



# The Lodestar



March 2026

## President's Letter

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As we delve further into 2026 and find ourselves shocked and at odds with the current state of affairs; whether it is the geopolitical situation, revelations of abuse and injustice, or even just suffering the sting of division as we hold views or opinions staunchly opposed to those of our closest friends and family... it is times like these when I tend to turn to a subject we can all agree on:

**LET'S TALK ABOUT ROCKS.** How much we like them, where we can find them. What do we do with them? What are some unique properties that differentiate some kinds from others? What are some of their historical uses? What are some of the modern products and applications that rely on them? What are some of the unique ways to wear them?

*"Ah, classic Jason, just being silly,"* you might say... but I promise that I'm going somewhere with this. It leads right into my next point: club harmony can (and should) be attained through neutrality. For some, their club is a respite from the

pressures and worries of the outside world... a safe place where they can focus on a subject that brings joy instead of rampant anxiety. Others are just plain uncomfortable with confrontation and find that repetitive argumentative or combative discussions and/or situations drive existing members away or stave off new recruits. Or maybe it's just that in the 26 years that I have been a club member, I've come to accept the fact that it's best not to try to change people's minds about 2 things: politics and religion. These sensitive (and sometimes controversial) topics are best left outside of our Federation and member clubs.

So, we've talked about what NOT to do... now let's talk about things we CAN do to strengthen our love of all things igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. What is the number one way to attract new members and retain current ones?

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## Pres. Message Cont.

### FUN!!!

Put together a club “Movie Night” by requesting a DVD or VHS from the SFMS’s extensive media library on topics such as gems, minerals, fossils, geology and jewelry-making. Did you know that these educational resources are available to any member clubs within the Southeastern Federation? A list of all films is available on the website ([www.southeastfed.org/For-Clubs](http://www.southeastfed.org/For-Clubs)).

A great way to attract kids and quickly grow your club is to host a youth day full of arts, crafts, and lapidary classes all with themes about gems, minerals and fossils. Kids have so much fun and love to soak up the skills, wonderment and knowledge of their favorite topic. Clubs could also seek out and partner up with local homeschool or online public school groups. Many of these school groups have “Community Days” or social gatherings filled with activities for the children as they interact with others from their organization. This could be a fantastic way to introduce children (who might not normally have many opportunities for exposure) to the joys of geology.

Bingo night is another great way to strengthen group social ties with a fun communal activity. To echo the geology theme, you could make the winning prizes gem, mineral, fossil, or lapidary supplies.

Want to simultaneously raise funds and help people keep the munchies at bay? Invite members to host a bake sale in conjunction with Bingo night, or any other club-sponsored activity. Want to go bigger (or just not a big fan of multi-tasking)? Make the bake sale a standalone event! Proceeds can go towards a club goal or be donated to a worthy cause... let

your members decide!

Start a COP (Community Outreach Program) Committee to generate awareness of your club in the community. Seek out places that would allow a display from your club, such as a library, City Hall, school, Chamber of Commerce, airport, courthouse, etc. Popular themes include gems, minerals, fossils, cabochons, faceted gems, jewelry-making techniques, etc. Offer members the opportunity to participate in the process or showcase their work/talents in the display.

Consider getting your club a booth at a local arts and crafts show. Have displays of Gems, minerals, fossils as well as flyers and information to hand out. You could give out tumbled rocks free to kids or have a live demo of a jewelry-making or lapidary skill such as faceting or cabbing. Many clubs choose to raise funds (or at least offset the cost of the booth) by selling rock grab bags. Ask members to volunteer running the booth and sharing their knowledge with the public.

So let’s all come together; as a Federation, as a club, and as a group of enthusiasts who share at least one common interest: a passion for rocks. Four little words that can have a monumental impact on the harmony of your club and the unity of our beloved Federation.

Let’s talk about rocks.

