

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

NOVEMBER 2017

Official Bulletin

Of

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

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 Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

Forms for membership can be obtained by attending a meeting of the Society.

Dues are \$20 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$5. Membership is from September to September. Non-member subscriptions to *The Mountain Gem* are \$25 per year.

Membership privileges include emailed copies of the newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips. If requested, hard copy editions of *The Mountain Gem* will be mailed via USPS for an additional \$25 per year.

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 arts and sciences related to them. We are a working organization that operates and maintains the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum.

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

School tours are always available by contacting our Educational Chairperson, Patty Nichols at 678-243-8036.

Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible.

Please remember us when planning your estate.



**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: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

November 1 – April 30

Saturdays: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Open Year Round For Tours

And Special Requests

www.fgmm.org

Society email: franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Editor: editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin,
North Carolina, is a founding member
of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.**

2017- 2018 Officers And Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Tom Sterrett	349-3374
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706- 379-1718
Director (2018)	Mike Gillen	678-772-6375
Director (2018)	Tom Parker	342-3619

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	OPEN	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Gift Shop	Ellen Williams	349-9416
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Cy Amrich	356-7816

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	OPEN	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Patty Nichols	678-243-8036
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Kathy Young	941-387-4397
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	OPEN	
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	631-1911
Refreshments	Joyce Jacques	342-2543
Scholarships	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



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)
2014 (3rd)



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) 2014 (1st)

<p>American Federation (AFMS): www.amfed.org Southeast Federation (SFMS): www.amfed.org/sfms Franklin Gem Museum and Society: www.fgmm.org www.facebook.com/franklingems</p>

November Meeting

Date: November 16, 2017

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Robert Carpenter Community Bldg.**

Program: **Program on Brazil presented by Arlon Eldridge & Tom Sterrett.**



December Birthdays

- 2 - Donna Tew
- 3 - Joan Bohmann
- 3 - Christine Hubinger
- 3 - Joe Pinkous
- 8 - Deborah Wright
- 14 - Doug Morgan
- 16 - Gary Galbrecht
- 19 - Carl Seaman
- 20 - Ray Behr
- 22 - Linda Behr
- 28 - Isaiah Simpson



December Anniversaries

- 15 - Tom & Diane Aiello
- 23 - Stephen & Susan Martin



***Newsletter DEADLINE is early
Due to Holiday Season
Tuesday, November 28th***



Al Pribble, President

Sorry I had to miss last month's meeting. We were helping a friend move to Florida, and I not going to make any comments on Florida traffic or the logic of spending a week 'vacationing' there. We lived in Orlando in the years BD, that's Before Disney and it was a great place.

I am going to make this a short message this month. There are some changes coming to the Gift Shop. Mike Gillen ordered the hardware for us to start accepting credit cards and Ralph Crawford and I have been working to get it connected and running.

There have been some reports of hosts in the Museum not paying close attention to the visitors coming in. I want to urge everyone to put down their phones and be sure to greet the visitors and stay attuned to what is happening when you host.

The conclusion of the article that I started last month will be delayed until December.

We have the Community Building for the November meeting; however, it seems that there is a hard and fast time rule now that will require us to be out by 9 PM.

That's all I have right now so,

Rock On!



The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

Minutes – October 26, 2017 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Arlon Eldridge, at 6:50 p.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at the Franklin Masonic Lodge. President, Al Pribble, is out of town.

Membership – Diane Mason reported 40 members and 6 guests present.

Minutes – Arlon Eldridge asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September minutes and there were none. Lake Holland moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Marsha Harmon seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported the month of September was another good month.

Museum Manager - Tom Marsh reported that the museum will remain open an extra hour for the Teal Pumpkin Project on October 31 (open until 5 p.m.). He reminded us that starting in November the museum will only be open on Saturdays and he passed around the sign-up sheet for volunteer hosts.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes reported that 16 people came to pan gold. After Thanksgiving classes will start again with Virginia Bennis and Cy Amrich teaching.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported on the mineral rights for the mica mine. He told us that all paperwork had been turned over to an attorney for review on a pro bono basis.

Gift Shop – Ellen Williams stated that she is making some changes and is asking for any suggestions from the membership. Elena Marsh was presented with a bouquet of roses as a thank you for her years of gift shop management and Elena said she was “sharing” the flowers with Anamay Rossomando who was her assistant.

Education – Diane Aiello reported that Patty Nichols has volunteered to assist with a parts of the Education Chairperson responsibility. Diane said two successful tours were held at the museum in October.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported on two upcoming trips: October 28th to Rockmart, Georgia and November 18 to South Carolina. If interested, please contact Marsha directly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership Dues – Diane Mason, filling in for Ellen Crawford, reported that there are 30 names pending payment of membership dues. She reminded us to please let Ellen Crawford know if you have a change of address.

