



The Lodestar



January 2026

President's Letter

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Greetings fellow SFMS members, I'm excited to serve you, and I'm looking forward to facilitating a positive, productive and educational experience this year. My goal is to strengthen our bonds as a Federation by involving and instilling ownership in each of our member clubs. Without you and your club's direct participation, there isn't much need for the SFMS. It starts with you and your participation in your home club/society. There are clubs that are losing the fun and excitement they once experienced while others are prospering like never before! I know because over the past few years I've spoken with several clubs, officers and committee chairs who have all directly witnessed the slow and gradual decline in attendance at our SFMS meetings and stronger attendance from thriving clubs. I've also seen less participation in competition displays at club shows. So, the question is, "What makes being a part of clubs (and by extension, the national and regional organizations) fun and exciting"? It's socializing and making friends with a common interest and the desire to share and educate! What you do and talk about with your fellow members and how you share with them or help sustain, grow and build your organization, defines your abilities. A stronger SFMS starts with a stronger member club.

So, what can we do? I'm not talking about changing what the SFMS has to offer, but encouraging each member club to take advantage of what the SFMS has to offer to help strengthen your clubs activities. Make attending SFMS meetings a must for your

club. Why? People from all across our region attend the SFMS meetings and the wealth of knowledge that is available in addition to opportunities that arise from the connections forged by new friendships is a huge plus. Many times a conversation springs to life just from someone asking a simple question; before you know it, you have many people joining around you waiting for the opportunity to share what they know about the topic. It's these opportunities that I personally enjoy the most. Learning and sharing what I know or being intrigued by what someone else has to share. This is true for almost any topic encountered, from lapidary work to rockhounding and often how to build a stronger club/organization.

As New Year resolutions go, most are not kept up with or don't make much of an impact. This year, instead of making a resolution, I offer to make you a pledge I hope you will also make. "I pledge to help my club grow and prosper and to protect the wisdom, happiness and fun we all enjoy." Hopefully part of this pledge will include your participation in SFMS events and reaching out to other clubs to strengthen bonds across all our clubs. If we're not careful, we might lose that which we have worked so hard to grow and protect. A Chinese proverb I like on the topic of ownership and friends is: "Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand." I am looking forward to 2026 for the opportunity to serve, learn, grow and most of all to make new friends.

Respectfully,

Jason Hamilton, SFMS President

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

Past President

Lisa Roberts

It is with a heavy heart that I write about the passing of Phyllis Bridgeman. Phyllis was a member of the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club in Hickory, NC. Phyllis was also a long-time attendee of the SFMS Workshops at Wildacres always taking Jeff Sheer's Special Projects

Class. Condolences to her husband and family from Phyllis's friends and classmates at Wildacres.

Lisa Roberts
SFMS Past President 2026
423-494-7096
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1st VP

Mike Harrison

Greetings to all in the Southeast Federation! 2025 has passed us by and as we head into the new year, I want you to know that I am here as your 1st Vice-President to serve the Federation to the best of my ability! We have a jam packed year ahead of us. We have the Rockhound Roundup coming up the weekend of March 6th through the 8th. Again we will be at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak, FL. If you haven't made your reservations yet, you might want to get on it. We will have our first quarterly meeting on Saturday night of that weekend and you will definitely want to attend in person or virtually! Stay tuned for more details!

Also, we will have our June quarterly meeting at a new location with details coming out soon!

I also plan to represent the Southeast Federation at the American Federation in May in Chicago. These details are being finalized now and will be announced soon!

And that is just the tip of the mountain of activities and opportunities that will happen in 2026! I hope you are as excited as I am for the new year. It is going to be a blast!

Mike Harrison, vp2@southeastfed.org
256-797-2435



Bob Green

Welcome to year 2026 at least in our present concept. Some groups have a different basis and that is fine. Respect those that have a different view of ideas and thoughts, though some views are hard to accept.

By now, you have decided what your New Year Resolutions (NYRs) might entail. I will confess that I have not made any NYRs in the last 50 years or so. My view at that time was that my environment was not conducive to making or sticking with these. Too many family issues that were detrimental to keeping any resolution other than yelling or screaming and I was not good at that. So that resolved itself in 1980, and peace and tranquility (not completely) after that made things more stable.

Today it seems there is less emphasis on NYRs, though that could be because this subject rarely comes up during a good football game. Ha. I do admit that I am substantially more selective in what I watch and I have moved away from some news stations because of personalities involved. This helps my blood pressure.

