



The Lodestar



September 2024



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President's Letter

This is my second reminder to everyone that the SFMS Annual meeting is just around the corner. Please consider sending a representative from your club to this meeting. Meeting attendance is an important way for your club's voice to be heard.

There's just one Workshops left for 2024 and it's rolling around in a couple of weeks, so if you are thinking about taking a class you'd better hurry up and register.

It seems to me that late summer and fall is the height of the gem show season in the southeast. We all love a local/regional gem show regardless of who the show promoter is. I love to go to club shows just as much as the G&LW shows. Here's my ten cents worth on what we can do to help those shows. If it's your local club show, volunteer to help in any way that you feel that you can contribute. Volunteers are critical in keeping a show moving smoothly. Also, promote your show as much as

possible. I have a magnetic show advertisement sign attached to the tailgate of my truck that stays on all year round. People see the sign when I'm pumping fuel or at the grocery store and ask about the show. Believe it or not, a few folks want to know what a gem show is! Another way to help is to visit the dealers and make a few spectacular purchases. If a dealer doesn't make money, they won't stay in business long or won't come back to your show. We can also help the regional commercial shows by promoting at the club level and by attending (if you qualify) and making purchases whenever possible. The wholesale shows make the club show possible by supplying dealers with stock.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting!

Best regards,
Danny Griffin
SFMS President

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

1st Vice President

Vonda Echols

Hope everyone had a safe Labor Day. Now that summer is over, although the temperature is still hot, let's remain safe in our rock hunting. The weather is getting cooler, but we still need to stay hydrated.

With it's being September, we need members to consider attending our annual SFMS meeting being held September 27-29, 2024. Georgia Mineral Society will be hosting the meeting. The registration forms can be found on the SFMS website. It would be great to have a representee from each club. Clubs can have their representee attend online, if they are unable to attend in person. Each club has two votes on

business matters and election of new officers. Club representatives are allowed to vote through electronic media. This information will be sent to members once they have registered to attend the annual meeting. Hope to see many of our members at the social Friday night, this is a great time to get to know members from other clubs and states. The picnic and club auction in the past have had a great turnout with lots of items a bid on.

Take care and enjoy your collection.

Vonda Echols

Vp1@southeastfed.org.

We're on the Web!
southeastfed.org

Annual Meeting

September 27, 28 and 29. Hosted by GA Mineral Society.

GMS will host a social Friday September 27, 2024, starting at 7pm

The social will be held at the club building, 4138 Steve Reynolds Blvd, Norcross, GA 30093

Our Annual meeting will be held at the same place Saturday morning starting at 9 am.

We will be moving to the Cochran Pavilion at Pinckneyville Park, 4758 S Old Peachtree RD for the luncheon and installation of new SFMS officers at noon.

With a live auction following the installing to officers for everyone enjoyment.

GMS will be hosting the Editors Breakfast that the club house Sunday Morning at 8 AM.

GMS has not set a fee for any events; donations will be gladly accepted to duffer the cost.

GMS has asked that we give them a count of members that will be attending these meals so they can order accordingly.

Please complete your registration forms and send them in promptly.

We do not have a host hotel but here is a list of ones near the club.

Sonesta, Hampton Inn, Residence Inn and Comfort Inn.

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

Secretary Message

Jerri Heer



Hello Everyone! As we enter September, we are preparing for our Annual Meeting, being hosted this year by the Georgia Mineral Society. Our host has invited us to join in their Annual Picnic and Auction for a “Luncheon”, rather than a Dinner banquet. There is also a field trip planned for Sunday.

At each Annual Meeting, we elect our Officers for the upcoming year. Our slate was emailed out to our Lodestar recipients earlier. There is one position for which we do not have a candidate: 1st VP. We will be looking for nominations from the

floor. If anyone is interested in filling this position, contact Vonda Echols, our current VP1 at vp1@southeastfed.org for more information.

Finally, I have just learned that next year’s Rockhound Roundup will be March 7-9, 2025. Registration forms and further info will be presented at the meeting and be included in the October Lodestar.

Stay Safe Out There!

Jerri Heer - SFMS Secretary

419-344-9999

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consists of: Dennis M. Buchanan, Past President and Chair, Teresa Polly, Jim Patterson, and Rick Marshal.

The following officers are elected in the odd years: TREASURER, and MEMBERSHIP

The following officers are elected in even years: ASSISTANT TREASURER, EDITOR, AND SECRETARY.

