

# Lodestar

The Friendly Federation

Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXXIV Issue Eight

Oct 2010

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Mark Easterbrook



Well, it looks like fall is finally upon us and that means that our annual meeting is not too far off. We have many issues to address. I hope you will make the effort to join us in Knoxville over the weekend of October 16. Travis Paris and the Knoxville, Tennessee club have planned a great meeting and show for us

and we need each of you there, so register promptly to insure that we have a quorum. I have to thank the nominating committee for selecting a fine slate of officers to lead us next year and we need your vote at the election during the meeting. Please remember that all voting members and committee chairs need to submit their reports to Secretary Beryl Ferguson so that the reports can be included in the annual meeting registration packets.

This is also the year we propose changes to our by-laws. During the Executive Board meeting in Charleston back in early May there was a lot of discussion regarding club 501(c)3 laws. At that time I appointed an ad hoc committee to study any changes that would affect our clubs. Consequently, the ad hoc five-year by-laws review committee will make suggestions based on any findings of the 501(c)3 ad hoc committee. Don and Ann Monroe of the ad hoc by-laws review committee will present some suggestions for future consideration at the annual meeting. Your attendance is vital so you can provide input into the direction and future of our federation.

Two last items of need – a new Membership Secretary and a new Stamp Committee Chair. Ray Behr had to step down recently from his position as Membership Secretary due to ongoing health issues. I am looking for someone to fill out the remaining year of Ray's term. I want to thank Ray for all of the hard work he has done for the last three or so years he has served. It can be a time-consuming job, but a very worthwhile job. The other item is for Stamp Committee Chair. Unfortunately, it is looking more like this committee will come to an end if we cannot find someone to take over for Jim Robinson. Jim has put a lot of time and effort to make it successful. We both would hate to see it come to an end. So, please consider either of these positions and I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Before I close, I want to welcome a new Ways and Means Chair. His name is Whit McMillan and he is the president of my home club in Charleston, SC (Lowcountry

Gem & Mineral Society). Whit is a marine biologist and an educator who works with educational programs, grants, and budgets at the South Carolina Aquarium. Whit also loves the lapidary arts. Both he and his wife, Dorian (a biology instructor at the College of Charleston) have attended William Holland sessions several times. Whit also demonstrates his craft at our annual show each year.

See you in Knoxville.

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## CARL'S EDITORIAL COMMENTARY



Ever wondered how to display a large (and growing) collection of gems and minerals? Anita Westlake, President of The Georgia Meteorite Society, describes her solution starting on page four.

Earlier this year, Tennessee's two Senators co-sponsored legislation to create a new wilderness area and enlarge several existing wilderness areas in the Cherokee National Forest. Should this legislation be signed into law, it is possible that Forest Service District regulations similar to those in North Carolina and Georgia would follow so as to significantly limit rockhounding and gold panning activity. See page 7 for particulars.

Then, on page 9, our SFMS Safety Committee discusses vertigo and several treatment options.

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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 November 2010 *Lodestar* are due by October 25, 2010.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Nov 6, 2010:** Cumberland Furnace, Tennessee. A "DMC" trip sponsored by the Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society digging for slag. The slag was a byproduct of making iron. Some of the slag is quit colorful in shades of blue and green ... some with swirls. The slag is easily cut and polished and makes nice pendants – it is too soft for rings. See the SFMS web site under the "What's New" link.

Field trips 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.

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## UPCOMING SHOWS

**October 15-17, 2010:** Knoxville, TN - Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society. 19th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Kerbela Temple, Mimosa Ave. Show is \$4/per day per adult.

**November 6-7, 2010:** Melbourne, FL - Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society. Parade of Gems, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Ave. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5. Contact Don McLamb 321-723-2592 or [fdjmc@aol.com](mailto:fdjmc@aol.com)

**Nov 12-14, 2010:** Pascagoula, MS - Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. 20th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours: 12th & 13th 10-6; 14th 10-5. Free admission. Contact John Wright (228) 875-9192 or [osjbw@datasync.com](mailto:osjbw@datasync.com)

**Nov 20-21, 2010:** West Palm Beach, FL. 44th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead, and Fossil Show, Americraft Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Over 60 dealers, door prizes, fossil dig. Free parking. Adults \$7, children under 12 free. Contact Barbara Ringhiser at [bar5678@aol.com](mailto:bar5678@aol.com).

