



November and December 2018

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## Editorial

This issue is the last that will follow the publication in the middle of the month. The next issue will be for January 2019, and the deadline for submissions for that issue will be December 31, 2018. That will be the beginning of the change approved by the Board of Directors at my request. All subsequent issues will be published on the first of the month with the deadline for submission as the last day of the previous month. When we were issuing print editions, the deadline in the middle of the month made sense as it would take about two weeks to have

the print issues printed and mailed. Now that we are only using an electronic format and emailing issue, the production of each issue only takes a couple hours at midnight of the publication date.

I request that the new officers update the committee chairs and state representatives as soon as possible, so I can have the accurate listing for the January issue. I also request that the President send me the list of officers for 2019 so that listing can also be updated. Thank you to all the members of SFMS for their suggestions and ideas.

Anyone desiring a subscription to the Lodestar, please send your email address to: [sfms.lodestar@gmail.com](mailto:sfms.lodestar@gmail.com)

## **President's Report**

### **November**

#### **“ TEAM-WORK”**

Team-work n. = work done by a number of associates each doing a part, but all subordinating personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole.

You might say this month's President Message is a bit like the “Fireside Chat” since the Fall weather is starting to take effect with a touch of a fireplace may be fitting.

“Team-work” a two part word that has a powerful meaning. First part ( Team ) has several suggestive ideas such as a team of mules or could be a sports team. At any rate each example shows that a group of individuals performing a task exerting a good amount of effort for a common goal and result. On to the second part of the word. ( Work ) ! Well that is the sweaty part. Another expression says it's “Where the rubber meets the Road”. Work requires effort and energy to be put forth in order to get the job done.

The organization known as the SFMS has and ONLY will continue to exist because of “Team-work”. Little more than three years ago I was asked by a member of SFMS, one Dave Wayment if I would consider the office of second Vice President of The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. I told Dave I would consider it with this in mind, if he would help me if needed. So with that, I answered Yes. Now three years has passed and I know what I had agreed to. I had a few ruff roads this year, but with many faithful board members and God's ever present help I have given my best effort as a Team member to preserve and strengthen SFMS in every possible way. I have tried to do the most as the train engineer, but I also realize it takes many more folks to keep the train rolling along, more than just the man in the engine car. I have applied the same heartfelt energy and compassion as I have over the years with my local club,

JGMS. The Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. The engineers job is not finished until the train pulls into the station.

So, with these few remarks and some fresh board members, let's keep the SFMS Train moving forward down the tracks towards the future destinations. I'm not jumping tracks, but merely stepping aside so the express can go thru. I fully support our newly elected board members and encourage them ALL for a successful and joyous journey. God's speed . . . I've learned many things this year and I have shared many ideas along the way. My thanks to All of you for your underlying support and trust.

Thank you so much.

If you have an IDEA or suggestion , Please contact:

Reggie Bolton 205-678-8772 [reggie@newenvirons.net](mailto:reggie@newenvirons.net)

Wayne Dodd 770-497-9790 [wmdodd1@bellsouth.net](mailto:wmdodd1@bellsouth.net)

Respectfully,

SFMS President

Craig Hamilton

904-994-4729

[cbhshell@att.net](mailto:cbhshell@att.net)

## **December**

### **“Changing of The Guard ”**

The Changing of the Guard is an important function of those who have the responsibility for Guard duty. Something I learned while in the U.S. Air Force 1964-1967. The charge is to protect and preserve SFMS. Standing guard is serious work with set rules and procedures which must be maintained. The Guard. Receiving the task to be a guard is a very important assignment.

The top position of most organizations is usually called the President. With this elected position also comes many responsibilities. Some of these include presiding over meetings, guarding against outside pressure and to lead with resolve and determination. Hopefully I have carried out these with a margin of success this year.

Now looking forward to 2019. The position and Presidential responsibilities for SFMS have been transferred to our friend Reggie Bolton. As the outgoing President taking on the roll of Past President I am to provide encouragement and

support to the newly elected President. As well as the entire board of Directors of elected officials.

Maintaining and conducting business is in some ways is like traveling a road. Always going forward while watching out for pitfalls and detours. So, let's keep our eyes wide open with a clear vision for the destination that lies ahead of us. Keep your focus and be aware of oncoming traffic. We don't want to be distracted or delayed. SFMS will get to the intended location if we cooperate and working together to accomplish each task when presented to us. This means the whole TEAM, the entire board as a unit.

As SFMS moves forward in 2019 we will continue to work hard to reach the goals that we have set. Only then we will be pleased to report "The Job Well Done". Getting SFMS goals and information into the hands of each Club and each member is Very needful. It will result in a stronger and more visible SFMS in the future. Which is our current Goal. If we do our BEST with hard work and determination we can expect the desired results.