Until Next Time,

Jason Hamilton, 2026 SFMS President

[President@southeastfed.org](mailto:President@southeastfed.org)



## Mike Harrison

Hello and welcome to “Almost Spring”! As your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Acting Membership Chair and a new member of the Education Committee, I’m excited to let you know that you can now sign up for classes the second week in June at William Holland. For many years the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies has hosted an SFMS Federation Workshop in the month of June. That week has always been a great time for people with a common interest to come together for a week of relaxation, enjoyment, sharing and learning. I attended last year and had a wonderful time not only in the class I took but also meeting all of the wonderful instructors and students. I made a lot of friends that week and I look forward to seeing not only some of them again but also making new friends from across the country. Many of you plan your vacations around that week. In the last few months some of you have called and emailed me asking about this year. I’m happy that your questions have been answered.

Last year’s Education Committee of the SFMS decided to not host an SFMS Federation Workshop this year but thank you to William Holland School of Lapidary Arts! The school has stepped forward and planned an exciting "Federation Week", the week of June 7, 2026. This will include students from all Federations

in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. A total of 17 instructors, including me, have signed up to teach. Exciting evening activities are also being planned. This will be a good week to meet and make new friends and learn new ideas from all areas of the country.

Classes and Instructors can be viewed at [William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia](#). Registration is there also. William Holland is giving a \$50 Early Bird Discount if you register by APRIL 31 as a way to thank you for participating in the First Annual All Inclusive Federation Week. I will be there. I hope to see many of you! We will have a wonderful time!

I also want to thank the hard work of the Education Committee Chair, Lisa Roberts for pulling together two official SFMS Federation Weeks at Wildacres Retreat Little Switzerland, NC, August 10th-16th and September 7th-13th as well as an Eastern Federation week May 11th-17th. Please see her article describing those classes and how to attend those weeks.

Mike Harrison, SFMS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
vp1@southeastfed.org



## Secretary

### Dolores Osborne-Hensley

Dolores Osborne-Hensley brings a diverse range of talents and a deep-seated passion for the arts to her new role as the Secretary for the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). An Air Force veteran, her time in the military ignited a global perspective and a love for collecting unique natural treasures.

After her military service, Dolores's creative journey led her to open The Wild Bead and Boutique in Montgomery, Alabama. There, she shared her skills in beading, embroidery, jewelry making, and cold connections. Her passion for metalwork was truly sparked by a cold connections class with Kim St. Jean at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia. This experience ignited a deep love for manipulating metals into captivating wearable art.

A self-taught artist, Dolores credits the numerous classes she has taken at William Holland for helping her elevate her craft. Now, after over a decade of affiliation with the school, including four years as an instructor, she continues to inspire others with her knowledge. Her teaching extends to the Pike Road Art Guild, where she has taught classes

such as "Make It Simple" Mixed Metal Jewelry, "Bee to the Flower" Mixed Metals Jewelry, and even cupcake decorating.

Beyond her metalwork, Dolores is also an avid rockhound, lapidary artist, and enamellist.

Dolores's commitment to fostering artistic growth in others is evident through her extensive community involvement. For 12 years, she was an active member of the Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society, where she held leadership positions as Vice President, Newsletter Editor, and Annual Gem and Mineral Show Manager.

Her love for rockhounding has led her to be a member of several clubs, including:

- Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society in Birmingham, Alabama

North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society in Tupelo, Mississippi

Dolores currently resides in Pike Road, Alabama, and continues to be an active and inspiring member of the artistic and rockhounding communities.

Dolores Osborne-Hensley, Secretary

[Secretary@southeastfed.org](mailto:Secretary@southeastfed.org)



## Safety

### Bob Green

Greetings all, welcome to nearly “winter over” unless you are in the Northeast. We in the upstate usually get a bit of the nasty stuff and low temperatures. We were in north Georgia last week and it was 14 on the porch. But only a few snowflakes, there was a bit of snow on Brasstown Bald.

I retired in February after over 40 years with my past employer. Retirement was relatively easy except to get health insurance and Part B of Medicare squared away. The SSA wanted to get a form from my company and the group handling this was somewhat unresponsive. Anyway, fewer work telephone conferences were good.