NEW BUSINESS:

Raffle Ticket Drawing – Arlon Eldridge drew the winning ticket for the raffle – Janee Smith of Senoia, Georgia. Arlon made the telephone call to her and she was thrilled. George Fritz will be responsible for mailing the beautiful blue topaz earrings and pendant.

Wire Wrap Classes – Diane Mason presented certificates of completion to: Lake Holland, Diane Aiello, Sherlene Dillon, Barbara Rizzo (not present) and Collette Doyle (not present). Samples of completed jewelry by these individuals are on display tonight for everyone’s enjoyment.



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Winter Wonderland – Per Fred Plesner, this event will be held downtown the last weekend in November and the first weekend in December. Extra hosts will be needed if we are to keep the museum open during those evening hours. Please consider volunteering.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Norman Holbert and seconded by Susan Fritz. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. Door prizes were drawn and refreshments were served. Diane Mason introduced our speaker this evening, Rich Williams, who gave an extremely interesting presentation on scrimshaw.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Photos by George Fritz

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



The field trip to Rockmart, GA to hunt for Jasper was cancelled due to weather. Too much weather, in the form of rain and cold. New spot though, so I hope we can get there soon.

November 18 - Trip to Amos Cunningham Farm, Due West, SC. They are collecting Beryl and Quartz crystals on this dig. It is a DMC dig and as club members, in good standing, you are encouraged to come on along. Entrance fee \$25 per adult.

December 9 - Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, Abbeville County, SC. Quartz (milky, skeletal and smoky) are to be expected here. This is also a DMC dig so the rules above apply. Entrance fee \$20 per adult and seniors \$10.

Local sites open to explore in small groups: Chunky Gal Mountain in search of Smaragdite with rubies, Staurolites (fairy crosses) Brasstown, the Old Herbert Mine for corundum on Little Buck Creek, Clay County. These are all on National Forest Land so no fee but rules do apply.

All dated trips have signup sheets and handouts on the board, in the back room of the Museum. Please sign up and Marsha or Lake will call you. Small group trips on request to local sites. For all trips call Marsha 828 369-7262 or Lake 828 369-5421.

***Most of our club members do not understand their advantages and obligation as members of the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin. As a club member you are automatically eligible for all DMC - Dixie Mineral Council field trips as notices describe. This is the field trip section of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. which falls under the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Most clubs honor your status throughout the entire USA and will assist you with rockhounding information for their locations. Occasionally guided tours are provided as our club does, discounts in rock and mineral museums/educational locations, as well as rock and mineral shops discounts as Ruby City in Franklin does.

Your obligation is to support our Museum in some way. Most club members are needed for hosting, from May 1st until October 31st, Monday thru Saturday. So please host. If you ask any board member or committee chair person they will assist you with how you can help! Just ask.



The Old Jail (The Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum) – A History Quiz

Fred Plesner - Emeritus Curator

- 1 - The present structure was built in:
 - A. 1850
 - B. 1828
 - C. 1896
- 2 - The Old Jail's most famous resident was:
 - A. Lester Evans
 - B. John Hayes
 - C. Gary Shields
- 3 - The Jailer was responsible for the town wells upkeep and maintenance:
 - A. No
 - B. Yes
- 4 - Indoor Plumbing was installed in:
 - A. 1906
 - B. 1896
 - C. 1888
- 5 - The building was last used as a jail in:
 - A. 1972
 - B. 1974
- 6 - The Jail Annex was constructed in:
 - A. 1957
 - B. 1947
 - C. 1963
- 7 - The upstairs "Slammer" was installed in:
 - A. 1883
 - B. 1891
 - C. 1873
- 8 - The 2nd floor bricked over window was bricked over in:
 - A. 1957
 - B. 1947
 - C. 1972
- 9 - The town well was located in:
 - A. In the square in front of the jail
 - B. In the jail parking lot
 - C. Under the present jail Annex
- 10 - At one time the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum shared the building with:
 - A. A coffee shop
 - B. The Chamber of Commerce
 - C. The Macon County Art Association

Answers: 1 - A
2 - C
3 - B
4 - C
5 - A
6 - A
7 - C
8 - B
9 - C
10 - C



Gift Shop News



Ellen Williams - Gift Shop Manager

With the help and expertise of many of my fellow Gem & Mineral Society members, I have taken the reins of the Museum Gift Shop. A special thank you to Ellen Crawford who volunteered to help. As if she doesn't have enough on her plate.

