

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
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Number 3
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, Sharon and Bob 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

**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	Elizabeth Jones	349-3877
Museum Workshop	Wally Smith	369-7695
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	John Hayes	524-8062
Calendar Chairman	OPEN	
** Voting members on the Board		

**American Federation
Bulletin Awards**

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

**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 (1st)
2003 2nd New Editor
2004 (2nd), 2005 (2nd)
2006 (1st), 2008 (2nd),
2010(1st)

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

General Meeting

Date: March 31, 2011
 Time: 6:30 p.m.
 Day: Thursday
 Where: Community Center
 on 441 South

Program: A video from the SFMS on the Mogok Valley where Burma rubies originate. This is a world renown location for the choicest rubies.

This should be a very interesting video.

APRIL

Birthdays

2 – Roy Ramsey
 12 – Dean Plesner
 17 – Michelle Lowey
 24 – Dorothy Crawford
 27 – Jamie Loewy
 30 – Frances Rasmusson

APRIL

Anniversaries

1—Joe & Ginger Nicoletti
 55th Wedding Anniversary
 15 – Bill & Kay Kennedy



March President's Message

Tom Sterrett

Here we are in March already. I hope everyone is doing fine. I want to thank all the hard workers and volunteers at the museum this past winter. As of May 1 we are coming into our new season. Our host guides (aka cheat sheets) are progressing well. I hope more club members will come to the museum and help us finalize our guides. The more input the better.

Volunteer sheets are being passed around now, so sign up early for the choicest spots! We as club members need to be thinking of people to fill our leadership positions for Aug/Sept. If interested, contact me or any board member. We also still need speakers for programs for the year. If you have suggestions, please let us know!

I hope to see more of you at the local mines this season. Come see us soon!

And as always – Rock On!

April newsletter
 deadline will be
 April 11, 2011.



Please save worthwhile items for our **May fundraiser**. If necessary, you may bring them to the museum library. But remember we are very limited in space in the library and if you could, please keep items at home until closer to the auction time.

AUCTION
 COMING UP...



Member News

Reporting by Linda Behr



Our dog, Bailey had to have major surgery; he was running and tore the tendon in his back elbow. He is doing better but will be on "medical" care for three months.

Bob John was diagnosed with fungus or bacteria on his heart. Since his heart is the weak part of his body, it is susceptible to germs. **Bob John** had a double by-pass heart surgery on March 3rd in Asheville. He went through the surgery like a Marine and is recovering in Asheville.

"Hi, I'm speechless. Hooray, Hooray, I'm a happy gal. Thank you, thank you, Thank you. I love you all!" **Doris Smith** (recipient of our club's annual scholarship to a lapidary school for volunteers hours of 2010).

LIFE Members, Barbara and Edgar Wing have moved to Alabama to be near Edgar's oldest daughter and family. Their new address is: 11626 U.S. Highway 90, Unit 202, Daphne, AL 36526. Cell phone is 917-584-8131. we wish **Barbara and Edgar** our very best in their new home and location. We will miss seeing them at our many functions.

Dean Plesner is had carpal tunnel wrist surgery on Thursday.

Fred Plesner will have more surgery done on those cancerous spots on his face later this month.

The stomach bug has been hitting many members including yours truly and **Linda Smith** and others.

Received a phone call from **Rose Temkin** and she is looking forward to returning this summer. Her Franklin neighbors are promising to take care of all her needs while here.

Another surprise call came from **Ginger Nicoletti**. She said that she and **Joe** just returned from a 30-day cruise to celebrate Joe's 75th birthday and their 55th anniversary. Joe is a "rock" and shell collector and has many souvenirs from their south Pacific trip. We look forward to viewing Joe's collections when they return to Franklin this summer.

Elizabeth Siegfried Jones' husband has a tumor on his pituitary gland which is affecting his vision. He is in our prayers and thoughts.

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin Board Meeting of February 22, 2011

The February 2011 Board of Directors meeting was called to order by **President Tom Sterrett** at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum meeting room.

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

There were no additions or changes to the minutes of last month's *The Mountain Gem*.

Tom Sterrett said that there is a SFMS meeting on March 11th, in Augusta, Ga. And that he will not be able to attend. Since no one from the board could attend the meeting, he will check with **Rex Larkin** to see if he would like to attend. The club's budget allows for money to help with the trip.

