



The Lodestar



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March 2024

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President's Letter



I would like to let you know that the Rockhound Roundup and our first SFMS meeting of the year is being held while you read this. It's in Live Oak Florida March 1 & 2, 2024.

I'd like to encourage each and every club to send representatives to our next meeting at Young Harris GA. This meeting is held after the first SFMS Workshop of the year. Attendance at our meetings is your club's way of providing input to the SFMS. You can attend the workshop and stay over for the meeting. For more information about the SFMS William Holland Workshop go to www.SFMSWorkshops.org. The other workshops held at Wildacres in Little Switzerland NC are listed on the website.

Also, it's that time of year where things are warming up and field trips are starting to be attended by more members. Please remember that member safety is the most important aspect of any field trip. If

no one comes away with that special find it's still a great field trip if no one is injured. Be sure and listen to your Field Trip Director. Your safety is very important to them.

I just got back from my annual trip to Tucson and had a very good time. And as usual I saw a few familiar faces. I am always amazed at how many folks I run across from the SFMS in the huge throngs of shoppers that are there.

I hope to see many of you at the Rockhound Roundup and SFMS meeting. If not, maybe I'll see you in Young Harris GA

Danny Griffin

SFMS President 2024

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

1st Vice President

Vonda Echols

Well Spring is here and Summer is not far behind. With summer comes the SFMS workshop classes. I would like to encourage all SFMS members to sign up for a class offered at William Holland Lapidary School or Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina. SFMS has reserved one week at William Holland June 2 – 8, 2024. You are welcomed to attend the SFMS board meeting held the morning of June 8. All SFMS members are encouraged to attend the meeting and see how your SFMS board works to keep our region of American Federation Mineral Society going strong. Two

weeks have been reserved at Wildacres Retreat August 12-18, 2024, and September 9-15, 2024. Classes, instructors and cost can be found at <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org>. Come enjoy learning new skills or advancing your knowledge of your own skill. The food is great, scenery is excellent, meeting with people with like interest and developing new friendship is wonderful. Hope to see you there. Have a wonderful summer.

Vonda Echols
1st VP of SFMS

We're on the Web!
southeastfed.org

Membership Chair

Rick Marshall



Well, I was hoping we would have the 2024 Club Renewal process all wrapped up by now. This report is being prepared on Monday evening, the 26th of February. It looks like 65 of 67 clubs are renewing. I believe we have lost 2. I hope not, will keep trying to get them.

We have received renewal checks from 64 of the 65 renewing clubs. The only club left assured me the

check was mailed on February 22 so I should have it any day now! In the future maybe we can set up an electronic payment option.

Thank you to all clubs for helping to make this a pretty easy process this year.

Rick Marshall
SFMS Membership Secretary
407-949-1416



Secretary Message

Jerri Heer



By the time you read this, our 6th Annual Rockhound Roundup will be underway or completed. We hope many of you took the time to support it. If you didn't, think about coming next year!

We also hold our Spring Executive Meeting during this event and I will submit the draft minutes in the next edition of the Lodestar.

Be planning ahead as we will hold our Summer Executive Meeting at the end of the SFMS Workshop

week at William Holland. If you've never been, this is a perfect opportunity to support both The SFMS and William Holland while enjoying a great week of learning part of our hobby!

I hope to see and meet you at these events!

Jerri Heer
Secretary

Rockhound Roundup Info & Meeting Registration on Pg 20

SFMS Meeting Saturday, March 2 · 6:00 – 7:00pm

Time zone: America/New York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/scz-high-bdt>

Or dial: (US) +1 916-750-3349 PIN: 959 590 576#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/scz-high-bdt?pin=2136285397362>



Bob Green

Hope all are safe and well. I was a bit under the weather at the end of January. I think my nose became allergic to my upper lip; was the only thing I came up with.

The new year has brought an urgent need to declutter the house. We had been somewhat packrats for many years and with my wife's passing there were many things that I needed to donate to folks that could use a some of the supplies and other goodies that only she and like-minded folks could use. Thankfully one of our friends that has stood beside us through her illness has helped, by taking a lot of stuff to those who are artsy and some of the materials was going to a group that provides craft materials to young folks. None went to the dump, though I did send some ragged clothes that could only be worn to the dump and like places to their final resting places.

Anyway, one thing that I have learned in this situation and have since ran into a couple of other folks that ended up with the same issues. Participate in paying the bills so you know where the various accounts are. It has taken a year to semi-sort through the various accounts. My wife paid most bills electronically and when I tried to find out, many phone calls were required. Recently I received a check for \$1.00 from one of the accounts as they were finally balancing the various monies to close the account. This has taken over a year.

I was also caught in the Prisma Health and United Healthcare squabble over how much who was going to pay for whatever. This has been a bit of a jolt. Prisma requires pre-payment of things like MRI's, which I needed. So, with the war in Ukraine, the "harmonious" folks in Washington,

DC and the negotiated deal my company has with United Healthcare, I am now looking for doctors and providers outside Prisma. What makes it so tedious is all my doctors and healthcare providers have been in Prisma (and predecessors) for the last 27 years that I have been in Upstate South Carolina. Anyway, life goes on, it is getting closer to spring. South Carolina was noted on the Weather Channel as the only state in the US to have not gotten any snow this winter. So, I guess, it will snow 10" next month.