HERE ARE THE RECOMMENDED SFMS OFFICERS FOR 2025

PRESIDENT: Vonda Echols
1st VICE PRESIDENT: OPEN
2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Mike Harrison
SECRETARY: JERI HEER
ASSISTANT TREASURY: David Liles
EDITOR: Cindy Reed
PAST PRESIDENT: Danny Griffin

MAYO FOUNDATION PRESIDENT: ELECTED AT 1ST MEETING BY THE MAYO COMMITTEE



Membership Chair

Rick Marshall



I was looking at the Club Contacts list recently getting ready to send 2025 Club Membership renewals in December for 2025. Very few clubs have updated the contact information since the original input. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!!! Have a designated person in your club start updating this so we can have correct information. I need to know who to send renewals to, so the process runs as smoothly as possible for all.

There still seems to be some confusion about the annual dues and insurance. I hope this can help to explain the process: On December 31st I will send out the membership renewal forms.

The renewal process automatically sends an email to each club to let them know it is time for SFMS membership renewal.

The email addresses used for the email are determined in this order:

1. From the club contacts list – president and treasurer.
2. If there is no contact information for the president or treasurer, any other contacts found are used.
3. If no contacts are found in the club contacts list, the email addresses in the *2024 All Clubs Membership Dues and Insurance* spreadsheet left from the prior year are used.

If there are no email addresses in the membership spreadsheet, the email is sent to the state director with a message letting the director know that the SFMS does not have contact information for the club. The person designated by the club then fills out the online membership form with the following:

- Their name
- Their email address
- Their phone number

- Name of the person responsible for paying the dues

- Email address of that person

- Phone number of that person

- Number of adult members **you had on the roster for 2024 as of 12/31/2024**

Number of junior members **you had on the roster for 2024 as of 12/31/2024**

You must also indicate if the club intends to enroll in SFMS liability insurance:

- Yes

- No

Have other insurance

If you choose “Yes”, you have the option to enter up to two show dates to enroll in SFMS show/event insurance. Otherwise, the form goes straight to the submit button.

Then submit the form.

Once the form is submitted, a confirmation email is sent to the following people:

- The person who submitted the membership renewal form

The club Treasurer

Please make out the check to SFMS and mail to the address on the form. This check is for dues only. Insurance is paid separately from membership dues because the insurance rate is determined based on the total number of members reported under membership renewal and whether or not you require show insurance. When the insurance rates are available, the assistant treasurer will send an invoice for the insurance with instructions.

Rick Marshall

SFMS Membership Secretary

407-949-1416



Constitution and Bylaws

Danny Griffin

SUBJECT: Physical Separation of the Mayo Educational Foundation Constitution and Bylaws from the SFMS Constitution and Bylaws

It has been brought to my attention, by the Mayo Educational Foundation President, that the Mayo Educational Foundation Constitution and Bylaws is a stand-alone document from the SFMS Constitution and Bylaws. They were probably merged for convenience back when the documents were all printed and distributed as hard copies. When the documents were converted to electronic form they were kept as a single document. After this happened it appears that any generic change that applied to both documents were voted on as if they were a single document.

Based on this, I'm electronically separating the documents into two separate entities. From this time forward any suggested changes that effect both documents will have to be provided as two separate submittals and voted on as two separate documents. Any suggested change that affects a single document with must be submitted and voted on as a separate document.

The following changes have been requested, in writing by Vonda Echols, in time to be officially submitted for review/vote at the 2024 annual meeting. This submittal meets the requirement that any Constitution & By-Laws change request be published in the Lodestar before the annual meeting.

The changes listed below allows the option of having a special event instead of a gem and mineral show if circumstance warrant.

The following changes in RED reflect the request:

Article VI – ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1 – Annual Meeting

The Federation shall hold at least one Annual Meeting each calendar year for the following purposes:

To hold the Annual Meeting in conjunction with a gem and mineral show **or other special event** which **may** contains exhibits by its members **(if applicable)**.

Section 4 – Hosts

The Host shall have the primary responsibility for planning and preparing for the Annual Meeting. The Federation shall arrange its own program for the Annual Meeting and other special meetings. The Uniform Rules Committee shall perform duties as prescribed in the By-Laws for the Show/**Special Event (if applicable)**.

