

***THE MOUNTAIN GEM***  
**Volume XXXVIII Number 8**

**AUGUST 2011**

**Official Bulletin  
Of  
The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.**

**The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.** is a founding member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. A schedule of our monthly meetings is on the back cover of *The Mountain Gem* as well as on the Society's webpage. Meetings are held at the Macon County Community Facilities Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

The objectives of this society shall be to effect a close association of those persons who are interested in the study of gems, rocks and minerals and the sciences and arts related to them. We are a working organization that operates and maintains The Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum.

**The FRANKLIN GEM AND MINERAL MUSEUM** is under the direction of the Board of Directors of The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.

The Society and Museum are self-supporting on a 100% volunteer basis.

The museum is open May 1 through October 31.

Monday through Saturday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

November through April: Saturday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
FREE ADMISSION.

Membership in the Society is \$15.00 per person with \$10 each additional family member, and \$3.00 for junior (pebble pups).

Membership is from September to September.

Non-member subscription to *The Mountain Gem* is \$15.00 per year. Donations are tax deductible.

*The Mountain Gem* Staff: Editor, Linda Behr;  
Assistants: Elizabeth Jones, Ray Behr and Sharon John.

Articles written by members of our club may be borrowed provided credit is given to the author and *The Mountain Gem*.



The Franklin Gem and Mineral  
Museum  
25 Phillips Street  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Phone: 828-369-7831

In the Old Jail House  
FREE ADMISSION  
May 1 - October 31  
Monday Thru Saturday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
November 1 - April 30:  
Only Saturdays: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Open Year Round For Tours  
And Special Requests  
[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)

**2010-2011 Officers And  
Board Of Directors**

President	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
Vice President	Wally Smith	369-7695
Secretary	Sharon John	369-0161
Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Assistant Treasurer	Michelle Loewy	349-3483
Director (2012)	Linda Smith	342-8288
Director (2012)	Marty Martinez	349-4671
Director (2011)	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Director (2011)	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



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**Museum Managers**

**Museum Manager	Ray Behr	349-0827
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Gary Gaetano	369-7697
**Curator	Mary Bedrick	349-1696
Curator Ass't.	Sharon John	369-0161
**Gift Shop.	Doris Smith	369-7695
Ass't. Gift Shop	Michelle Loewy	349-3483
Museum Workshop	Wally Smith	369-7695
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	John Hayes	524-8062
Calendar Chairman	<b>OPEN</b>	
** Voting members on the Board		

**American Federation  
Bulletin Awards**

1994 (7<sup>th</sup>), 1995 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
1996 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1997 (5<sup>th</sup>),  
1998 (5<sup>th</sup>), 1999 (3<sup>rd</sup>),  
2000 (5<sup>th</sup>), 2004 (7<sup>th</sup>),  
2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 2006 (10<sup>th</sup>)  
2008 (5<sup>th</sup>) 2010(3<sup>rd</sup>)

**2010-2011  
Committee Chairmen**

Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Michelle Loewy	349-3483
Constitution/By-Laws	Joe Nicoletti	941-416-550
Door Prizes	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	John Hayes	524-8062
Gemboree	Jack Jungles	369-6664
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Sharon John	369-0161
Librarian	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Membership	Linda Behr	349-0827
**Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Linda Smith	342-8288
Refreshments	Frances Martinelli	349-9182
Scholarships	Jean Emerson	828-293-7784
** Voting members on the Board		



**Southeast Federation  
Bulletin Awards**

1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95  
1996-99 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
2003 2<sup>nd</sup> New Editor  
2004 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
2006 (1<sup>st</sup>), 2008 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
2010(1<sup>st</sup>)

American Federation (AFMS): [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)  
 Southeast Federation (SFMS): [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)  
 Franklin Gem Museum and Society: [www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)  
 Email for the Society is: [franklingemsociety@fastmail.fm](mailto:franklingemsociety@fastmail.fm)

### General Meeting

Date: August 25, 2011  
 Time: 6:30 p.m.  
 Day: Thursday  
 Where: Community Center  
 on 441 South

Program: **Kim Cochran** will be our guest speaker; a person that you will not want to miss.

