



The Lodestar



May 2024



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President's Letter

I know! I know! I seem to be stuck on harping about safety during field trips and it's very important that you keep safety in the front of your mind during any field trip. However, I haven't said much about safety when working in your clubs workshop or at one of the SFMS workshops. It's easy to get distracted, impatient, or so into your favorite project that thoughts of safety are pushed to the back of your mind. I once had a classmate in a silversmithing class burn his finger badly because he got impatient and wanted to finish that last piece before the end of the day. He had just completed a solder and tried to pick up his piece with his fingers instead of tongs. Needless to say he let it go very quickly but the damage was done. I am a firm believer that if you think about safety in the shop and at home it eventually become second nature and you'll police your actions every day. You'll be thinking "am I doing this safely?" or "is there a better way to do this that's safer?".

Please remember that the SFMS workshop schedules are posted on the <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> website. Classes are filling up quickly so if you hesitate too long your first choice may be filled. If that happens don't fret! Just step out of your comfort zone and pick something that you'd normally not feel comfortable taking. I've done that a couple of times and was very glad I did, each and every time.

The first workshop of 2024 is at William Holland

School of Lapidary Arts and begins June 2nd. Wow! Is that coming up fast or what? The Wildacres workshops are in August and September but don't let those dates fool you into waiting too long. There have been several people already register and several classes will fill way before August/September. He who hesitates is lost.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual convention is being held in Ventura California May 24th thru the 26th. Due to some personal issues I am unable to attend as the SFMS Presidential Rep and Vonda Echols will not be able to attend as the SFMS Second Vice-Presidential Rep. So at this time I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to Collis Antley and Lisa Roberts for volunteering to represent us at the upcoming convention. Both have attended AFMS meetings in the past and I'm sure they'll do an outstanding job.

Our next SFMS meeting will be held following our workshop at William Holland. The dates are Friday June 7th for the cracker barrel meet-and-greet and Saturday June 8th for the morning meeting. The SFMS Secretary will be sending out registration forms in plenty of time for your club to send representatives. These meetings are where your club's voice is heard so please attend if at all possible. Also, don't forget that you may attend these meeting virtually.

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

1st Vice President

Vonda Echols

I Hope everyone is enjoying this spring weather. Great time for rock hunting. On the topic of rock hunting, we will be holding our annual SFMS meeting during the Georgia Gem and Mineral Society annual picnic and auction. From what we have heard they have a rather large auction. The meeting will be held on the last Saturday in September. So please mark your calendars, more about the time and place will be forthcoming.

held in conjunction with a gem and mineral show or other gathering giving the SFMS members other activities to attend once they have driven to the location. IF any club would like to host the 2025 SFMS meeting please contact Vonda Echols at IVP@southeastfed.org or 601-259-8801.

Vonda Echols

We're on the Web!
southeastfed.org

We are in need of a club to host SFMS annual meeting in 2025. Any club may host the meeting, we usually ask for the meeting to be

Membership Chair

Rick Marshall



We need your help. Recently I needed to contact some clubs and attempted to use the Clubs Contact List and found that just about useless. Only 13 clubs have updated any information since the elections for this year's officers. This is how we can best communicate with your club and we do need up to date accurate contact information. Please, if you want to hear about events, opportunities, benefits and offers for your club, insist that the President of your club does this or appoint one person in the club who will.

We do have a new club that has applied for membership in the SFMS. At the June quarterly meeting at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts we will be voting to admit the Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society. We welcome them and look forward to having them join us.

Rick Marshall
SFMS Membership Secretary
407-949-1416



Secretary Message

Jerri Heer



Summer is fast approaching, with it our Summer Executive Meeting which will be held at William Holland at the conclusion of the SFMS Workshop week. You will find a registration form on page 19. We hope you will consider supporting the Federation by enrolling in a Workshop class during this week and join us for the Meeting so you can take the opportunity to experience one of our meetings and meet your officers.

