



The Lodestar



February 2026

President's Letter

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passion with today's young ones. Get them interested in the joy and beauty of rock collection and the lapidary arts. Give freely and often. When they grow up, they will remember the people that nurtured their interest and spent the time sharing with them. They will have fond lasting memories of you. Adults that had good mentors usually want to become good mentors and have people remember them. Share the love...

Respectfully,

Jason Hamilton, SFMS President

president@southeastfed.org



Safety Chair

Safety Article

Bob Green

Well, winter has arrived. We had an ice storm in the upstate and fortunately we had a tiny storm relative to the rest of the storm victims. We had about an inch of sleet with about a tenth of an inch of ice on top of that. This weekend we are supposed to get snow.

I trust all made a resolution to expand your view of the Lapidary activities and have plans to support our local Lapidary schools, Wildacres and William Holland. We are well into our downsizing and looking hard at retirement. About time I was told by several folks. I took that with a bit of wonder; glad I am gone or appreciative of my age. Anyway, things move along, and you must choose to learn and advance or be a hermit, ha. My wife informed me, I am not to become a hermit.

Part of downsizing has been moving items along to someone else as a direct gift or a family, here it is, come and get it. We did that with framed pictures and got one wall cleaned. We have donated books to Goodwill. I offered a lot of the cookbooks and "coffee table" books to the kids. They took about a dozen of the 200 or so that were available, proving that what our tastes are does not coincide with their tastes. It seems the universal gift is always money, if you have some.

Have a good February, this is short, because I forgot about the safety article with the ice storm, work and downsizing. Just too much going on.

Be safe, watch out for yourself during the cold weather, which is reaching much farther south than I remember and watch out and help your neighbors, particularly the elderly.

Education Chair

Lisa Roberts

The Education Committee voted not to have a workshop at William Holland this year, but Wildacres Retreat Workshop sessions will be held August 10th - 16th and September 7th - 13th. With the price of Silver and Gold being so high, classes using silver will have higher than usual cost.

Let's give a big thanks to Marty Sharpe for taking on the job of WA Director.

Some classes in the making.....

August 10th - 16th

Special Projects
Soft Soldering - New Class
Natural Dyeing- New Class
Beaded Ropes - New Class
Copper, Bronze, Silver Clay

Vessels Using polymer, fiber, beads
New Titanium anodized jewelry - New Class

September 7th - 13th

Silver Filigree
Leather
Weaving and Felting - New Class
Sand Casting with Aluminum and Bronze - New Class

* Waiting on confirmation on some other classes

The final list of classes for the Wildacres Retreat Workshops should be up on the Website in the next several weeks.

Lisa Roberts, Education Chair
423-494-7096
antleycreations@yahoo.com



SFMS Webmaster

Lori Carter

SFMS Club Contacts List: SFMS Membership Renewals In Progress

It is time for SFMS 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

The January DMC field trip was delayed due to forecasts of ice and snow. As of this writing, the trip has not been held, but I am sure if the weather does not interfere again, the **Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL)** will host another successful trip. The February trip will be hosted by the **Aiken Gem Mineral and Fossil Society (Aiken, SC)**.

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

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)

August - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin NC

Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, dmc@southeastfed.org



Points of Interest and Geology of Yellowstone

This month I am briefly discussing some of the geology of Yellowstone National Park (YNP). Most visitors take the “Grand Tour”, which includes famous Yellowstone points of interest. I start with a brief description of the volcano system under Yellowstone and then I highlight each point of interest on the “Grand Tour”, and touch on the more common geological features and rock types there. I have also prepared an accompanying presentation (PowerPoint) for the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society (KGMS) for January 2026. This ROM is essentially a subset of the presentation.