This is election night for our 2012 officers.

### September

2 – Elena Marsh  
 9 – Marie Tsacrios  
 16 – James Granato  
 16 - Henry Stelling  
 20 – Edgar Wing  
 26 – Frances Martinelli  
 30 – Denis Bernard

# Birthdays

# Anniversaries

### September

12 – Jan & Nancy Prins  
 16 – Jack & Brenda Jungles

Why do we ask for commemorative stamps?

From the sales of the stamps on Ebay, the SFMS awards a club each year a scholarship to a lapidary school. The Commemorative stamps are what bring the highest amount. Everyday stamps are not needed.

Cut around the stamp leaving at least 1/4-1/2 inch margin. Do not remove them from the envelope.

Jim Robinson has been doing it for many years and has asked for a replacement. Carolyn Grothaus from South Carolina has volunteered for the job.



### Tom Sterrett, President August Message

August already! I hope it cools down soon. This summer has been humid and hot. Our year so far has been great at the museum and at our mine.

Lots of tourists come to Franklin every year to enjoy what we have. Won't you help us at the museum so that those visitors can enjoy themselves more? Your club, your museum. Let's make it the tourist destination that it is.

August also brings Kim Cochran to our club meeting. What a joy to have Kim come and impart knowledge to us. September is our installation banquet. We will have new leadership in our organization. Let's help out and volunteer to continue grow and expand our excellent club.

New year, new management and your chance to make a difference. Thanks.

And as always, rock on!

There is a freezer double pack from the Dealers' Dinner that can be found in the museum meeting room.

Please claim it or it will be discarded.

Linda Behr

From: September/October 2009:  
*On The Lighter Side* •



Why didn't the honeybee go out in the rain? She couldn't find her little yellow jacket.

Why did the honeybee have sticky hair? She used a honeycomb.

If you have a bee in your hand, what's in your eye? Beauty... because it's in the eye of the "beeholder."

- Dr. John Ambrose, as told at the N.C. Zoo Honeybee Exhibit grand opening.

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.  
Board Meeting of July 19, 2011**

The July Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Tom Sterrett at 6:35 p.m. in the Museum Meeting room.

Present were **Tom Sterrett, Marty Martinez, Fred Plesner, Arlon Eldridge, Ray Behr, Wally Smith, Doris Smith, Linda Behr, Sharon John, Tom Morley** and **John Hayes**.

There was a change to the newsletter as the Dealers Dinner will be held on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Museum Manager: **Ray Behr** reported that the hosts need to open the sand box outside for all the children that will be coming to the Museum. Ray will be getting a sign for our water feature that says "keep off" as there are children climbing on it and people trying to dig out the gems.

Workshop: **Wally Smith** reported that he has lists on the board in the meeting room for several different classes. Check them out and sign up!

Gift Shop: **Doris Smith** said that the Gift Shop did very well over the weekend and especially on Folk Festival Day—people came in droves. The new Gift Shop assistant manager will be **Michelle Loewy**. (There were close to 500 visitors on Saturday.)

Field Trips: **John Hayes** reported that a total of 48 people went on the trip to find staurolite with seven club members attending. A big thank you goes to the Pace Setter Organization for allowing us to use their campground facilities.

ARLON ELDRIDGE PROMISED TO PUT TIRES ON THE TRAILER AFTER THE GEMBOREE IS OVER.

Publicity: Fred Plesner reported that the "set up" for the Gemboree will be Wednesday morning.

**Rex Larkin** was appointed Committee Chairman and he presented a list of officers. They are as follows: President: **Tom Morley**; Vice President: **Lon Peden**; Secretary: **Sharon John**; Treasurer: **Marie Tsacrios**; Assistant Treasurer: **Michelle Loewy, Al Pribble**, and **Wally Smith** volunteered for the 2012 open Board positions. The Board discussed the slate of officers that were presented for election.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon John, Secretary

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.  
General Meeting of July 21, 2011**

The July 2011 General Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President **Tom Sterrett**.

