PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
The Prez Rambles On . . .

Don’t forget to make your reservations for the annual meeting and banquet soon. I’ll need a final count for the banquet around December 1. If you haven’t received the information, it is posted on the SFMS Website (www.amfed.org/SFMS). Look for the annual meeting on the right side of the page under the SFMS Club Shows heading. If you don’t have internet access please call me and I’ll send a copy via mail.

The meeting is being hosted by my home club, the Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society. Our show will be December 13-14 at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. It’s about six miles from the hotel.

Our host hotel will be the Holiday Inn Select at 2200 Elm Hill Pike in Nashville, Tennessee. The date of the annual meeting and the awards banquet will be December 13, 2008. The annual meeting will be held beginning at 9:00 A.M. The banquet will be held at 6:30 in the evening. I have reserved a room for a Friday night session as well. A block of rooms has been reserved at the hotel for December 12 and 13. If you wish to stay longer you may reserve a room up to three days before and three days after these dates at the special rate for our meeting. The room rate is $89.00 per night. This rate is also eligible for Priority Club points if you are a Priority Club member. This hotel has been recently renovated. The company I work at uses this hotel for several meetings each year so it comes with a good recommendation from them.

In order to avoid being charged for the meeting room, I would ask as many of you as possible stay at the host hotel. We need to fill 15 rooms both nights to avoid having to pay rent for the meeting rooms. To make reservations please call the hotel direct and ask for the Southeast Federation rate. Their phone number is 615-883-9970. Please make your reservations by the November 15th if possible. We also need good attendance at the banquet to avoid further charges. I have reserved 60 spots for the banquet so we need to come close to that number. I hope many of you will come.

Since I have the soapbox this year, I want to stand on it and brag a bit about our show. We have around 26 dealers along with 6 or 7 club member tables. We have worked very hard to keep our show a true rockhound show. You’ll find lots of rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, findings, beads, cutting rough and tools along with some beautiful hand crafted finished jewelry. You’ll find it a good place to shop for the person who loves jewelry as well as a place to shop for the rockhound in your life, or in the case of my wife, the CRAZY rockhound in her life. She only likes opal jewelry, so I do manage to find something for her as well. She also usually lets me buy my own Christmas present so I always get exactly what I want. Since some of our dealers participate in many of the club shows, this gives you another opportunity to see some of them again. Due to the timing, it’s a great place for shopping for Christmas gifts.

I got back from the second William Holland workshop a few days ago. I had a great time learning to make to make PMC—Precious Metal Clay - jewelry. I can tell you it’s a lot of fun to be able to make metal jewelry without the restriction of fabricating hard metal. It was pretty cool to be able to use stamps and molds to form a ring or pendant and then with a bit of heat and magic see it turned into a beautiful piece of silver jewelry. While silver was the...

(Continued on Page 3)
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.

2008 SFMS OFFICERS

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AFMS 4th Vice President
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donmonroe@att.net

AFMS 4th Vice President

The article submittal due date for the December 2008 Lodestar is November 25, 2008.
(No exceptions!)

Copyright© 2008 by the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, inc. Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in Lodestar provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed. - Editor: Carolyn L. Daniels
medium we used in the class, gold PMC is available as well. It looks like a bronze clay is breaking into the market as well at a lower price point than gold and silver.

I want to say thanks to all the folks that made the workshops happen this year. We had a great crew working this year from the instructors, directors, and registrars, to our fearless education committee leader Julia Larson. GREAT JOB ALL!!! Since I attended all four workshops this year I have firsthand knowledge of how things went. If you have any inclination at all to take a class, the workshop schedule or next year will be out by the first of the year so I want encourage you to consider joining us for at least one of the workshops. The mountain location of both workshop places is great, the food is good, accommodations are good and you can't beat the fellowship or the price, and the class fees are very reasonable as well. Better yet make it a tradition, a family tradition. I was amazed to see how many people just picked up their friendships from previous years, many for a decade or more.

That’s enough rambling for this month. I hope to see you in Nashville in December.

Steve Henegar, SFMS President

BE PREPARED – THAT'S THE BOY SCOUT MARCHING SONG

Many of us were Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts or members of other organizations that stressed being ready to handle any sort of emergency. This training stuck with most of us and has been helpful in so many instances throughout our lives.

