THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

September 2019 Newsletter

Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
Past President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
Vice President: Arlon Eldridge, (828-369-5271)
Secretary: Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Treasurer: Lake Holland, (828-369-5421)
Assistant Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (828-349-9615)
Museum Manager: Duane Haskell, (828-349-5123)
Director (2018): Mike Gillen, (678-772-6375)
Director (2018): Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
Director (2019): Diane Mason, (706-379-1718)
Director (2019): Tom Sterrett, (828-349-3774)

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
Museum Curator: Larry Ellert, (828-349-0774)
Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807), Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954), & Diane Mason
Museum Workshop: Virginia Bennis (631-830-5403)
Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Program Coordinator: Kathi Walbridge
Calendar: Jay Mooney, (678-488-0620)
Gemboree: Kathy Green, (941-387-4397)
Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Asst Education/Tours: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

The Club is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Southeast Federation of the Mineralogical Societies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING - September 26, 6:30 pm, Installation of Officers and Dinner, Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South), Franklin.

PUMPKINFEST, October 19, 2019: The Gem & Mineral Club will have several outside events during this year's Pumpkinfest. There will be geode cutting and the mineral sandbox for kids and an outside sales table. At 9:00 am we will need help setting up the tent for the outside sales table along with help manning the table. Geode cutting and the kid's sandbox will be running so help will be needed throughout the day for those events as well as assistance with teardown at 4:00 pm.

LEAK LOOKERS GEMBOREE, October 25 to 27, 2019: In conjunction with the Macon County Chamber of Commerce our fall Gemboree will be held at the Carpenter Community Center. Help will be needed for:

Hosting
Cabbing
Faceting
Wire Wrap
Setup: Thursday 10/24 at 8:30 sharp (many hands make light work - and quicker)
Security: Friday & Saturday, 7 to 10 AM and 6 to 7 pm, Sunday - 7 to 10 am.
Teardown: Sunday at 4:00 pm (we can never have too many helpers)

FIELD TRIP - Summerville, GA Sunday Sept 22. Collecting colorful lace banded chert/agate good for lapidary use and specimens. Large and small but it is mostly loose so it's easy to just "cherry pick" all you want to carry away. You are required to let me know or sign up in the back of the museum and sign a wavier. These DMC trips are for club members only. Please call Marsha Harmon 828 369 7262 or Lake Holland 828 369 5421.

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

September 2019 Newsletter

Franklin Gem and Mineral Society
Minutes: August 29, 2019

Susan Fritz

Photographs by George Fritz

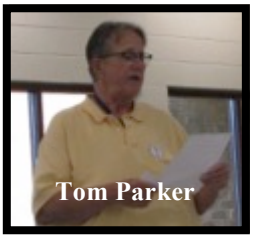
Jane Morgan

President Jane Morgan called the meeting to order on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 6:35 p.m. at the John C. Carpenter Community Building.

Minutes – Jane Morgan asked for any corrections, deletions or additions to the July 2019 minutes. There being none, a motion was made by Stacy Walbridge and seconded by Lake Holland that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter. Voted and passed.

Kathi Walbridge

Treasurer – Kathi Walbridge reported that we were in the plus column for the month of July.


Tom Parker

Membership – Tom Parker reported 43 members and 4 guests this evening. He thanked all those who have stepped up to volunteer recently. New membership application
s were given out and annual membership fees are due by no later than the September General meeting. He presented an Amendment to the Standing Rules of our By-Laws that was approved by Board members regarding where and when membership applications can be given out to prospective members and/or received. Susan Fritz stated that this must be voted on by the general membership as well. The Amendment was read aloud. Norman Holbert made a motion that this Amendment be accepted. Kathi Walbridge seconded the motion; voted and carried.

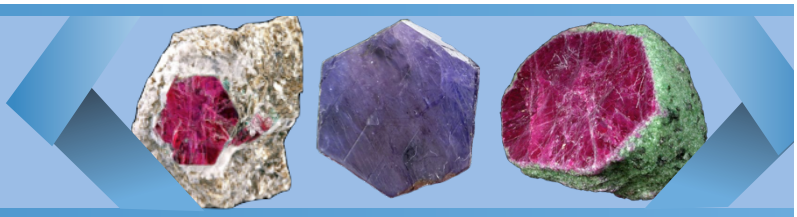
New Members (l to r) Robert Blocker, Marty Pope, Mike Hartman, Bushy Hartman, Gail Meredith and Richard Walter

Larry Ellert

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell has slabs available from our workshop for sale on the back table.

