



# The Lodestar



July 2024



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## President's Letter

Our first workshop at William Holland has passed and was an outstanding success. A huge attaboy goes out to Cindy Reed, Rick Marshall and Juergen Poppelreuter. There's two Workshops left for 2024, so if you are thinking about taking a class you'd better hurry up and register before it's full.

I'm back to reminding everyone about how important it is to be mindful about safety while in the workshop and on field trips. Please raise your awareness of the impact that a workshop or field trip injury can have on your family, friends, and fellow club members. On this day, I ask that you take a few moments to pause and reflect on how an accident will impact you, and everyone around you, and to redouble your efforts towards being safe. I think a slogan we've all heard before "if you see something say something"

applies in this situation. If you see someone being unsafe during a workshop or on a field trip do not hesitate to bring their unsafe actions to their attention. Being bold and speaking up may save their life!

Finally, I'd like to thank Vonda Echols for filling in for me at the last quarterly meeting. I am disappointed that I missed the workshop and meeting, but it couldn't be helped.

Best regards.  
 Danny Griffin  
 SFMS President  
[President@southeastfed.org](mailto:President@southeastfed.org)



**1st Vice President**  
**Vonda Echols**

Hope everyone is have a great summer. Fall will be here before we know it. And with the fall comes the SFMS annual meeting. This year the meeting will be hosted by Georgia Mineral Society in Norcross, GA. The meeting will be in conjunction with the club's annual picnic and sale These are being held Saturday September 28. 2024. Our gathering will be held Friday evening, Annual meeting and voting will be Saturday, and Editor Breakfast Sunday Morning. More information will be forth coming.



What we need now is a club to host the annual meeting next year. During our annual meeting we will be electing new officers and installing them in their position for the next year starting January 1. We would like a club in Southeast Federation to volunteer to host the meeting next year. You may contact me Vonda Echols [VP1@Southeastfed.org](mailto:VP1@Southeastfed.org) if you have any questions. Yes, it is a year away but if we wait till the last minute that puts everyone in a crunch. The timing of the meeting is usually held the last quarter of the year with elections for the new officers for the up coming year. Another point I would like to make is all the SFMS meeting are open to all members. We hold our Executive Board meeting two times a year once at the Rockhound Round up in either February or March, depending on when the Sprint of the Suwannee has the room for us to use the large

parking area for our vendors tents. The second meeting is held the Saturday after we have completed our William Holland SFMS Federation week. Everyone is invited to stay for the meeting Saturday morning. The annual meeting is scheduled per the hosting club. All meetings are open to members. Voting at the annual meeting by the Board Members can be accomplished in person or electronically, as we send out the information to join the meetings on zoom or by phone. Board members are

The Executive Officers of the Federation.

The Administrative Officers of the Federation.

The President of each member Club and Society.

One elected Delegate from each member Club and Society to serve at the Annual Meeting only.

You can find the numbers and time in the [Loadstar Newsletter](#) or by going to the [Southeastfed.org](http://Southeastfed.org) website.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the Executive Board members.

Vonda Echols

[Vp1@southeastfed.org](mailto:Vp1@southeastfed.org).



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## Secretary Message

### Jerri Heer



Welcome to Summer!

We had a brief but productive Executive Meeting following the SFMS Workshop at William Holland. It was a busy week of mostly full classes and over 60 paid students.

We welcome the Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, which was voted in at the Meeting. We held the meeting in person and virtually. Thank you to Juergen Popplereuter for handling the virtually portion of the meeting. The Agenda, Packet and Minutes are published in this issue.

We also thank the Board of

Directors of William Holland for hosting a brunch with members of the SFMS Executive Board following the our Executive Meeting where we discussed opportunities for our respective organizations to work together to benefit both of our organizations and further our common educational purposes.

Our next meeting will our Annual Meeting to be hosted by the Georgia Mineral Society during their Annual Fall Auction being held the last weekend in September. More information to come.

Be safe this summer!

Jerri Heer

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## Membership Chair

### Rick Marshall



Welcome to July! As we start the 2nd half of the year I want to welcome Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society as the newest members of the SFMS. This club was founded in 1961. We look forward to working with them.

We need every club to update your Club Contact List. This is what we

use to communicate with you. We want to make sure the correct person is receiving the information you need. Go to the SFMS website to find the form and instructions.

Rick Marshall  
SFMS Membership Secretary  
407-949-1416

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## Editor

### Cindy Reed

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

David Liles has an interesting article on Bryozoan fossils this month.

If you would like to share an article please submit it to [editor@southeastfed.org](mailto:editor@southeastfed.org) by the 25th of the month.

Cindy Reed, SFMS Lodestar Editor



Bob Green

I admit to being hooked on the National Geographic Program called “To catch a Smuggler” this typically is based on some major airport in Europe, the USA and at the Borders of the USA.

My deceased wife, Barb and I were lucky enough to have been able to travel rather extensively. We had many trips associated with my work and the ASME. We spent 27 weeks in Southern Germany, shortly after we were married and made 6 more vacation trips there in following years. Then the youngest son moved to Australia with his wife. After the first grandson was born, Barb made 10 trips there to visit them, I made 8 trips.

This is noted as a precursory noting that out of these trips, only one trip to Australia included a shaving bag that had 2 small knives. These were found and surrendered. The interesting thing the knives had made multiple international trips and were confiscated before an in-country trip in Australia. These had been long since forgotten.

We read the “directions”, obtained the required Visas and only carried candy (typically chocolate when returning to the States). I have seen a lady trying to carry multiple personally canned meats onto a plane in Texas. She had to take these back to her auto. In the real early days, early 60’s through the 70’s, multiple stuff, like a Piper Cub Impeller. A classic car bumper and one guy with a large cardboard box with individual boxes of cookies and crackers that he carried onto the plane and when the box would not fit in the overhead, he broke down the box

and put all the cookies and crackers into the overhead and folded the box beside his seat. We got off the plane before he started reworking his box.

So, all this is a caution, when you travel by plane or other means and have to go through any type of border check, know what you have and know the limitations. When you carry your medicines, please carry these in the original prescription containers.

Also watch your carry-ons as they got through screening, too many times stuff just disappears. Particularly money. Watch out for folks willing to help and acting too friendly, scammers are everywhere and they need to eat also, just not using your money.

As with last month, many folks want your money and other valuables, so be keenly aware of your surroundings. And be safe, Atlanta hit 100 degrees, on 26-Jun-24, for the first time since 2019 and the hot weather can lead to a significant issue if you are not careful. Stay hydrated, wear appropriate clothing and wear a hat if you are outside for any appreciable time. Those of us with thinning hair on top have to be careful during these hot times, we can have a pretty red underpinning of the scale or just become overheated. Doing chores outside this time of year requires choosing an appropriate time to minimize the effects of heat exhaustion.

So be safe and careful, also watch for unfriendly snakes.



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## 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-](https://www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest)

[contest](https://www.amfed.org/contests/website-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. Also, your club’s website does not have to be ready to judge now. You can submit with the intent to enter the contest before the deadline.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Lori Carter, SFMS Webmaster,**  
[webmaster@southeastfed.org](mailto:webmaster@southeastfed.org)

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## DMC Field Trip Chair

### Lori Carter

Thank you to the **Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society** for hosting the June DMC field trip to collect rose quartz and more! **Kanawha Rock and Gem Club** (South Charleston, WV) is scheduled to host for the first time in July!

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

**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)

**December** - Upper Abbeville Gem and Mineral Club (Due West, SC)

**January** – Open

**February** - Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. (Greensboro, NC)

Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)



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## Education Chair

### Cindy Reed

A very big thanks to Rick Marshall & Juergen Poppelreuter for a successful week at William Holland. The guys did a great job and I know everyone had a great week. As always, I think my favorite thing was the Wednesday night Ice Cream/Brownie Social. I understand Rick is already busy planning next year.

As mentioned last month, Highland Park has agreed to give us one of their new Intarsia machines and they included 120, 180, 260, 500, 800 and 1000 flat lap discs. We are offering 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. We already sold \$525 worth at the WH Workshop. If you have ques-

tions, please contact me at Education@southeastfed.org.

Jim Reed and Laura Odria are getting everything ready for the first Wildacres week, August 12-18. I understand there are still openings in most of the classes, but a couple are getting tight. For August, stained glass and weave-tap-drop are full, but we have room in the other classes. September has room in everything except soap stone carving. If you're still thinking of joining us see the next page for a list of classes or go to <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> and sign up today.

Cindy Reed, education@southeastfed.org

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## SFMS William Holland Director

### Rick Marshall

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2024 SFMS William Holland Workshop such a success! That includes students, teachers and SFMS and William Holland staff. Each and every one contributed! Special thanks to Cindy Reed and Juergen Poppelreuter for all your advice and help.

We had a total of 64 students in 12 classes. This was the largest number of students and classes in quite a while. We had a profit of \$545.00 and an additional \$525.00 raised in the raffle for the Highland Park Intarsia Machine. The funds raised by the raffle will be used for future Workshop scholarships.

You will have 2 more opportunities to purchase raffle tickets at the SFMS Wildacres Workshops.

Your club and club members can send you with money to purchase tickets also! The drawing will be at the end of the session of the week of 9/9/24.

Next year we will hold the SFMS William Holland Workshop the week of June 8. We changed to the 2nd week of June so we can possibly offer a Junior Rockhound or Junior Jewelers class. Please make your plans now to be there.

