

# Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXXII/Five

May/June 2008

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

**June 28, 2008:** Thermal City Gold Mine, Union Mills, NC; hosted by the August Gem & Mineral Society. Panning for gold from an unenriched placer deposit. Fee Site (\$5 to pan all day, \$30 for front-end load).

**July 2008:** To Be Announced. Hosts: Southern Appalachian Mineral Society.

**August 9, 2008:** Crabtree Emerald Mine, Grassy Creek Township, NC (near Little Switzerland); hosted by the Henderson County (NC) Gem and Mineral Society. Emeralds in matrix, emerald crystals, schorl, garnet, golden beryl, and fluorite (rare).

See your local club newsletter for additional information on the above field trips.

*"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips."*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*The Prez Rambles On . . .*



By the time you receive this newsletter we will be about a month from the first workshop at William Holland (*actually, I'm late - editor*). On June 8 we'll start arriving from all over the southeast to spend a week in the beautiful mountains of north Georgia to learn more about our hobby. As this will be my first time to attend the workshops, I'm really getting excited. My first class is wirewrapping. My mom found a fabulous sunstone crystal in Oregon last fall so I'm hoping I'll be able to wrap it either at the class or soon after I get home.

If anyone has even thought about taking one of the classes at the workshops, this would be a good time to send in an application. We have four sessions through the summer and fall so be sure to get into one of them. I want to meet as many of you as possible. If all goes well I will be at all four sessions, so I want to see you fill them all. Don't forget that I will present a prize of \$100 to the club that sends the most students to the workshops. I'll present this at our annual meeting this fall.

Our next board meeting will be hosted by the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society on July 26. The meeting will be at the Knights Inn in Dillard, GA. Dillard is just across the border in Georgia and just a few miles from Franklin. Dillard was chosen because the hotels in Franklin tend to be filled with Gem Show attendees. The rates are much better in Dillard as well. We have reserved 25 rooms to get the meeting room free, so if you plan to attend please let them know you are with the SFMS both to get the special rate and to get enough rooms filled so we don't have to pay for the meeting room. Since there will be more than one show going on, maybe you will want to stay over or come a day early to attend the shows. I appreciate Ray Behr for volunteering the Franklin club to host the meeting and his work to get us a hotel setup up for our use.

I've come up dry on anything else to say this month, so I'm going to quit rambling.

*Steve Henegar, SFMS President*

## 2008 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE CHANGES

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2008. Several classes have been canceled. The August session of Cold Connection has a different instructor. The August and September chainmaking classes will be for both beginning and advanced students.

*Julia Larson, SFMS Education Chair*



# 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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**The article submittal due date for the July/August 2008 *Lodestar* is June 25, 2008  
(No exceptions!) – Note there will not be an issue published in August.**

**Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies Summer Board Meeting  
July 26, 2008  
Knights Inn, Dillard, Georgia**

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society graciously offered to host our summer board meeting. Held in conjunction with their July show, it offers a great opportunity to attend their show as well as the other shows that occur at the same time. I am planning to take time to visit their museum as well.

The meeting will be held about 17 miles south of Franklin at the Knights Inn in Dillard Georgia. Rooms have been reserved at \$79.99 + tax per night. The address is 3 Best Inn Way, Dillard, GA 30537. Phone: 706 746-5321. Tell them you are with the SFMS when you book your room. If we have enough people staying there we won't have to pay for our meeting room.



**Be Safe – Be Well**  
*Safety Committee – Don Monroe, Chairman*



**Track Walking**  
**(Do not let your kids or grandkids read this article!)**

When I was young (late Elementary or early High School) I did a lot of track walking. We lived about 4 miles out of town and for me the easiest way to get there was to walk the railroad. The only real hazard was the trestle over the river which had no walk way, just cross ties. The drop to the river was about 40 feet so we always stopped before going across and put an ear to the rail so that we could hear an approaching train before we ran across. At that time most of the trains were steam powered and quite noisy. These days, the trestle would be much more dangerous.

Why did we do this? Well, it cut at least a mile out of the walk and gave us the opportunity to find all sorts of objects, mostly metal, that fell off the trains. It was also safer than swimming across the river because my mother always knew when she would tousele my hair and that brought on corporal punishment. I deserved it.

Over recent years I have resumed track walking. Do you know how many good things such as tomahawks and knives that can be forged from the high carbon steel variety of spikes plus any pieces of broken rail can make a great anvil? Other good things scattered along the track include an endless variety of metal scrap. Before you point it out, I already know that I am a scavenger and can never pass up nuts, bolts, screws and the like. Since I once worked for the railroad, I know (and have been told recently) that small quantities of scrap are of no concern to them if you don't go on private property or in dangerous areas. We still spend some time in Birmingham and the city is full of grade crossings. You can literally walk down the streets in the older industrial parts of town and pick up enough small pieces of steel to keep your forge busy.

O.K. you are not into metal working or forging but how about cabochons, or specimens or even gold. If you persist in walking along with your nose in the air, several things can happen. First, folks will think you are a snob and, second, you may trip and fall over something. Last, you will miss good things along the path. I am not a super geologist or gemologist but even I can spot quartz crystals or even a raw sapphire or ruby. It may not be a good one but the price is right. Last week I found a really neat cloudy quartz specimen in my driveway and I already know how I am going to shape, polish and use it.

Do you know that it is said that gold can be found in every state in our nation and it is yours for the effort? I am writing this from Sanibel Island, Florida where we are attending a fund raiser for a non-profit school. The beaches are a treasure and a metal detector is nice but not necessary. Get out and look around because, if nothing else, you may need the exercise.



**Lost-Wax Casting Course at Wildacres in North Carolina**

Each year I hear complaints that no jewelry courses are available at Wildacres Retreat during the off-school months of late June, July, and early August. This year a few rooms are available during the first week of July (June 29 thru July 5) and I am offering a 4.5 day workshop on the technique of lost-wax casting. This will not be a design class but is a workshop designed to teach you the technique of lost-wax casting so that you can return home and know how to set up your own casting workshop. You will have an opportunity to do both centrifugal and vacuum-assisted casting. I will demonstrate steam casting to illustrate this inexpensive technique, and you will have the opportunity to try it.



The class will be limited to about 8 students and will cost \$310 (double occupancy). This will cover room, board, and instruction. There will be a \$50 fee for supplies that will cover several wax models, unlimited injection wax, unlimited investment, one Troy ounce of deoxidized Sterling casting grain, and a copy of the textbook: Lost-Wax Casting: Old, new, and inexpensive methods. Additional sterling and a limited amount of 14K casting grain will be available at market prices

If you are not familiar with Wildacres Retreat, please visit [www.wildacres.org](http://www.wildacres.org). A complete course description and a detailed class schedule are available from the instructor. We will be sharing the retreat with other groups including a writer's workshop and a group of storytellers that may provide some evening entertainment. I need to provide Wildacres with a list of potential students to reserve our rooms. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are seriously interested.

*Fred Sias*  
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### GETTING BACK TO BASICS AND WORKSHOP CHANGES

Do you remember when you first got interested in rocks? In the early 50's, when I was about 4, we moved into a new housing development in Michigan. It was so new the road wasn't paved yet, and like most kids, I liked to play in the dirt. I remember finding a beautiful blue rock in the muddy road. I was convinced it was a piece of the sky that had fallen to earth. Looking back, it was probably just a chunk of glass, but to me, it was magical. I began looking around for more "pieces of sky," and came in with a pocket full of rocks that my mom helped me clean. My parents weren't rockhounds, so I never found out what they were; but I kept them in my treasure box until a couple years later, when we moved to Florida. Later on, I became interested in archaeology and then by extension in geology, but it wasn't until a decade ago that I really started learning anything beyond volcanic, igneous and metamorphic. And I'm still learning.

Which brings me to the point of this article: No matter how long we have been involved in rock collecting and the lapidary arts, there is always something more for us to learn. It never hurts to go back to the beginning of our studies and see if there is something we might have missed along the way. If it's been a long time since you took **Gem ID & Appreciation, Cabochons, or Opals** at one of our workshops, why not take one of those classes again? I know what some folks say about old dogs and new tricks, but I think we're a bunch of pretty smart rockhounds, no matter what our age. There's always something new we can learn.

As I write this, there are only six more weeks until our first workshop session, which starts Sunday, June 8 at the William Holland School in Young Harris, GA.

