



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Barbara Green



We are back from the first SFMS Workshop for this year. If you weren't there, you missed a really great week. Each class at Show & Tell seemed to outdo the others. We saw some fabulous jewelry, cabs, faceted stones and opals. Oh, I can't leave out the beautiful lamp worked beads and enamel work. The folks in the Mineral Identification class took many field trips and inspired envy in all of the rockhounds for all of the sites they visited.

I want to thank William Holland Workshop Directors, Denise & Carl Talbott; Registrar, Lisa Roberts; and SFMS Education Chair, Kathy Morris. They put together a great week. I also want to thank the instructors who gave their time to come and teach. Of course, none of this would have happened without the students, some who came to practice and some to learn new skills.

If you missed it, I have some good news for you. You still have time to sign up for our upcoming two sessions at Wildacres and our last session at William Holland. We have a fantastic line-up of Instructors (OK, so I'm not being modest here, and yes, I am one of the Instructors!) for the next sessions.

If you've never attended, it's hard to understand the pleasure of making new friends and learning new skills in such a relaxed atmosphere and beautiful scenery. There are no tests given, just your own sense of satisfaction after a relaxing week. I must mention one of my minor pleasures, that being there is no kitchen duties for a week!

Come join us on the mountain top at Wildacres in August or September. Or wait and come view the leaves at William Holland in October. The price sure can't be beat for a week of fun and relaxation in the beautiful mountains.



CARL'S EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

Fire agates are a breed of rock seldom seen in cabochon classes. Joan Reinbold's article on Page 4 explains.

Nominations for SFMS 2012 Offices are also on Page 4 and published herein per SFMS By-Laws.

Did you know that you are prohibited from collecting "hard rock minerals" or panning for gold in both of South Carolina's National Forests. Moreover, don't visit the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness (Tennessee) area in a group of more than ten people. See Page 6.

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.

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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.

2011 SFMS OFFICERS

President

Barbara Green
110 Sycamore Dr.
Marietta, SC 29661
864.836.5896
greentop@bellsouth.net

First Vice President

Jason Hamilton
7141 Natal Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32254
904.786.7605
Jasons.designs@comcast.net

Second Vice President

Danny Griffin
1320 Byrd Cir.
Kingston, TN 37763
865.406.8802
gcjinc@comcast.net

Secretary

Beryl Ferguson
414 S. Ridgewood Ave.
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
386.589.3583
crossbowcreations@yahoo.com

Membership Secretary

Kerri Wetzel
5010 Sunset Drive
Easley, SC 29642
864.306.6749
williamkerri@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Ed Harris
12520 Jeff Hamilton Rd.,
Mobile, AL 36695
251.865.9157
edharrisjr@mchsi.com

Assistant Treasurer

Gene R. Roberts
2980 Oak Road
Orange Park, FL 32065
904.264.5358
icap3@bellsouth.net

Editor

Carlos (Carl) M. Talbott, D.Sc.
216 Spring View Drive
Murphy, NC 28906
828.494.7213
dtalbott@bellsouth.net

Immediate Past President

Mark Easterbrook
6701 Dorchester Rd., Apt. 1007
North Charleston, SC 29418
843.552.1049
asgardsgc@earthlink.net

AFMS President-Elect

Don Monroe
350 Lapidary Lane
Young Harris, GA. 30582
706.379.9662
donmonroe@windstream.net

President: Mayo Education

Foundation
William G. (Bill) Waggner
1909 Moores Mill Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30318-1309
404.355.7377
wqwaggenerii@bellsouth.net



2011 SFMS STATE DIRECTORS

Alabama

Iris McGehee
2433 Upper Wetumpka Road
Montgomery, AL 36107
334.262.7275
irisjmccg@aol.com

Florida

Joe and Addy De Pietro
P.O. Box 928,
Frostproof, FL 33843
863.635.5138
Mysticalmelts@verizon.net