If you are an officer, state director or committee chair, please start sending your reports to me so that I can include them in the packet. Since I will be teaching during workshop week, I will need your

submissions early - NO LATER THAN MAY 29th!

Below is the login for the virtual meeting. All of this information will also be posted on the SFMS Website: southeastfed.org.

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/yfo-rvtw-fkv>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 503-908-2399 and enter this PIN: 612 500 408#

To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/yfo-rvtw-fkv?hs=5>

Thank you for your support!

Jerri Heer

Editor

Cindy Reed

Everyone is talking about enjoying Spring. It's already Summer here in Sunny Florida.

I hope you will take a few minutes to look over the workshop offerings at William Holland and Wildacres. There are still openings and I'm sure everyone can find a class to enhance their knowledge.

David Liles has an excellent article on Maclurites Fossil this month. And his photos are wonderful, as always.

If you would like to share an article please submit it to editor@southeastfed.org before the 25th of the month.

Cindy Reed, SFMS Lodestar Editor



Bob Green

Happy warmer weather. The older I get the more my system needs warmth. Anyway. This month's safety article is inspired by the safety article by Ellery Borow, who is the Safety Chair of AFMS.

His article in this month's "A.F.M.S. Newsletter" is about getting older. Now, I realize that many of us view ourselves as several years younger than we presently are until we have a strenuous weekend of work. Then our age provides us with a bit of reality. The key here is to understand what we are doing and plan-ahead and do not try to cut a couple cords of wood before lunch on Saturday. I was never able to do that, though there were several uncles and cousins in the family that were lumberjacks in the early 50's.

He opens his article with "There is a price to pay, as the years go by, for our increased wisdom". The emphasis of Ellery's article was to understand that as we get older and the definition of "getting older" changes as we age, we need to remember the many obstacles that are faced in our advancing age. We have more long-term ailments (my word) and less ability to get over many of these quickly. We also are longer into our avoidance of things like cancer, heart problems, kidney issues, mental incapacities, visual acuity, and digestive issues. As we age, we need to work to retain our skills and also increase our knowledge of our lapidary hobbies. This is not only for our mental and physical well-being, but to also share these with our younger associates. There are many highly skilled and talented artists presently sharing

their knowledge and this helps all of us.

One important part of Ellery's article is the need for sleep and rest. He even encourages napping to help restore your energy level. This view I totally agree with. He emphasizes the issues resulting from the lack of sleep, such as retaining information presented in a seminar or webinar. He notes our reaction time suffers when you are tired. Judgement also suffers when one is tired. He notes that lack of sleep affects people in many ways that are not conducive to being and staying safe.

In college, several years ago, many folks "enjoyed all-nighters" in preparation for an exam. I only did this once, took a load of "No-Doz" and set the clock for 6:00 AM to get ready for the exam, I slept through the alarm, however, I did wake all the folks in adjoining rooms and they proceeded to pound on the door to get my attention to turn off the alarm. I did pass the exam and later sheepishly retired to my room to recover from the "sleep deprived hangover".

Ellery's article is a good example of what we all face now or later in life. We need to be aware of our health and work to maintain our health or better yet, to improve our health. Proper nutrition, adequate exercise and in moderation of course. Have an annual check-up and remember that your teeth can be a help or a hindrance to your good health. So, sleep on that, until next month, be safe and be aware of your surroundings.



SFMS Webmaster

Lori Carter

2024 SFMS Website Contest New Rules, Entry Deadline August 31

The website contest has had 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> The two websites with the highest scores will advance to the AFMS

contest. **NOTE:** There is a new non-compete category, so you can submit your website for judging and receive helpful information for improving your website without being ranked.

REMINDER: Check Your AFMS and SFMS Website Links

The new AFMS website is live and the old one is gone. There is a cross reference of old to new links at <https://www.amfed.org/Old-New-Xref>. Also, links to the old SFMS website will no longer redirect to

DMC Field Trip Chair

Lori Carter

Thank you to the **Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club** for hosting the April DMC field trip to collect corundum crystals! The **Northeast Georgia Mineral Society** is scheduled to host the May field trip.