Section 5 – Coordinator

The First Vice-President of the Federation shall act as coordinator for the Federation and Host, and shall keep in close communication with the Host General Chairman on all planning preparation, activities, and developments involved with the Annual Meeting and Show/**Special Event**. The First Vice-President shall meet with the General Show Chairman as early as possible.

Cont. on Page 6



Danny Griffin

Section 6 – Host General Chairman

HOST GENERAL CHAIRMAN DUTIES

The Host General Chairman, with the assistance of the SFMS Coordinator (First Vice-President), shall draw up tentative plans for the Annual Meeting (Show/Special Event, Banquet, and Editors' Breakfast). The Host General Chairman then shall submit the tentative plans to the proper authorities in the Host Club or Society for their Approval. After the approval of the Host Club or Society, the Host General Chairman and the SFMS Coordinator shall work together to follow through with the plans for the Annual Meeting.

Section 10 – Show/Special Event

A Special Event shall consist of:

An event that is of interest to the membership and is related to the mineralogy, lapidary arts, paleontology, geology, archaeology, and any related Earth Sciences. These may include, but are not restricted to, auctions, rock swaps, etc.

Where applicable, an assemblage of displays of collections related to the subjects of mineralogy, lapidary arts, paleontology, geology, archaeology, and any related Earth Sciences shall be setup at the event.

Where applicable, the public for the purpose of advancing public education and arousing public interest in the Earth Sciences, may attend the special event.

The First Vice President along with the Host General Chair shall determine the type of event and whether the event is applicable for public attendance and/or displays.

Editor

Cindy Reed

There are so many things to discuss this month. We have elections coming up so check out the Nominations on page 3. There are changes to the Bylaws on page 5 & 6. Info on the upcoming annual meeting are on pages 23 & 24.

David Liles has an interesting article on Acrocyathus Coral Fossils this month.

The final workshop for the year is at Wildacres, September 9-15. There's still some room in most of the classes. More info on pages 9-11.

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

Cindy Reed, SFMS Lodestar Editor



Bob Green

Now that August is gone, 2/3 of the year has passed. The weather has been cyclical as usual, and now, at least in the upstate, we are into our dry season. Not as bad as the African dry seasons, but makes cutting the grass a bit iffy, cut it too short and you lose your grass. Leave it long too long and now you have a pasture of grass to cut. There is a happy medium called minimal grass, I guess; and then have it in the back yard to feed the critters. We had a Copperhead in the back yard, just off the deck, I was mowing the grass, but did not want to run it down and have the thing wrapped around part of the mower, so I let it slip into the woods, been looking for the thing ever since.

The big news in our area was a gentleman with age-related issues, went missing for 5 days. He was found, confused and dehydrated. They took him to the hospital. He was the guy packing your groceries at a local grocery store. I did not know he had age-related issues in the many times I spoke with him in the store. So, we really do not know what issues folks have unless you really spend time with them. Glad he was found and safe.

Looking back at my family, we were really disjointed. Some of my mother's siblings were a bit questionable. At my mother's funeral, her youngest sister came on crutches, noting she had fallen that morning and just wanted to stop by and express her sympathy. Later, her older sister was quite critical noting that earlier in the day she saw her and the sister was not on crutches, this several hours after the accident supposedly happened. My mother always noted she had to be the center of attention. My father's family disowned us, from what I can discern. One of his brothers passed away about 10 years ago and my brother and I were awarded \$1 each, since we had abandoned the family. Good Grief, we were 11 and 14 years old.

Barb had siblings that I noted as being outside the norm and needing attention. The brother also made several bad choices, like adopting the children of the woman he was dating and after the adoption, she left for the west coast and was not heard from again.

Relationships are tough, if you are lucky as I have been you have very stable good people in your life. You get to know their strengths and weaknesses. Our 4 kids, are all pretty normal, though that was not always the case, the youngest went through a period that was extremely trying, became an extreme caver and doing all manner of risky endeavors, we were not sure he was going to make it, then the daughter dated a Navy man and the youngest son, who really needed discipline joined the Navy. He excelled as an electronic warfare instructor. Then he met a girl from Australia and the short version was he got in 10 years in the Navy, moved to Australia, where he is doing excellent working for a company tracking mining equipment.

My new wife, Kate has a very small family, her sister is in assisted living because of age-related mental issues. Kate's oldest nephew works for one of the prominent environmental activist groups. He travels a lot and is extremely bright and stable. His son just entered college on a full program to obtain his PHD in electronic engineering. The entire family is responsible and look after each other, Our blended family is close, and this makes life a lot easier.

