

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

JUNE 2018

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 emailed copies of the newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips. If requested, hard copy editions of *The Mountain Gem* will be mailed via USPS for an additional \$25 per year.

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 Educational Chairperson, Patty Nichols at 678-243-8036.

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.**

2017- 2018 Officers And Board of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Tom Sterrett	349-3374
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Museum Manager	Duane Haskell	349-5123
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718
Director (2018)	Mike Gillen	678-772-6375
Director (2018)	Tom Parker	342-3619

Museum

Museum Ass't. Mgr.	OPEN	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Gift Shop Co-Chairs	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
	Diane Mason	706-379-1718
	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Museum Workshop	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	OPEN	

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	Jay Mooney	678-488-0620
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Patty Nichols	678-243-8036
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Kathy Young	941-387-4397
Historian	Ron Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Librarian	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	561-542-9650
Refreshments	OPEN	
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

June Meeting

Date: June 28, 2018

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Robert Carpenter Community Bldg.**

Program: **“Rock Swap”** bring in some of your interesting rocks and swap them for some new ones to add to your collection. Fun for all.



*Happy Belated Birthday
Sandra Moccia
June 13*



July Birthdays

- 2 – Fred Plesner
- 5 – Mary Bermle
- 5 – Shirley Burley
- 7 – Brenda Isaacs
- 8 – Nancy Davis
- 10 – Joellyn Reckwerdt
- 11 – Parker Seaman
- 13 – Ray Metrick
- 14 – Tom Parker
- 15 – Rhoda Haber
- 16 – Sonja Eldridge
- 19 – Stacy Walbridge
- 29 – Barbara Rizzo
- 29 – Joan Wiss



July Anniversaries

- 3 – Mary & Peter Bermke
- 12 – Ted & Joellyn Reckwerdt
- 15 – Jay & JennyLynn Mooney
- 19 – Tom & Winnie Parker
- 31 – Stacy & Kathi Walbridge



**Thursday, July 5, 2018 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Al Pribble, President



I would like to open with a BIG THANK YOU to Jay Mooney, one of our new members who has volunteered to be the Scheduling Chairman. Most of you have probably received a call from him as he tries to get workers to keep the Museum open. It is a huge job. At one time I did it for over a year and I know how time consuming it is. I want to urge all members to help make it as easy as possible by answering the phone when Jay calls or returning his call when you can and volunteering.

All of which brings me to another point – that is, a small group of members are carrying most of the load of maintaining the Museum. The income from the Museum is what makes the classes, workshop, field trips and all other fun things we do, possible. During the month of June for instance, with the Tarran Days, we had 58 slots to fill. So far 22 people have filled those slots.

I might add that it is not for glory that we do these things. We are doing it because it helps our community and provides many people pleasure and some degree of education. Our mission is education about earth science. In addition to that we enjoy it (if we don't have to do it every day).

It was proposed sometime back that the benefits the Society provides be tied to how well a member supports the other functions. This poses additional record keeping and we must recognize that some members are working full time. We also know that there are many jobs that are required other than working in the Museum. However, if getting workers continues to be the problem that it has become, the board will have to take some corrective action.

Now my final point – each one of you who may use online shopping with Amazon can secure a donation to the Society with every dollar you spend. There is a section of Amazon for which you must register that will donate 0.5% of most purchases to the charity of your choice. Go to www.smile.amazon.com to register and choose Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina as your charity. We are listed in the national database and the contribution will automatically go to our account. It does not seem like a large amount, but if we have enough people signed up it could be significant. We could also get our friends and families to join in to help.

In the meanwhile: Rock On!

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.
Minutes – May 31, 2018 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble on Thursday, May 31, 2018, 6:40 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 42 members with 4 new members present and 6 guests.

Welcome new members: Jane & Eddie Amig and Linda Holmes & Don Russ.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the April minutes and there was one, which has already been corrected. Norm Holbert moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected and Lake Holland seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported that we broke even for the month of April.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge had nothing new to report.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell reported a change of gift shop manager. The gift shop will now be managed by Jane Morgan, Diane Mason and Anamay Rossomando.

Curator – Ralph Crawford is ill this evening.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported he needs volunteers for Wednesday, June 20, for a tour at noon. Three ladies volunteered: Marsha Harmon, Ellen Williams and Nancy McShane.

Gift Shop – Jane Morgan had nothing major to report other than the gift shop remains a work in progress.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, June 14.

