

**THE MOUNTAIN GEM**  
**Volume MMXIXIV FEBRUARY 2016**  
**Number 2**  
**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 \$15 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$3. Membership is from September to September. Non-member subscriptions to *The Mountain Gem* are \$15.00 per year.

Membership privileges include newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Field Trips.

The objectives of this society shall be to effect a close association of those persons who are interested in the study of gems, rocks and minerals and the 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](http://www.fgmm.org)

Society email: [franklingemsociety@gmail.com](mailto:franklingemsociety@gmail.com)

Editor: [editor.themountaingem@gmail.com](mailto:editor.themountaingem@gmail.com)

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin,  
North Carolina, is a 501 (c)(3) organiza-  
tion 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.

## Officers And Board Of Directors

|                     |                |          |
|---------------------|----------------|----------|
| President           | Al Pribble     | 369-2548 |
| Past President      | Arlon Eldridge | 369-5271 |
| Vice President      | Marsha Harmon  | 369-7262 |
| Secretary           | Susan L Fritz  | 524-4936 |
| Treasurer           | Lake Holland   | 369-5421 |
| Assistant Treasurer | Marie Tsacrios | 369-5791 |
| Director (2016)     | Ray Behr       | 342-6360 |
| Director (2016)     | Cy Amrich      | 356-7816 |
| Director (2017)     | Norm Holbert   | 634-0350 |
| Director (2017)     | Jane Morgan    | 342-8703 |

## Museum Managers

|                      |                    |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Museum Manager       | Tom Marsh          | 369-8915                 |
| Museum Ass't. Mgr.   | Virginia Bennis    | 631-830-5403             |
| Curator              | Fred Plesner       | 349-4224                 |
| Curator Ass't        | Christine Hubinger | 349-7360                 |
| Gift Shop            | Elena Marsh        | 369-8915                 |
| Ass't. Gift Shop     | Anamay Rossomando  | 349-2807 or 727-367-9196 |
| Museum Workshop      | John Hayes (Temp)  | 524-8062                 |
| Ass't. Workshop Mgr. | Cy Amrich          | 356-7816                 |

## Committee Chairmen

|                    |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Budget & Finance   | Lake Holland       | 369-5421                 |
|                    | Marie Tsacrios     | 369-5791                 |
| Calendar Chairman  | Virginia Bennis    | 631-830-5403             |
| 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          | Susan L Fritz      | 524-4936                 |
| Membership         | Claudette Rollins  | 349-4834                 |
| Publications       | Ellen Crawford     | 404-457-4478             |
| Publicity          | George Fritz       | 524-4936                 |
| Programs           | Jane Morgan        | 342-8703                 |
| Refreshments       | Dean Plesner       | 349-4224                 |
| Scholarships       | Christine Hubinger | 349-7360                 |



American Federation

Bulletin Awards

1994 (7<sup>th</sup>), 1995 (2<sup>nd</sup>),

1996 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1997 (5<sup>th</sup>),

1998 (5<sup>th</sup>), 1999 (3<sup>rd</sup>),

2000 (5<sup>th</sup>), 2004 (7<sup>th</sup>),

2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 2006 (10<sup>th</sup>)

2008 (5<sup>th</sup>) 2010(3<sup>rd</sup>)

2014 (3<sup>rd</sup>)



Southeast Federation

Bulletin Awards

1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95

1996-99 (1<sup>st</sup>)

2003 2<sup>nd</sup> New Editor

2004 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>)

2006 (1<sup>st</sup>), 2008 (2<sup>nd</sup>),

2010(1<sup>st</sup>) 2014 (1<sup>st</sup>)

American Federation (AFMS): [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)  
Southeast Federation (SFMS): [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)  
Franklin Gem Museum and Society:  
[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)  
[www.facebook.com/franklingems](https://www.facebook.com/franklingems)

**February Meeting**

**Date:** February 25, 2016  
**Day:** Thursday  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Place:** Robert C Carpenter Community Building on 441 South

**Program:** Ken Rush, Director & Curator of Ducktown Basin Museum will speak about the history of copper & the Bura Bura Mine.

