FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
Mark Easterbrook

I hope you are enjoying your fall as much as I am. This is definitely my favorite time of year. Speaking of fall, if you could not attend the SFMS annual meeting and show in Knoxville over the weekend of October 16 you missed a wonderful time had by all who were there. Even with the last-minute move from our meeting room after the meeting had run a bit longer than normal (well, at least normal for the past year) over to the hotel restaurant so we could conclude our meeting things transitioned smoothly. We had good participation and attendance, but we still missed seeing many of you and getting reports on those things which are of interest to you. There were nine past presidents also in attendance. Many thanks and appreciation goes to Travis Paris and his Knoxville club who hosted the event for us. Knoxville also put on a terrific gem and mineral show for everyone to enjoy.

Many items of business were presented for discussion at the meeting. Among the topics for discussion and consideration we voted and accepted a new slate of officers that we later installed at the evening banquet held at the meeting hotel. Congratulations go to Barbara Green as your SFMS President for 2011. I know Barbara is already hard at work starting to put together a list of her committee chair assignments. She may be contacting some of you for a committee assignment. Please consider serving your Federation. You can contact Barbara if you are interested in chairing a committee and volunteering your time. I know I appreciated all of you who accepted the challenge when I contacted you to chair a committee a year ago. Many of the committees are established in our By-Laws. I encourage you to read the By-Laws on the SFMS website to find out what the responsibilities are if you are not sure and see if there is a way you can become involved. Remember, your Federation is what you make of it.

CARL’S EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

Jadeite, a rather uncommon gem rock, has been mined in Guatemala for over 3,000 years except for a two and a half century break starting with the Spanish conquest of the native Meso-american cultures. The jadeite now available in a large variety of colors (see page 4) ought to be of significant interest to our lapidary community.

A recap of SFMS’ 2010 Annual Meeting is at page 8, and the Safety Committee’s column on page 9 provides insightful suggestions for driving automobiles in the rain.

Finally, AFMS’ Phyllis George announces details about the 2011 Web Site Competition on page 10.
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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Articles for the December 2010 Lodestar are due by November 25, 2010.

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FIELD TRIPS

Nov 6, 2010: Cumberland Furnace, Tennessee. A “DMC” tour sponsored by the Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. The tour was a byproduct of making slag. Some of the slag was quilt colorful in shades of blue and green; some with swirls. The slag is easily cut and polished and makes nice pendants – it is too soft for rings. See the SFMS website under the “What’s New” link.

Field trips are open to all members of clubs associated with the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS clubs/societies who provide their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the general public are NOT invited to these or any DMC program field trips.

UPCOMING SHOWS

November 6-7, 2010: Melbourne, FL - Canaveral Gem & Mineral Society. Parade of Gems, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Ave. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5. Contact Don McLamb 321-723-2592 or fdjc@aol.com

Nov 12-14, 2010: Pascagoula, MS - Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. 20th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours: 12th & 13th 10-6; 14th 10-5. Free admission. Contact John Wright (228) 875-9192 or osjbw@datasync.com


Nov 20-21, 2010: West Palm Beach, FL. 44th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead, and Fossil Show, American Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Over 60 dealers, door prizes, fossil dig. Free parking. Adults $7, children under 12 free. Contact Barbara Ringhiser at bar5678@aol.com

Nov 26-28, 2010: Mobile, AL. Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds, Cody Road and Zeigler Blvd. Hours: Fri 2-7, Sat 9-6, and Sun 10-5. Contact Show Chair Jerry Shirey at (251) 458-2867 or e-mail rockhoundjs@aol.com

Nov 26-28, 2010: Salem, VA - Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society. 31th Annual Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show and Sale, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard. Hours: Fri 2-7, Sat 10-6, and Sun 12-5. Admission $3 (all 3 days), under 16 free. Contact Jeff McFalls at e-mail rocky@rvmgs.com or www.rvmgs.com

December 11-12, 2010: Nashville, TN - Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. 30th Annual Earth Treasures Show, Tennessee State Fairgrounds - Creative Arts Building, Nolensville Rd & Smith Ave, Nashville, TN (less than 1 mile off I-65 exit 81). Hours: Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission $3, students 18 and under $1, children under 12 free with adult. Contact show chair John Stanley at (615) 885-5704 or jstanley@picagroup.com


Jan 15-16, 2011: Deland, FL - The Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society. 40th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Minerals &Fossils Show and Sale, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Bldg, State Route 44 (1 mile east of I-4, Exit 118). Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Admission:$4 children under 12 free. Contact Florence Nordquist (386) 226-4032 or fndesign@aol.com


Please Note
To ensure your show is listed here, send a written notice to the Lodestar Editor: Carl Talbott, 216 Spring View Drive, Murphry, NC 28906 or e-mail dtalbott@bellsouth.net.