Anyway, back to NYRs, the one thing I gleaned for one of my many notifications that I receive was to make these less restrictive. Do not use words like never or always. Because you never know what opportunities will challenge you tomorrow, like spilling your favorite meal on the floor or stumping your big toe on the dresser on the way to the bathroom in the middle of the night. This is why I typically wear bedroom slippers even when going to the bathroom. This suggestion came from the doctor

prescribing medicine for a gout attack, many years ago. Stumping a gouty toe on anything other than a very soft sheet is painful.

Striving to avoid snarly old Uncle Bob during the holidays or anytime can be a challenge and practicing a nonconfrontational approach is suggested. And avoiding his favorite confrontational subjects is suggested. Mostly as suggested last month, avoiding politics and religion can help. Though a story from about 50 years ago highlights some of these type issues. A group of elderly folks were discussing the progress that their church had made when one asked why they split from the other church. They unfortunately agreed they could not remember why but they still disliked the other church.

Keeping calm when others are berating you is tough. Several years ago, a negotiator from the company I was working for was meeting a group to establish site working rules. The folks were berating the negotiator personally and the negotiator calmly ignored this distraction and completed the agreement. Later when asked about the meeting, he noted, "It was my job and it had to be done". He did not take any of this personally though others felt that was the way to get their way. We see this every day from some of our political leaders in their effort to have it their way and some day these guys will realize this is not Burger King.

So be patient, caring and look out for each other and remember eating "crow" is not tasty and the feathers can annoy your digestive system. Happy New Year.



SFMS Webmaster

Lori Carter

SFMS Club Contacts List: SFMS Membership Renewals Start Soon

It is almost time for clubs to renew their membership in the SFMS. The membership renewal process relies on the SFMS Club Contacts list, so make sure to update your club contacts to your current officers to ensure timely and accurate membership renewal. Many people volunteer their time to keep the SFMS running smoothly. They need your help to be

able to communicate with your club.

The club contacts list form is on the SFMS website here: <https://www.southeastfed.org/club-contacts-form> The instructions for using the form are on that page, but if you have any questions or need help with the form, please let me know and I will be happy to help.

Lori Carter, SFMS Webmaster,
webmaster@southeastfed.org

DMC Field Trip Chair

Lori Carter

DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

Thank you to the **Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society (Melbourne, FL)** for hosting their first DMC trip in December! It was a new and novel location. The **Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL)** is scheduled to host their first trip in December to a favorite place for many.

Members of clubs in the DMC Field trip sharing program have been enjoying a field trip somewhere in the southeast every month! All their club has to do for all those trips is host a trip about every 2 and a half years – what a bargain! If your club is not a DMC member and would like to join, you can read about the program on the SFMS website here: <https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program>, or send me some email. I am happy to answer your questions.

DMC Trip Schedule for the next 6 months

February - Aiken Gem Mineral and Fossil Society (Aiken, SC)

March - Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society (Macon, GA)

April - Middle Tennessee Rockhounds (Nashville, TN)

May - Kanawha Rock and Gem Club (South Charleston, WV)

June - Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society (Charleston, SC)

July - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Hendersonville, NC)

Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, dmc@southeastfed.org



Rutile Crystals from Graves Mountain

Hi Folks! This month, I am going to discuss Rutile Crystals. Because “rutile” is a broad subject, I am going to limit my discussion here to the crystals found at Graves Mountain, Georgia. I want the reader to come away with an introductory knowledge of this mineral, and a desire to participate in a field trip to Graves Mountain.

A visit to Graves Mountain is a field trip occasionally open to members of the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society (KGMS). I have attended twice – both times as guests of the Georgia Mineral Society (GMS), through the DMC field trip sharing program of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The GMS sponsored and led the field trip and invited other nearby Southeast Federation clubs (like KGMS) to participate.

See (<https://www.wncrocks.com/resources/Collecting%20site%20graves.htm>) and (<https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips>).