Rick Marshall  
SFMS William Holland Director  
407-949-1416



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## SFMS Wildacres Director

### Jim Reed

I see that some of the classes being offered still have some room for students, so if you're still thinking about a workshop this year, 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.

On another note, RSV & Covid on the rise again this summer. If you're not feeling well, please get tested or call and cancel. We would rather refund you than spread it around.

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

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## SFMS Wildacres Registrar

### Laura Odria

I am so excited and honored to be able to assist as the registrar for this year's SFMS weeks at Wildacres. These will be my first trips there, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing our learning experiences, enjoying the camaraderie, and building on lasting friendships. I am the Treasurer for the Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society in Apopka, Florida and have been fascinated with rocks and gems since childhood. I am trying to learn as much as possible, hoping to one day find my niche and become a lapidary legend (even if only in my own mind).

While we are on a wait list for Stained Glass and Weave-Tap-Drop in August, and Stone Carving in September, we do still have space available for all our other classes for both weeks. Sign up now at <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> to ensure your spot. Can't wait to see you all there.

Laura Odria, SFMS Wildacres Registrar  
Wa-registrar@southeastfed.org



## 2024 SFMS Workshops

Class	Instructor	Class	Instructor
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<u>William Holland June 2-8, 2024</u>			
Gem Trees I+	Jerri Heer	Silver I+	Jason Hamilton (WLO)
Cabs I	Jack King (WLO)	Stained Glass	Stephanie Danz
Cab I & II	John Harr	Intarsia I & II	Kim Valko
Casting	Bill Harr	Moovin Metal	Cindy Moore
Stone in Stone	Michael Bateman	Wire I	Judi Wild (WLO)
Faceting I & II	Tom Mitchell	Silver W/Leather Inta	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 (WLO)	Soapstone Carving	Kim Valko (WLO)
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](mailto:wh-registrar@sfmsworkshops.org)  
 WA Registrar: Laura Odria, 407-697-9441, [wa-registrar@sfmsworkshops.org](mailto:wa-registrar@sfmsworkshops.org)





## Bryozoan Fossils

Hi Folks! I like to use this forum to discuss minerals, rocks, and fossils I have encountered on KGMS field trips. This month I am going to discuss Bryozoan fossils. This group of usually small, but interesting fossils are found in East Tennessee and are common marine fossils throughout the world. In fact, these are among the first fossils one is likely to encounter when fossil hunting in East Tennessee. They are found locally mostly in fossiliferous limestone and shale deposits.

“Bryozoa” is a group name for a large (phylum) of similar, aquatic invertebrate animals, nearly all living in sedentary colonies, usually attached to rocks or shells or other solid surface. Individual animals in the colony, called zooids, are typically very small, simple, soft bodied animals that resemble coral polyps or sea anemones. They are filter feeders with tentacles that filter out microscopic plant and animal matter from the water. Individuals are often only about 0.5 millimeters (1/64 in) long. Each consists of soft body parts contained in a solid outer shell. It is these outer solid shells, formed and grouped together, that make up the structure of each Bryozoan colony. There is specialization in the colony, with some Zooids responsible for foundation building, others for upper structure and channeling to facilitate feeding, waste disposal, and reproduction. [See \(en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryozoa\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bryozoa) and [www.paleosoc.org/assets/docs/Bryozoan.pdf](http://www.paleosoc.org/assets/docs/Bryozoan.pdf) and [www.digitalatlasofancientlife.org/learn/bryozoa/](http://www.digitalatlasofancientlife.org/learn/bryozoa/)

It is rare for soft bodied plants and animals to be preserved as fossils. Even more so if the size is small. What is usually preserved as a fossil is the solid colony structure originally formed of calcium carbonate. The nine basic bryozoan colony-forms include: encrusting (layered on top of a surface), dome-shaped, palmate (like a

leaf), foliose (like a lichen), fenestrate (any form with holes or slits), robust branching, delicate branching, articulated (solid parts with movable joints) and free-living. Here in Tennessee, the most often encountered forms are the branching, fan shaped, domed shaped, and encrusting sheets.

Fossils of about 15,000 bryozoan species have been identified, which makes the phylum among the three largest groups of Paleozoic fossils. This animal group is a success story! Their calcitic skeletons are a major source of carbonate minerals in limestone deposits, and their fossils are very common in fossilized marine sediments worldwide. The earliest fossilized specimens date from the Ordovician (485.3 to 443.8 mya) and Bryozoans are still extant today. Scientists think that bryozoans may have evolved earlier in the Cambrian as soft bodied animals that did not leave a fossil record. Interestingly, and as a testament to the success of this group, there is a current count of 5,869 living fresh and salt water species worldwide.

During the Ordovician, East Tennessee was covered by a shallow sea, which provided an ideal environment for saltwater bryozoans. We find these colonial fossils today, preserved in limestone, shale, and less frequently, sandstones. Bryozoans are among the first fossils you are likely to find on any East Tennessee fossil hunting trip. They are generally small, with most specimens being less than an inch or two long. There are exceptions, as some of the branching and encrusting types can approach a foot or more in size. [See \(en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleontology\\_in\\_Tennessee\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleontology_in_Tennessee).

(Cont. on Page 10)



## Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

### Personal Experiences:

My personal experiences with Bryozoan fossils goes way back. As a child, I discovered that I was looking at bryozoans when I noticed small fossil-like shapes in rocks. This included what looked like branching tree segments, round, flat, and domed corals, clumps of seaweed, fan shapes, and porous ribbons. I noticed all these shapes when hunting fossils in local Tennessee fossil-bearing limestones and shales. Usually, I was looking for something larger, or cooler, such as brachiopods or horn corals or maclurites / snail fossils. As a child, I was always hopeful of finding real cool stuff like shark's teeth, fossil fish, or the ultimate prize - dinosaur bones! Well, not in East Tennessee! Because of the small size and modest appearance of bryozoans, any collecting that I did was limited to the bryozoans being part of a larger fossil-bearing rock that I happened to find and keep. Also, I discovered that it was hard to separate any of the bryozoan fossils from their host rocks.

My next childhood story involved a huge fossiliferous limestone rock at my mother's parents' house. This rock, and all the fossils in it fascinated me as a child. Per my grandfather, Emil Pferrer, he and his new wife Magdalene were on their honeymoon at what was to become Cumberland Falls State Park in Kentucky in 1926. They were driving his 1<sup>st</sup> car, an Essex, on the very muddy road to the falls. They made it, but the mileage recorded by the car was twice that per the map! LOTS of sliding and wheel spinning! While at the falls, grandpa went fishing and he found a 100-pound rock on the shore with lots of horn corals and other fossils (many bryozoans). He put the cool rock in the back of the Essex to improve traction for the trip home. Grandpa's fossil rock is now in my back yard!

Finally, I have encountered living Bryozoans throughout my life. I did not know this until I started doing research for this column. For example, I have spent many days paddling and fishing in the local east Tennessee lakes. By middle to late summer, one can frequently find large gelatinous masses around the branches of submerged trees. These are freshwater bryozoans! At the beach in North Carolina, I found that many present day (non-fossil) shells were covered with a thin layer of what could be described as a porous outer layer or ribbon. These are encrusting bryozoans. This was disappointing, if I was collecting shells, as the encrusting bryozoan layer detracted from the beauty of the shells. I used to think the layered deposit was a kind of coral, but now I know better.

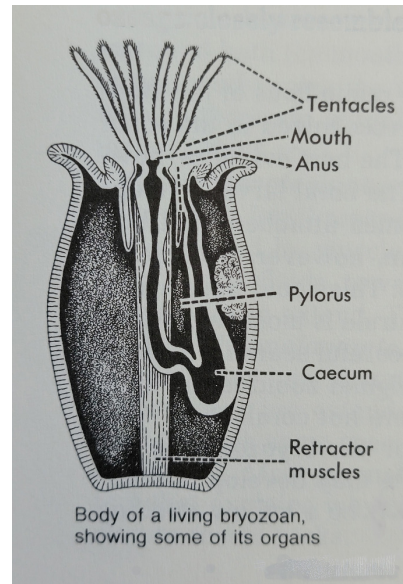
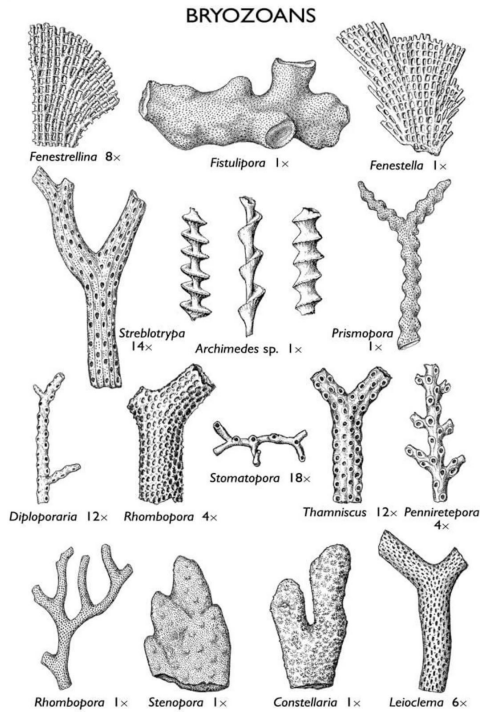
In addition to the 5,869 living Bryozoan species there are well as over 15,000 fossil species recognized! I bet there are yet more unknown species, living and fossil, yet to be found. Wouldn't it be great to find a new species, and to be able to name it!

