

Lodestar

The Friendly Federation ★ Founded to Serve



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Volume XXXIII/Five

May/June 2009

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

July 3-5, 2009: Hogg Mine and Quartz Crystal Mine, LaGrange, Troup County, GA; hosted by the Mobile (Alabama) Rock and Gem Society. Rock swap and self-collecting quartz crystals, star rose quartz, aquamarine, and tourmaline.

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

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.



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Betty M. James

Last week and this one (April 19 through May 1, 2009) I have been teaching a cabochon class here at William Holland School and preparing for the Federation meeting to be held June 20. Here's how it will work.

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Sign up for the week of June 14 for the class of your choice. If you don't have an application, download one from the SFMS website on the AFMS website at <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>, complete it for you and your family, and mail right away. Then plan to stay over Friday night and Saturday at no extra charge, for the Meeting. We will have a Roundtable discussion Friday night in the dining hall following the Friday night meal.

If you cannot come for the week of classes, the Young Harris Motel is nice but small. You can also find rooms at reasonable rates in Blairsville to the west and Hiwassee to the east for Friday night,

Debbie, the school chef, will serve Saturday breakfast for \$5.00 and lunch for \$8.00 after the meeting. When Beryl sends out the pre-registration forms, she will include a form so that you may sign up and pre-pay for your meals.

This will be your last *Lodestar* before the meeting, but each of your officers, chairpersons and club/societies will receive correspondence with more information regarding the meeting. Look for it and make your plans to be here.

Also remember to check out the American Federation meeting to be held in Billings, Montana in July. In addition to an outstanding show, the Billings club is planning five days of field trips the week following their show. Some of the world's best jaspers and gemstones can be found at these localities. I look forward to making the trip. Come along if you can.



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 2009 (combined issue for the two months) Lodestar is June 25, 2009.

Be Safe – Be Well

Safety Committee – Don Monroe, Chairman



Spring

“April Showers Bring May Flowers”

“May Flowers Bring Allergies”



Smoke. Do you burn any weeds and brush in your yard? If you accidentally include such vines as poison oak or poison ivy, you will maximize your enjoyment and be able to scratch until your skin is raw. Vines that look dead may still be very active. If you get the sap or oil from the vines on your gloves or clothing or even your dog, it can be transferred. Getting an infection of this type in your eyes can be very dangerous and can be very slow to cure.

I have avoided talking about any of the sordid stories/jokes involving people using pretty green leaves as a substitute for toilet tissue in an emergency, but some of them are unfortunately true.



Please, please be careful out there. I cut one vine a week ago and only yesterday did I get rid of the itching.

It is that time of year when many, if not most of us, experience the sneezing, runny nose and watering eyes that herald the arrival of POLLEN. Allergies, or hay fever, or whatever you call our body’s reaction to the dust and pollen of springtime is almost universal in our country. You can often get the current pollen count and a description of the weeds, flowers, and trees that are now blooming. You can often find maps on the national news which track the progress of pollen from north to south in our nation.

Knowing about the hazard of pollen does not always provide us with a solution to the problem. There are, however, a few things we can do that can be considered preventive measures. We are encouraged to stay indoors and rely on our air conditioning systems to furnish us with clean air to breathe. We are barraged by advertisements for both over-the-counter and prescription medications to fight allergic reactions. I, for one, am very cautious about taking some of these remedies and am absolutely appalled that people would risk some of the side effects that, in many cases, could be worse than the allergy.



CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMAN NOW!

Public Lands Access has a strong supporter in Congress, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT). He has just introduced a bill in the senate, that if passed would revoke authority given to the Forest Service in 2004 to institute new fees and increase existing fees at campgrounds, trailheads, and other public areas. The bill is S868 The Fee Repeal Act and Expanded Access Act of 2009 and has currently been referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He is joined in his crusade by Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Jon Tester (D-MT) who are also sponsors of the the bill. To find out more about this bill you can go to the following web site and track its progress through the legislative process: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-868>.