I am pleased to announce a new DMC member – the **Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society** will host their first DMC field trip in December 2025!

Rockhounds who are members of clubs in the DMC Field trip sharing program enjoy field trips all over the southeast. 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

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)

October - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (Memphis, TN)

November - Emerald City Rock and Gem Club (Greenwood, SC)

Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, dmc@southeastfed.org



Education Chair

Cindy Reed

My wonderful husband, Jim Reed has agreed to be the Wildacres Director. Jim was SFMS Director at William Holland for the last 2 years, so we know he'll do a great job. While Leslie Wayment has agreed to remain as Registrar, she will have a Co-Registrar at the workshop. A big thanks to Laura Odria from the Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society for taking that position.

Rick Marshall has been busy getting us some nice donations for the auctions. But even better, Highland Park has agreed to give us one of their new Intarsia machines and they included 120, 180, 260, 500, 800 and 1000 grit diamond flat lap discs. We have decided to offer this by raffle at the workshops. Each student will receive one free ticket. Additional tickets will be \$5 ea or 5 for \$20. We'll have the machine at each session and will do the drawing at the end of the September week. If you have questions, please contact me at Education@southeastfed.org.

A big thanks to everyone that has signed up for the SFMS workshops. If you're still on the fence, 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 Wildacres Director

Jim Reed

I am honored to be the Director for Wildacres. This will be my first trip to this school and am looking forward to taking a class in the Spruce Pine area. I've heard lots of people talking about teaching or taking classes at this facility and all the wonderful things at this school. The school location apparently is in the mountainous area, so I looking forward to some cooler weather. I am a geologist (Masters degree from University of Missouri Science & Technology—Rolla) and have been collecting and cutting rocks since I was a teenager. I'm looking forward to cutting some cabochons at this new location.

I've seen that some of the classes being offered still have some room for students, so if your still thinking about this school please consider signing up. Remember, it's not just for the class but for the friends you'll make and the experience. We just added Rick Marshall's Cabs 1.5 class for September. See the list of classes on page 8, head over to <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> and sign up today.

Jim Reed, SFMS Wildacres Director
Wa-director@southeastfed.org



SFMS William Holland Director

Rick Marshall

Man oh man, boy oh boy and wow, wow, wow!! Cindy, Juergen and I have been very, very busy preparing for one of the biggest and best SFMS Workshop weeks we have had in a while! Besides the great instruction, you will experience great food, fun and fellowship. Some of the events include Tailgating for buying and selling, the Auction to raise funds for the SFMS, (don't forget to bring lapidary or non-lapidary items to donate if you are coming), Instructor demonstrations, Ice Cream Social and Game Night. Oh yea and Show and Tell at the end of the week.

With less than 5 weeks to go we have 70 students registered in 12 classes. Only room for 9 students left. Don't miss your opportunity to learn from some of the best instructors available.

We have 9 openings in:
Cabochon 1 & 2 with John Wild
Stone on Stone with Michael Bateman
Intarsia 1 & 2 with Bill Boggs
Casting with Bill Harr
Moovin Metal with Cindy Moore
Stained Glass with Stephanie Danz

The following classes are full with wait list only:
Cabochon 1 with Jack King
Faceting 1 & 2 with Tom Mitchell
Gem Trees 1+ with Jerri Heer
Silver 1+ with Jason Hamilton
Leather/Bi-Metal with Wayne Parker
Wire 1 with Judi Wild

Several companies you may have heard of have been very generous to us.

FDJ Tool in Sanford FL, has donated items that I have decided to send to the SFMS Wildacres Workshops for them to use in the auctions there. They donated Bill Fretz DVDs that teach

how to make Wide Convex Cuffs and Wide Concave Cuffs, Fretz Plastic Head Mallet and a Fretz Michael Good CP1 Planishing Hammer. Thank you Scott and Kelley at FDJ Tool. Please check them out at FDJTool.com. I have been doing business with them for at least 12 years and they are the best!