**We need a minimum of three students to hold a class. Although some classes are full, there are a few that don't have that many registered. Some classes may have to be canceled unless more folks sign up. Register soon!**

#### WORKSHOP CHANGES

Changes almost always happen in our workshop schedule, but this year change seemed to come a bit sooner and in some unexpected ways. There are some significant changes in the 2008 workshop schedule that I need to tell you about.

Our workshop director, **Kathy Morris**, accepted a full-time position at the William Holland School and had to withdraw from SFMS workshop activities. We certainly wish Kathy well, and will still be seeing her at the June and October workshops, just in a different capacity.

**Pat Davis**, a former William Holland director, has agreed to take over for Kathy at William Holland for the 2008 season.

Pat also previously served as registrar at Wildacres. She is a life member of the Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society in St. Petersburg FL. Unless things change over the next few months, I will be acting director at the Wildacres workshops this year.

**Several classes have been canceled due to insufficient enrollment.** I am afraid the economic situation and the rising fuel costs will be a very unwelcome influence on our workshops this year. The changes are reflected in this issue of the *Lodestar* (page 14).

*Julia Larson, SFMS Education Chairman*

### YOUTH RESOURCES

There are three rewarding programs for your junior members: 1. **Youth Scholarship to a Federation workshop**, 2. **Junior of the Year award**, 3. **Future Rockhounds of America Program**.

#### 1. S.F.M.S. Youth Scholarship

The *Youth Scholarship* information was published in the January 2008 *Lodestar* with a reminder in March 2008. The April 30, 2008 application deadline for this scholarship to a SFMS workshop at Wildacres or William Holland School of Lapidary Arts is probably passed when you read this article, but keep it in mind for your juniors (society member youth 12-18) for 2009. Start now talking about it!

#### 2. Application for Junior of the Year (JOY)

Detailed information was published in the March 2008 *Lodestar*. Please encourage the youth in your society to begin (or continue) working on this prestigious award. See the March 2008 *Lodestar* for guidelines. Deadline for completion is October 31, 2008.

#### 3. A.F.M.S. Future Rockhounds of America Program

See the following excerpt from *A.F.M.S. Newsletter*, April 2008 edition, p. 7 [http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008\\_04.htm](http://www.amfed.org/news/n2008_04.htm) for a thorough description of the *AFMS Future Rockhounds of America* program and badges. Jim Brace-Thompson clears up several misperceptions of this program.

The junior rockhounds that I work with in Mobile, Alabama are challenged to earn these badges and are excited each time they receive a new one.

Encourage your youth to participate in this rewarding program!



*Bonita Harris  
Youth Resources Chairperson*

**SFMS Spring Federation Meeting Minutes**

Nashville, Tennessee

March 29, 2008

President Steve Henegar called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. He thanked everyone for coming in spite of high gas prices, and gave the invocation. First time attendees were asked to introduce themselves: John Martin as President of the Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society, Charles Willhoite as President of the Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society, and Danny Griffin as President of the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society. Marty Hart then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Martin welcomed the Federation to Nashville on behalf of his host club, the Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society, 208 members strong with 70 to 80 taking local club classes each year. Following our meeting, all are invited to visit their workshop and lapidary shop to view ongoing instructional projects at the Donelson Senior Center. The Middle Tennessee State University Mineral Museum will also be opened for a visit.

There was a Quorum and the Agenda was approved with the agreement to swear in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Mark Easterbrook, during Old Business. Bill Waggener was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian. The Minutes were approved with a spelling correction for Roswell and note that Shirley Leeson is not currently married.

In his President's message, Steve Henegar reminded us that he has offered a **\$100.00 Reward** to the club that sends the most participants to our 2008 Federation Wildacres and William Holland workshops. This can go into a club's scholarship fund or be used for education (not a pizza party!). Education Chair, Julia Larsen has indicated 97 applications were received to date (normal for this time of year). More applications will follow as workshop times get closer. Steve plans to attend all four workshops and looks forward to seeing us there.

**Officer Reports:**

First Vice President, Betty James, said she had no report at this time. Her plans include taking on the job of revising the Operations Manual. She will be sending out the appropriate part to the current and immediate past person for each job, asking for revisions – what should be continued, discontinued, and added (reflecting what we are doing) to bring each officer and committee chair job guideline up to date. Her goal is to accomplish this before the end of this year.

Second Vice President, Mark Easterbrook, referred us to the State Director Reports and indicated that everything was status quo.

Secretary, Beryl Ferguson, reminded us that the Biloxi

minutes had been divided to report A.F.M.S. President, Shirley Leeson's talk and our Federation reports in separate *Lodestar* issues to allow for inclusion of Workshop information and other time-sensitive forms within the available pages at the current postal rate. All clubs that had not renewed on time were called and then sent renewal paperwork in addition to the spring meeting information for club presidents. Every club called indicated desire to renew and lack of renewal paperwork at hand. Federation officers and state directors received information by e-mail and mail. E-mail confirmation was sent for each report received.

Treasurer, Ed Harris, referred to separate reports in the packet – Ken Anderson's outgoing report and his incoming report.

Ken clarified his two reports reflecting the end of 2007 and the transfer of funds (and all financial records from 1990 onward) to our new Treasurer, Ed Harris. The audit for 2007 was successful. The 2007 budget and actual expenses reflected the deficit spending agreed upon at the annual meeting in 2000. This procedure will continue until the Federation decides to discontinue the process. Stamp scholarship funds are kept separately for Federation workshop scholarships. All other budgeted money, if not spent, returns to the general account without carry-over.

Ed Harris explained that our Wachovia account, the new William Holland account, and the Wildacres account are all under the same EIN number. Our balance includes a CD that matured in January and was renewed for 5 months with Wachovia. All clubs need to file 990N post card on line (5 months 15 days after the tax year ends) if your income is under \$25,000.00. Information and forms are on the IRS website.

Assistant Treasurer Roger Campbell said he did not have any report in addition to that of the Treasurer.

Membership Secretary, Ray Behr, indicated the renewal process had gone slowly this year. Only 34 clubs had renewed by the January 31 deadline, and 64 clubs had renewed since then. 10 clubs were still outstanding. Those clubs had not found the renewal forms in the *Lodestar* and were unaware that the forms were attainable on the S.F.M.S. website. He is revising the renewal form to cover more information.

*Lodestar* Editor, Carolyn Daniels, indicated she was updating the *Lodestar* list to clarify those requesting the e-mail rather than paper copies. Designated club officers or members may individually choose either (but not both) formats. Please send the articles by the requested deadline for inclusion in the *Lodestar*. Past issues will be brought to the next Board Meeting.

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May/June 2008

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

**Spring Federation Meeting Minutes***(Continued)*

A.F.M.S. President, Shirley Leeson, A.F.M.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Don Monroe, and A.F.M.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President-elect, Ann Monroe, were unable to attend.

Mayo Educational Foundation President, Bill Waggener, said we currently have two applications this year for scholarships this year from the Knoxville Club. The ending date is Monday, so it looks like some scholarship money will be given to those applicants. Bill will be going to the Southeast Geological Society in April to solicit applications for next year. If you know of anyone at your club or local University that is qualified, let them know that this scholarship money is available for earth sciences.

**State Director Reports:**

Alabama Director, Iris McGehee, shared that the Birmingham Club took a field trip to Cathedral Caverns and Blowing Wind Cave. The Dothan Gem and Mineral Society is putting on a gem show. The East Alabama Gem and Mineral Society collected and presented food to the Chambers County Food Bank. The Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society's annual show is moving to a new location. The Mobile Rock and Gem Society is developing plans for its fall show. The Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society is continuing a partnership in education with a local school and will sponsor a little league ball team – good club publicity. The Alabama Clubs offer interesting programs, field trips, and workshops to their members and are working to educate others in this wonderful hobby.

Florida Director, Hugh Sheffield, continues toward his goal of visiting as many clubs in Florida as possible during this year. He has visited Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society and the Playground Gem and Mineral Society. The Tomoka Club's annual Mayo Auction sends the first \$200.00 to the S.F.M.S Mayo Foundation Scholarship – a practice continued since 1993. The Playground Club has a rock garden at its workshop entrance and beautiful stained glass windows made by a member. They meet at their workshop and hold many classes for members. The Pinellas Geological Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a dinner recognizing Sunnie Whitaker (member for all 50 years). Former Highlands Gem and Mineral Society members are now attending the Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society since their clubs joined.

Georgia Director, Anita Westlake, did not have anything to report at this time.

