

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXV APRIL 2015
Number 4
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 Macon County Community Facilities Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

Forms for membership can be obtained by attending a meeting. Two meetings are requested before joining.

Dues are \$15 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$3. Membership privileges include newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Field Trips.

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

**FRANKLIN GEM
AND MINERAL MUSEUM**

is operated under the direction of the
Board of Directors of
Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

School tours are always available by contacting our Education Chairman, Diane Aiello.



**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

Society email:

franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Editor: themountaingem@fastmail.fm

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

2014-2015 Officers

Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Vice President	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
Secretary	Susan Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Assistant Treasurer	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director 2016	Ray Behr	342-6360
Director 2016	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2015)	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
Director (2015)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	TBA	
Curator	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator Ass't	Christine Hubinger	349-7360
Gift Shop.	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes (Temp.)	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Calendar Chairman	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Gemboree	Jack Jungles	347-6666
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Membership		
Publications	Linda Behr	421-2696
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224



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)

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

General Meeting

Date: April 23, 2015
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building on 441 South
Program: Geologist Dr. Bill Witherspoon,

Bill Witherspoon is co-author of *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, published in 2013 by Mountain Press Publishing as part of its popular series. He earned his PhD in Geology from the University of Tennessee in 1981. As a graduate student he began leading trips for geology students and the public, including a course for the Smoky Mountain Field School and a geology trip for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. From 1997 until his retirement in 2014, he was an instructor at Fernbank Science Center, part of DeKalb County Schools, teaching K-12 students and teachers, and leading hundreds of outdoor geology excursions. He will have available his book which he will sign for requests.

May Birthdays

5 – Anamay Rossomando
 4 – Lon Peden
 11 – Sande Lolli
 13 – Jane Morgan
 17 – Mary Anne Zoeckler
 20 – Fred Rasmusson
 22 – Amy Fritz
 23 – Robbie Hayles
 28 – Lake Holland
 29 – Theresa Holland
 29 – Quinton King

**May Anniversaries**

5 – Ron & Anamay Rossomando
 13 – Ray & Linda Behr
 16 – Fred & Frances Rasmusson
 24 – Cy & Vivian Amrich

April President's Message

Halleluia! Spring has sprung! The plants are bursting out, the green carpet is returning to our beautiful mountains. Unfortunately, for those of us who like to hunt rocks in these mountains, a lot of poisonous things are also popping out. That includes poison ivy, copperheads and rattlers.

So, a word to the wise - BE CAREFUL (two words). Watch where you step, watch where you put your hand, wear gloves. I have been told by those who have been in these mountains that there are some big rattle snakes here, and while I have never seen one in the wild I would just as soon keep it that way.

What I have seen though is a lot of briars and poison ivy which may not be as deadly as a copperhead but it will still be painful. When going to places like Cat-eye Cut or Big Shaft Mine, wear a long-sleeved shirt even if it is hot. Not only will you avoid a sunburn you can ward off some loss of blood from the briars. On the other hand, Ralph Crawford tells me that you can't really be having fun as a rockhound if you are not losing some blood. I sorta' disagree.

There are some field trips coming up to various quarries and they almost always require a hard hat and safety glasses. The one this month is to Graves Mountain in Georgia, so if you do not have that equipment I would advise you to do so. Hard hats are available at Lowe's for around \$10. There are two or three pairs of safety glasses at the museum you can check out (Tom Marsh or I can show you how). They are not expensive to buy but they can save a lot of expensive eye problems if you are chipping at some rock and have a chip fly off.

On another subject, we have been having more visitors this off season than in several prior ones. Several people have said that they have recently moved to the area and some were interested in joining the Society. So, as you host, if the visitors say they are new to the area and are interested in rocks and minerals or any of the associated arts, give them a brochure on how to join up and stress our mission of education. Since we are a working club the more members we have the easier it will be for everyone.

Remember the Mother's Day Show follows soon after our meeting this month, so please sign up to help in any way you can. Our April meeting is a week earlier than usual, so we have an extra week to get ready.

Until next time, Happy Rockhounding.