Education – Patty Nichols reported needing four volunteers for each of two tours: June 13 at 9:30 a.m. and July 17 at 3:30 p.m.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes stated that effective June 1, Cy Amrich will be in charge of the workshop. He reminded everyone of the fee schedule that is posted in the workshop. These fees help divert costs of keeping equipment in working order and the purchase of new equipment, when required. John has been holding faceting classes and Deb Wright has been teaching cabochon classes.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon is planning a local trip to the top of Ellijay in June and another trip, which will be a long one, to Tennessee. Please contact Marsha directly if you are interested.

Publicity – George Fritz did not have anything new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gem Show – Mother's Day Weekend – Norman Holbert reported that the show in May overall was a success. He reminded us that we have another show coming quickly – four days – July 26, 27, 28 and 29, for which volunteers will again be needed.

Young Family – Ellen Williams has a raffle for a gem tree tonight with proceeds going to the Young children.



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

NEW BUSINESS:

Museum Volunteers – Al Pribble again stressed that volunteers are needed for each day of the week to host at the museum. He spoke about the new system for gift shop payments as being extremely easy; actually much simpler than the process we had prior. Mike Gillen and Al Pribble are taking turns being at the museum each day to help everyone.

DMC – Marsha Harmon stated that we are the sponsor the DMC Field Trip on Saturday, August 4. Chunky Gal has been chosen for the event. Our club will provide supervision and we will need assistants, starting at 9:00 a.m. that Saturday.

Buying through Amazon – Al Pribble reported that by going to smile.amazon.com to make purchases, they will donate 0.5% to us. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. By selecting Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina we will receive a donation of 0.5% of the purchase price.

Refreshments – Diane Mason announced that at this time no one is responsible for monthly refreshments. Right now, we have enough volunteers to cover us through December.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Duane Haskell and seconded by Vicki Knisley. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. by President Al Pribble.

Door prize winning tickets were drawn, winning ticket numbers announced and prizes were distributed.

Refreshments were served. President Al Pribble explained that our guest speaker was not available to attend this evening and that a video will be shown.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Don Russ & Linda Holmes



Jane & Eddie Amig

Photos by George Fritz

Field Trip News

Goodenville Mine

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

Lake Holland - Assiatant

Article and Photos - Stacy Walbridge



On Friday, June 15th, 12 club members joined Marsha Harmon for an afternoon sifting for rubies, sapphires, and garnets near the Goodenville Mine. The cool mountain stream with plenty of shade offered a brief respite from the recent heat and humidity and the opportunity to collect some great local material. Although no immediate discoveries were made, several members left with buckets filled with potential to sort through at home. Time will tell if a prized specimen was found.



The Collecting Team



Marsha Providing Instructions



Vicki Using An UV Light



Fixing A Flat Tire

Up Coming Trips

July 28, DMC dig hosted by the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Hogg Mine, Troup County, La-Grange, GA. Self Guided. Good open pit mine for: rose, smoky and other varieties of Quartz, including Amethyst from a new pit; Tourmaline; and Beryl including Aquamarine. Additional information found on the back board of the Museum.



August 4, the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin will be hosting the DMC dig for 3 sites on Chunky Gal Mountain. We will need guides, monitors, refreshment tenders, registration, and set up/down personnel. Lots of additional information to come about this opportunity.

Call Marsha Harmon 828-369-7262 or Lake Holland 828-369-5421 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Gift Shop News

Anamay Rossomando, Diane Mason & Jane Morgan - Co-Chairs



On Saturday, June 16 during the Taste of Scotland Festival the gift shop operated a tent booth in the street just outside of the museum manned by Anamay Rossomando and Jane Morgan. Thanks to the very warm weather, the results were very favorable with many people going inside to browse the museum.

Fred Plesner cut geodes for the children and Bob Harris manned the sandbox while Jay Mooney, Paul Thomas, Al Pribble, Ron Bischoff, and Ron Rossomando gave tours for the museum.

The gift shop has been moving ahead with grand ideas and great results. Volunteers are still needed for all the upcoming events and to help with the museum.

A great BIG thanks to all who helped with tartans day and to all of those who help every day.

Notes From The Classroom

Diane Mason - Wire Wrap Instructor

Another WIRE I class is underway! Three gentlemen and three ladies are off to a roaring start. They have completed one class with four more to come. All the students are working well and working very hard. Looking forward to seeing the end results.



Diane 706-379-1718 H; 843-621-0003 C; 706-379-3124 (rock shop) ladydeeswireworks@gmail.com



Photos by George Fritz and Ellen Crawford

NATION'S CAPITAL TURNED TO MACON COUNTY TO CROWN ITS GREATEST MONUMENT

Fred Plesner – Curator Emeritus

A strange connection was made between Washington, D.C. and Macon County, North Carolina about 125 years ago, when the best and brightest American architects sought out a mineral in Macon County to finally complete the nation's greatest monument.