What is a rutile crystal? **Rutile** is an [oxide mineral](#) with a chemical formula of (TiO₂) - one atom of Titanium (Ti) and 2 atoms of oxygen (O). It is found in igneous and metamorphic rocks that were subject to high temperatures and pressures during their formative processes – usually deep within the earth’s mantle and crust. As a crystal, rutile is found both as large / massive single and twinned crystals (prismatic crystal growth form), and as long, thread like needles (acicular growth form). It is of the tetragonal crystal system, with crystals in the form of rectangular prisms. See: (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rutile>)

The large prismatic crystals are found as individual specimens, and in matrix of other igneous and metamorphic rocks, including (but not limited to) hematite, granite, quartz, kyanite, and pyrophyllite. The acicular crystal form is often found and seen as long, thin crystal fibers

inside and penetrating quartz, and other gemstones such as sapphires and rubies. When the host minerals are transparent or translucent, the light penetrating the stone / gemstone will reveal the rutile fibers inside. In the case of some translucent stones, with the proper arrangement of rutile crystal fibers, penetrating light will reflect as a star or cats eye pattern – an optical phenomenon known as asterism. See (<https://geology.com/gemstones/chatoyancy/>) & ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asterism_\(gemology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asterism_(gemology)))

Rutile crystals normally have a brown to reddish brown color. Depending on the presence or absence of certain trace elements of minerals other than rutile, rutile crystals can also appear as red, brownish yellow, pale yellow, yellow, pale blue, violet, grass-green (rare), grayish black, or black.

Most Graves Mountain rutile crystals you will find on site or see for sale online or at rock shows are of a rich red-brown to almost black color, with a metallic luster. They are of the large single or twinned prismatic type, both as single crystals and as crystals in matrix.

As I mentioned, I have attended field trips to Graves Mountain twice. On the 1st trip, I collected lots of different rock and mineral specimens, mostly kyanite, pyrite, fuchsite, pyrophyllite, lazulite, and quartz. On the 2nd trip, I was more selective in my specimen collecting, and I spent more time taking pictures, with the intent of recording the artistic colors and patterns in the rocks themselves. I also took pictures of diggings and tunnels that were made in the quest to find rutile crystals and iridescent hematite. A LOT of effort goes into digging holes and pits in pursuit of rutile crystals and other minerals!

(Cont. on Next Page)



Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

On my 1st trip, there was a rock sale going on at the entrance to the Graves site, where rutile crystals were offered for sale. They were expensive, so I passed, holding out hopes of finding my own. In retrospect, I guess someone could have a bit of fun buying a rutile crystal and then act like they found it on the field trip! (LAUGHTER – how is “found” defined?). Thoughts of competitive type A personality behavior and competition between friends and siblings enter my mind!

I never have found any rutile crystals personally, but I talked to one rockhound at the Graves site who had just found a small example in a footprint in the main pit. He had been coming to Graves for years and had stories of the early days of collecting in the 1990s where one could fill a bucket with multiple rutile crystals in a day. Those days are gone forever, as there has been a lot of collecting by a lot of rockhounds over the years. The site is now picked over!

I do have a Graves Mountain rutile crystal, but it was originally found by our club’s field trip leader Danny Miller in the early 2000s. He gave it to our late longest running club member and geologist, Travis Paris. This summer, Travis’s wife Kay Paris presented the club with a tray of Travis’s rock and mineral specimens as a gift. I picked the rutile crystal, as I was thinking ahead toward discussing Graves Mountain Rutile Crystals in my Rock of the Month column. My example appears to have 8 sides – 4 larger and 4 smaller. One side shows an exposure of matrix material, which appears to be kyanite (light blue), with pyrophyllite (tan).

A Little History on Graves Mountain:

The geology of the Graves Mountain site is very complex, with many mostly metamorphic rocks and minerals, dating from the Permian Period (290-250 million years ago) - a period of geologic folding, faulting, and heating as the supercontinent called Pangea was formed. This

event metamorphosed existing sedimentary rocks to produce rock consisting of pyrite, sericite, kyanite and quartz – and many other minerals. In the 1920’s the site was mined for rutile, a titanium mineral. Kyanite “ore” was mined commercially, beginning in 1963. Minerals at the Graves site include: **Pyrophyllite**, barite, jarosite, phosphosiderite, variscite, quartz, rutile, ilmenite, kyanite, pyrite, lazulite, hematite, goethite, limonite, sulfur, iridescent hematite, and smaller occurrences of many others. This open pit mine was shut down in 1986 and has since been treated as a hazardous waste site because of acid runoff but is well known as a rock and mineral specimen collecting site. See (<https://www.wncrocks.com/resources/Collecting%20site%20graves.htm>) & (https://focalpointmineralogy.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/santamaria_2002-03_historyofgravesmountain.pdf).