Safety this month is based on watching the news and my constant chiding to be prepared. It is extremely hard to deal with three feet of snow. In the 1980s we had a couple of one-foot snows. One of these created a lot of ice, trapping a number of trucks on the interstate. About the 4<sup>th</sup> day after the snow, one of the local TV station reporters asked the DOT representative about snowplows and why they were not helping. He stated we only have two and one was broken. The interview then stopped.

In the early 1960s, I worked in Chattanooga, TN and we had about a 6” snow. As we were headed to work listening to the radio, the radio presenter called the weatherman and asked if he could come sweep the 6” of partly cloudy off his driveway. The weatherman hung up on him.

Handling snow can lead to heart attacks if you are not prepared for the exertion. This is true of a lot of unexpected events like hurricane Helene in the Upstate, North Carolina and Tennessee. We had several trees down, we had 3 cars, gassed up and ready to go, except the storm placed five trees across the driveway, so much for the best plans. And way too much for my tiny chain saw. Thankfully, neighbors pitched in and cleared the trees later in the week. A neighbor took us to the airport; we rented a car and left. We came back home on Thursday after the storm and the power line had been repaired and the power restored. We were lucky, our damage was minimal compared to others.

We had a generator which I had ignored and could not get it started, we had 3 year old gas, which would not have started the generator anyway, so my preparedness was shy. The chain saw did start, however, it was insufficient to get the work really done and my wife was adamant, you are not to try this, very good advice.

Listening to someone looking out for you and recognizing your personal limits is always good advice. Clint Eastwood said in one of his movies, “A man has to understand his limitations”. Be safe and watch out for yourself and each other.



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## 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](mailto:webmaster@southeastfed.org)

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## 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](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)



## Education Chair Lisa Roberts

It is very exciting for the Southeast Federation to be part of the American Federation. 7 Federations make up the American Federation: NFMS- Northwest Federation; CFMS- California Federation; RMFMS- Rocky Mountain Federation; MFW- Midwest Federation; SCFMS- Southcentral Federation; EFMS- Eastern Federation; SFMS- Southeast Federation

A little history of the Southeast Federation, the first President was in 1976, and it is now 2026. 50 years of Lapidary Fun including Federation Workshops. At present only 2 Federations (Eastern & Southeast) have "Federation Workshops" held at Wildacres Retreat Little Switzerland, NC. These "Federation Workshops" will be held May 11th - 17th [Eastern Federation, for more info Go to EFMS website] and August 10th-16<sup>th</sup>, September 7th-13<sup>th</sup> (Southeast Federation), For more info go to [www.sfmsworkshops.org](http://www.sfmsworkshops.org) website will be updated in a couple weeks

Eastern Federation May 11th-17th - Workshop Class List: Wire Wrapping, Viking Knit, Cabochons, Inlay, Fused Glass, PMC- Silver, and Faceting. The fun continues during the Eastern Federation Workshop with a Speaker, Robert Weldon; He is one of the world's most prominent gem and jewelry photographers and respected journalists with over 35 years in the trade.

### Southeast Federation Aug 10th-16th

Workshop Class List  
Special Projects  
Soft Soldering  
Natural Dyeing  
Beaded Ropes  
Copper, Bronze, Silver Clay  
Fiber Polymer Vessels w/beads and stones  
Anodized Titanium Jewelry

### Southeast Federation Sept. 7th-13th

Workshop Class List  
Silver Filigree Jewelry  
Leathers Purses/Bags  
Weaving and Felting  
Casting with Aluminum and Bronze  
Scrimshaw  
Tin Jewelry  
Stamped Metal with Leather Inlay

This is the first year the Southeast Federation will not be having a "Federation Workshop" at William Holland. The Education Committee and WH could not agree on the contract terms for a Southeast "Federation Workshop" in 2026. (The Southeast Federation Workshops held at WH over the past 7 Years have operated in the red by almost 5,000 dollars)

\* 2 yr no Workshop; \* loss is a 5-yr total

2019.	(-) 2131.00
2020.	No Workshop
2021.	No Workshop
2022.	(-) 1385.20
2023.	(-) 896.41
2024.	(+) 566.00
2025.	(-) 567.64

2019 - 2025 (-) 4980.26. WH  
1 yr [ 2024] the Federation Workshop at WH operated in the black ( + ) 566.00

The "Federation Week " being advertised at WH has no affiliation or association with the Southeast Federation Workshops. This advertised "Federation Week " implies this week is part of The Official Southeast Federation Workshops that have been held in past years at WH.