Twenty-five years earlier, however, in 1848 when builders first laid the cornerstone of this monumental undertaking, Macon County's contribution to the completion of the Washington Monument had not even been discovered.

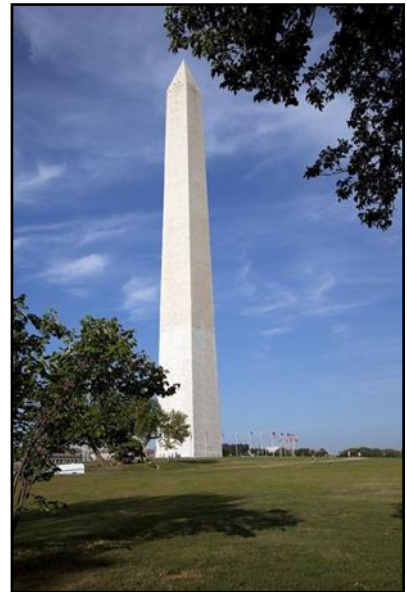
The Washington Monument was intended to be a symbol of all the America stood for – the biggest, best, and greatest ideals – more than just a monument to our greatest president. But there were delays in construction for many years and even more delays in raising funds to pay for it. Nevertheless, the process was carried out using Macon County corundum, and the aluminum crown of the Washington Monument was completed with the “coronation” commencing on December 7, 1884.

During these years of delay an important discovery sparked the interest of both mineralogists and metallurgists' interest was in the production of aluminum, the mineralogists' in the rubies and sapphires.

Several companies began production of both corundum and rubies. The WardJenks Corundum Hill Mining Company opened the Corundum Hill Mine in the Cullasaja River Valley and for many years was the world's largest miner of corundum. Soon, large companies like the American Prospecting and Mining Company and several others began sinking shafts and test holes in their search for rubies in the Cowee Valley. Countless precious gems were sent to Tiffany and Company in New York, where they were cut and sold.

Somewhere in all the delays in the construction of the structure a decision was made to crown America's greatest monument with something new and unique, something that was certain to command the interest of any spectator – an aluminum pyramidion. Aluminum was a new metal, unknown to the public, much lighter than steel yet strong and processing excellent corrosion resistance. And it was a good conductor of electricity.

What better way to crown this magnificent monument than with a metal that would last forever, was as precious as silver (silver and aluminum cost the same in the late 1800's), could be easily cast into shape, polished into a high luster, engraved and perhaps most importantly, a metal that could protect the main structure from lightning damage? The only problem was that this new metal was difficult and expensive to produce. It was certainly not the common household product we know today. Today's aluminum industry giants – ALCAN, ALCOA, Reynolds and Kaiser – were all unheard of before 1900. To put it into perspective, in those days the cost of one ounce of aluminum was equal to one ounce of silver and this was equivalent to a full day's wage for the average workman. Aluminum sold for about a dollar an ounce, so workers on the monument needed to work nearly 80 days just to earn enough to pay for a small five pound piece of aluminum.



Nation's Capital cont'd from Page 8

This is where a little region in western North Carolina could offer a solution. The purest corundum is in its crystalline form, and the best crystals were being mined commercially in the gravel beds and mountainsides of Macon County.

To turn corundum, or aluminum oxide, into aluminum metal was a very difficult, costly and dangerous process. First the crystals were crushed into fine particles of aluminum oxide, then they were converted chemically into aluminum chloride, which was then reduced with metallic sodium to form salt and metallic aluminum. This process was known as the sodium reduction process. The primary reducing agent, metallic sodium, was also expensive and very dangerous since the sodium was extremely reactive, bursting into flame on exposure to air. Nevertheless, this is the process that was used, and workers right here in Macon County completed the task. The aluminum crown of the Washington Monument was completed and the "coronation" took place on December 7, 1884.

An interesting sidebar to this story: For a few months prior to the scheduled final crowning of the monument, Tiffany and Company get into the act again. Somehow, they managed to borrow the polished aluminum pyramid from William Frishmuth for display in their Fifth Avenue store. With a great deal of promotional flair they invited their customers to come in and see this soon-to-be famous piece of metal. Not only were customers permitted to view up close the pyramidion top of greatest American monument, they were even invited to "step over the top of the Washington Monument," or at least to lay claim to that feat.