Have fun & keep looking at the ground!

David Liles



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



Source: The Fossil Book by Carroll and Mildred Fenton, Pg 143

Source: <https://fossilfindsnz.weebly.com/bryozoa.html>



Branching Bryozoan  
Photo by David Liles



Domed Shaped Bryozoan  
Photo by David Liles



Modern Whelk w/Encrusting Bryozoan  
Photo by David Liles



Ribbon Shaped Bryozoan  
Photo by David Liles

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

## Youth Coordinator Chair

### Mike Harrison & Nancy Roberts

SFMS Youth Leaders and others who want to learn, here is your July birthstone information and other tidbits of mineral knowledge.

Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, colored by the element chromium. All other colors of gem-quality corundum are called sapphire, which means color is key for this royal gemstone.

Accordingly, the name “ruby” comes from rubeus, the Latin word for red. In ancient Sanskrit, ruby translated to ratnaraj, which meant “king of precious stones.” These fiery gems have been treasured throughout history for their color and vitality.

The chromium that gives ruby its red color also causes fluorescence, which makes rubies glow like a fire from within. Paradoxically, chromium is also what makes this gem scarce because it can cause cracks and fissures. Few rubies actually grow large enough to crystallize into fine quality gems, and these can bring even higher prices than diamonds.

Burma’s Mogok Valley historically produced the finest ruby material, famous for its deep blood-red color with purplish hues. These Burmese Rubies, also called Pigeon’s Blood Rubies, command a premium over brownish or orange-tinted varieties from other regions.

The Mong Hsu region of Myanmar began producing rubies in the ‘90s after discovering that heat treatment improved the color saturation. Other ruby deposits exist in Vietnam, Thailand, India, parts of the Middle East, East Africa, and even the United States.

Tough and durable, ruby measures 9 on the Mohs scale. Diamond is the only natural gemstone harder than ruby.

Ruby’s strength and red fluorescence make it

valuable for applications beyond jewelry. Both natural and synthetic rubies are used in watchmaking, medical instruments, and lasers.

Natural rubies have historically been expensive gems, but recent discoveries in Africa bring many attractive natural rubies into the market at affordable prices.

Lab-grown ruby is very common in jewelry stores in the United States. Lab-grown rubies have been in the United States jewelry market since the early 1900s. Today, if you go to a mall jewelry store such as Zales or Kay Jewelers, you will encounter a case with a large assortment of ruby jewelry items for sale. Many of them will likely be synthetic or lab-grown ruby. If you spend time studying them, you might note that the synthetic gems usually have better clarity and better color than natural gems of similar price. Many people are happy to pay the higher price for natural gems because they treasure gems that formed naturally within the Earth. Others are happy with the great appearance and lower price of lab-created gems.

Stay tuned for September when we discuss every other color of corundum, called sapphire.

Also stay tuned for more field trip ideas. If you have ideas you want me to explore or want to share here, please reach out to me or Nancy. We would love to chat!

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](mailto:youth@southeastfed.com), 256-797-2435

Nancy Roberts, [youth1@southeastfed.org](mailto:youth1@southeastfed.org)



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## 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 **August 16, 2024**. Please click the following link for rules and details: <https://www.southeastfed.org/contests-awards/juniors-year-in-rocks-contest>



Last years winning entry

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## South Carolina State Director Report

### John Narang

#### **\*\*Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society\*\***

A variety of programs the first half of the year, scheduled by V.P. Debra Baer, included members “Rockhound Trivia”; “Edgefield Pottery” by master potter Justin Guy; “Geology of Aiken County” by club president Walt Kubilius; “The 2011 Mineral, Virginia Earthquake” by member Jessica Witt; and “Annual Silent Auction.” Unfortunately, one meeting was cancelled by the venue because of last-minute plumbing issue.

Our Outreach activities were a January-February large exhibit of rocks, minerals, fossils, artifacts, and jewelry at the Aiken County Library and a return visit to Jefferson Elementary “Science Rocks” for an evening with students and parents enjoying the many exhibits. March was our annual show in Augusta co-hosted with Augusta GMS followed, in April, with a large exhibit and giveaways at “Aiken Earth Day.”

Field trips and excursions to Holden Beach for fossils; the Annual Spring Graves Mt. swap/dig;

and “Heritage Trail Pottery Tour” in Edgefield and Johnston were enjoyed by members and reported in the newsletter.

#### **\*\*LowCountry Gem and Mineral Society\*\***

The Lowcountry Gem and Mineral Society (Charleston) has had a great 2024 so far. In January Lila Neumeyer gave a presentation about her visit to the 55th Annual Columbia Gem and Mineral Show where she gave us tips for visiting and showed off her newest mineral acquisitions. In February I presented “Love and Devotion in Jewelry” to honor Valentine’s Day and told the group about the history of engagement rings, lover’s eye jewelry, and acrostic jewelry. Another standout meeting was when Kristin Mein gave a silversmithing demo on how she fabricates hollow stamped sterling silver beads. We are excited to meet again in the fall and hear about what everyone has been up to.



## 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.

**9/6-8/2024—WINSTON-SALEM, NC:** 53<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.forsythgemclub.com); Show Chairman W. Arvil Marion [mariona1@yadtel.net](mailto: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](http://lapidaryclub.com)

**9/7-8/2024—ORLANDO, FL:** Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society; Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Adults \$6, Kids \$3 and Scout in uniform are free. Website: [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org). Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or e-mail: [ssfossilhunter@aol.com](mailto:ssfossilhunter@aol.com).

**10/11-13/2024 HUNTSVILLE, AL:** Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, 1280 Airport Rd, Huntsville, AL 35802. Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Fossils, Art Objects, lapidary materials and equipment. Free parking, food vendors, demonstrations, auctions, children's activities, and hourly door prizes. October 11-13, 2024; Friday & Saturday 10AM—6PM, Sunday 10AM—5PM. Admission: Adults \$3, \$5 for weekend pass; Primary & Secondary Students \$1, Under 5 – Free. Web site [www.Huntsvillegms.org](http://www.Huntsvillegms.org), call 256-534-8803

**10/19-20/2024 SAINT LUCIE, FL:** St Lucie Rock & Gem Club 47<sup>th</sup> 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.slcrockandgem.org](http://www.slcrockandgem.org), [slclubshow2023@aol.com](mailto:slclubshow2023@aol.com)

**11/22-24/2024 COLUMBIA, SC:** The Columbia Gem & Mineral Society Annual Club Show, Jamil Temple 206 Jamil Road Columbia, SC 29210: Fri-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5. Admission \$7; 12 & under free; All military & their dependents free with ID Card. Info: [www.cgms.rocks](http://www.cgms.rocks)

**11/23-24/2024 WEST PALM BEACH, FL:** Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc., 57TH Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, South Florida Fairgrounds/Expo Center East 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, Fl. 33411. November 23-24, 2024; Saturday 9AM—6PM, Sunday 10AM—5PM. Admission: Adults \$10, 2-Day Pass \$15; Children under 12 -Free. <https://gmspb.org>



## 2024 SFMS Officers

<b>President</b> Danny Griffin (865)406-8802 President@southeastfed.org	<b>First Vice President</b> Vonda Echols (601)259-8801 vp1@southeastfed.org	<b>Second Vice President</b> Jason Hamilton (904)294-4744 vp2@southeastfed.org	<b>Secretary</b> Jerri Heer (419)344-9999 secretary@southeastfed.org
<b>Membership</b> Rick Marshall (407)949-1416 Membership@southeastfed.org	<b>Treasurer</b> Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900 treasurer@southeastfed.org	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b> David Liles (865)274-8271 Treasurer2@southeastfed.org	<b>Immediate Past President</b> Dennis Buchanan (770)402-9669 President@southeastfed.org
<b>Editor</b> Cindy Reed (863)255-5256 editor@southeastfed.org	<b>AFMS Regional VP from SFMS</b> William (Bill) Waggener (404)354-8752 vp-afms@southeastfed.org	<b>Mayo Foundation President</b> William (Bill) Waggener (404)354-8752 Mayopresident@southeastfed.org	

## 2024 SFMS State Directors

<b>Alabama</b> Chris Rutherford (334) 372-2507 AL@southeastfed.org	<b>Florida</b> Meri Jo Theobald (772) 708-5229 FL@southeastfed.org	<b>Florida Asst. State Director</b> Janice Wojcik (813) 677-6263 FL3@southeastfed.org	<b>Georgia</b> Open GA@southeastfed.org
<b>Mississippi</b> Open MS@southeastfed.org	<b>North Carolina</b> Cyndy Hummel (919)77906220 NC@southeastfed.org	<b>North Carolina (Asst-Western)</b> Kathryn Hackett Fields (828) 231-3555 NC2@southeastfed.org	<b>South Carolina</b> John Narang 803-727-7070 SC@southeastfed.org
<b>Tennessee</b> Teresa Polly (865)258-0795 TN@southeastfed.org	<b>Kentucky</b> Open	<b>Virginia</b> Open	



# 2024 SFMS Committee Chairs

**ANNUAL MEETING:** TBD, [annual-meeting@southeastfed.org](mailto:annual-meeting@southeastfed.org).

**AUDIT COMMITTEE** Rick Marshall, Chair (407)949-1416, [Membership@southeastfed.org](mailto:Membership@southeastfed.org)  
Jason Hamilton, (904)294-4744 [programs@southeastfed.org](mailto:programs@southeastfed.org)  
Vonda Echols, (601)259-8801 [vp2@southeastfed.org](mailto:vp2@southeastfed.org)  
Bill Waggener, (404)354-8752 [mayopresident@southeastfed.org](mailto:mayopresident@southeastfed.org)