There were 25 members and 18 guests present.

There is one change to the Newsletter: It should read Dealers' Dinner on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

There was no treasurer's report.

Museum Manager: **Ray Behr** asked the hosts to open the sand box for the kids that will be visiting the Museum.

Workshop: **Wally Smith** said that there are signup sheets for classes in faceting, cabbing, beading, etc: on the board in the Museum Meeting room and if you are interested, please sign up.

Gift Shop: **Doris Smith** reported that the Gift Shop did very well last weekend. She would like to hold classes on making gem trees and the critters. If you are interested please let her know. These will go to sell in the Gift Shop.

Publicity: **Fred Plesner** reported that WNC magazine did a great article on **Della Samuel** and you will find it on page 26<sup>th</sup>. Also a video crew came to the Museum and filmed for about three hours while **Ray Behr** and **Fred** were present.

**Fred** also hopes to have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new businesses on Phillips Street and for our water feature after the new sidewalk is completed.

Field Trip: The field trip went well and everybody went home with staurolite crystals.

Help is needed at the Dealers Dinner and everybody that is bringing food, please bring enough for not only your family but for others also.

The new slate of officers as presented by **Rex Larkin** are as follows:

President: Tom Morley  
VP: Lon Peden  
Sec.: Sharon John  
Treasurer: Marie Tsacrios  
Asst Treasurer: Michelle Loewy

2012 Board of Directors: Wally Smith and Al Pribble

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m. and refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon John, Secretary

*Thank you to Arlon Eldridge and Marty Martinez for the donated door prizes!*

Cont'd to next page.

### General Meeting of July 21, 2011 cont'd

Door Prizes winners:

1] Al Pribble, 2] Ray Behr 3] Gary Gaetano, 4] Gary Gaetano, 5] Kyra Stevens 6] Paulette Cloutier, 7] Fred Rasmusson, 8] Fred Rasmusson, 9] Alec Brown, 10] Al Pribble, 11] Lon Peden 12] Wally Smith, 13] John Speer, 14] Alex Brown, 15] John Speer, 16] Tom Sterrett, 17] Elena Marsh, 18] Doris Smith, 19] Laura Peden, 20] Fred Plesner, 21] Sandy Gadsden, 22] Bruce Siegfried, 23] Elena Marsh, 24] Della Samuel, 25] Wyatt Barnes, 26 ]Linda Behr, 27] Tom Morley, 28] Trey Barnes, 29] Denis Bernard, 30] Jacob Sterrett, 31] Zach Barnes 32] Fred Plesner, 33]Connie Taylor, 34] Sharon John, 35] Connie Taylor, 36] Doreen Freeman, 37] Tracy Wersel, 38] Jimi Lottinger, 39] Norma Watson, 40] Vicki Barnes

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### A Field Trip Experience

By Elena Marsh

What a perfect way to spend a Saturday – digging and hunting on the banks and in a stream at the Pacesetters Campground near Marble, NC! Our club members along with members from other clubs (seven club members and 41 visiting clubs\*) spent the late morning and early afternoon of July 9<sup>th</sup> in search of staurolite crystals! Reports that several specimens were found and shown which delighted the other rockhounds.

It was wonderful to see not only men and women participating in the field trip, but many children who accompanied their parents and friends.

Our club sponsored the DMC field trip with **John Hayes** coordinating. Everyone had a wonderful time and we heard a lot of ‘thanks for the wonderful time’ comments.

This was our second field trip with the club and we have enjoyed both. To be able to attend any function with others that know so much about gems, minerals, crystals and rocks in general is wonderful.

(\*Visitors came from Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina and North Carolina.)





Kim Cochran cooling his feet.