YNP is located primarily in the northeast corner of Wyoming, with a little of the states of Montana and Idaho included. Yellowstone includes in its boundaries the top of an active super volcano, one that is hot enough to host hydrothermal features, such as geysers (Old Faithful), mud pots, and mineral springs (Mammoth Hot Springs). When I say “active”, I am not revering to the usual; cone shaped mountain volcano spewing ash, gas, and lava. Instead, I am referring to a large volcanic valley or caldera, with a thin layer of solid rhyolite and alluvium, an underlying layer or dome of hot, semi-melted rhyolite rock, capping a deeper underground magma chamber. The Yellowstone volcano erupted and exploded in a huge way some 640,000 years ago, covering much of the United States in a thick layer of ash, extending as much as a thousand miles distant. There has been a smaller eruption about 70,000 years ago. Yellowstone is classified as a stable super volcano, with a .001% chance of eruption annually. See (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellowstone_Caldera) and (<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/volcano.htm>).

The Yellowstone volcano is a hotspot, like that which formed and is forming the chain of Hawaii islands. The current Yellowstone hot spot super volcano is a post eruption caldera valley, located mostly in the center of the park. It comprises about a third of the park itself. It is monitored closely and continuously and is thought to be stable. The steaming and venting of water and gas through about 10,000 vents is the way the volcano

releases heat and pressure and remains stable.

Today’s Yellowstone landscape, and the found rocks there, is the result of ongoing tectonic plate activity, a series of volcanic eruptions, glaciation, and erosion. Some of the older sedimentary rocks, such as shale and limestone, date from around 100 mya, when the YNP area was at the bottom of a Cretaceous Period ocean, called the Western Interior Seaway. There are older, less common igneous rocks, but this is a brief article, so I am not discussing these. During research, I found a rock type diagram of the YNP (see attached). This is my guide for discussion of rock types on location around Yellowstone.

Key places to visit - The grand tour, and geology of each

Old Faithful and Upper Geyser Basin

This area, which also includes the Old Faithful and Snowbird inns, is probably what comes to mind when people think of YNP. The most famous geyser of Yellowstone, “Old Faithful,” is at the top of the Upper Geyser Basin. A series of boardwalks encompassing over 7 miles of trails wind through numerous geysers and hot pools, including names such Castle, Grand, Riverside Black Sand, Morning Glory, and Biscuit. These features generally follow along the Firehole River – downstream - starting with Old Faithfull. Geyser and hot spring water flows into the Firehole River. “Old Faithful” geyser, only an eight of a mile from the Old Faithful Inn, has the most predictable eruption cycle. Many of the other geysers erupt regularly, some less frequently, and some can be larger than “Old Faithful”, but much less predictable.

The rocks in this area are mostly Quaternary (2.58 mya to present) Rhyolite and Alluvium. The alluvium is the loose rock on the surface, and the rhyolite makes up the caldera of this part of the Yellowstone Volcano. Rhyolite has essentially the same chemical and mineral makeup as granite. It is an igneous rock with high silica content.

(Cont. on Next Page)



Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

Fissures, faults, and gas pockets in the rock both transport water into the volcano, and into the partially melted rock in the magma dome below, then back up as boiling water and steam. Pressure builds and is released as geyser eruptions. There is sulfur in the water in this area – you can smell it as you walk along the boardwalks and trails. Fluids in the hot springs and geysers tend to be acidic. The acidic water dissolves the Feldspar minerals in the rhyolite, and a porous silica rock called Sinter is precipitated out of the water on surface, lining the hot springs and forming the geyser chimneys.

Grand Prismatic Spring and Midway Geyser Basin

Grand Prismatic is the largest and perhaps most colorful hot spring in the park. It measures some 200-330 feet in diameter and is more than 121 feet deep. The flat plains around this, and several other mineral springs are immense. The rock surface between the hot springs is covered with colorful microbial mats of bacteria that feed off dissolved minerals. These bacteria have evolved to live and thrive in high temperatures. There is an overlook on the Fairy Falls trail that provides an elevated view that helps reveal the full extent of the blue and orange colors. The water from the springs flows into the nearby Firehole River.

Like the nearby Upper Geyser Basin, the rocks are mostly Quaternary (2.58 mya to present) Rhyolite and Alluvium.