**BULLETIN EDITOR CONTEST:** Mark Easterbrook, (843) 276-4016, [bulletincontest@southeastfed.org](mailto:bulletincontest@southeastfed.org)

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Vonda Echols Chair, (601)259-8801 [comm1@southeastfed.org](mailto:comm1@southeastfed.org);  
Rick Marshall (407)949-1416, [comm2@southeastfed.org](mailto:comm2@southeastfed.org)  
Lori Carter, (770)405-9903, [comm3@southeastfed.org](mailto:comm3@southeastfed.org)

**CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS:** Danny Griffin, (865) 406-8802, [bylaws@southeastfed.org](mailto:bylaws@southeastfed.org)

**EDUCATION:** Cindy Reed, (863) 255-5256, [education@southeastfed.org](mailto:education@southeastfed.org)

**WILLIAM HOLLAND DIRECTOR:** Rick Marshall, (407)949-1416 [wh-director@southeastfed.org](mailto:wh-director@southeastfed.org)

**WILLIAM HOLLAND REGISTRAR:** Juergen Poppelreuter, (678)576-7034 [wh-registar@southeastfed.org](mailto:wh-registar@southeastfed.org)

**WILDACRES DIRECTOR:** Jim Reed, (863)255-0651 [WA-Director@southeastfed.org](mailto:WA-Director@southeastfed.org)

**WILDACRES REGISTRAR:** Leslie Wayment 772)539-2409 [WA-Registrar@southeastfed.org](mailto:WA-Registrar@southeastfed.org)

**FIELD TRIPS:** Charles Carter, (404) 438-1776 [fieldtrips@southeastfed.org](mailto:fieldtrips@southeastfed.org)

**DMC FIELD TRIP SHARING PROGRAM:** Lori Carter 'DMC Coordinator' (770) 405-9903 [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)

**HISTORIAN:** Vicki Hodges; (336) 207-0343 [historian@southeastfed.org](mailto:historian@southeastfed.org)

**INSURANCE LIAISON:** David Liles, (865) 274-8271 [insurance@southeastfed.org](mailto:insurance@southeastfed.org)

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

**LONG RANGE PLANNING:** Reggie Bolton, (205) 410-9455 [planning-chair@southeastfed.org](mailto:planning-chair@southeastfed.org)  
Jessie Griffin, (865) 963-7982 [planning@southeastfed.org](mailto:planning@southeastfed.org)  
Dennis Buchanan, 770-402-9669 [pastprez@southeastfed.org](mailto:pastprez@southeastfed.org)

**NOMINATIONS:** Dennis Buchanan, Chair 770-402-9669 [pastprez@southeastfed.org](mailto:pastprez@southeastfed.org)  
Teresa Polly, TN State Director (865) 258-0795 [tn@southeastfed.org](mailto:tn@southeastfed.org)  
Jim Patterson, (251)510-8527 [nom1@southeastfed.org](mailto:nom1@southeastfed.org)  
Rick Marshall,(407)949-1416, [Membership@southeastfed.org](mailto:Membership@southeastfed.org)  
2 Positions Open

**PUBLICATIONS:** Open,-Chair, [publications@southeastfed.org](mailto:publications@southeastfed.org)  
Cindy Reed, (863)255-5256 [editor@southeastfed.org](mailto:editor@southeastfed.org)  
Open

**SAFETY:** Bob Green, (864) 915-3479 [safety@southeastfed.org](mailto:safety@southeastfed.org)

**Sexual Harassment:** Jerri Heer, Chairperson, (419) 344-9999 [secretary@southeastfed.org](mailto:secretary@southeastfed.org)  
Vonda Echols, (601)259-8801 [vp2@southeastfed.org](mailto:vp2@southeastfed.org)  
Teresa Polly, (865) 258-0795 [tn@southeastfed.org](mailto:tn@southeastfed.org)  
Bill Waggener, (404)354-8752 [mayopresident@southeastfed.org](mailto:mayopresident@southeastfed.org)  
James Gazaway

**SOCIAL CONCERNS:** Mary Ingram, (404)915-3588 [social@southeastfed.org](mailto:social@southeastfed.org)

**SUPPLIES:** Open [supplies1@southeastfed.org](mailto:supplies1@southeastfed.org)

**UNIFORM RULES:** Open [uniformrules@southeastfed.org](mailto:uniformrules@southeastfed.org)

**VIDEO LIBRARY PROGRAMS:** Jason Hamilton, (904)294-4744 [programs@southeastfed.org](mailto:programs@southeastfed.org)

**WAYS & MEANS:** Danny Griffin, (865)406-8802 [waysandmeans@southeastfed.org](mailto:waysandmeans@southeastfed.org)  
Barbi Beatty, Treasurer (228) 238-9900 [treasurer@southeastfed.org](mailto:treasurer@southeastfed.org)  
David Liles, Asst. Treasurer (865) 274-8271 [treasurer2@southeastfed.org](mailto:treasurer2@southeastfed.org)

**WEBMASTER:** Lori Carter, (770)405-9903 [webmaster@southeastfed.org](mailto:webmaster@southeastfed.org)

**WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** Open [ws-scholarships@southeastfed.org](mailto:ws-scholarships@southeastfed.org)

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

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

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve



## 2024 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Officers

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

## 2024 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees

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

**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:** Open supplies@southeastfed.org

**Regional VP, AFMS:** William (Bill) Waggener, (404)354-8752 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:youth@southeastfed.org) and [youth1@southeastfed.org](mailto: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  
EXECUTIVE MEETING AGENDA  
June 8, 2024 – Young Harris, Georgia

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Invocation**
4. **Introductions**
5. **Host Welcome: Rockhound Roundup**
6. **Quorum Check- 1/3 of Exec Board = (11+7).33=6**
7. **Approval of Agenda**
8. **Appointment of Parliamentarian**
9. **Minutes from Annual Meeting**
10. **Remarks by President - In Packet**
11. **Officer Reports:**
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Vonda Echols – In Packet
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jason Hamilton– No Report
  - c. Secretary: Jerri Heer - In Packet
  - d. Treasurer: Barbi Beatty – In Packet
  - e. Assistant Treasurer – David Liles – In the Packet
  - f. Membership Secretary: Rick Marshall – In Packet
  - g. Lodestar Editor: Cindy Reed – In Packet
  - h. Immediate Past President: Dennis Buchanan – In the packet
  - i. Interim AFMS 1st VP – William Waggener – No Report
  - j. Mayo E.F. President: William Waggener – In Packet

**12. State Director Reports:**

- a. Alabama: Chris Rutherford – No report
- b. Florida: Meri Jo Theobald – No Report
  - i. Florida Asst Director - Central: Janice Wojcik
  - ii. Florida Asst Director – Open
- c. Georgia: Open No Report
- d. Kentucky: Open
- e. Mississippi: Open
- f. North Carolina: Cyndy Hummel – Nothing to Report

- i. NC Asst Director – Kathryn Hackett-Fields
- g. South Carolina: Open
- h. Tennessee: Teresa Polly No Report
- i. Virginia: Open

**13. S.F.M.S. Committee Reports:**

- a. Bulletin Editor's Contest: Mark Easterbrook – In the Packet
- b. Constitution and Bylaws: Danny Griffin - In Packet
- c. Dixie Mineral Council – Lori Carter – In Packet
- d. Education: Cindy Reed – In Packet
- e. Field Trip: Charles Carter – No Report
- f. Historian: Vickie Hodges – No Report
- g. Inventory – Danny Griffin – In Packet
- h. Long Range Planning: Jesse Griffin, Dennis Buchanan– No Report
- i. Nominations: In the Packet
- j. Public Relations: Open
- k. Publications: No Report
- l. Safety: Bob Green- No Report
- m. Slide, Video & DVD Programs: Jason Hamilton – No Report
- n. Supplies: Open – No Report
- o. 2024 Annual Meeting Host – Georgia Mineral Society – In the Packet
- p. Ways & Means: Danny Griffin, Vonda Echols, Barbi Beatty – No Report
- q. Webmaster: Lori Carter – In Packet
- r. Wildacres Workshop Director: Jim Reed- In Packet
- s. Wildacres Workshop Registrar: Laura Odria– In Packet

- t. William Holland Workshop  
Director: Rick Marshall - In Packet
- u. William Holland Workshop  
Registrar: Juergen Popplereuter  
– In Packet
- v. Workshop Scholarship  
Committee – Open –No Report
- w. Youth Resources: Mike Harrison  
– No Report
- c. Treasurer Suggesting we buy a  
\$15,000 CD at 4.25% to  
improve earnings.

Mayo Meeting immediately following.

#### **14. A.F.M.S. Committee Representative**

##### **Reports:**

- a. A.F.M.S. Newsletter: Open
- b. All American: Open
- c. Boundaries: Open - No Report
- d. Bulletin Editors' Advisory: Mark  
Easterbrook – In Packet
- e. Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame:  
Mark Easterbrook– In Packet
- f. Club Rockhound of the Year:  
Marty Hart – In Packet
- g. Collecting Sites: Open
- h. Conservation and Legislation:  
Open
- i. Endowment Fund: Open –No  
Report
- j. Inter-Regional Field Trip: Open
- k. Junior Program: Open
- l. Program Competition: Open
- m. Public Relations: Open
- n. Publications & Supplies: No  
Reportt - No Report
- o. Safety: Bob Green- No Report
- p. Uniform Rules: Leslie Wayment  
–No Report
- q. Ways & Means: No Report
- r. Website: Lori Carter– No Report
- s. Website Contest: Lori Carter –  
No Report

#### **15. Old Business**

- a. Ideas for distribution of  
Rockhound Roundup Funds
- b.