*Field trip pictures supplied by John Hayes.*

*Thank you, John for all your hard work in setting up this Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip for our club.*



Joe and Judy Pinkous smiling for the camera.



A pebble pup???

The September meeting will be on the last Thursday of the month.  
 Note: there are five Thursdays in September.  
 Sometimes there is confusion as to when our meetings occur; they are the very last Thursday of the month unless posted differently in the newsletter.  
 Linda

**Chinese Advice:**  
**Q:** Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?  
**A:** Your heart only good for so many beats, and that it... Don't waste on exercise. Everything wear out eventually. Speeding up heart not make you live longer; it like saying you extend life of car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take nap.  
**Q:** Is chocolate bad for me?  
**A:** Are you crazy?!? HEL-LO-O!! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It best feel-good food around!  
 Via Internet



September's newsletter deadline is September 9th.

Hi Linda,

After reading the article on Victoria Stone I remembered this. I made it in the workshop in the back of the jail maybe 1996. The stone was given to me by the man who certified me for cabochon work. I think his wife was also in the club and survived him, maybe "Jim."



Dean Plesner taught me the wire wrapping at her home and maybe she or Fred remembers "Jim."

I hope all is well with you and the club.

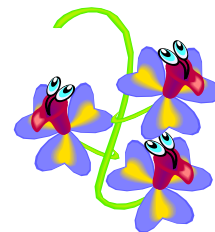
I have fond memories of the club and Franklin.

(Insert picture sent from Nat.)

Nat Tartak

## Member News

**Ina Raye Muncher** has a broken arm. Our heartfelt sadness goes to her for all she has had on her plate; taking care of her mother and Joe.



It was wonderful seeing **Jerry and Marilyn Kolle** hosting at the Gemboree. Her battles with all her health issues show by her demeanor. But she still has that wonderful smile! Jerry shared some of Marilyn's struggles and I must say Marilyn is a trooper and so is Jerry for fighting for her health with some of the doctors.

Well, **Ray Behr** has another inconvenience: he fell and chipped a bone in his thumb and also tore his ligament in the thumb; so he is wearing a removable cast or wrist brace.

**Fran Martinelli's** sister passed away after a long illness. Our sympathies go to Fran and her family. Fran and **Michelle**, her daughter made a quick trip to Texas to be with her before she died.

**Dean Plesner** went to Florida for the family's annual get together. It gave her the opportunity to see her mother again.

**Roy Ramsey** was featured in *The Franklin Press* as part of the musical group "The Lady and the Old Timers." Roy is the group's dobro player. According to the MC, Roy is the "meat and potatoes" of the group. As to Roy's age, "I'll be 45 next spring." At which Kirland joked, "multiply that by two and you'll be just about right." The group performed at the Macon County Library on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Pictured in *The Macon County News & Shopping Guide* July 28<sup>th</sup>'s are club members, **Tom and Elena Marsh**. The couple has met the requirements from the National Wildlife Federation to create a backyard certified wildlife habitat. Hummmmmmmmm. Shall we hear more on this from Tom and Elena?

We have three new members: **Martha Ahrens, Paulette Cloutier and Jimi James Lottinger**.

**WELCOME!!!**

### Test for Topaz Drop of Water Test for Topaz Author unknown

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, and are sometimes impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. There is a big difference in price between the two and anyone describing quartz as topaz, however innocently, may well be in trouble.

Topaz is quite a different mineral, which is harder than quartz. Because of this, a drop of water will not spread on topaz but will spread on quartz. Clean the stone as effectively as possible with a cloth or handkerchief to remove all trace of grease. It must be dry before the test. Then place a spot of clean water on it with a thin glass or metal rod.

On stones with a hardness of less than 7 on the Mohs scale, the water is dispersed. On harder stones it will remain a globule. The harder the stone the more rounded will be the globule.