If you have been a faithful reader of our safety articles, you have noted in many of them we have stressed the need to be ready to deal with emergencies. I fear that the problem is that we have applied these lessons to outdoor situations and travel. Where we may have fumbled the ball is at home.

Think about some of the following things that happen around the house. Do you and other members of your family know how to shut off all of your utilities? Can you shut off the gas or oil or electricity if a problem arises? Do you know where your water shut-off valves are? I am talking about the ones that will stop flooding in an emergency.

Does your family have an emergency evacuation plan which will also include the place where all of you should reassemble so you can determine if everyone is out of your burning house. Do you know where your fire extinguishers are located? Maybe I should first ask if you have fire extinguishers. Are your smoke detectors fully operational and have you considered a carbon monoxide detector?

Do you have the basics you need for really, really bad weather. Our country has faced major hurricanes and tornadoes in the recent past and preparation has helped many people survive. What you need can be a function of where you live but some items are always needed. Flashlights (more than just one) are mandatory. How about a weather radio or, at least, a battery powered portable radio to receive any public service announcements. Storms are not at all uncommon in our part of the country and we find a small battery powered TV to be most comforting. Be alert to this upcoming change in TV broadcasting. I really fear that I will need to buy a new TV but that can be cheap insurance.

When bad weather threatens, make sure your vehicles have full tanks of gas. How about a few jugs of water? Do you have a cellar or basement or a strong place for safe refuge? When we built our house a few years ago we added a small strong room for very little additional expense. It is just a big closet but it will be great when needed and a wonderful place to keep that first aid kit that we all must have.

I could ramble on for a while but I want you to recognize that the real purpose of this article is to get you to think. Please plan ahead!

WORDS OF CAUTION

by

John M. Wright, RPG

AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chairman

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, HR554, to the best of my knowledge has cleared all committees and the next logical step would be to schedule it for a vote by the House of Representatives, but with the current turmoil in congress caused by the failures on Wall Street, I can’t get through to my contact to find out the exact status of this particular legislation. My personal opinion is that it has been placed on a back burner and action on it will be delayed for the time being. This does not mean that we are out of the woods, but it does give us another small window of opportunity to express our opposition. With the up-roar among the citizens caused by the proposed bail-out plans for Wall Street and the up-coming elections, constituents have really gotten the undivided attention of representatives, and if you have not written or petitioned yours to express opposition to
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

2008 Annual Meeting & Show

Hosted by
Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society
Nashville, TN
December 13, 2008

Host Hotel
Holiday Inn Select
Opryland/Airport
2200 Elm Hill Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
615-883-9770

Annual Meeting at 9:00 am at the host hotel
Awards Banquet and Officer Installation
6:30 P.M. – Host Hotel

Cracker Barrel Session
Friday Night December 12 @ 7:00 P.M.

Room Rate is $89.00 for King or Double
Call the hotel direct at 615-883-9770
Ask for the Southeast Federation Rate
Rate good for up to 3 nights before or 3 nights after

Free shuttle service to Opry Mills Mall
And Opryland Hotel
Free Airport Shuttle
Free High Speed Internet

6 miles from show site
Visit our website for more show information and location
www.mtgem.org
Southeast Federation Website
www.amfed.org/sfms
2008 SFMS/MTGMS Show and Convention
Advance Registration Form

Hosted by Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society
Nashville, TN – December 13-14, 2008

Please Print – One Form per Family
Name _____________________________________________ Number __________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________________

Email Address __________________________ Club Affiliation _________________________

Fill in First Name below on all that apply

SFMS Officer _______ SFMS Delegate ________ SFMS Comm. ________ Judge _______

Admissions – Show Location – Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Creative Arts Building, Nashville, TN

2 Day show Pass

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Awards Banquet Tickets – Location – Holiday Inn Select, 2200 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN
Reservation Deadline – November 17, 2008. No Refund for cancellation after this date.

Meal will be a select buffet. Choices are grilled chicken, roast beef, mixed green salad, pasta salad, green bean casserole, whole kernel corn, baked potato, wild rice, Tennessee cheesecake, triple chocolate layer cake, tea, coffee, water. Please let me know if you have any special dietary needs. I’ll see if we can accommodate.