Norris Geyser Basin

Norris is the park's hottest and most geologically active area, meaning that hot springs, thermal basins, and vents appear, go active and inactive, and shift color without warning. This area hosts the Steamboat Geyser, the world's tallest, with eruptions up to 300 feet. Wooden walkways guide traffic over this area of fragile and dangerous ground. There are classic views – of the geothermal features in the foreground, and the distant hills on the horizon. There is often the scent of both pine trees and sulfur in the air.

The rocks here are mostly Quaternary (2.58 mya to

present) Rhyolite and Tuff. Tuff is consolidated volcanic ash, and the rhyolite makes up the caldera in this area, and most of the Yellowstone Volcano. Fissures, faults, and pockets store and transport water and steam from the surface down to the partially melted rock below, then back up as boiling water and steam – just like the other active parts of the park. Fluids in the hot springs and geysers is generally acidic. The acidic water dissolves the Feldspar minerals in the rhyolite and the tuff, and a porous silica rock called sinter is precipitated out of the water on surface, lining the hot springs and forming the geyser chimneys.

Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces

Mammoth Hot Springs is a series of travertine terraces fed by and formed from hot water that deposits calcium carbonate (limestone) as it cools. This area is not centered over the Yellowstone caldera. It is fed by hot water from the caldera area that travels north along fault lines and through fissures and caves in limestone deposits. The limestone in this area dates from the Cretaceous period (100 to 66mya) – a time when this part of Yellowstone was covered by the Western Interior Seaway, an ocean which connected the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. Dead organic material from aquatic life settled to the ocean bottom and eventually solidified to form limestone deposits. See (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Interior_Seaway)

The PH of the Mammoth Hot springs area contrasts with that of the water features of the Upper and Lower Geyser Basins, and the Grand Prismatic areas, in that it is strongly basic (a PH above 7). The travertine precipitate rock grows quickly (inches per year and sometimes more), as compared to the Silicon Sinter in the acidic parts of the park, which typically grows at a much slower rate. The travertine colors range from white to black – colored by the presence or absence of minerals and bacteria.

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Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

Lamar Valley

Lamar Valley is a broad river plain, sometimes called America's Serengeti. It is a vast living and gathering place for wildlife such as Bison, pronghorn, and wolves. This area is outside (not and east of) the Yellowstone Caldera.

The rocks in the Lamar Valley area are mostly Tertiary Absaroka volcanic rocks, aged some (40 to 50 mya). The Absaroka volcanoes predate the current Yellowstone volcano. They were active 53 to 43 million years ago, after the uplift of the Rocky Mountains but before the geologically recent arrival of the Yellowstone hotspot about 2 million years ago. The Absaroka rocks include basalt, rhyolite, and sedimentary rocks from the erosion and re-lithification of these.

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is an erosional cut by the Yellowstone River through Quaternary (2.58 mya to present) Rhyolite. The original rhyolite was first subjected to subsurface hydrothermal alteration by acidic gases and water, which produced clay minerals, iron oxides, sulfur, and other compounds as acidic gases and water circulated through subsurface fractures. Then forces of erosion by the river, by rain, wind, and plant and animal life have further reduced the rhyolite to produce alluvium – finer particles of rock. The yellows and oranges of the valley walls are the result of mineral staining by iron minerals. It is said that the color of this canyon is where the "Yellowstone" name came from.

Hayden Valley

Hayden Valley is similar in appearance to Lamar Valley, as it hosts grasslands and hosts similar animal groups. Unlike Lamar Valley, Hayden Valley is located over the Yellowstone caldera, so there is the occasional mud pot and hot mineral spring. [The underlying rocks are Quaternary \(2.58 mya to present\) Rhyolite, Alluvium, and Tuff.](#)

West Thumb Geyser Basin and Yellowstone Lake

The West Thumb area has a series of hot springs right beside and under Yellowstone Lake. This lake straddles the southeast boundary of the Yellowstone caldera, with about half the lake on the caldera. The underlying rocks are Quaternary (2.58 mya to present) Rhyolite and Alluvium.