#### **16. New Business:**

- a. Application for SFMS  
Membership – Central Florida  
Club
- b. Disposition of Old Records –  
Secretary

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES  
June 8, 2024 – Young Harris, Georgia

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order** – 9:00 am By Vonda Echols
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Invocation** – by Rick Marshall
4. **Introductions**
5. **Host Welcome:** William Holland by Jerri Heer
6. **Quorum Check- 1/3 of Exec Board = (11+7).33=6**, including virtual attendees we have 11
7. **Approval of Agenda** – Jerri Heer added Item 16 C : Request by Treasurer to purchase a CD. Motion made by Vonda Echols, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Juergen Popplereuter, Motion Carried.
8. **Appointment of Parliamentarian** – Vivian Marshall
9. **Minutes from Annual Meeting** – Motion to approve by Rick Marshall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Waggener, motion carried.
10. **Remarks by President - In Packet**
11. **Officer Reports:**
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Vonda Echols – In Packet
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jason Hamilton– No Report
  - c. Secretary: Jerri Heer - In Packet
  - d. Treasurer: Barbi Beatty – In Packet
  - e. Assistant Treasurer – David Liles – In the Packet
  - f. Membership Secretary: Rick Marshall – In Packet
  - g. Lodestar Editor: Cindy Reed – In Packet
  - h. Immediate Past President: Dennis Buchanan – In the packet
  - i. Interim AFMS 1st VP – William Waggener – No Report
  - j. Mayo E.F. President: William Waggener – In Packet
12. **State Director Reports:**
  - a. Alabama: Chris Rutherford – No report
  - b. Florida: Meri Jo Theobald – No Report
    - i. Florida Asst Director -Central: Janice Wojcik
    - ii. Florida Asst Director – Open
  - c. Georgia: Open No Report (new Candidate: Mike Harrison)
  - d. Kentucky: Open
  - e. Mississippi: Open
  - f. North Carolina: Cyndy Hummel – Nothing to Report
    - i. NC Asst Director – Kathryn Hackett-Fields
  - g. South Carolina: Open
  - h. Tennessee: Teresa Polly - Report read in:

**Kingsport Gems & Minerals Society**

I talked to Bob Morgan and Jacob had to step down as President because he is going to graduate school out of State. He said that Gene Backlund has volunteered to step in.

**Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**

On May 18, 2024 KGMS held their May picnic and we interred Travis Paris's ashes at the club house.

## **Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

Lydia New one of MAGS junior members found 3.5" drill/perforator Native American artifact. They sadly reported the loss of Shirley Ruth Chrisman one of their long time members. They are in preparation to make changes to their website.

## **Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**

As always the MTGMS has an impressive list of classes they are teaching.

## **Middle Tennessee Rockhounds**

I talked to Wayne Ramsey at the Chattanooga show and he said that the Middle Tennessee Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Festival ran smoothly. Attendance was slightly down but he believes this was because it was the first beautiful day of Spring after many rainy days. They have also gone field trips to Diamond Hill Mine, Graves Mountain, and Mundy's Landing in Harrodsburg, KY.

## **Tennessee Valley Rock & Mineral Society**

I went to the Chattanooga show May 4th at the Chester Frost Park and checked in how the club is doing. The show was well attended and the vendors did well. Randy said that the live and Zoom meeting combination was working well and they are going to keep streaming the live meetings for those who cannot attend in person.

- i. Virginia: Open

### **13. S.F.M.S. Committee Reports:**

- a. Bulletin Editor's Contest: Mark Easterbrook – In the Packet
- b. Constitution and Bylaws: Danny Griffin - In Packet
- c. Dixie Mineral Council – Lori Carter – In Packet
- d. Education: Cindy Reed – In Packet
- e. Field Trip: Charles Carter – No Report
- f. Historian: Vickie Hodges – No Report
- g. Inventory – Danny Griffin – In Packet
- h. Long Range Planning: Jesse Griffin, Dennis Buchanan– No Report
- i. Nominations: In the Packet
- j. Public Relations: Open
- k. Publications: No Report
- l. Safety: Bob Green- No Report
- m. Slide, Video & DVD Programs: Jason Hamilton – No Report
- n. Supplies: Open – No Report
- o. 2024 Annual Meeting Host – Georgia Mineral Society – In the Packet
- p. Ways & Means: Danny Griffin, Vonda Echols, Barbi Beatty – No Report
- q. Webmaster: Lori Carter – In Packet
- r. Wildacres Workshop Director: Jim Reed- In Packet
- s. Wildacres Workshop Registrar: Laura Odria– In Packet
- t. William Holland Workshop Director: Rick Marshall - In Packet
- u. William Holland Workshop Registrar: Juergen Popplereuter – In Packet
- v. Workshop Scholarship Committee – Open –No Report
- w. Youth Resources: Mike Harrison – No Report

#### **14. A.F.M.S. Committee Representative**

##### **Reports:**

- a. A.F.M.S. Newsletter: Open
- b. All American: Open
- c. Boundaries: Open - No Report
- d. Bulletin Editors' Advisory: Mark Easterbrook – In Packet
- e. Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame: Mark Easterbrook– In Packet
- f. Club Rockhound of the Year: Marty Hart – In Packet
- g. Collecting Sites: Open
- h. Conservation and Legislation: Open
- i. Endowment Fund: Open –No Report
- j. Inter-Regional Field Trip: Open
- k. Junior Program: Open
- l. Program Competition: Open
- m. Public Relations: Open
- n. Publications & Supplies: No Report - No Report
- o. Safety: Bob Green- No Report
- p. Uniform Rules: Leslie Wayment –No Report
- q. Ways & Means: No Report
- r. Website: Lori Carter– No Report
- s. Website Contest: Lori Carter – Marty Hart added a statement on behalf of Lori Carter that to date she has only one entry for the Website contest. Clubs have until August 31, 2024 to submit their sites. Even if you don't wish to be considered in the contest, you can submit for critique and constructive advice.

#### **15. Old Business**

- a. Ideas for distribution of Rockhound Roundup Funds – current suggestions are a \$50 stipend for trips over 100 miles from home. Committee will have a complete proposal at the September Annual Meeting
- b.

#### **16. New Business:**

- a. Application for SFMS Membership – Central Florida Club – Rick Marshal reviewed the stats: 42 adult members, 4 juniors for total of 46 members, application and funds submitted are in order. Motion by Jerri Heer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amanda Rollason to accept, Motion carried.
- b. Disposition of Old Records – Secretary – Has possession of 3 2 drawer filing cabinets of Records from 1976 to present. She is moving to Ohio, and does not want to bring them north. Proposes four Options:
  - i. Dispose of records
  - ii. Find another repository of records
  - iii. Find someone to digitize them and store on our Google account and on a hard drive, then dispose of physical records
  - iv. Pay a commercial company to digitize

We have found that Vickie Hodges, our historian is willing to digitize the records if we get them to her and provide her with a scanner to do so. Lori Carter, Webmaster, has indicated that we have 100 Terabytes of storage space available. Teresa Polly indicated concerns that if we then dispose of the records and technology changes so that pdf's are not readable, we will lose the data. Bill Waggener suggested that we approach The Tellus Museum, who currently houses Mayo's records to take these as well. Barbi Beatty suggested that we amend the budget sufficiently to cover the costs of the scanner, hard drive, and storage boxes. With these stipulations in mind, Vonda made a motion the have Vickie Hodges digitize the records, Amend the budget to add \$500 to cover the cost of scanner, hard drive, boxes, etc, and have Bill Waggener approach Tellus for the ultimate storage of the physical records., Barbi Beatty seconded. Motion carried.



