

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
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Number 10
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 Society and Museum are self-supporting on a 100% volunteer basis.

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

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

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 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**

Visit our website at
www.fgmm.org

Society email:
franklingemsociety@gmail.com

2013-2014 Officers And

Board Of Directors

President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Past President	Lon Peden	371-8450
Vice President	Ray Behr	349-0827
Secretary	Susan Fritz	524-4936
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Assistant Treasurer	Norm Holbert	634-0350
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Director (2014)	Linda Smith	342-8288
Director (2015)	Tommy Marsh	369-8915
Director (2015)	Marty Martinez	332-8453

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Al Pribble	369-2548
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Tommy Marsh	369-8915
Curator	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator Ass't	Christine Hubinger	349-7360
Gift Shop.	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	
Museum Workshop	Al Pribble	369-2548
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	John Hayes	524-8062
Calendar Chairman	Laura Anderson	371-4816

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	Lon Peden	371-8450
Gemboree	Jack Jungles	369-6664
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Sharon John	421-0518
Librarian	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Membership	Claudette Rollins	349-4834
Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Marty Martinez	332-8453
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Christine Hubinger	349-7360

www.facebook.com/franklingems



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)



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

General Meeting

Date: October 30
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Day: Thursday
Where: Robert Carpenter
Community Center on 441 South
(notice new name for the community
building.
Program: Discussion of Gem Mining
and the Culture of Brazil



This year's raffle winner will get to choose from either a Trillion Pink Tourmaline set in 18 K gold, or an Amethyst earring and pendant set in sterling silver. Drawing will be in the end of October



Arlon

President's Message

Once again we had another great meeting with the installation of our officers for the 2015 year. Our next venture is the leaf lookers Gem-boree which will start on October 17 to October 19 and we would like to see some extra members there on Thursday morning for set up and if you can come please call Lon Peden at 371 8450.

Also I would like to thank Jane Morgan for a great job in the preparation of the food as I do not think anyone left hungry. Also another great job by Ronnie Beal, thanks so much Ronnie. We are looking forward to another great program for our next meeting so come see what we have and have some fun. Just to let all the members know I enjoyed serving as president of the gem and mineral society for the past year and will continue to be as much part of the club as I can and thank everyone for putting up with me. Thanks so much!

Arlon



Minutes – September 25, 2014 – General Meeting**The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.**

The meeting was called to order by President, Arlon Eldridge, on Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 6:50 p.m. in the Community Center building meeting room. Tonight is the annual banquet for installation of new officers and board members.

Minutes - Arlon Eldridge asked for any corrections or additions to the August minutes and there were none..

Treasurer's Report – Arlon indicated that Marie Tsacrios would be happy to give anyone a copy of this month's treasurer's report.

Vice President – Ray Behr had nothing new to report but thanked Al Pribble and Tom Marsh for their hard work and assistance over the past year.

Curator – Fred Plesner explained that there exists an award committee to select members who will receive life-time memberships. The committee has named the following members: Fred and Frances Rasmussen, Rhoda Haber and Jack Jungles.

Arlon Eldridge welcomed new members Virginia Bennis and Michael Gillen.

President Eldridge then continued on and thanked the following members and officers for their contribution and hard work over the past year: Fred Plesner, Al Pribble, Tom Marsh, Elena Marsh, Ray Behr, Diane Aiello, Susan Fritz, Norm Holbert, Marie Tsacrios, Linda Smith, Marty Martinez, Laura Anderson and Christine Hubinger. He gave special thanks and recognition to Linda Behr for her many, many years of service as Publications Committee Chairperson. Linda is responsible for the assembly and distribution of our wonderful monthly newsletter, *The Mountain Gem*.

Arlon thanked Jane Morgan for coordinating the food for this year's banquet. He thanked Claudette Rollins for taking on the duties of Membership Chairperson this year.