Curator – Larry Ellert reported that he and Mark Laing have completed the inventory on the floor and that they will be starting on vault inventory.

The Mountain Gem
September 2019



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society
Minutes (Continued)

Fred Plesner

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported that he was cutting geodes at the recent festival in Cowee.

Gift Shop – Jane Morgan said that Anamay Rossomando wished to thank those who volunteered during the recent downtown Heritage Days.

Stacy Walbridge

Newsletter Editor – Stacy Walbridge stated the newsletter deadline is Tuesday, 09/17. He is looking to receive articles from members that would be of interest and appropriate for inclusion in the newsletter.

Publicity – George Fritz read a thank you letter from Steve Dillon, member, who teaches an after school program and was a recipient of one of our $300 grants.

Field Trips – Lake Holland reported on upcoming field trips to Spruce Pine on 08/30 and one to Summerville, Georgia on 09/22.

Gem Show – The next show will be October 25, 26 and 27. Please sign up to volunteer for set-up, hosting, demonstrations and/or take-down.

Workshop – John Hayes introduced Joel Smith who is our assistant workshop manager.

Programs – Kathi Walbridge said that next month we will have installation of officers and dinner. There is no program scheduled for the October meeting and Kathi is looking for suggestions.

Scholarships – Al Pribble stated he has two scholarship requests: Nantahala and Union schools.

NEW BUSINESS:

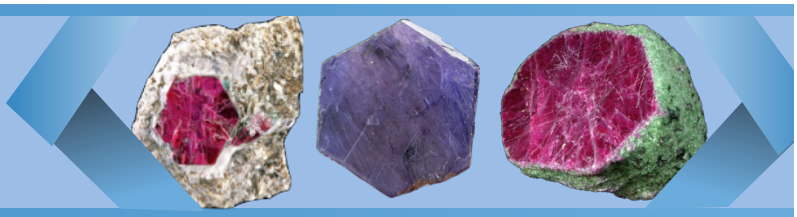
Certificates of completion for a beading class were presented to Nancy Hopp, Ellen Williams, Diane Mason, Kathi Walbridge, Beverly Kimball and Jenny Mooney.

Jane Morgan mentioned that Jay Mooney has been in the hospital recently, Lara Jackson broke her wrist, Marie Tsacrios broke her arm and Dennis Bernard was in an accident that affected both of his legs.

Jane Morgan asked for volunteers sign up to host in the museum; especially during Pumpkin Fest as during that event the museum has a history of being extremely busy.

Beading Certificate Recipients (l. to r.) Nancy Hopp, Ellen Williams, Diane Mason, Kathi Walbridge. Jenny Mooney and Betty Kimball not present.

Election of Officers – Al Pribble presented the slate of candidates for Board of Directors. Stacy Walbridge made a



motion that the membership vote by acclamation since this is an uncontested election. Norman Holbert seconded the motion; voted and carried. Therefore, the following members will serve as new officers and be installed at the September General meeting: President – Jane Morgan; Vice President – Arlon Eldridge; Secretary – Susan Fritz; Treasurer – Lake Holland; Assistant Treasurer – Kathi Walbridge; Director (1) Tom Parker; Director (2) Larry Ellert.

(l. to r.) Jane Morgan-President, Arlon Eldridge-Vice President, Susan Fritz-Secretary, Lake Holland-Treasurer, Kathi Walbridge-Assistant Treasurer, Tom Parker-Director, Larry Ellert-Director

Installation Dinner - Jane Morgan discussed the installation dinner and suggested having a pizza party with side dishes brought by members. Much discussion ensued. John Hayes made a motion that we have pizza. Mark Laing seconded the motion; voted and carried.

Door prize winning tickets were drawn.

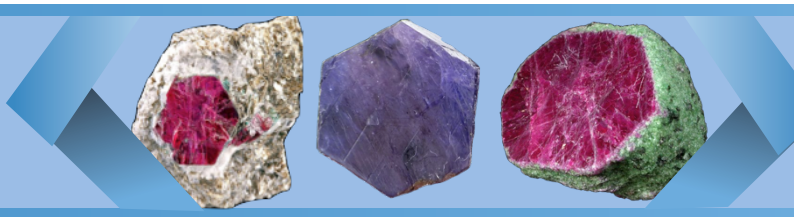
There being no further business Norman Holbert made a motion to adjourn seconded by Susan Fritz. President Jane Morgan adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The membership enjoyed a presentation on organic gems presented by Kim Cochran.