Kentucky Director, David Horn, was unable to attend due to illness. The Rockhounds of Central Kentucky reported in their *Lexington R.O.C.K.* that they now have a web sight, are participating in field trips, have good attendance, and are continuing to offer 4 scholarships to Wildacres and

William Holland each year. The Louisville Kyana Geological Society also has a website. They have monthly field trips and a successful show. They give Kentucky fossils and minerals to elementary schools throughout the state. Lake Cumberland has been lowered to do some dam repair, and this has opened a new world of fossil collecting in Kentucky. Check it out!

Louisiana Director, Dr. Bridget Joubert, reported on the one active S.F.M.S. club in Louisiana, the New Orleans Gem and Mineral Society. This club is still in the process of rebuilding following Hurricane Katrina. They are actively meeting, have rock swaps, lapidary programs, and field trips. They hope to soon resume their annual Gem and Mineral Show.

Mississippi Directors, Bill and Floy Hawkins were unable to attend and no report for this meeting has been received.

North Carolina Director, Michael Streeter, provided a synopsis of the S.F.M.S and A.F.M.S. to provide information to our clubs concerning Federation benefits and activities:

Past President, Buddy Shotts, thanked all who came to Biloxi, and hoped everybody was satisfied with the food. The company cooked everything fresh on location. No equipment clarification letter was sent to Fred Sias because his complete report was received by mail right after the meeting. By the next meeting our nomination committee will be solidified and a slate of officers prepared.

**The S.F.M.S. was organized** in 1976 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. The S.F.M.S. includes approximately 80+ clubs and societies, mostly in the region east of the Mississippi River and south of a line following the northern borders of Tennessee and North Carolina. The S.F.M.S. is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (A.F.M.S.). Educational opportunities constitute the real backbone of the S.F.M.S.

**The Mayo Educational Foundation** was established by he late Frank Mayo, the first President of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. The purpose of the foundation is to provide financial aid to qualified students in the Earth Sciences and to provide financing for other educational projects of exceptional value. For many years Frank (and after his death, the Mayo family) matched all yearly donations made by Federation members, increasing the principle. Only interest generated from the principle has been used to grant scholarships given to worthy students these past several years. It is evident that continuous support is needed because as the principle grows, so will the interest grow, creating more funds available for scholarships. As of August, 2004, the Mayo

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## Spring Federation Meeting Minutes

(Continued)

Educational Foundation, Inc. has awarded sixty-one scholarship grants. Since the first grant in 1985, a total of \$122,300 has been given to forty-two students seeking degrees in earth science fields. (Actually, \$123,300 has been awarded, but one student unable to complete her term returned \$1000.) The largest grant was \$4000, the smallest \$800.

**The A.F.M.S. Scholarship Foundation** was established to finance Scholarships. Beginning in 1965, one student received a scholarship grant of \$300.00 per year for two years to help achieve an advanced degree in any of the Earth Sciences. In 1966, the grant was increased to \$400.00 per year for two years; in 1967, the grant was increased to \$500.00 per year for two years. As the fund, and hence the income from it, increased, the grants were increased and, subsequently, more students received scholarship grants. By 1972, each Regional Federation received one grant of \$750.00 per year for two years. Grants were increased to \$1,000.00 per year in 1976; to two scholarship grants per each Regional Federation in 1981. In 1983, each grant was increased to \$1,500.00 per year for two years; and the amount was increased to \$2000.00 per year for each grant in 1988. The fund has now achieved over fifteen times its first goal and we are providing two two-year scholarship grants of \$2000.00 each year in each of the six Regional Federations. The market value of the investments of the Foundation, as of October 31, 2004, stands at just over \$900,000.00. With the exception of a few hundred dollars received from outside organizations, the entire amount has been donated, by Earth Science Clubs and Societies throughout the entire nation, and by individual members of such groups.

The S.F.M.S. sponsors four Gem, Jewelry and Mineral workshops each year. These are held at **Wildacres Retreat**, near Little Switzerland in North Carolina, and at the **William Holland School of Lapidary Arts** near the small town of Young Harris in northeast Georgia. Both facilities offer double accommodations with a private bath. Twin bed rooms and a number of rooms with a double bed and a twin bed arrangement are available. A broad range of courses related to the lapidary arts is taught by qualified instructors from throughout the Federation. All instructors are volunteers who are not paid for the highly skilled and professional experience that they bring to the workshops.

**The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts** is situated on a mountain in north Georgia near the North Carolina border. It is a Rockhound's dream come true. Here, near Young Harris College, is a special school that is like no other in the United States. The serious Rockhound can learn how to turn rough gems into family keepsakes. With dedication and determination, an inspired group of hobbyists is making it possible for many others to enjoy the fruits of their knowledge.

**Wildacres Retreat** is a conference center offering its facilities to nonprofit groups, which conduct educational or cultural programs and seminars. It is a true retreat, undisturbed by through traffic or noises of the city. In 1946, it was dedicated by I.D. and Madolyn Blumenthal, of Charlotte, NC, to the improvement of human relations and interfaith dialogue. Since 1972, Wildacres has operated as a public foundation.

**The S.F.M.S. Stamp Program**, founded in 1999, is a volunteer action of member clubs. The purpose of the program is to offer free scholarships to participating clubs.

**The S.F.M.S. Slide and Video Program** enables member clubs to borrow slides and videos for club meeting and educational presentations.

**An optional Liability Insurance Program** is offered by the S.F.M.S. to its member clubs covering field trips, shows, club meetings, etc. Coverage: Premises/operations, incidental product liability, Blanket contractual, Broad-form property damage; Personal injury; medical expenses; Limited worldwide liability; Host liquor legal liability; Automatic coverage at newly acquired locations; non-owned watercraft; Fire damage liability.

**The Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) Field Trip Sharing** is an association of field trip leaders within the S.F.M.S. who have agreed to join together and share one of our mineral or fossil field trips. Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the S.F.M.S. Field Trip Committee and to all members of S.F.M.S. clubs who have provided their membership with S.F.M.S. (or Eastern Federation) liability insurance.

**Most decent folks** want only to surround themselves with people of good moral character. So, I recommend that any person or club hesitate before joining any rogue group that is not recognized by a larger governing body, such as the S.F.M.S. or A.F.M.S. Some individuals and rogue groups may seem to talk a "good game", but without the normal "checks and balances" of a sanctioned club or organization, their decisions about when, where and how to collect may not be in the best interest of rockhounding or a site itself. In the long run, joining an unsanctioned group will cause harm to your club and the S.F.M.S. as its members are siphoned away and you may just find yourself in the company of certain unsavory characters who are not good role models for you, your children or new rockhounds.

**As a side note to new rockhounds**, Michael Streeter has put together a web page to inform new rockhounds about how and where to collect rocks. He recommends that all new rockhounds check it out at the following address: <http://mcrocks.com/images-w/RockhoundingAdvicePage.html>.

As you can see, the S.F.M.S. and associated organizations are about much more than simply going out to dig and

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## Spring Federation Meeting Minutes

*(Continued)*

bang on rocks. It is Michael Streeter's honor to be a contributing member of such a great group of civic-minded rockhounds.

South Carolina Director, Fred Sias, was unable to attend and has not submitted a report in addition to the detailed one sent Past President Buddy Shotts concerning Wildacres and William Holland workshop lapidary equipment ownership and maintenance procedures.

Tennessee Director, Marty Hart, proudly reported that all Tennessee societies had renewed their S.F.M.S. memberships before the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Ray Behr's reports and communications concerning renewals were very helpful. Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society holds its Mid-America Mineral Fossil Jewelry Show in April.

Virginia Director, Steve Gordon, could not attend and had not submitted a report in time for the Nashville meeting.

### S.F.M.S. Committee Chair Reports:

Bulletin Contest Chair, Ed Johnson, was absent and had not sent a report.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee needs a Chair. Please contact President Steve Henegar if you are willing to assume that post.

Education Chair, Julia Larson, indicated that the 2008 workshop season was underway with nearly 90 applications as of mid-March. Two classes (beginning cabochons at William Holland June session, and faceting/intarsia at the Wildacres September session) have only one vacancy remaining. Most classes have at least one person registered, and many have two or three so far. Julia is pleased to note that the later sessions in August, September and October, have a number of students registered so early in the season.

We are offering several new classes this year, including color scrimshaw techniques, raku beads and pendants, and wire weaving, knotting and braiding.

Our president, Steve Henegar, has announced a \$100.00 prize for the club with the most workshop attendees. Julia hopes all club presidents will make this known to their members. Steve notes the prize is not for clubs to host a "feel-good" event, but is intended for something to further our hobby – perhaps toward new equipment, or equipment repairs, or even a field trip.