Changes are happening, merchandise is being purchased, so come on in and see what's new. Our inventory will expand, but with that, the Gift Shop will need your talents.

The introduction of credit cards will enable us to provide a more extensive inventory and will also provide us with a convenient method for collecting sales tax.

We also plan to create a souvenir of the Gem & Mineral Museum of Franklin which reflects the frequent requests of our visitors and extends our greetings to all.

Avoid the holiday rush, start shopping for family and friends now.

I would also like to thank Elena Marsha and Anamay for their years of dedication to the Gift Shop and wish Elena the best in her new endeavors. I am hoping that Anamay will continue to assist and provide her special creative touch in merchandising. I am excited and looking forward to working with her if she is willing to continue.



Winter Wonderland will be on Saturdays, November 25th and December 2nd

The Museum will have extended Hours

Come join in the fun to kick off the Holiday Season



Thanks for the Opportunity to Serve the Society

Elena Marsh

Anamay and I would like to thank the Gem & Mineral Society and Museum for allowing us to maintain the gift shop for the last few years. Although it was hectic many times and took many hours to keep up the pace of buying items and making sure they were carded, boxed, identified and priced, all in all it was amazing.

We appreciated all the support we received thru hours of volunteering, purchasing items (many of you were our ‘best customers!’), and all in all just telling us many times how nice things were and what beautiful jewelry we bought and made available to everyone.

I have said it many times but will say it again, it took a team to run the gift shop. One person cannot do it all – Anamay and I have a crazy fun relationship and enjoyed working with and for each other. I could not have asked for a better partner!!!

Thanks to Doris Smith, who asked me to be her assistant for the gift shop and then because of medical issues with she and Wally, asked me to take over the head position. Doris helped me learn many of the procedures that she had followed which made it an easy transition from one person to the next. I would also like to thank Arlon Eldridge for his continued support and his willingness to help us in any way possible.



The bouquet of flowers given to me at the last general meeting is beautiful. All the lilies opened and are in full color and display. Although I have to keep moving the vase since my cat loves any plants and will eat some of them, I have managed to enjoy it in every room of my house.

Thanks again!

Anamay and I wish Ellen Williams the best of luck as she takes over the gift shop manager’s position.

Teal Pumpkin Project

On Tuesday, October 31st, Halloween, the Society was part of Teal Pumpkin Project. Children with food allergies had the opportunity to stop at various downtown businesses to trick or treat for small toys. Since our museum was a bit out of the way, I handed out goodies to approximately 30 – 40 children on the corner of Main Street and Phillips Street to catch them as they walked by. The costumes were amazing and all the children were appreciative of the items they received.

Thank you to Brittney from Macon News for heading this event for the children.



Elena



Photos by Ellen and Ralph Crawford

**From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies
Gem and Mineral Shows**



November 17, 18 & 19, Marietta, GA

32nd Annual Show & Sale; Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM; FREE; Cobb County Civic Center; 548 S Marietta Pkwy SE, Marietta, GA; website: <http://www.cobbcountymineral.org/>

November 17, 18 & 19, Columbia, SC

50th Annual Show; The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society, Jamil Temple; 206 Jamil Rd.; Fri & Sat 10 to 6 and Sun 12 to 5; \$5 Admission; Sue Shrader ashrader@mindspring.com; www.cgams.org

Other Events

March 18 to December 16, Franklin, NC

SEBA 3rd Saturday; Bluegrass Jam Session; Historic Cowee School; Noon to 3 PM; FREE

Franklin, NC, Cowee Community

T. M. Rickman General Store; 259 Cowee Creek Road; Saturdays; 10 AM to 4 PM

November 11, Downtown Franklin

Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony; 10:30 AM

November 25 and December 5, Downtown Franklin

Winter Wonderland; 5 PM to 8 PM

November 26, Downtown Franklin

Annual Christmas Parade; 3 PM



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

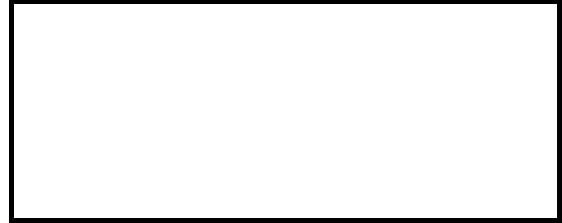
Ellen Crawford, Editor

Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2017		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November	14	16
December	12	16 End of Year Party Saturday

November General Meeting will be held at the newly remodeled Robert C. Carpenter Community Building

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Road Hwy 441 South

Meeting changes will be posted in the monthly newsletter.

Board Meetings: 6:30 PM
At the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum
All Board Meetings are open to the members

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