Kim Cochran reviewing his presentation notes

Samples from his collection

The Mountain Gem

September 2019



FIELD TRIPS

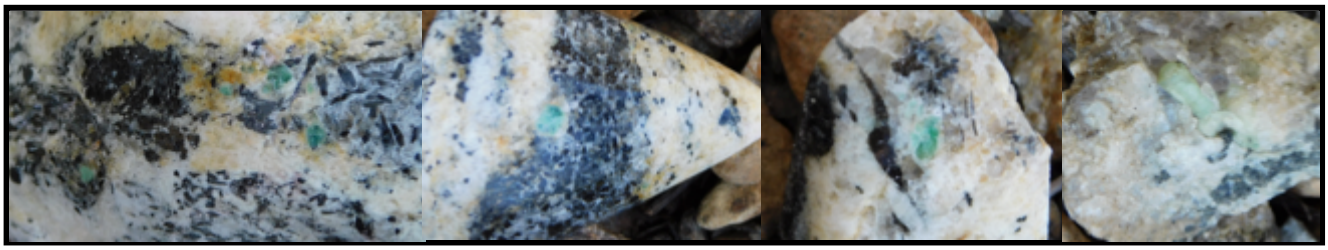
Marsha Harmon

Spruce Pine, NC Aug 30 & 31

Three members recently went to the Crabtree Emerald Mine and Ray (Wray) Mine to find rocks and minerals. Crabtree Emerald Mine located near Spruce Pine, NC was in operation from 1895 until 1990 and is still open thru Magma. Emerald, quartz, mica, feldspar, tourmaline, garnet, fluorite, aquamarine and golden beryl can be found in dump piles with lots of work. We mostly found Mica, feldspar, tourmaline, garnet and a few very small emerald crystals in matrix.

Marsha Harmon sliding for Emeralds

Ray Mine is on Hurricane Mountain near Burnsville, NC. It is mostly mica-rich pegmatite and yields occasional aquamarine, quartz, feldspar, mica and kyanite. I was skunked for the aquamarine but a very nice piece of mica in feldspar now sits in our gift shop.



Specks of Emerald and a small crystal from Crabtree Emerald Mine
Photographs by Stacy Walbridge

So why go to these locations? There are over 7 mines with similar materials within easy reach of each other. A wonderful museum, two great rock shops, and many mountain views. For additional mineral information: mindat.org

Chunky Gal Mountain Aug 12

The Smith's and I went to Chunky Gal Mountain in search of Smaragdite with Ruby. The material is abundant and with a black lite easily found. The hike is short but a sharp 35 degree climb required for 150 feet. Pounding rocks not required but helpful. If you are interested please call.

Up coming trips

Summerville, GA Sunday Sept 22

Collecting colorful lace banded chert/agate good for lapidary use and specimens. Large and small but it is mostly loose so easy to just "cherry pick". All you want is easy to carry away. You are required to let me know or sign up in the back of the museum and sign a wavier. These DMC trips are for club members only.

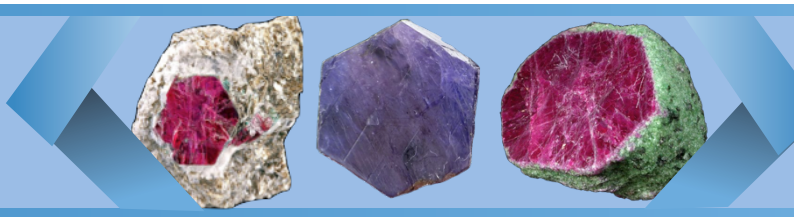
Banded Agate from Summerville

Senatobia, MS Saturday Oct 12

Collecting chert gravels with fossils, petrified wood, agate, conglomerate, and quartz. Necessary information can be found on board in back of museum, along with sign up sheet, wavier. Please call Marsha Harmon 828 369 7262 or Lake Holland 828 369 5421 if you are interested or sign up! Members only please.

The Mountain Gem

September 2019



NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM

Diane Mason

During July, a special weekend Pearl knot tying and Beading class was held at the Community Center. Five clubs members met with Libby Caldwell, a William Holland Instructor, to receive lessons. Attandees were Betty Kimball, Nancy Hopp, Ellen Williams, Jenny Mooney, Diane Mason, and Kathi Walbridge.

Libby Caldwell (Instructor) showing Ellen Williams some of the finer points of Beading

Diane Mason and Ellen Williams concentrating on bead positioning

Their results were on display during the August Club meeting.

The Mountain Gem

September 2019

Faceting Graduates Jade Kale (l.) and Nancy McShane (r.) with Instructor Virginia Bennis (c.)