Auction income remains the big question mark in the

workshop program. With the economy in trouble and gas prices so high, it may be difficult to generate as much auction income as will be needed to offset workshop expenditures. This will, of necessity, result in some classes having to be cancelled. We strongly encourage students to list a second and third class choice in the event their desired class is not held or is full; however, some are bound to be disappointed.

The Education Committee had previously discussed advertising the workshops in one of the Rock and Gem publications. After checking into this, Julia determined the cost (minimum of \$275.00 per issue) was prohibitive. However, nothing ventured is nothing gained, and she plans to run one ad in the July issue (April 15 deadline).

This season Julia will be attending all four workshops, and will be working closely with the registrars. Several members of the Education Committee will also be attending at least one workshop. Julia welcomes their input.

Julia also submitted Wildacres and William Holland projected budget figures for 2008. At Wildacres' August Workshop, 101 students and 20 instructors are planned. The September Workshop projects 114 students and 18 instructors. At William Holland's June Workshop, 76 students and 18 instructors are scheduled. In October, 111 students and 24 instructors should be involved.

Historian had not been confirmed at meeting time as Charlotte Mayo Bryant had not been reached to determine if she is willing to continue in that position.

Insurance Liaison, Roger Campbell reported that during the last fiscal year (2007-2008) we had 61 clubs participate in the insurance program with 35 shows. The insurance program is open to all clubs in "good standing" and we encourage all active clubs to participate. The 2008-2009 fiscal year has started off with an initial interest mailing to 42 clubs. As of this writing, some clubs have not renewed their membership and some clubs are in the process.

Roger had a meeting with our insurance company representative and it was determined that there was a misunderstanding with the underwriters which resulted in extra charges being incorrectly billed. SnellingsWalters has issued S.F.M.S. a refund check for the 2007-2008 extra charges. These charges will be refunded to the clubs involved. SnellingsWalters and Roger regret any inconvenience.

The S.F.M.S. is looking into Director and Officer insurance for the clubs and the Federation. Roger will query the clubs to determine interest. He is also seeking collective combinations that will reduce the cost for our clubs. If you have any questions concerning the insurance program, please contact Roger Campbell by email or phone.

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**Spring Federation Meeting Minutes***(Continued)*

Internet Website Chair Jim Flora has provided many spring, 2008, updates. The most important was the S.F.M.S. club membership renewal and instructions in PDF and DOC formats. The 2008 S.F.M.S. Slide and Video program index by author and index number was added. The Rockhound of the Year application and Mayo Foundation Scholarship application are now in PDF and DOC formats.

There have been several updates to the 2008 William Holland Workshop and Wildacres Workshop on-line information pages. Jim also made available the complete 2008 workshop package in PDF format for download. He continues to update and add new information to the Rockswaps and special "open" field trips page.

The current copy of the *Lodestar* newsletter is available each month for download and viewing by all S.F.M.S. members and the general public. Also, all past *Lodestar* newsletters since January of 2004 are accessible in our newsletter archive.

Lastly, Jim republished the last four articles on **PUBLIC LAND ACCESS ISSUES** written by John Wright, current Chair of the A.F.M.S. Conservation & Legislation Committee and Past S.F.M.S. President.

Long Range Planning Chair, Eileen Price, is still receiving cancer treatments and is in Canada with her daughter. She was unable to get a report to me at this time.

Nominations Chair, Buddy Shotts, has nothing to report at this time but says he will have a complete report for us at the next meeting.

Public Relations Chair, Herb Whittington, said he had nothing to report today.

Publications Chair, Ray Behr, said he has the membership part completed and is working to get the other parts of the 2008 Directory together to publish it as soon as possible.

Safety Committee Chair, Don Monroe, reported that during the past year he had provided a safety article for each *Lodestar*. He has received some excellent articles and suggestions for articles and always needs more. He indicated that it is a pleasure to have been our Safety Chairman and will continue to the end of the present term unless someone really wants the job, at which point he would step down. Just let him know.

Steve Henegar added that Don Monroe is doing an excellent job for us and for the American Federation, too.

Slides and Video Programs Chair, Freda Hull, indicated the new programs from the A.F.M.S. have been cataloged and added to our Library. The information has been forwarded

to the S.F.M.S. Webmaster, Jim Flora, who posted those additions.

Freda Hull also has a new e-mail address: [frehull@bellsouth.net](mailto:frehull@bellsouth.net). The Juno address is still active at this time. Either address may be used for ordering programs.

Please remind all club members of the A.F.M.S. Program Competition. Applications may be obtained from the A.F.M.S. website.

Social Concerns Chair position needs to be filled. Please contact Steve Henegar if you are willing to serve in this position.

S.F.M.S. Field Trip Chair, Jim Flora, provided the following DMC Field Trip Program Report:

The DMC field trip program conducted four field trips this past S.F.M.S. spring session. On Saturday, January 19, 2008, the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society (Florida) led a field trip to the Vulcan Brooksville Florida quarry for 30 million year old Marine fossils, chert, and calcite.

The February 16, 2008, DMC trip was sponsored by the Rome Georgia Mineral Society. This was a DMC trip to the Patty Construction Quarry outside Summerville, Georgia for lace agate.

In March, the DMC fieldtrip consisted of a trip to the Martin-Marietta Quarry outside Woodleaf, North Carolina. The Gaston County Gem, Mineral, and Faceters Club hosted this trip on Saturday, March 22, 2008. Collectors were able to collect calcite, chabazite, chalcopyrite, epidote, feldspar, fluorite, hornblende, molybdenite, natrolite, prehnite, pyrite, quartz, and many micro-minerals.

The April 19, 2008 DMC field trip, hosted by the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society, explored the Cornelia, Georgia site. They sought ruby corundum (pink to red), spinel (black to brown 'galaxite' and magnesio-chromite), sapphirine, talc, serpentine, brucite (white to bluish chalky chunks), tremolite, actinolite, smaragdite (chrome-emerald green amphibole, pyroxene (chrome diopside/sparce green micro-crystals of weathered amphibolite matrix), fuchsite and dunite.

The open field trip to Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig, held April 25 – 27, provides opportunity for all rockhounds traveling in and to Georgia.

Stamp Chair, Jim Robinson, reported that sales are down a little, but they are steady. The lots he has listed have not realized as much as they have in the past but at least they are still selling. The real problem is that he is not getting any good quality stamps to sell. He is receiving the

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## Spring Federation Meeting Minutes

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common definitive, non-profit, and bulk mail stamps. 4 to 6 thousand of these bring about \$5.00. Bulk mail and non-profit stamps are useless unless they have a plate number. These stamps should be checked for the plate number and the rest discarded. If anyone doesn't know how to find the PNC should contact Jim as it will save them a lot of postage shipping them.

Stamps that are really bringing the most money now are the Commemoratives, yet we rarely receive any of them that are not damaged. The last three lots received had no Commemoratives at all.

Currently there are 42 of the most recent stamps issued that cannot be soaked off paper without damaging them, and soon none will have soakability. The U.S. Postal Service's stamp paper suppliers are eliminating the water-soluble layer in the self-adhesive laminate of recent issues. The water-soluble layer allows a stamp to be soaked in water to remove it from the envelope paper. These stamps cannot be removed without damaging them in the process. This is the reason Jim, at the Biloxi meeting, asked the clubs to **no longer try and soak stamps**. There is a way to remove them without damage, but it is complicated and difficult.

**From now on just send stamps to Jim on paper.** He will remove the more expensive ones. The rest will just be sold on paper. Another thing that would help tremendously is: if people mailing the stamps would just put stamps on the package. They make a trip to the post office anyways. Why not buy some stamps instead of letting the Post Office put one of those useless labels on the parcel?

Supply Chair was vacant as the meeting started. Danny Griffin has volunteered to fill this position.

2008 Second Meeting Chair was unfilled.

2008 Annual Meeting Chair was vacant, but Steve Henegar is working on those meeting arrangements with the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society and is awaiting a date.

Uniform Rules Chair, Diane Johnson, was not at the meeting and had not submitted a report.

Ways and Means Chair, Frank Decaminada, reminded all Officers and Committee Chairpersons that the approved Fiscal Year 2008 Budget will be changing in Fiscal Year 2009. During the month of September 2008, each of the Officers and Committee Chairs will be requested to provide budget information for the next year to the Ways and Means Committee. Please forward your inputs in a timely manner to enable your President and the Committee to develop a consolidated financial budget. The budget will be presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting. No input from you may result in a budget that overlooks your needs. Remember all items not budgeted will require submittal to the Ways and Means for presentation to the Executive Board for approval.