- c. Treasurer Suggesting we buy a \$15,000 CD at 4.25% to improve earnings. Discussion followed about amounts available and potential need in the future, but it was decided to stick to the proposed \$15,000. Vonda Echols made a motion to proceed with purchase of an 11 month CD at 4.25% interest in the amount of \$15,000. Jerri Heer seconded, motion carried

Motion made by Bill Waggener to adjourn, second by Amanda Rollason, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM

There was no Mayo Meeting

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES  
March 2, 2024 – Live Oak, Florida

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order:** 6:16 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Invocation:** By Rick Marshall
4. **Introductions** - Made of in person and online attendees
5. **Host Welcome: Rockhound Roundup:** Jerri Heer
6. **Quorum Check- 1/3 of Exec Board = (11+7).33=6** - have 12
7. **Approval of Agenda: Additions made:**
  - a. Old Business: b. Potential use/distribution of Roundup Income.
  - b. New Business: a. Audit Committee Report, b. Memoria; for Travis Paris  
Motion made by Vonda Echols to approve Agenda as amended, second by Barbi Beatty.  
Motion Carried.
8. **Appointment of Parliamentarian-** Teresa Polly appointed by Danny Griffin
9. **Minutes from Annual Meeting** – Minutes in the packet, motion made to approve as presented by Vonda Echols, seconded by Dennis Buchanan, Motion carried.
10. **Remarks by President - In Packet**
11. **Officer Reports:**
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Vonda Echols – In Packet
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jason Hamilton– No Report
  - c. Secretary: Jerri Heer - In Packet
  - d. Treasurer: Barbi Beatty – In Packet
  - e. Assistant Treasurer – David Liles – Nothing to Report
  - f. Membership Secretary: Rick Marshall – In Packet
  - g. Lodestar Editor: Cindy Reed – In Packet
  - h. Immediate Past President: Dennis Buchanan – No Report
  - i. AFMS 1st VP – Steve Henegar – No Report
  - j. Mayo E.F. President: William Waggener – In Packet
12. **State Director Reports:**
  - a. Alabama: Chris Rutherford – In Packet
  - b. Florida: Meri Jo Theobald – No Report
    - i. Florida Asst Director -Central: Janice Wojcik
    - ii. Florida Asst Director – Open – Dennis Buchanan has collected 18 names for potential creation of a club in Live Oak/North Florida/ South Georgia area.
  - c. Georgia: Open In Packet
  - d. Kentucky: Open
  - e. Mississippi: Open
  - f. North Carolina: Cyndy Hummel - No Report
    - i. NC Asst Director – Kathryn Hackett-Fields
  - g. South Carolina: Open
  - h. Tennessee: Teresa Polly – In Packet
  - i. Virginia: Open
13. **S.F.M.S. Committee Reports:**
  - a. Bulletin Editor's Contest: Mark Easterbrook – No Report
  - b. Constitution and Bylaws: Danny Griffin - In Packet
  - c. Dixie Mineral Council – Lori Carter – In Packet
  - d. Education: Cindy Reed – In Packet
  - e. Field Trip: Charles Carter – No Report

- f. Historian: Vickie Hodges – No Report
- g. Inventory – Danny Griffin – In Packet
- h. Long Range Planning: Jesse Griffin, Dennis Buchanan– No Report
- i. Nominations: No Report
- j. Public Relations: Open
- k. Publications: No Report
- l. Safety: Bob Green- No Report
- m. Slide, Video & DVD Programs: Jason Hamilton – Jason reported that only three clubs used program materials.
- n. Supplies: Dave Wayment – No Report
- o. 2024 Annual Meeting Host – Georgia Mineral Society/ Cobb County Joint effort.
- p. Ways & Means: Danny Griffin, Vonda Echols, Barbi Beatty – In Packet
- q. Webmaster: Lori Carter – In Packet
- r. Wildacres Workshop Director: Dave Wayment- In Packet
- s. Wildacres Workshop Registrar: Leslie Wayment– In Packet
- t. William Holland Workshop Director: Rick Marshall - In Packet
- u. William Holland Workshop Registrar: Juergen Popplereuter – In Packet
- v. Workshop Scholarship Committee – Dave Wayment –No Report
- w. Youth Resources: Mike Harrison – Mike reports that we have 9 youth groups using the AFMS Future Rockhounds Program, Birmingham will make 10, and Mississippi and Greater Palm Beaches are also inquiring. Anyone wanting more info for their club should call Mike at 256-797-2435.

**14. A.F.M.S. Committee Representative Reports:**

- a. A.F.M.S. Newsletter: Open
- b. All American: Open
- c. Boundaries: Open - No Report
- d. Bulletin Editors' Advisory: Mark Easterbrook – No Report
- e. Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame: Mark Easterbrook– No Report
- f. Club Rockhound of the Year: Marty Hart - No report
- g. Collecting Sites: Open
- h. Conservation and Legislation: Open
- i. Endowment Fund: Dave Wayment –No Report
- j. Inter-Regional Field Trip: Open
- k. Junior Program: Open
- l. Program Competition: Open
- m. Public Relations: Open
- n. Publications & Supplies: Dave Wayment - No Report
- o. Safety: Bob Green- No Report
- p. Uniform Rules: Leslie Wayment –No Report
- q. Ways & Means: No Report
- r. Website: Open – No Report
- s. Website Contest: Open – No Report

**15. Old Business**

- a. Mike Johnson, JGMS Member has volunteered to handle signs for the Rockhound Roundup.
- b. Original Plan for use of funds from Roundup was to provide a fund to support State Directors with their travel costs for visiting clubs in their states. In 2023, we had a surplus of \$1351, in 2024 we'll have about \$1400. Danny Griffin requested volunteers for an Ad

Hoc Committee to study options, and report back at June Meeting. Volunteers are Teresa Polly, Vonda Echols, Jason Hamilton and MeriJo Theobold.

**16. New Business:**

- a. Audit Committee Report: An Audit Committee consisting of Rick Marshall, Teresa Polly, Vonda Echols and Jerri Heer conducted a complete audit of the SFMS financial records for 2023, including both SFMS Workshop schools. Treasurer Barbi Beatty provided 4 binders of complete bank and account records as well as receipts for each month, for SFMS and both workshops. Records were clear and complete. Had one minor issue related to a student refund, but all other records were reconciled. Audit completed with no significant issues. Therefore, we recommend moving forward with a standard 10% audit moving forward with a plan to perform annual audits ongoing during the Spring meeting.
- b. Danny Griffin reported that long-time SFMS member, past President, former State Director and KGMS Club Member Travis Paris passed away. Danny spoke about Travis' long history with both the SFMS and KGMS. A suggestion was made to make a donation to the Mayo Foundation as a memorial. MeriJo Theobold made a motion to donate \$500 in his name, Vonda Echols seconded the motion, motion carried.
- c. MeriJo Theobold asked for advice from clubs about the advisability and reasoning for using security cameras on club property. Jason Hamilton commented that JGMS uses for insurance and liability coverage. They have a museum with expensive specimens, a lot of classrooms w/equipment. Vonda Echols from Mississippi, Barbi from Mississippi Gulfcoast and Mike Harrison from Huntsville have cameras for the same reasons.
- d. Rick Marshall announced that there are 62 paid students for the William Holland Workshop week, suggests that all of us talk up William Holland and the WildAcres workshops with our clubs
- e. Adjourn – motion to adjourn by Jerri Heer, second by Barbi Beatty. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

Mayo Meeting immediately following. ( No Mayo Meeting was conducted – no quorum)

**June 8, 2024 - Report Packet**

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President:**

As I write this report the AFMS meetings/lectures in Ventura California are still on-going and will end Sunday May 26th.

The scuttlebutt I'm hearing is that everyone's having a good time and are making a lot of new friends, from other regions, and reconnecting with old friends. Bill Waggener is representing the SFMS at the AFMS meeting by filling the vacant position of AFMS 2nd Regional (SFMS) Vice-President. This position opened up after the untimely death of David Wayment. Lisa Roberts is my official representative at the meeting. I could not attend due to medical issues. Collis Antley filled the SFMS 1st VP position as the representative for Vonda Echols. I've heard the Ventura Gem Show is pretty spectacular. I can't wait to see what the SFMS attendees have to say when they get back.

Many, many thanks to Bill, Lisa and Collis for going all the way to Ventura California to represent the SFMS.

Please encourage your club's newsletter editor to publish info about the Workshops. Your newsletter is one of the best ways for your members to hear about what the SFMS has to offer. Most newsletter Editors are begging for info to fill the pages and would appreciate all the good info about the workshops. Your members may not know about the workshops if you don't pass along the info. Contact Cindy Reed (SFMS Education Chair) if you have questions. A simple link to the workshop website and a sentence about the classes will go a long way.

Thanks!!

Danny Griffin  
2024 SFMS President

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**1st Vice President:**

Hope all the mothers out there had a great Mother's Day. Hope all the children remembered your mothers in a special way. Now I know why Mother's Day is in May, it's before Father's Day, so Moms can in turn show our appreciations to the men who made us moms. Children don't forget to remember your dads this month.

With this being June hopefully everyone has signed up for a class hosted by SFMS at either William Holland, June 2-7 or Wild Acres August 12-18, September 9-15. There are a few classes that are not full yet but classes are filling up. Please encourage your club members to come support the facilities during SFMS week. SFMS works hard to ensure we have great instructors during these weeks. One way to encourage instructors to return each year is to have members take their classes showing the instructors they are wanted and needed. Hope to see you during these weeks.

As IVP one of my duties is to coordinate our SFMS annual meeting. Georgia Mineral Society is hosting our 2024 Annual meeting September 28, The annual meeting will be held during the clubs annual picnic and auction. More information to come. So now we are looking for a club to host the 2025 annual meeting. We need to have this information sooner than later. We need to post the dates and place in the American Federation Newsletter and advise AFMS board of this during their annual meeting in 2025.

If any club is willing to host our SFMS annual meeting please contact me,

Thank you for your willingness to volunteer in our club and the federation.

Vonda Echols  
Vp1@southeastfed.org  
601-259-8801

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**Membership:**

Since our meeting at the Rockhound Roundup we have had the Southern Appalachian Mineral Society renew so that brings us to 66 members. We have also received a request for membership from the Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society which we will vote on at the Summer Quarterly meeting June 8 at William Holland. This will bring us to 67. I hope we can keep adding more clubs. If you know of any clubs that are not members please contact them to promote the SFMS.

Rick Marshall  
SFMS Membership Secretary  
407-949-1416

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**Lodestar Editor:**

I would like to thank everyone for their words of support and suggestions. We have over

700 names on the contact list at this time. If your club isn't receiving the Lodestar, please contact me at [editor@southeastfed.org](mailto:editor@southeastfed.org) and I will add you.