Source: *Gem Cutters News*, 3/2011;  
via *Breccia* June 2011

**Public Well and Town Jail**

By Fred Plesner, Archivist for the Gem &amp; Mineral Society of Franklin

I am sure that there are some of you who have heard those of us who host at the Gem Museum regularly speak of the town well. This is because the town jailer also had the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the public well. This is borne out by reading the accounts of the Macon County Board of Commissioners.

For many years I assumed that the public well was in the town square which would have encompassed Rankin Square (the Confederate Monument), the garden across Phillips Street, the Gazebo Park or the area where the present Macon County Court House now stands. My assumptions were wrong. The public well stood behind the Old Jail and is now under the annex to the Old Jail which was added in 1957. The public well is more or less directly under the two tables in the Gem Museums meeting room. I assumed wrongly that there must be a connection between the town well and a fountain that I had heard mention of that was removed when the Old Jail closed in September of 1972.

In 1939 the City of Franklin passed an ordinance that required all open wells to be covered or filled. The town well was filled in. Ray Behr and I were at the Museum several years ago when one of the men who were installing the present air conditioning system crawled out from under the crawl space of the Jail Annex and announced that he had found a well and a set of steps. The steps were for a back door to the jail that exited from the boiler room (the storage room entered from the florescent room). The material in the old well has now settled to the point that it is now about four feet deep. At the time it was rediscovered half of a steatite bowl of Native American origin was recovered and given to our curator.

Ray Behr was present when the remains of a coal pile were found during the addition of our rock water fountain in the garden entrance to the Old Jail Annex. It turns out that the coal for the boiler was apparently just dumped a couple of feet from the sidewalk that passes it. I still have a piece of that coal that Ray gave to me when he announced its discovery.

The public well was of vital importance to the community during a period when many households did not have their own well and nearly all transportation was by horse, mule or ox. Oftentimes herds of cattle, etc. would be driven through town and needed to be watered. The well would also have been of great importance to nearby merchants.

In "Accounts Audited By The Commissioners For Macon County, N.C. 1883 1891" as transcribed by Barbara McRae an interesting chronology of the town well can be pieced together.

Checks made out by the county:

3 Mar. 1884	To: W.W. Rankin (Town Jailer)	\$0.95	for rope and bucket for the public well
3 Mar. 1884	To: W.W. Rankin	\$17.02	for blankets furnished to jail
1 Sept. 1884	To: W.W. Rankin	\$1.25	for repairs to public well
1 Sept. 1884	To: Siler & Smith	\$1.20	for medicine McLanahan and slop for jail (you figure this one out)
1 Sept. 1884	To: C.D. Smith	\$75.00	for exhibiting minerals at state exposition in Oct. 1884
6 Oct. 1884	To: W.W. Rankin	\$1.00	for 2 buckets for public well
5 Jan. 1885	To: W.W. Rankin	\$1.00	Bucket for public well and washing bed cloths for prisoners
2 Feb. 1885	To: W.W. Rankin	\$0.65	1 bed tick
2 Mar. 1885	To: H.G. Trotter	\$2.00	24 panes of glass for jail
6 Apr. 1885	To: H.G. Trotter	\$1.50	Lock for Jail

Attributions: City Ordinances Accounts Audited By The Commissioners For Macon County, N.C. 1883 - 1891 transcribed by Barbara Mc Rae

**Be Safe – Be Well**

Safety Committee – Don Monroe

Help Out

“Help Out” is a somewhat archaic term that we encounter very often here in Appalachia and it is applied to our relationships with friends, neighbors, relatives and even strangers. It is often pronounced as “hep out” and it is rarely requested. As a matter of fact it is considered bad form or inappropriate to ask others to help out unless you are in dire straits or it is planned to exchange assistance.

When I was young and lived on our farm there were certain times when everyone nearby was expected to “help out.” At the beginning of cold weather we would slaughter hogs to provide ham, sausage, and other forms of pork that city folks were not familiar with and did not customarily eat. Some examples of these items include fat back, “chitlins” (I have seen it spelled chitterlings}, brains, tripe, pigs feet, lard, cracklings, and many other pork products that I did not like then and I don’t like now and do not want to talk about. This was towards the end of the depression and people could not afford to waste anything.

