

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXV MAY 2015
Number 5
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 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: May 28, 2015

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Robert C Carpenter Community
Building on 441 South

Program: Presentation by Christopher Tacker,
Curator of Geology at the North Carolina Mu-
seum of Natural Science in Raleigh

**Al Pribble**

Our president is unable
to type a message for
this month's newslet-
ter.



He sends his regards and hopes to be recov-
ered from shoulder surgery real soon.

June Birthdays

13 – Sandra Moccia

14 – Amy Ramer

18 – Mary Greist

18 – Doris Smith

19 – Joyce Jacques

21 – Georgia-Marie Goldstein

**June Anniversaries**

10 - Arlon & Sonja Eldridge

24 – Lee & Shirley Burley

Coming in June, you will have a
new editor, Ellen Crawford. The
email will be the same as before:

themounatingem@fastmail.fm

Newsletter Deadline

June 5



Minutes – April 23, 2015 – General Meeting
Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, April 23, 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. Cy Amrich made a motion that the minutes be accepted and Jane Morgan seconded the motion. It was voted on and the motion carried.

Membership – Claudette Rollins reported 29 members and 6 guests in attendance this evening.

Vice President – Tom Sterrett is absent this evening.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported that we are minus \$785 for the month of March; however, the gift shop has only been open on Saturdays.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh stated everything has gone well over the winter and he is looking forward to the museum being open on a daily basis.

Curator/Publicity – Fred Plesner stated there was a brief meeting Tuesday regarding the best ways to display our specimens in the museum. He received a request from Eastern Michigan University for brochures. He urged members to sign up to help during the Mother's Day weekend gem show.

Education – Diane Aiello has one tour scheduled on May 15 where we will have 70 children broken up into two groups of 35. This tour ideally would require 8 hosts and there is a sign-up sheet on the membership table. She also has another tour slated for June when she will need two hosts.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported she has ordered lots of books and they are ready in the gift shop for sale. She said we will probably require some extra help in the museum on Friday and Saturday, May 8 and May 9, the same time our gem show is taking place. She thanked Claudette Rollins for all of her cabochons and Virginia Bennis for helping with the outside gardening chores. She also thanked Jane Morgan, Jean Hayes and Diane Aiello for the very nice refreshments that were brought tonight.

Mother's Day Weekend Gem Show – Our show will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 8, May 9, and May 10. Norm Holbert reported we will need help on load-in day, Thursday, at 8 a.m., with setting up tables, running extension cords, etc. If you can assist, please let him know. Arlon Eldridge mentioned that we no longer own the heavy wooden tables; all tables are aluminum and lightweight.

Doreen Freeman suggested contacting the Boy Scouts to help with take down on Sunday. Susan Fritz asked if signs would again be put out at the highway and Norman Holbert said hopefully Ray Behr will be willing to take on this job again this year in terms of getting road signs placed.

He also urged any member coming to the gem show to please wear their badge and be vigilant looking out for anyone with "sticky fingers" and, should they find someone stealing merchandise, to report same to the building administration office.

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Minutes cont'd from page 4

He said we now have 20 vendors, which will fill the gymnasium and this meeting room. There will be an outside food vendor for all three days and an ice cream vendor on Sunday. Demonstrators are also needed for cabbage, wire wrapping, faceting, etc.

New Business:

Al Pribble reported that William Holland School has a workshop sponsored by SFMS on June 7 for one week. There is also another workshop in August and one in September. The last two workshops are held in Wild Acres, which is close to Spruce Pine. There are fliers on the back table for anyone who may be interested.

He said we need a volunteer to be at Tallulah Falls to pass out our brochures during the time that Bill Witherspoon will be there.

Al mentioned the upcoming field trip this Sunday with Marsha Harmon.

Virginia Bennis reported that the museum was open today and will be open tomorrow because the Commissioners from across North Carolina State are in town. We appreciate their support and want the museum to be open in the hopes some will stop by for a visit. She stated she was sending around a sign-up sheet for the month of May as we will now be open every day. ***We still need museum hosts for several days during the month of May.*** She said we have not had to close the museum in a very long time due to lack of volunteers, so ***please sign up for an afternoon of hosting at the museum!***

Gary Gaetano told the membership that Rex Larkin gives all of us a big hello. Rex has been ill and has not been able to attend meetings. He said Rex misses all of us. We told Gary that we miss Rex as well!