**Nov 26-28, 2010:** Mobile, AL. Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds, Cody Road and Zeigler Blvd. Hours: Fri 2-7, Sat 9-6, and Sun 10-5. Contact Show Chair Jerry Shirey at (251) 458-2867 or e-mail [rockhoundjs@aol.com](mailto:rockhoundjs@aol.com).

**Nov 26-28, 2010:** Salem, VA - Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society. 31th Annual Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show and Sale, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard. Hours: Fri 2-7, Sat 10-6, and Sun 12-5. Admission \$3 (all 3 days), under 16 free. Contact Jeff McFalls at e-mail [rocky@rvmgs.com](mailto:rocky@rvmgs.com) or [www.rvmgs.com](http://www.rvmgs.com)

**December 11-12, 2010:** Nashville, TN - Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. 30th Annual Earth Treasures Show, Tennessee State Fairgrounds - Creative Arts Building, Nolensville Rd & Smith Ave, Nashville, TN (less than 1 mile off I-65 exit 81). Hours: Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission \$3, students 18 and under \$1, children under 12 free with adult. Contact show chair John Stanley at (615) 885-5704 or [jstanley@picagroup.com](mailto:jstanley@picagroup.com)

**Jan 14-16, 2011:** Largo, FL - The Pinellas Geological Society. 35th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale, Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5. Free admission. Contact Hugh Sheffield (727) 894-2440.

**Jan 15-16, 2011:** Deland, FL - The Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society. 40th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Minerals & Fossils Show and Sale, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Bldg, State Route 44 (1 mile east of I-4, Exit 118). Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Admission: \$4 children under 12 free. Contact Florence Nordquist (386) 226-4032 or [fndesign@aol.com](mailto:fndesign@aol.com).

**March 11-13, 2011:** Augusta, GA - Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society. 23rd Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St. Hours: Fri & Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 10am-4 pm. Admission: \$3 Adult, children under 16 FREE with an adult. Contact: [www.aikengmfs.org](http://www.aikengmfs.org) or [www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org](http://www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org).

### 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](mailto:dtalbott@bellsouth.net). SFMS clubs/societies are also encouraged to register their event listings on the SFMS website at: [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms).

## COLLECTIONS

### Hall of Meteorites

by Anita D. Westlake

For the longest time I didn't have a meteorite "collection." I had one lonely slice of Allende. I naively thought that would be enough. After all, that was one more than most people had, so why bother with more? Why, indeed?

Today I have over 128 different meteorites, with more coming in the mail every day. Originally, I kept my single meteorite in the tiny plastic bag it came in. I scrawled "Allende" on a scrap piece of paper and shoved it in the bag, calling it a day. As my fascination (and collection) grew, I used a small, lighted, one-shelf cabinet to display my rocks from space. Within a year the cabinet was too small. I moved them to shallow boxes with individual compartments. One box became two, then three. Finally, I started stacking the boxes on top of each other. That wasn't a very pretty or practical solution; I wanted to show off my treasures, not have people have to dig through boxes to see them.

Meanwhile, my friend, Dave Gheesling, presented me with a beautiful, framed Weston meteorite. The framed piece included engraved brass panels and photographs and was a work of art in itself. It measured over 2'x 3' and needed a very special place to be hung. The only walls left in my house that weren't already covered were in a narrow, dark hall. It hadn't been painted since I moved in 20 years before. A single, dim light bulb vainly attempted to light the whole hall but failed miserably. In order to do the Weston justice, I would have to re-paint the hall and install halogen track lighting. Thanks, Dave!

Months later, I had a beautiful, empty hall with a large (but well-lit), blank wall. I remembered that my friend, Ray Hill had designed a wall-mounted display for his Riker Mounts (see: [http://www.greatsouth.net/riker\\_frame\\_wall\\_display.htm](http://www.greatsouth.net/riker_frame_wall_display.htm)) and soon, another big project was born! For the benefit of those who don't have access to a computer, I'll briefly outline what he did.

