FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Barbara Green

Is it hot enough for you? We’ve broken all kinds of records here in upstate South Carolina.

It was nice to spend some time up in Syracuse, NY for the AFMS Annual meeting the first week in July. The weather was perfect and we enjoyed the break from the heat.

We met some new friends and enjoyed spending time with some old friends. We took in some history with the reception that was held at the Erie Canal Park. We even brought home a Herkimer diamond.

One topic that came up was whether or not AFMS should raise their dues. The uproar that resulted caused that subject to be quickly dismissed.

Next up on our agenda is our SFMS Annual Meeting that is being co-hosted by my home club, WESCAGEM and Henderson County Gem & Mineral Club. I hope you have made your plans to attend. If you are the President of your local club, this is one of your duties. If you cannot attend, please send a delegate in your place. It’s important that your club gets a chance to vote on what is happening in the Federation.

I hope to see you all in September.

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

CARL’S EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

From time-to-time, SFMS members have been commissioned to create lapidary art work in honor of public personalities. Rarer yet, is the opportunity to have such work acknowledged by the media. See our lead article on Page 4 for one such story.

A lot of changes are afoot regarding access to national lands managed by the USFS or BLM. Page 5 contains an article on change that may adversely affect field trip planning by requiring lengthy and explicit recreation permit applications along with application fees of $100.

Nominations for SFMS 2012 Offices are on Page 6 published herein per SFMS By-Laws.

The 2011 SFMS Annual Meeting (Sept 3-4) in Greenville, SC will be at the Clarion Inn & Suites. Best get hotel reservations early. See Page 7.

Changes to SFMS’ Workshop class offerings are available on Page 9.

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Website: http://www.amfed.org/sfms  
email: sfms@amfed.org
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 Sept 2011 Lodestar are due by Aug 25, 2011.

Copyright© 2011 by the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by 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


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.

UPCOMING SHOWS


Sept 9-11, 2011: Winston-Salem, NC. Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. 40th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Educational Building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem#9 from 27th Street only. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 12-5. Contact W. A. Marion, Show Chair at 1163 Bear Creek Rd, Mocksville, NC 27028 or via e-mail at MarionA1@yadtel.net


Sept 17 & 19, 2011: The Falls of the Ohio State Park. 17th "Falls Fossil Festival" sponsored by the Falls of the Ohio Foundation. Hours: Sept 17, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Sept 19, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. A detailed schedule for the Festival is posted at: http://www.fallsoftheohio.org/

special_events.html For more information contact Alan Goldstein at 812-280-9970 ext. 403 or park@fallsoftheohio.org.


October 14-16, 2011: Huntsville, AL. Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society. VBC Center - South Hall, Huntsville. Contact Tony Smith (256) 852-3210 or tsmith@erc-incorporated.com.

November 11-13, 2011: Pascagoula, MS - The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society. Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. $3 admission, children under age 13 are free. Contact Jim Darnell @ (228) 806-1039 [cell] or (228) 875-2310 [home].


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.
Torch in hand, Lil McKinnon-Hicks bends thin silver cords into earring wires. She drips metal until it forms a small ball. She hammers out bracelets and solders two metals to create necklace pendants.

Silversmith McKinnon-Hicks, 48, is in a black apron wearing a pair of dangling earrings that mimic a French Quarter balcony’s ironworks. She rents a workshop on the second floor of Hal & Mal’s in a space that was an old liquor storeroom. Part showroom, part office, part science lab, this is the base of operations for Lil McKH Jewelry. She set up her alchemist’s dream here three years ago. To get up there, you have to ride an antique freight elevator with wooden gates.

She became a silversmith seven years ago. Before that, McKinnon-Hicks worked in advertising. As a freelance public-relations and marketing professional with 20 years experience, she worked—among other projects—on Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange shows. She helped promote three of its big Mississippi Arts Pavilion exhibitions in Jackson, including the last one in 2004: “The Glory of Baroque Dresden.” It was exhausting work. “I needed a break,” she says.

She wanted to treat herself by taking an art class. She intended to sign up for pottery at the Tougaloo Art Colony, but the pottery class was full. A beginning silversmithing class was open, though. The appeal to her was unexpected and sudden. “I saw hammers, metal, tools—it was stuff I had never done,” McKinnon-Hicks says. “It just lit me up.”