Cabochon Class Notice

Due to the Holidays and a heavy show schedule, I will NOT be teaching a cabochon class in November or December. I do, however, plan to teach again in January (weather permitting). Please go ahead and sign up and I will be in contact.
Thanks.....Jerry Mason

JEWELRY BENCH TIPS

FOREDOM STAND

A quick and easy way to suspend a flexshaft over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from the hardware store. You can buy it today, attaches with a couple screws, and only costs about $10

I use 1/2 inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle".

Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.

BROKEN DRILLS

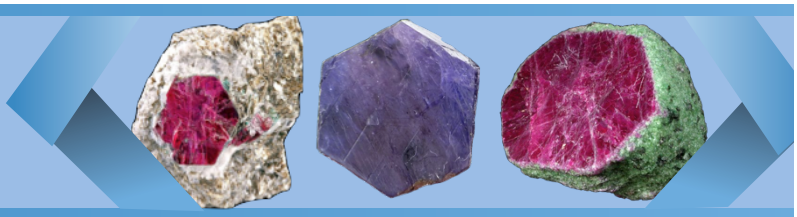
Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, a quick fix is to dissolve the steel in a solution of alum or fresh pickle. The solution will not affect your silver or gold piece.

Alum is typically available from a food store. It's used to preserve some foods. Use about a tablespoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole.

Work Smarter With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

The Mountain Gem

September 2019



EDUCATION/TOURS

Marsha Harmon

Several opportunities are coming up to help with education and tours in the museum. Our main goal in this Rock and Mineral Club is the education of our community and all it touches. Please help as you can, as time and energy is all that is required. Marsha Harmon (828) 369-7262

Old Jailbirds
Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus

A number of years ago our sheriff, Robbie Holland, gave me access to some of the Old Jail's log books for a couple of weeks with the understanding that I would not use last names. He was concerned that some of people involved would still be alive and their families would be embarrassed.

The earliest record began in October 1929. I expected the first entry to be some common offence such as public drunkenness, but no, something out of the blue. On October 2, 1929 Jo B. F----, age 21, was arrested for Automobile Theft. He was not released until November 19, 1929 when the courts released him on probation.

I then went in search of the 1st woman I could find and it didn't take long to find her. Edith S----, aged 25, was charged with violation of prohibition laws, on November 17, 1929. She was tried and found not guilty.

The last arrest in 1929 was Wade H-----, aged 30, who was picked up and placed in the jail after escaping from a state chain gang.

November 1929 was about what you would expect from a small mountain town in those days. Of the 23 prisoners who were held in the jail, 17 of them were for violation of the prohibition laws.

I was surprised that I did not find a single case of horse theft until April 23, 1951 when Harvey G----, aged 32, was arrested for horse theft, He made bond 4 days later on April 27, 1951.

Brain Teaser

Put these statements in the right chronological order:

a) The field trip group stopped for Emeralds at the Crabtree Emerald Mine

b) The young member awoke and saw an Emerald

c) The young member left the group and fell asleep under a tree.

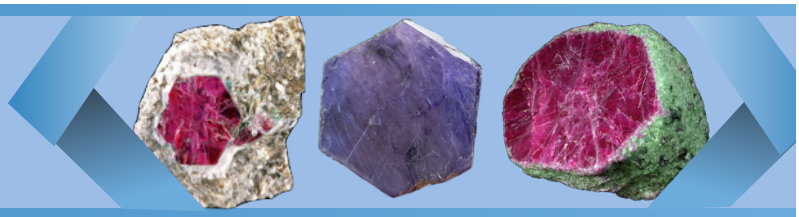
d) The young member did not tell what he had seen

e) A young member hitched a ride with the field trip group.

Answers - e, a, c, b, d

The Mountain Gem

September 2019



Amethyst Is Not Just a Pretty Stone

During last month's meeting I asked for newsletter article suggestions, mineral/fossil tidbits, or other items that may be of interest to club members. Almost simultaneously I received emails from Nancy McShane and Gary Galbrecht that contained an interesting historical fact about Amethyst.

The names of gemstones often reflect their appearance – *ruby* comes from Latin's rubeus (meaning "red"), for example. Other inspiring qualities: *Diamond* is from the Latin *adamantem* ("hardest metal"), and *tanzanite* was discovered in Tanzania. Meanwhile, *amethyst* descended from the Greek *amethystos* ("not drunk"), as the purple stone was thought to prevent intoxication – if you drank out of an amethyst goblet.