SFMS clubs/societies are also encouraged to register their event listings on the SFMS website at: www.amfed.org/sfms.
GUATEMALAN JADEITE (JADE)

By
William E. Smith, Major General USAF (Retired)
Carlos Reyes, Antigua, Guatemala

Sometime during the last century several beautiful stones began receiving a lot of negative press. Some because they were of a certain color, others because of their heavy or light weight, and some because they contained poisons. Two of these “black listed” rocks were opal and jade. Today, in part due to efforts by the Australian government, opal has moved on with most people disregarding these superstitious attitudes. Prejudices against Jade, on the other hand, still linger to a considerable degree. This article addresses the form of Jade found in Guatemala and describes, in part, its long history in the lapidary arts within the Mesoamerican region.

Jade is the generic name of rocks in the metasilicate type of silica minerals. To elaborate, jade refers to two mineralogically distinct rocks. One being “nephrite”, a silicate of calcium and magnesium. The other, “jadeite”, is a silicate of sodium and aluminum. The big difference between these two (easily determined with a ten-power loupe) is that nephrite has tightly bonded, interlocked masses of needle-like crystals, (i.e., very fibrous) whereas, jadeite is clearly crystalline. The former, more common than jadeite, is found in various locations around the world to include Japan, China, Alaska, and California, while jadeite is only found in Myanmar (formerly Burma), California (San Benito County), and Guatemala.

There are other more complicated, identifying tests for jadeite to include refractive index readings, specific gravity measurement, ultra-violet light tests, hardness tests, and X-ray diffraction.

- Jadeite's refractive index is about 1.66 with a reported range of 1.652-1.688. However, should the jadeite be a finished stone with a round surface, a refractometer reading is difficult to obtain.

- Jadeite has a specific gravity in the range of 3.33-3.35. As an alternative to testing in distilled water, Field suggests that “most jadeite...will remain suspended or very slowly sink in methylene iodide (di-iodomethane) that has a density of about 3.32-3.33 at normal room temperature.” Hobbs also recommends using methylene iodide when testing for jadeite but notes that while three common jadeite simulants (grossularite, zoisite, and idocrase) have specific gravity values that can be confused with jadeite's all of them have refractive indices that are a good deal lower than jadeite's.

- Under long-wave ultra-violet light the paler colored green and the yellow, mauve and white jadeite shows a whitish glow of low intensity; however, the darker colored green or black jadeite is unresponsive.

- Hardness tests are rarely used for jadeite. Hobbs remarks that such tests are not very useful for jadeite and "would only help separate materials that have a hardness value that is significantly lower than jade, such as serpentine, calcite, and talc."

- Both Hobbs and Walker note that the most precise test for jadeite identification involves X-ray diffraction by the powder method. However, as both point out, this method is feasible only for sophisticated laboratories.

All three major components of jadeite (sodium, aluminum, and silica) are white. Therefore, any color of jadeite other than white is caused by trace amounts of other minerals. For example; if the trace element is chro-
the jade will be green, cobalt and nickel together produce a bluish-green, manganese and iron yield black, and cobalt, by itself, produces blue. In present-day Guatemala some thirty different colors ranging from white to black can be found. In addition, some of the black contains pyrite, which is really a beautiful stone. Finally, the imperial green color is simply magnificent and worth an untold amount.

Figure 1: Jadeite boulder just cleaned after pulling from the rio Tambor

Figure 2: Map of Central Motagua Valley, including Rio Blanco and Rio El Tambor tributaries (from Seitz et al.)

As early as 1200 BCE, Olmec culture trading-centers near what is now Guatemala City were commercial sources for jadeite. All the ancient Mesoamerican jadeite came from quarries located in "La Sierra de Las Minas" and the "Motagua" River valley in the Eastern Highlands of Guatemala (see map at Figure 2). Jadeite material in natural colors ranging from a bright, intense green to soft lilac, blue, pink, white, black and yellow were available only in Guatemala, and then exported to all Mesoamerica. The black jadeite from the Motagua Valley area is believed by some to represent the creamiest, richest, and best black jadeite in the world. Jadeite production in Mesoamerica came to a virtual halt with the coming of the Spanish in the early sixteenth century.

