

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume XXXIX FEBRUARY 2013
Number 2
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 web-page. 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.

Articles written by members of our club may be borrowed provided credit is given to the author and *The Mountain Gem*.



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
www.fgmm.org

Society email:
franklingemsociety@fastmail.fm
Editor: themountaingem@fastmail.fm

**2012-2013 Officers And
Board Of Directors**

President	Lon Peden	371-8450
Past President	Tom Morley	1-331-9512
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Sharon John	369-0161
Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Assistant Treasurer	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Director (2014)	Linda Smith	342-8288
Director (2013)	Wally Smith	386-626-4082
Director (2014)	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Director (2013)	Al Pribble	369-2548

** Voting members on the Board

+++++

Museum Managers

**Museum Manager	Interim is Al Pribble	
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Al Pribble	369-2548
**Curator	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator Ass't	Sharon John	369-0161
**Gift Shop.	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Doris Smith	386-626-4082
Museum Workshop	Al Pribble	369-2548
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	John Hayes	524-8062
Calendar Chairman	Al Pribble	369-2548

**2012-2013
Committee Chairmen**

Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Constitution/By-Laws	Linda Behr	349-0827
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	369-0161
Librarian	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Membership	Linda Behr	349-0827
**Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Linda Smith	342-8288
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Jean Emerson	828-293-7784



**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
Email for the Society is: franklingemsociety@fastmail.fm

General Meeting

Date: February 28, Thursday

Place: Macon County
Community Center
on 441 South

Program:
*"Let's Celebrate the
Club's Anniversary"*

View past pictures in our albums.

We also hope to view a video
(from the SFMS) of mines from 25
years ago.



**Lon Peden,
President's Message for February**

A start on a new month; a great start.

Let's start with the museum: leaks all fixed, the county is replacing the much needed bathroom rain damaged areas, rain damaged area of ceiling in the meeting room; carpet almost ready to shampoo; plants ordered for the fountain area; Gift Shop Manager is fluff and puffing the Gift Shop with lots of new ideas; membership drive is soon to kick off; working Al Pribble to death, just kidding! Soon we will be ready to kick off a new season, can't wait.

Come on and help! We really need all members to help, thanks in advance. Lon

March Birthdays

2 – Shirley Burley
8 – Diane Aiello
14 – John Speer
20 -- Tom Marsh
24 – Gary Gaetano
27 – Gloria Durfey



**MARCH newsletter deadline will
be March 11.**



**The meeting dates for 2013
are on the label page.**

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
Board of Directors Meeting of January 27, 2013**

The January 2013 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Lon Peden in the Museum meeting room.

Present were: Lon Peden, Tom Morley, Fred Plesner, Dean Plesner, Al Pribble, Linda Behr, Arlon Eldridge, Tom Morley, Elena Marsh, Linda Smith, Marie Tsacrios, Tom Sterrett and Sharon John.

Treasurer's Report: We had a total income of \$719.75, total expenses of \$658.71, leaving us with a net income of \$61.04. Arlon Eldridge rented 20 tables for a wedding at \$10.00 a piece, giving us \$200.00.

Publications: Linda Behr reported that the deadline for *The Mountain Gem* is February 8th.

Publicity: Fred Plesner reported that he mailed a package to a student in Michigan, which included brochures, maps and some specimens. The Downtown Merchants are getting a Valentine Basket together and Fred will cut a geode and donate it.

Curator: Fred Plesner would like to buy some flats to store specimen. Lon Peden and Tom Morley said they will donate large white flats to the curator.

Gift Shop: Elena Marsh reported that she has been going through the storage areas and reorganizing everything in stock. Also she will be recycling all museum paper products, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. She will for take all to the county dump.

Museum Manager: Al Pribble has come up with a revised Shop equipment usage rate. He will be available on Thursdays from 10-4 if anyone wants to come in and use the machines. You must call him first.

He contacted Lowe's about replacing the carpet in the meeting room and library. He has one estimate of \$800 per room. We will know more later. Al plans to change the Museum's email address at a later date.

Linda Smith reported that at the February General meeting she will show a movie on Gem Mines in N C.

A school group is scheduled for Thursday January 31. Volunteers are scheduled.

There are reviews on the Internet for our Museum. It is called "Trip Advisor.com"—check it out people!

Tom Morley made a motion to not renew with Smokey Mountain Hosts as it is too expensive. Al Pribble seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Lon Peden presented the new 2013 budget. Linda Smith made a motion to accept it. Tom Morley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon John, Secretary

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
General Meeting of January 29, 2013**

The January 2013 General Meeting was called to order by President Lon Peden at 6:40 p.m.