Banquet tickets

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Grand Total __________________________

Make checks payable to: Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society (or MTGMS)
Mail Registration form and check to:

Steve Henegar
3415 Northboro Court
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Phone: (615) 714-3194 after 5:00 P.M. please
Email: stevehenegar@bellsouth.net

Make hotel reservations direct with the hotel:
Holiday Inn Select, Opryland/Airport, 2200 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN (615) 883-9770
Ask for the Southeast Federation Rate of $89.00/night.
SFMS Convention
Nashville, Tennessee
December 13 -14, 2008

Competitive Exhibit Entry Form

Instructions: Complete all information and mail to: Dianne Johnson, 10215 Macon Road, Jacksonville, FL 32219, (904) 768-8442. To be received no later than November 15, no exceptions.

Name ___________________________ Phone _______________ E-mail _______________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

Street ___________________ City ______________ State _______ ZIP __________

Exhibitor Group: Master ___ Advance ___ Novice ___ Jr ___ Soc. ___ Jr Soc.

Division ___________________________ Exhibit Class ______________________

Exhibitor Group cannot be changed after Form has been accepted.
Anything else can be changed up to exhibit is finished before judging.

Case and Space Information:
I will use my own case: Yes ___ No ___ Dimensions: W ____ H ____ D ____
Lighting is limited to 150 watts per 4’ of exhibit space.
Do you need to borrow a case? Yes ___ No ___ Note: Nashville has a limited number of modified NW slant-front cases which will be assigned on the basis of postmark date. You must furnish your own liners and risers.
Setup time is from 3 pm to 8 pm Friday, Dec 12 and from 8 am to 9 am Saturday, Dec 13.
All exhibits must remain in place through 5 pm Sunday, December 14 and removed as soon as possible thereafter.

All Exhibitors must sign this statement except those entering Division E (see AFMS UR page E-2, rule 17.9).

I certify that all materials exhibited in competition are my personal property, and that all workmanship (except minor findings as allowed by AFMS rules) was done by me.

Signed _______________________________ Print Name _______________________________
Society name ___________________________ City & State ___________________________
Club Officer’s Signature & Title ___________________________ Date of form: ______________________
Birth Date if Junior ______________________

MTGMS will furnish security and take reasonable precautions to protect property and person of exhibitor but will take no responsibility for any losses or claims.

See AFMS Uniform Rules, 8th Edition, updated, to correctly fill out this application.
Use a separate sheet for each exhibit. Copy of form will be returned to you when your exhibit is accepted.
WORDS OF CAUTION  
(Continued)

you now have a short, but golden opportunity to let your 
sentiments be known.

While my information has been very limited, I was very 
pleased to find out that quite a few of our members have 
talked to their representatives or have written them a letter 
in opposition to the Paleontological Resources 
Preservation Act.  I also know that a number of our clubs 
have submitted petitions opposing this legislation.  While 
these efforts are really commendable, the down side is that 
these individuals and clubs represent only a very small 
percentage of our membership.  If we want to stop or have 
this legislation significantly modified in our favor, it is going 
to require a lot more participation.  We have to let our 
representatives know what our desires are if we want them 
to act in our favor.

I am serving as president of my club again and for several 
months I have encouraged our members to contact or write 
a letter to our representative regarding HR554. As you 
might expect, my efforts were basically ignored.  Finally, I 
decided to write a petition that our members could sign and 
a sample letter that they could use as a guide to write their 
own. Quite a few of our members signed the petition and 
several of the ones that did not sign took copies of the 
sample letter to use as a guide in writing their own.  I regret 
that I waited so long to do this and that all of our members 
did not participate, but at least we have taken a positive 
step. I would like to challenge other club presidents to take 
similar action to get more of our members and respective 
clubs involved.

I am getting very little feed back about the issues I am 
addressing in my articles. I do occasionally see some of 
them reprinted in the exchange bulletins we receive from 
other clubs. If you have any recommendations or 
suggestions, please let me know. I would very much like to 
know about any conservation and legislative matters in your 
particular areas and also what actions your club might 
be taking in national issues like the Paleontological 
Resources Preservation Act. My email address is: 
osjbw@datasync.com.