There are 3 Official Sanctioned Federation Workshops this year on the East Coast. All 3 Workshops will be held at Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland NC. Come have fun up on the mountain and support the Southeast and Eastern Federation Workshops. All 7 Regional Federations are welcome to attend both the Southeast and Eastern Federation Workshops.

If a club member has family or a friend that would like to attend a Federation Workshop contact Mike Harrison at [Membership@southeastfed.org](mailto:Membership@southeastfed.org) He can direct them to a club near their City/State. This includes all 7 Regional Federations.

If you have any questions regarding Federation Workshops, please feel Free to reach out to me.

Lisa Roberts  
Education Chair  
[antleycreations@yahoo.com](mailto:antleycreations@yahoo.com)  
423-494-7096



**Rocks at the Douglas Dam Site**

For this month's "Rock of the Month", I want to comment on an annual field trip that has been a regular feature of Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society (KGMS) for many years. This is the annual trip to Douglas Lake, where participants look for double-terminated quartz crystals. Each winter, from around November through March, the Tennessee Valley Authority lowers the level of Douglas Lake to make possible emergency storage room for seasonal rains. Douglass Lake, a 30,400-acre lake, provides a large expanse of dry lake bottom where, in places, single and aggregate clumps of double-terminated quartz crystals together may be found in the exposed shoreline clay and sand.

There are other rocks, minerals, and fossils in this area that can be found within easy walking distance of our collecting site, near Douglass Dam. As one approaches the collecting site, there is a bank lined with limestone riprap. The limestone is "Float" – rock transported in from somewhere else. There are occasionally fossils seen in this rock, notably the Ordovician snail, Maclurites. Beyond the riprap lay the mud flats. This is exposed in the winter, and this is where field trip participants look for the double terminated quartz crystals. Also, occasionally found are aggregate clusters of what appear to be the same double terminated quartz crystals, plus miniature geode pieces with quartz druse crystals. Beyond the quartz crystals, you can also find chert (cryptocrystalline quartz) fragments in colors from black to light grey.

If you venture beyond the collecting area, and walk several hundred yards to the right, you will find an exposure of limestone boulders. It is in this area, near and below the boulders where you can find several other interesting rocks. These include the iron oxide minerals Maghemite and Gothite. Also found are rounded cobbles of hard sandstone grading to quartzite - in colors from yellow to

burgundy to light purple.

If you continue walking another 100 yards or so down the lakeshore, you will encounter a hillside of fractured shale. The shale is fractured in straight lines and is very unusual and beautiful, in chatoyant tones of grey and yellow.

There you go! This is what I have discovered over the years after participating in many KGMS field trips to this area, and after further exploring the area on my own.

Below is a little more information on the rocks, minerals, and fossils of this area:

**Douglass Diamonds:**

The crystals, referred to here as "Douglass Diamonds" are quartz (SiO<sub>2</sub>). They are usually double terminated (with some exceptions and variations), and can be clear or white, or stained yellow with iron, or have black or red coloration - from carbonaceous inclusions (black) or hematite inclusions (reddish). They resemble Herkimer Diamonds (clear quartz crystals from the Herkimer New York area).

I discovered that crystals clumped together can also be found, as well as individual crystals that show twinning, and point on point growth patterns. There is a lot of crystal variety, with the smaller specimens tending to be more perfect and symmetrical.