I want to offer a very Special thanks to SFMS board members this year, 2018. Thank you for the encouragement and support. I appreciate you All. Please allow just one shout out to Teresa for staying in touch and helping as Second V.P. of SFMS through a tough situation with the treasurer melt-down.

God bless you ALL for every effort and labor of love to preserve and promote earth sciences and SFMS now and in the future.

p.s. Reggie , if you look in the rear view mirror, I'll be there Craig

Respectfully

SFMS President

Craig Hamilton

904-994-4729

[cbhshell@att.net](mailto:cbhshell@att.net)

"SFMS Rockhound Roundup" next May 2019 !

If you have an IDEA or suggestion , Please contact

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Wayne Dodd 770-497-9790 [wmdodd1@bellsouth.net](mailto:wmdodd1@bellsouth.net)

## **2019 Webmaster's Contest Reminder**

With the AFMS contest occurring even earlier this year (March!!), the deadline for submitting your club's website for the 2018 SFMS contest is DECEMBER 10. I realize

this is tighter deadline than last year, but it is the best that we can do to meet the AFMS submittal deadlines. To enter, go to the SFMS web site link for the webmaster's contest (<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/webmaster-contest.html>). There are 3 PDFs for you do download. The guidelines file is important to read over, as it explains what the judges will be looking for when they look at your site.

Please be sure to fill out your information on BOTH the entry form and the score sheet. When you have them filled out, they can be emailed to me at [bnmjjeff@aol.com](mailto:bnmjjeff@aol.com). I MUST have them no later than December 10, 2018.

I encourage each and every webmaster to enter this year. It is a great way to learn and make your website even better. We can always learn new ways of how to improve how we communicate information to our clubs. That makes the webmaster, along with the Bulletin editor, the focal points for club communication.

Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions. I look forward to your entries.

Jeff Ursillo

SFMS Webmaster

[bnmjjeff@aol.com](mailto:bnmjjeff@aol.com)

561-706-9549



## **Rock Pals Program**

Having Fun

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair

Join the Patricia Egolf Rock Pals Program to Have Fun Exchanging Rocks!

Before our Internet and Facebook era—way, way back when folks like I were mere youngsters—we had this thing called “mail” (minus the “e”). This thing involved pencils or pens and paper and stamps and envelopes that you licked. In that distant time, kids may have partnered with kids from schools in countries far-and-wide to become Pen Pals. Such letter-exchange programs enabled you to reach beyond your day-to-day experience to fly via letters to distant and exotic lands to broaden your horizons as you waited for weeks on end for a response to a letter you mailed in an honest-to-goodness mailbox. The cool stamps on the envelopes were as fun to receive and collect as the message inside! In 2011, Patricia Egolf of the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, New York, suggested a

new spin on this for junior rockhounds, namely, a “Rock Pals” program in conjunction with our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program.

Kids love the different rocks and fossils to be found across our great nation, but they and their parents can’t necessarily afford to buy them nor to travel widely to collect them. How wonderful it would be, Patricia thought, for juniors in a club to band together to collect local samples to trade with juniors in other clubs across the country. With that goal in mind, Pat helped us establish Rock Pals. A club gathers 20-25 or so local specimens in sizes small enough to fit in a medium-size flat-rate box available at the U.S. Post Office and, after making arrangements with another club, each mails a box to the other with samples and labels for what’s inside. This, amazingly enough, is simply not to be accomplished via emails or text-messages!

Sadly, Pat passed away all-too-soon in 2012. To honor her memory and spirit, we re-named this effort the “Patricia Egolf Rock Pals Program.” Participating clubs eliIn recent years this program has fallen into disuse. After receiving several queries about it, in the summer of 2018 I contacted all clubs affiliated with the AFMS/FRA Badge Program to see which might be interested in continuing our exchange program. I received 30 positive responses which I am using to update our listing on the AFMS website in hopes of refreshing, revitalizing, and renewing this program. AFMS/FRA-affiliated clubs interested in being added to (or removed from) our list should contact the AFMS Juniors Program Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson, [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com), (805) 659-3577. The renewed list of participating clubs should appear any time now on the AFMS website. Meanwhile, here’s to honoring and maintaining Pat’s vision of kids all across America trading rocks while having fun!

## Field Trip Report

DMC Field Trip Report

Hosted by the Mid-GA Gem & Mineral Society

By Jay Batcha



The Mid-Ga GMS sponsored DMC dig in March to collect kyanite went very good or even “great” as Tony the tiger would say! There were 45 people attending the field trip. The weather ended up being just right, not too cold nor hot and the rain did not



show up until after 2:00pm. We ended the field trip at 2:00pm before the rain came in. Everybody found plenty of kyanite. We had 12 Mid-GA members at the field trip with everyone helping out. Richard brought lots of bottled water to hand out to everyone. Bill brought bags of cookies to feed everyone. AL, Dan, and I brought door prizes for the drawing. Bill, Jim, Al, and I worked the table for door prizes and signing in. Charles set up the dig for us to go to. Thanks to everyone else that helped out with this field trip! Some people dug holes up to 4 feet deep to find kyanite clusters and a couple of very large clusters were found with many small clusters found. The kyanite blades were everywhere lying on the hillside. So what a day!!!!

