

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation

Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXXV Issue One

Jan 2011

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Barbara Green



Happy New Year, Y'all (as we say here in the South). I am very honored to have been elected by you to serve as your President for this year.

First let me introduce myself. As a member of the Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society (WESCAGEM), I have held office in this organization for the last 5 years. I am a jewelry artist who combines beads & stones to make jewelry. I quickly realized that this society was just what I had been looking for and was delighted to find so many people with whom I had so much in common. It was also a good fit for my husband. Whenever we travel, I have to check his pockets before I do the laundry because he picks up rocks where ever we go. We have both learned much from the folks in our club.

One of my passions is passing on knowledge. About the same time I joined WESCAGEM, I was asked to teach seed beading at William Holland. So that brings me to where I want one of our focuses to be this year -- SFMS workshops.

We are so lucky in SFMS to have two wonderful schools available to us -- Wildacres in North Carolina and William Holland in Georgia. The schedule for our four SFMS workshops are listed in this LODESTAR edition. I know that Kathy Morris, Educational Chair, has been hard at work to get this schedule ready. She is aided by Julia Larson, Director for the Wildacres Workshops, and Carl & Denise Talbott, the Directors for William Holland Workshops. They are working with our registrars David Waymand for Wildacres and Lisa Roberts for William Holland.

These programs cannot succeed without your help. I ask that, over the next few months, you get the word out in your local club. This is one of the best bargains going. If you have ever looked into taking silver smithing, a lapidary class, or any of the many other courses that are offered, you will not find a more affordable class anywhere else. If you have never been to one of these workshops, make this the year to attend.

One of the ways to generate interest is to sponsor a scholarship from your club. Last year, WESCAGEM was lucky enough to win one of the SFMS Stamp Scholarships. The club was so excited by it that they voted to start a club scholarship fund. We raised enough money that our club is actually going to send two lucky people to their choice of a workshop at either William Holland or Wildacres. It's not too

late for your club to try something like this.

This brings me to what my other focus will be -- Communication. This was the focus for Mark Easterbrook, Past President. This is important enough that I will continue to talk about it as well. The federation only works if everyone does their part. We are trying to make sure that all information is current and up-to-date but we have to receive that information from you, the individual clubs that make up all of this Federation. Look through the directory that just came out. If your club's information is not correct, please contact the Membership Secretary, Kerri Wetzel. If you are a past officer of your club and receive the Lodestar, make sure that your current officers are getting it as well.

And finally, I want to remind all local club Presidents that one of your duties is to attend the Federation meetings. If you are unable to attend, have your club appoint an alternate to go in your place. If we don't have local club input, we cannot do our jobs as Federation officers. In the 1980 January issue of the Lodestar, the then new President, Charles Tinman, issued the same challenge of getting involved. SFMS is only as good as the people who are willing to work for it. We still have many openings on committees and we need more people who are willing to take on these jobs. Please join us.

Inside this Issue:

Page

SFMS Officers and State Directors for 2011	2
Carl's Comments & Field Trips and Shows	3
Commercial Gold Mining in the Carolina Slate Belt	4
Be Safe - Be Well	5
AFMS Media Program Competition Results	5
SFMS Membership Renewal Application	6
2011 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE	9
2011 SFMS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM	10
SFMS Committee Chairs & Mayo Foundation Officials	11



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 February 2011 *Lodestar* are due by January 25, 2011.

CARL'S EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

With the high price of gold, commercial gold mining in the Southeast is coming back; see the article on Page 4.

SFMS's 2011 Workshop schedule of classes are at Page 9 and a class application is on Page 10. Send in your application forms as soon as possible.

FIELD TRIPS

January 29, 2011: Fort Drum Crystal Mine/ Rucks Pit, Fort Drum, FL 8 am to 5 pm. Hosted by Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society (Jacksonville, FL). Cost \$20 for DMC members/\$30 for others (bring a copy of flier). It is reported that this is the only location in the world where calcified marine clam shells can be found. There have also been reports of fossils at this location. The main pit has been closed to public collecting, but we have been advised that Eddie will bring in freshly excavated material the day prior to our arrival.

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.

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

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.