**February Birthdays**

- 12 - Diane Mason
- 13 - Steve Fox
- 17 - Rex Larkin
- 20 - Vicki Knisley
- 22 - Tom Sterrett

**February Anniversaries**

- 6 - Wally & Doris Smith
- 11 - Tom & Elena Marsh
- 15 - John & Sande Lolli (Hagdorn)

**March Birthdays**

- 2 - Shirley Burley
- 8 - Diane Aiello
- 14 - John Speer
- 20 - Tom Marsh
- 24 - Gary Gaetano
- 25 - Nanci Hearn

**March Anniversaries**

- 8 - Tom & Diane Aiello
- 12 - John & Dorothy Crawford
- 22 - Gary & Charlene Galbrecht
- 27 - John & Nancy Speer

**Al Pribble, President**

It's February – what can I say? Another forecast of nasty weather and the possibility of snow on the way. Time to warm up the garage, get out the cabs and silver and make something. Speaking of which, we are getting more members willing to teach different subjects and that brings up a subject dear to my heart. Our club needs a place of our own to carry on the functions of the club. The present facilities are limited in the number of students that can be accommodated and the number of different classes that can be held, especially so during the summer months when the Museum is open and the bulk of our members are present. Not only that, but the Board meetings are sometimes standing room only in the present meeting room.

Now, I know this is something that will not happen right away, and it may not happen even in my lifetime but, I would like for everyone to start thinking about how it could happen. We are a tax exempt organization and as such we are eligible to receive appreciated assets which can be a tax advantage in some cases. The bottom line here is that people who are selling property such as real estate or stocks and bonds thereby incurring a large tax liability, can opt to offset part (or all) of that tax through donation to a tax exempt entity such as The Gem & Mineral Society. Other clubs in Macon County have benefited from these arrangements and it is a possibility for us as well.

Another subject that has engaged the Board lately is how best to utilize our resources to further the goal of the Society, that is education. We have stated our mission to be education and along with local education, in the past we have given scholarships to third year college students in the field of Earth Science. If any of our members know of students at any level who are interested in that field, please let us know. Students from Macon County will be given priority.

Nothing is ever accomplished without making an effort and setting a goal. I like to say there is only one thing certain — if we don't ask we'll not receive.

Thank you.



## **Minutes – January 28, 2016 – General Meeting**

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

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 6:35 PM in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November and December General Meeting minutes as printed in *The Mountain Gem*. Norman Holbert moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Arlon Eldridge seconded the motion. Voted on and passed.

Membership – Claudette Rollins reported 32 members present. Tonight we have one new member present, Ed Dibble, and one guest, Judi Kizer.

Vice President – Marsha Harmon did not have anything new to report.

Treasurer's Report – Lake Holland reported a December net profit of \$134.60.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh said things are well at the museum. The fountain has been turned off due to freezing overnight temperatures. Assistant museum manager Virginia Bennis has been busy painting cabinets and the floor of the jail cell.

Curator – Fred Plesner did not have anything new to report.

Publicity – George Fritz reported that meeting notices are now being placed in all surrounding area newspapers such as Clayton, Sylva, Bryson City, etc.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh said she is passing around a sign-up sheet for folks to bring refreshments for the rest of this year's meetings. She attended the gem show in Asheville and those items purchased are already on display and for sale. Jewelry and items made and donated by our members are also on display and for sale. She reminded us that museum t-shirts continue to be available for sale but now only in larger sizes (L, XL, 2X and 3X). Contact Elena if you would like to purchase a t-shirt. She brought polished dinosaur bones that will be available for purchase tonight.

Education – Diane Aiello is absent this evening but Al Pribble stated currently there are no tours scheduled.

Field Trips - Marsha Harmon has been checking out some places we might want to visit. She requested a list of those interested in going on a trip so that you can be emailed the information of an upcoming event.

### **Old Business:**

Al Pribble reported that we received holiday greetings in the mail from members Fran and Fred Rasmussen as well as Rhoda Haber.

### **New Business:**

Diane and Jerry Mason told the group that on May 6, 7, & 8, the GL&W wholesale gem show will be going on at the same time we have our Mother's Day Weekend gem show at the community building. William Holland School of Lapidary Arts has offered us a free tent and table just outside the entrance at the GL&W show so that we may hand out brochures and inform anyone interested about our museum. Diane Mason stated that this is a very special opportunity and they are requesting people to man the table for 2-hour segments over the three days. We were reminded that we will *still* need assistance for set-up, take-down and hosting at the Robert C. Carpenter community building for our own gem show during the same three day period. A sign-up sheet for manning the table at the GL&W show will be at the membership table tonight.

Al Pribble reminded us that our museum is still open each Saturday from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM and that we continue to need people to sign up to host on Saturdays.

**Cont'd**

**January Minutes** cont'd from Page 4**Budget:**

The new 2016 budget was passed out among the members for their perusal. Some discussion ensued and questions were asked and answered. Norman Holbert moved that the 2016 budget be accepted and Arlon Eldridge seconded the motion. President Al Pribble asked for a vote of acceptance by a show of hands and the budget was approved by the members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Al Pribble at 6:55 PM. Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes. Refreshments were served.

