

***THE MOUNTAIN GEM***  
**Volume XXXVIII Number 5**

**May 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.  
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| Director (2012)     | Marty Martinez | 349-4671 |
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| Director (2011)     | Arlon Eldridge | 369-5271 |



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|                                |                 |          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
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| Museum Ass't. Mgr.             | Gary Gaetano    | 369-7697 |
| **Curator                      | Mary Bedrick    | 349-1696 |
| Curator Ass't.                 | Sharon John     | 369-0161 |
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| Ass't. Gift Shop               | Elizabeth Jones | 349-3877 |
| Museum Workshop                | Wally Smith     | 369-7695 |
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**American Federation  
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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  
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|                                |                    |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
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**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: May 26, 2011  
 Time: 6:30 p.m.  
 Day: Thursday  
 Where: Community Center  
 on 441 South

Program: Do you have a craft that you would like to show to your fellow club members? Tonight is "Show and Tell" and your opportunity to show off and glow with pride.



**Tom Sterrett, President**

May 2011

May is here as is the Gem Show for Mother's Day. We had a booth at the show this year selling raffle tickets for a beautiful jewelry set of Rhodolite Garnet earrings and pendant. These were made and donated by Arlon Eldridge at Cowee Mountain Ruby Mine. A big thank you from all is in order. Also at our booth were items from our gift shop, our dirt bags and a myriad of member-made jewelry items. Sure hope you stopped by to see our booth and support the gem show.

Our museum is officially open again with many school groups scheduled this spring. Our museum host guides are ready, so come out and have some fun with the school children. So many of the children report back to us that it was their "best field trip ever!"

We have many exciting activities and speakers lined up this year. Come to the functions, attend a workshop, volunteer at the museum and be involved. Our club thrives because of its members. Thanks for helping out.

And as always, rock on! \*

**June**

6 – Kay Kennedy  
 8 – Diana Leipertz  
 13 – Sandra Moccia  
 14 – Amy Ramer  
 17 – Jean Emerson  
 18 – Vivian Donikowski  
 18 – Doris Smith  
 21 – Georgia-Marie Goldstein

**Birthdays**

**June**

10 - Arlon & Sonja Eldridge  
 12 – Joe & Judy Pinkous  
 24 – Lee & Shirley Burley

**Anniversaries**



Join us on May 19th at the Red Barn on Highlands Road for our annual fund raiser and auction.

Large items may be taken to the Red Barn the week before. They display many of the items on their webpage. People actually will make bids prior to Thursday night via the auctioneer.

Please remember to bring your drivers license to have available for making bids.

Try to arrive around 6 p.m.

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.  
Board Meeting of April 26, 2011**

The April 2011 Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum meeting room. Present were: **Tom Sterrett, Marty Martinez, Fred Plesner, Arlon Eldridge, Wally Smith, Doris Smith, Marie Tsacrios, Linda Smith, Ray Behr, Linda Behr and Sharon John.**

President **Tom Sterrett** reported that the Museum Host Guides are now ready to be used.

There were no additions or changes to last month's *Mountain Gem*.

Treasurer: **Marie Tsacrios** reported a total income of \$684.40, total expenses of \$1,024.41, leaving a deficit of \$340.01.

Work shop: **Wally Smith** said that our Craft Night will begin again on May 13<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to bring your favorite craft and enjoy the fellowship with the members you have not seen all winter.

Museum Manager: **Ray Behr** reported that the fire extinguishers have been checked and have passed the annual certification. He will be purchasing a new ladder for the fire escape. He hopes to find someone to resolve the noise from the meeting room's air conditioner handler.

Gift shop: **Doris Smith** said she could use some help in the Gift Shop to get it ready for our opening on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Programs: **Linda Smith** said that the program for May will be Show and Tell---so be sure to bring all your favorite projects that you have made.

June will be our Ice Cream Social. We welcome any old photos you have of members past and present. Get in touch with Linda Smith before the June meeting.

Publicity: **Fred Plesner** reported that we will have a booth at the Mother's Day Gemboree .

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon John, Secretary

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**June's newsletter  
deadline is  
June 9th.**



**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.  
General Meeting of April 28, 2011**

The April 2011 General Meeting was called to order by President Tom Sterrett at 6:30 p.m.