A very special thank you was given to Jay Gaines, All County Services Air Conditioning, who accepted our invitation for himself and his family to attend the installation banquet. Jay was the gentleman who recently did such a great job installing the museum's new air conditioning system.

Arlon introduced the VIPs present with us tonight: Macon County Sheriff Robert "Robbie" Holland and county commissioners Ron Haven and Ronnie Beale. Mr. Beale officiated in the installation of the 2015 officers and board members.

The following officers were installed:

President – Al Pribble
Vice President – Tom Sterrett
Secretary – Susan Fritz
Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios
Assistant Treasurer – Norm Holbert
Museum Manager – Tom Marsh
Two Year Board Member – Claudette Rollins
Two Year Board Member – Ray Behr



There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. A prayer was given by Dean Plesner after which everyone enjoyed a sumptuous meal.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Fred and Fran Rasmusson

Life Members as of September 2014

Ray Behr
 Linda Behr
 John Crawford
 Dorothy Crawford
 Gloria Durfey
 Rhoda Haber
 John Hayes
 Jack Jungles
 Quinton King
 Claire Miller
 Allen Owen
 Fred Plesner
 Dean Plesner
 Amy Ramer
 Fred Rasmusson
 Fran Rasmusson
 Della Samuel
 Wally Smith
 Doris Smith
 Dave Snyder

Gloria Durfey, one of our
 LIFE members who lives in
 Otto would love to hear from a
 member.

Life Memberships:

By Fred Plesner

At our September Installation Dinner some of our members were taken by surprise when several of our members were made "Life Members." How did this come about and who are these **Life Members**?

We start by referring to the By-Laws of our Constitution: Article VI – Membership. Here it states that an Honorary Life Membership may be granted upon recommendation of the awards committee and a vote by the Board of Directors. To clear this hurdle one has to have served our society faithfully and well for at least 10 years. So, the next question is where did the Awards Committee come from? Here again we reference our By-Laws: Article V – Committees. Here, under Awards Committee we find that it is composed of Life Members, Presidents and Vice Presidents, Past and Present.

What does it mean to be a Life Member?

1. You have been singled out by our Society and its Board of Directors for public recognition and honor.
2. You no longer have to pay your dues – ever.
3. You have a vote in Society business so long as you remain active in the Society.
4. You become a member of the Awards Committee and have the honor and privilege of deciding who gets a certificate of appreciation or an Honorary Life Membership.

As a life member you are now responsible for seeing that the Membership Committee has your current address wherever or whenever you should move. This is expected because you will be receiving "The Mountain Gem" monthly for free and forever.

There are two types of "Life Members," Active and Inactive. Active members are those who are still participating in our society's activities and inactive members are those who for whatever reason, age – distance, etc., either cannot or chose not to participate. By becoming inactive a life member loses the privilege of serving on the awards committee but retains all other honors and privileges.

Gift Shop

By Elena Marsh

Recently some members have commented that the gift shop is looking really good – thank you for letting me know that things are OK. Lots of items, from specimens and jewelry items are added and/or rearranged each month (if not weekly) as visitors come to see the museum and find something that will be a memento of their visit to Franklin and the museum. However, I am going to acknowledge the efforts of each member of the club who hosts for this gift shop success. Without your hosting, the museum and gift shop would not be open to accommodate the many visitors to the town of Franklin. Without your being gracious, friendly and willing to give of your time, the museum and gift shop would not be ‘the talk of the town!’ So although comments directed to Anamay and me are given, I direct those positive comments back to our members – a huge thank you for continuing to volunteer! YOU are why our museum is so great.



Pumpkin Fest will be here soon (October 25th) and the need for extra members to help during that day’s festivities would be appreciated. The signup sheet is in the meeting room at the museum so please stop in and check the calendar for a time you can volunteer, on that specific day and maybe another day too.

Although the long six days a week schedule is almost completed, there is still the Saturdays of November, December, January, February, March and April to schedule. It will be time to restock, explore new concepts of displays and purchases. This year’s success means we will have to keep working hard to keep up that image. I believe we can do it – will you help us succeed?