There were 18 members and three visitors present. We also have a new member: Mr. Al Klatt. Welcome ! Treasurers Report: We had a total income of \$7196.75, total expenses of \$658.71, leaving us with a net income of \$61.04.

There will be a Gun Show in Franklin next month at which time our tables will be rented.

Education: Diane Aiello reported that there were 10 children from Murphy that toured the Museum. Fred Plesner and Al Pribble were their hosts.

Gift Shop: Elena Marsh is getting her storage areas reorganized and updating the display areas. She thanked Linda Smith, Linda Behr and Diane Aiello for the items that they donated. She will be recycling paper, aluminum and plastic. She wants the Museum to be Eco friendly.

Museum Manager: Al Pribble reported that he has come up with a flat rate on using the shop machines. If you plan to use them, you must be checked out on them first before use. He also plans to be available on Thursdays from 10-4 p.m. for anyone who might want to use the machines. You must call him first.

He said that County Maintenance will be repairing our bathroom at no cost to us.

The carpets in the Museum will be cleaned before we open in May.

Reported by Lon: Scholarship Chairman, Jean Emerson said that she is sending out packets to all colleges for all juniors and seniors (who are majoring in Earth Science) to apply to our society for a scholarship.

Ray Behr made a motion to accept the budget as is with a possibility of amending it at a future date. Tom Morley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dean Plesner, Tom Marsh and Marie Tsacrios will be reviewing the books. (Editor's addition: Jerry Kolle will join in on the review.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon John, Secretary

Door Prizes Winners: 1. Ray Behr, 2. Al Pribble, 3. Linda Behr, 4. Tom Aiello, 5. Jerry Kolle, 6. Tom Marsh, 7. Sandi Lolli, 8. Al Klatt.

Refreshments were served and a movie was shown.

Do Elected Representatives Read Our Emails? Yes!

By John Martin, ALAA

Writing to elected officials does get some response and lets them know that we are out there and that we care. If more people write, maybe our feelings and ideas will get across. I emailed California Congressman Kevin McCarthy about proposed legislation S2921.

An excerpt from my email: As a constituent, I treasure the public lands in the California desert and want to see them remain open and accessible by all of America's recreationalists and not just special interests and hikers. I want these special public lands to remain open and accessible for my family and future generations. I urge you to NOT support the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 as it is currently written. . . .

Visitors spend more than \$230 million annually on outdoor recreation in the California desert, according to federal data, and this bill will reduce this amount of local revenue by closing off more public lands to ALL forms of public recreation on these now open public lands. . . .

From Congressman McCarthy's response: Dear John: While I support protecting our natural resources for future generations to enjoy, in the state of California we already have millions of acres of federally managed and protected land. This is why I am wary of designating additional federal lands in our state which, depending on the type of designation, can restrict public access, enjoyment, and recreation on these lands. As your Representative in Congress, I will keep your comments in mind should this legislation be voted on in the House. Sincerely, Kevin McCarthy, Member of Congress. -- Excerpted from the Oct. to Dec., 2010, *ALAA Newsletter*

A little humor:

I went to my doctor yesterday.

After a long wait in the outer office, my name was finally called.

When I got to the examining room, the nurse pointed to the scale and said, "I need to get your weight today."

I replied, "One hour and five minutes."

on the *lighter* side
Fall 2012

Heat Treating Rocks

Author unknown

You have just removed a slab from an agate rough, and you are disappointed with the color. The overall color is washed out white. At this point, most rock hounds would toss both the slab and the rough into their rock garden and write off the investment in the piece. Well, there may be life yet in that non-descriptive piece of rough. Try heat treating agate, jasper, petrified wood and many other types of rocks. Almost any sedimentary rock can benefit from the process. A recent example was a piece of dull brown agate. After heat-treating, it became a deep red.

How, you ask, does one go about heat treating a piece of rock? The process is relatively simple, but is a trial and error process. The slab should be immersed in a small pan of sand and placed in a range oven.

Turn the oven temperature to warm - about 200 degrees, for about one hour to expel any moisture trapped in the stone, then raise the temperature 25 degrees every half hour until the temperature is up to 350 degrees. Leave it at this setting for two hours, then turn off the oven and allow the rock to come to room temperature without opening the door.

Now you can check the results. If you are satisfied, you can slab the rough and heat-treat the lot. If not, turn the slab over and repeat the process. You can skip the time at 200 degrees since all the moisture has already been baked out by now. Raise the temperature to 400 degrees at this time. Continue raising the final temperature by 50 degrees until the results you want are reached. Most ovens will go up to 500 degrees. If you need to go higher, some special oven will be required.