Ray came over and measured the space in my hall. I wanted a big enough area to hold all my meteorites in one display, and I told him I was going to use the smaller 3 ¼" x 4 ¼" Riker Mount boxes exclusively. Ray went home with the measurements and had his handy man cut a piece of plywood to cover the entire designated space. He took a 3 ¼" x 4 ¼" Riker Mount and used it as a guide to measure the height (plus a little) of the rows. He drew a line across the whole sheet of plywood, and continued to measure and draw lines across until the whole thing had horizontal lines all the way across and down the sheet (like a piece of ruled school paper). It is on these lines that wooden "T" shaped railings would be nailed and glued. (When Ray made this for his own house, he attached the railings directly to his wall and didn't use a sheet of plywood. You can do it either way). Next, Travis, the handy man, measured how deep the "T" railings needed to be to accommodate the thickness of the Riker Mounts. (See Figure 1). The last step was to glue and nail the "T" railings to the plywood. The finished product was brought to my house and screwed into my old plaster walls in 6 places. (Remember to countersink the screws so the heads don't interfere with sliding in the Riker Mounts).

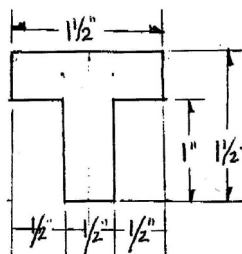


Figure 1: "T" railing

I painted the tops of the "T" railings a glossy white. There's no need to paint the plywood itself since it will be covered with Riker Mounts. Of course, you can paint the rail tops any color you like, even black to match the Riker Mounts. Figure 2 shows the complete, painted wall display without the meteorites.



Figure 2: Complete, painted wall display



Figure 3: Side View

The last part of the project was to get the meteorites in the Riker Mounts. I wanted a uniform look, so I created a specimen label on my computer. I cut them out so they would fit “just right” behind the glass in the Riker Mounts and hand-printed the information on each label. I tried typing in the information, but it was tedious and frustrating. Besides, the “hand-printed” look adds a personal touch (see Figure 4). If I had the *original label* from the meteorite, I inserted it under the cotton batting in the Riker Mount. I hope when I’m dead and gone people will know to look for them there! (Labels can be as valuable as the meteorite itself).

<p><b>Catalog Number:</b></p> <p><b>Name:</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b></p>
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Figure 4: Specimen labels

If the meteorite weighed anywhere from 1-10 grams, I put it inside a tiny round or square plastic specimen box. I cut out the batting to the approximate size and shape of the plastic box, and then inserted the box into the hole in the batting. I kept the rest of the batting in place to secure the specimen label and keep the plastic box from shifting. Through trial and error I found that the square clear plastic boxes were just a little bit too thick for the Riker Mounts. I could close the Riker Mount box with its accompanying pins, but once I tried to slide it into the frame on the wall, it wouldn’t slide. (When I tried to force it, the glass in the box shattered.) I had to undo the whole mess, take the square plastic box out, reposition the meteorite under *just the lid of the plastic box*, close up the Riker Mount and try to slide it in the frame again. This time it worked just fine.

If the meteorite was tiny, I put it in a tiny clear, plastic box with a *magnifying* lid. If it was over 10 grams and/or especially heavy, I cut out a rectangle of sticky shelf-liner and placed that on top of the cotton batting. I then placed the meteorite directly on the shelf-liner and once the Riker Mount was closed, it usually stayed in place. If the whole set up was still a little loose and the meteorite kept slipping down, I folded up some cardboard and stuck it behind the batting to make the fit tighter. You can get sticky, plastic shelf-liner from a “dollar store” in a few different colors. I chose white so it would blend in with the white of the cotton batting. See Figure 5 for the finished display.



Figure 5: The finished display.

The last decision to be made was how to arrange the finished Riker Mounts on the wall. Alphabetically? By catalog number? By type? The “best” ones at eye-level? This one decision kept me up nights and made me drink more Scotch than was absolutely necessary. Having worked in a university library for 25 years, it was quite natural for me to finally choose “alphabetically.” After I placed all the boxes in the frame, I found one that I had left out accidentally. It was a Saharan. I would have to move about 25 boxes to put this one in its proper order. I didn’t want to; it was 2:30 in the morning and I was tired. I thought about changing the name of the meteorite to “Zaharan” just so I could stick it at the end of the row. It’s amazing how sloppy a librarian can get at 2:30 in the morning.

Unless you just put them up randomly, you’re going to have to move some meteorites the next time you acquire one. There are only two solutions to this problem and I don’t care for either one of them:

1. Don’t buy any more meteorites.
2. Just move them and get over it.

I got over it, with a little help from Dewar’s.

