

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
OCTOBER 2016
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 \$25.00 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.



**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

Only 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 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. Please remember us when planning your estate.

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
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director (2016)	Norm Holbert	634-0350
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.	TBD	
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	TBD	
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	Steve Dillon	706-782-2389
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Ellen Williams	774-203-8017
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



American Federation

Bulletin Awards
 1994 (7th), 1995 (2nd),
 1996 (2nd), 1997 (5th),
 1998 (5th), 1999 (3rd),
 2000 (5th), 2004 (7th),
 2005 (2nd) 2006 (10th)
 2008 (5th) 2010(3rd)
 2014 (3rd)



Southeast Federation

Bulletin Awards
 1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95
 1996-99 (1st)
 2003 2nd New Editor
 2004 (2nd), 2005 (2nd)
 2006 (1st), 2008 (2nd)
 2010(1st), 2014 (1st)

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

October Meeting

Date: October 27, 2016

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building
on 441 South

Program: **Anita Westlake, GMS member,**
to speak about Geodes

November Birthdays

2 - Charlene Galbrecht

8 - Janet Hayles

10 - Diana Jurss

17 - Virginia Bennis

16 - Judi Kizer



November Anniversaries

25 - Steve & Sherlene Dillon



Membership renewals are now due.

**Please pay Ellen Crawford at the meeting or
mail a check to the museum "attention mem-
bership"**

\$
**KEEP
CALM
AND
PAY YOUR
DUES**

***THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3rd is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



Tom Sterrett, President

Howdy!

A new year coming up and a new slate of officers for our club this year. I am honored to have been selected to serve as this year's president. Thank you!

I would hope I can lead and direct as good as Al Pribble has done for the past 2 years. Well done Al.

Some new things that will be coming up: New Budget, Exciting Field Trips, Great Classes, Meetings, Speakers and Much More. Stay tuned.

Remember to sign up for all our volunteer opportunities. Any and all help is appreciated.

Let's make this year a great one for the club.

As always, "Rock On".



Minutes – September 29, 2016 – General Meeting
Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, September 29, 2016, at 6:35 PM in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Due to the fact that tonight is installation of officers and dinner, the business meeting was extremely abbreviated.

Membership - Ellen Crawford reported 54 members and 4 guests present, 2 of whom joined: we welcome new members: Susan Martin and Sue Sarver. She reminded everyone that *it is time for annual membership dues to be paid.*

Scholarship - Arlon Eldridge reported that the Committee has once again chosen Leslie Montoya to be awarded with a \$2,000 scholarship, which will be presented this evening. Arlon indicated that there are two more applicants and that in the future, local high school students will be considered. Arlon reported that we are getting approximately \$3,000 together for teacher mini-grants.

OTHER BUSINESS:

John Hayes spoke about contributing blood for Darrell Ledford's wife who has very serious medical problems and will be requiring blood at least once weekly. If you are able or willing to donate blood in her name, please contact Mr. Ledford directly.

There being no further business, the abbreviated business meeting was adjourned followed by a covered dish dinner and installation of officers.

Commissioner Ronnie Beale presided over installation of the following new officers:

President – Tom Sterrett

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge

Treasurer – Lake Holland

Assistant Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios

Secretary – Susan Fritz

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh

Board of Directors – Cy Amrich

Board of Directors – Diane Mason



A very special thank you went out to Jane Morgan who coordinated the banquet this evening.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful and very enjoyable evening by cooking, baking and/or bringing delicious food and refreshments for our fantastic meal! Thank you as well to all members who helped with set up and clean up.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary





Notes From The Classroom

Diane Mason - Instructor

Well, we are almost finished with the WIRE I class for this fall. As of this printing there will only be one more session on November 5. It has been an amazing time with four guys and one lady. Unfortunately, two of the girls decided that for right now wire wrapping was not for them. When a student is not satisfied with wire or is just too busy to practice, I encourage them to be brave enough to say so. Just because I love it and am retired with time on my hands does not mean that everyone is there with me. Kudos to these two for your efforts and bravery, but sadly, I miss you.

We will be displaying our finished projects at the November meeting. Please come and see what we have done.



Rock hounding on National Forest Land

Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus

Our society does not recommend rock hounding on National Forest Land. The reason is that there are liability issues involved when one gives advice. This does not mean that you cannot or should not be rock hounding on National Forest Land. It is incumbent upon you to know and understand the rules they have laid down for these type of activities.