Have fun and keep looking at the ground! That is where the minerals and rocks are

David Liles



Graves Mountain Main Pit

Photo by David Liles



Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)



Graves Mountain Rutile Crystal

Photos by David Liles

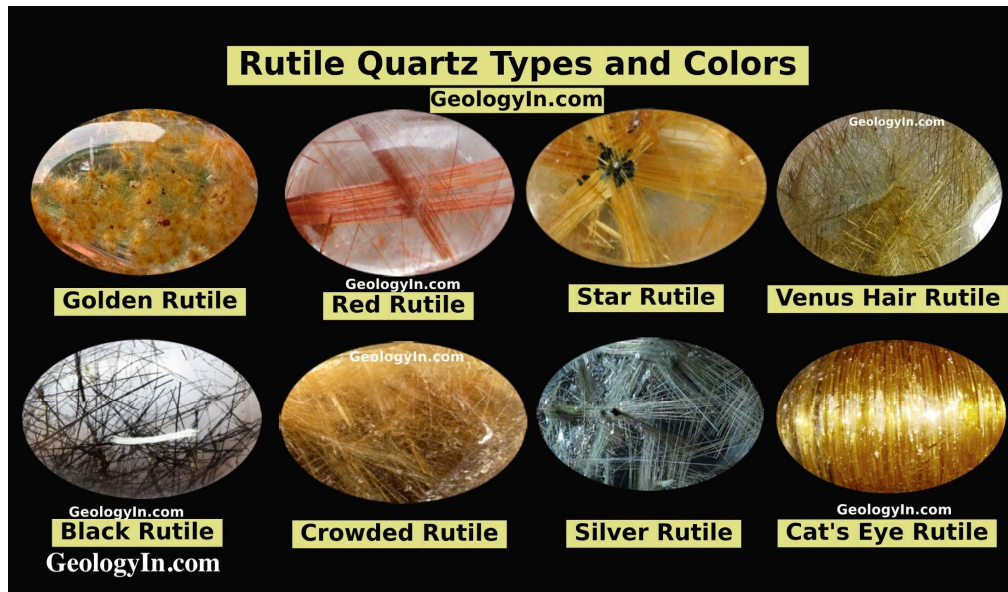


Graves Mountain Rutile Tunnel
Photo by David Liles



Graves Mountain Rutile Clusters

Source: Fossilera.com



The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

Rockhound of the Year

Marty Hart

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Submissions

The AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year is a program to honor the members in our clubs that have so unselfishly sacrificed to benefit their club. Share what these members have done and why you are proud to have them as members in your club by submitting them as your Rockhound of the Year. The process is simple, so don't let these members continue to go unrecognized.

- Each club may submit the name of one individual or one couple in your club per calendar year.
- Additionally, each club may also submit the name of one junior member in your club per calendar year.
- Submissions can be made any time of the year
- Each club determines their set of criteria for selecting the "Rockhound of the Year" and/or "Junior Rockhound of the Year".
- Submissions consist of approximately 75 to 100 words of why the club would like to honor the individual or couple members. In addition, include the name of the club
- Include the name of the person making the submission along with their mailing address for receipt of the certificates.
- If desired, Include the date that your submissions will be awarded to coordinate publishing in the AFMS and SFMS newsletters.
- If desired, include picture(s) for the AFMS & SFMS newsletter.
- It is not a contest. All submissions that meet the requirements will be honored.
- Proper submissions will be forwarded to the SFMS Newsletter Editor, and the AFMS Rockhound of the Year Chair, who will forward the submission to the AFMS Newsletter Editor.
- Certificates from the AFMS and SFMS will be mailed to the address provided.

Be sure and honor your Rockhound of the Year at your club by including them in your newsletter, and presenting the certificates. Clubs can do even more to make the event special.

Send your submissions to Marty Hart at ACROY@gemizo.com

Middle Tennessee Rockhounds – 2025 Junior Rockhound of the Year - Sage Greene

Sage Greene is a high school senior with a strong passion for geology and earth science, and plans to major in geology or mining engineering. She has been named as a National Merit Semi-finalist and also has an interest in public policy. Sage created and manages the Middle Tennessee Rockhounds Instagram page and assists with content creation, using social media to share club news, field experiences, and educational content.