A very interesting program this evening was presented by Fred Plesner who brought in many specimens from the museum vault. Fred described each specimen and then they were passed around for all to see.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan L. Fritz, Secretary*







Dinosaur Bone Cabochons

Photos by George Fritz



Calcite in Shell from the Hammond Mine in Indian River, Florida. Donated by Jim Mahar of Franklin.

## Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager

Our museum continues to bring in many visitors even during the coldest Saturdays. And thanks to the wonderful response to the availability to purchase dinosaur bone cabochons at our January club meeting, sales were very good for the month.

Thank you to all that have donated specimens and jewelry for the gift shop. We acknowledge those donations when appropriate but many give who don't want to be singled out and mentioned. All donations are always evaluated, priced and displayed appropriately. It is thru these generous offerings by club members that our sales for the year continue to stay high.

The great success of the museum and gift shop last year is the efforts of many hardworking individuals and without each and every member helping, this can't be possible. Every committee chairperson needs help in some way – please contact one of them and offer your assistance. Many times it is only an hour or two a month, maybe each week. It gives a member insight into what goes into keeping the club strong and productive.

Stay warm, stay safe, come host on a Saturday afternoon during the winter months but if you can't, please stop by to say hi if you are in town.



## Notes From The Classroom - Wire Wrap

Diane Mason - Instructor

The recently graduated WIRE I students are planning a BEGINNING WIRE II class in March. Proposed dates for these classes are March 4, March 18, April 1, and April 15.

If these dates are not suitable, please contact me and we certainly can alter them.

Thus far, there has not been any interest shown in another WIRE I class for the fall of 2016.

I can be contacted at [706-379-1718](tel:706-379-1718) or [jimndee43@gmail.com](mailto:jimndee43@gmail.com). Diane

## Let's Get Biblical

Fred Plesner - Curator

In reading my Bible I ran across a verse that made me stop and think. Being a rock hound caused me to back up, reread and think. I had never thought about welding being that old. I just assumed that it was a fairly modern process. I think we all enjoy looking at ancient artifacts and never give a thought as to the particulars in the manufacturing processes.

I would like to quote from the NIV Bible. The book of Isaiah 41 - 7.

"The craftsman encourages the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer spurs on him who strikes the anvil."

He says of the welding, "It is good."

He nails down the idol so it will not topple.

If welding is that old, it certainly causes one to stop and consider the care, patience and difficulties of those ancient artisans. So what is soldering or welding? Soldering or welding is the joining of other metals together.

In today's world most solder is an alloy of two or more metals used for joining other metals together. The most common metals used are equal parts of lead and tin, however other metals such as Aluminum, cadmium, zinc, nickel, gold, silver, copper, antimony, bismuth and palladium are used. The melting points will vary according to combination of metals used. The next time I give a piece of metal jewelry a close look I will have a different appreciation for what I am looking at.



## Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

Lake Holland - Assistant



On Saturday March 12, 2016 The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin will be taking a field trip to Clarkesville, GA. We will be joining The Dixie Mineral Council at a location which boast kyanite blades and cobbles, small mica books and rare graphite specimens, if you are lucky. This is a private working farm location which is 1 hour away.

Please sign up for this trip and read additional information, located in the meeting room of our Museum. Questions? Call Marsha Harmon [828-369-7262](tel:828-369-7262).

Ellen, Ralph and I have been out scouting new hunting locations. A few weeks ago we visited Due West, SC and located the Amos Cunningham Farm which many rock hounds have heard about. After many turn arounds, local inquiries, lost adventures, we did finally find the mine and the man himself. The mine is in rework but Amos agreed that in a couple months we would be welcomed to bring our own club, for a private dig and could add his backhoe to increase our rewards. He showed us a beautiful cluster of Amethyst that had been found at the nearby Ellis-Jones Mine, also in Due West, SC. Keep an ear open for this upcoming club trip which is also for beryl and various quartz finds.

With the weather finally thinking about warming/clearing up; the Club Field Trip Program is back in business. Lake and I have several new locations, mixed with some old locations on the list for this year. All suggestions are appreciated! Lake Holland and Marsha Harmon



Amos' Amethyst - Ellen's hand

## Club Wire Wrap Project

Our Club Wire Wrap Project has been established to profile many of our local club artist and provide new material for our gift shop. Elena the shop manager has agreed to provide a separate area and the club is providing sterling wire, location to work, and some rock slabs if needed. Several volunteers have already started making cabs for the artist to use in their work. They will start with "a day of wrapping" and see what can be made, while enjoying the social advantages of girls day out. If you desire to participate in any way, please just let us know.