Highland Park Lapidary has donated four \$30 Gift Certificates to be used during their Live Sales Events hosted on Zoom every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. These are not just buying events but educational also, I have learned quite a bit about different rocks, cutting techniques, polishing ideas and uses for different types of tools. I encourage you to check them out also.

Highland Park Lapidary really went above and beyond with this next item they donated. While speaking with John and Sherman Rowland, owners of Highland Park Lapidary, they decided to donate to us their new **Model INT6 6" 304 Stainless Steel Intarsia Machine !!!** They included 120, 180, 260, 500, 800 and 1000 grit diamond flat lap discs. Guys, this is a donation worth at least \$1,000! Let me ask you to thank them if and when you have any communication with them. You can do that when you watch the Live Sale Events!

You can see it here: <https://hplapidary.com/products/highland-park-model-int6-stainless-steel-6-inch-intarsia-machine-110v>

The SFMS Education Committee has decided what we will do with this. See the Education Chair message above to see how you can get a ticket.

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Rick Marshall
SFMS William Holland Director
407-949-1416



2024 SFMS Workshops

Class	Instructor	Class	Instructor
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<u>William Holland June 2-8, 2024</u>			
Gem Trees I+	Jerri Heer (WLO)	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 (WLO)
Faceting I & II	Tom Mitchell (WLO)	Silver W/Leather Inlay	Wayne Parker (WLO)

<u>Wildacres I August 12-18, 2024</u>		<u>Wildacres II September 9-15, 2024</u>	
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 (WLO)	Silver All-In-One	Jason Hamilton
Silver I+	Jason Hamilton	Chain Maile	Marilou Hillenbrand
Weave-Tap-Drop	Cindy Moore	Soapstone Carving	Kim Valko
Cabs	Jack King	Moovin Metal	Cindy Moore
Casting	Bill Harr	Cabs 1.5	Rick Marshall

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



Maclurites Fossils

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 a genus of Ordovician fossil snails, the *Maclurites*, that has a simple but very elegant looking flat spiral shell. I will also briefly discuss another snail of similar age with a rising corkscrew spiral, from the *Lophospira* genus. Both can be found in the East TN area around Knoxville.

The Ordovician ranges in age from 488-444 million years ago. During this time East Tennessee was covered by a shallow warm sea. This sea teemed with early aquatic invertebrate life that included snails, brachiopods, bryozoans, cephalopods, trilobites, horn corals, plankton, algae, and many other organisms. Over millions of years animal remains and sediments accumulated on the ocean floor in layers and eventually solidified to become the sedimentary rocks of limestone / dolostone, mudstone/ shale, sandstone and, later, the metamorphic equivalents that we see today. The shells and impressions of many of the Ordovician period organisms are preserved in these sedimentary rocks as fossils and this the snail genus *Maclurites*. See (Roadside Geology of Tennessee, by Marcy B. Davis, Pg. 28-34).

Now, to better describe our subject. *Maclurites*, is an extinct genus of Ordovician gastropod (snail). It first appeared in the fossil record in the late Cambrian, 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. It is flat on one side, and slightly concave on the other. This contrasts with most other snails – modern and extinct – that have convex upward tapered “corkscrew” shaped shells.

Apparently, members of the *Maclurites* genus have 2 shells. The lesser-known 2nd shell is a flap that serves as a door to the opening of the well-known main spiraled shell. An individual could pull itself inside its shell and shut the door! See (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macluritidae).