Though this bill will not preserve or allow us to get access to rock collecting areas that have been withdrawn, it will make it less expensive to visit areas that we can still access for our hobby.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

There are several ways to contact your elected officials. This is only one of the ways and may be the most effective for our purpose. First of all bring up the American Lands Access Association (A.L.A.A.) Website in your internet browser. <http://www.amlands.org>.

On the ALAA Home Page click on the hyperlink labeled ‘Links’. Under the heading ‘Contact Information for Congress’ there two sub titles listed: House of Representatives and Senate. Decide on which branch of the Federal Government you want to contact and click on one of the links.

There are some simple things that may help. We wash our vehicles and our porches to clean away the pollen. This time of the year covers much of our surroundings and possessions with a coating of dust which, in our area, is yellow. At least you can see it and hose it away. Do your eyes itch or burn. I recently inquired of our ophthalmologist (eye doctor) what he recommended. He did not agree with the use of all of the “drops” on the market and was very specific in his recommendations. You should check with your health care professional.

We, Ann and I, have gotten prescriptions for nasal sprays that really do a good job. We feel that it was a good idea to check our health care professional on this as well. There are also some hygiene issues that can play a part in your attack on allergic reactions. Pollen and other dusts settle in your hair if you spend time outside and washing your hair often really does help keep “stuff” out of your eyes and nose. A shower at night helps keep pollen off your bed linens.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMAN NOW!

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On the ALAA Home Page click on the hyperlink labeled 'Links'. Under the heading 'Contact Information for Congress' there two sub titles listed: House of Representatives and Senate. Decide on which branch of the Federal Government you want to contact and click on one of the links.

To contact your Senator:

On the US Senate: Senators Home page, find the 'Choose a State', click on the down arrow to bring up the State menu. Click on the State of interest and the two senators' names and addresses will appear. Click on the senators' name and their website will appear. Somewhere on their website is a menu item that says 'Contact Us' and that should bring up another small window with more options. Select and click on the 'E-mail Me' which will bring up the senators' contact page. Just fill in the blanks and type your comments in the space provided, (you can cut and paste from other sources into the 'Message Block'). There may be a limit on the amount characters that can be entered so you may have to be careful in the amount of information that is input. When finished, just click on [Submit Information] and wait for your answer, it may take several days before you hear from your senator.

To contact your Representative:

On the Write Your Representative Home Page: Again, 1. select your state, 2. enter your Zip Code then, 3. Click the "Contact My Representative" button. Your Representative's Home Page will appear. Select 'Send a Message' or 'Contact Me', if required. Fill in the blanks, make your selections and enter your message in the box provided. When finished filling in the required blanks click the [send message] or [submit button] and wait for your answer, it may take several days before you here from your Representative. There are several other options on the Representative Home Page that may be of interest on other topics.

If there is any pending legislation in your state please let me know the information, The Title, Legislative number and of course the state. I will try to do some research and enter the applicable information on the ALAA Website.

*John Martin, ALAA Internet Committee
AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee
CFMS PLAC South 2005-2008
Palmdale Gem and Mineral Club
smartin@antelecom.net
pgmc@antelecom.net*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

This is an update on our first workshop of 2009. I'm speaking of the William Holland Workshop, which takes place from June 14 through the 20th. Some of the classes are already full. These are the Fused Glass, Lampwork, and Silver-Beginning and Silver-Advanced classes. The following classes still have openings: Cabochons, Cold Connections, Digital Photography, Faceting 1, Wire Braiding/Weaving and Opal Cutting. The Mixed Media class was cancelled. If you're interested in one of the remaining classes don't waste any time in registering. I have heard from a few folks who are planning on attending this session, but have not signed up yet. Don't delay! Get your registration in before the class you want is full. This applies to all 2009 Workshops! Feel free to contact the Director or Registrar at either William Holland or Wildacres if you have questions. Their contact information can be found on the SFMS website or in this issue. I hope to see many of you sometime this year.