POC Marsha Harmon [828 369-7262](tel:828-369-7262).



## SOME TIPS FOR HANDLING SPECIMENS

### Here are some do's and don'ts:

- Before you start, wash your hands if possible.
- Always ask permission first. At shows, ask the dealer if you can pick up a specimen before you touch it. If viewing a private collection, ask the owner which pieces (if any) you can touch.
- If the specimen is in a box, pick up the box with the specimen by the box, rather than picking up the specimen. If glued onto a Plexiglas square, pick it up by the edges and do not touch the specimen.
- Lift a specimen by the outside edges, then place it in the middle of the open palm of the other hand.
- Never touch the crystals with your fingers, because even microscopic dirt on your skin can damage specimens. And, skin moisture and oils can affect porous materials such as lapis lazuli, jadeite, and turquoise, which are highly reactive to these substances, and can lose their luster or become discolored or corroded. For example, if you leave a fingerprint on orpiment or pyrite, it can be permanently etched into the surface of the crystal.
- Consider wearing nitrile gloves when handling sensitive minerals. Some minerals are so sensitive to heat that the lights in a display case or even from your hand can damage them. Cerussite and sulfur are examples of this.
- If it is not too heavy, hold the specimen with the display side up on top of your outstretched hand, palm up. Never put the crystals or display face facing down.
- Heavy specimens require extra caution. Do not attempt to lift something that is too heavy to pick up in one hand.
- Soft minerals require extra care. Use a soft lint free cloth to prevent damage.
- Anything with a hardness of 4 or below can be easily scratched or lose its natural polish. Fluorite (4 on the Mohs scale of hardness), calcite (3), selenite/gypsum (2), and talc (1) are examples of soft minerals. Talc is easily flaked with a fingernail and selenite can be scratched with a fingernail.
- Fragile specimens require extra caution, especially those with thin, delicate crystals like crocoite and meso-lite.
- Wash your hands after handling the specimen as well. Some minerals may leave an unpleasant residue, and others are outright toxic.
- Whatever you do, do not drop a specimen!

Seeing a mineral and crystal collection in person is a highly rewarding experience for any collector. But be aware of the above suggestions so specimens look the same as you found them after you have enjoyed handling them.



**February's birthstone, the amethyst,** was the stone of royalty, representing power.

February's birthstone is the amethyst. Amethysts contain the second most abundant mineral found in Earth's crust – quartz. Quartz is often found lining the insides of geodes. So it's no wonder that geodes sometimes contain amethysts, too. Like quartz, amethysts are a transparent form of silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>). An amethyst's color can range from a faint mauve to a rich purple. It's not clear why they're purple. Some scientists believe the purple color arises from the amethysts' iron oxide content, while others attribute the color to manganese or hydrocarbons.

Amethysts are very sensitive to heat. When heated to 400 or 500 degrees Celsius, an amethyst's color changes to a brownish-yellow or red. Under some circumstances, the stones can turn green when heated. Heat may even transform an amethyst into a naturally-rare mineral called citrine. And even without heating, the violet color of an amethyst may fade over time.

Commercial sources of amethyst are Brazil and Uruguay; while in the U.S., most amethyst is found in Arizona and North Carolina.

The amethyst has a rich history of lore and legend. It can be traced back as far as 25,000 years ago in France, where it was used as a decorative stone by prehistoric humans. It has also been found among the remains of Neolithic man.

It's said that the signet ring worn by Cleopatra was an amethyst, engraved with the figure of Mithras, a Persian deity symbolizing the Divine Idea, Source of Light and Life. It is also said to be the stone of Saint Valentine, who wore an amethyst engraved with the figure of his assistant, Cupid. Saint Valentine's Day is still observed in February.

The word amethyst comes from the Greek word "amethystos" meaning "not drunk," and was believed to prevent its wearers from intoxication. The following is a story from Greco-Roman mythology, as quoted from *Birthstones* by Willard Heaps:

Bacchus, the god of wine in classical mythology, was offended by Diana the huntress. Determined on revenge, he declared that the first person he met as he went through the forest would be eaten by his tigers. As it happened, the first person to cross his path was the beautiful maiden Amethyst on her way to worship at the shrine of Diana. In terror, she called upon the goddess to save her, and before his eyes, Bacchus observed the maiden changed to a pure white, sparkling image of stone. Realizing his guilt and repenting his cruelty, Bacchus poured grape wine over her, thus giving the stone the exquisite violet hue of the amethyst. The carryover to non-intoxication was quite logical, and in ancient Rome, amethyst cups were used for wine, so drinkers would have no fear of overindulgence.