SFMS WORKSHOP REPORT

Attention all clubs and club members! Are you looking for a 
project for the coming year? How would you like a free 
week of classes at the William Holland School? Let me 
explain.

Anyone who’s ever stayed at the Sparks Lodge at William 
Holland knows how outdated the rooms are. The paneling 
is nice, but the rooms are dark and the walls are thin. The 
lodge is badly in need of an upgrade. However, the 
economy being what it is, it’s tough to get a loan when the 
mortgage on the new Otto’s Lodge is still outstanding.

Since its beginning more than 20 years ago, the William 
Holland School has been developed and sustained by 
voluntary contributions. The school has announced a 
campaign to address these problems. Each room in Otto’s 
cost around $22,000, so the mortgage is some $500,000. The 
cost of renovating a single room in Sparks is around 
$12,000. A donor is any group or individual who wishes to 
pay for a room at either Otto’s or Sparks. A contributor is 
any individual, family or club that wishes to contribute 
toward either of these. If any individual or club contributes 
$1,000 or more, the individual or club will receive a free 
week at the school. Very special recognition will be given 
to donors/contributors who give $10,000 or more, but any 
amount is greatly appreciated.

Contributions and donations may be made in the name of 
a loved one or other special person. All contributions are 
tax deductible. I know times are tough for all of us right 
now, but what a great way to support the school that has 
helped us develop and refine our lapidary arts for so long. 
Contact the school for additional information. By the way, 
the school is in the process of replacing tools and 
equipment, and you will definitely notice the difference at 
next year’s workshops.

The 2009 workshops at William Holland are scheduled for 
the weeks of June 15 and October 12. The 2009 Wildacres 
dates have not been announced. The complete schedule 
and classes will be announced in the Lodestar in the 
coming months. Please make your plans early.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving,
Julia Larson, SFMS Education Committee Chairman

SFMS PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS  
F OR  
2009

President – Betty James 
1st Vice-President – Mark Easterbrook 
2nd Vice-President – Jason Hamilton 
Secretary – Beryl Ferguson 
Editor – Carolyn Daniels 
Assistant Treasurer – Paula Griffin 
AFMS Second Vice President – Ann Monroe

Mayo Foundation Officers 
Bill Waggener 
Frank Decaminada 
Beryl Ferguson 
Jeanette Banks 
Charlotte Mayo Bryant

Steve Henegar  
SFMS Nominations Committee
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Club/Society Name ________________________________

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Due January 1, 2009 through January 31, 2009

In compliance with SFMS By-laws Article I, Section 2, and Article VIII, Section 1, member clubs/societies desiring to renew membership are required to submit to Membership Secretary the following:

Completed Membership Renewal Application ( all 3 pages) with the Annual Dues Check attached (No cash please), based on total members, both Adults & Juniors, on Club/Society rolls as of December 31, 2008.

Annual Dues: Total Number of Adult Members __________

Total Number of Junior Members __________

*Total Dues Enclosed @ $1.00 per member __________

*Does not include insurance fees, which will be billed separately.

Mail Check, payable to the Southeast Federation or SFMS along with all 3 pages of the Renewal Application and a current list of your members to the following address:

Ray Behr
SFMS MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
PO Box 30
Franklin, NC 28744

According to SFMS By-laws, Article VIII, Section 1 ---
Membership renewals are due between January 1, 2009 through January 31, 2009, and are delinquent as of February 1, 2009. Delinquent clubs/societies forfeit voting rights at the next Annual Meeting, use of Slide Programs, the right to participate in the Federation’s sponsored third-party liability insurance program, the rights of their members to participate in DMC field trips, the rights of their members to attend SFMS sponsored workshops, and receipt of Lodestar, the SFMS federation newsletter. A club/society delinquent membership may be reinstated to full SFMS Membership upon payment of all dues and fees in arrears before March 1, 2009. Any club/society not paying all dues and fees in arrears before March 1, 2009, will be dropped from federation rolls. They may be readmitted as a new club/society by submission of an Application for Membership.