Other times when it was expected that assistance would be rendered included harvest time, fall wood cutting, canning vegetables, wine making, grinding wheat for flour, grinding corn for meal and on some farms this list would include whiskey making. We never made whiskey but our neighbor did. You could not drink it but it surely did make good anti-freeze for our tractor.

I know some of you are wondering so I am going to explain why it may be important to know a little about how life was in earlier years. All of this also applies to many parts of the country where the tasks were a little different from the ones previously mentioned but, never the less, were vitally important. We now see a lot of people returning to their roots and are having to learn or re-learn skills that may be forgotten. My family has left the city and moved back to the hills. We are doing things the way our family did them several generations ago. It is not all fun but it is not all bad and will engender a certain amount of pride.

There is a significant safety aspect to returning to the land. You are going to need help. In many cases this help will come from your neighbors and working relationships must be developed so that you can do things or get things done safely. I really hate to say it but you cannot always rely on your children. They may not live nearby and are busy and have their own lives to live. Good kids that they are they still may not think about what the needs of their parents may be. You may be hesitant to ask for help and must rely on others. In our neighborhood we share skills and help each other. It is the SAFE WAY. I always say that it is often better to live next door to someone that owns a truck than have one of your own.

**Program Report**

By Rex Larkin

At our last meeting, with Arlon Eldridge narrating and Marty Martinez running the video machine, our group explored amethyst mining in remote areas of Brazil. Though the closest city may be 1,000 or more miles away, the Jacoben Mine produces some of the finest mineral deposits in the world. To get to these prized deposits, one has to drill down approximately 300 feet. The amethyst is found in matrix with citrine, feldspar, and quartz, sometimes also of very high quality. Because of the remoteness of the mine, only quantities of 1,000 pounds or more are sold and transported.

Their fastidiousness includes even forming catchment ponds to minimize environmental damage. The mine is drilled by a diesel machine; however, the work of finding, cutting out, and transporting the stone is done by hand. This method is less ecologically damaging than water intrusion in other areas of Brazil, but the average life expectancy of a miner is only 42 year.

The monthly pay is \$80. Many of the mines are privately owned. Women who cull aboveground receive about \$30 a month, but the work is less dangerous, with little if any dust being inhaled.

Arlon stressed that the Brazilian people are very hygienic, taking several baths a day due to the nature of the work. They are also very hospitable, eager to feast with guests.

Next, we were taken visually to the backhoe mining of diamantine quartz around the town of Corinto, considerably south of Brazilia. Here, the best quality of quartz crystals is found, sometimes with tourmaline in matrix. We viewed several enormous and expensive crystals.

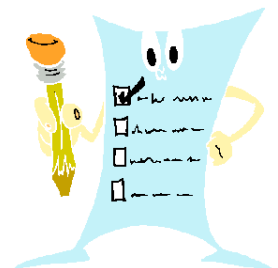
After their presentation, given by Arlon and Marty were wonderful door prizes. Most people in the crowd walked away with at least one and sometimes more beautiful specimens.

Again, thank you for such an entertaining evening, a great new store of information and wonderful specimens.

**Bumper Stickers for Ladies**

Don't upset me! I'm running out of places to hide the bodies.

All stressed out and no one to choke.



**WORKSHOP TIPS** : More On Polishing By Homer Whitlock

There are a few things that we should remember when we are tumbling material. We should always have plenty of small material in the tumbler so that it can help the grit slide along the surface of the material that we want to tumble or polish. Have a mixture of different sizes of material. The different sized material will make it so you can put in some flat material and will polish a lot better. If you have too many flats, they will stick together, and not polish at all. Now, if you are polishing agates, you will not need to worry about having filler or the plastic walnut or corn cobs to soften the tumbling action. If you are tumbling onyx, marble, turquoise or any other soft material, you should have softer filler to absorb the shock of the material against itself as it tumbles in the tumbler.