Look out for each other and during this election year, be tolerant of those who have a different view of the universe from yours and do it safely.



SFMS Webmaster

Lori Carter

2024 SFMS Website Contest Entry Deadline Extended to September 15

The website contest has had many changes to the rules, guidelines, and scoring, so please be sure to read all of the website contest information before submitting your site. The SFMS entry form is on the AFMS website under “Contests & Awards”, then “Website Contest” here: <https://www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest> **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.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Lori Carter, SFMS Webmaster, webmaster@southeastfed.org

DMC Field Trip Chair

Lori Carter

Thank you to the **Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society** (Hendersonville, NC) for hosting the August DMC field trip to collect gold and other minerals! The **Pendleton District Gem & Mineral Society** (Seneca, SC) is scheduled to host in September.

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

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)

March - Mobile Rock & Gem Society, Inc. (Mobile, AL)

April - Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Florence, MS)

Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, dmc@southeastfed.org



Education Chair

Cindy Reed

We had a great week at Wildacres in August and Jim Reed and Laura Odria are getting everything ready for the last workshop, September 9-15. I understand there are still openings in most of the classes, but a couple are almost full. Hurry and sign us so you don't miss out. If you're still thinking of joining us see page 9 for a list of classes or go to <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> and sign up today.

As mentioned last before, 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 do the drawing at the end of the September week. If you have questions, please contact.

Rick Marshall is busy getting instructors lined up for the next William Holland week, June 8, 2025. We'll keep you updated.

Cindy Reed, education@southeastfed.org

SFMS William Holland Director

Rick Marshall

Preparations for the 2025 SFMS William Holland Workshop are well under way. We already have a great start for a great week. Make your plans now to attend the week of June 8, 2025!!! I hope you can all find something you like. Class descriptions are being prepared. I'll let you know when registration starts.

Here are the classes and instructors scheduled so far:

Deb Gates:	Junior Jewelers	(New instructor & class)
John Wild:	Cabochons	
Jeff Hunter:	Opals 1 & II	(New instructor)
Judi Wild	Wire Wrapping	
Stephanie Danz	Stained Glass	
Pat Lillie	Metal Clay	(New Instructor)
Lance Andrus	Faceting	(New Instructor)
Barbara Fields:	Silver 1	(New instructor)
Zac Tedrow	Silver II	(New Instructor)
Jim Hird	Chain Maille I	(New Instructor)
Ken Valko	Soapstone Carving	(New Instructor)
Jerri Heer	Gem Trees	
Bill Boggs	Intarsia	
Jodi Miller	Soft Soldering	(New Instructor)

Rick Marshall
SFMS William Holland Director
407-949-1416



SFMS Wildacres Director

Jim Reed

What a wonderful time at the 1st session at Wildacres. There is so much to do at the facility which by the way has a very interesting historical origin (which you read about on their website <https://www.wildacres.org>). I was in Jack Kings cabbing class and learned so much from this teacher on various aspects of cabbing. Jack is also has a lot of knowledge of rocks. The auction was very interesting, especially some of the items auctioned. We also had a fantastic night of entertainment from Jesse Smith who has an array of songs. Sometimes the audience participated in singing along with Jesse. Below on the right is a picture of Jesse singing on the patio and with the left image of some of the mountainous scenery.

We're just a few days away from second session at Wildacres and I see that some of the classes being offered still have some room for students. Dates: September 9 though 15th. See the list of classes on page 8 or head over to <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> and sign up today.

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



SFMS Wildacres Registrar

Laura Odria

We had a great first week of SFMS Wildacres' workshops this past month with six classes including forty-six total students, instructors and guests. The show-n-tell sessions really highlighted the many exceptional talents of both our instructors and members. The auction was run by Rick Marshall and Jason Hamilton (with many helpers), and was an absolute hoot (yes, I am truly Southern)!

Our second week is quickly approaching, and we are already expecting a group of thirty students for the seven classes being instructed during the week of September 9th through the 15th. There is only one available spot left in Cindy Moore's Moovin Metals class and several spaces in the remaining courses. Members can still sign up at <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org> to ensure their placement. Can't wait to see you all there!