Per Mike Streeter, who has researched the formation and occurrence of these crystals: See (<http://mcrocks.com/ftr08/StreeterJan08.html>)

(Cont. on Next Page)



## Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

“According to Bedrock Geology and Mineral Resources of the Knoxville 1 X 2 degree Quadrangle, Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia (US Geological Survey Bulletin 1979), the rock formation underlying and surrounding Douglas Lake is the Upper to Middle Ordovician Chickamauga Group, an undivided formation of limestone, sandy limestone and calcareous shale; dark gray to red, locally-coarse bioclastic. According to Hardeman, W.D., and others, 1966, Geologic map of Tennessee: Division of Geology, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the areas where we collect our Douglas Diamonds is underlain by the Sevier Shale, an upper formation of the Chickamauga Group. Fracture and cavity filling calcite is common. Just as in the Herkimer area of New York, I believe that there are pockets, albeit much smaller, in the limestone and calcite that contains quartz crystals. The crystals formed from silica-rich hydrothermal solutions that flowed through fractures. As later weathering dissolved the limestone and calcite, the chemically resistant quartz crystals were liberated into the sandy clay residuum. The widely scattered nature of the crystals indicates to me that quartz pockets must be few and far between. The fact that most of the crystals are perfectly sharp with virtually no damage or etching indicates that they have not been transported by streams or other actions but remain very near where they formed.”

### Limestone:

This is a common local grey rock. At the collecting area, it is naturally occurring, as well as “Float” - rock that has been hauled in from elsewhere. Locally, limestone is a common sedimentary rock seen in much of the valley and ridge province (including

Douglass Lake), that dates from 450 to 500 mya (the Cambrian and Ordovician Periods), formed when this area was covered by a warm shallow ocean, mostly from the skeletal remains of ocean creatures. Limestone is defined as a rock with more than 50% of the mineral Calcium Carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>). The other possible component? This would be Magnesium (Mg). If the Mg is more than 50%, and Ca less than 50%, then the rock is Dolostone. Both are common in the area and are similar in appearance.

### Maclurites Fossils:

Maclurites, is an extinct genus of Ordovician gastropods (snails). They first appeared in the fossil record in the late Cambrian period around 500 million years ago and became extinct at the end of the Ordovician about 444 million years ago. The Maclurites shell is distinctively coiled and easily recognized. Fossilized examples of this snail have been seen in the limestone riprap “float” at the Douglass dam site.

### Chert:

Chert is a very fine-grained sedimentary rock, composed of silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), with trace amounts of other minerals that impart color. Chert found at Douglass site can be both banded and solid colored, with colors ranging from black to light tan. Chert is thought to have formed with limestone as layers and nodules, at the bottom of an ancient sea. It was later freed from the limestone as the limestone eroded away. Chert was a common rock used by Indians to make stone tools. The presence of small flakes could indicate that the Douglass site was a tool making site.

(Cont. on Next Page)

## Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

### Maghemite:

Here is something rare and unusual! Maghemite is an iron oxide mineral, with the symbol  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ . According to the book "Minerals of Tennessee", by the late Travis Paris, dated 1994, Maghemite occurs in Tennessee in Anderson, Sullivan, and Jefferson counties, and often is found in the form of small brown magnetic nodules.

The Maghemite here is in the form of round spheres that vary in size from 3/8 inches to 1/64<sup>th</sup> inch wide. Most are about 1/8 inch and resemble BBs. Maghemite is found in the shoreline mud and sand, in erosional masses of spheres, as washed and accumulated by wave action on the shore.

### Goethite and Limonite:

Goethite is another iron oxide mineral with a symbol of  $\text{FeO}(\text{OH})$ . According to the book "Minerals of Tennessee", by the late Travis Paris, dated 1994: "Goethite occurs as massive to platy fragments, as much as 12 inches long weathering from shales along Douglass Lake at the Headwaters Campground, on the South side of Douglass Dam."

Goethite and Limonite (a classification of Iron Oxide material principally composed of Goethite) have a dull yellow to red to dark brown to black surface appearance, with all colors often present in a specimen.