*Danny Griffin
SFMS Education Chairman*

WORDS OF CAUTION

by

John M. Wright, RPG

AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chairman

With the passage of H.R.146: Omnibus Public Land Management Act, (Which includes S22, "Omnibus Land Act" and HR554 or S320, "The Palentological Resources.Preservation Act", I think we can for all practical purposes kiss access to public lands and a lot of private lands good-by. Our illustrious legislators ignored the "We the People" part of the Constitution, conveniently abrogating the rights of the citizens that paid for and support these lands. Oh, I know that the bill contains some provisions for recreational use, but is has been left up to bureaucrats to determine the type and extent of use and that's the part that really worries me. For the 70 to 80 per cent of our members that have only an inkling or no idea at all about the dangers posed by H.R.146: Omnibus Public Land Management Act, and many other similar legislative restrictions not much will change unless they accidentally violate one or more of these provisions and what a rude awakening that will be.

I find it hard to fathom, but a vast majority of our members do not know that "it is against the law to remove, own, buy, or sell anything from public lands without legal authorization". Even with permission you are on uncertain legal grounds very often open to interpretation and can be challenged in a court of law. You may be searched, served with a warrant to have your home or business searched and with increasing frequency secretly photographed by

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WORDS OF CAUTION

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law officers. (If you have a sudden urge to relieve yourself while on public lands, be sure to smile, you may be on "Candid Camera"). If you inadvertently stumble upon a damaged area or report a forest fire, you automatically become a suspect in the bureaucratic mind set and will more than likely be investigated. I know these warnings really sound far-fetched to many of you, but because of insurmountable stupidity there are quite a few of these ridiculous cases currently being litigated in our courts.

About the only good that I can think of resulting from all the preposterous legislation that is now in effect or being proposed is that the public is getting fed up with the extremely high cost and frenzy of unconscionable restrictions being enacted on Constitutional rights and a lot of the legislative nitwits who are responsible for these actions are going to loose their jobs. Special interest groups that supported many of these changes are going to find out that they helped create bureaucratic monstrosities that may well be extremely difficult for them to live with.

One last warning, you absolutely cannot depend on the information listed online at the websites maintained by the Forest Service in regards to recreational activities in particular rockhounding.

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ALAA Annual Meeting

by Dick Pankey, President, ALAA

The American Land Access Association will hold its annual meeting at the NWF/AFMS convention at Billings, MT on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. in the Cottonwood Room at the convention hotel. This is the business meeting for ALAA where we will elect our directors and officers, have officer and committee reports, and vote on Bylaw revisions and Operating Procedures. The work of ALAA takes place throughout the year by our officers, directors, committees, at regional Federation conventions and the actions of our members.

Featured speaker will be Greg Mumm of Blue Ribbon Coalition, the National Organization who is fighting to keep roads open on Federal Lands.

Also attending will be our Canadian friends who are experiencing the same collecting problems in their Provinces.

This is an important meeting for ALAA since our 2008 meeting in Houston was canceled because of the hurricane. All officers, directors, committee people are strongly encouraged to attend. All AFMS society members are invited and welcome.

Can You DIG it?

Yes, you can in Marion Kentucky. Come dig Fluorite and related minerals during the day and fluorescent minerals at night.

Scheduled Digs for 2009

April 25

May 23

June 6th & 7th*

July 25

August 22

September 19

October 17



*Also, dates of the Ben E. Clement Annual Gem and Mineral Show

Pre-registration is required, so register early as space is limited to the first 30 people per date. Registration forms can be found on our website.

We will gladly schedule private digs for groups of 10 or more people.

For More Information Contact:

The Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum

PO Box 391 Marion, KY 42064

Or call 270.965.4263

Or visit our website at

clementmineralmuseum.org

2009 SFMS WORKSHOP INFORMATION

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 2009. Danny Griffin, SFMS Education Chair

2009 WORKSHOP DATES

William Holland	June 14-20
Wildacres	August 17-23
Wildacres	September 14-20
William Holland	October 11-17

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts (www.lapidary.com) is located in the mountains of north Georgia near the North Carolina border.