[Clubs that are interested in the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program can learn more about the program and download a membership application form from the DMC pages on the SFMS website: [http://www.amfed.org/sfms/\\_dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm)]

## **Original Article**

### **Barbara's Iris, a Tale of an Opal**

Submitted by Bob Green

It should be noted, this stone was discovered about 5 years ago.

This is a tale about what you originally see and what you end up with are drastically different. As an introduction, my fascination with Opals started some time ago. My wife's engagement ring is an opal with several emeralds surrounding it. This was over 30 years ago. My wife, who was very involved with the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), started teaching at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, GA about 14 years ago. About 10 years ago, while visiting one of the SFMS meetings and the associated show, we went by a vendor who was selling Ethiopian Opals. These were beautiful to say the least. So I bought more than I should have with the very limited knowledge that I had about opals. Needless to say, this was not one of my wiser investments, because I had no idea what to look for and as a result, I bought high and sold low, exactly the opposite if you want your investments to grow.

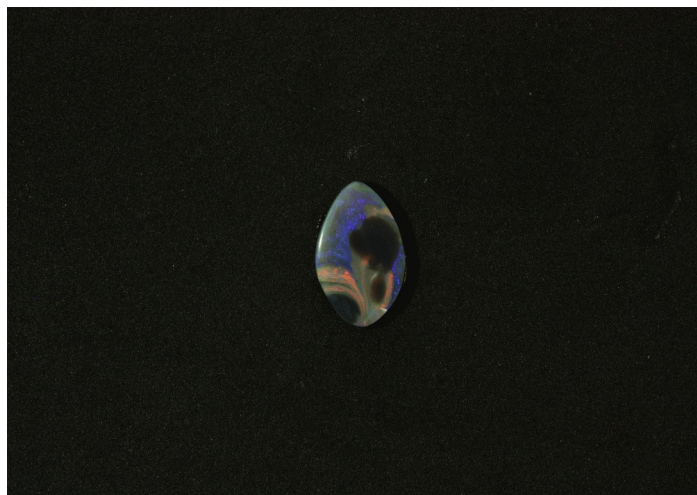
One of the rough that I bought was a beautiful light blue rough with color. This I was convinced was going to be a fabulous stone. So using my best cabochoner techniques, I gently touched the stone to the 220 grit wheel, and it promptly fell into 7 or 8 smaller pieces. These in turn multiplier greatly and so, here mu \$100 or so stone was now "filler" for something.

After that my very intelligent wife suggested that I take one of the opal classes being taught at William Holland. The class selected was taught by Sarah Lee Boyce. A marvelous instructor who was used to dealing with the much uninformed opal interested students. Sarah Lee also insisted that you really need at least two classes to have a good understanding of opals. Her philosophy is that opals are the “thinking person’s stone”. The reason for this is you chase color and if you do not understand where the color resides you will have a hard time developing a good stone from even good rough. How true this turned out to be.

After the first class, and as above admitting to being a cabochoner, I was happy with what I had achieved. And looking back, it was on the high end of mediocre and not the instructor’s fault. So, early the following year, I again took Sarah Lee’s class. This time, I finally caught on to her philosophy of “the thinking person’s stone”.

Since I had become more of a stone connoisseur and I was beginning to get the point of looking for color, I decided to try several Lightning Ridge rough. One of the selected stones had a touch of multicolor coming out of one edge, so I paid about \$15 per gram for the stone that was probably 3 or 4 grams, I never weighed it separately, but I should have, just in hind sight. As I opened the stone, the color was indeed there along with an area of blue, and several black potches. As I worked to remove the black potches, I asked Carl Talbott, who was working as Sarah Lee’s assistant to look at the stone. I was now in the final stages of polishing and was interested in getting the black potch removed, without losing more color. Carl’s immediate response was, “Hey there is a flower in there!” I never saw the flower, since I was working with the stone 180 degrees from what Carl now had the stone. Sarah Lee took one look at it and deemed it “Barbara’s Iris”. Barbara is my wife’s name. I finished the stone and it is displayed here.

“Barbara’s Iris” weighs 4.41 carats.





The original rough were “broken” to reveal the location of the color bands. This I did ok and did a reasonable job of shaping the stone. The final stone is extremely unusual since there are few opals that display a picture.

So, as someone interested in opals, I suggest you be selective on the selection of your rough and even more selective on your instructor. I have since taken 5 more classes, including a couple of instructors other than Sarah Lee. It does help to have the different views from other instructors, but as a basis, the instructor has to teach you the basics of chasing color and a basic approach to cutting the opal. This to me is Sarah Lee’s strength. She also has eyes in the back of her head to determine if you are doing it the right way.