There have been upwards of 50 species identified in the *Maclurites* genus and they are found all over the world. The most common size is 10 to 12 cm (about 4 inches) in diameter, with the largest specimen found being 25 cm (about 10 inches). See (Rohr-Blodgett-Furnish1992MaclurinamanitobensisWhiteavesOrdovicianGastropoda-TheLargestKnownPaleozoicGastropod at www.researchgate.net). The *Maclurites* genus was named after William Maclure, the geologist famous for producing the very first geologic map of the United States, in 1809. See (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Maclure)

Apparently, these snails had thin shells, as the shell itself is seldom seen as a surface fossil. What is found is usually a trace fossil, consisting of material that filled the interior of the shell, and was then turned to stone. The shape (trace pattern) of the snail is what is preserved. That is a trace fossil. Examples of *Maclurites* fossils can be seen as a spiral outline on a cut stone. The spiral outline is the fossilized shell and that is all you will usually see on the surface of a cut stone. In virtually every case the material inside the shell is the same type and color as that on the outside. *Maclurites* can be used as index fossils as they only occur in sedimentary rocks in a specific period of time (500 to 444 million years

The spiral of the *Maclurites* shell is both beautiful and memorable. In fact, there is a mathematical formula called the Fibonacci Number Sequence that defines a spiral that approximately matches the spiral of the *Maclurites* shell. Similar spirals and curves are found throughout nature in plants, animals, and even in DNA. Now I will add that it is seldom that the Fibonacci sequence exactly describes each naturally occurring curve and spiral; however, it comes close. Nature, including plants, animals, and geology can be a messy inexact process where things sort out as best they can under existing conditions.

(Cont. on Page 10)

Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

A quote from the research paper titled Fibonacci Numbers as a Natural Phenomenon, by Senad Orhani @ www.researchgate.net:

“The famous Fibonacci sequence has captivated mathematicians, artists, designers, and scientists for centuries. Also known as the Golden Ratio, its ubiquity and astounding functionality in nature suggests its importance as a fundamental characteristics of the Universe. A sequence of numbers and a corresponding ratio that reflects various patterns found in nature, from the swirl of a pinecone's seeds to the curve of a nautilus shell to the twist of a hurricane found Fibonacci numbers.”

Anyway, without going further into the actual formula, etc., I just want readers to remember that there is a spiral defined by the Fibonacci Number Sequence (also called the Golden Ratio) and that it is fundamental to the design of the universe. Most importantly here - it looks like the spiral of the *Maclurites* shell.

Perhaps my 1st experience with *Maclurites* involved the early years of my membership in the Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society (KGMS). Every 3rd weekend in October, KGMS sponsors a Gem and Mineral Show. We arranged for a venue and set up the facility, where rock, mineral, gem, and fossil dealers sold their stuff for 3 days. For many years, this show was held at the Kerbela Temple near downtown Knoxville. The temple building and parking lot sat on top of a massive limestone deposit. Setup day was always Thursday, just before the long weekend show. I and other volunteers would fetch and carry and arrange tables and chairs and run electric cables, etc. During breaks and lunch, I noticed a fellow member, Jim Hamilton, hammering away at some limestone boulders adjacent to the parking lot. Well, you know what the sight of that does to a rockhound!? I walked over and found that Jim was recovering Ordovician fossils from the crumbling limestone. The largest of these included a snail with a flat, coiled shell. Examples were 2 to 4 inches across. These were identified by our own geologist, Travis Paris, as being *Maclurites* snail fossils. My best example shows the coils, but it is a rough fossil. Jim pointed out that often one would not even see the coils as they were covered with /

obliterated by sediment. What you could see is the profile of the fossil, which looked roughly like the number “6.” I also have one of these. Once I learned to “see”, I started seeing many of the “6” shaped rocks in the limestone rubble on the gravel road and in the limestone next to the parking lot.