Feb 12-13, 2011: Merritt Island, FL - The Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club. Symphony of Gemstones, Kiwanis Island Park 951 Kiwanis Island. Hours: 12th & 13th 10-5.

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

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 or www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org.

March 12, 2011: Bartow, FL - Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society. Polk County Extension Service Building, Highway 17 S. Contact Cindy at 863-255-5256.

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.

MINERALS

Commercial Gold Mining in the Carolina Slate Belt

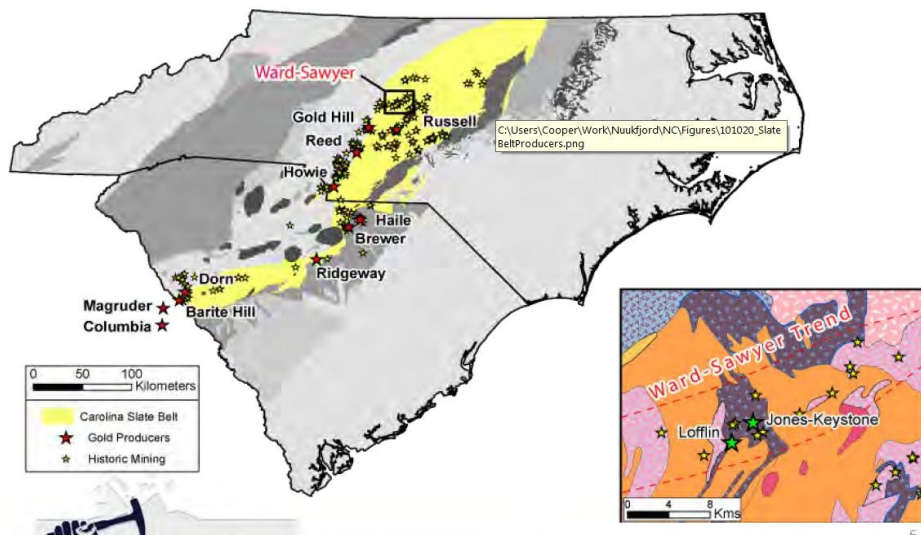
Carl Talbott

On January 6, 2011 Revolution Resources Corp. announced that significant gold mineralization has been encountered in the first drill holes completed at its Champion Hills Project located in the North Carolina portion of the Carolina Slate Belt (see map below).

Although the Carolina Slate Belt was where gold was first discovered in the U.S., and although there has been widespread evidence of the presence of gold mineralization in this geological setting, western states such as California, Nevada and Alaska have been areas of primary focus for gold mining in the U.S. The Carolina Slate Belt, running through both North and South Carolina, hosts a couple of dozen historic gold mines. In fact, the region was the biggest gold producer in the United States before the California gold rush. There was a resurgence of activity in the region in the 1930s, but little further work was done until the 1990s when a couple of major mining companies began work in the area. The Carolina Slate Belt, in spite of its prolific production history, has seen little modern exploration, and historical gold production was all shallow, effectively chasing surface occurrences with primitive mining methods.

The main reason the Carolina Slate Belt has taken a back seat to the western states is because the land in the Slate Belt is carved out into small, privately-owned properties, as opposed to vast areas of land owned by the U.S. government out West. During part of the 300 year history of the area, mineral rights were split off from the surface rights and land ownership became very fractured. In the 1980s, the ownership of much of the mineral rights was re-attached to the surface rights, making it practical, but still challenging, to assemble mineral property positions. However, once a land package of size is assembled, the permitting process, starting with drilling and going all the way through to production, is simpler than on government-owned lands.

Slate Belt Deposits & Resources



The little box labeled *Ward-Sawyer Trend* in the map above shows two primary properties currently held by Revolution Resources Corp. Ward-Sawyer is a major structural trend in the Slate Belt. The two properties, the Jones-Keystone Property and the Lofflin Property, are collectively known as "The Champion Hills Gold Project." The Jones-Keystone Property at present measures 164 acres. During the 1930s there was some limited mining carried out, but mostly from a surface saprolite zone. The Lofflin Property measures 170 acres. There was also some limited surface mining on saprolite zones on this property during the 1930s.

By teaming up with knowledgeable locals, Revolution was able to secure significant blocks of mineral rights that covered areas of primary geological interest. The property acquisition program is continuing, as the geological team pursues other targets of interest. Another mining company working the 400 acre Haile Mine in South Carolina estimates its gold resources at 4.2 million ounces.