## CONSERVATION & LEGISLATION

### New bill to create ~20,000 acres of wilderness in Tennessee

by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010 (S.3470) was introduced by U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) on June 9, 2010 and has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. If this bill is enacted it will designate 20,000 acres of public land in the **Cherokee National Forest** in the State of Tennessee as wilderness. A Map of the proposed wilderness can be found on the ALAA Website along with the text and status of the proposed legislation ([www.amlands.org/6652/85212.html](http://www.amlands.org/6652/85212.html)).

Is this legislation a good thing? Well, living on the west coast it will be very hard to determine, however only the Rockhounds living and collecting in Tennessee will be able to answer that question. After reading the bill and studying the map an honest conclusion may be reached as to whether this will hamper Rockhounding Activities within the Cherokee National Forest or is a real environmental plus for the state of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010 specifically creates one new wilderness area and expands the boundaries of five separate existing wilderness areas already within the Cherokee National Forest. Since these areas are owned entirely by the U.S. Forest Service and are being managed as Wilderness Study Areas currently, this bill will have no effect on privately owned lands and will cause no change in access for the public.

The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010:

- Creates the 9,038 acre Upper Bald River Wilderness (Monroe County)
- Adds 348 acres to the Big Frog Wilderness (Polk County)
- Adds 966 acres to the Little Frog Wilderness (Polk County)
- Adds 2,922 acres to the Sampson Mountain Wilderness (Washington and Unicoi County)
- Adds 4,446 acres to the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness (Carter and Johnson County)
- Adds 1,836 acres to the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness (Monroe County)

If after review of the facts it is determined that the proposed legislation does not have a negative impact on Rockhounding within the Cherokee National Forest, then please contact any of the officers or state representatives listed on the ALAA Website or email to [info@amlands.org](mailto:info@amlands.org) or the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee [afmsconservation@antelecom.net](mailto:afmsconservation@antelecom.net) with recommendations for support or opposition of this proposed legislation. Conservation of our natural resources is just as important as keeping collecting sites open and accessible to all Rockhounds.

**Editor's Note:** This article was first published in the AFMS Newsletter, October 2010 edition, page 6 and is reprinted here with the author's permission. The Cherokee National Forest in eastern Tennessee contains a variety of rock collecting and gold panning sites that may be affected by this proposed legislation. In particular, the proposed 9,000 acre Upper Bald River Wilderness in Monroe County appears to encompass the historic Coker Creek gold fields where panning for gold remains popular. "Wilderness area" designation may result in Cherokee National Forest District restrictions on collecting rock, minerals, and plants by any means. If you are a collector in these areas of Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest, please take the time to discuss your concerns (or lack thereof) with John Martin or other AFMS or ALAA officials.

### 2010 Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting

The 2010 annual SFMS meeting will be in conjunction with the 20th annual Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society Gem Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show. The show is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 15-17 at the Kerbela Temple at 315 Mimosa Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee; 865-579-0988. This is about 10 miles east of the host hotel.

The Federation meetings, Cracker Barrel, Annual Meeting, Annual Banquet, and Newsletter-Website-Articles Awards Breakfast will be held at the host hotel. The host hotel for the meetings and banquets is the Magnuson Star Hotel (formerly Howard Johnson Plaza-Knoxville) at 7621 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919; . KGMS has arranged a meeting rate for SFMS members of \$55.95 per night. There is a 17.25% TN Sales and Occupancy Tax. The phone number for the hotel for reservations is 865-693-8111. To obtain the rate the group name is "Gem and Mineral Society". Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel.

The Annual Banquet will be Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Julian Gray, Curator at Tellus Science Museum will be the guest speaker talking about Quartz. Pre-registration banquet cost is \$21.50 per person; without pre-registration the tickets will be \$25.00 per person. Cut off for pre-registration is October 7, 2010.

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To pre-register for the banquet please fill out the following form and return with payment by check made out to the Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society or KGMS. Mail to Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society, Attn: Banquet Registration, P.O. Box 51554, Knoxville, TN 37950-1554.

Names for banquet tickets \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$21.50 each

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**BE SAFE – BE WELL**

Don Monroe &amp; Linda Behr - Safety Committee

**Vertigo**

No, this is not a review of that great movie by the late Alfred Hitchcock. These are comments about a malady which affects many of us and it is somewhat a seasonal occurrence.