Wildacres Retreat (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 PROCEDURE

Applications from members of SFMS clubs will be accepted as soon as the schedule is posted. Applications from other regional federations and the public at large will be accepted beginning April 1, 2009. 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.

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. No reminders will be sent.

- Cost per person \$310 double occupancy.
- Single room with private bath \$470.
- Non members add \$50.00 to all Tuition fees
- Day Student or camper workshop tuition fee is \$140 per person. No meals are included for day students or campers. They are available from and payable directly to the facility.
- Campsite fee (Wm Holland only) \$120 per week.

If you have not received written confirmation of your application within 30 days, please contact the registrar or education chair.

Refund / Cancellation Policy

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. If a refund is granted a \$25 administrative fee will be retained.

Application Form

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 may 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 and are not compensated for their time and effort. **THEY MAY CHARGE A MATERIALS FEE FOR THEIR CLASSES. THIS MATERIALS FEE IS NOT PART OF THE WORKSHOP TUITION.** For additional information about our instructors, please visit www.amfed.org/sfms

WORKSHOP STAFF

	DIRECTORS
WILDACRES	Danny Griffin wildacresdirector@yahoo.com
WM HOLLAND	Kathy Morris whdirector@yahoo.com
	REGISTRARS
WILDACRES	Mrs. B. J. Gearhart 631 Lake Overlook Drive Canton, GA 30114-6887 770-479-0963 waregistrar0809@yahoo.com
WM HOLLAND	Denise Talbott 216 Springview St. Murphy NC 28906 828-494-7213 whregistrar@yahoo.com

CHECK-IN DAY:

Wildacres is **MONDAY** afternoon.
William Holland is **SUNDAY** afternoon.
Early check-in is NOT permitted at either location.

2009 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

Workshop Staff

Wildacres Director, Danny Griffin
Email: wildacresdirector@yahoo.com

William Holland Director, Kathy Morris
Email: whdirector@yahoo.com

Wildacres Registrar, Mrs. B. J. Gearhart
631 Lake Overlook Drive
Canton, GA 30114-6887
Phone 770-479-0963
Email: waregistrar0809@yahoo.com

William Holland Registrar, Denise Talbott
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Phone 828-494-7213
Email whregistrar@yahoo.com

Education Chair, Danny Griffin
1320 Byrd Circle
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(865) 406-8802
Email sfmsedchair@gmail.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. Please do not exclude yourself, if you're interested in one of these classes, without contacting the instructor first.

SESSION ONE - WILLIAM HOLLAND SUNDAY, June 14-20, 2009

Opals	Sarah Lee Boyce
Wire Braiding & Weaving	Don & Louise Coulson
Silver / Beginning	Vicki Prillaman
Digital Photography	Ken Kipnis
Fused Glass	Renee Wright
Seed Beading	Vivian Heath
Faceting	Bill Compliment
Silver / Intermediate*	Allen Jewel
Lampwork	Cindy Reed
Cabochons	Pat Davis
Mixed Media	Marilyn Jobe
Cold Connections	Kim St. Jean

SESSION TWO - WILDACRES MONDAY, August 17-23, 2009

Advanced Metal *	Jeff Sheer
Silver / Beginning	Gene Tipton
Art Clay Silver	Barbara McGuire
Gem ID / Appreciation	Ben Smith
Raku Beads/Pendants	Jim Cullen
Wire / Beginning	Rowan Rose
Cabochons / Beginning	Pat Davis
Fused Glass	Julia Larson
Casting	Fred Sias
Digital Photography	Ken Kipnis