Al Pribble

Minutes – March 26, 2015 – General Meeting
Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at 6:40 p.m. in the Community Center building meeting room.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked for any corrections or additions to the previous general meeting minutes and there were none. Jane Morgan made a motion that the minutes be accepted and Arlon Eldridge seconded the motion. It was voted on and the motion carried.

Membership – Claudette Rollins reported 33 members and 6 guests in attendance this evening.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported that we are down \$1,600 but this is partially due to paying for a \$1000 scholarship this past month as well as paying two large power bills. A detailed accounting is available for perusal at the front table by the podium.

Vice President – Tom Sterrett is absent this evening.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh reported that all is well. He stated it has been slow over the winter but we are gearing up for the spring and summer months.

Curator/Publicity – Fred Plesner stated he delivered brochures to the I-40 visitor center. He mentioned that he, Tom Marsh and Diane Aiello prerecorded a radio program that was broadcast on March 21 on local radio station 1050. He reported that he, Al Pribble, Ralph Crawford and Claudette Rollins have been moving things around in the museum. A lady from New York donated many specimens. Specimens from New York State were taken from the States Room, combined with some of the new specimens, and placed in our International Hall.

Education – Diane Aiello has a tour scheduled at 10 a.m. on June 9, 2015 with 13 children ages 5 to 11. She will need two hosts to assist. She asked that you contact her during the break if you can host.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported that gift shop sales have been decent. She has trained a few more new members to host. She thanked all who volunteered to host on Saturdays over the winter. She said there were sign-up sheets at the membership table for hosting during the upcoming months.

Mother's Day Weekend Gem Show – Norm Holbert reported he is still waiting to hear back from a few prospective vendors but for now the gymnasium will be full. He stated sign-up sheets are at the membership table for members to sign up to help host during the three days. The show will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 8, May 9, and May 10.

New Business:

Al Pribble announced that Linda Behr is resigning her position as newsletter editor and Ellen Crawford has agreed to replace her in that position. He asked Ellen to come to the podium and presented her to the group.

Cont'd to next page

Newsletter Deadline

May 8

Cont'd Minutes

Al Pribble asked Arlon Eldridge to present the Southeast Federation (SFMS) and the American Federation (AFMS) awards. Congratulations went out to three of our members who earned awards:

Linda Behr – First Place trophy from SFMS in the Small Bulletins category

Linda Behr – Third Place certificate from AFMS in the Small Bulletins category

Fred Plesner – Second Place trophy from SFMS in the Original Adult Articles category

Fred Plesner – Honorable Mention certificate from AFMS in the Original Adult Articles category

Rex Larkin – Sixth Place certificate from SFMS in the Program Report category

Ray Behr presented Virginia Bennis with a Certificate of Achievement in Advanced Faceting after completing five different facets on five different stones. Her work is displayed on the back table. Everyone was cautioned to not pick them up as the floor in the building is terrazzo; if they are dropped, they will crack or break.

John Hayes also asked Cy Amrich to come up to the front. Cy was introduced to the group. He is now a new board member. Cy has been doing lots of repairs at the museum. He recently completed the beginning course on cabochons and his work is also displayed on the back table. Again, we were asked to look only and not handle the stones.

John Hayes mentioned that there is a sign-up sheet at the membership table for a trip to Graves Mountain in Lincolnton, Georgia. Marsha Harmon has this trip scheduled for the latter part of April. Everyone will meet at the museum and go as a group. He reported there are also free tickets for the Tellus Science Museum, Cartersville, Georgia (a 2-hour drive) on the table, so you may help yourself.

John Hayes told the group that there is a visual presentation on the back table of Gloria Durfey's trip to Australia. Gloria had been a very active member and board member for many years. For those who may not be aware, Gloria passed away in February.

Joan Bohmann wished to tell everyone about the upcoming Senior Games (must be 50+ and live in Macon County). If interested, please contact Joan directly.

Marsha Harmon brought in some stones that are on the back table for anyone to take. These came from an outing she took with Claudette Rollins to Chunky Gal Mountain.

OLD BUSINESS:

Al Pribble asked for a motion to approve the 2015 budget. Norm Holbert so moved and Arlon Eldridge seconded his motion. The motion was voted on and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by president Al Pribble.

Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes following which refreshments were served.