Treasurers Report: We had a total income of \$2,631.09, total expenses of \$1,055.30 and a net income of \$1,575.79.

Museum Manager: **Ray Behr** reported that he would like to get the bathroom and the office painted and then put up curtains in the office, library and bathroom. **Henry Stelling** and **John Hayes** have almost finished the windows. **Rex Larkin** also helped out—thanks Rex.

There are plans to put up a metal ceiling in the Gift Shop.

There will be no workshop gatherings for a couple of months.

Linda Smith reported that the program for July will be given by **Arlon Eldridge** and **Marty Martinez.**

Don't forget the auction in May.

The scholarship for William Holland will be drawn Thursday night.

Arlon Eldridge said he will look for rhodolite garnets to make a pendant and earrings that will be set in 14k gold for our 2011 fundraiser raffle. **Tom** has someone in mind to make them.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Sharon John, secretary

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical
Societies

annual meeting will be held
September 3, 2011 in
Greenville, SC.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"Arctic Opal" is a blue-green stone that is a mixture of azurite and malachite, mined in the Wrangell and Chugach Mountains near Anchorage, Alaska.

Source: *The Pegmatite* April 2003

Program Report for Thursday February 27,

By Linda Behr

Who would have thought that a Christmas gift to **Jamie Loewy** would have won "ugliest rock" award? This rock was purchased from our gift shop for a "piece of coal" given to her by her sister **JoJo**. A can of Zud® which was one of the products used for cleaning rocks was her award as well as a certificate. Second place "ugly rock" winner was **Bruce Siegfried** who was awarded a pair of goggles. As third place winner, **Tom Sterrett** was awarded a brush to clean his rocks.

Our Program presenter, **Fred Plesner** suggested many different cleaning ideas for that rock which is difficult to clean.

First item is an apron. It will keep you free of those chemicals that are used in cleaning. Fred emphasized: "use the right equipment!" He went through our home items for simple cleaning supplies. Some that he mentioned: toothpicks to get into those tiny places, can of air; needles; dental tools; razor blades and clean water. Distilled water is an important solution to make sure there is no acid left in the bucket or on the rock.

Bleach can be used to rid rocks of mold and mildew. Always wear disposable gloves and goggles for protection. Calgon ® as well as Windex® can be used for softening clay...the wonderful soil found in so many different locations. Windex® can also be used for a quick shine.

If a product does not list their ingredients, do not use, especially on limestone. Peroxide along with citric acid or lime juice will remove manganese. Hydrochloric acid is a good iron remover for quartz crystal. Zud® or oxalic will also remove iron from quartz crystals.

Always add acid, even vinegar, *to the water*. Fred kept repeating how important it is to follow this rule for safety.

A foot is a device for finding a rock when you are looking the other way! OUCH

via Golden Spike News 8/01



via Bell Notes 2/88

via Behive Buzzer 1/99

Funny School Excuse Notes

- Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. He fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip." "Karl was hit yesterday playing football. He was hurt in the growing part." "John was absent yesterday because he had a stomach."
- "Please excuse Gloria. She has been sick and under the doctor."
- "Please excuse Sarah from being absent yesterday. She was sick and I had her shot."

Via Internet

Children Are Quick

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America .

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now class, who discovered America ?

Class: Maria.

Teacher: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

John: You told me to do it without using tables.

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's wrong

Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

Via Internet

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS for 2011 SFMS WORKSHOP

Please encourage your juniors to apply for the youth scholarships using the criteria below.

When entering the competition:

- President of the sponsoring adult club submits the junior's name with an explanation of the club's qualifications considered in recommending this youth.
 - Youth submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop.
 - Deadline for applying for the scholarship is March 31, 2011.
 - Recommendations should be sent to:

Bonita L. Harris

SFMS Youth Resources

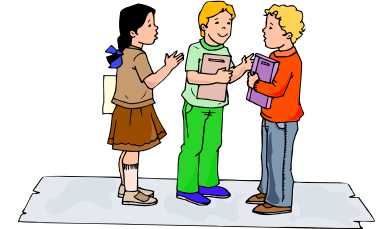
12520 Jeff Hamilton Road
Mobile, AL 36695
251. 865.9157

When attending the SFMS workshop:

- Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.
- Responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

Following the SFMS workshop:

- After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship recipient is encouraged to write a *Lodestar* article about the experience.