There were 24 members and two guests present.

There were no additions or corrections to last month's *Mountain Gem*.

The Museum will open on Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Hosting Guides are ready so please use them if you need to when you host.

Museum Manager: All the fire extinguishers have been updated. **Ray Behr** will purchase a new aluminum ladder for the fire escape. There is still a leak in the "water fall" liner - it will be fixed in the fall.

Publicity: **Fred Plesner** said that we will have a booth for the Mother's Day Gemboree. We will be selling raffle tickets for the beautiful Rhodolite Garnet pendant and earrings through the generosity of **Arlon Eldridge**.

Treasure's report: We had a total income of \$684.40, total expenses of \$1,024.41, leaving a deficit of \$340.01.

Programs: **Linda Smith**—please remember the Auction on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Bring all the stuff you don't want any more—bring your neighbors', aunts', uncles', cousins' and anybody else's stuff. All large items should be taken to the auction house the Saturday before and then come to the auction and participate in the bidding----you might find something you really need!

Our regular meeting will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> and it will be Show and Tell. Come to the meeting and show us what you can do. June will be our Ice Cream Social, in July **Arlon Eldridge** and **Marty Martinez** will tell us about Brazil, August will be election night and guest speaker, **Kim Cochran**, and September will be the Installation Banquet. We are going to have a fun year!

On May 27<sup>th</sup> there will be 42 school kids coming to the Museum at 10:30 in the morning: please come on out and help host. If you have never been with the kids before, you need to try it.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> there will be an official field trip to Chunky Gal with the members of the SFMS. If any of our members want to go, call **John Hayes**.

Craft Night will start up again on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

The Gift Shop will be ready for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> opening.

Congratulation to **Al Pribble** on his receiving a certificate for completing a class on cabochon.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Door Prizes: **1. Al Pribble, 2. Fred Plesner, 3. Linda Smith, 4. Michelle Loewy.**

Refreshments were served..

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon John, Secretary

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## Gift Shop News

The Gift Shop sales has done well over the winter months and now we look forward to an even better season. We are ready and raring to go.

Anyone who would like to give us an hour or two of their time...it would be very appreciated.

**Doris Smith, Gift Shop Chairman**

## Workshop News

New lights have been installed over the cabochon machines making it much easier to see your work. Also fatigue mats have been laid on the floor making it more comfortable to use the equipment.

Our craft night will resume on Friday the 13th of May. I hope some of you will come out for this FUN night. It is your time to show off your handy work and see what others are doing.

See you around 6:30 on the 13th.

**Wally Smith, Workshop Manager**



## Program Report

By Rex Larkin

At our last meeting, **Dean Plesner** and **Elena Marsh** gave a valuable presentation on our Museum Library. You might want to clip this article for future reference--and also because it was written by me.

The Library contains the following color codes:

1. **Red**--mine locations, including USA, NC and Macon County.
2. **Blue**--Geology-glass, shells, Indian, florescent and fossils.
3. **Green**--gem and mineral identification, crystals, gemstones, gold, copper, rock, precious stones, minerals and encyclopedias.
4. **Yellow**--jewelry making, gem trees, metal, clay, and wire wrapping.
5. **Orange**--lapidary, including cabochons and carvings, faceting, tumbling, and silversmithing.

The bottom shelf contains magazines: Bead and Button®, Rock and Gem®, Wirewrapping, Wire Artist®, Lapidary Journals, and odds and ends.

To check out a book, remove the card from the back of the book, put your name and date on the card, and place it in the box in the wire basket on the counter top by the door in the Library.

To return a book, place the book on the countertop by the door. DO NOT put the card back in the book or place it on the shelf--Dean or Elena will do that.

To sign out magazines, put your name, the date and the name of the magazine in the yellow notebook, which is for magazines only. When returning the magazines, place it on the counter top. Again, Dean or Elena will restock.

For borrowed equipment (only video, slides, DVDs, projectors, and tumblers) sign your name, date and equipment in the blue notebook that hangs on the end of the countertop. When you are finished, return the equipment to the countertop.

A special thanks was given by Dean, for the hard work by **Elena and Tommy Marsh**.