Brad's TIPS: Sawing Jump Rings

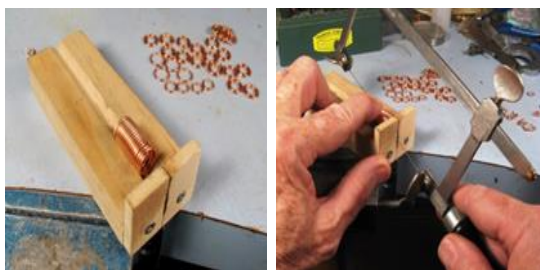
The difficult part of making jump rings for me has always been holding the coil while cutting off the individual rings. I use a saw to get the best fit when closing the rings later. I've seen all sorts of suggestions for ways to hold the coil, but the one that works best for me is this little jig made from scrap wood.

It's about 2 inches wide and 4-5 inches long with a groove cut down its length to cradle the coil of wire and a thin stop attached to the front end.

To cut the rings, thread your saw blade through the coil, hold the coil down in the groove and against the front stop, and saw through the bottom of the coil at about a 40 degree angle.

Don't forget to use some wax or cutting lube. It really does make a difference. If you don't believe me, do an experiment while you're cutting a lot of rings. Count how many rings can be cut before the blade breaks. First, do the test without lube, and then do it again while adding some lube to the blade after cutting every 8-10 rings.

It's the best way I've ever found to hold the coils easily and securely. If the coil doesn't move, you break fewer blades. And it is safer than some other techniques because you are cutting away from the fingers.



More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at facebook.

Com/BenchTips/

Or see all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/bradsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradsmith)

At the Museum during Scottish Days Festival



Photos by Ralph & Ellen Crawford



From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

Gem and Mineral Shows

July 26, 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC

11th Annual Franklin Faceters Frolic; 10 AM to 5 PM daily; 10 AM to 4 PM final day; contact Norm Holbert; 828-634-0350; normholbert@comcast.net; www.franklinfacetersfrolic.com; Free

July 26, 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC

52nd Annual Macon County Gemboree; Robert C Carpenter Community Building; Thursday thru Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM; Sponsored by Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Other Events:

May 26 thru October 13 Saturdays, Downtown Franklin, NC

Pickin' on the Square; local musicians start around 7 PM; free family fun; bring a lawn chair; Gazebo

July 4, Downtown Franklin, NC

Full day of food, games, cornhole tournament, etc.; 10 AM Parade; 7 PM entertainment on stage; 9:30 pm Fireworks; Franklin Chamber

July 14, Downtown Franklin, NC

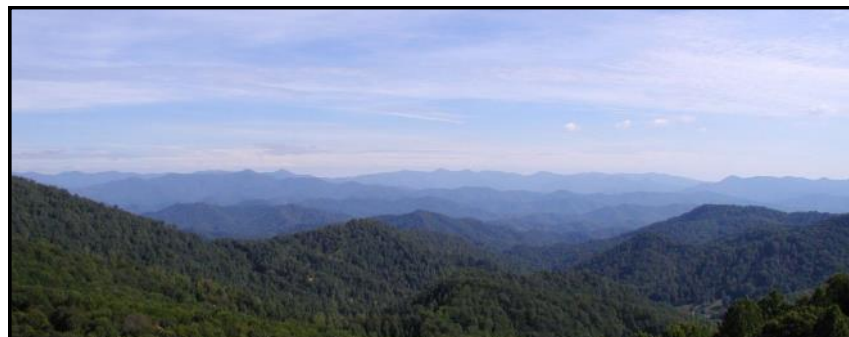
Appalachian Heritage Festival; 9 AM to 4 PM; sponsored by Merchants of Downtown Franklin

July 19 to July 29, Asheville, Franklin, Waynesville, NC and more nearby towns

Folkmoot International Festival

July 28 to August 5, Spruce Pine, NC

34th Annual Grassy Creek Mineral & Gem Show; Sponsored by the Parkway Fire & Rescue to raise money for new equipment; Free parking & admission; 10 AM to 6 PM daily; 136 Majestic View, Spruce Pine, NC 28777; contact Donna Collins collinsdonna@yahoo.com; 828-765-5519



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

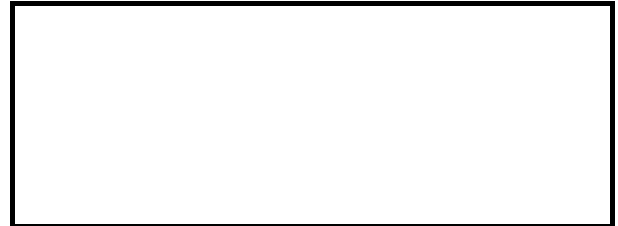
Ellen Crawford, Editor

Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2018	23	25
February	20	22
March	27	29
April	24	26
May	29	31
June	26 6:30 pm	28
July	17	19 Ice Cream Social
August	28	30
September	25	27 Banquet
October	23	25
November	27	29
December	11 4:00	15 End of Year Party 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month at 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