The Olmec and (later) Maya civilizations used jade in four ways: as tools, for jewelry, as ritual instruments, and for burial adornment. The most widely known tool was the celt which was formed to fit the hand and used for digging, chopping, or as a hand held weapon. Jade being the hardest rock in the area was the primary choice for this tool. Both civilizations held rituals which carry over to the modern day Maya. The ritual focus was sacrifice along with the magical aspects of this stone. Jade representations of deities and shamans were jaguars, effigy axes, carved spoons, dragons, celts, and other figurines. The Maya used every conceivable form of jade adornment, including inlaying jade in their teeth. Funerary adornment started with the Olmec but reached its peak during the classic Maya Period, 300 - 600 CE. The first opulent use of jade as funerary adornment included life size jade burial or death masks with a jade coin inserted into the mask’s mouth to act as payment for the individual’s entry into their heaven. This funeral practice began around 450 CE and concluded by 800 CE.
The Mesoamerican jadeite industry was revived in 1974 with the founding of Jades, S.A., in Antigua, Guatemala, which was established following the rediscovery of jadeite deposits in the Motagua River Valley (see www.jades.centroamerica). During the mid-seventies, very large quantities of jadeite were found in Guatemala and soon thereafter others began commercializing the stone. Several universities were invited to Guatemala to verify that the stone was indeed jadeite. With this verification complete, the jadeite field was discovered to be larger than the state of Rhode Island. The jadeite field is physically located in the Las Minas mountains and the Motagua River valley, all in the province of Zacapa, a high desert area. This jadeite rock structure is believed to lay as deep as ten to fifteen kilometers beneath the surface and requires some 1,000 to 1,200 years for exposure to the surface.

![Figure 3: Lower Río El Tambor near Agua Caliente. After Hurricane Mitch, many prospectors began discovering alluvial cobbles of translucent blue jadeite in this area.](image)

Jadeite is not the hardest stone, but it is probably the toughest to polish. Ancient lapidarist attempted to polish with the use of a very early version of sand paper and a braided hemp type of rope. Needless to say, the polish they achieved falls far short of what can be done today using diamond abrasives of graduated grit-size. Jades, S.A., has devised a system for grading Guatemalan jadeite color and quality.

In its Catalog 2000, the company presents a color chart with forty-two categories, ranging from A to G across the top of the chart and from 1 to 6 down the chart (with 6 being of higher quality than 1). These are divided by color and quality and include various shades of green, white, lavender, black, and so forth. The top green stones appear on the left side of the chart under the A and are largely referred to as types of Maya imperial jadeite.

Among these categories, an A4 stone is described as semi-translucent, an A5 as "medium bright semi-translucent", and an A6 stone as "intense and translucent". Within the B category is "Maya semi-Imperial" green jadeite. Other greens include "intense apple green" (which is translucent) and "pale apple green" as well as "dark green " (which is not translucent). There is also a "bright blue" that is really a bright blue-green (which is given a high grade) as well as translucent "dark Olmec blue-green" and "light Olmec blue-green" (these are graded lower). Lilac categories include "intense translucent lilac" at the top, down to "very pale lilac with white mottling" at the bottom. The top grade of black jadeite is characterized as including "galactic gold" coloring, whereas the lowest grades are merely gray, charcoal, and black.

Coupling the Maya culture mystique with today’s finished product makes the jade tourist trade an important aspect of Guatemala’s current economy. In addition to finished jadeite, organized guided tours from Antigua
into the jade fields are offered where participants are welcome to return with as much jadeite as they can carry.

REFERENCES:

- Ibid p. 18
- Ibid p. 18

Editor’s note: For additional information contact William Smith via e-mail at blackmarketjade@yahoo.com or by phone at Country Code 502, cell number 5197 9620. The co-author of this article, Carlos Reyes, is a jadeite trader and artisan who can be reached via e-mail at kingbrothersjade@yahoo.com. Mr. Reyes will be teaching jadeite etching and sculpture at the William Holland School in the fall of 2011.

South Dakota Gold

by Erica Nathan, Junior Rockhound

There are three major ways to find gold. The first is an open pit mine. Another method is shaft mines, which are usually dug into hills. The final way to find gold is panning in rivers and streams. The South Dakota gold rush in 1875-1877 had its focal point in Lead, SD.