Elena Marsh wanted to recognize and welcome back Doreen Freeman and Fred and Fran Rasmusson, members who winter in Florida. She also thanked Jane Morgan for arranging to have Bill Witherspoon here with us tonight.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. by president, Al Pribble.

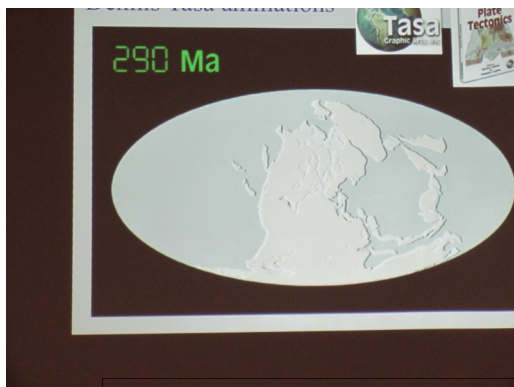
Prior to the presentation of tonight's program, refreshments were served and Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes.

We are delighted and honored to have our program this evening presented by Bill Witherspoon, PhD, geologist and co-author of the book, Roadside Geology of Georgia. This book is the 25th book in a series; the first one in full color. Prior to his presentation, Bill said that he brought blue quartz specimens that we may take and explained blue quartz is billions of years old. He also passed out brochures entitled "Earth Science Literary Principles." He stated that tonight he will be giving an armchair version of a trip that he will be taking to California.
*Note – all money obtained from book purchases this evening will go to our museum's Gift Shop.

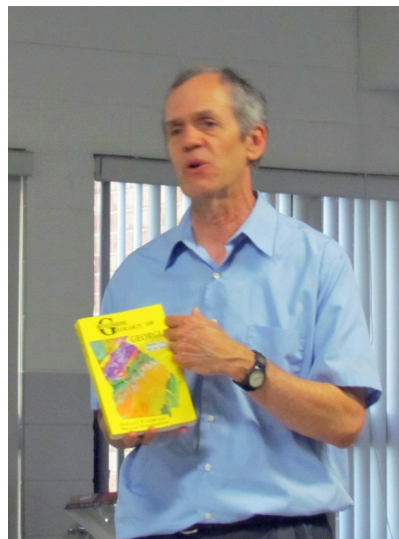
Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, secretary

**Last year's tourmaline was
raffled at the May Gemboree**



Pictures taken by Linda Behr.



For any information contact geologist Dr. Bill Witherspoon at bill@georgiarocks.us. Also, for a photo gallery, maps, itinerary about his upcoming trip, . visit georgiarocks.us/california



Raffle item for 2015

SCRIBE - Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors - Volume 39 No 1 January-March, 2015

Puns for Educated Minds

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey-maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race, they ended up in a tie.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway.
One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger, then it hit me
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
(Condensed for publication.)

Jail Inmates

By Fred Plesner for the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

We have quite a few new members, some of whom will be hosting at the museum for the 1st time and a few older members in the same boat. I thought I would begin the new season by mentioning a few of our past guests (inmates) and their indiscretions to help get a feeling for the "Old Jail's" past.



A few years ago the county sheriff gave me access to the old jail logs for a couple of weeks and the following information was taken from those log sheets. The following entries are listed in no particular order:

Poll Peeke a 20 year old white male was detained from October 20, 1929 - November 3, 1929 for disturbing a public worship service.

The first woman to be arrested in the county under the new prohibition laws was Edith Simons, aged 25, on November 17, 1929.

The first record of a jailbreak that I found in the logs that had been preserved was November 8, 1929 when Port Jones was found to be missing. Port Jones was a 25 year old white male who was arrested on November 6, 1929 on a prohibition laws violation.

In May of 1936 Raymond Taylor was jailed on a bigamy Charge.

In April 1951 James T. Dowdle was jailed for abusing his wife and Harvey Green was jailed for Horse Theft.