One thing that I have noticed about the last several months, we lost our dog in early 2022 and this past fall, we have more wild critters wandering by. I think I noted that a squirrel had built a nest under the hood of one of the autos. There were wires in the way so the wires had to go, Auto to the repair shop. The deer have started wandering through the yard and something took down the bird feeder a couple of nights ago. This was probably a bear wandering through the neighborhood. We have had 2 previous occasions with bears. One took out the bird feeder and the other wandered by our ill-fated attempt at raising chickens. We did feed the wildlife though.

I have signed up for the local YMCA to try to improve my physical well-being. I have gained 10 pounds over the last year as my Cardiologist pointed out with a suggestion to get more exercise and eat less ice-cream.

So, we will close with a similar admonition to be a bit healthier, it does make your life better and gets you ready to do the spring outside work required to recover your yard and garden.

Be safe and plan your activities using appropriate safety thoughts and gear.



SFMS Webmaster

Lori Carter

Old SFMS Website is Officially Gone

The new AFMS website is now live, so links to the old SFMS website will no longer redirect to the new SFMS website. Please make sure any links you have to the SFMS website point to the new website:

<https://www.southeastfed.org>

2024 SFMS Website Contest

The SFMS website contest is now open for entries!

There are many changes to the rules, guidelines, and scoring, so please be sure to read all of the

website contest information before submitting your site. The SFMS entry form is on the AFMS website under Contests & Awards, then Website Contest here: <https://www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Lori Carter, SFMS Webmaster,
webmaster@southeastfed.org

DMC Field Trip Chair

Lori Carter

The DMC Field trip sharing program continues to bring fun and exciting field trips to DMC member clubs all over the southeast. Thank you to the **Athens Rock and Gem Club** for hosting the February DMC field trip to collect agate! The **Georgia Mineral Society** is scheduled to host the March field trip.

To DMC club leaders: Please remember to update your club's contact information in the SFMS Club Contacts list (<https://www.southeastfed.org/club-contacts-form>) to make sure your club receives DMC trip announcements so your members can attend another year of fun field trips!

DMC Trip Schedule for the next 6 months

April - Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club (Hickory, NC)

May - Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Clarksville, GA)

June - Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society (Huntsville, AL)

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

August - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Henderson, NC)

September - Pendleton District Gem & Mineral Society (Seneca, SC)

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.

Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, dmc@southeastfed.org



Education Chair

Cindy Reed

A big thanks to everyone that has signed up for the SFMS William Holland workshop in June. We have over 50 students at this time and a couple of the classes are full. If you're thinking about taking one, you should get your name in soon. For those that missed out on Silver I+ or Casting, you have another chance at Wildacres.

The Wildacres classes for August 12-18 and September 9-15, 2024 are online and waiting for registration. Keep checking as we're waiting to hear from a few more instructors. I hope you'll join us at one of the three workshops this year.

See the next page for a list of classes or go to <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> and sign up today.

Cindy Reed, SFMS Education Chair,
education@southeastfed.org

SFMS William Holland Director

Rick Marshall

I am really looking forward to the William Holland Workshop the week of June 2. The club I am in, Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society, appears to have made a field trip out of it. We have 16 members signed up for classes and may still have more who will!

As of February 25th we have 60 spots filled and I know of more who are planning to attend.

Three classes already have wait lists: Cabs 1, Casting and Silver 1+.

Six Classes only have one or two spots available: Stone on Stone, Intarsia 1 & 2, Gem Trees 1&2, Leather /Bi Metal Bracelets, Stained Glass and Wire Wrapping 1.

We still have room in Cabs: 1+2, Faceting 1 & 2, Moovin Metal, Acid Etching/Enamel and Silver Metal Clay.

Please go to [SFMS Workshops - William Holland Classes](#) and register for the class you want. Come join us!

Rick Marshall
SFMS William Holland Director
407-949-1416

SFMS Workshop Registration on Page 24



2024 SFMS Workshops

Class	Instructor	Class	Instructor
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William Holland June 2-8, 2024			
Gem Trees I+	Jerri Heer	Silver I+	Jason Hamilton (WLO)
Cabs I	Jack King (WLO)	Stained Glass	Stephanie Danz
Cab I & II	John Wild	Intarsia I & II	Bill Boggs
Casting	Bill Harr (WLO)	Moovin Metal	Cindy Moore
Stone in Stone	Michael Bateman	Wire I	Judi Wild
Faceting I & II	Tom Mitchell	Metal Clay	Susan Brooks
Silver W/Leather Inlay	Wayne Parker	Acid Etch/Enameling	S Savic-Polk & K Ross

Wildacres I August 12-18, 2024		Wildacres II September 9-15, 2024	
Chain Maille	Jim Hird	Acid Etch/Enameling	S Savic-Polk & K Ross
Special Projects	Jeff Sheer	Chain—Loop n' Loop	Chuck Bruce
Stained Glass	Stephanie Danz	AFMS Judges Training	Leslie Wayment
Silver I+	Jason Hamilton	Chain Maile	Marilou
Weave-Tap-Drop	Cindy Moore	Soapstone Carving	Kim Valko
Cabs	Jack King	Moovin Metal	Cindy Moore
Casting	Bill Harr	Silver All-In-One	Jason Hamilton

Wait List Only (WLO)

It's time to start thinking about the SFMS Workshop offerings for 2024. We still have openings in most of the classes, so contact us quick to get your name on the list. The website is <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org>. You can sign up and pay your deposit directly online. If you prefer, you can download the application from the registration page and send it with a check.