The National Forest Service defines a rock hound as "A person who hunts and collects minerals as a hobby." They also state that there is "no objection to taking a handful of rock, mineral or petrified wood specimens from the surface of National Forest Lands. As a rock hound the following rules apply.

1. The specimens are to be for personal, non-commercial use.
2. The specimens should not be of archeological value. This is defined as all artifacts, projectile points, chips and flakes. One has to wonder about the logic behind this rule so be forewarned, it is the rule.
3. No mechanical equipment or blasting is to be utilized.
4. No significant surface disturbance must result. Here, disturbance is defined as where natural recovery would not be expected to take place within a reasonable period of time. Further, there should be no unacceptable or unreasonable air or water degradation. This allows for gold panning so long as mechanical or suction equipment is not used.
5. The collecting must not conflict with any existing mineral permits, leases, claims or sales. There can be a lot of uncertainty's here.

All in all, the rules are not unreasonable so have fun and just exercise some judgment and common sense.

Museum's Beginning

Ron Rossomando, Historian



Our Gem Museum is a wonderful place to meet new people when we host, or improve our lapidary skills using the workshop and equipment, or just to visit and talk with fellow Society members. We may take the museum for granted, since it has been in operation for over 42 years and there's always someone in the museum hosting. But it wasn't like that in the beginning.

The County Commissioners had a dilemma: what to do with the Old Jail: sell it, demolish it, rent it, renovate for County use, etc. We were fortunate that the founding members of the Society had a vision to establish a gem museum. By 1973 there was a "Gem" drain threatening to rob Franklin, one of the largest gem producing areas, of its finest specimens. The founders hoped a museum would be a place where the gem history of the area could be preserved for all to see. On June 21, 1973 Mrs. Betty Linder, Vice President of the Society, with the help of Mr. R.C. Carpenter, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. M.E. Doser, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce (note the connection to the Chamber) met with the County Commissioners and obtained their agreement to permit the Gem and Mineral Society

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Museums' Beginning cont'd from Page 6

to establish a Gem and Mineral Museum and Workshop in the old County Jail. The Commissioners agreed to permit the occupancy, rent free, as long as the building could be maintained. The Board of Directors accepted the offer and unanimously passed a resolution to accept the offer and established the Gem Museum. The Society mobilized its members and other non-member volunteers to renovate the building. On our web site there is a reference to the many hours the members devoted to working on the Old Jail in order to meet a May, 1974 opening. In addition to the over 2,000 hours members worked many non-members worked on the restorations also. Cash and material contributions were received by many residents and businesses of Franklin.

The Founders Plaque has 24 names on it, many are non-Society members. The purpose of the plaque was to recognize those who contributed \$50 or more towards the restoration project. Additional funds were raised by having monthly bake sales on the sidewalk in Franklin.

Nantahala Lumber Company donated the paneling and ceilings for the entrance hall and four local carpet dealers each carpeted one room. Local plumbers and electricians donated material and labor, the shelves were made by the shop class in Franklin High School. It was a community effort.

Saturday, May 25, 1974 was opening day. The goal of opening the museum was met; a dream comes true for our Society. We now had a place to call our own; we have our own Lapidary Work Shop where those who wish can improve their skills in our hobby, or teach others who desire to learn more about the lapidary arts.

The library started with donated books from members and non-members. We have inherited a wonderful legacy from the founding members. Their time and effort paid off in creating a beautiful museum that benefits the Town of Franklin, Macon County and the Society. Other clubs envy us for what we have. For the past 42 years, volunteering to host or perform maintenance has always been a challenge, but this is our museum and all of us should be proud to put in the time to make our Museum one of the best gem museums east of the Mississippi. Be part of it, you will be glad you did.

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



It seems that the fall tourist season is already in full swing. Most days, the hosts are super busy with guests coming in to visit our museum and assisting them in purchasing items from the gift shop for friends at home or even for Christmas presents.

Please check out the great new books available in the Gift Shop – I have managed to find new and interesting books for children and have highlighted them in the NC Room of the museum. Also available are new wire wrapping and jewelry making books.

By the time you get this newsletter, PumpkinFest will be over. Thanks to each and every member who were so generous of their time and efforts in making this busy day so successful. With an outdoor table featuring jewelry and specimens, cutting geodes, monitoring the sandbox with the children, and assisting in the museum, it takes a lot of volunteers to get thru the day.

Anamay, Sherry and I want to thank those who have donated items to the gift shop. Once given to us, we try to make accurate decisions in pricing those items when they are offered for sale. Please respect our efforts.

We have had another great year thanks to everyone - see you in the museum soon!