\*



Let us remember  
Memorial Day

### **The History of the Corundum Hill Mine**

By Fred Plesner for the *Mountain Gem*

Most of us have heard something about the Corundum Hill Mine and a few of us may have visited the site, so I shall attempt to fill in a few blank spaces about its history.

Corundum was discovered here in Macon County, North Carolina by Hiram Crisp in 1867. The Crisp family moved westward to the mountains of North Carolina in the early 1800s. Hiram and his brother James were born in Burk County, now present day Caldwell County. In 1840 the two of them decided to join their relatives in Macon County.

The Crisp families were noted as tanners and shoemakers and the two brothers brought their trade with them. They were probably the first professional tanners in this part of the state. Shortly after they arrived a Mr. Joab Moore hired them to go to what is now Clay County to tan leather for him.

The two brothers returned to Franklin after a short time and met and married sisters. Hiram married Mira Dills and James married Elizabeth Dills. Hiram Crisp made his home at Cullasaja but after living there for some time he relocated his family of six children up the mountain to what is now known as Corundum Hill, it was then called the Crisp farm.

Early in the spring of 1867 Hiram was out plowing his fields when he turned up some strange rocks. Hiram had a keen interest in rocks, so he took these strange specimens to his friend Professor C. D. Smith. Professor C. D. Smith then told him that the rocks were corundum and second only to a diamond in hardness and very rare.

Although Hiram Crisp could not read or write, he had become somewhat learned in minerals and was so grateful to his friend for this information that he soon deeded a half interest in his farm to Professor Smith. They soon sold out their interest to the newly formed Ward - Jenks Corundum Mine Company of North Carolina for the sum of \$5,000, a fortune in those days.

In 1870 corundum mining began. The mine was the first corundum mine in the United States. Later a Dr. Lucas and his step-sons George and Frank Bidwell bought the mine. Buildings were soon erected and mining was soon underway in a big way. The mine shafts were extended to a mile in length and the mine was worked under the watchful eyes of armed guards. The material that was mined was put in a flume and washed down to the mill below where it was processed. It was then hauled to Dillsboro by Ox wagons where it was then shipped by rail to various points in the United States. The miners worked 12 hours a day and felt that their job was a gift from God, that they should have such a good paying steady job. Many people and businesses in the Franklin area benefitted from the mine. The boilers at the mill burned wood, so many farmers benefitted from the sale of firewood to the mill.

The mine was closed in 1902 and completely shut down for several years only to open again during World War I as it was the only corundum supply for the United States. Turkey, an enemy country, was the only other source of the corundum. Total production from the mine eventually exceeded 10,000 tons of corundum which was sold at \$200.00 at ton for a total sum that exceeded \$2,000,000.

In addition to the corundum produced from the mine, it also created many fine precious stones. There are stories that Mrs. George Bidwell had many fine pieces of jewelry made from stones found at the mine and at least one story that Joab Crisp found a diamond at the mine and having no idea of the stone's value, traded it for a suit of clothes.

Hiram and Mira Crisp are buried at the Old Salem Cemetery and until his death he was known as the Unlettered Scientist of the South.

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Source: The Franklin Press newspapers from 1972

## Coming Shows

**June 4-5—McCalla, AL:** Annual show; Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society; Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park, 12632 Confederate Pkwy.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; adults \$3, seniors (62+) \$2, children (6-11) \$1; outdoor show, demonstrations, exhibits, children's activities, door prizes; contact Gene Blackerby, (205) 807-6777; e-mail: gene@lapidaryclub.com; Web site: lapidaryclub.com

**June 4-5—Raleigh, NC:** Retail show; Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Shows; Lighthouse Convention Center Auditorium, 326 Tryon Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 Sat., \$4 Sun., children under 12 free; dealers, precious and semiprecious gemstone beads, sterling silver, findings, freshwater pearls, hand-blown glass, vintage beads, crystals, delicas; contact Angela Couch, (888) 729-6904; e-mail: angela.couch@beadshows.com; Web site: www.beadshows.com