Ken Bova, a Greeneville, N.C., jeweler, taught that class. “He just opened a door for me,” she says. Bova encouraged her to continue learning. He told her to find the local gem and mineral society. She found them and discovered the hobbyists taught free workshops.

McKinnon-Hicks keeps learning and experimenting. She likes to place stones and pieces of metal on the table and rearrange them until inspiration suggests a new piece of jewelry. She keeps little plastic bags of different colored stone combinations. Scraps of copper fill dozens of small, empty round wooden Brie boxes. Brown paper accordion files sort silver wire by gauges and sheets of silver and copper by thickness. When inspiration strikes, she pulls out a bag or a box or a file and arranges pieces of metal and stone.

Most of the jewelry McKinnon-Hicks creates now is custom work. Through word of mouth, customers come to her with sentimental ideas. Broken jewelry and forgotten heirlooms become new pieces of wearable art. Coins, cameos and river rocks turn into special gifts.

McKinnon-Hicks attends five or six art festivals every year to sell her jewelry under a tent. It’s not her usual mode of operation. Most weeks have a predictable pattern for the 1985 University of Mississippi graduate, who married Steven Wells Hicks 21 years ago. Mondays, she usually stays at their north Jackson home to focus on business paperwork. Tuesdays through Saturdays, she hammers and enamels in the workshop.
Lil McKH catalog jewelry—the pieces she sells online, in stores and at festivals—sells from $25 to $350. She watches silver prices daily. They’ve doubled over the past year. “I can’t raise my prices that much,” she says.

McKinnon-Hicks is marketing her work in new ways. She’s introduced delicate keepsake jewelry for baby girls. She’s developed “girlfriend gifts” that contain a positive word, such as “Believe,” on a card with a simple necklace. She’s brainstorming high-end pearl necklaces with striking cloisonné pendants. The cloisonné is a new skill.

Earlier this year, McKinnon-Hicks took an advanced workshop at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia, with a $500 grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission. For one week, she studied enameling with artist Christiana Tagliapietria of Ontario, Canada. McKinnon-Hicks, who already creates enameled jewelry by cooking powdered glass in patterns on metal in a 1,600-degree kiln, says she learned in Georgia a more detail-oriented enameling that is almost a lost art, including cloisonné techniques.

When she got back to Jackson, she applied her new skills. She had already made several blue-enamed guitar pendants shaped like B.B. King’s famous guitar, Lucille. A white Highway 61 sign was on each one. These were intended as gifts from the Mississippi Development Authority to each honoree at the “Mississippi’s Celebration of its Grammy Legacy” event June 7 in Biloxi. Just back from the class in Georgia, McKinnon-Hicks created a special pair of cloisonné cuff links for B.B. King with lines of silver outlining the highway sign (see photo). MDA was pleased.

“They called back,” she says. “They wanted a pair of cuff links for all the artists.”

Editor’s Comment: This article (less the cuff links photo) was published in the July 6, 2011 issue of the Jackson Free Press newspaper (Jackson, MS) and is reprinted here with permission of the author.

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FIELDTRIP UPDATES
By Doug True, AFMS Fieldtrip Chairman

WARNING- The Rules for fieldtrips and collecting are changing on public lands. Actually these rules are for any organized group using our public lands. The rules are open for interpretation, but most districts are saying a planned trip by two or more people and the schedule of your trip is published or posted, and then you must apply for a recreation permit. You must find the local district you are going to collect in, determine if it is BLM or USFS then request a recreation permit form 2930-1, in that application you will have to furnish maps (topographical) A written plan of your function, area you are camping and what you are collecting, estimated number of attendees. You will also be required to show a certificate of insurance naming the BLM or USFS as insured. In some cases they may require you to supply Porta-Potties. In your report you should indicate specific areas where you plan on collecting, indicate if you will be digging or surface collecting. You have a much better chance if you plan on surface collecting, if you’re digging, the selected area will be scrutinized by a number departments, Archeological, Paleontology, Endangered plants, etc, etc. After a revue of your proposal, all or part of your request might be turned down. You need to work with the recreation officer and plan your trip together as this gives you a better chance of being successful. In talking with different BLM districts their numbers seem to vary as to what constitutes a group. There will also be a processing fee of around $100 dollars. If you are planning a trip to public lands, PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR GROUP TRIP is good to go.