BE SAFE – BE WELL

Don Monroe & Linda Behr - Safety Committee

Gems Are Where You Find Them

We all like to attend gem shows and go on field trips. We always hope that we are going to find a treasure or, at least, something that will fit into our hobby. Many of us definitely carefully examine the material for sale at club meetings and at lapidary schools where there are many items from other locales.

I hear so many stories from fellow rockhounds about “good stuff” that shows up in strange places. I believe these stories because I have seen some of the finds and even made a couple myself.

A couple of years ago I was crossing the parking lot at William Holland Lapidary School and found a really nice piece of opal rough in the gravel. I do not know how it got there but I am reasonably sure that it originally came from Australia and was accidentally dropped between the classroom building and the campground. Vehicle traffic had scratched it up a bit but it was still very usable. I made a lot of inquiries but was never able to find the former owner

About ten years ago I was digging up my mother’s flower bed for her. Now this happened at our family farm in Bartow County Georgia in an area where I have found Civil War artifacts and, on rare occasions, a few local minerals such as barite, quartz and hematite. But I found a really nice sapphire crystal of the type that we find in North Carolina but about 150 miles south of where we usually find such gems. I inquired of many local experts and have not found a clue of how that stone wound up in our yard.

I know you are thinking that I am lucky or some sort of expert but that is not the case. About 6 years ago we had a family taking classes at our school and they had two young teenage boys. The boys spent a lot of time exploring our mountains and one day they came in with a small bag of beryl crystals of unusual quality. They never revealed where they found the stones. I think it shows that stones and gems are every where and we just have to look for them.

Many of our safety articles tell about bad things that happen to good people. This article tells about good things that can happen to good people.

AFMS Media Program Competition Results

By Marge Collins

A program about Iris Agate is the only winner in the AFMS 2010 Competition. Based on the photographic work and notes of Peter (Pete) Rodewald (St. Croix Rockhounds, MWF), Wayne Sukow (Northern Virginia Mineral Club, EFLMS), produced this culmination of Pete’s work to find and capture stunning iris images -- what he called “Extreme Iris”-- not only from ordinary sources but unexpected ones as well.

Pete’s work has been recognized internationally (including Walter Zenz’ book about agates), and he presented a similar program at the Agate Symposium at Menasha, Wisconsin in 2008. But he did not finalize the presentation before his untimely death in 2009. Fortunately, Wayne had been an advisor and close collaborator, which allowed him to fulfill his promise to Pete to complete the project.

Note: this program is not included in the *Wide World of Agates* DVDs. To borrow “Iris Agate” or other media programs, contact your Regional Program Library. Details are on Federation websites and your Federation Directory.

Three other programs were submitted for AFMS Competition, one was withdrawn for technical reasons, and the other two did not meet judge’s objective expectations.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: Authors / producers of non-commercial slide, video or digital presentations are invited to participate in the 2011 Program. Competition Winners in non-commercial classes receive a cash prize and national recognition. Entrants must be members of an AFMS affiliate society/club. Commercial presentations are eligible for the AFMS “Excellence In Education” recognition award. Deadline for submission is April 15, 2011. Details and an updated entry form are available on AFMS website (www.amfed.org) or contact Marge Collins, Program Competition Coordinator, at margaret@qtm.net or at 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd., Buchanan MI 49107

S.F.M.S. APPLICATION FOR 2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (Page 2 of 3)

Name of Club/Society _____
 Club Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Meeting Place (facility) _____ **Day** _____ **Time** _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Club/Society Web Site _____ **Club/Society Email** _____
Webmaster _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bulletin Name _____ Published: Monthly ___ Bimonthly ___ Quarterly ___ Other ___
Editor _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please indicate which officers elect to receive the S.F.M.S. LOADSTAR via email:

President ___ Recording Secretary ___ Corresponding Secretary ___ Treasurer ___ Editor ___ Other _____

Please indicate which 3 officers wish to receive the A.F.M.S. Newsletter:

President ___ Recording Secretary ___ Corresponding Secretary ___ Treasurer ___ Editor ___ S.F.M.S. Liaison ___ Other _____