Vertigo is described by many as dizziness, unsteadiness, or the inability to walk in a straight line. It is attributed to the inner ear and clogging of the Eustachian tube. This may be true. I have enjoyed this problem for many years and it does seem to coincide with that time of the year when we have lots of pollen, cough and sneeze and have headaches. One of the most maddening symptoms is the tendency to turn and walk into a wall without any warning. In my case I usually turn to the left. Now why I turn to the left rather than the right has never been determined.

I have consulted with several doctors and have never gotten a satisfactory answer. The onset of this problem comes without any warning. I know it is here when I wake up, stand up and find myself looking at the ceiling of the room lying on my back on my bed. Usually about this time I feel a little nausea. I then try to get up again and take great comfort in holding on to furniture to keep from falling down. Now this falling down business is where the safety part of this article comes in. Knowing that you have vertigo at a particular time of the year would be a good reason to carry a staff or a cane when walking or climbing. In my conversations with other sufferers of vertigo, I have learned about a lot of “falling down in the floor” occurrences. None of us need to fall because it hurts.

Falling can damage your body and, in addition, it is downright embarrassing. Folks tend to assume you have been consuming alcoholic spirits when that is not the case. This is not a temperance lecture, just a statement of fact since none of us like unwarranted accusations.

Now I have studied this issue for years. Not the temperance or the spirits, just the vertigo and I have learned a little bit that I would like to share with those who have experienced this maddening situation. I have talked with many friends and even a few strangers about vertigo and I have learned a few facts or they may just be opinions.

Many people experience vertigo but they may not advertise the situation. I do not know why some folks keep vertigo a secret. I can only assume that they like the feeling of having a “cheap drunk” or they are embarrassed that they have an uncontrollable bodily function like sneezing or wetting their pants or something like that. Some years ago a friend told me that she could cure vertigo and it works. This is what she said that I must do. Squeeze both nostrils shut and blow your nose which has the effect of pressurizing your head, particularly your

sinuses. This pressure will usually result in your ears “popping” like landing in an airplane and should be done several times a day. The benefit will be that this maneuver will clear the tubes in your ears. Supposedly this will also help eliminate the tendency of these tubes to grow smaller and clog more often. During a later visit with my physician, I told him about this technique. His reaction was a little surprising. He said that he had not heard of this before but he felt that pressurizing your ears would not hurt anything and he could see why it might help. He even stated that he might suggest this procedure to some of his patients who are plagued with vertigo.

I have one other possible treatment to recommend. My wife (the nurse) also has periodic vertigo and finds that taking an “over the counter” decongestant will help the situation.

I hope that some of you have other remedies for vertigo. I know that it is not an uncommon complaint and I would welcome another cure.

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**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE'S SLATE OF OFFICER CANDIDATES FOR 2011**

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<b>2nd Vice President</b> ....	<b>Danny Griffin</b>
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\* Term of office is two-years

## Saving Money

by Don Clark CSM IMG President

Ultrasonic cleaners are the fastest method for cleaning jewelry. Unfortunately, they break stones. A thorough inspection of a gem, to insure it has no microscopic fractures, requires a fair amount of time. Some busy stores avoid the inspections and accept that they will replace a certain amount of gems. Both methods are costly.

The great advantage of an ultrasonic cleaner is not from its sonic waves that vibrate grime loose; it is from the solution. While they are packaged up as expensive, "secret formulas" they are nothing more than a common, sudsy ammonia solution. Sudsy ammonia solutions are sold as common cleaning products. In the US they are sold under the trade names of "409" and "Fantastic."

These common products work as well as the secret formulas. To clean your jewelry, simply let it soak overnight. To speed up the process, warm the solution first. That reduces the cleaning time to an hour or two. When finished soaking, remove any remaining grime with a small brush and then give it a rinse.

As well as this works, you have to be careful about putting a heat sensitive gem in a hot solution. You could break an opal. Also, do not use this with pearls or porous stones.

Miracle Silver Polish: Line the bottom of a deep, nonmetallic, container with aluminum foil. Fill it with hot water and add a handful of washing soda, (about \$2 a box.) Place your silver items in the pot, so they are touching the aluminum foil. You will see the tarnish fade in a couple minutes. Remove the pieces and buff them dry with a soft towel. Do not let them air dry. The solution removes the tarnish, but it is the buffing that brings out the shine.

Use this technique with plated or solid silver items. You will find that it works well with most items, but not all. This has been cleverly packaged and sold on US television for \$24.99, plus shipping!

*Reprint permission granted by <http://www.gemsociety.org/info/igem16.htm>*

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