Frank would appreciate any ideas you may have to offer in assuring the Ways and Means Committee will perform as each of you would accept. Please share your ideas with him during the Southeast Federation meeting. Do write or telephone Frank if you were unable to attend or get the chance to talk with him about your ideas. As his phone number is unlisted with information, please refer to the *Lodestar* to obtain it.

Wildacres Director, Kathy Morris, was absent and had not submitted a report.

Wildacres Registrar, B.J. Gearhart, was unable to attend and no report was received.

William Holland Director, Kathy Morris, did not send a report.

William Holland Registrar, Denise Talbott, did not attend and had not sent a report.

Steve Henegar said that he knew these people were working hard on the workshops. He keeps in regular contact with them.

Youth Resources Chair, Bonita Harris, explained that there are three rewarding programs for our junior members: *Youth Scholarship to a Federation workshop*, *Junior of the Year* award, and *Future Rockhounds of America* program.

1. The *Youth Scholarship* information was published in the January 2008 *Lodestar* with a reminder in the March issue. The deadline for application for this scholarship to a S.F.M.S. workshop at Wildacres or William Holland School of Lapidary Arts is April 30. By meeting time one scholarship application had been received. Requirements are not difficult to meet!

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.

After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship recipient is encouraged to write a **Lodestar** article about the experience

Responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.

Deadline for applying for the scholarship is April 30. Recommendations should be sent to Bonita L. Harris, S.F.M.S. Youth Resources.

2. Application for *Junior of the Year* (JOY) was published in the March 2008 *Lodestar*. Please encourage the youth in your society to begin (or continue) working on this prestigious award. See the March 2008 *Lodestar* for guidelines. Deadline for completion is October 31, 2008.

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## Spring Federation Meeting Minutes

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3. See the **A.F.M.S. Newsletter**, April 2008 edition, page 7 for a thorough description of the *A.F.M.S. Future Rockhounds of America* program and badges. Jim Brace-Thompson clarified this program. Encourage your youth to participate in this rewarding program.

Ken Anderson told of Chris Write scholarship from his Hot Springs Rock Shop which for many years has provided Youth Scholarships for our Federation. He asked Betty James to contact him to see if he would like to reinstate this program for our Federation.

Bonita Harris added that when contacted, many vendors will discount specimens for our youth.

### A.F.M.S. Committee Representative Reports:

*A.F.M.S. Newsletter* Chair, Beryl Ferguson, indicated that at the Biloxi meeting she answered A.F.M.S. President Shirley Leeson's plea to have all clubs receive three copies of the *A.F.M.S. Newsletter*. To that end, her mailing to every S.F.M.S. club included a form for listing their three club choices. As of March 27, she had received this information from twelve clubs. All clubs that have not responded by the end of the month will receive emails and phone calls to obtain their selections. The *A.F.M.S. Newsletter* Editor will be sent our initial club mail listings and have updates forwarded as they arrive.

Boundaries Chair, Janie Hand, sent word via Betty James that there had been no questions on boundaries so far this year. This is a positive response for the A.F.M.S. committee that doesn't want cross-regional issues to mediate.

Bulletin Editors Chair, Carolyn Daniels, had nothing special to report concerning this program at the present time.

Club Publications Chair needs to be filled.

Club Rockhound of the Year, Herb Whittington, was complimented by Steve Henegar for the fine job he has done for us. Steve requests that we ask our clubs to participate. He would like both the *Lodestar* and the *A.F.M.S. Newsletter* filled with Club Rockhounds of the Year.

When Herb started as A.F.M.S. Club Rockhound of the Year, he started talking with people and created a form that was sent to 175 club officers throughout the Federation by email. As of March 20, 2008, seven clubs have nominated Club Rockhound of the Year: East Alabama Gem & Mineral Society, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society, Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Panama City Gem & Mineral Society, Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society, and Georgia Mineral Society. Five other club nomination commitments are on the way. It's a wonderful way to give someone a pat on the back while they are still alive. Federation Certificates will be awarded to each Club Rockhound of the Year nominee.

For selection, we will have five volunteers from the meeting, excluding Herb and his wife, to make the selection. Ken Anderson, Linda Behr, Danny Griffin, Buddy Shotts, and Bill Waggener volunteered to make the selection. This committee will have the body of each

nomination with a number (excluding name and club) from which to make their choice.

There are no specific criteria for selection. That is up to the individual clubs. No one will ever dictate a procedure for club selection honoring their Club Rockhound of the Year. **June 30** is the deadline for 2008 club submissions to Herb Whittington of their Club Rockhound of the year nominations.

Buddy Shotts indicated that a short paragraph needs to be included as to how that person contributed to the club. Those contributions will be part of the selection for our Federation's submission to the A.F.M.S.

Examples of a Rockhound of the Year submission as printed in the *A.F.M.S. Newsletter*:

**John Peterson** has been active in the Reno Gem and Mineral Society since 1992, the year after he and his wife, Lorrie joined. He has held either an elected officer position or an appointed director position almost every year since. John was instrumental in building our storage areas and organizing the storage in those same areas in our clubhouse. He has served on numerous presidential appointed committees. He and Lorie display regularly at our Jackpot of Gems annual show. John has served as the show chairman since about 1997 doing an exceptional job for us. He organized a club project for securing some abandoned mines around Brady Hot Springs area in 1993.

John is an outstanding member of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society and we wish to honor his service.

Submitted by Jennifer Rhodes  
A.F.M.S./C.F.M.S. Director

The Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society has the honor of nominating the husband and wife team of **Susan and Paul Cormier** for Rockhound of the Year. Sue and Paul are two positive and enthusiastic individuals who are a constant pulse to our organization's lifeblood. They make sure our newsletters are sent out through bulk mailing, advertisements are posted for the annual club show, put up signs for the show despite unpredictable New England weather, and so many other tasks that are taken for granted and may go unnoticed because this dynamic duo makes things happen so uneventfully. Their spirit and enterprise is contagious, so even monotonous tasks are fun with their presence.

Thanks to Sue and Paul for all they have done in the past and continue to do for the club on an ongoing basis. M.M.G.S. is grateful to you both.

Submitted by Mary Fraser, M.M.G.S.

Collecting Sites Chair, Mike Streeter, had nothing special to report from the A.F.M.S. at this time.

Conservation & Legislation Chair, John Wright, indicated that as he researches material for his *A.F.M.S. Newsletter* articles, he finds it interesting to see who is trying to eliminate or at least restrict access to public lands. John has said in the past, a few are truly concerned about the environment and sincere in their efforts to preserve areas with special interests or appeal. Most, however, are individuals or groups with a selfish or self-serving purpose.

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## 2008 SFMS WORKSHOPS

One of the unique facets of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies is the **Workshop Program**, which offers members the opportunity to gather for week-long, hands-on seminars taught by experienced instructors. Whether you are a newcomer to the lapidary arts and want to learn the basics, or whether you're an old hand who wants to learn something new or move on to the next level, the Workshop Program has something for you. We look forward to seeing you in 2008. Julia Larson, SFMS Education Chair

### 2008 WORKSHOP DATES

William Holland	June 8-14
Wildacres	August 18-24
Wildacres	September 15-21
William Holland	October 12-18

**William Holland School of Lapidary Arts** ([www.lapidary.com](http://www.lapidary.com)) is located in the mountains of north Georgia near the North Carolina border. **Wildacres Retreat** ([www.wildacres.org](http://www.wildacres.org)) is a privately owned conference center nestled in the North Carolina mountains near Little Switzerland. Please visit these websites for additional information.

### Who May Attend

Anyone belonging to an SFMS club will be given priority. Student under 18 are welcome, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult and must have approval from the workshop director and the instructor to attend an adult class. Members of other AFMS regional federations may attend on a space available basis. Anyone not affiliated with AFMS may attend by paying an additional fee of \$50. First-time workshop attendees and those taking a class for the first time will receive priority.

### REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

**Applications from members of SFMS clubs will be accepted beginning February 1, 2008.** Applications from other regional federations and the public at large will be accepted beginning April 1, 2008. Your club membership dues must be current and your club's dues to the Federation must also be paid before you will be accepted as an SFMS member.

**A non-refundable administrative deposit of \$25 per person must accompany the application.** The full amount may be remitted at that time. The balance is due four weeks before the workshop start date. No reminders will be sent. If you have not received written confirmation of your application within 30 days, please contact the registrar or education chair.