**June 17-19—Asheville, NC:** Retail show; Colburn Earth Science Museum; Pack Place, 2 S. Pack Square; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; free admission; local and world minerals, gems, jewelry, fossils, kids' activities, silent auction; contact Phil Potter, Colburn Earth Science Museum, 2 S. Pack Square, Asheville, NC 28801, (828) 254-7162; e-mail: ppotter@colburnmuseum.org; Web site: www.colburnmuseum.org

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## PROOF

### Columnar Joints

Dr. Bill Cordua, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

The formation of regular shapes by natural processes make some of the world's most intriguing wonders. The presence of long, mostly six-sided columns (called columnar joints) in cooled lavas is one of those wonders. No one who has seen the awesome grooved structure in Devil's Tower in Wyoming or the Devil's Post Pile in California, can forget this feature. What about a cooling mass of magma could cause such symmetrical columnar joints?

**A similar phenomenon can be seen when a mud puddle dries.** As it loses water, the mud cracks in symmetric shapes, forming mud polygons. This is because the loss of water causes the mud to shrink. That contraction is relieved by breaking as the dry mud becomes brittle. When things contract like this, they naturally seek the most stable position. For mud, that is a system of natural polygons, separated by vertical cracks.

Basalt and other lavas behave similarly. As lava cools, it doesn't dry out like mud, but it does shrink. As it becomes cold and brittle, the lava contracts

and relieves the stress by cracking. The cracking produces a polygonal pattern that extends through the lava flow. As weathering cuts into lava, the rock breaks along the joints, exposing this geometric regularity.

Although many of the polygons are six-sided, four, five, seven or eight sides columns are also relatively common. The degree and perfection to which this is developed depends on the thickness and composition of the lava and how fast it cools.

**The long sides of the column form parallel to the direction of heat loss as the lava cools. In lava flows, the joints generally run vertically through the flow.** This is because the lava was losing its heat upward to the air and downward to the ground. Sometimes columnar joints are found in veins or dikes of magma cutting the rock. These joints may lay horizontally in the dike, like stacked firewood. This is because the magma in the dike was losing its heat to the cold rocks to its sides. At Devil's Tower, the joints through much of its length run vertically, indicating that heat loss was to the surface. Toward the base of the tower, however, the joints curve horizontally. Here heat loss was easiest to the sides, probably because the tower base was far enough below the ground surface that most of the heat loss was to the sides.

**Really thick lava flows have several layers of joints.** Ideally, there is a well jointed lower zone, called the lower colonnade. The middle section in the flow can be a more chaotic set of thinner columns and is called the entablature.

A thinner, less well developed upper colonnade is also possible. The upper and lower colonnades reflect normal heat loss to the surface and the ground. In the middle of the flow, the entablature's more chaotic pattern suggests that the heat loss direction was less well defined and varied locally.

**Any where that lava has been active is a potential place to find columnar joints.** The Devil's Post Pile in California, Fingal's Cave along the sea coast of Scotland, and Giants' Causeway, along the coast of Northern Ireland are world famous for this feature. Yellowstone Park and the Columbia River plateau in Washington state are other good places to look. Locally, good columnar jointing can be seen in the lava flows on Isle Royale and on the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan.

The appearance of these features often has them related, in name and legend at least, with giants or the devil. Yet there is nothing infernal about them. They are just good examples of the workings of the laws of physics and geology.

References:

Holmes, Arthur, 1965, Principles of Geology, second edition, Ronald Press.

MacDonald, Gordon, 1972, Volcanoes, Prentice Hall. \*\*\*



## Our Deepest Sympathy

By Linda Behr

This is my little tribute to Bob John.

Robert Lee John, 71, passed away on Thursday, April 14, 2011

Bob was behind the scenes for so many events and contributions for the club . He felt that he could not be very active and yet tried to help me with assembling the monthly newsletter. Bob would occasionally host at the Gem-borees on his “good days.”

He fought very hard and won to be around for his and Sharon’s 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past December. This is one wonderful gift that he left for Sharon. After his heart surgery this past spring, I really felt that he was going to make a strong comeback. However, it was not meant to be.

Whenever I would call to their house to speak with Sharon, Bob always had me laughing about something. This man had a grandiose sense of humor. Even though, he suffered, he did it quietly.

In case some of you don’t know, Bob loved to make gem trees for the Gift Shop and always accepting nothing for his cost and time. He and I would get into heated discussions until he told me that this is what he wants and to let him alone...in a stern caring voice.