SESSION THREE - WILDACRES MONDAY, September 14-20, 2009

Cold Connections Intermediate/Advanced*	Kim St Jean
Silver, Intermed/Adv.*	Nancy English
Faceting	Will Smith
Polymer Clay	Barbara McGuire
Opal Cutting	Sarah Lee Boyce
Mineral ID	Betty James
Beading Intermed/Adv*	Vivian Heath
Chainmaking Int/Adv*	Roy Deere
Wire Intermed/Adv*	Rowan Rose
Precious Metal Clay Level 3 Certification	Mary Ann & Ken Devos

SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND SUNDAY, October 11-17, 2009

Opals	Joe DiPietro
Cabochons	Jerry Mason
Wire Sculpture	Dianne Mason
Chainmaking / Beg.	Case Leeser
Fused Glass	Addy DiPietro
Faceting 1	Randy Walker
Channel Inlay	Don & Ann Monroe
Silver / Intermediate*	Nancy English
Silver 1	Allen Jewel
Cold Connections	Kim St. Jean
Digital Photography	Ken Kipnis
Soapstone Carving	Diane Walker

2009 SFMS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

SESSION: (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 William Holland June 14-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Wildacres August 17-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Wildacres September 14-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 William Holland October 11-17
ACCOMMODATIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Lodge <input type="checkbox"/> Day Student <input type="checkbox"/> Campground (Wm Holland only)		

#1 NAME _____
 SFMS 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 NAME _____
 (If address and phone info is different than above, please list on the back.)
 Have you attended any other SFMS workshops? _____
 Do you want to be placed on standby if your class is filled when we get your application? Y N

Single applicants only: Do you have someone you want to share a room with? If yes, whom?

 Age Group (used to determine a compatible roommate) 20-30 31-41 42-52 53-63 64-74 74 & up
 Are you a smoker? Y N Are you an early riser? _____ or a night owl? _____

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

Campers: (Wm Holland only) Type _____ Length _____ (40 ft. max.)

Class Selection		**** PLEASE LIST ALTERNATES****			
First Choice	1 st time taking class?	Second Choice	Third Choice		
Student #1	Y N		Y N		Y N
Spouse #2	Y N		Y N		Y N

Workshop Tuition
 NOTE: You are encouraged to pay the full amount at registration time. However, a \$25 non-refundable deposit per person must accompany your registration. If you send a \$25 deposit the remaining balance is due one month before the beginning of class.

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

Materials Fees: The Instructors materials fee is NOT included in the \$310.00 tuition fee. Each class may have a fee set by the instructor. See the class description for a list of these fees.

- Cost per person \$310 double occupancy.
- Single room with private bath \$470.
- Non members add \$50.00 to all Tuition fees
- Day Student or camper workshop tuition fee is \$140 per person. No meals are included for day students or campers. They are available from and payable directly to the facility.
- Campsite fee (Wm Holland only) \$120 per week.

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
 631 Lake Overlook Drive
 Canton, GA 30114-6887

YOUTH FEDERATION WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIPS for 2009

It was exciting to read about all six applicants and their interest in the lapidary arts. Thank you societies for sponsoring such worthy juniors.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Jessica Grundman, Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society, Kristen Hinton and Amanda Price, Mobile Rock and Gem Society won a Youth Federation Workshop Scholarship for 2009. Jessica will be attending a Cold Connections class. That workshop had not been chosen at the time of this writing. Kristen and Amanda are attending the June 14 - 19, 2009 cabbing workshop at William Holland.

These junior rockhounds came highly recommended by their local clubs. Jessica is a 16-year old member in good standing with KGMS. She has participated in KGMS activities of basic silversmithing, cabochon cutting, Viking weave chain making, field trips, geode cracking activity at the annual picnic, and worked at the annual club show. Amanda and Kristen, both 13 years old, are members of the junior rockhounds of MRGS. They make beaded necklaces and are skilled in wire wrapping. In addition, they volunteer at the annual MRGS show.

Unfortunately, two applicants did not meet the scholarship criteria. A third applicant (aged ten years old) withdrew her application due to the age restriction at William Holland and Wild Acres.

