FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Barbara Green

We're into the second month of the New Year. How many resolutions have already been broken? One of mine is to keep learning new things. With the Workshop Class Schedules printed in the Lodestar, I know I will be able to keep that resolution. The problem is deciding just which class I want to take this year.

In reading the newsletter from the Eastern Federation, I am really taken by the "Each One Teach One" column by Hazel Remaley, EOTO Chair for Eastern. Many SFMS local clubs already practice this, and I commend those who share their knowledge. It's not always easy to stand up in front and be the teacher, but if you just take on one person at a time and then that person teaches one other person, and so on, and so on... Knowledge spreads fast that way.

With whatever I learn this year, I will be taking it back to my club to pass on the knowledge. I can never give them the entire package that I learned in a full week at a workshop, but I hope I can give them a taste for it so that then they will want to go spend a week learning more.

If you do not have at least one person from your club attending the workshops, you club is really missing out on a great learning experience. It would be wonderful if at least one person from each club goes to one Federation workshop. Encourage your members to attend the Federation Workshops. Then ask them to come back and share what they learned.

Changing the subject now. We have our next Federation Executive Board Meeting coming up March 12 in Augusta, Georgia. You will find more information on Page 7 of this Lodestar. If you are the President of your local club, you should plan to attend. If you cannot attend, please appoint a delegate to represent your club. Make sure that Beryl Ferguson, SFMS Secretary, has the information on who from your club will be attending the meeting.

And finally, as you can see from the Lodestar, we have some committee chairs open. Please consider volunteering. You will gain so much from the experience, and the Federation always gains from having new folks with their different perspectives. Contact me if you feel that you can fill one of these positions.

CARL’S EDITORAL COMMENTARY

A number of years ago, Dr. Julian Gray wrote an article for the Georgia Mineral Society explaining striations in various crystals and how this crystal feature can be used in mineral identification. Starting on Page 4, this reprinted article provides detailed insights on pyrite, quartz, and phenakite crystals.

There’s a short notice on Page 7 regarding the SFMS Spring 2011 Executive Board meeting in Augusta, GA held in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Hotel information may be useful for those planning on attending.

The Education Committee Chairperson’s report on Page 8 explains why Workshop classes at William Holland cost less this year than those at Wildacres, the Workshop Class offerings are on Page 9, and a Workshop application is on Page 10.

Website: http://www.amfed.org/sfms
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 March 2011 Lodestar are due by February 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
FIELD TRIPS

February 26, 2011: Durham Mines, Walker County, GA 9 am to 4 pm. Hosted by Rome Georgia Mineral Society. The Durham Mines are Georgia's best locality for beautifully preserved Paleozoic plant fossils. Commonly referred to as 'Fern Fossils", but more accurately described as "Coal Fossils", the site offers a wide variety of species: Lycopods such as Lepidodendron; giant horsetails such as Calamites (and its leaves known as Annularia); and seed ferns such as Pecopteris and Alethopteris. You can occasionally find fossilized seeds. For identification purposes, we will provide a sheet to get you started, but any good fossil book will be useful as well when you get home. The fossils are found by splitting the abundant shale at the site. Most will yield twigs and bark, but with persistence you will find good leaves. Meet at the site, 430 Durham Rd, Rising Fawn, GA 30738.

April 29, 30 & May 1: Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig". The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during 2011 (one in April & the other in Oct). He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain. Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events.

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


March 4-6, 2011: St. Petersburg, FL - The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society. 41st Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale, The Minnreg Bldg, 6340 126th Ave N., Largo, FL 33773. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Hourly Door Prizes & Grand Drawing at end of show! Free Parking. Contact Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279 or schmidwj@Eckerd.edu


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.
MINERAL IDENTIFICATION

Earning Their Stripes—What striations can tell us about a mineral
Julian C. Gray, Member GMS & Curator
Tellus Science Museum

Striations are those small parallel lines on some crystal faces of minerals. Mineral identification books often list these as a diagnostic property for either identification or for distinguishing between two similar minerals. For example, plagioclase feldspars are recognized by fine striations on one of its cleavage planes and this is one quick way to tell the difference between microcline (potassium feldspar) and plagioclase (Klein, 2002).

But what exactly are striations? How do they form and what can they tell us, besides how to identify a mineral? Ernst Cloos, a famous structural geologist, once said “No structure [or feature] in a rock [or mineral] is insignificant, no matter how small or unimportant it first appears” (quoted in Rodgers, 1970). This is very true of mineral striations. So let’s look at a few examples.