WH Registrar: Juergen Poppelreuter, 678-576-7034, wh-registrar@sfmsworkshops.org
 WA Registrar: Leslie Wayment, 772-539-2409, wa-registrar@sfmsworkshops.org



Wildacres Director & Registrar

David & Leslie Wayment

Our weeks for Wildacres this year are August 12-18 and September 9-15. We have 7 instructors lined up for each workshop. The Judges Training Class is being offered at the request of the AFMS. It is open to anyone affiliated with the AFMS. Originally this class was only taught at Eastern Federations Wildacres workshop but is now being offered in other areas and times.

At this time we have 12 students signed up for Week 1. The Stained Glass Class only has 1 opening left. Week 2 has 5 students signed up for classes. This is earlier than in years past.

David & Leslie Wayment

Wildacres Director & Registrar

EFMLS May Workshop

If you can make one of the SFMS sessions, EFMLS will have a workshop session May 13-19, 2024 at Wildacres.

For info: <https://efmls.org/wildacres/>

Or: John Milligan, Registrar,
jmilligan@stny.rr.com

Mark Kucera, Director, mark_j_kucera@yahoo.com

Beading	Cheryl Brown
Chainmaille	Marilou Hillenbrand
Faceting	Bernie Emery
Geology	Rob Robinson
Intarsia	Chuck Bruce
Silversmithing	Richard Meszler
Soapstone Carving	Ken Valko
Viking Knit	Danny Griffin
Wire Wrapping	Jacolyn Campbell

Below are some QR codes generated by Lori Carter. These will give you quick access to the Workshops and finding a club



[Workshop Link](#)



[Find a Club Link](#)

The Friendly Federation



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CORBIN BLUE GRANITE

Hi Folks! I like to use this forum to discuss minerals and rocks I have encountered on KGMS field trips. This month I am going to discuss the Corbin Blue Granite and its role in the formation of sedimentary rocks in the Smoky Mountains.

Interestingly, there is a joint KGMS / Georgia Mineral Society field trip on March 23 of 2024 to the field trip on the Vulcan Quarry in Bartow County GA, where this granite is mined, via open pit mine. They call it "Metagranite of the Corbin Gneiss Complex." This is a good field trip. I participated the last time it was offered in 2022. I came home with numerous large Corbin Blue Granite "yard rocks". I call my specimens "Granite", as they have discreet well defined mineral crystals characteristic of granite - as opposed to the foliations (bands and swirls) typical of metagranite / gneiss formed when the granite develops compositional banding as a result of the metamorphic processes of heat and pressure.

Now to define some other rock terms, and to talk about location, formation, and age.

The Corbin Blue Granite is one of several "granitoid" stones, found as a basement rock in the Blue Ridge Province. The term "Granitoid" refers to a class of igneous intrusive rocks that have varying percentage combinations of the minerals: quartz, feldspar, and the dark minerals such as biotite or amphibole (hornblende). These rocks are amongst the oldest in the Blue Ridge, with Zircon mineral Uranium-Lead radioisotope dates of around 1.2 billion years. The Uranium, which is incorporated into Zircon crystals as they grow in the cooling granite magma, is a radioactive element that decays to form Lead at a predictable rate, and thus, can be used to date rocks such as granite. See: (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zircon) and (georgiarocks.us/corbin/index.htm).

The Blue Ridge granitoid rocks were formed deep

underground. It formed when plumes of silica-rich molten magma intruded the Earth's crust through cracks in the surrounding (country) rock and cooled slowly deep underground. The slow cooling allowed large crystals of Feldspar and Quartz to form, along with lesser amounts of Mica and Amphibole crystals. Granitoids will always have Quartz and Feldspar but will often consist of a mix of 3 or more crystal mineral types. As mentioned earlier, there are usually trace amounts of other minerals, such as Zircon, present. If the crystals are all of similar size the rock texture is called phaneritic. If the granite consists of both large and small crystals the texture is termed porphyritic. If individual crystals are bigger than 1 cm (~1/2 inch) the rock can be called a pegmatite. See: [Geology of the Shenandoah National Park, Virginia \(Origin of the Blue Ridge\) \(npshistory.com\)](https://www.nps.gov/originoftheblueridge/)

The Blue Ridge Province is part of the Appalachian Mountain Range. It is about 550 miles long, and runs from North Georgia to Pennsylvania, where it includes the higher elevation mountain sections. The Blue Ridge encompasses the Great Smoky Mountains, the Great Balsams, the Roan Mountains, the Black Mountains, and the Brushy Mountains. See: (www.nps.gov/articles/blueridgeprovince.htm)

A distinguishing feature of the Corbin Granite is the blue color of the quartz crystals. The blue color is imparted to the otherwise clear or white color of quartz by traces of titanium-bearing minerals that scatter light in the blue spectrum, as visible to the human eye.

Perhaps I should clarify what I mean about the age of rock. I am talking about how long ago a rock in its current form was created. After all, the earth is about 4.6 billion years old, and today's rocks are all made of this original material but are not all 4.6 billion years old. Rocks are continually created from the original earth material, only to be destroyed or changed in form and thus born again as another type of rock. This is called the "Rock Cycle." See: ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock cycle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_cycle))