Non-paid clubs are delinquent on February 1, 2009
SFMS APPLICATION FOR 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name of Club/Society

Club Mailing Address

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Club/Society Web Site ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Meeting Place (facility) ___________________________ Day ______ Time ______

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Bulletin Name ___________________________ Published: Monthly __ Bimonthly __
Editor ___________________________ Quarterly __ Other __

Phone number ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Street Address ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Person in your Club/Society who is Federation Liaison in your Club/Society
Name ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Street Address ___________________________ Telephone ______

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Person in your Club/Society to receive renewal form(s) for next year
Name ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Street Address ___________________________ Telephone ______

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Do you wish to participate in the optional third party insurance program?  Yes___ No____
Contact Name ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Street Address ___________________________ Telephone ______

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Please indicate which of the following club officers elect to receive the SFMS
LODESTAR via email:
Pres.____ Sec.____ Program Chair____ Editor____

Please indicate which 3 officers wish to receive the AFMS Newsletter:
Pres.____ Recording Sec____ Corresponding Sec____ Treasurer____ Editor____ AFMS Liaison____

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

Month Officers Elected ____________ Month Officers take office ____________
Officers are elected: Annually ______ Other (be specific) ___________________________

President ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Street Address ___________________________ Telephone ______

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

1st Vice President ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Street Address ___________________________ Telephone ______

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______
# SFMS APPLICATION FOR 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

## CLUB SPONSORED SHOW(S)

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**Show Dates & Times:**

Show location & Address

Day 1  Day 2  Day 3  Day 4

Show location & Address

Day 1  Day 2  Day 3  Day 4

Signature of person submitting this application

Office Held
NEW—2009 AFMS WEBMASTER CONTEST
by Phyllis George

AFMS Webmaster Contest Chair

It’s official—the AFMS Officers and Directors have just voted to create a Webmaster Contest on a three-year trial basis. Ike House (new president of the SCFMS) first started a Webmaster Contest within his region while he was the SCFMS Bulletin Aids Chair. Marty Hart, AFMS Webmaster, took the SCFMS Webmaster Contest judging sheet as a start, and he did an outstanding job of developing the documents that are now available for download on the AFMS Web site. The entry form, judging score sheets, and the score sheet guidelines will all be available on the AFMS Web site http://www.amfed.org/ by the time you read this.

I am assembling a Webmaster Contest Committee that will have one member from each regional federation, and that person should be knowledgeable about Web sites and webmasters. Dan Imel has already agreed to be the Committee member from the Eastern Federation. Marty Hart will be our advisor and mentor. I’m open to suggestions for committee members from the other regions. I hope many people will send in the names and e-mail addresses of webmasters whom they feel would be great on the committee. We will be lining up two contest judges from each region, but these judges will be judging entries outside their own region. So I also want suggestions from all over the U.S. for club webmasters who would do a great job of judging Web sites.

Each Committee member is tasked with announcing the new contest to all the club webmasters in their regional federation and with sending out all the Webmaster Contest forms by e-mail. To participate in the contest, club webmasters need to fill out the entry form and return it to the Webmaster Contest Committee member from their region. The Committee members will send all the entrants’ Web site addresses to their two regional judges. When the completed judging forms come back, the Committee members will determine the regional winner and send that winning entry off to the two AFMS judges for evaluation. Since this contest is “on probation” so to speak for three years, the decision was made to have only one winner from each regional federation and one winner at the AFMS level during that time.

This contest runs concurrently with the Bulletin Editors’ Contest, but each Committee member sets the due dates for the contest entries that are to be sent to him or her. The regional judging results will be announced at the regional Bulletin Editors’ Contest. The AFMS judging results will be announced at the AFMS Bulletin Editor’s Breakfast. The AFMS schedule is as follows:

By February 28, 2009 ................ AFMS Judges List is sent to all regional Webmaster Contest Judges

March 31, 2009 ....................... All regional entries forwarded to the AFMS contest are due to the two AFMS Judges

May 15, 2009 ....................... All AFMS contest entries judged and the results returned to Phyllis George by the two AFMS judges.

July 31–August 2, 2009 ...........NFMS/AFMS joint Show & Convention in Billings, Montana. Results will be announced at the Bulletin Editors’ Breakfast.

(Entry form and score sheet are on pages 12 and 13.)

TRIP TO WILLIAM HOLLAND SCHOOL OF LAPIDARY ARTS
by Fred Plesner for the Mountain Gem

I was fortunate this year, I won the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina scholarship to William Holland and so I had a choice to make, namely deciding what class to take. I decided to take the class in mineral identification.