Probably the best known example of striations on crystal faces are those found on some faces of pyrite crystals. These little grooves are surprisingly complex. To understand their meaning, we need to do a little crystallography. The most common crystal forms of pyrite are the cube and the pyritohedron (Figure 1). The pyritohedron is also called a pentagonal dodecahedron—a polyhedron made up of twelve (do = two plus deca = ten) faces with five sides to each face (penta = five). The pentagons are not perfect pentagons, though. Look carefully at the length of edges on each face, four are the same length, but the fifth is longer. If you locate the longer edge on a pyritohedron face, you have located one of the crystal axes. Now rotate the crystal around that axis 180 degrees once, then once more. At each stop the pyritohedron looks the same; it is symmetric. The axes of a cube go right through the center of each of the six square faces. Since the faces are square, you can rotate the cube around one of its axes, stopping four times; once every 90 degrees. Do this with a cubic pyrite, a dice, or child’s building block, anything that is a perfect cube. Now which crystal form is more symmetric, the cube or the pyritohedron? The cube, of course, because there are four positions where it looks the same when rotated rather than the two positions as with the pyritohedron. Mineralogists call these four-fold and two-fold axes of symmetry (Klein, 2002).

So what has all that got to do with striations? We know that striations are fine parallel grooves. Striations are caused by a crystal alternating between crystal faces as it grows. Crystals grow by adding tiny molecular building blocks of the chemicals of which it is formed. The final form may be very different from the unit cell building blocks. If the sharp corners of a pyrite cube are replaced by triangular faces then the crystal has grown mostly as a cube, but partially as an octahedron. If the edges of the cube are replaced by rectangular faces, then the cube has been modified by a dodecahedron—most likely a pyritohedron (Figure 1, center drawing). We have no problem understanding that a mineral can exhibit two or more crystal forms. It is also fairly common to see the faces of the cube modified by striations.

These striations are produced when the pyrite grows with the cube as the most prominent form, but the cube faces alternate between a cube face and a pyritohedron face (Figure 2). Each striation is a tiny stair step; it
alternates back and forth between cube face, pyritohedron face, cube face, over the whole striated face (Hurlbut and Sharp, 1998). I can prove this. If you have a cube with striations, place it on a table so that the striations on the top cube face are lined up left-right. The striations on the front and back face go from top to bottom and those on the left and right side go front to back. If the faces of the cube were smooth, you could rotate the crystal four times to a symmetrical position. The presence of striations reduces the symmetry of the pyrite to the point that you can only rotate the crystal two times to symmetrical positions. Sound familiar? The presence of the microscopic pyritohedron faces reduces the four-fold symmetry of the cube to two-fold symmetry of the pyritohedron. Although pyrite forms cubes, it does not have four-fold symmetry! This lower symmetry of the internal crystalline pyrite structure is revealed by the fact that it can grow into pyritohedrons, which have two-fold symmetry! And this profound observation of its structure is revealed from simple observations about the presence of striations.

**Figure 2** - Pyrite exhibiting combined cube and pyritohedron habit with striations. (*Drawing by Julian C. Gray using SHAPE Software v.6.0*).

Another familiar example is quartz. Quartz crystals are made of a combination of two triangular prisms and two rhombic pyramids, which form the triangular faces of the terminations. The c axis of the crystal is vertical, going from point to point on a doubly-terminated crystal. Striations are common on the prism (side) faces of quartz (Figure 3). The striations are at a right angle to the edges of the prism faces (right angles to the c-axis of the crystal). This is a diagnostic property of quartz (Klein, 2002). Phenakite is a rare and very valuable beryllium silicate found in pegmatites. The name for phenakite comes from the Greek words for deceiver for its similarity to quartz (Blackburn and Dennen, 1997). Phenakite occurs in crystals comprised of two triangular prisms and two triangular pyramids. It has a hardness of 7.5 to 8, is white or colorless, and has a vitreous luster; all of which sounds like quartz (Klein, 2002).

So you are collecting in a pegmatite-rich area one day. How would you know if you are finding common (but cute) quartz crystals or the rare and valuable phenakite? Phenakite also has striations, but the striations are parallel to the edges of the prism faces or parallel to the c-axis (Jacobson, 1993)! Ah hah! So striations can be used to distinguish between quartz and phenakite. If the striations are vertical it is phenakite, if they are horizontal the mineral is quartz (Figure 3). No longer shall ye be deceived.

While we are discussing phenakite, I should also mention that it has one of the most fascinating twins. Phenakite forms a penetration twin that occurs when the second crystal is rotated 60 degrees around the c-axis (Figure 4). The end of the resulting twin looks like the point of a steel star drill bit. Therefore, these crystals have been nicknamed drill-bit twins (Jacobson, 1993). Bet you won’t confuse them with quartz!
Another common example of striations occurs in tourmaline (Figure 5). Alternating prism faces on tourmaline crystals that give it those distinctive and interesting vertical striations. Commonly the alternating forms distort the flat triangular cross section into the well-known curved triangular shape familiar to all (Hurlbut and Sharp, 1998).