**Refunds** are at the discretion of the Education Chair and the workshop director; however no refunds will be made once the workshop has started. There is no adjustment for late arrival or early departure. No fee will be charged if a class is cancelled.

The **application form** is on the next page, along with the course offerings. Please read it carefully. **Note that some classes are marked with an asterisk (\*), meaning they are Intermediate or Advanced, and therefore have prerequisites.** Please do not sign up for these classes unless you have the required experience. Contact the instructor for more information on these classes.

### About instructors

All instructors for our workshop program are **volunteers**. They may charge a materials fee for their classes, but are not otherwise compensated for their time and effort. For additional **information about our instructors**, please visit [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)

### WORKSHOP STAFF

**WM HOLLAND DIRECTOR:** Pat Davis  
4642 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.  
St. Petersburg FL 33713  
[whdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:whdirector@yahoo.com)

### REGISTRARS

**WILDACRES** Mrs. B. J. Gearhart  
P. O. Box 36  
Lebanon GA 30146-9998  
770-479-0963  
[waregistrar0809@yahoo.com](mailto:waregistrar0809@yahoo.com)

**WM HOLLAND** Denise Talbott  
216 Springview St.  
Murphy NC 28906  
828-494-7213  
[whregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:whregistrar@yahoo.com)

### NOTE:

**Check-in at Wildacres is MONDAY afternoon.**

**Check it at William Holland is SUNDAY afternoon.**  
**Early check-in is not permitted at either location.**

2008 SFMS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

<b>SESSION:</b> ◇ 1 William Holland June 8-14 (check one)   ◇ 2 Wildacres August 18-24	◇ 3 Wildacres September 15-21 ◇ 4 William Holland October 12-18
<b>ACCOMMODATIONS:</b> ◇ Lodge    ◇ Day Student    ◇ Campground (Wm Holland only)	

# 1    NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SFMS CLUB \_\_\_\_\_  
 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

Spouse NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SFMS CLUB \_\_\_\_\_  
 (#2) 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

**Single applicants only:**    Do you have someone you want to share a room with?   If yes, whom? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you a smoker??   Y   N    Do you want a non-smoking roommate?   Y   N    No preference    \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Campers:**    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
Spouse #2		Y   N		Y   N

**Cost per person \$310.00 double occupancy**  
**Single room with private bath \$470**  
**\*\*\*Non members add \$50.00 to all fees\*\*\***  
**Day Student or camper workshop fee \$140 per person. Campsite fee (Wm Holland only) \$120 per week.** No meals are included for day students or campers. They are available from and payable directly to the facility. **A \$25 non-refundable deposit per person must accompany your application.** You may, and are encouraged to pay the full amount at that time.

**Cancellation Policy:** There is a non-refundable \$25 administration fee. Other refunds are at the discretion of the director and Education Chair.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO**  
**SFMS William Holland Workshop**  
 Denise Talbott, William Holland Registrar  
 216 Springview St  
 Murphy NC 28906

--- OR ---

**SFMS Wildacres Workshop**  
 Mrs. B.J. Gearhart, Wildacres Registrar  
 P.O. Box 36  
 Lebanon GA 30146-9998

**FOR REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY**

Postmark Date	Check #
Deposit #	Amt Paid \$
Accept Mailed	Bal due \$
Standby mailed	Bal check #
Cancel Date	Total Paid
- cancel fee \$	Refund \$
Refund check #	Refund mailed

## 2008 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

### Workshop Staff

**William Holland Director, Pat Davis**  
4642 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.  
St Petersburg FL 33713  
727-323-2147  
Email: [whdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:whdirector@yahoo.com)

**Wildacres Registrar Mrs. B. J. Gearhart**  
P. O. Box 36  
Lebanon GA 30146-9998  
Phone 770-479-0963  
Email: [waregistrar0809@yahoo.com](mailto:waregistrar0809@yahoo.com)

**William Holland Registrar Denise Talbott**  
216 Springview St  
Murphy NC 28906  
Phone 828-494-7213  
Email [whregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:whregistrar@yahoo.com)

**Education Chair  
Acting Director Wildacres**  
Julia Larson  
5297 Huntington St NE  
St Petersburg FL 33703  
Phone 727-522-1254  
Email [sfmsedchair@gmail.com](mailto:sfmsedchair@gmail.com)

**Classes with asterisk (\*) have prerequisites. Check with instructor before registering.**

### SESSION ONE - WILLIAM HOLLAND SUNDAY, June 8-14, 2008

Basic of Stringing	<b>CANCELED</b>
Cabochons, beginning	Jerry Mason
Chainmaking, beg.	<b>CANCELED</b>
Enameling	Renee Wright
Glass fusing	<b>CANCELED</b>
Lampwork, beginning	Cindy Reed
Opal cutting	Sara Lee Boyce
Scrimshaw techniques	<b>CANCELED</b>
Silver, beginning #1	Dan Haga
Silver, beginning #2	Allen Jewell
Wire sculpture*	Diane Mason
Wirecraft, Beginning	Danny Griffin

### SESSION TWO - WILDACRES MONDAY, August 18-24, 2008

Cabochons	Betty James
Faceting, beg	David Lonser
Cold Connection	Kim St Jean
Chains, Beg. & Adv.	Roy Deere
Gem Ident/Appreciation	Ben Smith
Metalsmithing, Advanced*	Jeff Sheer
Digital Photography	Ken Kipnis
PMC 1	Ken, Mary Ann Devos
Raku Beads, Pendants	Jim Cullen
Seed Bead Techniques	Vivian Heath
Silver, beginning	Nancy English
Wire, beginning	Rowan Rose

### SESSION THREE - WILDACRES MONDAY, September 15-21 (SFMS President Steve Henegar, Acting Director)

Cold Connections	Kim St Jean
Enameling	<b>CANCELED</b>
Chains, adv* & beg	Roy Deere
Facet/Intarsia, beg	Tom Wilkie
Casting Finishing*	Gino Deskins
Opal Cutting	Sara Lee Boyce
PMC 2	Ken, Mary Ann Devos
Seed bead tech.	Roz Evans
Silver, beginning	Zane Purcell
Stained glass, beg.	Julia Larson
Wire Weaving*	Louise Coulson
Wire, knotting/braiding*	Don Coulson

### SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND SUNDAY, October 12-18

Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Chainmaking, Inter.*	Bill & Dee Conybear
Cold Connection	<b>Kim St Jean</b>
Faceting Two	David Corn
Fused Glass	Addy DiPietro
Gourd Carving	<b>CANCELED</b>
Opal cutting	Joe DiPietro
Lost Wax Casting	John Iacullo
Digital Photography	Ken Kipnis
PMC (Non-Cert)	Pam Hall
Scrimshaw	Gino Deskins/Betty Porter
Seed Beading	Vivian Heath
Silver, beginning #1	Don & Ann Monroe
Silver, beginning #2	Dan Haga
Silver, intermediate*	Allen Jewell
Beginning Wire	Janet Corn

**SAVE THE DATE!  
2008 ASHEVILLE GEM FEST  
FRIDAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 14 & 15**

The Colburn Earth Science Museum is pleased to announce the Asheville Gem Fest, happening Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 13, 14 and 15. Asheville Gem Fest is a great event: a gem and mineral show featuring quality dealers from across the nation, fun activities for the entire family, informative speakers and more!

The Colburn Earth Science Museum will also be open admission free all weekend, and their legendary silent auction will be back, bigger and better than ever.

With two floors and over 20 dealers, the 2008 Asheville Gem Fest is a great show located in the center of downtown Asheville, conveniently near all that a fun and vibrant city has to offer. Plan now to attend!

The Mission of the Colburn Earth Science Museum is to foster an appreciation for the earth and its resources and environments through exhibits, educational programming and the care of its collection.

Colburn Earth Science Museum  
\* 2 S. Pack Square at Pack Place  
\* Asheville, NC 28801  
\* 828.254.7162 phone \* 828.257.4505 fax \*  
<http://www.colburnmuseum.org>

Many of our elected officials go out of their way to maintain the support of special interests, or avoid offending them, and our constitutional rights are conveniently being ignored. How do we fight these problems? The first thing we need to do is be informed about issues that could potentially affect us. Two great sources other than A.F.M.S. for obtaining information are A.L.A.A. (American Lands Access Association) and the Blue Ribbon Coalition, ([www.sharetrails.org](http://www.sharetrails.org)). There are many other informative sites that can be found online if you or someone in your club has access to a computer. Also check out the sites of the special interests groups so that you know your competition. You might want to start with the Wildlands Project ([rewilding.org](http://rewilding.org)) or the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Network (Y2Y Network). While these two organizations are primarily involved in the northwest, there are similar groups diligently working in our part of the country and reviewing these sites will give you a good idea of the mind-set behind these movements.