### Quartzite:

Along the Douglass Lake shoreline, one can find excellent examples of colored quartzite and hard sandstone. These are water rounded stones in colors ranging from pale yellow to red to purple to black.

Quartzite is a metamorphic rock - basically sandstone - which has been further hardened, primarily by temperature and pressure. The sandstone grains of sand have been melted and

fused together. This process was primarily driven by the mountain building event called the Alleghenian Orogeny that started about 325 million years when Africa collided with North America and ended about 256 million years ago with the breakup of the supercontinent Pangea. Before that, the sandstone was formed from the breakdown of larger, mostly igneous, rocks containing the mineral quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) into small grains of silica, sized (0.0625 to 2 mm) by physical and chemical erosion processes. Sand was deposited in layers, and over time became cemented together.

### Sevier Shale:

Shale and mudstone are common components of the Douglass lake shoreline. They formed from 450 to 500 mya (the Cambrian and Ordovician Periods), when this area was covered by a warm shallow ocean. Shale is a fine-grained, sedimentary rock of clay minerals, such as kaolin,  $\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$  and silt sized particles of other minerals, especially quartz and calcite. These particles were from the result of chemical and physical erosion of ancient rocks.

Near the collecting site, there is a hillside point of lake bottom shale that is particularly beautiful. I believe this to be an exposure of the Sevier Shale – a shale layer associated with the formation of the "Douglass Diamond" quartz crystals. This shale is grey to blue to yellow, and it exhibits a crosshatch system of fractures called "bricking." This is particularly beautiful, sometimes chatoyant, and the fractur patterns are beautiful.

David Liles



**Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)**



Douglass Lake Quartz Crystals and Cluster



Limestone RipRap Floaters



Maclurites - Snail Fossil



Chert - Cryptocrystalline Quartz



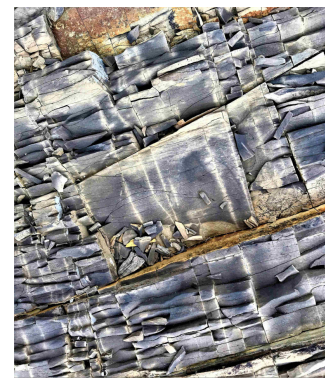
Maghemite



Goethite



Douglass Lake Quartzite



Fractured Shale

All Photos by David Liles



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## Youth Coordinator Chair

### Nancy Roberts

An email flyer was sent out by the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, and it announced a week of classes from June 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> for club members from any of the seven federations. There are two classes listed that are perfect for our junior members. Mineral Identification taught by Mike Harrison is for members age 15 and up and the Junior Jewelers taught by Debbie Gates is for ages 10-17. Both classes would help our junior members earn a couple of the FRA badges if they are working on those. I know of one junior member who took the Junior Jewelers class before and really enjoyed it. Made many new friends too! She took this class while her parents took other classes at William Holland. If you have a junior member who would be interested, please

pass this information along.

Also, the regulations for juniors doing a display to be judged at a rock and gem show have changed so that the display can be set up by some other member, since it is often difficult for the juniors to attend shows away from home. Encourage your younger members to consider putting together a display for their club's show or the upcoming AFMS Convention in May. There is a badge for that too! [AFMS Uniform Rules Section I 2025 update.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Nancy Roberts, SFMS Junior Resources chair  
[therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com),  
[youth1@southeastfed.org](mailto:youth1@southeastfed.org)

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## Jerri Heer, Past Secretary

Greetings to all my SFMS Friends! As I write this, I have left Florida where I put on a Show in Sarasota, now arriving in Mississippi where I will participate in the Mississippi Gem Show in Jackson, MS February 28-Mar 1. Then I'll be heading back to Missouri to visit friends for some geode collecting. I may have moved out the SFMS territory, but I travel! I am happy I can still see and visit with friends here!

I will be teaching at William Holland throughout their year, including the special William Holland sponsored "Federation" week June 7-12. This special invitation to members of all regional federations to take classes together will provide an opportunity for networking and making new friends across the AFMS.