The Mobile Rock and Gem Society sent the following picture and article for publication in the Mobile Press newspaper:



Kristen Hinton and Amanda Price, Jr. Rockhounds in the Mobile Rock and Gem Society were recently awarded the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Workshop Youth Scholarship. They will have the opportunity to attend William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, GA. They were selected by submitting an essay about their favorite hobby. They were 2 of 3 scholarship recipients. The 3rd recipient, Jessica Grundman, resides in Tennessee.

Requirements for the Junior Scholarships for SFMS Workshops:

- **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.
- **Deadline** for applying for the scholarship: April 30, 2009 (see future issues of *Lodestar* for 2010 deadline).

Junior of the Year (JOY)

The application for *Junior of the Year* (JOY) was published in the January 2009 *Lodestar*. Please continue to have your Junior Rockhounds compile their data for this prestigious award. Deadline is October 7, 2009 with a postmark no later than November 7, 2009.

Bonita Harris
Youth Resources Chairperson
Phone: 251.865.9157

Glendon Quarry '09

by Melissa Siver
Junior JGMS Member

In April of 2009, my family and I went on a SFMS-sponsored field trip to the Glendon Pyrophyllite Mine to dig for pyrite, fluorite, and other minerals. Everyone attending was required to pre-register for this trip and only 150 people from across the southeast were allowed to participate. Most of us uncovered several large, well-formed cubes of pyrite, while others found stunning fluorite crystals.

The Glendon Pyrophyllite Mine is an open-pit mine located in the hilly piedmont region of North Carolina. The geology of this area is primarily composed of igneous and

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metamorphic rock, with very few sedimentary intrusions. Although the mine is a pyrophyllite mine, no less than eleven different minerals have been found here in varying quantities. The most common minerals are pyrophyllite, quartz, pyrite, and fluorite. The other minerals that are collected in smaller quantities include: cacoxenite, epidote, hematite, Ilmenite, lazulite, magnetite, and ottrelite.

In the quarry, pyrite was the most commonly collected mineral. We dug cubes out of the pit walls as well as on the tops of dirt mounds by using hammers, chisels, and shovels. Many people removed larger crystals from the bedrock by using sledgehammers and chisels. We picked up several smaller, perfectly-formed specimens of pyrite off the top of the soil. The largest pyrite crystal I discovered measured around 2"x2" inches wide and was in matrix. The president of our club (the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society), Jason Hamilton, found a rock with a near perfect 2.5" x 2.5" cube of pyrite jutting out from its sides.

Fluorite was another popularly mined mineral. Several rockhounds found fluorite specimens imbedded in a white quartz matrix. The fluorite crystals were liberated from the quartz boulders using hammers, chisels, and small sledgehammers. During the dig, one man discovered many large, beautiful purple-blue fluorite crystal pockets in a huge white quartz boulder. These crystals were rumored to be the largest fluorite samples ever found in this mine.

This was a rare opportunity to collect pyrite and fluorite samples from the Glendon Pyrophyllite Mine. For any collector, young and old, this dig is both fun and productive. Everyone will bring a prize home. I really enjoyed collecting minerals from this site as well as meeting other members of the SFMS.

appealed the "total closure" plan.

The response of the U.S. Forest Service should boil blood. Instead of re-considering the total closure plan, the agency is simply adding volumes of analysis in an attempt to better defend against our appeals.

In other words, they don't care if refusing to consider any user-created routes is contrary to regulations; they are going to try to do whatever it takes to make it happen, regulations be damned.

The links below tell more of the story. But today, we are asking our members across the country to help the local ATV and motorcycle people out.

We've prepared a letter generator with several key substantive comments. Please take a minute to click on the link below and send a letter. Your comments will help, please send your letter today!

<http://www.sharetrails.org/letters/letter.php?id=40>

The Revised Route Designation Environmental Assessment and maps of the proposed changes are available on the Forest's website at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/mississippi/Travel_Management/index.html.

