeks before the workshop begins. No reminders will be sent.

### Cancellation Policy

There is a \$25 nonrefundable charge to cover administrative costs. An additional \$25 charge will be assessed for can-cancellations made less than 4 weeks before a session begins. No refund will be returned for cancellations by the student within 7 days of the start of a session.

\*Note: Advanced courses with prerequisites are designated with an asterisk in the course listing to the right.

### Workshop Directors

Jerry and Deborah Miller 805 Roanoke Dr, Cary, NC 27513  
 Phone: 919-467-6613 Email: [jerry.miller@e-hps.com](mailto:jerry.miller@e-hps.com)

### Workshop Registrars

Kerri and Bill Wetzel 5010 Sunset Drive, Easley, SC 29642  
 Phone: 864-306-6749 Email: [wwetzel@earthlink.net](mailto:wwetzel@earthlink.net)

### Session 1: April 19-25, 2004

Cabochons	Gerald Burnham
Beginning Faceting and Intarsia	Tom Wilkie
Glass Bead Making	Marilyn Jobe
*Gold Fabrication	Dan Haga
Precious Metal Clay (1 & 2)	Ken and Mary Ann Devos
Raku Pottery	Sarah House
Seed Beading	Jo Harrison
Silversmithing, beginning	Allen Jewell
Wirecraft, beginning	Lisa Roberts

### Session 2: August 23-29, 2004

Beading and Design, traditional	Addy DePietro
Chainmaking, beginning	Carole Boyle
*Faceting, intermediate	Ken Reed
Gem Appreciation	Ben Smith
Glass Bead Making	Marilyn Jobe
Lost-Wax Casting, beginning	Fred Sias
*Metalsmithing, advanced	Jeff Sheer
Opal cutting	Joe DePietro
Precious Metal Clay, beginning	Ken and Mary Ann Devos
Raku Pottery	Cindy McDowell
*Wirecraft, intermediate	Betty Baxter

### Session 3: September 13-19, 2004

Lost-wax Casting	John Iacullo
Faceting and Intarsia	Tom Wilke
Faceting and Intarsia	Tom Wilke
Gem Appreciation	Ben Smith
Opal cutting	Sara Lee Boyce
*Precious Metal Clay (Level 2)	Ken and Mary Ann Devos
Raku Pottery	Cindy McDowell
*Silversmithing, advanced	Dan Haga
Silversmithing, beginning	Cathy Cawthorne
Wirecraft, beginning	Lisa Roberts
Stained Glass	Julia Larson