My 2nd experience involves a fossil find on my father-in-law's farm just outside of LaFollette, TN. My late wife Cheryl and I were gathering flat limestone rocks from the remains of a stone fence. We were using the rocks for landscaping the gardens at our home in Knoxville. Anyway, the rocks often contained Ordovician fossils, and one stone in particular appeared to contain many interesting snail shell fossils. One section of this rock had a snail fossil with a spiral that looked to drill downward into the rock. A neighboring fossil appeared to be of a snail with a flat spiral. After doing some research for this article, I am pretty sure the snail with the flat spiral is a *Maclurites*, and the other snail fossil that spirals down into the rock is of the genus *Lophospira*, another group of extinct gastropods whose fossils appear in marine rocks of Ordovician to Devonian age (488 million to 359 million years old). The *Lophospira* shell consists of a series of whorls resembling a tapered corkscrew. The spirals rise, in contrast to the *Maclurites* that have a much flatter spiral. See (www.britannica.com/animal/Lophospira).

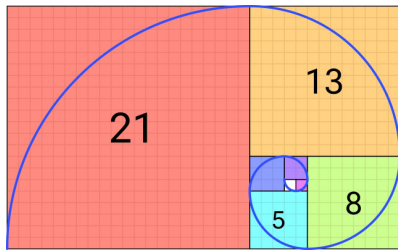
I have an interest in photography of rocks and fossils for Art's sake. I photographed the *Lophospira / Maclurites* fossil from my LaFollette rock, added color to make it more artistically appealing, then I printed and framed the image. I put this image, named “Big Snail” in a show at the Tomato Head Restaurant, along with some of my other rock Art, in 2020.

Finally, I have heard that *Maclurites* fossils can be seen in the flat cut limestone “Tennessee Marble” floor of the Post office building downtown. I need to go check out this rumor! I do have one in a cut limestone block on my garden bench. You can't see much of the fossil, except for the thin spiral of the snail shell, revealed by the cut of the stone.

Have fun and keep looking at the ground for rocks and fossils!



Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)



Fibonacci Spiral



David Hacket Collection:
Top: 2 Malcurites
Bottom: Lophospira
Lower Ordvisian



Bob Richmond Collection: 3
Malcurites and a Modern
Snail



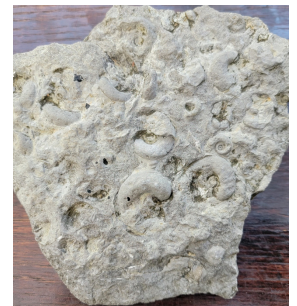
Big Snail Art Image
Malcurites and
Lophospira Fossils



Garden Bench
Malcurites
Fossils



Kerbula Temple
Malcurites



Ordvisian Snail
Rock from
Lafollette

David Liles Collection



Youth Coordinator Chair

Mike Harrison & Nancy Roberts

Happy May to youth leaders and rockhounds in general! Guess what the birthstone is for May! Yes, Emerald! Emerald's name is derived from the Greek word smaragdus, meaning "green gem."

Like aquamarine, emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the color presents itself in jewelry depends on a good cut by a skilled gemologist.

The deeper or more green an emerald is, the more valuable it is. The rarest emerald gemstones will appear to be an intense green-blue color.

Emerald gems are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly. So, make sure you ask if the gem stone you want is a natural or a treated stone!

And speaking of beryl, make sure your youth know the difference between rocks, minerals and gemstones. A gemstone is anything that has the potential (if polished, cut, carved, etc.) to be an object worn or shown for its beauty. Sometimes obsidian or unakite are used as gemstones (both are igneous

rocks) and lapis lazuli is considered a gemstone (and it is metamorphic). Some agates and jaspers as well as tiger's eye (all Chalcedony) are often used in pendants and rings. But most think of corundum (ruby and sapphire) or beryl (emerald, aquamarine, etc.) as well as topaz, tourmaline, and of course last month's birthstone, diamond.

And lastly, I took my youth group to a local countertop retailer, and we had a wonderful time learning about marble, granite, quartzite and other options. The manager of the store showed us the different options, where each is best used in the home (marble is usually too soft to use in the kitchen) where each is mined, their hardness, and relative cost. The store manager was thrilled to host us and we met on a Saturday morning at 8:30 before the store opened at 10:00 AM. And she had a pile of "scrap" that each youth could pick through and select their favorite to take home!