Georgia

Frank Decaminada
795 Nile Dr.
Alpharetta, GA 30022
770.992.8309
carrie128@comcast.net

Kentucky

Allen Jewell
P.O. Box 805
Versailles, KY 40383
859.873.8749
kyanageo@gmail.com

Louisiana

Dr. Bridget Joubert
P.O. Box 5402
Alexandria, LA 71307
318.443.5184
jemarler@aol.com

Mississippi

Floy and Bill Hawkins
P.O. Box 7312
Tupelo, MS 38802
662.844.7441
studiohawkins@gmail.com

North Carolina

Mike Streeter
7 English Place
Candler, NC 28715
828.667.8290
mcstreeter@charter.net

South Carolina

Fred Sias
120 Holly Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
864.654.6833
fredsias@gmail.com

Tennessee

Marty Hart
4935 Olivia Drive
Antioch, TN 37013
615.331.3570
sfms@gemizo.com

Virginia

Steve Gordon
213 Sugar Mill Drive
Amherst, VA 24521
434.929.1524
stevegordan@comcast.net

Articles for the Aug 2011 Lodestar are due by July 25, 2011.

DMC FIELD TRIPS

July 9, 2011: Pacesetters Camp, Marble, North Carolina. An Official Field Trip of Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC (Franklin, NC) (Host). Collecting Staurolite crystals some of which may be twinned.

August 13, 2011: Thermal City Gold Mine, Union Mills, North Carolina. An Official Field Trip of The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc (Columbia, SC) (Host). Collecting placer gold.

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

July 9-10, 2011. Syracuse, NY. New York State Fairgrounds. AFMS Annual Meeting –Thursday
AFMS-EFMS Cracker Barrel Social - Thursday
EFMS Annual Meeting - Friday evening
Huge show at the NY State Fairgrounds Sat. & Sun.
EFMLS Auction – Saturday; Awards Banquet -
Saturday Night; Breakfast with the Editors and
Webmasters —Sunday morning

Aug 12-14, 2011: Pass Christian, MS - Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society. 35th Annual Harrison County Gem & Mineral Show, West Harrison Community Center, 4470 Espy Ave, Pass Christian, MS 39571. \$3 adults, children under 12 free with paid adult. Hours: Fri 12-7, Sat 9-6, & Sun 10-5. Contact Tomsey Westenmeyer 228-586-5279.

Sept 3-6, 2011. Hendersonville, NC—Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society. 29th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show & Sale, Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Road, Hendersonville.

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

Sept 30—Oct 2, 2011:Dallas, NC. Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club. Show & Swap, Resource Center, 1006 Biggerstaff Park, Dallas/Cherryville Highway, Dallas. Free admission. Hours: 9-6 each day. Contact Showchair Jackay McDaniel at (704) 865-6748

October 1-2, 2011: Lexington, KY- Rockhounds of Central Kentucky. 21st Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show and Sale, Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Road, Lexington. Adults \$1, children 6-12 50¢, max \$3/family. Scouts in uniform free. Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5. Contact show chairs Allen Ferrell (859) 277-2469 or Lamon Flynn (606) 726-9237.

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].

November 25-27, 2011: Mobile, AL. Mobile Rock and Gem Society. Mobile County Fairgrounds, Cody Rd & Zeigler Rd. Hours: Friday 2-7, Sat 10-6, and Sun 10-5. Admission \$3. Contact Jerry Shirey @ (251)458-2867.

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.

MINERIALS

Fire Agate Information

By Joan Reinbold

Fire agate is a rare iridescent gem in the quartz family, a variant of chalcedony. It can be found in the southwestern area of North America and in Mexico and is collected by mineral enthusiasts and used in jewelry.

Fire agate is a gem made from concentric layers of colored silica and iron oxide, and before being cut, it also has a covering of chalcedony. The layers of silica and iron oxide allow light to pass through them in such a way as to display a metallic luster, called 'schiller'. The appearance of this mineral is similar to opal.