We are also a special interest group and need to make our desires known just like our adversaries. Write and petition your elected officials. Letters to the editors and articles about your club activities published in your local newspapers can gain you recognition and support. Visit schools, put displays in your local libraries and other public facilities. In other words, let it be known that you exist, that you have rights and that you have every intention of continuing and keeping your rights for access of public owned lands.

Education All American Chair needs to be filled.

Endowment Fund Chair, Ken Anderson, said they have 9 prizes for the American Federation Endowment Fund. He had pictures for our viewing of the opals, faceted stones, etc. The goal is to have a minimum of 14 prizes. Donor recognition is given in the form of a write-up in the **A.F.M.S. Newsletter**, on the website, and included with each prize as it is awarded. Two prizes are sought from each Federation. The drawing will be held in Humble, Texas at the A.F.M.S. Annual Meeting in September.

The interest from the endowment fund is used to purchase programs for every federation's library...slide programs, videos, CDs or DVDs. Each year the American Endowment Fund interest finances attendance by a student from each Federation to the Uniform Rules week long class for judging held at Wildacres. Buddy Shotts will attend for our Federation.

Ken sells tickets, \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. Clubs requesting tickets can contact Ken by email for tickets to sell. Purchasers don't have to be rockhounds. Checks should be made to the American Endowment Fund. Ticket sales end in August. Donor prizes are valued between \$50.00 and \$700.00 and include prizes from around the world.

Betty James added that clubs can sell these tickets outside the club.

Juniors Program Chair, Bonita Harris, clarified that we call our children Juniors. The American Federation badges refer to them as Future Rockhounds.

**Spring Federation Meeting Minutes**  
(Continued)

with special interests or appeal. Most, however, are individuals or groups with a selfish or self-serving purpose. Following the money trail used to finance opposition groups is also very interesting. It would take a book to just touch on these two areas and John often gets sidetracked by the pure unadulterated sham being perpetrated on the American public by these individuals and special interest groups.

The problem we have is that our members, like most of the American public, for the most part do not understand or cannot fathom just how dedicated and well financed these special interest groups are and the gravity of what they want o do will have on our hobby and our lives. Ignorance and indifference are major assets used by these groups to dupe the public and rob them of their access to public owned lands. We have already relinquished many of our rights due to their intrusions and are paying for it in more ways than you think.

The only good thing about being seduced into allowing our access to public lands being taken away from us is that we are in good company. A lot of the supposedly intelligent members of our government, academia, legal and entertainment professions, just to name a few, are marching right along in the parade with us. Unfortunately, many of these esteemed individuals are unwitting puppets controlled by special interests, or use the propaganda espoused by these groups, for the notoriety that keeps them in the spotlight.

(Continued Next Page)

**Spring Federation Meeting Minutes**  
(Continued)

Steve Henegar requested that we consider how we will explain this 50% dues increase to the clubs.

Frank Decamanada continued by stating that increases do not have to come all at once. Our current deficit budget will help initially, but cannot continue forever.

Betty James added that through the *Lodestar* clubs will become informed and will understand that changing costs will eventually require dues increase for our Federation. The Eastern Federation has already increased their dues to cover expenses.

Ray Behr reported that the Florida Rockhounds' 5 members have sent the remainder of their club treasury as a donation to the Mayo Foundation. Their president is in an assisted living facility. The Florida Rockhounds are charter members and he was a close friend of Frank Mayo as our Federation and the Mayo Foundation came into being. He wishes us safe rockhounding and God's blessings.

Steve Henegar formed a committee to study recognition for charter clubs that disband. They will consider procedures for honoring the club or the person who, as part of that club, chartered our Southeast Federation. Ray Behr, and Betty James, and Buddy Shotts have volunteered to be on the committee. Steve appointed Buddy Shotts as Chair of that committee.

Buddy added that new members are the lifeblood of a club. If you don't get new members in a club, sooner or later attrition will get you. Club size is not a factor. Three clubs disbanded this year.

Frank Decamanada thanked Ken Anderson publicly for the outstanding job he has done over ten years, keeping finances straight in the Ways and Means Committee and as Treasurer for our Federation. Others added their thanks.

Meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Beryl Ferguson, Secretary*

Program Competition Chair, Freda Hull, combined her A.F.M.S. report with the S.F.M.S. Slides & Video Programs information as the A.F.M.S. is her main source for new programs.

Public Relations Chair, Herb Whittington, did not have a special report from the A.F.M.S. at this time.

Safety Chair, Don Monroe, had a combined report which reflected that he has submitted articles monthly to the **A.F.M.S. Newsletter**.

Supplies & Publications Chair position had a volunteer, Danny Griffin from Kingston, Tennessee.

Uniform Rules Chair, Roy Deere, was absent and had not sent a report.

Ways and Means Chair, Frank Decamanada, said he had nothing to report at this time.

Webmaster, Jim Flora, submitted a combined report as our website is part of the A.F.M.S. website.

**Mayo Educational Foundation** will meet informally following adjournment.

**Old Business:**

Bill Waggener installed Mark Easterbrook as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. His plaque will follow.

**New Business:**

Frank Decamanada made the motion that we raise the miscellaneous fund for Ways & Means from \$200.00 to \$300.00 to cover expenses. Buddy Shotts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ken Anderson addressed the issue of increasing our dues in 2009 as the A.F.M.S. dues will probably increase at that time. We need to make this issue part of our Annual Meeting agenda to vote at that time as to what our dues will be to encompass the A.F.M.S. dues increase which should be finalized at the American Federation's September Annual Meeting.

Ray Behr said he will include the increase on our club renewal paperwork. This is scheduled to be sent and emailed to every club starting in November, 2008. His goal is to enable clubs to renew in a timely fashion in 2009.

Ken Anderson reminded us that we need to revisit our 2000 decision to operate with a deficit budget due to declining interest, reduced workshop auction proceeds, and increasing costs as we consider our dues amount.

Frank Decamanada said that the A.F.M.S. increase, if approved in September, would be reflected in our proposed S.F.M.S. budget, presented at our annual meeting. In preparation, all S.F.M.S. Officers and State Directors will be sent copies of this updated proposed budget for suggestions and requests as soon as the A.F.M.S. vote result is known.

.....  
**Words of Caution**

**John M. Wright, Chairman**  
**AFMS Conservation & Legislation**

There are two major bills, which at present are working their way through Congress that you need to be aware of as they could severely restrict access to public owned lands:

The first one is **HR 2016, National Landscape Conservation System**. If passed, this bill will essentially place **26 million acres** of public lands controlled by BLM under a "National Park" type system which will eliminate or severely limit any type of recreational mining. This bill could also open the door for BLM under the influence of special interest groups to add millions of additional acres in years to come. More information on this bill can be found

(Continued Next Page)

Words of Caution

(Continued)

online at: "Lands Rights Network" (alert@landrights.org), Subject: House Mark-Up, Wednesday 3-12, On National Landscape Conservation System.

The second bill that we should be concerned about is HR 5610, Designation of Wilderness Areas, which according to a Blueribbon Coalition Action Alert, dated Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Subject: Shades of things to come?, (bralerts@sharetrails.org), "the bill would designate just about 500,000 acres of Wilderness in West Virginia, Arizona's Tumacacori Highlands; the Redwood Mountain Grove in California's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park; the Sabinoso Wilderness in New Mexico; Oregon's Copper Salmon area and the South Fork of the San Jacinto River Canyon in Riverside County, California." With these lands being designated as "Wilderness Areas" public access will be almost completely eliminated.

Once the 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM are placed under a "National Park" type system by HR 2016, it is very reasonable to assume that at some date in the not to distant future these sites will also be designated "Wilderness Areas" by a bill similar to HR5610. The public may be allowed to visit certain parts of these areas to look but not touch. The really disturbing part about all of this is that the millions of acres covered by these two bills are only a small portion of a grandiose plan by special interest groups to eventually join numerous areas like these into plots far larger than your wildest dreams.

While we rest on our laurels, our adversaries are very diligently working to have public lands placed "Off Limits". They know that this is an election year and "Green" is definitely a popular theme with politicians lately. Who knows, perhaps they think there could be another Oscar or Nobel Prize waiting out there. Remember, we also have a vote and should certainly let our desires be known.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

The Pinellas Geological Society of Largo, Florida celebrated its 50th year (1958-2008) of existence with an Anniversary Dinner on April 22, 2008.