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

Lake Holland - Assistant



* There are several projected field trips coming up. We have been invited to come along with the GMS & CCGMS clubs by some of their rock hounds, on a couple of trips.

October 22, Saturday - Brasstown, NC - Mason Farm, staurolite hunt. \$20 for each person with 5 gallon bucket limit. An invited trip by GMS. Club members only.

November 6, Sunday – Chattooga County, GA, Summerville crazy lace agate hunt with CCGMS 10:00 AM. Club members only.

November 19, Saturday - Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, SC; 8:00 AM to dusk; \$15 per person. You can find smoky quartz, amethyst, skeletal quartz, milky quartz, clear quartz, garnets, aquamarine, drusy quartz, mica, & epidote . This is a warmer location a couple hours away. Club members only.

Please read the more detailed information and note sign-up sheets, both found on the bulletin board in the Museum and/or call Marsha Harmon Field Trip Coordinator (828-369-7262) or Lake Holland.

Suggestions for new field trip locations are always appreciated.



Federation Trip at Arlon's Cowee Mountain Ruby Mine last month ...a few more photos

From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies Gem and Mineral Shows

November 18 - 20, 2016, Marietta, GA

31st Annual Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society; Cobb County Civic Center; 548 Marietta Parkway; Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Free Admission; Contact Tami Watkins at 404-861-8670; CCGMS.TamiWatkins@gmail.com; Web site: <http://www.cobbcountymineral.org/> and



November 18 - 20, 2016, Marietta, GA

Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies Annual Meeting hosted by Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society. For registration, events and hotel information www.amfed.org/sfms

November 25 - 27, 2016, Salem, VA

Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society; Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153; Friday 2pm – 7pm; Saturday 10am – 6pm; Sunday 12pm – 5pm; Admission \$5.00 good for all 3 days; Door prizes, Fluorescent mineral display & new this year a video room showing videos about rocks & minerals; Door prizes & grand prize drawn Sunday at 4:30pm

December 9 - 11, 2016, Lawrenceville, GA

21st annual Mammoth Rock Show, The North Atlanta Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show; Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugar Loaf Pkwy, Friday & Saturday 10 to 6 and Sunday 10 to 5; Free Parking; Admission \$5 adult (good for all 3 days)

November Birthstone Twins - Citrine and Topaz - The “Healing” Citrine and The Fiery Topaz!



Individuals born in November can choose between two sunny gemstones to brighten up this chilly month. November's birthstones, topaz and citrine, are both known for their yellowish orange colors and their supposedly calming energies, said to bring warmth and fortune to those who wear them.

Topaz is a gemstone exhibiting an array of spectacular colors. The stone was believed to be symbolic of the Egyptian Sun God Ra, with its brilliant golden glow and fiery intensity.

Owing to this quality of the Topaz, it was fashioned into several amulets and talismans.

The citrine is diametrically opposite to its November cousin in quality and disposition. While the topaz is associated with passion, intensity and determination, the Citrine has taken on the gentler qualities of men; peace, prosperity, loyalty, healing and creativity. The stone is also known as the 'Healing Quartz' in many sects.



According to legend, the Topaz was believed to control heat, having the power to cool boiling water and consequently, anger in a person, cutting through their despair, rage or confusion and lending clarity of thought to the wearer of the gemstone. During the Middle Ages, the stone was used by Royalty and Clergy. An interesting although strange belief entailed that the topaz engraved with a Falcon enabled the wearer to cultivate the goodwill of emperors and kings, thus bestowing peace and prosperity to the land.

Citrine is believed to bestow good fortune and success to the wearer, earning it the title 'The Success Stone'. The belief entails that the stone is used to promote success in business if placed in the cash box of a shop, worn or carried, awarding it another interesting moniker, 'The Stone of The Merchants'.

Topaz is a silicate mineral containing fluorine and aluminum. Like the diamond, the topaz is extremely hard but is easier to break than the diamond. Chemically, the topaz is aluminum silicate fluoride hydroxide. Owing to the strong chemical bonds in the mineral, the gemstone is among the hardest silicates, occurring in a variety of sizes, from tiny crystals to massive rocks.

Citrine is a variety of quartz exhibiting an array of colors ranging from pale yellow to brown. Natural citrines are very rare, these gemstones are created when the Amethyst and smoky quartz are heat treated. It is extremely difficult to tell a cut citrine apart from a yellow topaz visually. The two however differ in hardness. Citrines have ferric impurities that impart various hues to the stone.

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October	25	27
November	15	17
December	13	17 End of Year Party

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.