How we traveled to and visited YNP

Laura and I visited Yellowstone in August of 2025. We discovered that the easiest way to visit is to fly from Knoxville to the airport at Bozeman, Montana. At the airport, we rented a car. Bozeman is located about 80 miles from the North entrance to Yellowstone, via Roosevelt Arch, just outside of the town of Gardiner. We rented a VRBO in Gardiner, overlooking the Yellowstone River, and finished our visit with day trips into Yellowstone from Gardiner.

With that said, the 1st part of our trip was a Road Scholar Tour, with 6 nights split between staying in Bozeman, Snow Lodge Inn, Gardiner, and Canyon Inn. The Snow Lodge and Canyon Inns are both located within the park. The Road Scholar trip placed an emphasis on geology-oriented features. We found that a tour with in-park lodging provides more sightseeing time and less driving time. It is nice to explore after dinner and at night and early morning. On a tour, meals and itinerary were taken care of - a good idea if you (like us) are visiting an area for the 1st time.

A final observation - from the North Entrance at Gardiner, one can access most of the northern and central areas of interest in the park in a few hours' driving time. Plan on spending at least 1 day for a visit to each major point of interest on the grand tour including the driving time. Plan on starting early! Mornings and evenings are great, as well as the traveling and the destinations!

David Liles



Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)



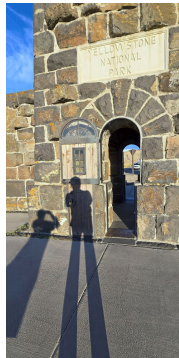
Old Faithful
Photo by David Liles



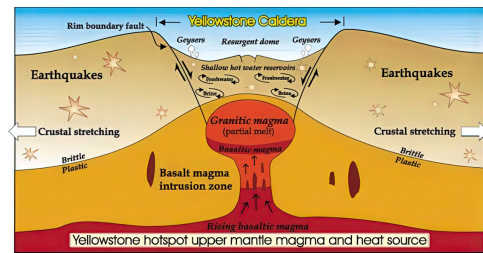
Punchbowl Springs
Photo by David Liles



Yellowstone Black Sands Pool
Photo by David Liles



Yellowstone Gateway
Photo by David Liles

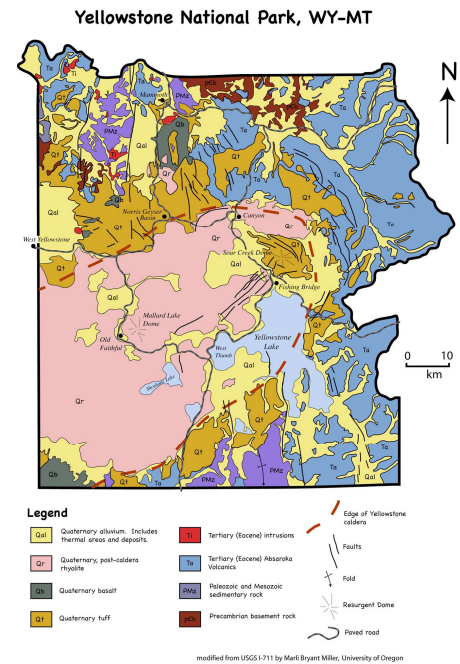


Source: National Park Service
Yellowstone Caldera



Yellowstone Map with
Caldera Outlined in
Yellow

Source: USGS
Yellowstone Rocks



Alabama Crater Week, March 1-7, 2026

Many Alabamians have heard the phrase, “the stars fell on Alabama.” What makes that saying especially powerful is that Wetumpka, Alabama is where it actually happened! Approximately 85 million years ago, during the Late Cretaceous Period, a large asteroid struck the region that is now Wetumpka, Alabama. Traveling at tens of thousands of miles per hour, the object released an immense amount of energy upon impact, far exceeding that of any known volcanic eruption or earthquake. The force of the collision instantly vaporized the asteroid and the surrounding rock, excavated a crater several miles wide, and generated shock waves that fractured bedrock deep below the surface. Within seconds, the landscape was permanently transformed. Over millions of years, erosion softened the crater’s visible features, but the underlying structure remains remarkably intact.