In the gem world, a mineral's hardness is rated using the Moh's scale, a relative scale for testing hardness wherein a diamond receives a 10. On this scale fire agate receives a 7, meaning it is a hard gem. Another important aspect of gems is how they break, which is called cleavage. Some gems break in symmetrical shapes, while others fragment, and these different ways are given labels. Other gems, such as fire agate, are labeled as having no cleavage, as they do not form a crystal lattice.

Composition: The chemical formula for fire agate is SiO₂, meaning that it is made up of silicon and oxygen molecules. This chemical formula is shared by the whole quartz family. Metallic impurities in the silica result in the rainbow of colors in fire agate.

Formation: The most current understanding of how fire agate forms involves hydrothermal environments. Extremely hot water super-saturated with iron oxide and silica flows into subterranean spaces and is stopped, where it cools down. Then, chalcedony begins to form from iron oxide, lining the surrounding rock. Within this layer of chalcedony, concentric layers of iron oxide and silica form on top of each other. Limonite also forms, coating these inner layers. This coating of limonite causes the colors of the fire agate to flash like a diamond.

Sources: Fire agate has only been found in the southwestern United States and parts of Mexico. Within the U.S. fire agate has been discovered in the area between Needles, Calif. and Kingman, Ariz. It has also been found in the vicinity of the Colorado River. In Mexico, fire agate has been found in two states, Aguascalientes and San Luis Potosi.

Significance: Gem quality fire agate is rare. It is so scarce that the most sought-after gems, including ruby, emerald and diamond, are less rare by comparison.

[Editor's Comment: Fire agate is often called fire opal; however, unlike opal, the play of color in fire agate does not come from refracted light through water-filled, close-packed lattices of silicon spheres. This article is in the public domain at http://www.ehow.com/about_5212803_fire-agate-information.html]

Nomination Committee Announcement

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

Ancient Spiral Ring Reveals Ancient Complex Machines

Distinctive spiral patterns carved into a small jade ring show that China was using complex machines more than 2500 years ago, says Peter Lu, a Harvard graduate student in physics.

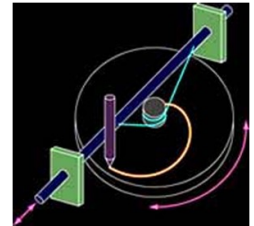
The ring was among the goods found in high-status graves from China's "Spring and Autumn Period" from 771 to 475 BC. Most archaeological attention has focused on larger and more spectacular jade and bronze artifacts. But Lu identified the patterns on the small rings as Archimedes' spirals, which he believes are the oldest evidence of compound machines.



The spiral-patterned ring is 27 mm in diameter and was probably a body ornament

Specialists believe most ancient Chinese jades were hand-carved, but Lu thought the spirals on the jade rings were machine-made as soon as Jenny So, an art historian at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, showed him one at the Smithsonian Institution.

"I said I bet you could do it with a modified bow drill, and she looked at me as if I had two heads," Lu told *New Scientist*. Challenged to prove he was right, Lu built a spiral-carving machine around an old record player. It resembles the bow drill that Boy Scouts traditionally use to start fires without matches.



He wrapped a string tightly around the spindle on the turntable, and attached its ends to a rod that ran between mounts on either side of the turntable (see diagram). Holes in the mounts held the rod so it could move back and forth along its length, but not sideways. A stylus attached to the rod rested on the turntable. Moving the rod back and forth turned the turntable, so the fixed stylus wrote a spiral on the surface.

"There is no prima face evidence that this is how they did it," Lu admits. But the circumstantial evidence is strong. The spirals neatly match the Archimedian shape, and their center is at the centre of the ring, which could be cut that way by turning the jade with the stylus fixed in place. The spiral carvings are also noticeably more uniform than other jade patterns.

The rings date from at least 552 BC, and while there is no evidence of earlier spiral rings, Lu says nobody has been looking for them. Meanwhile, Lu is turning back to his graduate work in physics. On Friday he has to talk to astronauts on the International Space Station about an experiment he has on board to study how liquids and gases change phase.

