THE MOUNTAIN GEM

JUNE 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 newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council 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 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 Education Chairman, Diane Aiello at 828-371-2436 or 828-524-3307.

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.*

2016 - 2017 Officers And Board Of Directors

President	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
Past President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
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Director (2016)	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718

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	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

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	OPEN (Al Pribble - Temp)	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando 727-367-9196 or 349-2807	
Librarian	Ellen Williams	349-9416
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	OPEN (Al Pribble - Temp)	
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) 20010(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

June Meeting

Date: June 29, 2017

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Masonic Lodge at 50 Church Street**

Program: **Auction, Diane Mason, Auctioneer**
Exciting Program & Fundraiser

July Birthdays

2 - Fred Plesner
5 - Mary Bermke
5 - Shirley Burley
7 - Brenda Isaacs
8 - Nancy Davis
10 - Joellyn Reckwerdt
11 - Parker Seaman
14 - Tom Parker
15 - Rhoda Haber
16 - Sonja Eldridge
29 - Barbara Rizzo

July Anniversaries

3 - Mary & Peter Bernke
12 - Ted & Joellyn Reckwerdt
15 - Bobby & Sheila Bland
19 - Rom & Winnie Parker

Happy June Belated Birthday Wishes:
11 - Jeanne Henrickson

Anamay is recovering from open heart surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with she and Ron. We wish her a very speedy recovery and look forward to them returning home to NC.

Newsletter DEADLINE
Tuesday, July 11th

Tom Sterrett, President

Howdy!

June and summer already? The July show is fast approaching! The new Chamber of Commerce is now open. Go by and see our museum display there and all the rest!

Don't forget to sign up for hosting at the museum or call me, Al Pribble or Tom Marsh if you just want to help out for an hour or two. Please arrive by 11:45 so that you counted the drawer and are ready to open at 12 Noon. Thanks in advance.

When you do host, don't forget to: Welcome everyone, answer the phone with "Gem and Mineral Museum", and find some housekeeping to do during slow times. Please, if you are hosting, do not work on stones or projects in the workroom. Concentrate on our visitors!

At the new chamber site, we're trying something new. Next to our brochure holder will be coupons for "A Free Gift, with every purchase or donation". Please keep those coupons when redeemed so we can gather a traffic count of people visiting our site at the chamber. The gift is a small amethyst or citrine druzy, which will be kept behind the counter. Also, don't forget to mention our raffle tickets and our donation jar and box.

For our June meeting at the Masonic Lodge, we will be doing a live and a silent auction after our brief business meeting and light refreshments. Please bring a rock, specimen, gemstone, mineral cluster, book or such to donate and put up for auction. Anything rock related is welcome. See you there!

And as always…Rock On!

Minutes–May 25, 2017–General Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Sterrett at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2017, at the Masonic Lodge.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 45 members and 3 guests present; two of whom will be joining: Jeanne Henrickson and Nancy Davis.

Minutes – Tom Sterrett asked if there were any corrections or additions to the last minutes and there were none.

Treasurer – Lake Holland stated that our invoices continued to surpass our income for April but not as much as the previous month.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge was present this evening.

Curator – Ralph Crawford reported that our display at the new Chamber of Commerce facility is completed. He indicated that a Geology field trip is in the works.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh thanked those who came to help for the annual museum cleaning. An exterminator was called for the suspected mouse or rat. He circulated a new sign-up sheet for hosting for the month of June. He reminded us of the Taste of Scotland event downtown on June 17, when the museum will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and extra hosts will be needed.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes presented a Certificate of Completion to Lee Bender for completing the cab class. A Waiver of Liability form (for the workshop) will be instituted starting in September and all members will be required to sign this waiver. John and Virginia Bennis will teach a cab class for all those who have passed the initial cab class. The class will cost $20 and money will go towards new wheels for the cabbing machines. John reported there is now a new fee schedule for all classes.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh asked that hosts be sure to suggest to visitors to buy a raffle ticket for our blue topaz set through October. She thanked Mary Bermke who has been a huge help to her. New laser flashlights are available now at $20.

Librarian – Ellen Williams reported that a memorial book has been dedicated to the memory of Rex Larkin.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the deadline for the newsletter will be Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported on the Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig" this coming weekend (3½ hours away). On Wednesday, May 10, another trip is scheduled for Sarah's Creek, which is about 10 miles outside of Clayton, Georgia. There is a Federation trip to Cumberland's Furnace (slag) in Tennessee.

Publicity – Tom Marsh thanked George Fritz for the recent insertion in the Franklin Press. George will work on something that can include the mention of our gift shop.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported two Federation field trips; Mississippi and Virginia. A local trip is scheduled to Cherokee ruby/sapphire mine for Sunday, June 25. Please contact Marsha directly if interested.