**The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin
General Meeting of February 24, 2011**

The February 2011 General Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President **Tom Sterrett**.

There were 20 members present.

Treasurers Report: The total income was \$2,631.09, total expenses were \$1,055.30 with a net income of \$1,575.79

Almost all the plexi-glass windows are put up in the Museum thanks to John Hayes, Henry Stelline and Rex Larkin.

There will not be any workshop classes for a while, probably till our Florida members return.

The new membership list is done.

Programs: **Linda Smith** reported that she will show a SFMS video in March. May will be the auction and in July, **Arlon Eldridge** and **Marty Martinez** will be talking about Brazil and all the beautiful gems that come from there.

Education: **Diane Aiello** reported that Heritage Day for the Smokey Mountain School will be on April 18th. We will need volunteers to go to the school that day. If you have never been, you should volunteer—the kids are great!

The drawing for a scholarship for William Holland went as follows: 1. **Doris Smith**, 2. **Ray Behr**, he declined, so second runner up was **Jo Jo Loewy** and the third runner up was **Fred Rasmussen**.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Door prizes winners: 1. **Ray Behr**, 2. **Fred Plesner**, 3. **Marty Martinez**, 4. **Tom Aiello**.

Refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted:

Sharon John, Secretary

BE SAFE – BE WELL

Don Monroe - Safety Committee

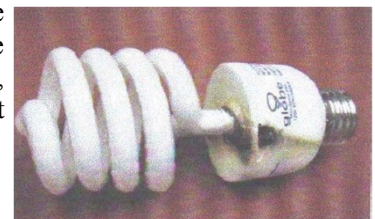
Compact Florescent Light (CFL) Bulbs

Below is a picture of a CFL light bulb from my bathroom. I turned it on the other day and then smelled smoke after a few minutes. Soon, four-inch flames were spewing out of the side of the ballast like a blow torch! I immediately turned off the lights, but I'm sure it would have caused a fire if I was not right there. Imagine if the kids had left the lights on as usual when they were not in the room.

I took this bulb to the Fire Department and reported the incident. The firefighter wasn't at all surprised and said that it was not an uncommon occurrence. Apparently, sometimes when the bulb burns out there is a chance that the ballast can start a fire. He told me that the Fire Marshall had issued reports about the dangers of these bulbs.

Upon doing some internet research, it seems that bulbs made by "Globe" in China have the lion's share of problems. Many of these fire incidents have been blamed on misuse of CFL bulbs like using them in recessed lighting, pot light fixtures, track lighting, or in light fixtures with dimmer controls. Mine was installed in a conventional light socket.

I bought this Globe brand CFL at Wal-Mart; however, I will be removing all the Globe brand CFL bulbs from my house. CFL bulbs are a great energy saver but make sure you buy a name brand like Sylvania, Phillips, or GE and not the ones from China.



Gold Rush: Biggest California Nugget Up for Sale

A whopping 100-ounce gold nugget found in California last spring will go to auction March 15. The mega-find and high gold prices have triggered a new gold rush in them thar hills.

By Gloria Goodale, Staff writer / January 10, 2011
<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2011/0110/Gold-rush-Biggest-California-nugget-up-for-sale>

The California gold rush is still on, maybe not as heady as it was 150 years ago, but still on – especially since the discovery last spring of a giant among gold nuggets, which will soon go up for auction.

The tale of the so-called Washington nugget – so named because it was discovered near the famous northern California Mother Lode Gold Rush mining camp of Washington – is a story made for retelling around the campfire. The nugget was found by an amateur miner who was out sleuthing on his own property, using a metal detector. When the man brought the nugget to the offices of geologist Fred Holabrid in Reno, Nev., for verification, Mr. Holabrid knew it was "one in a trillion."

The Washington nugget weighed in at 100 ounces and is about the size of a small loaf of bread. By way of comparison, the largest California nugget still in existence, which is on display at the Smithsonian Museum, weighs 80 ounces.

Upon seeing the whopper, "I just screamed and everyone thought something was wrong," says Holabrid in a phone interview. Of all the gold panned or mined since the Forty-niner rush, no more than 100 nuggets of that size have ever been plucked from California gold fields. "They were melted down purely for their monetary value," he adds.