After you have tumbled softer material in the 400 grit then use enough filler material so that the rocks do not scratch each other as they tumble around. You can easily tell whether you have enough filler, as you will see little white spots on obsidian. They will only be the size of a pinhead or smaller but they will surely keep you from obtaining a polish. Other soft material will have tiny scratches on it that will show up when you look at it with a 10 power magnifying glass. If you cannot see any scratches, then wash good and take the ones out that have pits. They could hold tiny bits of grit that would damage the material when you go to a finer polish. It is very important that you keep it as clean as possible from here on. When you have run it through the 600 grit and are ready to put it into the polish, try rubbing a piece on a cloth like a piece of overall. Rub it good. If it shows signs of polishing then go ahead and run it through the pre-polish compound then go to the finale polish. If at the two last times this does not work start over with the 600 grit and repeat or you will not get a good polish. You may have to add more filler. Now this is not necessary when you are tumbling Jasper or Agates, especially the hard ones. Check them often and be sure they have plenty of time to tumble. Do not try to rush them.

Yours for a good polish,

Source: *News & Views* 1/01, via: *The Telephone City Crystal* November 2010

**MY DOCTOR...**

Let me tell you about my doctor. He's very good! If you tell him you want a second opinion,  
He'll go out and come in again.

He treated one woman for yellow jaundice for three years before he realized she was Chinese.

~~~~~  
Another time, he gave a patient six months to live. At the end of the six months, the patient hadn't paid his bill, so, the doctor gave him another six months.

~~~~~  
While he was talking to me, his nurse came in and said, "Doctor, there is a man here who thinks he's invisible." The doctor said, "Tell him I can't see him."

~~~~~  
Another time, a man came running in the office and yelled, "Doctor, doctor! - my son just swallowed a roll of film!" The doctor calmly replied, "Let's just wait and see what develops."

~~~~~  
One patient came in and said, "Doctor, I have a serious memory problem." The doctor asked, "When did it start?" The man replied, "When did what start?"

~~~~~  
I remember one time I told my doctor I had a ringing in my ears. His advice: "Don't answer it."

~~~~~  
My doctor sure has his share of nut cases. One said to him, "Doctor, I think I'm a bell." The doctor gave him some pills and said, "Here, take these - If they don't work, give me a ring."

~~~~~  
Another guy told the doctor that he thought he was a deck of cards. The doctor simply said, "Go sit over there. I'll deal with you later."