Source: *The Petrified Digest*, 12/12, via February, 2013 *Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral & Fossil News*

From your editor:

We have no program report this month. Our dependable writer, Rex Larkin was unable to attend the meeting; his excuse is that he is sick again. Rex has had a bad winter with his breathing problems according to mutual friends. We wish him well!

Barite or Baryte?

By Fred Plesner, Curator for the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

Barite or Baryte as it is sometimes called is a common mineral that takes its name from the Greek word "Barys" meaning heavy. It is used in many ways but it is seldom used in jewelry because of its softness. It is an interesting collector's mineral because it may be found in numerous colors and in a variety of growth habits.

I have never heard of its being mined in Macon County but it was mined extensively in Western North Carolina. Some of these mining companys were Carolina Barite, which operated the Clondike Mine in Madison County, the B. W. Gahagan Mine located northeast of Walnut Gap in Madison County and the Rollins Chemical Company. Most of the Barite mining operations weren't very large but the B. W. Gahagan Mine was said to have been worked to a depth of 200 feet and produced around 30,000 tons of Barite and the Clondike Mine was worked to a depth of 350 feet and is said to have produced around 300,000 tons of Barite.

So what is Barite used for?

It is used for those delightful barium cocktails that many of us have had to swallow when having x-rays made of our intestines. It is used in the manufacture of fireworks, paint and matches, the manufacture of sugar, the production of hydrogen peroxide, as a flame retardant and as a paper filler. It is also mixed with graphite to make pencil leads. Today the largest user of Barite is within the well drilling business. In well drilling it is mixed as a mud and used to float the drill rod and to seal the well.

The Stackhouse Mine was in Madison County and shipped three railroad carloads a week. One carload a week was said to have been shipped to a grain milling plant. The grain mill was said to have adulterated their flour with the Barite since it was heavier and cheaper than milled flour. Now you know why the tops of your mom's biscuits wouldn't brown.

As a gemstone it is rarely cut as it is very soft, a 3 to 3.5 on the Mohs scale. Because of its rarity as a cut stone you may want to consider purchasing a stone if you are a collector of unique items.

We have a variety of specimens of Barite in the museum from such varied places as Georgia, Oklahoma, Virginia, South Carolina, Colorado and Mexico. To begin your search you only need stop at the touch table where we have a beautiful specimen of cockscomb barite. Unfortunately we do not have a specimen of Barite from North Carolina so if you have a specimen you would consider donating to the museum we would like to hear from you.

Sources:

Smithsonian Rock and Gem - Ronald L Bonewitz - 2008

Gems of the World -Cally Oldershaw - 2009

Mines Miners & Minerals of Western N. C. - Lowell Presnell - 2005

More humor:

Q: "What is the difference between a leaverite and an onion?"

A: "No one cries when you chop up a leaverite."

Q: "What did one volcano say to the other?"

A: "I lava you!"

Q: "What did one mountain say to the other mountain after the earthquake?"

A: "It wasn't my fault!"



From *The Rockhounder*, June 2008; Wendell Mohr, editor

Via: *The Mineral Mite* June, 2008

The following condensed information was obtained from the SFMS website.

Tom Sterrett is our person responsible for collecting the stamps.

Under the guidelines adapted at the annual meeting in Jacksonville Florida, only usable stamp donated to the stamp program will receive credit toward the drawings for scholarships (see page 37 SFMS constitution and by-laws). There seems to be quite a bit of confusion about what are acceptable stamps.

The club stamp chairperson shall:

- A) Encourage the member to save all clean lightly canceled stamps, trim excess paper to not less ¼ inch nor more than ½ inch around the stamp.
- B) Go through the stamps collected and remove stamps that are torn, have scotch tape on them or are so heavily canceled as to make them undesirable as a collector's item.
- C) Leave stamp on envelopes if it is over 50 years old.
- D) Process foreign stamps the same way as US, except letter size envelopes and postal cards should be saved.
- E) Forward the stamps to the SFMS Stamps Chairman in packages of ½ pound or more. Be sure the club's name is included.

The SFMS stamp chairman shall:

- 1. When the stamps are received, weigh them and log in the date, amount and sender.
- 2. Trim off any excess paper and discard any unusable stamps, weigh them again and change the recorded weight if necessary.
- 3. Annually after September 1st, total each club weight donated during the last 12 months and total donations. Obtain each clubs percentage of the total. Record the club with the highest percent and calculate the average percent.

On or about 30 days prior to the SFMS Annual Meeting each participating club will be notified of the number of times their club will be submitted into the drawing for a scholarship (the club with the highest percent, 4 times , the above average clubs, 3 times, the below average clubs, 2 times).