Laura Odria, SFMS Wildacres Registrar

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 Holland	Intarsia I & II	Karen Harrigill
Casting	John Harr	Moovin Metal	Cindy Moore
Stone in Stone	Michael Bateman	Wire I	Rudi Wild (WLO)
Faceting I & II	Tom Mitchell	Silver W/Leather Intarsia	Wayne Parker (WLO)

<u>Wildacres I August 12-18, 2024</u>		<u>Wildacres II September 9-15, 2024</u>	
Chain Maille	Jim Hird	Cabs 1.5	Rick Marshall
Special Projects	Jeff S	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

Wait List Only (WLO)

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

WH Registrar: Juergen Poppelreuter, 678-576-7034, wh-registrar@sfmsworkshops.org
 WA Registrar: Laura Odria, 407-697-9441, wa-registrar@sfmsworkshops.org



Acrocyathus Coral Fossils

Hi Folks! Well, it is that time of the month for me to scout about for a rock or fossil to discuss for this month's "Rock of the Month" column. I am having to dig a little deeper, and use my imagination to find new subjects, since I have been writing this column for more than 4 years now!

Typically, I start my search by looking at pictures from my past KGMS field trips, and looking through my rock and fossil collection. I have gone on plenty of field trips in past years. Some trips are so good that I go almost every year they are offered. When I attend a field trip I take plenty of photographs. I edit the photographs for quality, and I add a description of the trip, plus some research on the rocks and fossils found. This all becomes a "Slide Show" style Post on our KGMS Facebook page. I do this to educate folks and to encourage field trip participation.

Now, to describe a field trip I have made 5 times! Most every year our club field trip leader, Daniel Miller, organizes an outing to collect fossils at Dale Hollow Lake. This is scheduled for a Saturday in November when the water levels are down, exposing interesting lakebed rocks and fossils. In most years this has included 3 stops to collect: (1) Fossil Coral Heads, (2) Crinoid Stems, and (3) Geodes. Other interesting rocks and fossils found have included: Chert nodules, blue fossil crinoid chalcedony, pyrite decomposing to iron, and calcite pseudomorphing after pyrite crystals.

We typically meet at the Bobcat Den Restaurant in Byrdstown, Tennessee. One can arrive early to enjoy breakfast before following our leader to the 2 other collecting sites on the exposed lakeshore. This restaurant features a large parking lot built to accommodate semi-trailer freight trucks. The construction of this lot involved cutting into a hillside, which exposed an ancient reef of fossilized coral heads.

Some years, we collected coral heads on the hillside, adjacent to the parking lot. During Covid we didn't as the restaurant was closed and being sold and we were unsure of collecting permission. The restaurant is open again under new ownership. Be sure to ask for collecting permission, and/or check with the trip leader first.

I discovered, after looking through my records, that I have not yet discussed the coral fossils I collected at the Bobcat Den Restaurant. What an oversight!! Well, I am going to discuss these fossils now!

A typical intact coral head from the Bobcat parking lot hillside appears to be a colonial type coral of the extinct Rugose (horn coral) Order. See (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rugosa). Based on articles and descriptions, the species is most likely (in my opinion) "Acrocyathus."

In layman's terms: Acrocyathus examples exhibit multiple coral polyps assembled in a mass cluster. The top of the cluster is rounded – wide up top and narrow at the base - as the individual coral polyps making up the cluster are trumpet shaped. Individual coral cells or polyps are typically 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide at the top and assume a roughly hexagonal shape, each a bit different in shape - as influenced by contact with neighboring cells. Intact coral heads are commonly 2 to 8 inches wide – with some larger specimens found. Clusters of these coral heads formed reefs in shallow seas during the Mississippian Period, some 358.9 to 323.2 mya. The original coral skeleton was calcium carbonate (CaCO₃), which was replaced over time with quartz (SiO₂) as part of the fossilization process. Coral fossils from the Dale Hollow Lake area are of white to light blue Quartz with yellow-brown-orange staining.

(Cont. on Page 10)

Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)

These colors likely include trace amounts of the mineral Vivianite with Manganese. See (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vivianite) for the blues, and Iron Oxide minerals for the yellow / brown / oranges. See (csmgeo.csm.jmu.edu/geollab/fichter/sedrx/color.html). See ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippian_\(geology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippian_(geology))).