Other examples of striations caused by alternating crystal forms abound. They add beauty to minerals, tell us about the crystal symmetry of minerals, and help distinguish between sometimes confusing similar species.

References:


EDITOR’S NOTE: This article was first published in the Georgia Mineral Society’s “Tips & Trips” Sept 2003 and is reprinted here with the author’s permission.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS for 2011 SFMS WORKSHOP

Please encourage your juniors to apply for the youth scholarships using the criteria below.

When entering the competition:

• President of the sponsoring adult club submits the junior’s name with an explanation of the club’s qualifications considered in recommending this youth.
• Youth submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop.
• Deadline for applying for the scholarship is March 31, 2011.
• Recommendations should be sent to:
  Bonita L. Harris
  SFMS Youth Resources
  12520 Jeff Hamilton Road
  Mobile, AL 36695
  251. 865.9157

When attending the SFMS workshop:

• Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.
• Responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

Following the SFMS workshop:

• After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship recipient is encouraged to write a Lodestar article about the experience.
Congratulation to each of the following wonderful junior rockhounds!

The Junior of the Year 2010 honor and plaque was awarded to a very worthy junior rockhound, Erica Mae Nathan. Erica is a junior member of the Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society, Daytona Beach, Florida and has developed a mature leadership role with the junior club - Coquina Kids. She has assisted many hours outside of the club meetings - gathered materials, researched information, created instruction sheets, and prepared Powerpoints. Because of her assistance, the leader of the junior club has found her position to be much easier. In addition, Erica focused her sadness of losing a dear friend and mentor – John Withey – on creating a patch with guidelines for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies called, “Honoring Senior Members”. At the time of this writing, Erica had not received word yet if the patch has been approved for the Future Rockhounds of America badge program. Erica had a total of twenty visits to gem and mineral club shows, national parks, fossil museums, and more during 2010. For the Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society January show, she worked a total of 37 hours. Erica is an accomplished faceter - quite a feat for a twelve year old! Along with the JOY plaque, Erica was awarded a beautiful specimen of Okenite (“white cotton balls”) from the Dr. Albert S. Dix estate collection. The specimen has special significance as Dr. Dix was a past president of SFMS and involved in the founding of William Holland School of Lapidary Arts.

Second place participant 10 year old Mitch Nathan received a certificate and a large septarian nodule slab for JOY points earned by his articles in the Tomoka Coquina, participation in junior and senior rock and mineral clubs, and so many more activities. His septarian nodule was also from the Dr. Dix collection.

Kevin Dance, 9 years old, and also a member of the Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society was a new participant this year. He showed his rock enthusiasm by attending many junior and adult meetings. He also brought visitors to share in his rock learning. He received a certificate and a beautiful quartz specimen. This was donated by Shelia Hoven (Crystal FX Company) of Mississippi.

I was privileged to meet each of these junior rockhounds while on a visit to Daytona Beach, Florida. We had a special presentation of the awards with the families present and the president of their local club, Beryl Ferguson. In addition, Ed Harris, SFMS treasurer was also available to share in the presentation. Please see the photograph of the participants.

Now is the time for the junior start collecting points for the 2011 JOY award and junior scholarship program for the SFMS workshops at Wild Acres and William Holland. The JOY guidelines are on the SFMS website. The scholarship program guidelines are listed on Page 6 in this Lodestar edition.

Left to right front: junior rockhounds Mitch Nathan, Erica Nathan, Kevin Dance, and back row: Bonita Harris, SFMS youth resources chair and Beryl Ferguson SFMS secretary and Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society president.

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Spring SFMS Executive Board Meeting Augusta, GA - March 11 & 12
Host Club - Augusta Gem & Mineral Society

Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Show dates are Friday, Saturday & Sunday - March 11-13 at Julian Smith Casino 2200 Broad St., Augusta, GA. The show facility is only about 4 miles from the host hotel.

The host hotel is Clarion Suites located at 3038 Washington Rd., Augusta, GA 30907. Cracker Barrel and the Spring Meeting will be held at the host hotel. To reserve your room please call 706-868-1800 and mention "Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies" to obtain the group rate with is $79 plus 13% tax. A full breakfast bar is included and is open from 7 - 10 a.m. Also included are 2 drink tickets (either alcoholic or non-alcoholic) to be used at the Manager's Reception Friday evening from 5 - 7 p.m.