At the annual meeting, a drawing will be made to award Work Shop Scholarships, the number based on the funds received from the sale of stamps.

HISTORY: The SFMS stamp program, founded in 1999, is a volunteer action of member clubs of the Southeast Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies. The purpose of the program is to offer free scholarships to participating clubs. At present, approximately 50% of the clubs in the Federation participate in the stamp program. The only requirement to participate is: The club must be a member in good standing in the SFMS and contribute stamps to the program on a regular bases.

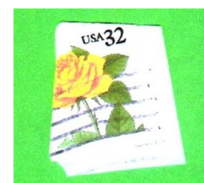
The drawing is held at the annual meeting of the SFMS. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the amount of money earned from the sale of the stamps. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the stamps goes toward scholarships to attend Federation Workshops at William Holland or Wildacres. Winners of scholarships have a choice of which school or workshop they wish to attend at no cost, however student must pay their own travel expenses to and from the school. The number of scholarships awarded have steadily grown since this program began, if we continue to receive enough good quality stamps to sell.

Most used postage stamps have some resale value to collectors. Commemorative stamps and foreign bring in the most money, however other good clean definitive stamps only have a marginal value if they are off paper. One thing to consider when saving stamps is, are they desirable as a collector's item.

The stamp collector is looking for the cleanest well center stamp he can find for his collection. Stamps that are torn, have heavy cancellations so as to make the stamp unsuitable, are discarded and no credit will be given to the club.

**Please save newsletter stamps;
I try to use Commemorative Stamps.**

Examples of Unacceptable Stamps



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of The Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA)(HOST)

An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Pennsylvanian Age Plant Fossils

Durham Mines, Rockcastle Formation, Walker County, Georgia

**March 2, 2013 9:00 AM EST - 4:00 PM EST**

The Durham Mines are Georgia's best locality for beautifully preserved Paleozoic plant fossils. Commonly referred to as 'Fern Fossils', but more accurately described as "Coal Fossils", the site offers a wide variety of species: Lycopods such as *Lepidodendron*; giant horsetails such as *Calamites* (and its leaves known as *Annularia*); and seed ferns such as *Pecopteris* and *Alethopteris*. You can occasionally find fossilized seeds. For identification purposes, we will provide a sheet to get you started, but any good fossil book will be useful as well when you get home.

The fossils are found by splitting the abundant shale at the site. Most will yield twigs and bark, but with persistence you will find good leaves.

Meet: At the site, on Durham Rd. in Walker Co., Ga. This is in the NW corner of the state of Georgia. 430 Durham Rd., Rising Fawn, GA 30738

Directions: From Lafayette, Ga. follow GA Hwy. 136 West for 20 miles, to GA. Hwy 157. Turn right, going North on GA Hwy. 157 for 6.0 miles. Durham Rd. will be on the left. Turn left on Durham Rd. The mines and the parking area are .50 (1/2) mile on the right. Drive time from the intersection of US27 and GA 136 West in Lafayette, is approximately 30 minutes.

Tools: Bring digging tools. A flat chisel and hammer are essential. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material.

Other: Also, bring lunch and fluids. This is a good site for children. Any pets **MUST** be on a leash at all times. This is not a fee site. There is no required fee. However, the Rome Ga. Mineral Society will be collecting small donations for the owner of the site; Lula Land Trust.

This field trip will be postponed if there are any winter weather advisories; watches, or warnings, issued for Walker Co., GA, 24 hours in advance of the trip. Make up date would be the following Saturday.

Contact: Jeff Deere Rome Ga. Mineral Society Field Chair - H (770) 386-5447, C (770) 655-2298
wjdeere@comcast.net or jeff.deere@brownind.com

If you want to feel rich, count all the gifts you
have that money can't buy.

*Inspirational quotes to live +learn
via Pinterest*

Bench Tips (January 2013)

Bezel Closer

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over your bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

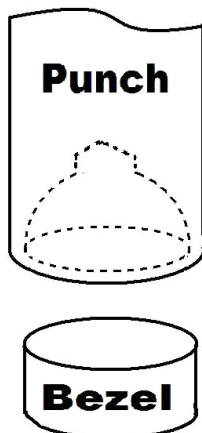
Find a good quality, round steel rod a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, centerpunch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.