Ancient Chinese jade workers had an arsenal of lapidary tools that evolved from very early Neolithic times. These tools varied with the use of simple hand tools to machines that used torque, pressure and high RPM. It is known that hydraulic technologies were employed by the Greek and Roman civilizations, so it is not conceivable to deduct that the Chinese also had hydraulic lapidary technologies long ago?

There is mounting archeological evidence that sheds light on the fact that these ancient people were not primitive. My teacher believes that ancient Neolithic Chinese had discovered the use of hydraulic energy to turn ancient star metal steel drill bites that had embedded garnet chips for drilling large holes in hard jade gemstone. If one examines the complexity of Liangzhu jades that were created 5,000 years ago, then it becomes apparent that these most ancient people of China possessed sophisticated, technologically advanced lapidary machinery.

Journal reference: *Science* (vol 304, p 1638)

Some Restrictive Orders on National Forest Lands By Carl Talbott, Lodestar Editor

National forest lands in the southeast region are managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Chief and his various state Forest Supervisors and their staffs of district rangers within each forest (see www.fs.fed.us for a list of national forest lands within each state). Often, Forest Supervisors issue written orders to regulate activities within their respective forests, and these orders can be found on web sites for appropriate national forests. Violation of these orders is punishable (in federal court) by fine and/or imprisonment.

Some of these orders are unusual and may not apply uniformly across all national forest lands. For example,

- Cherokee National Forest (in Tennessee) Order #331 restricts access to Wilderness areas listed therein in terms of group sizes of more than 10, 12, or 14 people. It also prohibits possession or use of wagons, carts, or other vehicles within these Wilderness areas.
- National Forests in North Carolina (Pisgah, Nantahala, Croatan, and Uwharrie) Order #04-16-2010 prohibits possession or use of metal detectors, electronic apparatus and devices use for locating metal except in national forest areas specifically designated as open for this use (e.g. sand beach area of Jackrabbit Area Swim Beach).
- National Forests in Alabama (Conecuh, Talladega, Tuskegee, and William B. Bankhead) Order #2007-00-07 prohibits acts of public nudism. However, any Federal, State, or Local Officers or members of any organized rescue or fire fighting force, in performance of any official duty, are exempt from (sic) this order.
- National Forests in South Carolina (Francis Marion and Sumter) Order #08-12-00-09-06 prohibits prospecting for hard rock minerals, including panning for gold, per 36 CFR 261.53(c). Now, 36 CFR 261.53(c) says "when provided in an order, it is prohibited to go into or be upon any area which is closed for the protection of ... objects or areas of historical, archeological, geological, or paleontological interest". It appears that South Carolina gold must have some special historical or geological value unknown to most placer gold hunters.

Announcement of New Stamp Committee Chairperson

We are pleased to announce that Carolyn Crothaus from the Western SC Gem & Mineral Society has volunteered to take on this important job. Beginning September 1, 2011, please send your stamps to:

Carolyn Grothaus
225 Merrifield Dr .
Greenville , SC 29615
864.676.9799
alitheria@gmail.com

Many heartfelt thanks and gratitude are due Jim Robinson for the wonderful job he has done over the years. As founder of the Stamp Program, Jim has worked diligently to see that as many workshop scholarships as possible could be given out from the proceeds of internet stamp sales.

**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

The Environment – Is It Your Friend?

There are many things that happen to us and our belongings that can be traced to our environment. Among the bad things are rust, mildew and dry rot. When I began researching this article, I discovered that dry rot is not included in many dictionaries. As a matter of fact I only found a really old Webster's that even included dry rot as an entry.