Editor’s Comment: This article was published in April, May, June 2011 issue of the American Land Access Association’s newsletter (see www.amlands.org).
Nomination Committee Announcement

In accordance with Article IX, Section 6.G.3 of the SFMS By-Laws, the Nomination Committee is pleased to nominate candidates for the following offices to stand for election at the 2011 SFMS Annual Meeting:

- **President:** Jason Hamilton, Jacksonville, FL
- **1st Vice President:** Danny Griffin, Kingston, TN
- **2nd Vice President:** James Darnell, Ocean Springs, MS
- **Treasurer:** Barbara Green, Marietta, SC
- **Membership Secretary:** Kerri Wetzel, Easley, SC

Education Committee’s Workshop Update

The June Workshop at William Holland went great. We had wonderful students and instructors. Everyone seemed to enjoy the workshop, and the food is great this year, thanks to Chef Al. I want to thank Lisa Roberts and Denise and Carl Talbott for all their great work for the June Workshop and for upcoming Workshops.

Sign up for a workshop at Wildacres in August or September or the William Holland workshop in October.

The August Wildacres Workshop is coming up and we have some wonderful Instructors. Don’t miss your chance to have a wonderful week in a beautiful mountain setting. Enjoy the companionship of other students and learn from other students and the instructors.

Go to [www.sfmsworkshops.com](http://www.sfmsworkshops.com) and check out the classes. Click on the class and it will take you to the instructor’s bios, class description, pre-requisites (if any), class fee and an approximate cost of the class.

**IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR THE AUGUST WORKSHOP!**

Looking forward to seeing you at one of the Workshops.

Kathy Morris, Education Committee Chair
2011 Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting
September 3 & 4, 2011

The 2011 annual SFMS meeting is being co-hosted by Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society and Western SC Gem & Mineral Society (WESCAGEM).

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 Clarion Inn & Suites, 50 Orchard Park Dr., Greenville, SC 29615. Call 864-254-6383 and request the rate for the Southeastern Federation Mineral Society. The rate will be $62.00/room ($72/queen & king). Full breakfast is provided. Any problems or concerns, ask to speak with Claudia Folley.

The Annual Banquet will be Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be the curator of the Clemson Mineral Museum. Pre-registration banquet cost is $15.00 per person; without pre-registration the tickets will be $20.00 per person. Cut off for pre-registration is August 23, 2011.

The Annual Meeting is in conjunction with the Annual Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society Show in Hendersonville, NC - 29th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show and Sale. The show will be at the Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Road. A map will be provided in your Registration Package. The dates for the show are Sept. 3-6/2011.

To pre-register for the banquet please fill out the following form and return with payment by check made out to the WESCAGEM (Western SC Gem & Mineral Society. Mail to: Kerri Wetzel, 5010 Sunset Drive, Easley, SC 29642.

____________________________________________________________________________________

Names for banquet tickets______________________________________________________________

# of tickets________ @ $15.00 each

Mailing address ________________________________City__________________

State______ Zip Code _________________

Phone number _______________________________
BE SAFE – BE WELL
Don Monroe & Linda Behr - Safety Committee

Help Out

“Help Out” is a somewhat archaic term that we encounter very often here in Appalachia, and it is applied to our relationships with friends, neighbors, relatives and even strangers. It is often pronounced as “hep out”, and it is rarely requested. As a matter of fact, it is considered bad form or inappropriate to ask others to help out unless you are in dire straits or it is planned to exchange assistance.

When I was young and lived on our farm, there were certain times when everyone nearby was expected to “hep out”. At the beginning of cold weather we would slaughter hogs to provide ham, sausage, and other forms of pork that city folks were not familiar with and did not customarily eat. Some examples of these items include fat back, “chitlins” (I have seen it spelled chitterlings}, brains, tripe, pigs feet, lard, cracklings, and many other pork products that I did not like then and I don’t like now and do not want to talk about. This was towards the end of the depression and people could not afford to waste anything.