Education – Diane Aiello is not present this evening but it was reported that 25 children from Nantahala came today. A big thank you was given to Linda Behr for hosting this group.

OLD BUSINESS:

July Gem Show – It is uncertain as to whether the Community Building will be ready in time; therefore, questions remain as to where the show will be held. Rhonda Blanton stated that the downtown Eclipse Committee, of which she is a member, says it will be the second week of August before the building is ready.

Meeting Minutes cont'd on Page 5

May Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Eclipse – Rhonda Blanton reported that the downtown Eclipse Committee says all motels and hotels are sold out. The Smoky Mountain Center is sold out. Special glasses are being passed out by the downtown group – they have 1000. The Chamber of Commerce has some as well. A downtown block party is planned from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The museum will have packets of moonstone and sunstone available for sale.

Monthly Programs – Next month for our General meeting we will have a lapidary auction with all monies going to the club. Diane Mason will be our auctioneer. In July we will have our ice cream social (please bring toppings) and in August we will have Kim Cochran as a speaker.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wire Wrapping Class – Diane Mason reported an Advanced Wire Wrapping Class to start this fall where students will learn to wrap faceted stones. Cost will be $25 (this does *not* include supplies), with that money going to the club. Please meet with Diane following tonight's meeting and she will work up the dates for this.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. by President, Tom Sterrett. Sara Young drew the tickets for door prizes. Refreshments were served. Afterwards, we viewed a film, "Gems of the World."

Respectfully submitted,

S*usan L. Fritz, Secretary*

Photos by George Fritz and Ralph Crawford

Field Trip

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant

I have been looking into new locations for field trips as close to Franklin as possible with mixed results. Goodensville Mine Rd "under the big rock", near shooting range - sapphires big as "hog turds", and **Sarah's Creek** - field trip **May 6 with 6 club members** in tow found 25 lbs. of *moonstone. I have come to the conclusion: rock hounds are hard to find and new locations even harder. Usually they are in love with the hunt, will go as far as it takes, enjoy bragging about what they find and sharing information about that location. This is why I provide DMC locations for hunts in FL, AL, MS, TN and ETC.; at our meetings, which members are invited to attend. I still try to provide a close location, within 2 hours. We do have 2 or 3 who do these long trips occasionally.

* Most of the moonstone found has been offered towards the Eclipse efforts on August 21st (our gift shop $). Thank you Sarah's Creek gang!

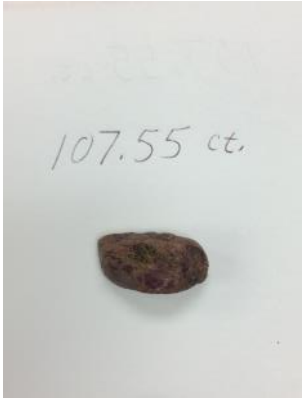
On **June 25,** we are going to the **Cherokee Ruby & Sapphire Mine in Franklin**, it opens at 12 pm and closes at 4 pm. That is a Sunday but they will welcome you until 2 pm. You can easily walk from your car to the sluicing area, maybe 20 ft. They will bring you the 2 buckets for $25 first two ($5 thereafter for a bucket), of native dirt (**cash only**). This is the last totally native mine in our area! Beware: No shade in the flume line but we may be bringing our own shade and all tools provided. Please let me know if you are coming. $5 per person discount if we can muster up 16 members? Veterans automatic $5 off. Bring something cold to drink and a snack if ya like. Need a ride, I can help you with that.

Four people from the Aiken Club are coming up to view the museum on July 7th and we are going to **Chunky Gal/Buck Creek on the 8th**. Time yet to be determined. Joe and Gary, I haven't forgotten about you guys. Anyone who is a current member of our club, has not been there or wants to go again, this is your chance but call please, this location is 40 minutes from Franklin.

Marsha Harmon 828-369-7262 or Lake Holland 828-369-5421

Trips already listed: Prospect, VA. June 17. Listed on board in Museum. They will be looking for kyanite, garnet, and black tourmaline.

Details on the Museum board for all trips or get handout at our general meeting. Must be a member in good standing and we ask that you volunteer in some way to the club.



Marsha Harmon teaches Mineral Identification at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts.
One of her students found this 107.55 ct. ruby at Rose Creek Mine during June 2017 session.

Alba Rowland

Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus

I frequently tell people that hosting at the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum is a great way to meet people and you don't know who that person might be. A number of years back Ray Behr related such an incident to me.

Ray was hosting at the museum when a woman walked in and cheerily announced "I'm Home". An odd statement that might be construed as I am back in Franklin. Such was not the case and she was indeed home. Her name was Alba Rowland and she and husband Brice and children lived in the "Old Jail" from 1962 to 1970. Alba was married to Brice Rowland (Macon County's Sheriff) who formally appointed her the Jailer. Alba, Brice and their 3 sons, Mitchell, Stephen and David then moved into their new home, the Macon County Jail.