I am particularly interested in dry rot as it pertains to vehicle tires, and here is why. When we travel we prefer to tow a travel trailer. We purchased a used unit which is smaller than the one we have used for several years. We made 3 or 4 short trips, and then we left for a longer trip. We were out on an interstate, and the weather was unbearably hot. One of our trailer tires blew out. We installed our spare and went a couple more miles and another tire failed. It was a long day, but we were able to get new tires mounted and continued on our trip. The trailer tires looked fine, and the dry rot was not obvious. Fortunately, we were towing a double axle unit, and we were able to maintain control in both instances. Tire failure with any type of vehicle can really be hazardous and precipitate a major accident.

I can appreciate funny stories even when I am the subject. Our salvation during this tire fiasco came in the form of a deputy sheriff who stopped to see what was going on. He assisted us when we jacked up the unit, removed wheels, and loaded them in our truck. He loaded detailed directions to the next town and to places to find tires into our GPS. This officer even insisted that, when we came back with the new tires, we must call him at his office so that he could come back to us and assist us as we remounted the wheels. While we were remounting the wheels his cell phone rang, and he explained to his office where he was and what he was doing. During this conversation he explained that he was assisting a "little elderly couple repair their trailer". No, I did not get angry at his description, but I did have to laugh. Before this, I had not thought of Ann and I as "little elderly people", but it does come to a point in life when you must face facts. I suppose that, in the final analysis, we must say that it is so rewarding to learn that there are some really great, helpful law enforcement officers. When you need one, I hope you also get a good one like we did.

Now to learn more about tires and dry rot, get on your computer or enlist help from your children or grandchildren and Google [dry rot tires](#).

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

8802 N US Hwy 1 Suite 10
Sebastian, FL 32958
Phone 772-532-6432
772-539-2409

Email: aastainedglass@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: 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 TWO - WILDACRES**MONDAY, August 22 - 28, 2011**

Beading, Seed	Barbara Green
Cabochons	Pat Davis
Cold Connections	Kathy Morris
Faceting	Steve Hillenbrand
*Fused Glass, Advanced	Rich Dillon
Gem ID	Mary Lou Kick
*Metalsmithing - Advanced	Jeff Shears
Silver I	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
Silver Cold Connection	Charlotte Caughman
*Silver, Filigree	Shannon Stafford & Annette Gibney
Wire, Beginning	Bonita Harris

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
Spouse #2		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.

2011 SFMS Committee Chairpersons**Nominations**

Mark Easterbrook
6701 Dorchester Road Apt 1007
North Charleston, SC 29418
843.552.1049
asgardsgc@earthlink.net

Long Range Planning

John Wright
3304 Nottingham Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564-4113
228.875.9192
osjbw@datasync.com

Bulletin Editors' Contest

Kathy Morris
551 Grayce Lane.
Hiawassee, GA 30547
706.896.3256
klmorris45@hotmail.com

Constitution/By-Laws

Travis Paris
5064 Malmbsbury Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37421
865.691.8228
taparis@msn.com

SFMS Field Trip Committee

Jim Flora
P.O. Box 608
Hiawassee, GA 30546
706.896.8040
jimflora@windstream.net

Education

Kathy Morris
551 Grayce Lane.
Hiawassee, GA 30547
706.896.3256
klmorris45@hotmail.com

Historian

Jim Hazen
256 Lapidary Lane
Young Harris, GA 30582
706.379.2162
sjh@windstream.net

Insurance Liaison

Gene R. Roberts
2980 Oak Road
Orange Park, FL 32065
904.264.5358
icap3@bellsouth.net

Publications

Beryl Ferguson
414 S. Ridgewood Ave.
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
386.589.3583
crossbowcreations@yahoo.com

Safety

Don Monroe
350 Lapidary Lane
Young Harris, GA 30582
706.379.9662
donmonroe@windstream.net

Slide/Video Programs

Freda Hull
P.O. Box 115
Grant, FL 32949
321.725.0847
frehull@bellsouth.net

Social Concerns

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Stamp Program

Jim Robinson
1058 Wilderland Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32225
904.221.5038
jrh30@netzero.net