The nugget will be sold to the highest bidder at private auction on March 15. Holabrid, who is handling the auction, says he hopes it will not be used simply for market value. With gold selling at about \$1,400 an ounce, the nugget would bring in some \$140,000. But its artifact value is much higher, he says, noting that he wouldn't be surprised to see the piece sell for more than twice as much.

Would he recommend that others try their hand at finding such "pennies from heaven?" Absolutely not, he says with a laugh. But knowing that advice has never stopped those who dream of the big gold find, he recommends that prospectors-to-be do their homework. Check environmental laws before disturbing geological formations, he notes. And, of course, respect public and private property laws. "A lot of gold seekers just think an open lot is available and they can go wherever they want," he says.

While the big score is rare, there is still gold to be found – including by the happy amateur, says US Geological Survey geologist Richard Goldfarb. The best time for such sluicing is after a big storm, he says. That's because heavy water movement washes out the treasures buried deep in the mountains. "You are breaking down the mountains during the big storms," he says, "and those mountains have ancient stream beds in them. When you break those down, you will find those nuggets."

High gold prices are also fueling the current spate of mining activity. As prices have continued to rise, sales of metal detectors have been brisk.

"Higher prices always bring out the people who want to find gold," says Margaret Schellang, on the phone from Kellyco Metal Detectors in Winter Springs, Fla. Gold detection requires detectors with a different circuitry than regular metal detectors, she notes.

But for people who live too far from the mine fields of yore, there's good news if they fancy a bit of weekend gold mining. "The gold in people's jewelry, like bracelets and rings, is not pure gold," she says, and can actually be located using a regular metal detector.



Photo courtesy of Holabrid-Kagin Americana from the Christian Science Monitor website

**Museum Committee Meeting for
The Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum on
February 11, 2011**

The Museum Committee Meeting was called to order by Museum Manager, **Ray Behr** on February 11, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Present were: **Ray, Mary Bedrick, Michelle Loewy, Diane Aiello, and Sharon John.**

Ray reported that **Wally Smith** said that it would be a good idea to install four flood lights in the work shop.

Ray also reported that **Doris Smith** says that she plans to get the Gift Shop cleaned and restocked about two weeks before the Museum opens on May 1st.

Mary Bedrick is working on updating the inventory in the Museum and all the cases cleaned.

Tom Sterrett has a plan for installing a "pressed metal ceiling" in the Gift Shop. This will add to the antiquity look of the building.

Diane Aiello is in charge of changing the cases at the Court House and the Library. **Mary Bedrick** said that she would help her in stocking the cases.

Tom Sterrett will be bringing several of the boxes of specimen that were bought in Helen, Ga., to the Museum for the Curator, Gift Shop Manager and Education Chairman to go through them and see which department will keep each specimen.

Michelle Loewy is working on the Web Page for the Museum and plans to add pictures of children cutting geodes, children's groups visiting the museum, etc.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Sharon John, Secretary

Funny Ad Campaign Blunders...

And Slogan Mistranslations from
American Advertising Campaigns' in
Other Countries and Languages

OPS! I omitted the following line from February's newsletter:

The Microsoft® ad slogan, as translated into Japanese:

If you don't know where you want to go, we'll make sure you get taken.

**Humor
Discovery in North Carolina**

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion, that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: "California archaeologists, finding of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later. A local newspaper in North Carolina reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Rocky Mount, Bubba, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing.

Source: Internet; via a fellow editor from Alabama

Water – A Mineral?

© Bert Ellison

www.rocksforkids.com



Why not? The earth is conspicuous among planets by having water, lots of it. It's obvious our lives depend on it, but so do numerous natural processes in the mineral world and a large category of our metallic and non-metallic ores are classified as hydrothermal – hot water – in origin. Pure water functions as a standard for some of our measuring units because of its uniformity.

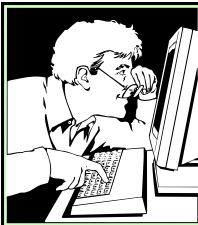
Above 0° C it is a liquid hence amorphous (without form). Pure water has a bluish color. Its specific gravity (SG) when pure, at 4°C and 760mm barometric pressure is 1, though seawater may be up to 1.028.