In Lead, you can find the world’s second largest open pit mine. This is the Homestake Mining Company. It was in operation for 126 years before the government in 2002 bought it. Homestake open pit mine was one of the leading producers of gold in the Midwest. During the 126 years, employees discovered that gold dust stuck to their gelled hair. When Homestake realized what was happening, they made employees take a shower before leaving work each day. Homestake also bought out another mine that couldn’t support itself. They dug about 2 feet more in that mine and found over 12 million dollars in gold. Today, you can visit Homestake to pan salted bags of gold or take a tour of the facility.

A few towns away from Homestake, you find Big Thunder Gold Mine in Keystone. Big Thunder is a shaft mine. Over 36 years, two German immigrants dug out the mine after their day jobs. In the end, they found 15 troy ounces of gold. The two men had to split this amount with the processing company and each other. Each walked away with only 5 troy ounces of gold for their 36 years of hard work.

Gold panning can be done in streams or rivers. In Hill City, you can pan at Wade’s Gold Mill. Wade’s has been in operation since 1879. First, you do a salted bag over a bucket so you can learn how to pan. Then you get to pan in a very cold stream. I found a flake of gold from the stream. Wade’s had a garage collection of gold rush antiques also.

Whether you have a huge open pit mine, a shaft mine in a hillside, or a stream to pan in, shout, “Eureka!”

Comment from Bonita L. Harris, SFMS Youth Resources Chair: Erica wrote about the family experience this past summer in South Dakota and looking for gold. She is 12 years old and is affiliated with the Coquina Kids of the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society, Florida.
SFMS’ ANNUAL MEETING RECAP
By Carl Talbott, Lodestar Editor

The 2010 annual meeting of the SFMS was held in Knoxville, TN in conjunction with the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society’s 20th annual show on October 15-17, 2010. Main events during the business meeting were election of officers for 2011, acceptance of two new-member societies, and a discussion on establishing a 501(c)3 group exemption program for interested club/societies. During the Annual Banquet 2011 officers were sworn-in, and attendees were treated to a fascinating talk on the quartz family of minerals by Dr. Julian Gray, Curator at the Tellus Science Museum. At the Newsletter-Website-Articles Awards Breakfast, a number of awards were presented to include SFMS’ 1st Place award for small newsletters given to Linda Behr, Editor of Mountain Gems.

Six SFMS officers were elected to serve starting in 2011. Barbara Green, of the Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society will serve as President; Jason Hamilton from the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society is 1st Vice President; and Danny Griffin of the Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society is 2nd Vice President. For two-year terms of office, Beryl Ferguson from the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society was re-elected Secretary, Gene Roberts of the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society is Assistant Treasurer, and Carl Talbott from the Tri-State Gem & Mineral Club will continue as Editor. Photo #1 is a line-up of these new officers. Don Monroe of the Tri-State Gem & Mineral Club was elected to serve as AFMS President-Elect, and all of the current five Mayo Educational Foundation directors (see page 11) were re-elected for a one-year term.

Two new member societies were accepted into SFMS. The Gem and Mineral Society of the Virginia Peninsula, an Eastern Federation society, applied for joint membership in both EFSM and SFMS. Also, The Villages Gem & Mineral Club, a new organization, has joined SFMS.

An ad hoc committee appointed to study the issues concerning a 501(c)3 group exemption program reported to the membership on its preliminary findings and will proceed to investigate which and how many clubs within the SFMS umbrella would be interested in participating in a group policy. Since SFMS is already a tax-exempt 501(c)3 “charitable” organization, it may apply to the IRS for a group exemption program whereby identified affiliates can participate and donations made to those affiliates are tax-deductible by the person making the donation. Not all SFMS member societies/clubs need participate; all participating affiliates must qualify as 501(c) tax-exempt; and these affiliates must be under the general supervision and control of SFMS.

The AFMS boundary committee has been asked to intervene on a boundary issue involving South Eastern and Eastern Federations over a dispute concerning the proper procedures covering member societies/clubs and the lack of adherence thereof on the part of a Florida club.

Dr. Julian Gray, from the Tellus Science Museum, spoke at the Annual Banquet on Quartz minerals and provided an informative overview of mineral subgroups within the quartz family along with sidebar comments on commercial applications and unusual phenomena such as “enhydros” (see Lodestar, Vol XXXIV, Issue 4 (April 2010), p. 4-5).
BE SAFE – BE WELL
Don Monroe & Linda Behr - Safety Committee

Please note that I found this message on line and it is really good information. I have tried several ways to find the author in order to give credit and have had no success. If anyone locates the author, please let me know his or her identity so that I can properly congratulate this person.
DM

GOOD VISION IN A DOWNPOUR
How to achieve good vision while driving during a heavy downpour.