Scientifically Speaking: “*Acrocyathus* is a colonial rugose coral. *Acrocyathus* colonies (corallums) are hemispherical to massive and slightly irregular in shape. They generally are 5 to 20 centimeters wide and 5 to 15 centimeters tall. Individual corallites (tubes) within the colonies average 15 millimeters in width and are capped by polygonal (honeycomb-shaped) or semicircular cups, which have a central raised bump (axial boss), and 23 to 32 vertical spoke-like plates (septa). Details of internal structures such as tabulae (plates inside corallites) are also important for distinguishing *Acrocyathus* from other colonial rugose corals. Each calyx was where a coral polyp lived. Specimens in Kentucky are commonly silicified, which means they have been replaced with quartz. The amount and type of replacement dramatically influences the details preserved in specimens.” See (www.uky.edu/KGS/fossils/fossil-month-Acrocyathus.php).

Many articles on these corals, such as the one I used above, reference Kentucky as a location. Well, Byrdstown, Tennessee and Dale Hollow Lake are in the northern part of Middle Tennessee, very close to the Kentucky border.

During my reading and research, I found many accounts of people finding these fossil corals further south in Tennessee. As mentioned earlier, these corals lived in shallow seas during the Mississippian Period and are preserved in the St. Louis Limestone, a large geologic formation consisting of limestone and scattered chert beds that encompasses several midwestern states and is exposed at the surface through western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee. It should be noted that limestone dissolves relatively fast, in geologic time, via carbonic acid rich rainwater, so it tends to disappear when exposed on the surface pretty quickly. What remains are the relatively insoluble clay soils, quartz rocks and silicified fossils, including the corals we are discussing here. See ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St. Louis Limestone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Limestone)) and See (www.thenakedscientists.com/articles/questions/what-happens-when-acid-reacts-limestone)

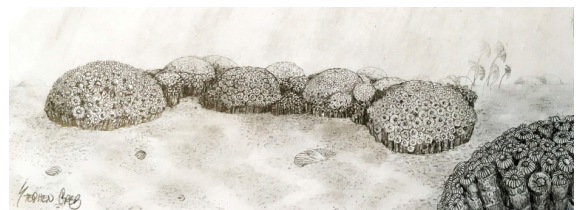
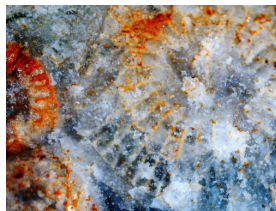
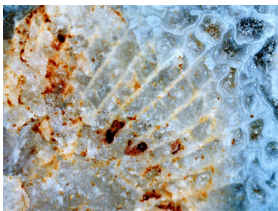
At this point I have a pretty good collection of these coral heads, including one over a foot long – a gift from Danny Miller. Typically, one gathers in bulk on the 1st field trip, and then becomes much more selective on subsequent trips. The game at hand is to try to find a better fossil than the best in one’s existing collection!

Have fun and keep looking at the ground! That is where the rocks (and fossils) are!

David Liles



Rock Corner by David Liles (Cont.)



Acrocyathus Coral Fossils
Photo by David Liles

Acrocyathus Coral Fossils
Illustration by Stephen Gren



Jr. Bulletin Competition

The Southeast Federation holds a Bulletin Competition every year, and there are several categories for our clubs' junior members. There is one for juniors under the age of 12 and then one for those over 12. Also, they are welcome to submit poems, drawn, or other features.

The first, second, and third place winners with SFMS go on to enter the American Federation's competition. This is a good way for us to recognize our junior members for their efforts in making the club newsletter something for everyone.

As 2024 is coming close to the end of the year, let's encourage our junior members to submit something to their club newsletter, so their editors can have something to submit to the next

competition. All entries must be published in an edition of a club's newsletter. Would be great if we could get more juniors to participate.

Your club could offer some small incentive for the juniors, like something for their collection or some other "prize" for their contribution to the newsletter.

The federations always issue very nice awards for those who place in these bulletin competitions. Your club editors appreciate those who submit things for the newsletter. Helps make their job a little easier!

Nancy Roberts

SFMS Juniors Year in Rocks Photo Contest

We are wrapping up the SFMS Junior's "2025" photo contest. Deadline for entries was August 30th.

There have been some very good entries this year, and the winner will be announced at the annual convention on September 28, 2024.

Nancy Roberts



Last years winning entry

South Carolina State Director

John Narang

Here is a report from a South Carolina club.