If you have any questions, suggestions or submissions, please contact me at [editor@southeastfed.org](mailto:editor@southeastfed.org).

Cindy Reed, SFMS Lodestar Editor

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**Secretary:**

As I make this report, I am packing to make a move to Ohio. In the process of doing so, I have been examining the four filing cabinets of records that were bestowed upon me upon my acceptance of the position of secretary. Lucky me, right?

While I can continue as Secretary if I maintain membership in an SFMS Club, it would be my preference to not move this large amount of paper to Ohio with me. If I did move it, I do not want to store it in perpetuity. I will be looking to the Executive Board to consider what is the best course of action for either preservation or disposal of these records, which date back to 1976.

Because we do not have a physical office for the SFMS, there is no central location to deposit these records. So as I see it, we have 4 choices:

1. We can find another volunteer to store them.
2. We can dispose of anything older than 7 years to minimize what we maintain.
3. We can purchase a double-sided scanner and digitize the records to preserve them in less space - \$300-500 for equipment and a lot of time.
4. We can hire a company to digitize them - \$.08-.15 per page (\$3,000-5,000 estimate)

I will bring some examples of the documents I have to the meeting.

Jerri Heer

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Treasurer:

<b>S F M S Treasurer's Report</b>	
<b>29-May-24</b>	
<b>Report prepared using Date as of January 1, 2024- May 29, 2024</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Workshop Scholarship Income	\$0.00
Membership Dues	\$11,767.50
Interest income	\$1.82
Workshop Income Wildacres	\$6,563.05
Workshop Income William Holland	\$39,927.80
Rock Hound Roundup	\$2,566.00
Donations	\$0.00
Insurance Income	\$31,596.00
Youth Program Income	\$0.00
Annual meeting (Banquet)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$92,422.17</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Workshop Scholarship Expenses	\$0.00
Bank Fees	\$0.00
Treasurer Expenses	\$300.00
Secretary Expenses	\$18.80
Membership Secretary Expenses	\$0.00
Insurance Dues	\$34,299.00
Workshop Misc	\$0.00
Workshop Expenses Wildacres	\$147.77
Workshop Expenses William Holland	\$0.00
Rock Hound Roundup	\$1,003.62
Federation Meeting/Social Concerns Expenses	\$415.20
Youth Program Expenses	\$104.40
Slide Program Expenses	\$0.00
Awards/Bulletin/Website Contest Expenses	\$450.19
AFMS Federation Dues	\$5,868.00
AFMS Officer Travel Expenses	\$0.00
Office Supply/printing/postage Expenses	\$0.00
Raffle	\$0.00
Mayo Ed Foundation	\$0.00
Annual meeting	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$42,606.98</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$49,815.19</b>
<b>ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP SUMMARY 2024 (complete)</b>	
Roundup Income	\$2,566.00
Roundup Expense	-\$1,003.62
Total	\$1,562.38

<b>WORKSHOP SUMMARY 2024 (not complete)</b>	
Wildacres Income	\$6,563.05
Wildacres Expense (reported so far)	-\$147.77
Total	\$6,415.28
William Holland Income	\$39,927.80
William Holland Expense (reported so far)	\$0.00
Total	\$39,927.80
Workshop Income	\$46,490.85
Workshop Expense (reported so far)	-\$147.77
Web hosting	-\$33.98
Scholarships Given	\$0.00
Workshop Total	\$46,309.10
All totals are Year to Date	
Respectfully submitted,	
Barbi Beatty	
SFMS Treasurer	

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbi Beatty  
SFMS Treasurer

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**David G. Liles**

**Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies (SFMS) Assistant Treasurer**

Status of Club Insurance as of 5/21/24

My primary duty as Assistant Treasurer for the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies (SFMS) is to serve as the Insurance Liaison. Liability insurance is made available to SFMS member Clubs and Societies through the SFMS Insurance program. The insurance covers member club activities such as field trips and shows. As liaison I am responsible for collecting and recording insurance payments and forms, summarizing same, and organizing of insurance purchase through the Federation's agent - Snellings Walters Insurance Agency, via the insurance carrier, Central Insurance Companies. I am also responsible for requesting the issuance of Show Insurance Certificates, and Club Insurance policies and riders - as requested by individual clubs, for the club show venue, and field trips.

The big news this insurance year was the decision of our prior insurer, Cincinnati, to no longer insure the Southeastern Federation clubs. We had a 3-year contract with Cincinnati that ran out in the insurance year ending 3/31/24. Specific reasons were not given, but there are a lot of insurance company risk and cost re-evaluations going on industry wide. Insurance companies consider claim and administrative costs in the insurance and pricing decision. Our insurance agent, Snellings & Walters, found us another insurer just as our insurance with Cincinnati was about to run out. The new policy came at a higher overall cost. We signed a one-year contract, with the hopes that we can find another insurer at lower rates next year.



The new rates for club insurance are \$4 per member (was \$2.20). Show insurance was set at \$200 per event (was \$220).

Because of the delays in securing a new insurer and negotiating rates for club and show insurance, we did not send out insurance invoices to clubs that requested insurance during the membership process until early April. So that all clubs that desired insurance were covered, the Southeast Federation purchased the insurance, and will be reimbursed as clubs remit their checks for club and show insurance.

A bit of history: Starting in calendar year 2023, The membership and insurance process was improved via use of a form and invoice sequence that starts with membership. The membership form has a place for a club to indicate if insurance is desired – club or club and show insurance. A summary spreadsheet in GOOGLE forms for SFMS collects club information based on members and insurance desired and computes membership and insurance \$\$ totals. Remember - A club must be a SFMS member to buy the insurance made available by the SFMS. The automated form makes sure this is the case. A club then must buy club insurance to be able to buy show / event insurance. Completion of the Membership form by a club representative via access to the SFMS webpage triggers an EMAIL of a SFMS Membership Invoice to the club contact responsible for payment. Once Membership is indicated for a club, I (Assistant

Treasurer) can generate and send out an EMAIL invoice for Insurance. As I receive insurance checks, I manually update the shared spreadsheet in GOOGLE for \$\$ amount received, check number, and date.

In my opinion, this new automated invoice and spreadsheet has done much to improve the invoicing and collection of SFMS Membership and Insurance \$. Many thanks to Lori Carter, Rick Marshall, Barbi Beatty, and others who made this happen!

Below are some summary statistics on Insurance for the current year (4/1/24 to 3/31/25):

Insured Club Status - 2024-25 year:

Clubs purchasing Member Insurance via SFMS = 58

Clubs Purchasing Show Insurance from SFMS= 34

Clubs Providing Own Insurance = 6

Clubs without Member Insurance = 2

Total Clubs listed on Spreadsheet = 66

Total Club Insurance purchased = \$26,644.00

Total Show Insurance purchased = \$ 7,200.00

Total Insurance purchased = \$33,844.00

Additional Information:

The needed insurance forms can be found on SFMS Website, and are there for use by SFMS Clubs. These forms are easy to find at the new webpage:

[www.Southeastfed.org](http://www.Southeastfed.org). Go there and the forms are listed on the left side of the page.

The SFMS database is updated each December / January to reflect the dates of the new insurance year, the name and address of the SFMS Assistant Treasurer / Insurance Liaison, the insurance rates for club members and shows, and the contact person at each club responsible for Membership and Insurance invoices. This info is used in turn to generate Membership and Insurance invoices and the summary spreadsheet on GOOGLE Forms.

Clubs apply for insurance using the official club membership numbers for the immediate prior calendar year (as of 12/31/xx). This is the TOTAL MEMBERSHIP count for the club for the past year ending 12/31/xx. Club insurance is indicated, if desired. An insurance liability is automatically computed and recorded on a shared GOOGLE Forms spreadsheet. The assistant Treasurer / Insurance Liaison then triggers the EMAIL of an insurance invoice to the indicated responsible club contact.

When insurance rates are computed, the insurer considers the numbers of insured

clubs, total club members for the prior calendar year ending 12/31/xx, and number of insured shows held. Basically, the larger the number of members and shows insured in past years, the lower the insurance cost for both members and shows at contract renewal time – all else constant.

Normally, during the months of January – March, I update the membership and insurance spreadsheet on GOOGLE Forms to reflect insurance checks received. Periodically, I mail the insurance payments and support documentation from member Clubs and Societies to the SFMS Treasurer for deposit (Note: There is no Wells Fargo bank in Knoxville, so I don't deposit the checks myself).

Throughout the year; as requested by clubs, I communicate with Snellings Walters to ensure that the insurance carrier (currently Central Insurance Companies) issues proof of insurance (Insurance Certificate) to the insured club and to property owners that host club shows and field trips - as requested.

Clubs with insurance questions are to submit those questions to me in writing, and I will answer, and if needed I will pass these on to our insurance representatives at Snellings & Walters for an official answer. It is important that this procedure be followed, so as not to increase the insurance company's (currently Central Insurance Companies) administrative cost of insuring the Southeast Federation.

The decision as to whether to buy member and show insurance is open to each club; however, clubs that host and participate in the Dixie Mineral Council field trips are required to have proof of insurance covering the membership in their clubs. SFMS clubs can obtain insurance on their own, or they can use the Insurance offered by the SFMS.