*Brian Hawthorne
Public Lands Policy Director
Blue Ribbon Coalition
208.237.1008 ext 102*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Comments Needed on Holly Springs National Forest - June 18th, 2008

www.sharetrails.org/alerts/?alert=832

TRAIL RIDERS FIND NEW LIFE IN MISSISSIPPI FORESTS' DECISION - January 30th, 2009
<http://www.sharetrails.org/releases/media/?story=630>

Recreation Funding Conundrum - BlueRibbon Magazine, February 2007
<http://www.sharetrails.org/magazine/article.php?id=953>

Trails for Future Generations - BlueRibbon Magazine, October 2006
<http://www.sharetrails.org/magazine/article.php?id=894>

*Forwarded by John Wright
AFMS Conservation
& Legislation Chairman*

BLUE RIBBON COALITION "SOS" ACTION ALERT!

Mississippi ATV riders and Off Road Motorcyclists need our help!

Dear BRC Action Alert Subscriber,

We seldom blast National Alerts for local planning processes, and we hate to blast anything with such short notice.

But we need your help. This Monday, April 6, is the deadline for a new travel management plan on National Forests in Mississippi. In a previous attempt, the agency refused to consider adding even one mile of trails, which have been enjoyed by folks in the area for over 30 years. BRC and the Memphis Motorcycle Club successfully

FALL FESTIVAL FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE PARK, IN

The Falls of the Ohio State Park's 15th Falls Fossil Festival will be held September 19 (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.) and 20 (10 A.M. - 5 P.M.). This event, sponsored by the Falls of the Ohio Foundation, will feature:

- * Daily non-technical programs and workshops for hobbyists, educators and the curious on fossils, minerals, and collecting.
- * Almost 20 vendors selling fossils, minerals, educational material, crafts and food.
- * Children's Activity Area with a variety of activities scheduled.
- * Resource Tent where you can get fossils and rocks identified by members of the Indiana Society for Paleontology, the Kentucky Paleontological Society and the Kyana Geological Society. Learn about other geological sites with material from many other fossil parks in North America, as well as information and free literature from the Indiana and Kentucky Geological Surveys.
- * Fossil and mineral identification (Bring in your mystery rocks!)
- * Hikes on the fossil beds, including extended hikes on the outer fossil beds
- * Collecting Silurian and Devonian fossils from special rock piles donated by Hanson Aggregates and mineral piles from the dumps of Cave in Rock fluorite mines
- * Exhibit – "Green Planet: The History of Plants!" in our Interpretive Center explores the rise of plants in Earth's fossil record. This exhibit is in partnership with paleo-botanist Dr. David W. Taylor, chair of the Department of Life Sciences at Indiana University Southeast. (The exhibit runs from August 15 – November 29.)

Proceeds benefit the educational programs at the Falls of the Ohio State Park which reach more than ten thousand students each year!

A web site with a detailed schedule for the Festival is posted on our web site at: <http://www.fallsoftheohio.org>.

For more information contact Alan Goldstein at 812.280.9970 ext. 403.

SAD PASSINGS

ED JOHNSON



It is with great sadness that I inform you that Ed Johnson, our former president, died last night (May 27, 2009). Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

via email further information not available at time of Lodestar publication
Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society of Jacksonville, Florida

BILL SCHEFFER

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society (MAGS) member Bill Scheffer died on Thursday, June 11, 2009. Bill was a MAGS life member and served many positions including President and treasurer. For many years he taught faceting at Wild Acres. He also was President of the SFMS in 1991.