Our program this evening was presented by our members, Richard Hasle and Lon Peden, on American Indians and American Indian artifacts. They brought various specimens from their collections that were placed on display as well as some being passed around the room. A question and answer period followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, secretary

March Birthdays

2 – Shirley Burley
 8 – Diane Aiello
 14 – John Speer
 15 – Sherlene Dillon
 20 - Tom Marsh
 24 – Gary Gaetano

**Belated March**March Anniversaries

8 – Tom & Diane Aiello
 12 – John & Dorothy Crawford
 22 – Gary & Charlene Galbrecht
 27 – John & Nancy Speer

A New Lease on Life

By Fred Plesner for the
 Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin

The old Macon County Jail (now the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum) which was built between 1850 and 1852 after the old wooden jail burned to the ground has had a rough go of it. It has never received the care and upkeep that it should of and the fire of 1896 left the brick in a crumbly condition. This condition just led some prisoners to dig themselves out.

In 1930 the Macon County Commissioners voted to rebrick the Old Jail building. W. T. Tippet was awarded the contract at 55 cents per hour to oversee the work. A contract was awarded to Carolina Provision Company owned by W. L. Higdon and Franklin Hardware owned by A. L. Higdon and to the firm of Osborne and Lancaster for materials.

By adding another layer of brick the walls just got thicker. Just perhaps the old building has a reason or too to let loose with a creak or groan now and then.

Attributes: Thelma Swanson - - July 20, 1993

Via Macon County Historical Museum

Gift Shop Reporting

Elena Marsh



The 'off season' for the museum and gift shop is just about over. Preparations to open May 1 will be evident in the days to come. Even through rough cold weather this winter, the museum has seen quite a number of visitors and we expect that amount to increase as the days get warmer and more folks are traveling.

I am anticipating the arrival of a huge book order by mid April. If there are any subjects that you may be interested in, come check out the new books that will be on the shelves by May 1st.

Thanks to all the hosts that have kept the museum and gift shop open and active. Tom and I have stopped there several times on a Saturday to find smiling friendly faces of our hosts greeting us. Taking time out of your schedules to be active in the club is always appreciated.

The gem show will be here during Mother's Day weekend so if you are looking for a special item that you would like to see for sale in the gift shop, please let me know. I am always on the lookout for new and interesting jewelry or specimens to enhance our museum's gift shop.



Virginia with her instructor, Ray.



Cy Amrich with his certificate and his cut stones.



We need a program reporter. Rex has been sick with his breathing problems. When he returns, he can go back to reporting.



Fred Plesner and Linda Behr receiving their awards from Arlon Eldridge.

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon – Club Field Trip Coordinator - 369-7262

The weather is warming and I am just that much more excited to get out and explore. The Graves Mountain trip scheduled for **April 25** has had a good response even for being in April. I anticipate in the future for more club members to participate. We will leave at 7:30am from the museum and car sharing will be available, as needed. If you want to go and participate in the dig, rock swap or just meet lots of friendly people you are encouraged to come on along. We will be staying as late as 6pm so a stop for dinner is expected. Please read the hand out to make sure you are bringing the correct equipment. Sign up on the list in the back room of the museum and call if you have any questions. If you have hard hats, safety glasses or anything extra that may be of use please bring it along, if you don't mind sharing equipment.



Al Pribble and John Hayes have been out to a different location on Buck Creek. We are offering this trip on **May 16** instead of Dahlenega due to the Franklin Gem Show May 8-10, the weekend prior to this trip. The gang will meet at Loafers Glory at 8 am. Be prepared to work the stream: buckets, screens, waders, a small digger and a change of clothes or towel for our "swimmers." This will be a short drive but a snack with a drink would probably be enjoyed. Entry due to participate on this trip is the name of the famous singer who used to hang out at Loafers Glory in Franklin? Hint: 1963 "Got It Made" (In The Shade).

If you want to go to the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, Ga., we have received several half off tickets for **June 13 and 14 (ROCKFEST)**. I have been told that the Science Museum is well worth the trip. That weekend they are focusing on rocks and minerals. Hurry up to claim a ticket as these tickets should go fast. Tom and Elena Marsh have visited there so I suggest asking them details or go to www.tellusmuseum.org/plan-your-visit/visitor-information.