NOTE: Insurance Requirements:

- A club must first be a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) to buy insurance from the SFMS provided insurance contract.
- A club must buy Club Insurance to buy Show (Special Event) Insurance.
- Joint club events, sponsored by two or more clubs, are only eligible for show insurance if all the sponsoring clubs are included as member clubs. Only ONE club needs to buy show insurance.

Thank you,  
David Liles  
SFMS Insurance Liaison

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**Mayo President:**

We have three candidates for Mayo Scholarships this year, all from Tennessee. As the economic conditions have improved slightly, we will be able to give some decent awards this year. We encourage all clubs who have Universities near them to investigate those schools' Earth Sciences programs to find deserving students. It's a great way to bring new young blood into your clubs, while supporting deserving students.

The members of the Mayo Board join the SFMS in regret at the loss of Travis Paris and David Wayment. Donations have been made to Mayo by various members in their honor. We appreciate the support that allows us to continue to provide Scholarships to deserving Earth Science students within our Federation.

William Waggener

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**Past President**

In June the nominating committee needs to start getting recommendations for individuals to fill vacancies for officers during 2025. Some officers are replaced during odd years and others during even years; if you know someone that would make a good officer for SFMS, please send the name to [past prez@southeastfed.org](mailto:past prez@southeastfed.org).

Dennis M Buchanan  
Past president SFMS

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**State Directors Reports:**

**None**

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## **Committee Reports:**

### **Bulletin Editors Contest**

#### 2024 Bulletin Editor's Contest

Regarding the Bulletin Editor's Contest for 2024, there were entries in six categories from just four clubs (that I can recall – I don't have all of files where I am staying during my rehab). I want to thank these hard-working writers and editors for all that they do for their clubs. I would just ask each of you to encourage your editors to participate in the 2025 contest. It is a fun way and a great learning experience to see how to improve your bulletins and writing skills. The deadline for submittal for the 2025 contest will be earlier than this year. Your editors are the life-blood for club communication to your membership.

Mark Easterbrook

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### **Constitution and Bylaws**

SFMS Constitution and Bylaws Chair Report  
2024 2nd Quarterly Meeting  
May 24, 2024  
Young Harris GA – William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

The 24th revision of the SFMS Constitution and Bylaws has been posted to the SFMS website. No additional changes have been submitted at this time.

Danny Griffin

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## **Dixie Mineral Council:**

### **June 2024 DMC Field Trip Sharing Program Report**

#### New DMC Member Club

The Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society has joined the DMC bringing the total number of clubs in the program to 34. Please welcome their members on DMC trips!

#### Reminder:

Because of SFMS liability insurance requirements, the general public cannot attend DMC field trips. Do not post DMC field trip notices where the general public can access them. This includes publicly posting club newsletters with field trip information in them.

#### 2024 Field Trip Schedule

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)  
December - Upper Abbeville Gem and Mineral Club (Due West, SC)

#### Joining the DMC

If your club is not a member of the DMC, it should join! Your members are missing all the fun! If your club joins the DMC, it will be able to offer a DMC field trip every month and members will

get to collect all over the southeast! Other than enjoying all of those field trips, all your club will have to do is host a DMC field trip every 2 ½ years or so! Click here for more information about the program and how to join, or go to the SFMS website ([www.southeastfed.org](http://www.southeastfed.org)), then click “SFMS Field Trips”, then “DMC Field Trip Program”, then “DMC Membership Details”.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)  
<https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program>

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**Education:**

Jim Reed has agreed to be the Wildacres Director, taking over for Dave Wayment. Jim was SFMS Director at William Holland for the last 2 years, so we know he'll do a great job. Leslie Wayment had too much on her plate at the passing of Dave and resigned as the Wildacres Registrar. Laura Odria has agreed to take over the full responsibilities of the position. When you see Laura at any of the workshops this year, please give her a big thanks.

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](mailto:Education@southeastfed.org).

Thanks to everyone that 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.sfmshworkshops.org> and sign up today. We still have spots open in August and September at Wildacres.

Cindy Reed, SFMS Education Chair,  
[education@southeastfed.org](mailto:education@southeastfed.org)

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**Inventory**

SFMS Inventory Chair Report  
2024 2nd Quarterly Meeting  
May 24, 2024

Young Harris GA – William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

The SFMS Inventory is current and up to date at this time. No additional equipment has been added since the last report. If you have purchased equipment for the SFMS let me know so I can add the equipment to the inventory list. Please provide the following if available:

- Description of the equipment (e.g. Lenovo Laptop) and any ancillary equipment (e.g. mouse/secondary monitor, etc.)
- Quantity
- Serial Number, if available (a photo of the box info may provide everything I need)
- Current caretaker/holder of the equipment
- Any addition notes you deem important

Don't forget to contact the SFMS Treasurer (Barbi Beatty) who may need additional information for her records.

Thanks!  
Danny Griffin  
SFMS Inventory Chair  
(865) 406-8802

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## Nominating Committee

In June the nominating committee needs to start getting recommendations for individuals to fill vacancies for officers during 2025. Some officers are replaced during odd years and others during even years; if you know someone that would make a good officer for SFMS, please send the name to [pastpres@southeastfed.org](mailto:pastpres@southeastfed.org).

Dennis M Buchanan  
Past President SFMS

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### 2024 Annual Meeting Host – Georgia Mineral Society – September 27-29, 2024

All meetings (social, meeting, Banquet, Editors' breakfast) will be at our clubhouse. The meeting will start at 9 am. Our picnic and auction will start with a lunch at 12:00 noon at a pavilion in the Pickneyville Park about 15 minutes away from the clubhouse. Auction will start at 13:00. It lasts most of the afternoon, it is about 200 items. there will be no charge for the picnic and lunch. A charge for the banquet will be determined at a later time. We have wifi, ceiling mounted projector and Zoom available at the clubhouse.

Juergen Popplereuter  
GMS President

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### Webmaster

#### 2024 Website Contest

The Website Contest is being redesigned! New rules, a new score sheet, and updated guidelines will be announced on the SFMS website when they are available. Webmasters receive final score sheets and helpful comments to improve their club website. A new non-compete category will be available this year, so you have nothing to lose and so much to gain. After the SFMS contest is concluded, the two websites with the highest scores will be submitted to the AFMS Website Contest, so you could win national recognition!

If you have any questions, suggestions for the website, or if there is any way I can be of assistance, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Carter, SFMS Webmaster, [webmaster@southeastfed.org](mailto:webmaster@southeastfed.org)

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### Wildacres Director

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. I am a geologist (Master's 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.

We still have some room for students, so if you're 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. Head

over to <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> and sign up today.

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

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**Wildacres Registrar**

I am so excited and honored to be able to assist as the registrar for this year's SFMS weeks at Wildacres. These will be my first trips there, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing our learning experiences, enjoying the camaraderie, and building on lasting friendships. I am the Treasurer for the Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society in Apopka, Florida and have been fascinated with rocks and gems since childhood. I am trying to learn as much as possible, hoping to one day find my niche and become a lapidary legend (even if only in my own mind). While we are on a wait list for Stained Glass in August, the Weave-Tap-Drop in August, and September Chain Loop n' Loop classes are almost full, we do still have space available for all our other classes for both weeks. Sign up now at <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> to ensure your spot. Can't wait to see you all there.

Laura Odria, SFMS Wildacres Registrar  
Wa-registrar@southeastfed.org

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**William Holland Director:**

It has been a busy 7 months since we started planning for the 2024 SFMS William Holland Workshop. Thank you to Cindy Reed and Juergen Poppelreuter for all your hard work helping to make sure this week will be a success.

It looks like we will have 66 students attending 12 classes. I am not sure how long it has been since that many have attended but it has been quite a while. It will be a great time for all!

I also want to thank FDJ Tool and Highland Park Lapidary for their donations to be used to help us raise funds. FDJ Tool donated Fretz Hammers and educational videos. Highland Park Lapidary donated gift certificates and their new 6" Intarsia Machine.

Again, thank you to Cindy and Juergen for all your work and help. Thank you to all the instructors who have donated their time, knowledge and talents. Thank you to William Holland School of Lapidary Arts and all the staff for your hard work and accommodating us. And, thanks to all the students for attending! You are why we do this.

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Rick Marshall  
SFMS William Holland Director  
407-949-1416

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## **SFMS Representatives to AFMS**

### **AFMS Bulletin Editor's Advisory Committee as SFMS Representative**

Regarding the AFMS BEAC as SFMS Representative because of my extended stay in the hospital earlier this year, the 2024 SFMS winning entries were not able to be submitted to the AFMS for their contest.

Mark Easterbrook

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### **AFMS Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame**

Regarding the Bulletin Editor's Hall of Fame as SFMS representative, the AFMS now recognizes the current federation President's regional federation. This is a national recognition, not just for the SFMS. This means that the SFMS will nominate recipients once every 7 years since we at the SFMS will be hosting once every 7 years due to there being 7 regional federations. The next time for SFMS nominations will be in 2027. The SFMS will notify editors when it is time to nominate again. Nominations only come from other editors.

Mark Easterbrook

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### **AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year**

Last year there was 1 Rockhound of the Year submissions for the SFMS. So far this year, I have not received any submissions. Normally submissions happen in the last months of the year.

Details and submission instructions are listed on the SFMS Website:

<https://www.southeastfed.org/contests-awards/rockhound-of-the-year>

As a reminder, this is not contest between the clubs, it's an opportunity for each club to honor a person or couple in your club, and additionally one junior in your club.

Respectively Submitted,

Marty Hart

SFMS Representative of the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year

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