In my 30 plus years as a rockhound, sharing and collecting with members of other clubs has been

something I really enjoy. If I know I'm traveling to a new area, the first thing I do is contact a club local to the area about meeting with someone to learn about collecting opportunities. I bring my local material for trade and often can arrange a short "dig" there.

I've never met a Rockhound that wasn't interested in sharing their experience! I hope to continue that practice as I travel.

Make your opportunities when and where you can! I'll be saying hello during the SFMS Executive Meeting which I will attend by Zoom as the Wekiva President's Alternate.

Jerri Heer  
Member Wekiva Gem and Mineral Society  
President Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club  
Former SFMS Secretary  
419-344-9999



## 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>

**3/6-8/2026—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](mailto:president@southeastfed.org); Website: [Southeastfed.org](http://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](http://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://Website.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://bggamc.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>

**4/18-19/2026—ORLANDO, FL:** Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.; Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806; Sat.9-5, Sun 9-4; Adults \$6, Kids \$3, Scouts in uniform Free. Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or e-mail: [ssfossilhunter@aol.com](mailto:ssfossilhunter@aol.com) Link(s): [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org)

**5/2-3/2026—CHATTANOOGA, TN:** Tennessee Vally Rock and Mineral Society.; Chester Frost Park, in the Pavilion, on the island, Chattanooga , Tn 37343; Sat. & Sun 10-4; Free admission and parking. Links: <https://tennesseevalleyrockandmineralsociety.org/>

**5/16-17/2026—BILOXI, MS:** Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society.; Joppa Shrine Temple 13280 Shriners Blvd. Biloxi, Ms. North of I-10 Exit 41 Woolmarket; Sat. 9-5 & Sun 9-4; Admission: \$6 Adults Kids under 10 Free. \$1 coupon available on Facebook and website. Links: Email - [Gulfportgems.show@gmail.com](mailto:Gulfportgems.show@gmail.com), Website: [gulfportgems.org](http://gulfportgems.org) Facebook.com/[gulfportgems/](https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems/)



## 2026 SFMS Officers

<b>President</b> Jason Hamilton (904)294-4744 President@southeastfed.org	<b>First Vice President</b> Mike Harrison (256) 797-2435 vp1@southeastfed.org	<b>Second Vice President</b> Open vp2@southeastfed.org	<b>Secretary</b> Delores Osbourne-Hensley secretary@southeastfed.org
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# 2026 SFMS Committee Chairs

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2 Positions Open

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2 Positions Open



## 2026 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Officers

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	<b>Director</b> Janet P. Steeper (662)915-2154 janetsteeper@hotmail.com	<b>Secretary</b> Jerri Heer (419)344-9999 secretary@southeastfed.org	

## 2026 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.

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

# 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. You can, mail, scan and email or text a picture of the form to me.

<p><b>Name</b> _____</p> <p><b>SFMS Position</b> _____ <b>Club Position</b> _____</p> <p><b>Society Affiliation</b> _____</p> <p><b>Email Address</b> _____</p> <p>➤ <b>Attending Friday Social - 6 PM – Spirit Lodge - In Person Only (circle one) Yes / No</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Attending Saturday Executive Meeting - 6 PM – Spirit Lodge (circle one) Yes / No</b></p> <p><b>In Person?</b> _____ <b>By Zoom?</b> _____</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting</p> <p><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84709618089?pwd=AVWB34aeS5Vinl8cbDB2OXe0AXJoof.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84709618089?pwd=AVWB34aeS5Vinl8cbDB2OXe0AXJoof.1</a></p> <p>Meeting ID: 847 0961 8089</p> <p>Passcode: 256800</p> <p><b>Date</b> _____ <b>Signature</b> _____</p>
---

Thank you for your consideration.

Delores Osbourne-Hensley  
S.F.M.S. Secretary  
110 Forest Glen Drive  
Pike Road, AL 36064  
[secretary@southeastfed.org](mailto:secretary@southeastfed.org)  
334-538-2192 Text Please



Southeast Federation Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

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](mailto:treasurer@southeastfed.org)