The Dahlenega Ga. trip with museum, rock quarry and hopefully a local stream to play around in is scheduled for **June 20**. The fee for the museum is \$15 and \$9 for the Consolidated Mine tour but if you want to go and just look about and play in the stream, it will be considerable less expensive. Those who choose can bring simple panning equipment and the possibility of a picnic is very good. I will have additional information about the town for those who are interested.

I am putting out the "all call" for people who may know of private land and owners who will allow a "small well behaved group" of club members, to work their streams with simple tools during the summer. We will let them know if we find anything of interest. Also looking for a "small well behaved group" of club members!

All questions and suggestions are appreciated. Please sign up or call if you are going so I can notify you with any last minute changes.

May 8, 9, & 10, 2015, Franklin, NC

Retail Club Show: Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Fri. & Sat., May 8th & 9th, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sun., May 10th, 10:00 AM - 4:00PM

Location: Carpenter Community Center, 1288 Georgia Rd. (US441), Franklin, NC

No admission charge, rough and finished gemstones and jewelry, minerals and local crafts.

Contact: Norm Holbert, 828 634-0350, normholbert@comcast.net

Program Report

Linda Behr

What a fascinating program presented by Richard Hasle and Lon Peden!!!

We learned a lot about the local Indians and how they survived.

Lon Peden is holding a weapon made from sour-wood and a rock. Doesn't it look threatening.

Richard presented a pipe that is very versatile. The Settlers would trade fur for the "peace" pipes that eventually became battle axes. The detailed markings showed great workmanship and pride.



The personnel manager asked the youthful ex-lieutenant what business experience he had.

"None," was the reply. "I just got out of college when the war started."

"Well, what kind of job do you think you could handle?"

"Oh," breezed the applicant, "something executive. A vice-presidency, for instance."

The partner looked thoughtful. "I guess that lets us out," he answered. "You see, we have 12 vice-presidents already."

The ex-louie waved a hand nonchalantly. "Oh, that's all right," he said. "I'm not superstitious."

Via *Investment Dealers' Digest*

Prior to 1949



DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society (Montgomery, AL) HOST
An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

8:45 am EST (7:45 CST) – 5:00 pm EST (4:00 CST)

APRIL 18, 2015

Hogg Mine, La Grange, Ga.

DATE: APRIL 18, 2015

Hours: 8:45 AM EST (7:45 CST) – 5:00 PM EST (4:00 CST)

Fee Site:

\$25 per person age 16 and above. Children under 16 dig free.

Meeting Point:

McDonalds, 2408 Whitesville Rd. LaGrange, GA 30240



YOU CANNOT JUST GO DIRECTLY TO THE MINE!_

TOOLS to Bring:

Pick, Shovel, Potato Rake, Rock Hammer, Sledge Hammer, Chisels, Rock Bars, 5 Gallon Buckets, Gloves, Safety Glasses Extra boots / shoes are helpful if it's muddy or the weather becomes damp.

There is a Port-a- Potty on site.)

Collecting: Beryl, Star Rose Quartz, Black Tourmaline, and Aquamarine. (Limit one 5 gallon bucket of material per person and one yard rock per dig.) This is a surface mine for the most part. However, there may be some deeper areas to explore. For safety reasons, you cannot dig outside of the designated areas.

Food: Food, water, and soft drinks are permitted. However, all alcohol is prohibited at the mine. Please don't show up with it. You will be asked to leave.

Directions: From Alabama, take I-85 N to the Georgia state line. Proceed to exit 13. Turn left off the ramp - McDonalds is located a quarter mile up on the left, next to the Pilot truck stop. From Georgia, take I-85 South to exit 13. Turn right off the ramp and McDonalds will be on the left.

Details: We will be signing up on the inside of McDonalds. If you park on the drive-through or south side of the store, enter the door and turn to the right. Look for an area of tables for sign up. You will pay a fee of \$25 per person, fill out release forms, and get a safety briefing before going to the mine. Mr. Painter (mine owner) will take people down in groups beginning at 8:45 am EST. Sign up will extend through 9:15 am EST for late arrivals. He will come back to get others who aren't able to get there before 9:15 am EST. They can email him or call if they need him to come back for them.