ELECTED OFFICIALS (List all officers Elected by membership vote & title of office held)

Month Officers: Elected _____ Take office _____ Officers elected: Annually ___ Other (be specific) _____

President

_____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

1st Vice President _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2nd Vice President _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Corresponding Secretary

_____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Recording Secretary

_____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Treasurer _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

S.F.M.S. APPLICATION FOR 2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (Page 3 of 3)

Do you wish to participate in the optional Liability Insurance program? Yes___No___

If No, do you have liability insurance by EFMLS or a third party insurance? Yes___No___

Insurance Liaison _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Person in your Club/Society to receive renewal form(s) for next year Renewal in 2012

_____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Federation Liaison _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Youth Leader _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Committee _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Committee _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Committee _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please include other officers such as directors, additional committee chairs, and other pertinent information about your club or society on a separate sheet of paper.

CLUB SPONSORED SHOW(S)

Show Chair _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Vender Chair _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Show Facility _____ **Show Dates** _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Show Facility _____ **Show Dates** _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature of person submitting this application _____ Office Held _____

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

William Holland Directors, Denise & Carl Talbott

216 Spring View Drive
Murphy, NC 28906
828-494-7213

Email: dtalbott@bellsouth.net

Wildacres Registrars, David and Leslie Wayment

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Sebastian, FL 32958
Phone 772-532-6432
772-539-2409

Email: astainedglass@bellsouth.net

William Holland Registrar, Lisa Roberts

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Phone 423-562-9555

Email: whregistrar10@yahoo.com

Education Chairman, Kathy Morris

557 Grayce Lane
Hiwassee, GA 30546
706-896-3256
252-571-5050

Email: klmorris45@hotmail.com

The intermediate and advanced classes listed with an asterisk (*) require some prior experience by the student. Experience in a class provided by your local club, Workshop class, or self study may be enough. If you're interested in one of these classes, please do not exclude yourself without contacting the instructor first.

**SESSION ONE - WILLIAM HOLLAND
SUNDAY, June 12-18, 2011**

Beading, Seed	Barbara Green
Cabochons	Richard Shackleton
Chain Making	Dee & Bill Conybear
Enameling	Bob Mattingly
Faceting	Bill Roberts
Lampwork Beads	Ann Royer
Mineral ID	Scott Forward
Opals	Sarah Lee Boyce
Silver I	Don Roberts
Silver II	Vicky Prillaman
*Silver Filigree	Stafford/Warrick
Wire I	Velima Lawson

**SESSION TWO - WILDACRES
MONDAY, August 22 - 28, 2011**

Cabochon Making	Pat Davis
Enameling/Cold Conn	Renee Kelly
Faceting	Steve Hillenbrand
Gem ID	Mary Lou Kick
*Metalsmithing - Advanced	Jeff Shears
*Silver, Filigree	Shannon Stafford & Annette Gibney
*Stone Setting	Don Roberts
Wire, Beginning	Velima Lawson

**SESSION THREE - WILDACRES
MONDAY, September 12 - 18, 2011**

Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Casting	John Iacullo
Chain, Beginning	Kathy Morris
Lampwork	Linda White
Mineral ID	Scott Forward
Raku Beads	Jim Cullen
Silver Cold Connection	Charlotte Caughman
*Silver, Filigree	Shannon Stafford & Annette Gibney

**SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND
SUNDAY, October 9-16, 2011**

Bead Weaving	Ron Midkiff
Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Chain Making	Dee & Bill Conybear
Enameling	Lynda Williams
Faceting	Mary Lou Kick
Fused Glass	Addy DePietro
Jadeite Bas-Relief Carving	Bill Smith
Lampworking	Cindy Reed
Opals	Joe DePietro
*Silver Filigree	Stafford/Warrick
*Southwest Silver	Dan Haga
*Silver II	Vicki Prillaman
Wire I	Judy Peppers

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

**** PLEASE LIST ALTERNATES****

First Choice	1 st time taking class?	Second Choice	Third Choice
Student #1	Y N	Y N	Y N
Spouse #2	Y N	Y N	Y N

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.

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Bulletin Editors' Contest

-OPEN-

Historian

-OPEN-

Slide/Video Programs

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Uniform Rules

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