Nearly all minerals are more or less soluble in water, especially if it contains carbon dioxide, humic acid, hydrochloric acid or oxygen. There is about 3.5% solid matter dissolved in seawater, which contains over 30 elements in solution. Molecules of water aid in the migration of ions to form new "metamorphic" minerals like garnets.

When it freezes it expands by about 9 to 10 percent and exerts tonnes of pressure per square centimeter, widening cracks in rocks and hastening the activity of water and oxygen in weathering and disintegration. Cold water holds a lot of calcium carbonate – the stuff that shells and corals are made of – but when the water warms, this calcite crystallizes out to give vast deposits of limestone.

When it freezes in the air, snow crystals are formed – all different we're told – tabular and hexagonal.

And is there anything better for taking licorice and jam from little mouths and fingers?



2011 membership lists are now available in the museum meeting room on the wall of the bulletin board.

They have a green cover.
Membership chairman,
Linda Behr

PYRITE PRESERVATION

by Sally Shelton*

Director, Collections Care and Conservation,
San Diego Natural History Museum

Some of the most popular specimens for amateur collectors are pyrite. Often, these specimens deteriorate with time and become unattractive. The natural reaction is to ask "What do I do to clean this up and make it pretty again?" Unfortunately, curing the pyrite "disease" is not a matter of a simple polish job. Pyrite "disease" is a misnomer, though, like Byne's "disease" in marine mollusk shells, there have been misguided attempts to link it with bacteria. It is a humidity-driven oxidation of pyrite that affects the microcrystalline or framboidal forms far more than it does the large crystals. The damage is preventable but irreversible once it has happened. **DO NOT USE ANTI-FREEZE**! Your informant got it all wrong. It is possible to clean the reaction products off the surface of a specimen using a "very" specific procedure developed by Lorraine Cornish and Adrian Doyle at The Natural History Museum, but this uses ethanolamine thioglycollate in a closed chamber. It is not something you do casually with no training, as removing the specimen at the precise time is necessary to prevent its destruction. The only way to slow the oxidation is to lower the relative humidity. If the reaction has not started, keep it at 45% or lower; if it has, get it to 30% or lower. Desiccants will work -IF- you know how to use them. It's not a matter of throwing silica gel into a case and walking away. Anoxic enclosures also help a lot, but, again, this is not something to do casually.

DO NOT SEAL THE SURFACES WITH ANYTHING. If you have an active reaction, coatings will not only not stop it, they may well make it worse by forcing larger areas to spall. **DO NOT REFER TO OUTDATED LITERATURE.** There is some amazing garbage out there about pyrite disease. The best work on this is done by Frank Howie, Rob Waller at the Canadian Museum of Nature (who has done the best work on the specific mineralogy of the reaction) and Cornish and Doyle.

So my advice is: 1. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. If you don't have problems, don't do anything except keep an eye on things. 2. If you can't keep the RH below 45% and you think you may have problems, start with a preventive approach. There are published descriptions of macro- and micro-climate control for collections in storage. Museums have the directions for making anoxic enclosures and some advice on using and reconditioning desiccants. For a large collection, you may wish to consider installing climate-control equipment for an entire case or cases; again, there are references for this. 3. If you know you have a problem, the first step is to remove the specimen from its storage environment to a work area. Brush away and discard the dry powdery reaction product. (That's a DRY, soft brush). You may not wish to do anything more other than rehousing at this point. The Cornish/Doyle method is not for the untrained, and often not for the trained. There is no magic chemical or technique that will make the damage go away. There is no disease to be cured. Low RH is the answer. 4. If you have a collection of known reactive specimens, go ahead and make anoxic film enclosures anyway even if you've slowed the reaction (it never stops). Reason: The reaction liberates sulfuric acid that can damage other specimens and storage materials. And, encapsulate (NOT laminate) the specimen labels so that they are not in contact directly with the specimen. (Yes, there are encapsulation directions, too.)

Less really is more.