Cont. on Page 10



Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

During the last 1.2 billion years or so, since the formation of the Blue Ridge ‘Granitoid’ magma bodies (which include the Corbin Blue Granites), the world’s continental plates have come together twice to form supercontinents, and then drifted apart twice in tectonic Wilson cycles (named after the Canadian geologist, Tuzo Wilson). The 1st supercontinent formed around 1.1 billion years ago and is named Rodinia and the 2nd supercontinent, which formed around 300 million years ago, is named Pangea. Together, apart, together, apart again (at present). Parts of East Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina (included in the Blue Ridge Province) were part of the major collision (orogenic) zones when both supercontinents formed. When the plates collided, one plate overthrust the other to form thrust fault mountains, and other parts were deformed (folded) and changed by heat and pressure (the metamorphic rock process). The rocks affected by heat and pressure became new “metamorphic” rock, with age dates reflecting the age of the metamorphism. With time, these mountains were eroded by water, wind, and gravity. Up for Rodinia, down, up again for Pangea, with the present Appalachian Mountains (containing the Blue Ridge) currently well into the wear-down process. The original Corbin Granite and the younger Corbin Metagranite / Gneiss (from the metamorphic process) were in turn exposed and eroded as the overlying rocks, especially the mountains, were worn away. The sediments created by this erosion were transported many miles away to be deposited in streams, lakes, and oceans. Over hundreds of millions of years these sediments created thick sedimentary sequences that became solidified (lithified) as the sedimentary rock we call conglomerate, sandstone, or shale – depending on the size of the grains within. Quartz is the hardest common mineral in granite (Mohs 7), and the least susceptible to wear. The eroded quartz crystals in the granites became the rounded quartz pebbles and sands in today’s sedimentary and metamorphosed (metaconglomerate) conglomerates/puddingstones and sandstones. The blue quartz pebbles found in today’s conglomerates and puddingstones in the Smokies came

from the Corbin Blue Granite or it’s equivalents. See: (simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodinia and simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pangaea) and (www.nps.gov/grsm/learn/nature/geology.htm#10/35.6238/-83.5757)

Roughly speaking, the granitoids are the oldest rock at 1.2 billion years, the metamorphosed granitoid gneiss is younger at 700-500 years, and the sedimentary conglomerates (metaconglomerates) and sandstones are around 500-300 million years old.

So, in summary, when you are hiking in the Smokies and see a round or fractured conglomerate / puddingstone rock on a trail or in a stream that has bluish quartz pebbles in it, remember the rock story I have told here. The blue Quartz crystals in the rock you are seeing today were once sharply defined crystals from a very old 1.2-billion-year-old granite called the Corbin Blue that formed deep underground and was thrust up by mountain building, exposed on surface and then eroded. The quartz crystals became rounded by tumbling action as they were washed downstream and deposited in layers, to be born again, as a new rock type(s) by subsequent sedimentary and metamorphic processes. They are now being exposed to erosion again as the Smokies continue to erode to this very day.

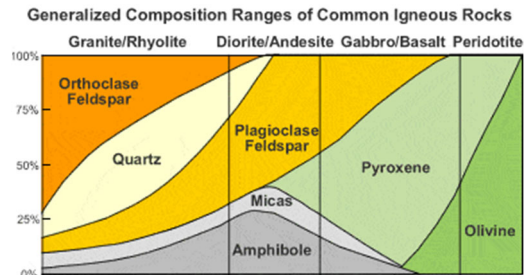
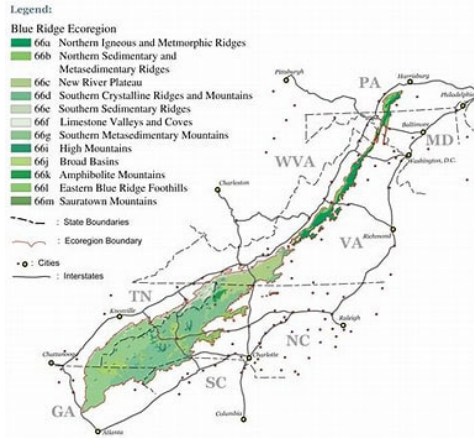
I think that there is something magical and wonderous about looking at the Smokies rock with the blue quartz pebbles. Consider what changes those blue pebbles have been a part of during the last 1.2 billion years! Personally, I find it hard to get my mind around a time length of a billion+ years using anything experienced in recent history as a reference! Have fun & keep looking at the ground, as that is where gravity stores the rocks!

David Liles

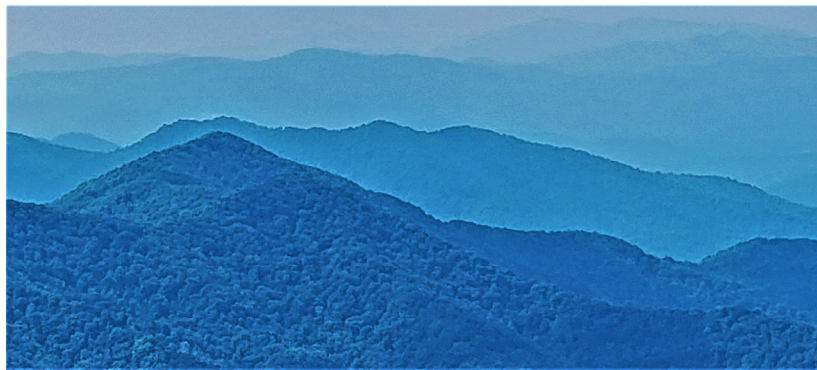


Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

Blue Ridge Map
Source: Bing.com



Igneous Rock Chart
Source: Bing.com



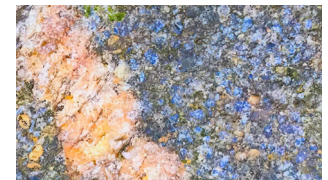
Blue Ridge Mountains
by David Liles



Corbin Metagranite
By David Liles



Smokie Conglomerate with Blue Quartz
By David Liles



Youth Coordinator Chair

Mike Harrison & Nancy Roberts

Hello Youth Leaders!