~~~~~  
When I told my doctor I broke my leg in two places, He told me to stop going to those places.

~~~~~  
You know, doctors can be so frustrating. You wait a month and a half for an appointment, then he says, "I wish you had come to me sooner."





DMC Field Trip Sponsored by Augusta Gem & Mineral Society  
 Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips  
 The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc  
 The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.  
 DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee - Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of The Georgia Mineral Society, Inc. - Norcross, GA (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral society of Franklin, NC

FREE AREA: This field trip is free for all who participate

9:00 AM, Saturday, September 17, 2011

Vulcan Materials Company, Bartow Quarry  
 Cartersville, GA

Where: Vulcan Bartow Quarry, 5840 Highway 20 SE, Cartersville, 30121  
Directions: Interstate 75 North to exit 290. Highway 20. At the exit you make a right and go 1 and 1/2 miles to the quarry on the right. This is just past the McDonalds. If you are coming from the North, you would still exit at 290 but turn left, go east and continue to the quarry. When we arrive we will meet Edith, a Vulcan employee who will be our guide for this trip.

WHAT TO BRING: Clothes that would be appropriate for this time of year in Georgia. That could be almost anything and I would suggest layers that could be removed and something in the event of a shower. A hat and boots, or at least a good pair of shoes. We should be finished early enough to go to the McDonalds for lunch but something to drink is always good to bring along.

Collecting: the rock found here is a porphoblastic granite gneiss and is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex. These rocks are some of the oldest in Georgia dating back some 1.2 billion years, making it much older than the granites found at their other locations. This quarry is known for the blue quartz found within the granite. While most of the blue quartz is small, you can normally find some large enough to polish into a very nice cabochon. Some may be found with pyrite inclusions as well as other minerals within the granite.

They are blasting rock every week and, as a working quarry, there are spoil piles all around. No one will be allowed near any of the high walls but with the abundance of material we normally just have to bend over and pick things up. All you really need is a bucket to take your samples home. If you want to chip off a piece of a larger boulder be sure you have all your safety equipment including safety glasses, gloves, hard hat and a chisel and crack hammer. At the very least- Bring your camera

Field Trip Contact: George Libby. GMS Field Trip Chair

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## Sure it Works

A wealthy man decided to go on a safari in Africa. He took his faithful pet Chihuahua along for company.

One day, the Chihuahua started chasing butterflies and before long the Chihuahua discovered that he was lost.

So, wandering about, he noticed a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having lunch.

The Chihuahua thought, "OK, I'm in deep trouble now!" then he noticed some bones on the ground close by, and immediately settled down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard was about to leap, the Chihuahua exclaimed loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here?" Hearing this, the leopard halted his attack in mid-stride, as a look of terror came over hi, and slunk away into the trees. "Whew," said the leopard, "that was close. That Chihuahua nearly had me."

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figured he could put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So, off he went. But the Chihuahua saw him. "Something must be up," he thought. The monkey soon caught up with the leopard, spilled the beans, and struck a deal for himself with the leopard. The leopard was furious at being made a fool of and said, "Here, monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine."

Now, the Chihuahua saw the leopard coming with the money on his back, and thought, "What am I going to do now?" But, instead of running, the dog sat down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hadn't seen them yet. And just when they got close enough to hear, the Chihuahua said, "Where is that dumb money? I sent him off half an hour ago to bring me another leopard!"

Submitted by **Fred Plesner** from his archive of jokes.

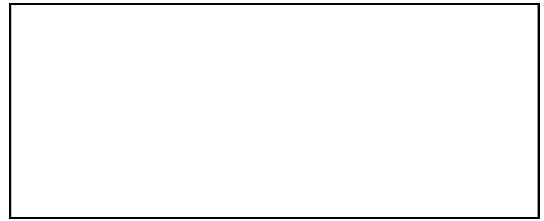


Southeast Federation  
 of Mineralogical Societies  
 annual meeting will be held  
 September 3, 2011 in  
 Greenville, S.C.\*

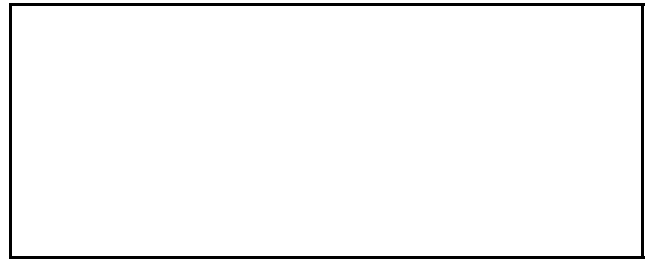


*THE MOUNTAIN GEM*

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Election Night



Save Stamps for SFMS Scholarship

| MONTH     | BOARD | GENERAL               |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------|
| JUNE      | 28    | 30                    |
| JULY      | 19    | 21                    |
| AUGUST    | 23    | 25                    |
| SEPTEMBER | 27    | 29                    |
| OCTOBER   | 25    | 27                    |
| NOVEMBER  | 15    | 17                    |
| DECEMBER  | 6     | 10 1-5 PM<br>SATURDAY |

General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. the last Thursday of the month (note changes)  
West Large Meeting Room of the Macon County Community Facilities Building  
HWY 441 S

**Meeting changes will be posted in the monthly newsletter.**

Board Meetings: 6:30 p.m.

At the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

All Board Meetings are open to the members.

If you want to submit something before the Board, contact the President prior to meeting.