I strongly recommend that you get a copy of The Care and Conservation of Geological Material: Minerals, Rocks, Meteorites and Lunar Finds, edited by Frank Howie of The Natural History Museum (London) and published by Butterworths. To find out more: Chris Collins of the Geological Conservation Unit, Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University has started a newsletter for this subject. For more information, you can contact him at the GCU, Madingley Rise, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0EZ, UK, or at cjc1001@esc.cam.ac.uk

*via rocks-and-fossils e-mail group (with permission of the author)

<http://www.discoveret.org/kgms/feb-01/feb01-8.htm>

February newsletter pictures were submitted by Marie Tsacrios.

Thank you, Marie.

RAY MINE CLOSURES

By Mike Streeter,
SFMS North Carolina State Director

According to a notice I just received in the mail from the US Forest Service, Pisgah National Forest, Appalachian Ranger District, a specific area for rockhounding for the Ray Mica Mine has been designated; it is north of the un-named creek that flows through the base of the spoil piles. Rockhounding outside the designated area, including along the creek, is not allowed. The USFS has also proposed to close four existing shafts at the Ray and Little Ray Mines. These mines are the Dolph Hensley or Bailey shaft, the Brownie shaft, the New South shaft and one of the Little Ray Mine shafts. The locations of these mines can be seen on the following maps taken from my field trip reports:

You can see the proposal by clicking on the following link:

<http://mcrocks.com/images-5/RayMinesClosure.pdf>

As indicated on page 3, you can submit questions or concerns to the USFS prior to March 12, 2011 for their consideration. Again, as it stands right now, rockhounding (digging) is no longer allowed along the creek, but there is a large area just to the north where plenty of excellent minerals may be found with some effort (see map on page 4 of the above proposal for location). Please adhere to the new rules and hopefully we will be able to collect at the Ray for many years to come.

LODESTAR Editor's Note: The Ray Mine in Yancey County, NC (northeast of Asheville) with its various workings are sources for amazonite, beryl, black & green tourmaline, aquamarine, apatite, thulite, and fluorite. The USFS Appalachian/Tocane Ranger District contact is Tina Tilley, 828-682-6342, P.O. Box 128, Burnsville, NC 28714.

TMG Editor: this newsletter will be published after the 12th but I felt that North Carolina residents might want to file this information for the future.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 a.m. to 6 pm, Friday, April 29, 2011

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, April 30, 2011

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, May 1, 2011

THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL.

NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP!

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)

Lots of Graves Mountain information, including reports and pictures, may be obtained on the Georgia Mineral Society website: <http://www.gaminereral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

Coming Events

45th Annual Gemboree Franklin, NC

July 28-31, 2011

Cosponsors: The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC and the Macon County Chamber of Commerce

Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday noon-5 p.m.

Macon County Community Building on 441 south

Contact 888-337-7529 Chamber of Commerce

June 17-19, 2011: Asheville, NC - Southern Appalachian Mineral Society. Asheville Gem Fest 2011,

Pack Place, 2 South Pack Square (Downtown Asheville).

Hours: Fri & Sat 10 AM - 6 PM, Sun 12 noon

- 5 PM. Free admission, minerals, gems, jewelry,

fossils, kids' activities, silent auction, door prizes.

Contact (828) 254-7162 or

www.colburnmuseum.org

Club Members:

I will bring the *Lodestar* (Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies) issues to the monthly meetings for members to take home. In the summer months, I pin them on the bulletin board.

I also have the AFMS newsletters available. Here is your opportunity to see what is occurring in other parts of the United States and rockhounds.

In February's issue of the *Lodestar*, there is an informative article about crystal striations, how they form, and how they can be used to help identify some minerals. The article was written and illustrated by Julian C. Gray, Curator, Tellus Science Museum. <http://>

www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar



PEOPLE

A leader doesn't worry about being on the right track He makes the track.

Certain people cause happiness **wherever** they go and certain other people cause happiness **whenever** they go.

Some people are like blisters - they don't show up until the work is done.

It is not very difficult to find your station in life. Sooner or later, someone will tell you where to get off.

Even when opportunity knocks, a person has to get off their rear end and answer the door.

Via The Calgary Lapidary Journal April 2008

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc
The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.
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GLENDON QUARRY
Standard Minerals/R.T. Vanderbilt Co.
Saturday, April 23, 2011
8AM till 3PM sharp!