Welcome to March! If you were not yet aware, the March birthstone is Aquamarine! It is a variety of the mineral called beryl. Beryl is a relative rare silicate mineral with a chemical composition of $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}$. It is found in igneous and metamorphic rocks in many parts of the world. It is found in a range of colors from greenish blue to blue and range from a very light, almost imperceptible color to stones with a rich vibrant color. The color is usually more intense in larger stones, and darker blue stones are very valuable. The name aquamarine is derived from a combination of two Latin words: *aqua*, meaning water, and *marina*, meaning the sea - the color of the sea. Aquamarine is harder than simple quartz coming in at 7.5 to 8.0 on the Mohs

hardness scale. Also, it is mined mainly in Brazil, but it is also found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

By the time you read this, I will be at the SFMS Rockhound Roundup and if you are there, look me up! I look forward to meeting as many as possible during the Roundup.

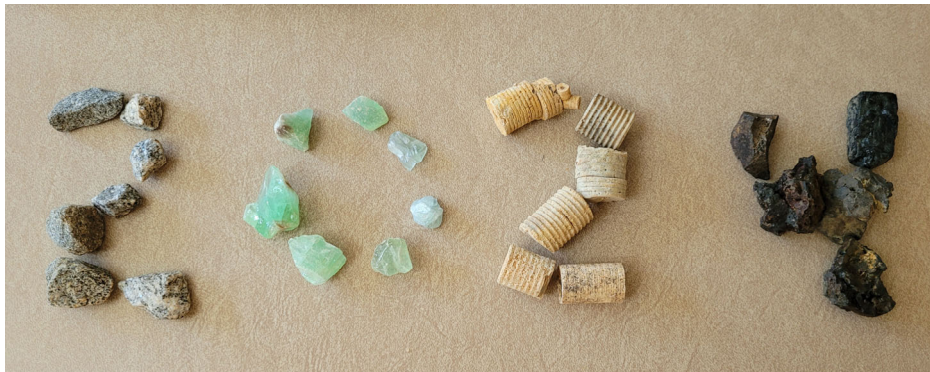
Mike Harrison
Youth Co-coordinator for SFMS
Youth@southeastfed.org
256-797-2435

Also feel free to contact Nancy Roberts
youth1@southeastfed.org

SFMS Juniors Year in Rocks Photo Contest

The SFMS Youth Resources Committee is excited to announce a new annual contest! SFMS club juniors are encouraged to submit a photo of rocks, minerals, gems, lapidary, and fossil items in the form of the year "2025" to be used on the officer's contact lists page of the SFMS website. The deadline for entries is **to be announced**. Please click the following link for rules and details: <https://www.southeastfed.org/contests-awards/juniors-year-in-rocks-contest>

Copy of the rules are on page 23 of the Lodestar.



Last years winning entry

Bulletin Editors Contest

Mark Easterbrook

The next AFMS annual convention and show is now scheduled for **May 24-26, 2024 during the CFMS Regional Meeting in Ventura, CA.** The deadline for submittal to the **2024 SFMS contest is January 6, 2024 (note the revised deadline).** 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. This information will be placed on the SFMS web site. Please visit the SFMS web site link for updated rules for the bulletin editor's contest (<https://www.southeastfed.org/contests-awards/bulletin-and-special-publications>). 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.

Remember, to qualify for the 2024 contest, your entry must have been published exclusively for your club newsletter or bulletin initially during

2023. 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 address by the deadline:

2024 SFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest
c/o Mark Easterbrook
6701 Dorchester Road, Apt. 1007
North Charleston, SC 29418

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

Update: Revisions have been made to all AFMS Guidelines and fillable forms (score sheets), These revisions are being adopted by the SFMS, most of which pertain to the juniors' categories. There are also revised score sheets. These updates 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. Please also note the revised deadline for the SFMS.

Editor

Cindy Reed

Thanks as always to David Liles for sharing his knowledge each month.

If you have something to share with your fellow rockhounds, send it to me by the 25th.

Cindy Reed—SFMS Lodestar Editor



AFMS Rock & Gem Promotion

**A Win-Win-Win with *Rock & Gem*
Subscribe & Support both *R&G* & *AFMS*—& Get
a Discount for Yourself!**

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS 4th VP & Public
Relations Chair

Rock & Gem has long been recognized as the officially endorsed hobby magazine of AFMS and, by extension, the seven regional federations and their member clubs. The editor there, Pam Freeman, is offering a special deal to members of local gem and mineral societies affiliated with AFMS. It's a win-win-win deal in that *Rock & Gem* gets subscribers, we subscribers get a 61% discount, and AFMS gets a 15% commission on each subscription that will go into the Endowment Fund. This deal applies to both new and renewing subscriptions and has been approved and endorsed by the AFMS Executive Board, who designated me to serve as the liaison between AFMS and *Rock & Gem*.

Rock & Gem has produced a "Rock & Gem/AFMS Subscription" flyer/order form we

hope to post to the websites of AFMS and the regional federations to ensure that a portion of your payment goes to AFMS. Those preferring to order online can use the QR code included on the flyer that can be scanned with your cell phone. By the way, the same deal applies to any subscriptions you might sell to members of the general public by having copies of the flyer/order form at, say, a take-one table at your annual club show. I can also send this form in pdf format as an attachment; email me at jbraceth@roadrunner.com.