See you in the museum soon! Elena



November Birthdays

2 -- Charlene Galbrecht
8 -- Janet Hayles
10 – Diana Jurrs
10 – Bill Fisher
17 – Della Samuel
17 – Virginia Bennis

CELEBRATIONS

December Birthdays

3 – Christine Hubinger
8 – Linda Sterrett
8 – Deborah Wright
9 – Jeff Sutphin
12 – Marina Fisher
14 – Doug Morgan
16 – Gary Galbrecht
17 – JoDawn Loewy
18 – Jerry Mitchell
20 – Ray Behr
22 – Linda Behr
28 – Ernest A. Klatt, Jr.



December Anniversaries

4 – Albert & Sandra Moccia
8 – David & Linda Smith
15 – Tom & Diane Aiello



Old age is when the liver spots show through your gloves.

-Phyllis Diller

My photographs don't do me justice - they just look like me.

-Phyllis Diller

"DMC/SFMS" sfms-dmc@amfed.org Sat, 11 Oct 2014 3:56 PM

Americans for Responsible Recreational Access

http://www.arra-access.com/site/R?i=tIQHzWiJbMAEqHqoeqK8_w>

In Your State...

State-by-State Info

http://www.arra-access.com/site/R?i=NL6Dw_vxUjK-5sU6MOFOA>

Access Issues, Public Meetings, Contact Information... all this and details about the National Forests in your state on ARRA's comprehensive state pages.

Share ARRA!

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<<http://www.arra-access.com/site/R?i=qZcaxIlf3ZvGGB2dYIqnzA>>

If you have already registered as an ARRA member, you can help be a stronger voice by sending e-postcards to others. Our grassroots movement needs more voices! Use our Tell-A-Friend

<<http://www.arra-access.com/site/R?i=M24aqZYmNXeT7XuggqxMIA>> page to help someone else stay informed by registering to receive ARRA's legislative alerts and newsletters.



Help ARRA!

To better help ARRA advocate for responsible access, please forward any messages you receive from Members of Congress in response to this or any ARRA alert to webmaster@arra-access.com. Also, if you receive a message encouraging you to use a webform to send a message to a Member of Congress, please copy and paste the letter from the ARRA alert into the webform and send. Thank you.

2015 Free-Free Days on Federal Public Lands

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Forest Service (USFS) and the National Park Service (NPS) have announced Fee-Free days for 2015. The fee-free program is in cooperation with federal land management agencies under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

Fees are an important part of managing public lands, as many recreation opportunities, including OHV recreation opportunities, may be lost absent an opportunity to pay for them outside of the federal budget's appropriations process. However, the Fee-Free program is a way to thank the millions of public lands visitors and to encourage more people to experience the great outdoors.

The fee-free dates for 2015 and the participating agencies for each date are shown below:

January 19, 2015, Martin Luther King Jr. Day BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS

February 14-16, 2015, Presidents Day weekend BLM, NPS, (USFS - 16th Only), USFWS

April 18-19, 2015, Opening Weekend of National Park Week NPS

June 13, 2015, National Get Outdoors Day USFS

August 25, 2015, National Park Service Birthday NPS

September 26, 2015, National Public Lands Day

BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS

October 11, 2015, First Sunday of National Wildlife Refuge Week USFWS

November 11, 2015, Veterans Day

BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS

November newsletter
deadline is November 3rd,
Monday....due to our ear-
lier meeting for the month.
December newsletter will
come out AFTER our
end of the year party.

Jail Crowding

Reporting for the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum
Fred Plesner

April 1930 was a busy time for Macon County jailor Bill Edwards. The jail was full when Jess Leatherman was brought in on Wednesday, the 16th and charged with various liquor violations. Four days into his confinement and Jess Leatherman was ready to leave and apparently he had help.