He cared a lot about the club and museum. Because of his being confined to a wheelchair, he never got to go upstairs and visit the upper part of the museum.

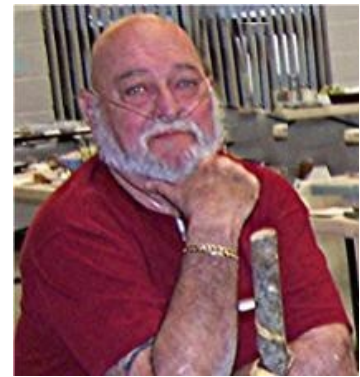
Sharon shared so much of her experiences with Bob that it was like his being present with her at the museum. He knew a whole lot about the museum that I would often be caught back with surprise at his knowledge.

As per the Franklin Press, I’m sharing the following information.

Bob was born in south Bend, Ind. in addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by a daughter, Kathleen.

Bob was a retired U.S. Marine Corp veteran. He was a bridge operator for the South Carolina DOT. After retiring, Bob would call then twice a year to check on how everyone was doing.

Bob and Sharon have four children, Shawn of N.C., David of Beaufort, SC, Robert of Birmingham, AL and Marlene of Port Royal, SC.



### Angels.....as explained by Children.

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. Gregory, age 5

Everybody's got it all wrong.

Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it Olive, age 9

### Member News

Reporting by Linda Behr

**Reesa Boyce** has a beautiful display at the Macon Bank on Main Street.

**Joe and Ina Raye** stopped in the museum for a short visit. Their Alabama home number is 205-822-9574. Add to membership list.

**Sharon John's** son is keeping her company and busy.

**The Kolle, Nicoletti and Pinkous** families hope to return this summer.

**Della Samuel** should be back in May.



### My Beautiful Rock

by Vivian Stockton,

Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

From: *Rock, Pick & Chisel*, 12/09

(2<sup>nd</sup> Place – AFMS Original Adult Articles)

What a beautiful rock! It was an intense reddish color and sort of clear like a crystal. I saw it as I walked down the path to the bottomland along the Illinois River. I couldn't imagine how it could have lodged there on the hillside. It didn't fit with the limestone or flint rocks that were all over the place. It was rather heavy, but I carried it back up the hill and set it on my porch and admired my treasure each time I walked by.

Within a few days, my friend Donna came by on her way to Gentry to see club member Dean Shafer at his shop and have him identify a stone for her. She, too, admired my find, but had no idea what it was (other than some type of crystal) or why it was where it was found. She suggested that I bring the beauty along and see what Dean thought.

I was so excited. This was my first real find, other than just common ordinary rocks that I often picked up. Dean took the rock in his hands, stared at it for a minute. Then shocked us by touching it with his tongue. He said only two words: Deer Salt!

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### Hammer Safety

#### Safety First

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety chairman  
March 2000 EFMLS News



Hammers used by rock hounds come in every size, type and construction, and include rock hammers, bricklayer's or mason's hammers, blacksmith's or sledge hammers, machinist's peen hammers, jeweler's hammers, setting hammers, soft face hammers, lead or copper faced hammers, trimmer's and welder's hammers, as well as a variety of mallets, such as rawhide, rubber, and tanner's. I have even seen napping hammers (a 3 pound high carbon steel hammer with tapering faces used for forming stones during road construction or similar stone work) and railroad track mauls (used for driving railroad spikes). As it is hard to anticipate what a rockhound's "favorite weapon" will be, I thought I would present a list of general hammer safety practices followed by the proper use of some of the more common hammer types.

Always select the proper type, size, and weight of hammer for the job.

Always wear eye protection.

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Always strike a hammer blow squarely, avoiding glancing blows and over and under strikes. The hammers striking face should be parallel with the surface being struck.

When striking a chisel, punch, or wedge, the striking face of the hammer should be 3/8" larger than the struck face of the tool. Both the striking hammers face and the struck face of the tool should be free of oil.

Do not strike another hammer with a hammer.

Do not strike a harder surface with a hard surface hammer.

Never use a hammer with dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming, or excessive wear. Replace the hammer -redressing is not recommended.