Here's to supporting our official hobby magazine as it, in turn, supports us as individuals and as a Federation!

Form on Page 21

Alabama State Director

Chris Rutherford

Good Afternoon,

The Dothan Alabama Gem and Mineral Club, The Wiregrass Rockhounds, have announced the return of their annual Gem and Mineral Show for April 6 and 7th, 2024. The club had issues securing their traditional venue for their gem show and cancelled their 2022. Their new venue will be at the Stokes Activity Barn at Landmark Park in Dothan, Alabama. This is a good Gem Show for those in the SW Georgia, NW Florida, and SE Alabama areas. For more information please visit their website at www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

AFMS New Programs Competition

Good Meeting Programs Really Need to be Shared

Have you ever had a program at a Rock Cub meeting that you thought was just really good? Or that the program should be shared with others so they have this information?

Getting these programs onto an electronic medium is a great way to share the information. And a great way to have an entry for the AFMS New Programs Competition!

For many years the AFMS has had a program called Program Competition, now called "New Programs Competition," that people could produce programs by way of slides and videos and enter into this competition. The top two programs were awarded prizes, and then reproduced and passed along to each Federation for their lending library. This was a great way to get new programs the rock clubs could borrow and use at their meetings.

However, in the past few years, there have been few to no new programs submitted. We need that to change. The clubs still need programs. We have people who are doing great programs for their clubs, so we need to get these programs onto an electronic medium and make them available for more people to see.

The New Programs Competition invites clubs and individuals to put these programs on PowerPoint or sides or another electronic means and submit them for the competition. There are Helpful Hints, Rules, and Judges Forms on the AFMS website to help with the technical side. And using PowerPoint is fairly simple and fast. It takes a little planning, but the results might be worth the time. There is a \$200 First Place award, and a \$100 Second Place Award in this competition. Entries are not competitive but based on its own merits. And the top two winners are then reproduced and given to each Federation for their Program Library.

There are five different classes for entries: Educational; Field Collection; How to Do it; Miscellaneous; and Just for Juniors (ages under 18 years, with their own rules). In addition, there is a category called "Excellence in Education" for commercially produced programs that is judged separately. You must be a member of a club in good standing, and entries must be submitted before the April 2, 2024, deadline. (The AFMS Convention is in May, so deadline is early.). There is time to get a production done, but it needs to be started very soon. Submissions are preferred in PowerPoint, but other media can be accepted upon consulting with the Committee Chair.

Several Federations are now in the process of turning old programs into YouTube content that anyone can download for their own use or for a Club to download at their meetings for club programs. This will be so convenient for our clubs, and the New Program winners will be made compatible for these changes.

So, if you know of a club member who did a great program that might be a good entry, or have a great idea yourself, get going and get the planning done. Check out the Hints, and the Judging Form and see what technicals need to be considered, and get that program turned in. Entry form is also on the AFMS Website. So, get going. Get that program together. Get it entered. Before April 2, 2024.

If you have questions, contact DeLane Cox, Committee Chair, at 479-254-0894, or email to: delanec3@earthlink.net.



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.

3/1-3/2024—LARGO, FL: Annual show; Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. of St Petersburg, FL; Largo Event Center, 6340 126th Ave N. Largo, FL 33773; 10-5 All 3 days; Adult \$6, Under 12 Free - Good for all three days; Free parking and food service on site ; contact sgamsdealerchair@gmail.com; Website: sgams.com

3/1-3/2024—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 Jerri Heer, 9016 122nd Ave, Tampa, FL 33637, (419) 344-9999; Email: jheerx6@aol.com; Website: Southeastfed.org

3/8-10/2024—AUGUSTA, GA: Annual show; Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society; Julian Smith Casino 2200 Broad St., Augusta GA; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$4 or \$6 for weekend pass (cash only); children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. <https://aikengmfs.org/>

3/22-24/2024—LEXINGTON, KY: Annual show; Blue Grass Gem and Mineral Club; Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Everyone \$5 except children under 12 and Scouts in uniform are free when accompanied by an adult; contact John Bradshaw, (859) 576-6785; Email: K4swx911@gmail.com; Website: bggamc.homestead.com

3/22-24/2024—JACKSONVILLE, FL: 36th Annual show; Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society; Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 510 Fairgrounds Place, Jacksonville, FL 32202; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, children 12 and under free with guardian, \$1 off for seniors and military with ID

3/23/2024—HUNTSVILLE, AL: Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society INDOOR GARAGE SALE, Held at the Sandra Moon Complex, South Huntsville, 7901 Bailey Cove Rd., Huntsville, Al. 35802; Sat. 9:30-2; ALL THINGS ROCK AND LAPIDARY!

Rough rocks and slabs, Specimens, Fossils, Equipment, Jewelry, Beads, Craft supplies, a little of everything! Come Find Your Treasure! Food truck by Chef Shea. Come join us for some retail therapy. Cash preferred but cards accepted. All funds raised support Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society programs.

4/6-7/2024 DOTHAN, AL: Dothan Alabama Gem and Mineral Club, The Wiregrass Rockhounds, Stokes Activity Barn at Landmark Park in Dothan, Alabama. April 6-7, 2024; Saturday 9AM—5PM, Sunday 10AM—4PM. Admission Free. www.wiregrassrockhounds.com Contact Jeff 334-673-3554



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.