Where To Stay:

Nearby La Grange, GA offers many hotel choices.

There are many nearby private camp grounds as well as state owned ones since West Point Lake is nearby. Local state parks offer a full range of camping options.

Host: Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society

Jeff Edwards, VP / Field Trip Coordinator, (334) 312-0572 thestonehunter@hotmail.com

or email thegoldennugget@hotmail.com

For more information on HOGG MINE: www.hoggmine.com / Chris Painter rockdgr@yahoo.com

Mr. Painter will have a Mobile Rock Shop onsite for the regular scheduled digs where you can purchase rocks and minerals.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

11:00AM until 3:00PM CDT

Where: **Cumberland Furnace, TN**

When: **Saturday – May 30, 2015**

Directions: From Nashville, TN off of I-40 take exit 196 for US-70 S (Bellevue/Newsom Station) go 0.2 miles. Turn right at TN-1 W/US-70S W go 1.8 miles. Turn left at TN-1 W/US-70 W/Charlotte Pike go 16.1 miles. Turn right at TN-47 (White Bluff) go 9.6 miles. Turn right at TN-48 (Charlotte) go 6.8 miles. Take a slight left at Earl Leech Rd go 0.2 miles. Turn left on Cinder Road. You will see a log cabin (Starks Cabin) on the left hand side of the road. You can park in the field next to the cabin.



Assembly TIME: 11:00 AM at Cinder Road, Cumberland Furnace, TN

For those meeting as at Cumberland Furnace, we should arrive about 10:00. Meet near the old log cabin on Cinder Road.

Collecting We are heading to Cumberland Furnace to collect slag. The slag was a byproduct of making iron. Some of the slag is quit colorful in shades of blue and green ... some with swirls. The slag is easily cut and polished and makes nice pendants – it is too soft for rings.

Our target is a dump pile on the banks of the stream that runs through Cumberland Furnace (access by crossing a large field owned by the community). This dump pile is located about a ¼ of a mile from the parking area. Although the dump pile has the greatest potential, slag can be found anywhere along the banks (both upstream and downstream).

Another way to search is by wading downstream from the furnace if the creek is low. I am not sure if conditions will permit - bring wading shoes just in case if you wish to collect in the stream.

Age Limit: Everyone is welcome but children must be 6 years or older. They will not be allowed to roam around unattended and must obey all safety requirements and have all safety equipment. All pets must be under control at all times.

Equipment: You need to bring a hand tool, trowel, small shovel, etc to dig in the slag pile and gloves to protect your hands. Bring a back pack or small buckets for carrying. Boots or wading shoes are recommended as your feet may get wet otherwise.

Several Lodging Suggestions: Depending on which direction you are coming from, I would recommend staying in the **Nashville** area, **Clarksville** (north of the furnace) or Dickson (south of the furnace).

If you are going to meet us and go as a group, then **Nashville** is the best choice.

CONTACTS: For further information or alternative directions contact:

John Martin, MTGMS Vice President at info@mtgms.org

<mailto:info@mtgms.org> call my cell phone 615-210-5385

Visit our website www.mtgms.org <http://www.mtgms.org/> and visit us on Facebook.

Your field trip chairman has requested this be posted a month earlier for planning.
Editor, Linda



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor

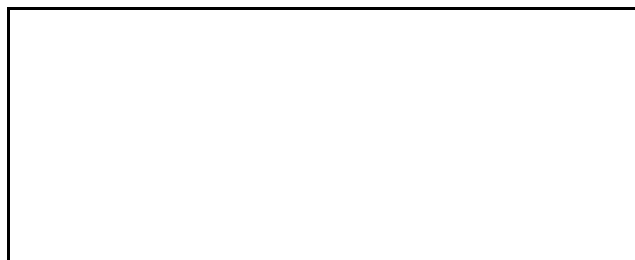
25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail

Geologist Dr. Bill Witherspoon will
be our presenter at the April meeting



Month	Board Meeting	General
January	27	29
February	24	26
March	24	26
April	21	23
May	26	28
June	23	25
July	14	16
August	25	27
September	22	24 Banquet
October	27	29
November	17	19
December	8	12 end of Year party

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. the last Thursday of the month in the 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.