The only 50 continuous year member, Sunnie Whitaker, was with us to celebrate and received a certificate of recognition. Sunnie had served the club as Secretary (1962) and Treasurer (1964), and her late husband, James, was President in 1962.

Past Presidents and life Members in attendance were also recognized. A donation to the Mayo Foundation was given in honor of the anniversary. A \$250 scholarship to a 2008 SFMS workshop was also awarded by drawing.

The club had photo and memorabilia albums available and continuous slide showings of club events and mineral specimen collections.

The club started out with a group of "rock hounders" (as the referred to themselves) meeting regularly and becoming active in community shows and fairs, giving school presentations, making shoe boxes of collections of rocks

for elementary schools, going on field trips, enjoying picnics, and sharing travel information and lapidary skills.

The club was incorporated in October 1958 and joined the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. in 1959. An annual auction began in 1959 and has continued to this day. The first Christmas party was held in 1962 and has been held each year since then.

The club annual dues in 1958 were \$1.00, were raised to \$2.00 in 1973 and to \$3.00 in 1979. They are now \$8.00.

The club members continue to be active and interested in enjoying the friendship of fellow "rock hounders".

Leona Sheffield
Pinellas Geological Society



Sunnie Whitaker holds her certificate as a 50-year member of the Pinellas Geological Society (PGS) at the club's golden anniversary dinner in Clearwater, Florida in April 2008. Also pictured, from left to right are PCS Past Presidents: Hugh Sheffield, Leona Sheffield (also the current President), Sue Hazelden, Mary Abel and Ann Metz. Photo provided by Julia Larson.

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Larry Osterberger passed away in his sleep Sunday morning June 1st at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga, TN. Passed with him is undoubtedly one of the modern world's greatest knowledge bases of the workings of epoxies and their chemistries. Besides being a great chemist, Larry was also an authority on fossils and had a photographic memory. It never ceased to amaze me that no matter what little bit of critter I could place before him, he could examine it briefly and rattle off the phylum and species. Larry was an excellent fossil preparer and used his knowledge of epoxies to collect and preserve field specimens that would otherwise have been destroyed in that process. Larry was a fossil dealer for many years while he was able, locally doing the Georgia Mineral Society (GMS) Christmas show, the Weinman Rockfest and the rock swap at Amicalola Falls. Larry led several of the pre-DMC joint field trips for Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society and GMS to the Parsons pit and a couple of his special sites as well. A lot of great specimens were collected on those trips. Per Larry's wishes, there will be no services.

Jim Flora, SFMS Webmaster

May/June 2008

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

**LOOKING AHEAD****CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS**

(Check with show contact for admission charges, if any)

**June 7-8, 2008, Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society.** 35th Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park, Exit #100 off I-20/59 S. or Exit #1 off I-459. Hours: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. both days. Contact: Rick Kittinger, 1612 Colesbury Circle, Hoover, AL 35226 or [rk2273@att.com](mailto:rk2273@att.com).

**June 7-8, 2008, Marion, KY - Ben E. Clement Gem, Mineral Museum.** The Ben E. Clement Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show, Crittenden County Rocket Arena. Hours: 7th, 9:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.; 8th, 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: [www.clementmineralmuseum.org](http://www.clementmineralmuseum.org) or 270.965.4263.

**August 23-24, 2008, Ocean Springs, MS - Harrison County (Mississippi) Gem and Mineral Society.** Annual Show. St. Martin Community Center on LeMoynne Boulevard, take Exit 50 off I-10. Hours: 23rd, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.; 24th, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. No further information available at time of publication.

**September 5-7, 2008, Winston-Salem, NC-Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club.** 37th Annual gem and Mineral Show, Education Building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Gate #9 from 27th Street. Hours: 5th & 6th, 10:00 A.M. - 7:00P.M. and 8th, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M. Contact: W.A. Marion, 1163 Bear Creek Church Road, Mocksville, NC 27028 or [MarionA1@yadtel.net](mailto:MarionA1@yadtel.net).

**September 27-28, 2008, Lexington, KY - Rockhounds of Central Kentucky.** 18th Annual Show. Kentucky National Guard Armory, Airport Road. Hours: 27th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 28th, 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M. Contact: Kay Fisher at 859.537.1776 or [kkay19@aol.com](mailto:kkay19@aol.com).

**September 27 & 28, 2008, Hiddenite, NC - Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society.** 20th Annual Hiddenite Gem & Mineral Show. Hiddenite Center at Sulphur Springs Road. Hours: 27th, 12:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and 28th, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M. Contacts: Patty Arnold at 828.465.2769 or Roger Grinnell at 828.284.1521 or 828.675.9281.

**November 7-9, 2008, Pascagoula, MS - Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society.** Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds, Pascagoula, MS. Hours: 7th & 8th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 9th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.. Contact: John Wright, 3304 Nottingham Rd., Ocean Springs, MS 39564, 228.875.9192, or [osjwb@datasync.com](mailto:osjwb@datasync.com).

**November 7-9, Tulsa, OK - Rocky Mountain Federation/Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society.** Central Park building, Tulsa Fairgrounds, 21st Street and Yale, Tulsa, OK. Hours: 7th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 8th, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 9th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contacts: Richard Jaeger, 919.481.0249, [RjgrSci@aol.com](mailto:RjgrSci@aol.com) and Virgil Richards, [dws@dances-with-snakes.com](mailto:dws@dances-with-snakes.com).

**November 22-23, 2008, West Palm Beach, FL - Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches.** 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead and Fossil Show. Americraft Expo Center East (South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd. Hours: 22nd, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and 23rd, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Contact: Carl Bengtson at [gemandmineral@bellsouth.net](mailto:gemandmineral@bellsouth.net). Website: <http://www.gemandmineral.cc>.

**November 28-30, 2008, Columbia, SC - Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society.** 41st Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show 2008. South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais St. Hours: Not Provided - call contact. Contacts: Sharon Sterrett at 803.356.1472 or [sssterrett@sc.rr.com](mailto:sssterrett@sc.rr.com) or Susan Shrader at 803.736.9317 or [ashrader@mindspring.com](mailto:ashrader@mindspring.com).

**November 28-30, 2008, Mobile, AL - Mobile Rock and Gem Society.** 14th Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Show. Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds at Cody and Zeigler Roads. Hours: 28th, 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.; 29th, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.; 30th, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Contact: Doug Shaw at 251.344.9986.

**December 5-7, 2008, Montgomery, AL November 28-30, 2008 - Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society.** 38th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive. Hours: 5th, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.; 6th, 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.; 7th, 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Contacts: Jane Barkley at 334.277.2722 or Iris McGehee at 334.262.7275.

**2008 REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS & CONVENTIONS****California Federation**Ventura, California  
June 27-29, 2008**Eastern Federation**Jackson, Mississippi  
Occurred February 23-24, 2008**Midwest Federation**Lincoln, Nebraska  
June 20-22, 2008**Northwest Federation**Ontario, Oregon  
June 20-22, 2008  
Hosts: Stallknecht-Morgan Museum Gem and Mineral Society**Rocky Mountain Federation**Tulsa, Oklahoma  
November 7-9, 2008  
Hosts: Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society**South Central Federation and AFMS Convention**Hosts: Houston Gem and Mineral Society  
Humble, Texas  
September 25-28, 2008**Southeast Federation**

To Be Announced

**Remember** - To insure your show is listed here, send a written notice to the *Lodestar* Editor: Carolyn L. Daniels, 3660 Prince Way, Tucker, GA 30084-8317 or email at: [dpdaniels@mindspring.com](mailto:dpdaniels@mindspring.com). ALL SFMS CLUBS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER THEIR EVENT LISTINGS ON THE SFMS WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms>.

Choose *Submission Guidelines* under the SFMS Shows Column heading to find out how to apply.

**2008 SFMS Committee Chairmen****Nominations**

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-To Be Determined-

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-To Be Determined-

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**Historian**

-To Be Determined-

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828.494.7213

**Constitution/By-Laws**

-To Be Determined-

**Insurance Liaison**

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-Optional - Position Not Filled-

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-To Be Determined-

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**Education All American**

-To Be Determined-

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**Supplies & Publications**

-To Be Determined-

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THE SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF  
 MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.  
 Carolyn L. Daniels, Editor  
 3660 Prince Way  
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<b>Recorded:</b>	<b>Date Entered:</b>		<b>To Treasurer:</b>