4/6/2024 HENDERSONVILLE, TN: Middle Tennessee Rockhounds, Senior Citizens Center of Hendersonville 192 Imperial Blvd Hendersonville, TN 37075. April 6, 2024; Saturday 9AM—4PM,. Admission & Parking Free. <https://rockhound.org/swap>

4/12-14/2024—RALEIGH, NC: Annual show; Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club; Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Club Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Rd. Raleigh, NC; Fri. 3-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5.00 for a family of 4, \$3.00 for an individual, Free for children under 5. Admission prices are good for all 3 days of the show. Parking is free at the Kerr Scott Building. Contact Cyndy Hummel, (919) 779-6220; Email: mchummel@mindspring.com; Website: tarheelclub.org

4/20/2024 —APOPKA, FL: Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society; “Circle Up” Swap Meet, 1937 Lakeville Rd., Apopka, FL 32712; Saturday, 4/20/24—9am-3pm. Rock Clubs and Individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell and swap anything that is LAPIDARY related! Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry, to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped sold or purchased! More info at Wekivagem.com.

4/27-28/2024 MEMPHIS, TN: Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Memphis Agricenter 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. Over 50 Dealers including the original “Memphis Rock Banquet” a full table of rocks that look like real food. April 27-28, 2024; Saturday 9AM—6PM, Sunday 10AM—5PM. Admission \$6 or 2-day pass for \$10, under 12- \$2, Scouts in uniform - Free. www.theearthwideopen.wixsite.com, email info@theearthwideopen.com. 901-490-3575

5/4-5/2024 HAMILTON COUNTY, TN: Tennessee Valley Rock & Mineral Society, Pavillion, Chester Frost Park, Hixson, Hamilton County, TN. May 4-5, 2024; Saturday & Sunday 10AM—4PM. Free, Games, Contests, Live Demos & Exhibits. Info: TVRMS.info@gmail.com

9/6-8/2024—WINSTON-SALEM, NC: 53th Annual show & Sale; Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club; Winston-Salem Fairgrounds Education Bldg., 412 27th Street Northwest Winston-Salem, NC; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$3, children through grade 12 free with adult. website: www.forsythgemclub.com; Show Chairman W. Arvil Marion mariona1@yadtel.net

10/19-20/2024 SAINT LUCIE, FL: St Lucie Rock & Gem Club 47th Annual Club Show, MidFlorida Event Center, 9221 SE Event Center Pl, St. Lucie, FL 34952: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Admission \$5; Accompanied minors are free with adult admission. www.slrockandgem.org, slclubshow2023@aol.com



2024 SFMS Officers

President Danny Griffin (865)406-8802 President@southeastfed.org	First Vice President Vonda Echols (601)259-8801 vp1@southeastfed.org	Second Vice President Jason Hamilton (904)294-4744 vp2@southeastfed.org	Secretary Jerri Heer (419)344-9999 secretary@southeastfed.org
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Editor Cindy Reed (863)255-5256 editor@southeastfed.org	AFMS Regional VP from SFMS David Wayment (772)532-6432 Vp-afms@southeastfed.org	Mayo Foundation President William (Bill) Waggener (404)354-8752 Mayopresident@southeastfed.org	

2024 SFMS State Directors

Alabama Chris Rutherford (334) 372-2507 AL@southeastfed.org	Florida Meri Jo Theobald (772) 708-5229 FL@southeastfed.org	Florida Asst. State Director Janice Wojcik (813) 677-6263 FL3@southeastfed.org	Georgia Open GA@southeastfed.org
Mississippi Open MS@southeastfed.org	North Carolina Cyndy Hummel (919)77906220 NC@southeastfed.org	North Carolina (Asst-Western) Kathryn Hackett Fields (828) 231-3555 NC2@southeastfed.org	South Carolina Open SC@southeastfed.org
Tennessee Teresa Polly (865)258-0795 TN@southeastfed.org	Kentucky Open	Virginia Open	



2024 SFMS Committee Chairs

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

AUDIT COMMITTEE Rick Marshall, Chair (407)949-1416, Membership@southeastfed.org
Jason Hamilton, (904)294-4744 programs@southeastfed.org
Vonda Echols, (601)259-8801 vp2@southeastfed.org
Bill Waggener, (404)354-8752 mayopresident@southeastfed.org
Dave Wayment, (772)532-6432 publications@southeastfed.org

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Lori Carter, (770)405-9903, comm3@southeastfed.org

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WILLIAM HOLLAND REGISTRAR: Juergen Popplerueter, (678)576-7034 wh-registar@southeastfed.org

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WILDACRES REGISTRAR: Leslie Wayment 772)539-2409 WA-Registrar@southeastfed.org

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INVENTORY: Danny Griffin, (865)406-8802 inventory@southeastfed.org

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Reggie Bolton, (205) 410-9455 planning-chair@southeastfed.org
Jessie Griffin, (865) 963-7982 planning@southeastfed.org
Melissa Hill Radar, (601)383-6869 pastprez@southeastfed.org

NOMINATIONS: Melissa Hill Rader, (601) 383-6869 pastprez@southeastfed.org
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Rick Marshall,(407)949-1416, Membership@southeastfed.org
2 Positions Open

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Cindy Reed, (863)255-5256 editor@southeastfed.org
Open

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ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR: Marty Hart, (615) 331-2690 acroy@gemizo.com

YOUTH RESOURCES: Mike Harrison, (256) 797-2435 youth@southeastfed.org
Nancy Roberts, (731) 689-5336 youth1@southeastfed.org