We look forward to having all of you in Augusta. Please let me know if there is any other information that you need. Wayne Parker, Treasurer, Augusta Gem & Mineral Society 706-863-9171 parkerwayne9@comcast.net
BE SAFE – BE WELL
Don Monroe & Linda Behr - Safety Committee

Time – More Valuable Than Silver or Gold

Being involved in lapidary, minerals and precious stones we all are conscious of what we own and what value it represents. I suspect that all of us have gold or silver or stones and probably some equipment to create jewelry. Most of us invest a lot of effort in acquiring additional material to support our hobby. This hobby is often a major portion of our life and provides us with enjoyment, vacation activity and many friends.

If we really think about the important things in life, we must include family, friends, neighbors and all of those folks that mean the most to us. For many of us we must include our children, our grandchildren and maybe even great grandchildren. When we think about all of these we must be realistic about whether or not these offspring will continue the hobby we love. Unfortunately I must place myself in the category of those who are concerned about this issue. There is not an easy answer to questions about the future of our “stuff. We must get those that we love interested in our hobby and that is not always easy since modern families are often scattered about the country. We must try!

Beyond all of the important things we have talked about we must place time. Time is our most important commodity and none of us know how much we have left. I believe it is a reasonable assumption to say that everyone that reads these safety articles is a member of a lapidary school staff or faculty or at least one rock and gem club and therefore a member of at least one federation. If you have been active in these organizations you have probably seen the passing of many friends and associates. These folks we have lost probably did not really have much warning as none of us do and this makes it imperative that we spend our time wisely. If there is a place you wish to visit or friends you want to see, do it now!

It is not pleasant to contemplate the end of one’s life but it is a fact that we must face. Have a will and if it is not up-to-date, then get it revised. Plan for the disposition of your “stuff”. Make sure that those who are left behind to “clean up your mess” know exactly what you want to have done. Be sensitive to the desires of those who are important to you because I have never known of a will that did not have something hurtful in it usually because the deceased did not think.

If there are things to be disposed of, consult your heirs. You may feel that this is a truly morbid article but I guarantee you that there will be one or more readers who will appreciate it.

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SFMS Education Committee
Kathy Morris.

Happy 2011. This should be a great year for the SFMS Workshops. We have scheduled some new classes with some new instructors and have some of our favorite teachers of the past teaching again.

We need to make our Workshops great and we need your support to make this happen. We need all of the clubs in the SFMS and beyond to support our Workshops. Take advantage of this opportunity to support your Workshops and learn a great craft from some outstanding instructors.

I need to explain a few things that have been brought to my attention. First, if you read the class offerings you will notice that there are many more classes scheduled at William Holland than at Wildacres. The reason we can do this is classroom availability. There are 17 classrooms available to us at William Holland and only 10 at Wildacres. We can only schedule classes that we have classrooms for. Wildacres is not set up for lapidary only. They are a private foundation that allows SFMS to hold two Workshops a year. Primarily, they are set up for groups from many various sources that hold meetings. These groups don’t use equipment such as torches, cabbing machines, faceting machines, etc. This limits us in the number of lapidary classes we can have.

Second, you will notice that Wildacres fees are $20.00 higher than William Holland’s. We are lucky enough to be able to hold our Workshops at Wildacres so we have to pay what they are asking for in fees. Last year they increased their fees by $20.00, so we had to increase ours by $20.00. I am sorry about the increase, but we have to cover our cost. William Holland has not increased their fees, so we continue to charge students the same lower amount as in previous years (excluding last year’s experience). I want to thank everyone for their support over the years and hope that this year we can start by filling all of our classes and support the SFMS Workshops.
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 ONE - WILLIAM HOLLAND
SUNDAY, June 12-18, 2011

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<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beading, Seed</td>
<td>Barbara Green</td>
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<td>Cabochons</td>
<td>Richard Shackleton</td>
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<td>Chain Making</td>
<td>Dee &amp; Bill Conybear</td>
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<td>Faceting</td>
<td>Bill Roberts</td>
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<td>Lampwork</td>
<td>Ann Royer</td>
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<td>Scott Forward</td>
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<td>Opals</td>
<td>Sarah Lee Boyce</td>
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<td>Silver I</td>
<td>Don Roberts</td>
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<td>Silver II</td>
<td>Vicky Prillaman</td>
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<td>*Silver Filigree</td>
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<td>Wire I</td>
<td>Velima Lawson</td>
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SESSION TWO - WILDACRES
MONDAY, August 22 - 28, 2011

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<td>Renee Kelly</td>
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<td>Steve Hillenbrand</td>
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<td>Fused Glass</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, Filigree</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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<td>*Southwest Silver</td>
<td>Dan Haga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Silver II</td>
<td>Vicki Prillaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire I</td>
<td>Judy Peppers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2011 SFMS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM


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

**** PLEASE LIST ALTERNATES****

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

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.
2011 SFMS Committee Chairs

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-OPEN-

Uniform Rules
-OPEN-

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Lodestar
Feb 2011
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