Sunday afternoon was the time he picked to leave, so he went about his business of using the hacksaw blade that had been smuggled in to him. The presence of 28 people being in the jail and 16 of those being in the same room with him did not deter him. Unfortunately for Jess Leatherman, the jailor decided to do a little checking and caught poor Jess in the act of sawing his way out. Jess was immediately placed in a separate confinement cell and had charges of attempting to break jail brought against him by the Macon County Superior Court in addition to the charges on which he was originally held.

Working Fire Agate

Fire Agate is actually a chalcedony with a layer of iridescent limonite which is trapped between the layers of chalcedony. The layer is so thin that it is sometimes less in thickness than a breath upon a window pane.

The deposition of limonite is such that a dense spot is where the best colors are usually dominant. This form of "fire agate" is usually botryoidal. Work with caution!

1. Study the stone carefully before sawing or grinding.
2. Grind slowly on a 100 grit wheel, wetting the stone often and examining to see that the "fire" is still there.
3. Do the same thing on a finer wheel until satisfied that the "fire" is coming to the surface.
4. Start sanding, checking the stone periodically to see that you have not sanded the "fire" away. Keep the stone wet at all times.
5. When satisfied that you have the "fire" on top of the cabochon surface, finish on a leather buff with tin oxide.

Source: unknown, via *Blue Agate News* February 2010

<http://www.usfacetersguild.org/contact.shtml>

This is an interesting website for Faceters. Norm Holbert, assistant treasurer can tell you about their group.



Ramblings of a Retired Mind

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse.

I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener.



I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think.

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age, and call it 'Pumping Rust'....

I've gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!

When people see a cat's litter box, they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'A Good Doctor'!

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me. They were cramming for their finals.

October's Jewelry Bench Tips

Happy hammering,

- Brad

Please use the following attribution with each publication:

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Note: If you distribute your newsletter electronically, I'd appreciate the above title of the book to be a live link to <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

Silver Discoloration

Working with jewelry involves an ever increasing number of skills. Chemistry is one of them that come into play when dealing with a discoloration on the metal caused by a chemical reaction between it and the environment.

In the case of Sterling silver there are three discolorations we typically encounter: a tarnish, a firescale, and a firestain. Each is different in its cause, in its cure and in its prevention. All three have to do with the metals in the Sterling alloy (92.5% silver and 7.5% copper) and how they react with oxygen and the heat of soldering or with pollutants in the air over the long term.

Tarnish is a grayish coating that builds up slowly on the surface as a result of a reaction of the silver with sulfur-based compounds in the air. Typically these are pollutants from the burning of petroleum fuels, but they can come from other sources as well. I once tarnished all the silver in my display case by putting a pretty specimen of iron pyrite in with the jewelry. Turns out pyrite has sulfur in it!

Sulfur combines with the silver to form a grayish silver sulfide film on the surface.

Preventing tarnish involves keeping sulfur away from the metal. Plastic bags will help, and anti-tarnish strips are available from jewelry supply companies to pack near your items. Tarnish is easily removed by hand polishing with a jeweler's cloth or with one of the products sold for cleaning the good silverware for holiday dinner.

Another way is to remove it chemically. Put a piece of aluminum in the bottom of a dish large enough to contain your piece. Heat enough water to cover the silver. Mix in 2 tablespoons of sodium carbonate per cup of water and pour into the dish. Be sure the silver touches the aluminum. Sodium carbonate is the main ingredient in washing soda. Read the labels in grocery and hardware stores.

The second type of tarnish is called firescale. It is the dark gray to charcoal colored film that forms on Sterling or other copper alloy like copper or bronze when we heat it with a torch. The copper in the alloy reacts with oxygen in the air to form a dark cupric oxide coating on the surface. Luckily, the oxide is easily removed by dissolving it in a mild acid - generally called a pickle. It's important that we not let firescale form on a solder joint because it will block the flow solder over the joint.