Select a ball bur a bit smaller than the steel rod but slightly larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. Now inspect with a lens to be sure the stone is staying level. This is repeated until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Next, you want to force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finally, I burnish the bezel by twisting the punch around.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book [Bench Tips for Jewelry Making](#) on Amazon.com



Coming Events

March 8-10, 2013: Augusta, GA. Co-sponsored by the Aiken Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Society and the Augusta Gem & Mineral Society. The 25th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street, Augusta. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 10-4. Admission: \$3 for adults, children under 16 free with paying adult. Dealers, gem dig, geode cutting, treasure dig, hourly door prize, grab bags, grand door prize, and demonstrations. Contacts: Richard McNutt or Chris Glass. **skype** number: (706) 650-8280; e-mail: rmcnutt9@comcast.net

March 15-17, 2013: Rome, GA. Rome Georgia Mineral Society. The 34th Annual Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show, The Forum, Rome. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5. Free admission. Gems, Jewelry, Minerals, Crystals, Geodes and Fossils. All visitors eligible for free Door Prizes and a Grand Prize drawing. Club members will offer mineral and fossil identification, exhibits, and demonstrations. Contact Jose Santamaria, Show Chair 678.488.9560 or rogams.show@gmail.com
Skype number: (706) 650-8280; e-mail: rmcnutt9@comcast.net;

Bench Tips cont'd

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.

Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$22 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But we found a cheaper alternative at the 99 Cent Store - some gardening utility scissors that were only \$1.07.

I buy a half dozen of them at a time for use in my jewelry classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup, and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies web site is at: <http://www.amfed.org>

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical
[ttp://www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)
 SFMS class information, schedules and registration forms for Wildacres & William Holland can be found at their website.
 Also, the SFMS newsletter, LODESTAR is obtainable on this same website; look for "newsletters."



From *Mini Miners* December 2012

Egg Cartons
 Diamond Dan Publications.

If you collect small specimens, put them in egg cartons. Each specimen will have its own space. Then, carefully place your egg cartons on a shelf where they will be safe. (PS You don't have to keep them in the refrigerator!)



Rates for Shop Usage for the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

Using any one machine----Cabber or trim saw or slab saw

- \$5.00 per 4 hour session (or any part there of)-non-corundum material
- \$8.00 per 4 hour session (or any part there of)-corundum, sapphire, ruby material

Using any two machines simultaneously-such as 2 slab saws

- \$8.00 per 4 hour session (or any part there of)-non-corundum material
- \$10.00 per 4 hour session (or any part there of)-corundum, sapphire, ruby material

Using any three machines simulataniously:---such as 2 slab saws and another machine

- \$12.00 per 4 hour session (or any part there of)-non-corundum material
- \$15.00 per 4 hour session (or any part there of)-corundum, sapphire, ruby material

Facetron---\$10.00 per stone

You may contact Al Pribble for information on any of the above.

Two people must be present, for Safety, while someone is using the machinery.

More Humor Comments:

I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific.

Lily Tomlin

People say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing. That's why we recommend it daily.

Zig Ziglar via Pinterest

DMC Field Trip Sponsored by Augusta Gem & Mineral Society Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, April 26, 2013
8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, April 27, 2013
8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, April 28, 2013

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 4, 2013
8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 5, 2013
8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 6, 2013



"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during April and October of 2013. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events.

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.401.3173 (his cell)

THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL SFMS CLUBS and the GENERAL PUBLIC!

Mark your calendar and tell all your members about these two great events!

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the "Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to obtain a liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

Graves Mountain code of conduct!

a.. Park your vehicle in the designated area(at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).

b.. CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER STRICT ADULT SUPERVISION!

c.. ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.

d.. The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.

e.. Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)

f.. STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!

g.. NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!

h.. NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA!

(The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)

i.. EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Jim Flora

SFMS Webmaster and Field Trip Chair

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To find out a girl's faults, praise her to her
girl friends.

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

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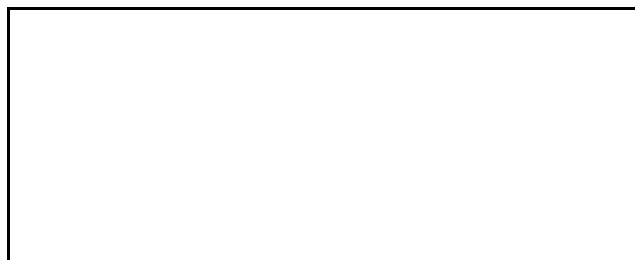
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First Class Mail

Club's Anniversary Celebration



Board and General Meetings for 2013

MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL
JANUARY	29	31
FEBRUARY	26	28
MARCH	26	28
APRIL	23	25
MAY	28	30
JUNE	25	27
JULY	16	18
AUGUST	27	29
SEPTEMBER	24	26
OCTOBER	15	17
NOVEMBER	19	21
DECEMBER	1 pm-5 pm Saturday	14 End of Year Party

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.