The early Egyptians believed that the amethyst possessed good powers, and placed the stones in the tombs of pharaohs. During the Middle Ages, it was used as medication, believed to dispel sleep, sharpen intellect, and protect the wearer from sorcery. It was also believed to bring victory in battle. In Arabian mythology, the amethyst was supposed to protect the wearer from bad dreams and gout.



Photo credit: [UCL Mathematical and Physical Sciences](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/mathematical-and-physical-sciences/)

<http://earthsky.org/earth/february-birthstone-amethyst>

**From the Southeast Federal Mineral Society  
Gem and Mineral Shows**



**February 20 & 21, 2016, VERO BEACH, FL**

Gem & Jewelry Show; Treasure Coast Rock & Gem Society; Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Vero Beach Community Center at 2266 14th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960; \$5 Donation at the door, 20 vendors, hourly door prizes; Email contact [tcrandgs@bellsouth.net](mailto:tcrandgs@bellsouth.net)

**February 27, 2016, LAKE LAND, FL**

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society; Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM; 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801; Hourly door prizes; over 30 dealers; Contact Kim Price, Show chair, at (863) 412-9156, or email [ibvgmfs@gmail.com](mailto:ibvgmfs@gmail.com). Facebook: Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society; Website: [www.bonevalley.net](http://www.bonevalley.net)

**March 6, 7 & 8, 2016, ST PETERSBURG, FL**

45th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show & Sale; First full weekend in March; THE SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY; Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; The Minnreg Building at 6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773; FREE PARKING; Show contact: Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279; Email contact: [SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com) <http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.htm>

**March 11, 12 & 13, 2016, AUGUSTA, GA**

28th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Always Held: 2nd Weekend in March;

Show Contact: Chris Glass 706-284-9239; Sponsoring Clubs: Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society and Augusta Gem and Mineral Society; [www.aikengmfs.org](http://www.aikengmfs.org); [www.agam.club](http://www.agam.club); Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Julian Smith Casino at 2200 Broad St., Augusta GA; \$3 per adult or \$5 Weekend pass; Children under 12 Free with an Adult; Co-Chair: Richard McNutt and Chris Glass

**March 18, 19 & 20, 2016, ROME, GA**

Rome Georgia Mineral Society, The Forum; 301 Tribune St, 311 E 4th St; Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Free Admission; Minerals, gems, fossils, meteorites, jewelry, and Crystals Lapidary rough; Free mineral and fossil ID, door prizes, and exhibits! Free registration for grand prize ; Contact Jose Santamaria, 311 E 4th St, Rome, GA 30161, (678)-488-9560; e-mail: [rogams.show@gmail.com](mailto:rogams.show@gmail.com); Web site: <http://rogams.wordpress.com/gem-and-mineral-show>

**March 19 & 20, 2016, DOTHAN, AL**

Dothan Gem & Mineral Club, Houston County Farm Center; 1701 East Cottonwood Road; Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Free Admission ; Minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary rough, beads & handcrafted items such as jewelry & knapped knives; Door prizes, silent auction, kid grab bags; contact Jeff DeRoche, 121 W. Crawford St., Dothan, AL 36301, (334)-673-3554; e-mail: [arlambert@comcast.net](mailto:arlambert@comcast.net); Web site: [www.wiregrassrockhounds.com](http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com)

**May 8, 9 & 10, 2016, FRANKLIN, NC**

Franklin Gem & Mineral Society; Saturday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sun day 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; FREE Admission; door prizes hourly; more to follow

# THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street  
Franklin, NC 28734

## First Class Mail



| Month     | Board Meeting | General              |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------|
| January   | 26            | 28                   |
| February  | 23*           | 25                   |
| March     | 29            | 31                   |
| April     | 26            | 28                   |
| May       | 24            | 26                   |
| June      | 28            | 30                   |
| July      | 19            | 21 Ice Cream Social  |
| August    | 23            | 25 Elections         |
| September | 27            | 29 Banquet           |
| October   | 25            | 27                   |
| November  | 15            | 17                   |
| December  | 13            | 17 End of Year Party |

\*February Board Meeting Only: 5:00 PM at the First Christian Church at 156 Bellview Park Road

**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 S

**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.*

**THURSDAY MARCH 10th is  
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**