In addition, Sage is completing an independent study in geology through Fort Negley under the guidance of Dr. Molly Miller, further developing hands-on research skills, community outreach, and a deeper understanding of Earth systems. Sage is excited to continue exploring geology and responsible resource development in future studies.

Submitted by: Middle Tennessee Rockhounds



Middle Tennessee Rockhounds – 2025 Rockhound of the Year - Tom Howald

Tom joined our club a couple of years ago when he retired and moved to Nashville. He volunteered immediately, giving programs and presentations, becoming a monthly contributor to the club's newsletter. With Tom's background as an educator at Franklin College and at the Indiana University Judson Mead field station in Montana, he has become one of our "go-to" guys. He is very welcoming to new and younger members, becoming a key person to our club's success.

Submitted by: Middle Tennessee Rockhounds



Youth Coordinator Chair

Nancy Roberts

2026 is right around the corner and I would like to update my contact list. If your club has a youth leader or a new one taking on the job, please send me their contact information so I can add it to my list. So far, I have 6 youth leaders. I'm sure there are more of you out there!

Clubs I have on my list as having a junior leader are:

North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Memphis Archeological and Geological Society, Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society, Georgia Mineral Society, and the Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society.

Also, if your group is working on the FRA Sand and Sediment badge and you would like some sand samples, the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society has quite a few bags from different places, and they are willing to do an exchange or just send you some. Let me know if your youth group is interested.

Nancy Roberts therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, youth1@southeastfed.org
SFMS Junior Resources chair

Mississippi State Director

Peter Mastroianni

Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society: The meetings are very well attended, and we've been seeing new members since our show. Monthly meetings are the third Saturday, at Herbert Wilson Recreational Center, 3225 Hancock Ave, Gulfport, MS 39501. 9 am - 12 pm – Workshop, 12 pm - 1 pm – Lunch, 1 pm - 2 pm - Meeting

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society: Monthly meetings are the second Saturday of the month at the Mary C. O'Keefe in the Cultural Arts Center at 1600 Government Street, Ocean Springs, MS from 9:30-4:00. The club also hosts workshops every Wednesdays 11-4 at the same location from 11-3.

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society: I have been remiss this year and unable to attend a meeting. I'll do my best to drop in this first quarter.

All three Societies are looking for ways to increase membership and bring in a younger crowd. Unfortunately, Mississippi doesn't have a great amount of rock/gem/Mineral locations to capitalize on and I could use some help from the Federation on what we have available to help our GMSs increase their memberships and attendance.



Upcoming Shows

To add your show to the Southeast Federation Calendar go to: <https://www.southeastfed.org/show-calendar/show-submission-form> This will also update your show in the Lodestar. One Stop Scheduling.

3/6-8/2026—Clearwater, FL: [Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society](#); Polish Center of John Paul II, 1521 N Saturn Ave, Clearwater FL 33755; Fri & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission: Donation \$10, Kids under 6 (with parents and ID) free. Admission good for all 3 days. Free parking. Website: <http://sgams.com>

3/6-3/8/2026—LIVE OAK, FL: Annual Federation Rockhound Roundup; Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies ; Suwannee River Music Park, 3076 95th Drive; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-4; Free; SFMS Member vendors from seven states: FL, GA, TN, MS, NC, SC, AL. Rough rock, slabs, jewelry, cabs, minerals, fossils and more; contact Jason Hamilton, Email: president@southeastfed.org; Website: Southeastfed.org

3/14-15/2026—Gastonia, NC: Gaston Gem & Mineral Club; Gastonia Farmer's Market, 410 E. Long Ave, Gastonia, NC 28054; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission. Website: [Website: Website: gastongemclub.weebly.com/](http://Website:gastongemclub.weebly.com/) Facebook: [Friends of Gaston Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show](#)

4/18-19/2026—Memphis, TN: Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society; 7777 Walnut Grove Rd • Memphis, TN 38120; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission: Adults \$6, Children 12 & under free. Free parking. Links: <https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks>

Please remember to ad your show info at <https://www.southeastfed.org/show-calendar/show-submission-form>

Your submission will also be sent to me so I can put it in the Lodestar.



