



## 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

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**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.

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## 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. 17<sup>th</sup> "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](http://www.falloftheohio.org/special_events.html) For more information contact Alan Goldstein at 812-280-9970 ext. 403 or [park@fallsoftheohio.org](mailto: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](mailto:dtalbott@bellsouth.net). SFMS clubs/societies are also encouraged to register their event listings on the SFMS website at: [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms).

## 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 SiO<sub>2</sub>, 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](http://www.ehow.com/about_5212803_fire-agate-information.html) ]

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### 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.

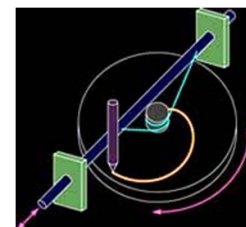
The ring was among the goods found in high-status graves from China's "Spring and Autumn Period" from 771 to 475 BC. Most archaeological attention has focused on larger and more spectacular jade and bronze artifacts. But Lu identified the patterns on the small rings as Archimedes' spirals, which he believes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

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### 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](mailto: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.

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To pre-register for the banquet please fill out the following form and return with payment by check made out to the 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**

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Email: [dtalbott@bellsouth.net](mailto:dtalbott@bellsouth.net)

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252-571-5050

Email: [klmorris45@hotmail.com](mailto: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**

<b>SESSION:</b> ◇ William Holland June 12-18      ◇ Wildacres August 22-28 (check one)   ◇ Wildacres September 12-18   ◇ William Holland October 9-15
<b>ACCOMMODATIONS:</b> ◇ 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

<b>Single applicants only:</b> 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? _____
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<b>Special Needs:</b> Do you need a <b>handicap</b> room? Y N    Can you negotiate stairs? Y N    (elevator at Wm Holland only) <b>Dietary:</b> Diabetic _____ Other _____ Anything else we need to know? (i.e. snore loudly, can't walk up hills, etc.) _____ _____
--

<b>Campers:</b> (Wm Holland only) Type _____ Length _____ (40 ft. max.)
---

**Class Selection**

**\*\*\*\* PLEASE LIST ALTERNATES\*\*\*\***

First Choice	1 <sup>st</sup> 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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