Replace worn or damaged handles. A qualified individual should replace hammer handles. Most hardware stores will replace hammer handles for a nominal fee. They can also provide a rubber sleeve for sledge hammers, which will prevent handle damage just above the head.

Bricklayer's or mason's hammers are designed for setting or splitting bricks, masonry tile, and concrete blocks. Never use them to strike metal or drive tools such as chisels. The blade of a bricklayer's hammer should be kept sharp by redressing at a 40 degree angle with a bench grinder. Keep the metal cool while grinding by quenching often in water to protect the metals tempering.

Hand drilling hammers are used with chisels, star drills, punches, and hardened nails. Never use common nail (claw) hammers for striking metal, such as chisels, as they are designed for driving unhardened nails and their shape, depth of face, and balance make them unsuitable for this use.

Machinist's peen hammers (ball, cross, or straight) are designed for striking chisels and punches and riveting, straightening and shaping metal.

Blacksmith's or sledge hammers are designed for striking wood, metal, concrete, or stone, depending on size, weight, and shape.

When using a hammer, grip the handle near the end where it is designed for gripping and will give you the best control and impact with the least effort. Watch your hands, shins, and feet. It may be advisable to wear gloves, long sleeve shirts, and high lacing safety shoes to protect from flying debris and sharp shards if the situation warrants it.

When storing hammers for a period of time, lightly lubricate metal parts, but wipe any oil or grease from rubber mallets or rubber handle grips to prevent damage to the rubber. So get out there and hammer up a storm, safely.

[http://www.amfed.org/a\\_safetyEFMLS.htm](http://www.amfed.org/a_safetyEFMLS.htm)

### The Dinosaur Disaster

by Michael Kuhn (16),  
Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society  
From: *The Strata Data*, 1/09  
(1<sup>st</sup> Place –AFMS Junior Poetry)

Why are there no Dinos around?  
Why can they only be found in the ground?  
Why are they not as common as dogs or cats?  
With giant winged Reptiles in the air like big  
bats?

Did they all fall asleep and never wake up?  
Did they get a bad case of the hiccups?  
Or did they become the first road kill  
Of a prehistoric pickup truck?

Did their tails get tied up in horrible knots?  
Or did they get zapped by an army of robots?  
Although you can't rule out death  
From overripe kumquats.

Did they consume too much preschool glue?  
Or did they all fall asleep due to a dearth Moun-  
tain Dew?

Although we never may know,  
It just goes to show how far people will go.  
To try to speculate how these mutants from the  
past

Disappeared right down to the very last.  
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### Petrified Wood Fact

Author unknown

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially from the Northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside. This indicates the tree was green when it was buried. The water in the green wood evaporated, making it shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the area left between this and cast was filled with chalcedony, making these beautiful pieces of material.

Source: *Kiskigem Journal* 1/97;  
via *Low Country Diggins* 3/2003

### Club Members:

I am bringing the *Lodestar* (Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies) issues to the monthly meetings for members to take home. You can also find 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 with rockhounds.

There are several exchange newsletters that I think you might enjoy.

These are ALL available for you to keep.

Linda, editor

Important website: [www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar)

### Humor

After 60 years of marriage, a couple who had counted every penny and watched their diets closely died in a plane crash.

When they reached the pearly gates, St. Peter escorted them to a beautiful mansion. "Welcome to Heaven," St. Peter said. "This will be your home now."

The old man asked how much it would cost. "Why, nothing," St. Peter replied. "Remember, this is your reward in Heaven."

The old man looked out the window and saw a championship golf course. "What are the greens fees?" grumbled the old man.

"This is heaven," St. Peter replied. "You can play for free, every day."

Next they went to the clubhouse and saw the lavish buffet lunch.

"Don't even ask," said St. Peter. "This is Heaven, it is all free."

The old man glanced nervously at his wife. "Well, where are the low fat and low cholesterol foods?" he asked.

St. Peter replied, "You can eat and drink as much as you like of whatever you like, and you will never get fat or sick. This is Heaven!"

The old man pushed, "No gym to work out at?"