*W.C. McDaniel, President
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society*



JEANNETTE BANKS (September 1933-June 2009)

Jeannette had been on the board of directors of the Mayo Foundation since 2000. She and her husband, Olin, were longtime Georgia state directors for the SFMS and involved in the SFMS stamp program. Jeannette was also a longtime member of many Georgia gem and mineral clubs and was especially involved with the Georgia Mineral Society, the Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society, and the Cotton Indian Mineral Society.

via SFMS Website

LOOKING AHEAD

CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

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

June 6-7, 2009, Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 36th Annual Show. Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park, Exit 100, 1-20/59 South. Hours: Both days, 9:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M. Contact: J.B. Blackerby, 155 Hwy 69, Chelsa, AL 35043; 205.678.6564; black2200@aol.com.

June 6-7, 2009, Marion, KY - Ben E. Clement Museum. Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show with "Digs", Fohs Hall on Walker Street. Hours: 6th, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.; 7th, 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contact: Tina Walker at 270.965.4263 or visit website: www.clementmineralmuseum.org.

June 19-21, 2009, Asheville, NC- Colburn Earth Science Museum. Asheville GemFest, 2 South Pack Square at Pack Place. Hours: 19th & 20th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 21st, 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contact: Felicity Green at 828.254.7162 or museum.colburn@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

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

-Continued-

July 22-25, 2009, Franklin, NC - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. 43rd Annual Macon County Gemboree, Macon County Community Building, US 441S. Hours: 22nd through 25th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M. Contact: 1.800.336.7829.

August 21-23, 2009, Pass Christian, MS - Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society. 34th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show, West Harrison Civic Center on Espy Avenue. Contact: Margaret Johnston at 228.467.1457 or Johnstonmargaret@bellsouth.net.

September 11-13, 2009, Winston-Salem, NC - Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. 38th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Coliseum Annex Building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Gate #9 from 27th Street. Hours: 11th & 12th, 10:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.; 13th, 12:00 Noon-5:00 P.M. Contact: W.A. Marion, 1163 Bear Creek Church Rd., Mocksville, NC 27028 or MarionA1@yadtel.net.

September 18-20, 2009, Jacksonville, FL- Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society. 21st Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil, Bead Show and Sale AND SFMS Annual Meeting and Banquet. Morocco Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S. Contact: Tom Frame at tomframe@comcast.net.

October 3-4, 2009, Lexington, KY - Rockhounds of Central Kentucky. 19th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show & Sale. Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Rd. Hours: 3rd, 10:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M.; 4th, 12:00 Noon-5:00 P.M. Contact: Kay Fisher, 859.537.1776, kkay19@aol.com.

October 16-18, 2009, Franklin, NC - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Annual Leaf Looker's Gemboree. Hours: 16th & 17th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00; 18th, 12:00 Noon-5:00 P.M. Call 1.800.336.7829 for further information.

October 31 - November 1, 2009, Stuart FL- St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Club. 31st Annual Rock & Gem Show. Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy. (A1A). Hours: 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. both days. Discount coupon at slrockandgem.org. Contacts: Dennis Ponte at 772.288.9296 or Norm Holbert at 772.873.0787.

November 13-15, 2009, Pascagoula, MS - Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. 19th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Civic Center building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours: 13th & 14th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 15th, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contact: John Wright, 3304 Nottingham Rd., Ocean Springs, MS 39564 or 228.875.9192.

November 21-22, 2009, West Palm Beach, FL - Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. 43rd Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, Americraft Expo Center at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd. Hours: 21st, 9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 22nd, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Contacts: Barbara Ringhiser at bar5678@aol.com or 561.588.5458/Ellen Jean at ellenjean24@aol.com or 931.372.8236.

FEDERATION CONVENTIONS & SHOWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)/Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS)

July 30-August 2, 2008
Billings, Montana

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS)

April 17-19, 2009
San Jose, California
Host Club: Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (EFMS)

October 17-18, 2009
Bristol, Connecticut

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies (MWF)

May 16-17, 2009
Berea, Ohio

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RFMS)

October 2-3, 2009
Roswell, New Mexico

South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SCFMS)

October 10-11, 2009
Temple, Texas

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS)

September 18-19, 2009
Jacksonville, FL
Sponsored by the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society
-More Information Next Issue of *Lodestar*-

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.

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.

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