Prevention can be done two ways. Most common is to use a flux, a borax-based solution applied to the metal before soldering. When melted, borax forms a thin glassy layer that keeps oxygen away from the metal. A second way is to do your soldering on a charcoal block. Together with the flame, charcoal greatly reduces the amount of oxygen in the area being soldered. In either case oxygen is prevented from reaching the metal, so no cupric oxide firescale is formed.

A second oxide can also be formed when soldering copper or a high copper content alloy like bronze or brass. It's called cuprous oxide and is reddish in color. That's why a black looking piece you put in the pickle sometimes comes out red. Problem is that while the black cupric oxide is dissolved by a pickle, the red cuprous oxide is not. The discoloration can be sanded or polished off, but an easier way is to use a "super pickle". This is a mixture of fresh pickle with a healthy shot of hydrogen peroxide from the local store. (cont'd to next page.)

(cont'd from previous page)

I've saved the worst form of discoloration, firestain, for last. Think of firescale as like getting dirt on your shirt that you have to wash off. Firestain is like getting ink on it. The discoloration is not just on the surface, it seeps down and stains the material. Firestain happens when we heat a piece of silver too hot, too long, and/or too many times.

Firestain occurs when the oxides start to build up below the surface of the metal. You generally don't notice it until after polishing. It appears as a darker area of the surface and is easy to spot when viewed under light bounced off a piece of white paper. Because firestain is below the surface, there's no easy bench tip solution. Depletion gilding may work for some pieces. Otherwise, removing it calls for sandpaper and aggressive polishing.

A much better approach for a piece that will require a large number of solderings is to protect the metal from developing firestain by applying liberal coats of a fire-coat. Regular soldering flux will provide some protection but will not be as effective as preparations made specifically for the task.

(From the *Mountain Gem* editor, Linda: we place small pieces of chalk in the containers storing silver. There is also an "anti-tarnish paper" from 3M.®)

Solvent Dispenser

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like an alcohol lamp or one of the nail polish bottles that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes can't be too good for you either.



A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents you frequently use. It has a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip I don't spill a drop.

There are many suppliers on Google. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at www.carolina.com The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 mL US\$ 5.35

Coming Shows

November 7, 8 & 9, 2014, Pascagoula, MS

The 25th Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show will be presented by The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, sponsor of the **2014 SFMS Annual Meeting**. Jackson County Fairgrounds in Pascagoula, Mississippi
2902 Shortcut Rd, Pascagoula, MS 39567
Hours: Friday and Saturday - 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM; Sunday - 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM
Admission \$3.00 Adults 3 Day ticket \$5.00
Children 12 and under are free
One door prize ticket given with each paid adult admission (must be present to win).

November 21-23, 2014 Columbia, SC

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society presents the 47th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show; Friday 1000-1800, Saturday 1000-1800, Sunday 1200-1700
Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Road, Columbia, SC 29210
Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, and tools for sale. Geodes sold and cut, Club member rock collections on exhibit and lapidary demonstrations.
Admission: \$5 for adults, children 16 and under free with an adult; All military and their dependents are free.
Contact: Sue Shrader, Publicity, (803) 736-9317; email: ashrader@mindspring.com
Sharon Sterrett, Dealers (803) 356-1472, email: sssterrett@sc.rr.com
Web: www.cgams.org

November 21-23, 2014 Marietta, GA

29th Annual Cobb County Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show presented by Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society
Cobb County Civic Center, 548 Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA
Friday 1000-1800, Saturday 1000-1800, Sunday 1000-1700
Free Admission and Free Parking
Find amazing rocks, gemstones, minerals and fossils from all over the world. Choose from a large selection of beautiful beads, jewelry and jewelry making supplies. Faceting and jewelry making demonstrations, hourly door prizes.
Web: www.cobbcountymineral.org

The **Gemewizard team**http://www.gemewizard.com/newsletters/view_article.php?id=239

The importance of the second color moderator in estimating a diamond's value (Part I)

In past articles about colored diamonds, where we discussed the effects of color on their prices, we always limited our focus and analysis to diamonds displaying not more than two colors - the main body color of the stone (e.g., Yellow, Green, Pink, etc.) and a secondary sub-hue which we called a color moderator (e.g. greenish Yellow, orangey Pink, etc.).