In June of 1951 Ike Wilson (Negro) was jailed for keeping a disorderly house.

In November of 1952 Newell McCoy was jailed on a charge of having carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of 16.

In April of 1936 4four people were being held on a charge of stealing chickens.

In November of 1929 of the 22 people who were jailed 17 had been charged with prohibition law violations. (Port Jones went missing).

In October of 1935 Willimay Corpening, a c. 15 year old mother of an illegitimate child was held as a material witness in a bastardy case. After the trial she was sent to reform school.

Indeed, we have had some very interesting people pass through our doors.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." -

Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962



From the Southeast Federal Mineral Society

Hi, I'm Cindy Reed, the director for the William Holland SFMS workshop. I've had many people tell me that they don't know anything about the Federation workshops and that their clubs don't promote them. So, I'm asking for your help as either the President or Editor of your club. We would appreciate it if you could put the info in your newsletters, announce it at your club meetings or forward this email to your members.

One of the new services we are offering this year is online payment by credit card. I'm attaching the registration form, a list of classes and the online payment form (*available on museum bulletin board*).

The June session at William Holland is coming up fast. We still have openings in most of the classes. And, we have several new offerings this year. Kay & Tom Benham will be teaching their tool making class – first time offered at the school. Leslie Wayment is teaching Wire 4 Beaders, another new offering. We're bringing back Jr. Rockhounds with a mineral collection/ID class with Scott and Denise Forward and Sandra Bergquist is teaching a wire/chain class for Jr's.

Wild Acres is offering a Meteorite Symposium during both of their weeks. Leslie Wayment is teaching Wire 4 Beaders in session 3 and Dave Wayment is teaching Intarsia. There is a self help beaders class in session 3 - bring your own projects and supplies - It's always fun to bounce ideas off friends. Did you see Tom Benhams article in Lapidary Jeweler Jewelry Artist about making your own jewelry bench. Danny Griffin can show you how it's done during session 3.

If you would like to know more about any of the classes, visit <http://www.sfmsworkshops.com/> or follow us on facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Southeast-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies/317959434999844>

Thanks for your help in spreading the word.

Cindy Reed



Marsha Harmon
and her *rock partners*.



Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon – Club coordinator – 369-7262

Welcome Deborah, Sande and Cy to the roster of field trip participants! The **Graves Mountain April 26** trip proved to be an extra adventure especially when adding side trips of Georgia Guidestones near Elberton and one great pizza joint in Hartwell. Positive feedback was strong due to a good mix of personalities and moderate but interesting findings of Blue Quarts, Pyrophyllite, Rutile, Kyanite, Lazulite, Pyrite, Angle Plated Quarts and Iridescent Hematite. This mine has been operating since the 1920 and is very popular with regional rock hounds. The three-day Rock Swap and Dig (offered only twice a year) was well organized by the Georgia Mineral Society in Norcross, GA and despite weather difficulties, proved to be well worth the gas!