We are not sure why it is so effective; just try this method when it rains heavily. This method was told by a police friend who had experienced and confirmed it. It is useful...even driving at night.

Most of the motorists would turn on HIGH or FASTEST SPEED of the wipers during heavy downpour, yet the visibility in front of the windshield is still bad......

In the event you face such a situation, just try your SUN GLASSES (any model will do), and miracle! All of a sudden, your visibility in front of your windshield is perfectly clear, as if there is no rain.

Make sure you always have a pair of sun glasses in your car, as you are not only helping yourself to drive safely with good vision, but also might save your friend's life by giving him this idea. Try it yourself and share it with your friends! Amazing, you still see the drops on the windshield, but not the sheet of rain falling.

You can see where the rain bounces off the road. It works to eliminate the "blindness" from passing semi's spraying you too.

Or the "kickup" if you are following a semi or car in the rain. They ought to teach that little tip in driver's training. It really does work.

This warning is a good one! I wonder how many people know about this?

A young lady had an accident several weeks ago and totaled her car. It was raining, though not excessively, when her car suddenly began to hydro-plane and literally flew through the air. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence!

When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened he told her something that every driver should know - NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON. She thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain.

But the highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is on when your car begins to hydro-plane and your tires lose contact with the pavement, Your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an airplane. She told the patrolman that was exactly what had occurred. The patrolman said this warning should be listed, on the driver's seat sun-visor along with the airbag warning - NEVER USE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE PAVEMENT IS WET OR Icy.

We tell our teenagers to set the cruise control and drive a safe speed - but we don't tell them to use the cruise control only when the pavement is dry. The only person the accident victim found, who knew this (besides the patrolman), was a man who had a similar accident, totaled his car and sustained severe injuries.

NOTE: Some vehicles (like the Toyota Sienna Limited XLE) will not allow you to set the cruise control when the windshield wipers are on. If you send this to 15 people and only one of them doesn't know about this, then it was all worth it.. You might have saved a life.
2011 AFMS Web Site Contest—Webmasters, Be Sure To Enter!
By Phyllis George
AFMS Web Site Contest Chair

You will be receiving this newsletter around December 1, 2010, and all club webmasters still have plenty of time to enter their club’s web site into the contest! The due date for SFMS entries is January 15, 2011. Please encourage your club’s webmaster to enter the contest if he or she hasn’t already done so. Your club’s web site will be better for having gone through the process of being judged.

So how does a club web site enter the contest? The webmaster needs to download a copy of the following three documents: 2011 Entry Form, the 2011 Score Sheet, and the 2011 Score Sheet Guidelines. These forms are all PDF files, and they can be filled out on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Fill out the one-page Entry Form completely, and fill out the top part of the Score Sheet on both pages. When finished, e-mail both forms to your SFMS Contest Committee Chair, Jim Flora at jimflora@windstream.net no later than January 15, 2011.

The Score Sheet Guidelines document goes through every item on the score sheet and explains what it is and why it’s important to your web site. Every club webmaster (and every contest judge!) should read the Guidelines document closely. These guidelines can help all webmasters tune up their Web site.

These contest files are available on the AFMS Web site http://www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm. Make sure you’re downloading the 2011 version of these files. Also make sure that you have installed a free copy of Adobe Reader 9 so you can change some of your filled-in answers later if necessary. Adobe Reader 9 is available at http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/.

SFMS judges will give each entrant valuable insight into how to improve his or her club web site, and they will also tell them what they’re doing right. This year all entrants will receive a certificate, and the first place regional federation winners also will receive a plaque awarded by their respective federation.

The first place SFMS entry will be forwarded to the AFMS level and judged as a finalist. Wes Lingerfelt, our AFMS-level judge for 2011, will give the regional first place winners the benefit of his wisdom, his extensive web experience, and his knowledge of what works on a web site and what doesn’t. He will analyze each of the sites forwarded to him, and he will give useful feedback on what is being done well and how each site can be improved.

All the contestants participating at the AFMS level will receive a certificate signifying their rank, and the first place winner will also receive an AFMS first place plaque. The top three will also receive animated *.gifs for placement on their sites as a symbol of their sites’ excellence.

The results of the various regional Web Site Contests will be announced at the annual meetings of the regional federations during their Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters at the AFMS/EFMLS/GMSS joint Show & Convention (July 7–10, 2011) in Syracuse, NY.

Hope to see you all there!
The policy of the Southeast Federation of Mineralological 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.