Supplies

Danny Griffin
1320 Byrd Cir.
Kingston, TN 37763
865.406.8802
gcjinc@comcast.net

Uniform Rules

Roy Deere
7041 Rhodes Place
W. Melbourne, FL 32904
321.725.9179

Ways & Means

Whit McMillan
7125 Windmill Creek Road
Charleston, SC 29414
843.763.9545
burrfish65@yahoo.com

Youth Resources

Bonita Harris
12520 Jeff Hamilton Road
Mobile, AL 36695
251.865.9157
bonitaharris@netzero.net

2011 Annual Meeting Host

Dr. John Rasmussen
P.O. Box 1663
Easley, SC 28641
864.607.6990
jarasmussen@alum.rpi.edu

Wildacres Director

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

Wildacres Registrar

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

Webmaster

Jim Flora
P.O. Box 605
Hiawassee, GA 30546
706.896.8040
jimflora@windstream.net

William Holland Director

Denise & Carl Talbott
216 Spring View Drive
Murphy, NC 28906
828.494.7213
dtalbott@bellsouth.net

William Holland Registrar

Lisa Roberts
996 Indian River Boat Dock Road
Jacksboro, TN 37757
(423) 562-9555
whregistrars10@yahoo.com

Public Relations

Herb Whittington
2102 Brookhill Road
Dothan, AL 36301
334.793.6811
alarocks@graceba.net

2011 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Officers/Directors**President**

William (Bill) G. Waggener
1909 Moores Mill Road
Atlanta, GA 30318-1309
404.355.7377

Vice-President

Barbara Green
110 Sycamore Drive
Marietta, SC 29661
864.836.5896

Treasurer

Frank Decaminada
795 Nile Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30022
770.992.8309

SFMS Education Chairman

Kathy Morris
557 Grayce Lane.
Hiawassee, GA 30547
706.896.3256

Director

Charlotte Mayo Bryant
506 Rain Song Road
Dalton, GA 30270
706.278.8344

Director

Barbara Tuttle
85504 Blackmon Road
Yulee, FL 32097
904.225.0689
dttsr@comcast.net

Secretary

Beryl Ferguson
414 S. Ridgewood Ave.
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
386.589.3583
crossbowcreations@yahoo.com

2011 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees**Club Rockhound of the Year**

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Boundaries

Janie Hand
253 Wanda Drive
Brandon, MS 39042
601.825.3989
mgmseditor@aol.com

Bulletin Editors

Carlos (Carl) M. Talbott, D.Sc.
216 Spring View Drive
Murphy, NC 28906
828.494.7213
dtalbott@bellsouth.net

Club Publications

-OPEN-

Conservation & Legislation

John Wright
3304 Nottingham Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
228.875.4191
osibw@datasync.com

Collecting Sites

Mike Streater
7 English Place
Candler, NC 28715
828.667.8290
mcastreeter@charter.net

Education All American

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Endowment Fund

Betty James
169-A Florence Cir.
Florence, MS 39073
601.914.6747
mineralid@comcast.net

Juniors Program

Bonita Harris
12520 Jeff Hamilton Road
Mobile, AL 36695
251.865.9157
bonitaharris@netzero.net

Program Competition

Freda Hull
P.O. Box 115
Grant, FL 32949
321.725.0847
frehull@bellsouth.net

Supplies & Publications

Danny Griffin
1320 Byrd Cir.
Kingston, TN 37763
865.406.8802
sfmsedchair@gmail.com

Uniform Rules

- OPEN -

Ways & Means

Whit McMillan
7125 Windmill Creek Road
Charleston, SC 29414
843.763.9545
burrfish65@yahoo.com

Public Relations

Herb Whittington
2102 Brookhill Road
Dothan, AL 36301
334.793.6811
alarocks@graceba.net

Safety

Don Monroe
350 Lapidary Lane
Young Harris, GA 30582
706.379.9662
donmonroe@windstream.net

Webmaster

Jim Flora
P.O. Box 605
Hiawassee, GA 30546
706.896.8040
jimflora@windstream.net

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