For much of the 20th century, Wetumpka’s unusual geology puzzled researchers. Early explanations suggested volcanic activity or natural erosion, but none fully accounted for the region’s circular structure and disturbed rock layers. In the 1970s, Alabama geologist Tony Neathery was the first to propose that the feature may have been formed by a cosmic impact, a hypothesis that challenged prevailing interpretations at the time.

Continued fieldwork, drilling, and laboratory analysis began to reveal stronger evidence of an impact origin. This work was later expanded and confirmed in the 1990s through detailed geological studies led by Dr. David King, whose research identified definitive impact indicators such as shocked quartz, brecciated rock, and a central uplift. These findings confirmed that Wetumpka was formed by a meteorite impact rather than Earth-based geological processes.

Today, the Wetumpka Impact Crater is internationally recognized and studied by geologists, educators, and planetary scientists. It serves as a valuable natural laboratory for understanding impact processes that have shaped not only Earth, but also the Moon, Mars, and other planetary bodies.

By dedicating a full week to exploration and education, Alabama Crater Week helps Alabamians understand that this is where the story of “the stars fell on Alabama” truly comes to life, through science, discovery, and a deeper appreciation of our state’s natural history.

Alabama Crater Week is designed as a multi-day, multi-audience experience, with programs that appeal to both seasoned science enthusiasts and those simply curious about the world around them.

these events tell the complete story of the crater, from its violent origins to its lasting influence on Alabama’s geology, rivers, wildlife, and communities.

Start your crater experience at the Wetumpka Impact Crater Discovery & Visitors Center, the central hub for learning about this nationally recognized geological landmark.

On March 6 and 7, 2026 you can explore one of Alabama’s most remarkable natural landmarks during the 2026 Guided Crater Tours, part of Alabama Impact Crater Discovery Week (AL Crater Week). Hosted by the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission, this volunteer-powered experience offers rare guided access to the Wetumpka Impact Crater, formed about 85 million years ago by a meteorite impact.

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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



Bulletin Editor's Contest

Mark Easterbrook

2026 BULLETIN EDITOR'S CONTEST

The AFMS Bulletin Contest for 2026 is going to happen. I was not notified of the AFMS deadlines until a couple of days ago. Their submittal date had passed by the time I was notified. The SFMS contest date is according to the AFMS contest and their submittal schedule, so winning SFMS entries can be forwarded to the AFMS for their contest. The deadline for the 2026 contest will have to be **FEBRUARY 13, 2026**. If you have any questions, please let me know. This information will be placed on the SFMS web site. Please visit the SFMS web site link for rules for the bulletin editor's contest (<https://www.southeastfed.org/contests-awards/bulletin-and-special-publications>). There are no changes to the rules from last year's contest. The number of category entries allowed per club continues to be set at three entries per category. Each of the three entries must have been written by different authors. The only categories this rule does not apply to are the individual bulletin categories including 'New Editor', 'Mini Bulletin', 'Small Bulletin', and 'Large Bulletin'. These bulletin categories will remain at one bulletin entry per editor per club.

Revisions made to all AFMS Guidelines and fillable forms (score sheets) for last year's contest still apply for the 2026 contest. These revisions have been adopted by the SFMS, most of which pertain to the juniors' categories. There are also revised score sheets. These revisions and score sheets can all be found at the URL link above. Some of the forms will require being filled in by hand and are indicated as such.

Remember, to qualify for the 2026 contest, your entry must have been published exclusively for your club newsletter or bulletin initially during 2025. If you have any questions, please do contact me. I look forward to receiving your entries. There will be additional updates as I receive them. Please send in your submissions to the following new address by the deadline:

2026 SFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest
c/o Mark Easterbrook
123 Danbury Drive
Greenville, SC 29615

Email: bulletincontest@southeastfed.org
Cell: 843-276-4016



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'm planning to drop in during their Feb 28th mtg. I will talk about some off the rock hounding and gold panning trips I did in 2025. I also will talk about ways to improve membership and keeping current members. **(I could use some help with this topic from the Federation)**

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.