While Brice tended to various problems around the county Alba dealt with prisoners, the requirements of running a jail and raising a family of 3 boys. Alba was known for her sense of humor and I am sure that she could tell some good stories if you consider her unusual occupation (at least for the 1960's) and where she had to raise her family.

At the time that Ray Behr met her she was living in Virginia and had returned to Franklin for a visit. Alba died on Friday, October 28, 2011 and is buried in the Burningtown Baptist Church Cemetery.

If you don't host at the museum, try it, you just might be like Ray that day and meet someone who will make your day.

Auction

Diane Mason, Auctioneer

The June 2017 meeting is on June 29th and will be an Auction. Bring some items to donate. All proceeds from the auction will go to the Gem & Mineral Society. Please, donate only lapidary items. These include rough, slabs, cabs, gemstones, or jewelry items and books. Since we are a 501 (c)(3) any money that you spend can be considered a donation and is tax deductible. Receipts will be available. Remember to bring lots of ca$h.

Come early, get your bidding number, and settle in to donate some money to the club. You might even find that you will have a great time and take home a wonderful purchase.

There will also be a silent auction set up for those who are too bashful to bid.

Classes in Cabbing, Faceting and Wire Wrapping (beginning thru advanced) are currently being taught in the Museum workshop. See the bulletin board to sign up and for more details or contact the Instructor.

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager

For the month of June, Entegra Bank's back lobby now features the museum, our society and all that we do. This is an opportunity to display our brochures and club information, specimens, and 'MEMBER MADE' jewelry items - giving the general public the chance to see what we are all about. Stop by the bank and see what the display looks like. This is FREE advertisement - the bank does not charge to allow us to showcase our society and museum.

Lots of folks are visiting Franklin and stopping in the museum. Sales have been good most days and excellent other days. Hosts never know who will stop in, where they are from and what they are interested in.

Taste of Scotland is June 17th and the club will be super busy, opening very early, setting up a tent and tables outside with items for sale, the sandbox will be open for little visitors to explore in. Since this newsletter will come out after this event, I would like to say thank you if you spent some time helping that day. We have hundreds of visitors who come by our museum and sales are usually excellent. And extra members are always welcome to help on special events like this.

If you missed this event, please remember to help with the next special town event.

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

Display at Entegra Bank

Photos by George Fritz

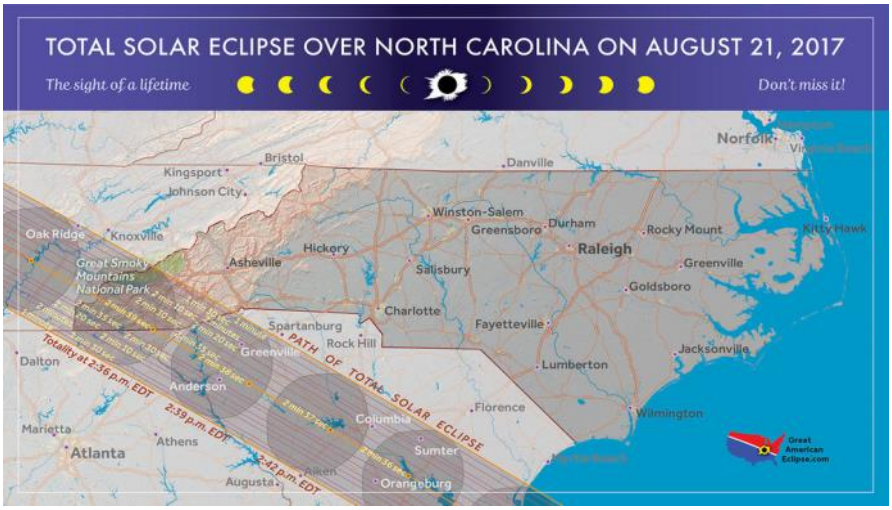
Photos by Ralph Crawford and Sande Lolli

Fun Facts for the 2017 Total Eclipse in North Carolina

- The average width of the path of totality is 71.5 miles across North Carolina.
- The central line covers a distance of 42 miles across North Carolina.
- The average central line duration of totality is 2 minutes 38 seconds across North Carolina.
- The average speed of the Moon's shadow is 1452 mph across North Carolina.
- Before 2017, the last two total solar eclipses visible from North Carolina were on March 7, 1970 and May 28, 1900.

After 2017, the next two total solar eclipses visible from North Carolina will be on May 11, 2078 and September14, 2099.