It should be noted that the pictures were taken during a Photography Course taught by the late Ron Gibbs at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia.

The final setting of Barbara’s Iris is shown. This was a collaborative effort with Shannon Stafford doing the filigree and Jim Richardson mounting the stone. It is still shown in the Opal Classes to emphasize that you never know what you will find in an opal rough.

Enjoy the earth’s treasures and you may find a real treasure of your own.



## **GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS**

**November 23-25, 2018; Mobile, AL**

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock and Gem Show



Abba Shrine Center, Mobile, AL

30+ dealers, demonstrations, and door prizes.

## **January 11-13, 2019, Largo FL**

Pinellas Geological Society

Forty-Third Annual

Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale

Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM

Sunday Noon to 5 PM

Central Park Performing Arts Center

Parkside Room

105 Central Park Drive

Largo, Florida

Turn south off East Bay Drive just one block east of Seminole Blvd.

Free admission. Donation \$2.00 for hourly drawing. Silent Auction every hour

Unique jewelry has fascinated mankind since cave days. Today that still holds true as men and women create wonderful gem and mineral ornaments from nature's abundant rocks and minerals. Members of the Gem and Mineral Clubs in our area gather together monthly to share their hobby.

The members of the Pinellas Geological Society and other local Gem and Mineral Clubs will be showing their cut gems, silver and gold jewelry, wire wrap, beading, cabachons, and collections of rocks and minerals for your viewing pleasure and purchase.

This show is for everyone of all ages (free rock bags for children) who are fascinated by and enjoy seeing and learning more about nature's beauty in gems, rocks and minerals.

Contact person: Leona Feldhausen , Co-Chairperson; (727) 709-3236

## **February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2019, Vero Beach, FL**

Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society

43rd Annual show

[Vero Beach Community Center](#)

2266 14th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Downtown

## **February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2019, Jackson MS**

60<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show  
Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, February 23, 2019 (9 am to 6 pm)

Sunday, February 24, 2019 (10am to 5pm)

Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds  
Jackson, Mississippi

Admission:

Adults \$6 Students \$3

Scouts & Leaders in Uniform \$2

Children 5 & under—Free

MGMS website: [www.missgems.org](http://www.missgems.org)

Information email: [rock2lanes@gmail.com](mailto:rock2lanes@gmail.com)

- Over 25 dealers of gems, fossils, minerals, jewelry, lapidary tools, beads, and more
- Demonstrations of lapidary art including flint knapping, cabochon cutting, and jewelry making
- Exhibits and educational opportunities by colleges and state organizations
- Children's activities (adults are welcomed too)
- Touch and See Table
- Displays by MGMS members of their own collections or lapidary work
- Hourly door prizes, and a "GRAND PRIZE" drawing.

## **March 1-2-3, 2019 St. Petersburg, FL**

49<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale

THE SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Fri: 10 AM to 6PM; Sat: 10AM-6PM; Sun: 10am-5PM

The Minnreg Hall  
6340 126<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773

GRAND DRAWING AT END OF SHOW!  
\$1.50 GRAB BAGS, FREE PARKING

12+ Dealers

Planned demonstration on Beading, Wire Wrapping, Cabbing, Faceting, Metal Work.

Silent Auctions all day long, Gem Mining flume inside.  
Club display cases and exhibits.

Refreshments available.

Show contact: Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279

Email contact: HYPERLINK "mailto:SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com"  
[SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com)

HYPERLINK "http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html" <http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.html>

## April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2019, Memphis, TN

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show. Sponsored by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd Memphis, TN Saturday, April 27 9-6:00 pm and Sunday, April 28 10-5pm. Over 50 Dealers and Exhibitors selling rocks, fossils, minerals, crystals, gemstones, opals, beads and jewelry. Kids Areas with gem and fossil dig, geode bowling and Rocks around the Clock. Includes the original "Memphis Rock Banquet" a full table display of rocks that look like real food. Adults \$5.00. 2- day pass \$8.00. Children 12 & under \$2.00. Scouts in uniform free, [www.theearthwideopen.com](http://www.theearthwideopen.com), email [info@theearthwideopen.com](mailto:info@theearthwideopen.com).

Contact WC McDaniel 901-490-3575

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## 2018 SFMS State Directors

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## 2018 SFMS Committee Chairs

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WILDACRES REGISTRAR: Linda Matvy, (865) 357-7917, wildacresregistrar@gmail.com

2018 Annual Meeting Host: Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society - September 21-23, 2018 Jason Hamilton, 7141 Natal Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254 904-294-4744 Silver-Rocks@comcast.net

## 2018 Mayo Educational Foundation, Inc. Officers/Director

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