2/28/2026—LAKELAND, FL: Annual show; Bone Valley GM&FS; FL National Guard Armory, 4140 Drane Field Rd., Lakeland, FL 33811; Sat. 9-4:30; \$4 Adults, Children under 18 and teachers Free. Contact Jim Reed, (863) 255-0651; Email: BoneValley.info@gmail.com; Website: www.bonevalley.net/

2/28-3/1/2026—JACKSON, MS: Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society; Mississippi Trade Mart, Mississippi Fairground, Jackson, MS; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; \$8 Adults, \$3 Children, \$2 Scouts in uniform. Link(s): missgems.org

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>

3/6-8/2026—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

3/6-8/2026—HICKORY, NC: Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.; Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave. Dr., SE, Hickory, NC 28602; Fri & Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5; \$6 Adults (good for all 3 days), Children under 12 Free. Law enforcement officers, Fire Department and active or retired military with credentials, Scouts and Leaders in uniform will be admitted free anytime during this 3-day event. Links: cvgmc.com and [https://www.facebook.com/Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Annual Show](https://www.facebook.com/CatawbaValleyGem&MineralClub,Inc.AnnualShow)

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: gastongemclub.weebly.com/](http://gastongemclub.weebly.com/) Facebook: [Friends of Gaston Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfGastonGem,Mineral&JewelryShow)

3/27-29/2026—LEXINGTON, KY: Bluegrass Gem and Mineral Club of Lexington, KY; Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511; [Fri 4-8](#), [Sat. 9-6](#), Sun. 10-5; Admission: \$10 (all 3 days), Kids under 12 and scouts in uniform with adult are free. Free parking in rear, handicap accessible. Website: <https://bqgamc.homestead.com/Lexington-Rock-Gem-and-Jewelry-Show.html>

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>



2026 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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2026 SFMS State Directors

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2026 SFMS Committee Chairs

ANNUAL MEETING: TBD, annual-meeting@southeastfed.org.

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WILDACRES REGISTRAR: TBD WA-Registrar@southeastfed.org

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2 Positions Open

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WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Open ws-scholarships@southeastfed.org

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Marty Hart, acroy@gemizo.com

YOUTH RESOURCES: Nancy Roberts, (731) 727-5574 youth1@southeastfed.org
Peter Mastroianni youth@southeastfed.org
2 Positions Open



2026 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Officers

Mayo Foundation President William (Bill) Waggener (404)354-8752 Mayopresi- dent@southeastfed.org	Vice President Lisa Roberts 423-494-7096 President@southeastfed.org	Treasurer Wayne M. Dodd (770) 689-7777 wmdodd1@comcast.net	SFMS Education Chair Danny Griffin (865)406-8802 education@southeastfed.org
	Director Janet P. Steeper (662)915-2154 janetsteeper@hotmail.com	Secretary Jerri Heer (419)344-9999 secretary@southeastfed.org	

2026 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year: Marty Hart, ACROY@gemizo.com

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Bulletin Editors: Mark Easterbrook, (843) 276-4016 bulletincontest@southeastfed.org

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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





SOUTHEAST FEDERATION

OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.

Executive Meeting

Sponsored by SFMS Rockhound Roundup

March 7, 2026

Live Oak, Florida

Please complete and return this information using a **separate form for each attendee**, submitting through mail or email, ensuring receipt by February 25, 2026 for the S.F.M.S. packet processing.

<p>Name _____</p> <p>SFMS Position _____ Club Position _____</p> <p>Society Affiliation _____</p> <p>➤ Attending Friday Social - 6 PM – Spirit Lodge - In Person Only (circle one) Yes / No</p> <p>➤ Attending Saturday Executive Meeting - 6 PM – Spirit Lodge (circle one) Yes / No</p> <p>In Person? _____ By Google Meets? _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SFMS Meeting Saturday, March 7 · 6:00 – 7:00pm Online Connection Info will follow later</p> <p>Date _____ Signature _____</p>

Thank you for your consideration.

Delores Osbourne-Hensley
S.F.M.S. Secretary
110 Fores Glen Dr
Pike Road, AL 36064
secretary@southeastfed.org
334-538--2192

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.