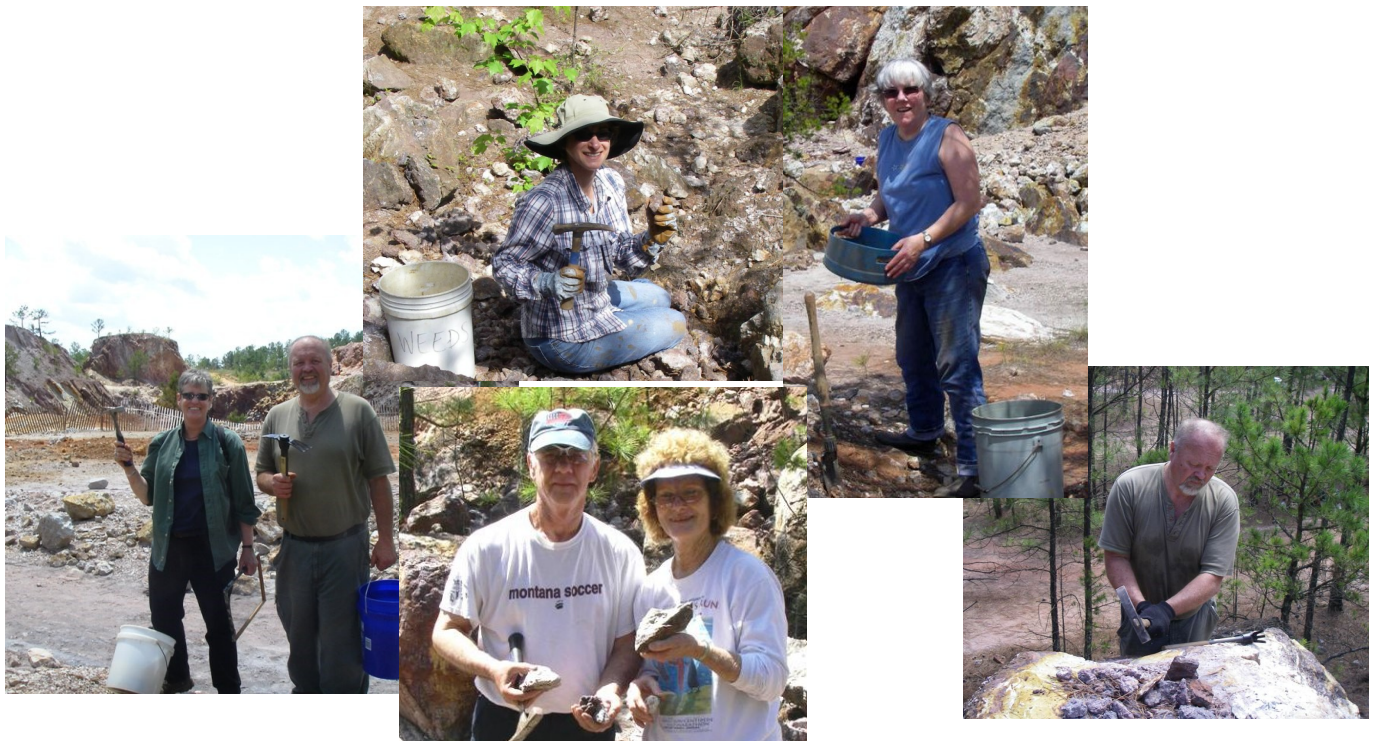


After our May 8-10 retail club show, a close easy trip to **Buck Creek** is offered **May 16**. This trip will leave from Loafers Glory in Franklin at 8 am. We will be working the stream: buckets, screens, waders or rubber boots, a small shovel, and a snack/drink suggested. We will be looking for garnets, ruby and corundum crystals at this near by location. Bring along a gold pan and try your luck here? There are also dump piles above the old mine which can be worked if you are industrious enough? Please sign up at the museum so I can make sure you have current information.

The SFMS Field Trip Committee is offering a trip to **Cumberland Furnace, TN** on **May 30**. On this trip the collection of slag in and near downstream of the furnace is the goal. A handout is available for additional information.

The **Dahlonega GA** trip with museum, rock quarry and hopefully a local stream for panning is scheduled for **June 20th**. Cost \$15 for museum, \$9 for Consolidated Mine tour but if you choose to independently tour the town, we will all meet up for an afternoon picnic and stream panning adventure. Equipment suggested: picnic food and panning equipment. At this time the Chestatee River near Dahlonega is being studied for appropriate panning and picnic locations? You may participate in only what interests you on this trip!

We have had a club member come forward with a possible creek location trip. Thank you for that and shortly a “check it out” visit will happen. ☺



<http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Upcoming Shows

June 6-7—MC CALLA, ALABAMA: Annual show; Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society, Tannehill Historical Ironworks State Park; 12632 Confederate Parkway, 35111; Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Adults \$4.00, Seniors 62 yrs. ^ \$3.00, Students 6 to 12 yrs. \$2.00, Children 5 and under FREE; Admission to the show is free with paid admission to the park.; contact Cathy Kellogg; e-mail: tannehillgemshow@gmail.com; Web site: lapidaryclub.com