The class that I wanted was scheduled for the 3rd week of June and since registration is on a Sunday, my wife, Dean and I opted to wait until after church to begin our trip. We stopped by a reception for Doris Smith's birthday, grabbed a bite to eat and then headed for Young Harris, Georgia. The drive over the intervening mountains was magnificent as usual and the weather was as near perfect as one could want.

The room assignments were posted at the front door so Dean and I settled in and went down and registered. We then found a glass of iced tea and made our way to the front porch where we could greet some of our new classmates as they arrived. The rest of the afternoon was spent sharing experiences and making new friendships. Dinner was fairly simple and basic and in a way humorous, since we were told that we had gone through the entire weeks’ supply of fresh tomatoes.

I had met my instructor on Sunday afternoon and was told that my classroom was in the Seabolt Building. Monday morning I was one of six students embarking on a new adventure. My instructor, Mr. W.E. Smith, was a near full time resident of Guatemala. He explained that he spent most of his time exploring for jade, and that he owned and operated a shop that cut and polished the jade that he found. He certainly sounded knowledgeable.

The classroom itself was jammed full of mineral specimens, most of which I could identify. This is where what I expected and what was about to transpire began to go in different directions. I assumed that the class would be a discourse on how to tell agate from jasper and similar materials from each other. It was, but not by the methods I expected.

We were given a stack of papers on how rocks are formed and another stack of papers on their individual properties and told to read and digest them. This was not playtime! I was back in school. We were then given a small box of materials and a set of instructions and told that we were to build a balance to test specific gravity with the materials. We set to work with a handful of materials and fewer tools but by the end of the day we were beginning to grasp what we were about to undertake.

Tuesday was a fun day; at least it started that way. We headed for Buck Creek, where we soon scattered up and

(Continued on Page 14)
AFMS Webmasters Contest 2009 Entry Form

Required Information
Webmaster’s Name: ___________________________  E-mail Address ___________________
Club’s Name: ___________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ____ Zip: ____________
Regional Federation(s): □ CFMS  □ EFMLS  □ MWF  □ NFMS  □ RMFMS  □ SCFMS  □ SFMS
Web site URL: http://

Webmaster’s position: □ Board Member  □ Chair  □ Other (Specify) ___________________________
□ Elected  □ Appointed  □ Just do it  □ Other (Specify) ___________________________

Does you club have an annual show? _____ (Y/N)
Are visitors allowed at your club meetings? _____ (Y/N)
Is your club a Not-For-Profit organization (noncommercial, not necessarily a 501(c)3)? _____ (Y/N)

Policies prohibiting publication of any information on the Web site:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have a private section on the Web site or other Internet site (Yahoo, Google, etc.) for members only? _____ (Y/N)
If so, provide temporary login information for judging if desired:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Any other information that might not be obvious (private sections, etc.):
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Optional Requested Information
Hosting Company URL: http://
Software used for creating Web site: ____________________________________________________________________________________
Other software used:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Your Computer Operating System (Windows, Mac, Linux, etc.): ____________________________________________________________

Estimated annual cost of the Web site: ____________________________________________________________

The webmaster is a member of the club sponsoring the Web site and is not paid for his or her services. The Web site has not been designed or created by an outside professional firm. Failure to comply disqualifies an entry.

All of the foregoing information is accurate. ___________________________ Webmaster’s signature
# AFMS Webmasters Contest 2009 Score Sheet

Club Name: ___________________________  State: _____  URL: http://

1. **Prerequisites on Home Page**
   - A. Club name  Points Deducted: 25 Points
   - B. Club city and state

2. **Prerequisites on Home Page, Contact, About or similar page**
   - A. Contact information of at least an e-mail address plus a telephone number or mailing address

3. **Regional Federation Information** (Maximum points – 4)
   - A. Affiliation mentioned  Max Points Awarded: 1 point
   - B. Regional Federation name listed
   - C. Regional Federation logo
   - D. Regional Federation link (must work)

4. **American Federation Information** (Maximum points – 4)
   - A. Affiliation mentioned
   - B. AFMS name listed
   - C. AFMS logo
   - D. AFMS link (must work)

5. **Vital Information** (Maximum points – 24)
   - A. Club Mission or purpose statement
   - B. Regular meeting(s) date, time, and location
   - C. Statement concerning whether visitors are welcome at meetings
   - D. Youth programs or youth participation
   - E. Webmaster contact information (including functional e-mailing capability)
   - F. Working e-mail to main club contact with reasonable response time
   - G. Show information completeness (No deductions if No Show specified on application)

6. **Membership** (Maximum points – 11)
   - A. Membership application
   - B. Membership benefits
   - C. Information for members (shop information, newsletters, etc)
   - D. Community Service (presentations, demonstrations, scouts, scholarships, donations, etc.)