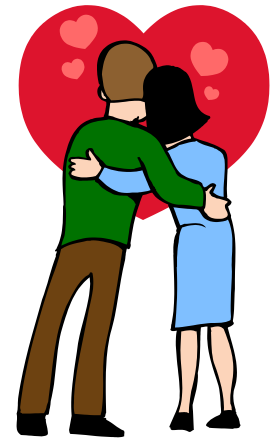
"Not unless you want to," was the answer.

"No testing my sugar or blood pressure or..."

"Never again. All you do here is enjoy yourself."

The old man glared at his wife and said, "You and your bran muffins. We could have been here ten years ago!"

<http://www.ncfbmagazine.org/2008/09/on-the-lighter-side-2/print/>





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 -  
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An Official Field Trip of Charlotte Gem and Mineral  
Club (Charlotte, NC) (HOST)  
An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society  
of .Franklin, NC, Inc.

WHERE: Cotton Patch Gold Mine, 41697 Gurley Road,  
New London, NC

WHEN: Saturday - May 28, 2011

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO:

<http://www.cottonpatchgoldmine.com>

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 740 East from New London,  
go one mile, turn right on Hearne Road, go one and a half  
miles then turn left on Gurley Road and go 300 yards, 1st  
driveway on the left at Cotton Patch Gold Mine Sign.  
GPS Coordinates: Longitude 80.1874, Latitude 35.4358

HISTORY: Historic Cotton Patch Gold Mine & Camp-  
ground is located in Stanly County, in the town of New  
London. This small town in North Carolina has a rich  
history of Gold Mining. Cotton Patch Gold Mine began  
its run in the 1860's. A large vein of gold was discovered  
near a cotton patch off Gurley Road. They began to mine  
the gold, removing tons of material. The mine eventually  
closed, but was reopened in 1958 after a new vein was  
discovered. In 1961, the mine opened for panners and  
rock hounds. Today the mine continues to produce gold.  
The gold is mixed with placer material and also found  
buried in white quartz.

COLLECTING: Placer gold

EQUIPMENT: All equipment supplied. They have a  
General Store that has snacks, gifts and bags of ice.  
Open 7 days a week...9-5.

Jack King

Charlotte G&MC - Field Trip Chair

704-892-7608; jackedretired09@gmail.com\*

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



## Humor

A small child walked daily to and from school. Though the weather one morning was questionable and clouds were forming, this child made the daily trek to the elementary school.

As the day progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning.

The mother was worried that her child would be frightened walking back home from school, and she herself feared the electrical storm might harm her child.

Following the roar of the thunder, lightning would cut through the sky like a flaming sword. Being concerned, the mother got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. Soon she saw her small child walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up at the sky and smile.

One followed another, each time with her child stopping, looking at the streak of light and smiling. Finally, the mother called and asked, "What are you doing!"

Her child answered, "I'm smiling for God. He keeps taking pictures of me."

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## Turquoise

by Thomas Ackendorf (9), Mineral Minds  
From: *A Mineral Minds* Newsletter, 11/09  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Place – AFMS Junior Poetry)

Thomas had a little gem  
Its color was greenish blue  
This was his very favorite stone  
And it was his birthstone too.

## 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

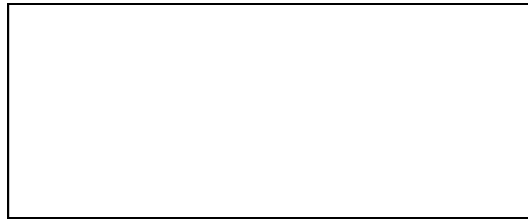
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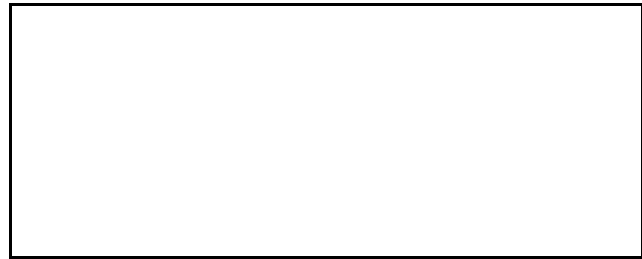
*THE MOUNTAIN GEM*

Linda Behr, Editor  
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website: [www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)



Auction May 19th

General Meeting 26



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.