13-13—GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club, Greensboro Day School; 5401 Lawndale Drive; Sat. 10 am-6 pm; Adults \$4, Seniors \$2, Students \$2, Children \$2; Numerous gem and jewelry and mineral vendors, demonstrations, food and fun for the young and old and curious!; contact Charlie Finch, PO Box 13087, Greensboro, NC 27410, (336) 696-7745; e-mail: ggmc.rockhounds@gmail.com; Web site: www.ggmc-rockhounds.com

13-14—CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA: Show and sale; Tellus Science Museum, Tellus Science Museum; 100 Tellus Drive; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$14, Seniors \$12, Students \$10, Children \$10; Calling all rock hounds, jewelry collectors, families and everyone fascinated by the Earth's treasures! outside on the back lawn and inside the Museum in the Banquet Rooms. Hourly door prizes contact Mary Vinson, PO Box 3663, Cartersville, GA 30120, (770) 606-5700; e-mail: maryv@tellusmuseum.org; Web site: tellusmuseum.org

Gift Shop by Elena Marsh

By the time you read this column, the museum and gift shop have been open a few weeks! Hard to believe the winter is behind us and we are in high gear for a new season of visitors!

The book order has been inventoried and many new, interesting books have been added to the shelves of the gift shop. Please stop by and see if any can be added to your collections at home.

Although I can't say what exactly will be bought, priced and featured in the shop after the Mother's Day Gem-boree, I will tell you that in the past after a shopping spree at the show, many great pieces with even better prices have been bought by Anamay and me, put on the shelves one day and bought the next! Hoping that trend continues this year.

We can never forget to thank each and every host that takes time out of his or her busy schedules to keep the museum and gift shop open each and every day that it should be. It would be a sad situation if the museum had to close to visitors who are in town to tour our wonderful collections. Remember that you would be very disappointed if you visited a town to see a certain store or museum and found it closed on a scheduled 'open' day. Let's make sure our reputation as an awesome place to explore continues for many years!

Thanks again for all donations to the gift shop. Thanks to members who have helped me clean, organize, sort thru specimens for sale and any other projects that need to be done in the gift shop – it is great to have an extra set of hands to make any task go quickly and efficiently.

Although I say it a lot but I never want this to be taken for granted – THANKS FOR HOSTING – you are representing the club in the finest way.

See you in the museum soon! Elena



The World Is Mine - Author Unknown

Today, upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman and wished I were as beautiful.

When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle.

She had one leg and used a crutch. But as she passed, she passed a smile.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two legs; the world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm.

I talked with him, he seemed so glad. If I were late, it'd do no harm.

And as I left, he said to me, "I thank you, you've been so kind.

It's nice to talk with folks like you.

You see," he said, "I'm blind."

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two eyes; the world is mine.

Later while walking down the street, I saw a child I knew.

He stood and watched the others play, but he did not know what to do.

I stopped a moment and then I said, "why don't you join them dear?"

He looked ahead without a word. I forgot, he couldn't hear.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two ears; the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go.

With eyes to see the sunset's glow.

With ears to hear what I'd know.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.

I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

After all, it's just a simple reminder that we have so much to be thankful for!

Give the gift of love. It never comes back empty!

I have been truly blessed with AWESOME FRIENDS



This will be my last newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your news provider for these past 10 years.

Our new editor is familiar with a computer and some of these programs for the newsletter. I know that she will do a **great** job for all of you.

You all have been AWESOME FRIENDS and wonderful supporters.

I know that you will do the same for Ellen Crawford.

I am not quitting the club!!!

Linda Behr



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

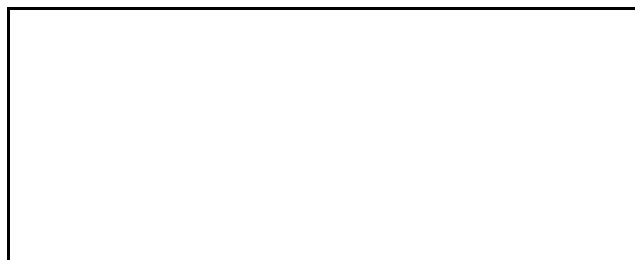
25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734



Memorial Day is May 25th.

First Class Mail



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.