From eclipsewise.com
2017 Total Solar Eclipse in NC
/www.greatamericaneclipse.com/north-carolina/



Emerald - Rare Massive Gem Found on NC Farm May Be Worth $1

Published August 31, 2010 Fox News

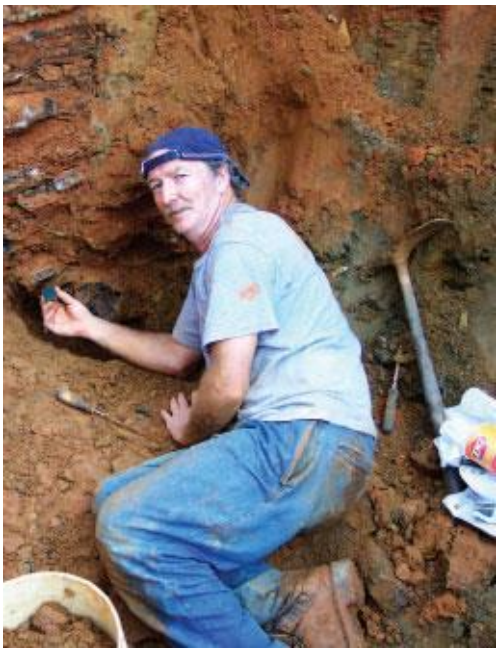
A rare massive gem found on a farm in North Carolina could be worth more than a million dollars and tells an interesting geological history of The Tarheel State. The 65-carat emerald was unearthed in the rural community of Hiddenite, about 50 miles Northwest of Charlotte. Gem experts say the emerald, dubbed the Carolina Emperor, could be the biggest ever discovered in North America.

Although an emerald this size is an unusual find, one geologist says the prevalence of gemstones here scratches the surface of a rich geological history in North Carolina.

"We can see that really no place on earth today was any more geologically spectacular than North Carolina in the past," said Dr. Kevin Stewart, who has been a professor of Geological Sciences at the University of North Carolina for 24 years.

Geologists believe you can find huge sapphires and emeralds in North Carolina similar to those found in far off places like South America and Africa because the two used to be connected. Stewart's research focuses on the changes in the earth's crust and the plate tectonic history of mountainous areas.

"Emeralds are pretty but the way we read the history of the earth is rocks," Stewart says. "What is neat is the really long history we have, and being able to read this through the rocks that aren't gemstones. Once we start reading those rocks you can really start to get an interesting geological imagination to what this place use to really look like."



He says the discovery of rocks and gems in North Carolina, like those in Africa and South America, is proof that the seven continents were once attached. Geologists have studied more than a billion years of plate tectonic movement in North Carolina. The Appalachian Mountains in the area used to be the size of the Himalayas, and included huge exploding volcanoes. But the continents eventually pushed apart as the earth's outer shell broke into pieces and moved around.

"So when I'm sitting in my office here in Chapel Hill, it used to be attached to South America," Stewart said.

So while gem-lovers are fascinated by what may be the biggest emerald ever uncovered in North America, scientists in North Carolina are using the new found attention to showcase the state's 1.8-Billion-year-old geological history that is closely connected to far-off places around the world.

Terry Ledford holding the uncut Carolina Emperor 30 feet below grade at the Adams farm, August 2009. Photo courtesy Jeff Schlottman.

From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

Gem and Mineral Shows

July 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC

Franklin Faceters Frolic 10; The Factory; 1024 GA Road/US Hwy 441; Thurs & Fri 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sat 10:00AM to 4:00 PM; Norm Holbert 828-634-0350; normholbert@comcast.net; franklinfacetersfrolic.com

July 27, 28, 29 & 30, Franklin, NC

Macon County Gemboree The original Franklin Gem Show; Thurs thru Sat 10:00 AM

to 6:00 PM; Sun 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Sponsored by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin

Other Events

March 18 to December 16, Franklin, NC

SEBA 3rd Saturday; BlueGrass Jam Session; Historic Cowee School; 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM; FREE

Franklin, NC; Cowee Community

T. M. Rickman General Store; 259 Cowee Creek Road; Saturdays; 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

July 4, Downtown Franklin, NC

Full day of food, games, cornhole tournament, etc.; 10:00 AM Parade; 7:00 PM Entertainment on Stage; 9:30 PM Fireworks; Franklin Chamber 828-524-3161

July 15, Downtown Franklin, NC

Applachian Heritage Festival; 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

August 11 & 12, Franklin, NC

9th Annual Mountain High BBQ Festival & Car Show; Macon County Fairgrounds; 11:00 AM

August 21, Downtown Franklin, NC

The Great American Solar Eclipse; Eclipse Block Party; Monday 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM; more details to follow soon

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734

First Class Mail

Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2017		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June	27	29 **
July	25	27 Ice Cream Social
August	29	31 Elections
September	26	28 Banquet
October	24	26
November	14	16
December	12	16 End of Year Party Saturday

**** General Meeting at Masonic Lodge 50 Church Street, Franklin, NC**

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month in the West Large Meeting Room of 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.