Emerald City Rock & Gem Club

Greenwood, SC

Activity Report – 1st half 2024

The members of The Emerald City Club have been very busy the first half of 2024. We have had members participating in multiple scheduled digs, had members participating in various crafting and vendor events, and many of our members have been on what we like to call “individual adventures”.

We had several of our members who joined in on the fun at the Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig in Lincolnton, GA in April. This included digging and collecting minerals and specimens from the mountain, as well as selling material in the vending area.

A couple of our members were able to attend the Wright’s Dig in Due West, SC, as well as the DMC Savannah River Agate Dig in April.

We have had many of our members able to attend and participate in vending opportunities where we are able to showcase and sell everything from simple raw specimens, to handmade jewelry created with the gems and minerals we’ve been able to collect, and we also are able to promote our club and hand out business cards to inform and invite others to our group who may be interested in gems and

minerals and the activities we are able to be a part of. Some of these events included the Greenwood Humane Society Craft Fair in March and the Faith Home Craft Fair, the Catfish Festival, and the AgArts Crafting Event in May.

One member of our group was even invited to do a workshop at the Ware Shoals Library, where she was able to inform attendees about materials she collects and uses to make beautiful jewelry and was able to then showcase some of her jewelry in the Ware Shoals Art Gala in June.

In addition to all these amazing digs and events, we have still made time to go out on our own with family, friends, and other group members at fun locations like Diamond Hill Mine in Antreville, SC and also some of our favorite NC spots such as Chunky Gal Mine, Rose Creek Mine, and Mason Mountain Mine. We sure have been busy and hope to stay that way and are already making plans to host a DMC event later this fall.



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

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

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. Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or e-mail: ssfossilhunter@aol.com.

10/11-13/2024 HUNTSVILLE, AL: Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, 1280 Airport Rd, Huntsville, AL 35802. Free parking, food vendors, 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, call 256-534-8803

10/18-20/2024—HICKORY, NC: Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.- An Explosion of Color (The Colorful World of Rocks & Minerals): Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave Drive SE, Hickory, NC 28602; Fri & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission: \$6 adults good for all 3 days, Children 12 & Under- Free, Law enforcement officers, fire fighters and active or retired military with credentials, Scouts and Leaders in uniform will be admitted free anytime during this 3 day event. For an \$1.00 off an adult admission coupon, got to www.cvgmc.com Special Events. For additional information concerning the show, contact Dean Russell, show chairman, at cvgmcsecretary@aol.com or (828) 303-1448. www.cvgmc.com or Facebook: [Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Annual Show](#)

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



Upcoming Shows

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10/19-20/2024—SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV: Kanawha Rock & Gem Club; South Charleston Community Center; 601 Jefferson Road, South Charleston, WV; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Admission: \$3.50 adults, \$2 with Coupon, Children 12 & under Free, Free Parking. Website: <https://www.kanawharockandgemclub.org/2024-annual-show.html>

11/9-10/2024 MELBOURNE, FL: Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society 51st Annual Parade of Gems Crystal, Gem, Jewelry, Rock and Crafts Show, Melbourne Auditorium 625 East Hibiscus Avenue, Melbourne, Florida 32901. Saturday 10AM—5PM, Sunday 10AM—4PM. Admission: \$5 adults Free kids under 13. Website: <https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/our-show.html> Contact: ParadeofGems.Melbourne@gmail.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

11/22-24/2024—MARIETTA, GA: Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060; Fri & Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; day fun and educational event for the whole family! Free admission and parking! Hourly door prizes! Info: www.ccgms.org

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>

12/14-15/2024—FRANKLIN, TN: Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society - 43rd Annual Earth Treasures - Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale: 4215 Long Lane Franklin, TN 37064; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission: \$6 adults, 2 day pass \$10, Children 12 & Under with Adults- Free, Scouts in Uniform -Free. Website: www.MTGMS.org/show.htm; <https://www.facebook.com/mtgms/>



2024 SFMS Officers

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

2024 SFMS State Directors

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Mississippi Open MS@southeastfed.org	North Carolina Cyndy Hummel (919)77906220 NC@southeastfed.org	North Carolina (Asst-Western) Kathryn Hackett Fields (828) 231-3555 NC2@southeastfed.org	South Carolina John Narang 803-727-7070 SC@southeastfed.org
Tennessee Teresa Polly (865)258-0795 TN@southeastfed.org	Kentucky Open	Virginia Open	



2024 SFMS Committee Chairs

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

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Dennis Buchanan, 770-402-9669 pastprez@southeastfed.org

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2 Positions Open

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

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

The Friendly Federation



Founded to Serve

2024 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Officers

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

2024 SFMS Representatives to AFMS Committees

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

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

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Ways & Means: Dennis Buchanan, (770) 402-9669 waysandmeans@southeastfed.org

Website Contest: Lori Carter, (770) 405-9903 webmaster@southeastfed.org

The policy of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. is that neither the name nor the logo of the Federation may be used for commercial purposes. If any commercial ventures using the name or the logo of the Federation are found, Member Societies and their members are requested to advise Federation Officers.