7. **Functionality** (Maximum points – 20)
   - A. Web site menu links function properly
   - B. Ease of navigating Web site
   - C. Loading speed of Home Page
   - D. Links to relevant Web sites
   - E. Links to club Web site from other relevant Web sites
   - F. Relevant links from an external Web site to club Web site should not be a dead end page

8. **Completeness and quality** (Maximum points – 37)
   - A. Telephone numbers include area codes
   - B. Information on the main pages appears up-to-date
   - C. Use of club logo
   - D. Common information on pages (Club name, URL, etc.)
   - E. Appropriate use of links
   - F. No apparent copyright violations
   - G. Readability (including font size and contrast of the text with its background)
   - H. Good use of graphics (including size - overly large graphics load slowly)
   - I. Limited or no commercial advertising
   - J. Information fulfills needs of Web site visitors
   - K. Overall appearances and attractiveness
   - L. Lack of other obvious problems (specify)
   - M. Outstanding features (specify) (Note: Default awarded points = 0)

Total Prerequisite Deductions: ______  Total Points Awarded (100 Max): ______  Total Score: ______
down the creek looking for specimens, which we would test on Wednesday with those new-fangled balances we had constructed. After lunch we drove upstream for more specimen hunting. After a short period of hunting in our new location we again moved, this time wading downstream to an old abandoned asbestos mine. Here one of the male students slipped, fell and badly cut his right hand. Our trip was immediately cut short and we were on our way to the hospital emergency room. Six stitches later our field trip was over.

I had taken with me an earring and pendant set made from polished geode slices that was a collaborative effort of Gloria Durfey, a fellow club member, and myself. These I placed in the Tuesday night auction. The auction was both spirited and exciting and the jewelry that we provided brought $25.00, which the school uses, for materials and supplies. As best I can remember the auction total was between $1700 and $1800.

Wednesday was spent identifying the specimens we had found using the equipment we had built or that had been provided to us. Most of us were, I am sure, feeling some kind of frustration and a certain amount of pride in advancing to the point of where we relied on tried and true tests and not just sight and guess. This was not the class that I anticipated but it is what I needed.

Thursday we had another field trip, this time we headed up Chunky Gal Mountain where one of the men (not me) found a fist sized chunk of sapphire. This trip ended uneventfully except for the elation of having found a really nice specimen.

Friday we finished up by testing and identifying Thursday’s specimens and then everyone at the school set up their new treasures by showing off their new skills and the items they had made. This was a great way to share with others and to begin making plans for that next trip to William Holland.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

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<td>November 21-23, 2008</td>
<td>Marietta, GA-Cobb County Gem &amp; Mineral Society</td>
<td>23rd Annual Gem &amp; Mineral Show, Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway. Hours: 21st &amp; 22nd, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 23rd: 10:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M. Contact: Mary Ingram at 770.427.1108 or <a href="mailto:mandmingram@comcast.net">mandmingram@comcast.net</a>.</td>
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<td>November 22-23, 2008</td>
<td>West Palm Beach, FL-Gem &amp; Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches</td>
<td>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 <a href="mailto:gemandmineral@bellsouth.net">gemandmineral@bellsouth.net</a>. Website: <a href="http://www.gemandmineral.com">http://www.gemandmineral.com</a>.</td>
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### 2008 REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS & CONVENTIONS

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.
Nashville, Tennessee
December 13, 2008

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.

Remember:
The policy of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. is that neither the name nor the logo of the Federation may be used for commercial purposes. If any commercial ventures using the name or the logo of the Federation are found, Member Societies and their members are requested to advise Federation Officers.
# Lodestar Subscription

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