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

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<p>Mayo Foundation President William (Bill) Waggener (404)354-8752 Mayopresi- dent@southeastfed.org</p>	<p>Vice President Dennis Buchanan (770)402-9669 President@southeastfed.org</p>	<p>Treasurer Wayne M. Dodd (770) 689-7777 wmdodd1@comcast.net</p>	<p>SFMS Education Chair Cindy Reed (863)255-5256 education@southeastfed.org</p>
	<p>Director Janet P. Steeper (662)915-2154 janetsteeper@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Secretary Jerri Heer (419)344-9999 secretary@southeastfed.org</p>	

2024 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees

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Boundaries: Buddy Shotts, (601) 466-0690 boundaries@southeastfed.org

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

Education: Cindy Reed, (863) 255.5256 education@southeastfed.org

Endowment Fund: David Wayment, (772)532-6432 supplies@southeastfed.org

Regional VP, AFMS: David Wayment, (772)532-6432 vp-afms@southeastfed.org

Safety: Bob Green, (864) 836-5896 safety@southeastfed.org

Supplies & Publications: David Wayment,(772)532-6432 supplies@southeastfed.org

Uniform Rules: David Wayment,(772)532-6432 uniformrules@southeastfed.org

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









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Jr. Photo Contest Rules:

We are holding a contest for the clubs' juniors to submit a photo of rock, minerals, gems, and lapidary items in the form of the year "2025" to be used on the officer's page of the SFMS website. The following are the rules for the contest.

1. Each submission by a club Junior (1st thru 12 grade).
2. Photo submission deadline – TBD
3. Two submissions per club, max
4. Each submission by individual, not club.
5. Each submission must have a description of the items used to build the numbers in the year. Please have a look at this year's page: <https://www.southeastfed.org/officers>
6. Winner's picture will be used for all of 2025.
7. All submissions will be added to a website gallery (carousel).
8. The winner will be selected blindly by the State Directors.
9. The winner will be announced at the annual meeting.
10. The image must be at least 1200 pixels across.
11. If taken with a cell phone, hold the cell phone horizontal to aid in the resolution.
12. The image must show 2025 clearly.
 1. SFMS junior chairs will
 1. receive the entries (all untried submitted to youth@southeastfed.org and youth1@southeastfed.org)
 2. Youth Chairs will save them on the SFMS Google Workspace in a 2024 Contest folder.
 3. Youth Chairs will send a link to that folder to the SFMS judges (State Directors)
 2. The State Directors will
 1. Download the score sheet and tally spreadsheet.
 2. Judge by score sheet and tally each submission to the spreadsheet.
 3. Send their completed score sheet/spreadsheet to the SFMS junior chairs to total.
 3. SFMS Juniors chairs will compile a master spreadsheet so it would be easier to add up the scores.
 4. Announce the winner at the Annual SFMS meeting.

202(SFMS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

William Holland: <input type="checkbox"/> June €G– 0ì	Wildacres: <input type="checkbox"/> August 12-18	Wildacres <input type="checkbox"/> September 9-15
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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY. DO NOT USE ABBREVIATIONS.

STUDENT #1

Name: _____ M F

Club: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Primary): _____ Alternate: _____

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS LISTED BELOW. It is necessary for selecting a room location that meets your physical needs. Please be aware there are a limited number of handicap/easy access rooms available for assignment.

Walk up a flight of stairs? - Y - N Use a walker/cane? - Y - N Wheelchair/Scooter - Y - N

Need handicap room? - Y - N Age: ≤70 >70 Smoke? - Y - N

Early riser? - Y - N Night Owl? - Y - N

Dietary considerations or allergies: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone (Primary): _____ Alternate: _____

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY. DO NOT USE ABBREVIATIONS.

STUDENT #2

Name: _____ M F

Club: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone (Primary): _____ Alternate: _____

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS LISTED BELOW. It is necessary for selecting a room location that meets your physical needs. Please be aware there are a limited number of handicap/easy access rooms available for assignment.

Walk up a flight of stairs? - Y - N Use a walker/cane? - Y - N Wheelchair/Scooter - Y - N

Need handicap room? - Y - N Age: ≤70 >70 Smoke? - Y - N

Early riser? - Y - N Night Owl? - Y - N

Dietary considerations or allergies: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone (Primary): _____ Alternate: _____

	1 st Class Choice	Taken Before	2 nd Class Choice	Taken Before
Student #1		<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
Student #2		<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N

Double (requested roommate): _____

Private (will accommodate if possible) Day student Campground (William Holland only)

Early Arrival add \$20 per person (William Holland only)

William Holland Tuition: \$1 €5 – Double Occupancy | \$1 €5 – Private Room | \$275 – Day Student

Campground*: \$31 5 (Ú^!Á^!•[]), *Contact William Holland Registrar for details

Wildacres Tuition: \$1 €5 – Double Occupancy | \$1 €5 – Private Room | \$275 – Day Student

Mail separate application(s) and tuition fee(s) or \$50 deposit(s) for each location to the applicable Registrar listed below. All class fees include a \$50 **non-refundable** deposit.

<p>William Holland Registrar</p> <p>R ^!^} Á[]] ^ ^ ^ c!</p> <p>FJì FÁæ{ [] á•Áì, L[* æ çā^, Ö€3€€í G</p> <p>(î 8)Áî î -í €H wh-registrar@southeastfed.org</p>	<p>Wildacres Registrar</p> <p>Š• aÁ æ{ ^} c</p> <p>ÚÈÉÓ, çÁ Ì €í JF, Ú^àæ çæ, ØŠ 32978</p> <p>(772)Á39-2409 wa-registrar@southeastfed.org</p>
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