AFMS Code of Ethics

(<http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>)

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "Image" of Rockhounds everywhere





SOUTHEAST FEDERATION

OF
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.

Annual Meeting

Sponsored by Georgia Mineral Society

September 28, 2028

Norcross, GA

Please complete and return this information using a separate form for each attendee, submitting through mail or email, ensuring receipt by September 22, 2024 for the S.F.M.S. packet processing. You can scan and email, take a picture and text, whatever works to submit your info.

Name _____ email: _____
SFMS Position _____ Club Position _____
Society Affiliations _____
➤ Attending Friday Social - 7 PM – Georgia Mineral Society - (circle one) Yes / No
➤ Attending Saturday Executive Meeting - 9 AM (8:30 AM Registration)–Georgia Mineral Society (4138 Steve Reynolds Rd, Norcross, GA)
In Person? _____ By Google Meets? _____
Google Meet joining info: meet.google.com/tip-edqs-fxv Dial-in: (US) +1 470-326-0086 PIN: 829 788 895#
➤ Attending Saturday Luncheon (Installation) – 12:00 PM – Pinkneyville Park, Cochran Pavillion - 4758 S Old Peachtree Rd - In Person(circle one) Yes / No
➤ Attending Editor’s Breakfast - Sunday 8 AM – Georgia Mineral Society – In Person (circle one) Yes / No
Date _____ Signature _____

Thank you for your consideration.

Jerri Heer, S.F.M.S. Secretary
9016 122nd AV
Tampa, FL 33637-5321
419-344-9999 – secretary@southeastfed.org

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Annual Meeting Information
Hosted by Georgia Society
September 27-29, 2024

Schedule of Events:

Friday, September 27, 2024 – 7:00 PM – Friday night social/Meet and Greet – Georgia Mineral Society Clubhouse – 4138 Steve Reynolds Rd, Norcross, GA 30093 - Refreshments by GMS - Donations welcome.

Saturday, September 28, 2024 – 8:30 AM(Registration) 9:00 – 12:00 PM, Annual Meeting - Georgia Mineral Society Clubhouse – 4138 Steve Reynolds Rd, Norcross, GA 30093

Google Meet joining info:

meet.google.com/tip-edqs-fxy

Dial-in: (US) +1 470-326-0086

PIN: 829 788 895#

Saturday, September 28, 2024 – 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM – Club Picnic – Luncheon – Will serve as our “Banquet” with Installation of Officers – Pinckneyville Park, Cochran Pavilion – 4758 S Old Peachtree Road, Berkey Lake, GA 30096 – Provided by GMS.

Annual Club Auction – Immediately following, all are invited to attend and participate.

Sunday, September 29, 2024 – 8:00 -9:30 AM – Editor’s Breakfast - Georgia Mineral Society Clubhouse – 4138 Steve Reynolds Rd, Norcross, GA 30093 - Continental Breakfast provided by GMS = Donations welcome

Sunday, 9:00AM – Field Trip with Charles Carter – specific details will be given at the meeting. Be prepared with usual safety equipment, hammers, buckets etc. Travel will be about 100 miles from clubhouse.

Local Hotels:

Sonesta: \$85 before taxes – 3665 Shackleford Rd, Duluth, GA 30096 – 678-380-0414

Hampton Inn: \$103 before taxes – 1725 Pineland Rd, Duluth, GA 30096 – 770-931-9800

Best Western: \$103 before taxes – 3670 Shackleford Rd, Duluth, GA 30096 – 770-935-7171

Comfort Inn: \$88-94, before taxes - 5200 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Norcross, GA 30071 – 833-577-3728

Clarion Suites: \$68 before taxes - 3700 Shackleford Rd, Duluth, GA 30096 – 770-931-9299