However, some colored diamonds possess a third color in their grading reports. These third colors, referred to as second color moderators, may either be brown, brownish, gray or grayish. They occur in diamonds with lower saturation, in all of the fancy color grades, with the exception of Fancy Intense and Fancy Vivid. Generally, the brown tint is found in diamonds with warm body colors (such as Yellow, Orange, Pink, Red, etc.), while gray is found in the cooler colors (Blue, Green, Violet).

In this two-part article, we shall explore the effects of these second moderators on the overall appearance and value of the stone. Part I will focus on the brown moderators, while the grays shall be the subject of our Part II article.

For this task, we have fine-tuned our new and extensive database, comprising \$420 million worth of colored diamonds offered online, to sort and compare the items according to their listed moderators.

From inspecting the diamonds of various body colors, which include brownish and brown second moderators, we found that each moderator has a different influence on the overall appearance of the diamonds.

Gems with a brownish second moderator display a very slight to mild effect on the diamond's overall appearance. The brownish moderator occurs in all lower saturation fancy grades - Fancy Light, Fancy, Fancy Deep and Fancy Dark.

In contrast, although the brown is listed as the third color, its effect on the overall appearance of the stone is distinct. Diamonds with a brown second moderator display a darker and/or deeper color, resulting in Fancy Deep and Fancy Dark grades.

The influence these moderators have is even more significant when it comes to pricing. After analyzing the data, we discovered that the existence of a second brown/ish moderator imposes a dramatic negative effect on the diamond's value. It appears that sellers tend to bestow a higher priority to the third color (i.e. the second moderator) rather than the first moderator. In fact, when pricing a colored diamond with two moderators, the sellers usually choose to completely ignore the first moderator!

The following example may somewhat clarify this issue. Consider a diamond seller who is pricing a fancy brownish orangey Pink diamond. Instead of relying on the fancy orangey Pink price (which is approximately \$50,000 per carat) and adding a "brownish discount" to the price, we discovered that he would consider the fancy brownish Pink price (which is about \$15,000 per carat) without considering the orange secondary color at all.

The same thing occurs with a fancy greenish Yellow stone. A fancy brownish greenish Yellow diamond will be priced according to the fancy brownish Yellow price (around \$5,150 per carat) instead of the pure fancy greenish Yellow one (\$6,650 per carat).

In light of these findings, it is a small wonder why sellers' prefer diamonds with no more than two colors. In addition, with so much value at stake, it may explain the number of challenges to grading reports containing a brown second moderator.

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

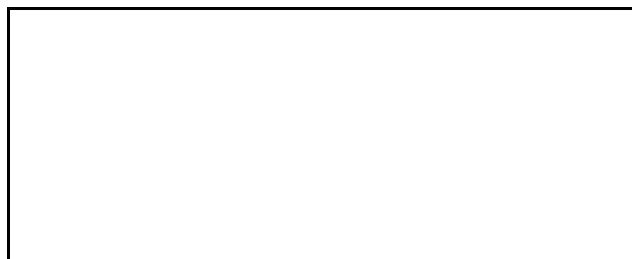
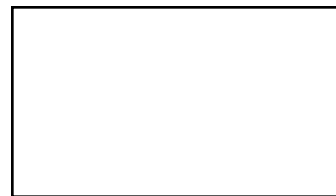
Linda Behr, Editor

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734

themountaingem@fastmail.fm

website: www.fgmm.org



Month	Board Meeting	General
October	28	30
November	18	20
December	9	13 end of Year party 1—5 P.M.

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.