2025 SFMS Officers

President Jason Hamilton (904)294-4744 President@southeastfed.org	First Vice President Mike Harrison (256) 797-2435 vp1@southeastfed.org	Second Vice President Open vp2@southeastfed.org	Secretary Delores Osbourne-Hensley secretary@southeastfed.org
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2025 SFMS Committee Chairs

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- ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR:** Marty Hart, acroy@gemizo.com
- YOUTH RESOURCES:** Nancy Roberts, (731) 727-5574 youth1@southeastfed.org
3 Positions Open



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2025 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees

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Ways & Means: Dennis Buchanan, (770) 402-9669 waysandmeans@southeastfed.org

Website Contest: Lori Carter, (770) 405-9903 webmaster@southeastfed.org

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.



AFMS Code of Ethics

(<http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>)

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "Image" of Rockhounds everywhere



8th Annual
Southeast Federation
Mineralogical Societies

Rockhound Roundup

March 6-8, 2026
9am to 4pm

Suwanee River Music Park Live Oak, Florida

Join the fun at this outdoor event!

- *Rough Rocks and Slabs*
- *Polished Stones*
- *Handmade Jewelry for Sale*
- *Lapidary & Silversmithing Tools & Equipment*

*Vendors must
be a current
member of an
SFMS Club or
Join a SFMS
Club.*



For more information contact Barbi Beatty at treasurer@southeastfed.org



Southeast Federation Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

8th Annual Rockhound Roundup Application

March 6-8, 2026

Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park, Live Oak, FL

3076 95th Dr, Live Oak, FL 32060

We hope this will continue to be a successful Rockhound Roundups sponsored by the SFMS. Each SFMS member who applies for and is accepted, will be allotted a 10' x 20' space in an open field designated for this event. Cost this year is again \$50.00 per space, one space per Vendor, for one to all three days. No tents, tables or chairs are available, you MUST BRING YOUR OWN! This is intended to be an old-fashioned rock swap and sale - bring your pickup, drop the tailgate and have fun.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

SFMS Club Affiliation: _____

Vehicle Make/Model: _____ Plate#: _____

Will you have a tent? Yes _____ No _____

What Days will you be setup to sell ? Friday ____ Saturday ____ Sunday ____

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Your signature indicates acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined in this two-page document.

Send Application and check made out to SFMS to: SFMS Treasurer, Barbi Beatty, 7700 Fountainbleau Road Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

_____ for office use only _____

Date form was received: _____ By: _____ Check # _____ Check \$ _____

Space assignment: Row: _____ Space: _____

SFMS Eighth Annual Rockhound Roundup

Set-up Thursday March 5, 2026 from about noon or Friday- Sunday, March 6-8, 2026 each day from 7 am – 9 am. Check in at the SFMS Welcome tent. All vendor vehicles must be in place by 9 am. Swap and sales start each day at 9 am, ending at 4 pm.

Venue Info:

1. Restrooms are available inside the Suwannee River Music Park at the Music Hall and Café. Porta Potties and wash stations will be setup at each end of the Field.
2. ATM machine is available in the General Store.
3. Housing: Cabins, RV Space and campsites are available in the Park. Call Carol Walker at (386)365-0070 for reservations. If you don't reach her, leave a message, she will call you back. Please indicate that that you are with the Rockhound Roundup as they are tracking our participation. You may also reserve online at www.musicliveshere.com or by calling the main line (386)364-1683.
4. Hotels: In addition to accommodations onsite, there are several hotels nearby. Go to <https://www.musicliveshere.com/directions-maps/> for a list.
5. The General Store and Café has food available onsite and as take out. We have been attempting to arrange one or more food trucks, but that has not been successful at this time. You are suggested to bring your own food and beverages.

SFMS Responsibilities:

1. Provide a marked 10' x 20' space and vehicle access to the space.
2. Provide access to trash receptacles
3. Provide access to toilet facilities.

Applicant/Vendor Responsibilities

1. Set-up within boundaries of provided space. Any changes to the designated space are only allowed at the discretion of the Roundup Committee.
2. Police assigned site for trash during and after event.
3. You are responsible for your own security. You may set-up and tear down each day.
4. Provide all equipment, tents, tables and chairs for your own set-up.

We ask that you please be understanding that as we continue to grow this event, we are in a learning curve as to what works best. We will try to anticipate all reasonable needs. Our goal is to provide a smooth event, but there will likely be hiccups along the way. All of us are volunteers trying to make this an enjoyable event for all. We welcome your suggestions and ideas for improvement. You may email questions to

Treasurer@southeastfed.org.