Until next month, happy rock hounding and don't forget to reach out if we can help with your youth group!

Your SFMS Youth Coordinators

Mike Harrison—youth@southeastfed.com
256-797-2435

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>



Last years winning entry

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

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.

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

5/18-19/2024—BILOXI, MS: 44th Annual show & Sale; Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society; Joppa Shrine Temple, 13280 Shriners Blvd. Biloxi, Ms. North of 1-10 / Woolmarket Exit #41; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Adults \$6, children under 10 free. website: gulfportgems.show@gmail.com Email: gulfportgems.show@gmail.com

6/8-9/2024 GASTONIA, NC: Gaston Co. Gem & Mineral Club 45TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, AND JEWELRY SHOW, Johan Newcombe Event Center 1840 E. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28054. Rocks, minerals, gems, fossils - sluice mining and geode cracking outside! Fun for the whole family! June 8-9, 2024; Saturday 10AM—6PM, Sunday 10AM—4PM. Free Admission gastongemclub.weebly.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

9/6-8/2024—IRONDALE, AL: Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society; Irondale Civic Center, 3521 Ratliff Road, Irondale, Alabama 35210; Fri. & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$5, Teens \$3, children under 12 free. website: lapidaryclub.com

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
Membership Rick Marshall (407)949-1416 Membership@southeastfed.org	Treasurer Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900 treasurer@southeastfed.org	Assistant Treasurer David Liles (865)274-8271 Treasurer2@southeastfed.org	Immediate Past President Dennis Buchanan (770)402-9669 President@southeastfed.org
Editor Cindy Reed (863)255-5256 editor@southeastfed.org	AFMS Regional VP from SFMS Open 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 John Narang 803-727-7070 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
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WILDACRES REGISTRAR: Leslie Wayment 772)539-2409 WA-Registrar@southeastfed.org

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2 Positions Open

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

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

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

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

2024 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Officers

Mayo Foundation President William (Bill) Waggener (404)354-8752 Mayopresi- dent@southeastfed.org	Vice President Danny Griffin (865)406-8802 President@southeastfed.org	Treasurer Wayne M. Dodd (770) 689-7777 wmdodd1@comcast.net	SFMS Education Chair Cindy Reed (863)255-5256 education@southeastfed.org
	Director Janet P. Steeper (662)915-2154 janetsteeper@hotmail.com	Secretary Jerri Heer (419)344-9999 secretary@southeastfed.org	

2024 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year: Marty Hart, (615) 331-2690 ACROY@gemizo.com

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Regional VP, AFMS: Open vp-afms@southeastfed.org

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

Supplies & Publications: Open supplies@southeastfed.org

Uniform Rules: Open 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



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.



SOUTHEAST FEDERATION

OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.

Executive Meeting

Sponsored by William Holland and SFMS Workshops

June 8, 2024

Young Harris, Georgia

Please complete and return this information using a separate form for each attendee, submitting through mail or email, ensuring receipt by May 31, 2024 for the S.F.M.S. packet processing. You can scan and email, take a picture and text, whatever works to submit your info.

<p>Name _____</p> <p>SFMS Position _____ Club Position _____</p> <p>Society Affiliation _____</p> <p>➤ Attending Friday Social - 6 PM – Cafeteria(Donation suggested) - In Person Only (circle one) Yes / No</p> <p>➤ Attending Saturday Executive Meeting - 9 AM – Cafeteria (circle one) Yes / No</p> <p>In Person? _____ By Google Meets? _____</p> <p>Google Meet Meeting ID Saturday, June 8 · 8:45am – 12:15pm To join the video meeting, click this link: https://meet.google.com/yfo-rvtw-fkv Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 503-908-2399 and enter this PIN: 612 500 408# To view more phone numbers, click this link: https://tel.meet/yfo-rvtw-fkv?hs=5</p> <p>Date _____ Signature _____</p>
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Thank you for your consideration.

Jerri Heer
S.F.M.S. Secretary

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