Other times when it was expected that assistance would be rendered included harvest time, fall wood cutting, canning vegetables, wine making, grinding wheat for flour, grinding corn for meal and on some farms this list would include whiskey making. We never made whiskey but our neighbor did. You could not drink it but it surely did make good anti-freeze for our tractor.

I know some of you are wondering so I am going to explain why it may be important to know a little about how life was in earlier years. All of this also applies to many parts of the country where the tasks were a little different from the ones previously mentioned but, never the less, were vitally important. We now see a lot of people returning to their roots and are having to learn or re-learn skills that may be forgotten. My family has left the city and moved back to the hills. We are doing things the way our family did them several generations ago. It is not all fun, but it is not all bad and will engender a certain amount of pride.

There is a significant safety aspect to returning to the land. You are going to need help. In many cases this help will come from your neighbors and working relationships must be developed so that you can do things or get things done safely. I really hate to say it but you cannot always rely on your children. They may not live nearby and are busy and have their own lives to live. Good kids that they are, they still may not think about what the needs of their parents may be. You may be hesitant to ask for help and must rely on others. In our neighborhood we share skills and help each other. It is the SAFE WAY. I always say that it is often better to live next door to someone that owns a truck than have one of your own.
### 2011 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

#### Workshop Staff

**Wildacres Director, Julia Larson**  
204 37th Ave North, #250  
St. Petersburg, FL 33704  
727-522-1254  
Email: wadir2011@yahoo.com

**Wildacres Registrars, David and Leslie Wayment**  
8802 N US Hwy 1 Suite 10  
Sebastian, FL 32958  
Phone 772-532-6432  
772-539-2409  
Email: aastainedglass@bellsouth.net

**William Holland Directors, Denise & Carl Talbott**  
216 Spring View Drive  
Murphy, NC 28906  
828-494-7213  
Email: dtalbott@bellsouth.net

**William Holland Registrar, Lisa Roberts**  
996 Indian River Boat Dock Rd  
Jacksboro, TN  37757  
Phone 423-562-9555  
Email: whregistrar10@yahoo.com

**Education Chairman, Kathy Morris**  
551 Grayce Lane  
Hiawassee, GA 30546  
706-896-3256  
252-571-5050  
Email: kmorris45@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 one of these classes, please do not exclude yourself without contacting the instructor first.

### SESSION TWO - WILDACRES

#### MONDAY, August 22 - 28, 2011

<table>
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<td>Faceting</td>
<td>Steve Hillenbrand</td>
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<td>*Fused Glass, Advanced</td>
<td>Rich Dillon</td>
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<td>Gem ID</td>
<td>Mary Lou Kick</td>
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<td>*Metalsmithing - Advanced</td>
<td>Jeff Shears</td>
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<td>Silver I</td>
<td>Shannon Stafford &amp; Annette Gibney</td>
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<td>*Stone Setting</td>
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### SESSION THREE - WILDACRES

#### MONDAY, September 12 - 18, 2011

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### SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND

#### SUNDAY, October 9-16, 2011

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<th>Ron Midkiff</th>
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<td>Vicki Prillaman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wire I</td>
<td>Judy Peppers</td>
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2011 SFMS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

SESSION:  ◊ William Holland June 12-18  ◊ Wildacres August 22-28
(check one)  ◊ Wildacres September 12-18  ◊ William Holland October 9-15

ACCOMMODATIONS:  ◊ Lodge  ◊ Day Student  ◊ Campground (Wm Holland only)

# 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.)________________________

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

Class Selection

<table>
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<td>Y   N</td>
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<td>Spouse #2</td>
<td>Y   N</td>
<td>Y   N</td>
<td>Y   N</td>
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**** PLEASE LIST ALTERNATES****

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:  $310 double occupancy or $470 single.
  * $140 day student or camper.
  * Wildacres:
    * $330 double occupancy or $490 single.
    * $160 day student.
  * Non members add $50.00 to all Tuition fees

William Holland Campsite Fee: $120 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.
The policy of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. is that neither the name nor the logo of the Federation may be used for commercial purposes. If any commercial ventures using the name or the logo of the Federation are found, Member Societies and their members are requested to advise Federation Officers.