REGISTRATION PROCEDURE: After you have supplied all of the required information in an email back to the SFMS Field Trip Committee [email address below], the Committee will assign a registration number (s) and resend your email back to you as your admission ticket to this field trip. Each registration number is assigned to only one collector. If your form has two or more registration numbers, then that is the number of individuals allowed in to the field trip on that registration form. Also, R.T. Vanderbilt Co. will require everyone to fill-in and sign a company liability release form before entry. ONCE THE 120th REGISTRATION NUMBER IS ASSIGNED, THIS FIELD TRIP WILL BE CLOSED. YOU MUST BRING YOUR ACCEPTED REGISTRATION FORM TO BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE QUARRY.

We must be out to the quarry by 3 p.m. SHARP.

Plan your digging and packing accordingly!

IF YOU DISCOVER THAT YOU CAN NOT MAKE THIS FIELD TRIP, PLEASE SEND US A CANCELLATION EMAIL SO THAT WE MAY GIVE SOMEONE ELSE YOUR SPOT(S)!

You must register for this field trip.

Jim Flora SFMS Field Trip Committee:

Internet website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>

E-Mail jimflora@windstream.net

Jim Flora - SFMS Field Trip Committee Chair

(Due to limited space in the newsletter, full details are posted on the museum bulletin board.)

Gems Along the Erie Canal

July 6 – 10, 2011

Syracuse, NY

An extended weekend of fun and
friendship

AFMS Uniform Rules meeting - July 6

AFMS Annual Meeting / Cracker Barrel - July 7

EFMLS Annual Meeting - July 8 (evening)

AFMS/EFMLS Awards Banquet - July 9

Breakfast with the Editors and

Webmasters – July 10



Conservation & Legislation News by John Martin, AFMS C&L Chair

By now the 112th Congress has been seated and has been in session for about a month. Even though the 111th congress failed to pass the second "Omnibus Land Management Act", S.303 "America's Great Outdoors Act of 2010" and as S.2921 "California Desert Protection Act of 2010" died in committee the battle for public land access is not over. We did not accomplish any "Wins" this year, rather the legislation restricting the use of public lands was put on the back burner only to be reintroduced under a different title or attached to other legislative actions in this new congressional year. The environmental activist lobby has vowed to start their efforts anew with more vigor and determination than was exerted last year.

If the Rockhound Community just sits by as the environmental lobby takes action we will eventually discover that all of our collecting sites have been added to more wilderness and our access roads and trails have been closed to travel except by foot traffic. The restrictive legislation is not only affecting the western states, but it is now being proposed in several legislative acts on the eastern seaboard and some Midwestern states as well. As the new congressional year marches forward the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee will be doing their best to keep on top of the issues and trying to keep the Rockhounding Community advised of the changing conditions.

As the new legislation becomes public and our collecting areas become at risk once again, it will take the combined effort of the Rockhounding Community as a whole to make a difference and let our voices be heard in Washington and your state capital. This will be the only way to keep our Public Lands and our collecting areas open to all public users now and for future generations of Rockhounds.

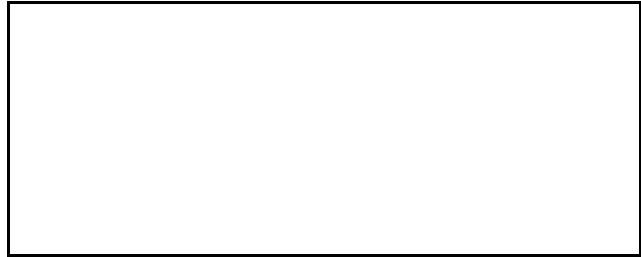
We cannot do it alone, we need your help, so when it becomes time to contact your elected officials please consider taking a little time and send that email, fax or make that phone call. To find your elected legislator and to see what the latest legislative activities are, the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) Website is a good starting point (www.amlands.org).

For more information or advice on Conservation and Legislation please contact the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Committee Chair.
Via AFMS Feb 2011 Newsletter page 4



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor
themountaingem@fastmail.fm
website: www.fgmm.org



Save Stamps for SFMS Scholarship

July Gemboree
July 28-31, 2011
Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday noon-5.p.m.

MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL
JANUARY	25	27
FEBRUARY	22	24
MARCH	29	31
APRIL	26	28
MAY	24	26
JUNE	28	30
JULY	19	21

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.