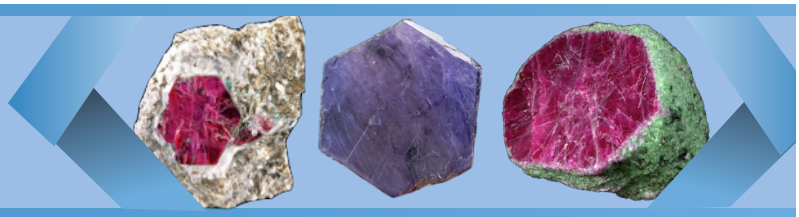
Amethyst is a special form of quartz. The first step in amethyst receiving its purple color begins during crystal growth, when trace amounts of iron are incorporated into a growing quartz crystal. After crystallization, gamma rays, emitted by radioactive materials within the host rock, irradiate the iron to produce the purple color.

Ametrine crystal from Bolivia

When Amethyst is heated a color change occurs from purple to yellow, yellow-brown, orange, dark orange-brown, or reddish-brown and is called Citrine. Most naturally occurring Citrine is pale yellow to pale orange. The majority of the Citrine sold today is heat treated Amethyst ranging in color from dark orange-brown to reddish brown. In eastern Bolivia at the Anahi Mine Amethyst and Citrine have been found combined into a bi-color crystal, which is called Ametrine, (AME.thyst and ci.TRINE). One of the rarities of nature, green quartz, called Prasiolite, forms when amethyst from certain deposits is heated to a critical temperature. At about 500 degrees Celsius Amethyst color changes to yellowish green to green. Even though heating will enact a color change within Amethyst there are only a few sites worldwide that produces the type of Amethyst that will turn green. Some amethyst found in Poland can be irradiated to produce Prasiolite

The Mountain Gem

September 2019



2019 Meeting/Event Schedule

September 26th - Officer Installation and Banquet
October 31st - TBD
November 14th - TBD
December 14th - End of Year Banquet/Rock Bingo

October Newsletter Deadline is Monday, October 21, 2019

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. Please remember us when planning your estate.

UPCOMING SHOWS

4-6 October 2019
Gaston Gem, Mineral and Faceters Club Show
Show Hours: Friday & Saturday 9am - 6pm, Sunday 9am-4pm
120 Leisure Lane
Gaston County Park
1303 Leisure Lane (Hwy 279 [Dallas-Cherryville Hwy])
Dallas, NC 28034
Free Admission

11-13 October 2019
Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society
Show Hours: Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6pm, Sunday 12pm-5pm
2180 Airport Rd..
Huntsville, AL
Admission: $3 ($5 for a weekend pass), Primary and secondary students $1, under 5 Free

25-27 October 2019
29th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree
Show Hours: Friday & Saturday 10am - 6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm
Robert C. Carpenter Community Building
1288 Georgia Road, Franklin NC 28734
Admission $2 for adults, children 12 & under free

22-24 November 2019
Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show.
Show Hours: Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6pm, Sunday 10am-5pm
Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE, Marietta, GA 30060,

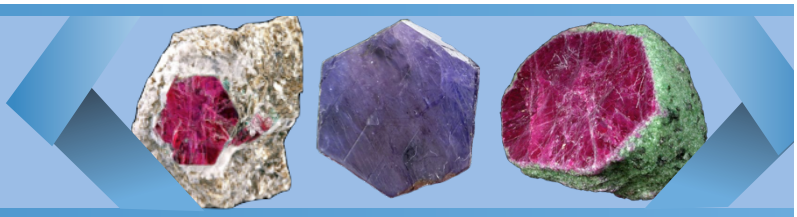
22-24 November 2019
52nd Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show
Organized by: **Columbia Gem & Mineral Society**
Jamil Temple (206 Jamil Road, Exit 106A off I-26)
Columbia, South Carolina
Admission:$5.00 for adults, Sixteen & under free with paid adult. Military & dependents free.

14-15 December 2019: Franklin, Tennessee
39th Annual Earth Treasures Show
Organized by: Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society
Williamson County Ag Expo Park (4215 Long Lane, Franklin) Admission: $5 ($7 for a 2-Day pass), Children under 12 and Scouts in uniform - FREE

12/6/19-12/8/19
Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Garrett Coliseum 1555 Federal Drive, Montgomery, AL Adults $2.00 daily or $3.00 for a 3 day weekend pass.18 and under free with student ID and one paid adult ticket

The Mountain Gem

September 2019



The Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on September 26th
at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South), Franklin.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
&
Pizza Dinner

(Bring a side dish or dessert)

FGMS Board meets the Tuesday before the regular meeting at 6:30 at the Museum