

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Volume MMXIV MAY

Number 5

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 webpage. 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.



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@gmail.com

Editor: themountaingem@fastmail.fm

2013-2014 Officers And Board Of Directors

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Museum Manager	Al Pribble	369-2548
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Curator Ass't	Sharon John	421-0518
Gift Shop.	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	
Museum Workshop	Al Pribble	369-2548
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Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Norm Holbert	634-0350
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	421-0518
Librarian	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Membership	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Marty Martinez	332-8453
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Christine Hubinger	349-7360



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

General Meeting

Date: May 29, 2014

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Macon County Community
Center on 441 South

in room straight ahead when you enter.

Program: Silver Mining today and
yesterday.

How has it changed?

June Birthdays

12 – Paul Anderson

12 – Marta Evora

13 – Sandra Moccia

14 – Amy Ramer

17 – Jean Emerson

18 – Mary Greist

18 – Doris Smith

19 – Joyce Jacques

21 – Georgia-Marie Goldstein



June Anniversaries

10 - Arlon & Sonja Eldridge

12 - Paul & Laura Anderson

24 – Lee & Shirley Burley



From the president

Once again I just cannot thank everyone enough for all the hard work and time spent in the museum and the long hours at the gem show as our gem show was a great one. Norm will explain all about the gem show at our next meeting. Once again I would like to say a special **Thanks** to Jack Jungles and Fred Plesner for a job well done (THANKS GUYS).



Also we still have some tables left for sale so if you want one or more you can call me or Susan to order. Some members have asked me what will the surprise for our next program be and I cannot answer that because it will be a surprise to me to as everyone will just have to come and see.

See everyone at the meeting

T-shirts have arrived!

They are available in the Gift Shop. Club members cost is only \$12.00 versus \$15.00 to others.

Another perk of being a member.

Minutes – April 24, 2014 – General Meeting
The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by President, Arlon Eldridge, at 6:40 p.m. in the Community Center building meeting room.

Membership – Linda Behr is ill and not in attendance this evening.

Minutes - Arlon asked for any corrections or additions to the March minutes and there were none.

Vice President – Ray Behr stated faceting II classes would begin following the Mother's Day Rock, Gem and Arts Show.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tscarios gave a detailed report, copies of which are available at the front table. She stated we expect some good income from the May show.

Museum Manager – Al Pribble reported there are 36 openings this coming month for hosting at the museum and urged everyone to please sign up to volunteer four hours a month. On Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10, he requests double coverage at the museum as downtown Franklin will be holding Airing of the Quilts and having a sidewalk sale at the same time we are having our show at the Community Building.

He reported that Lon Peden is currently working on the fountain. The States Room at the museum has been painted by him and Tommy Marsh. They left the old bricks showing, to indicate the age of the museum, and just painted over them.

Curator – Fred Plesner reported he is hoping for a good crowd in the museum on May 9 & 10 when downtown merchants are having a sidewalk sale and Airing of the Quilts along with other activities at the gazebo. He reported that the EZ guides will soon be ready. He reminded us that next month our meeting will be in another room as this big room is being utilized for something else. He said that many came to help on the museum work-day and asked those folks to stand up to be recognized. The bottom three shelves in Cabinet #6 were changed and some new material added.

Gift Shop – Elena said we did well over the winter, which is a credit to those who hosted. New books have been ordered and she feels we are ready for the season. She reminded us that members receive 10% off gift shop purchases.

She will attempt to get a table outside on May 9 and 10 to encourage people to come into the museum.

T-Shirts are in, available for sale and already on display in the museum; however, cautioned us not to sell the display t-shirts. They are available tonight to the members for at a cost of \$12. General public price is \$15.

General Meeting minutes cont'd

Elena wanted us to recognize Fred and Fran Rasmussen who are back from Florida. The Rasmussens volunteer Tuesdays of every month when they are here.

Education – Diane Aiello gave a demonstration to the Hiking Club.

Mother's Day Weekend Rock, Gem and Arts Show (May 9, 10 & 11) – Norm Holbert reported that we now have 24 vendors and a list has been given to Jack Jungles. He said the gym will be full and that this meeting room may also be full. Ads have been placed with The Franklin Press to run three times and also in the Macon County News. We will have food service available during the show. There will be no admission charge. We need demonstrators for the cab and faceting machines – please see Al Pribble, John Hayes or Tommy Marsh. Norm asked that we *please* volunteer our help over this show weekend. Sign up sheets are at the membership table.

Old Business – Linda Smith inquired about the amendment to the budget and Arlon stated he wanted to table this matter until the next meeting.

New Business – John Hayes acknowledged two members, Vicki Knisley and Joyce Jacques, for having completed the cabochon class. Laura Anderson presented them with certificates of completion. Laura will be teaching the class over the summer and John will teach again starting in the fall.

John Hayes reported a proposed field trip to Ellijay on June 1st to look for sapphires. The trip will start late afternoon on Sunday and continue into the night. Those going will need a black light to search. There will be a brief meeting in the back of the room following our general meeting to sign up for the field trip and discuss specific details.

Arlon asked for volunteers to please sign up to help provide refreshments at our general meetings. A sign up sheet is at the front table.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Refreshments were served.

Door prizes were provided by Arlon Eldridge who made a special presentation each to Elena Marsh and Marie Tsarios of a very beautiful rough specimen from Brazil that includes tourmaline, aquamarine, feldspar, lepidolite, and quartz. Door prizes tickets were drawn by Garrett Morgan.

This evening's program was about members showing a special rock, gem or specimen and providing a brief informative talk about what they brought.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Museum Work Day

Fred Plesner

Curator

Wednesday, April 16th was a work day at the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum and if you weren't there you missed out on a great day of fun and adventure. There were approximately 15 of us gathered there for the start of the day, some had to leave early but others filtered in later in the day to help fill in the gaps.

We broke into groups of 2 or 3, were given a small paint brush, a roll of paper towels and a bottle of glass cleaner and set about the job of cleaning each specimen and the case that it was in. John Hayes and Tom Marsh took on the job of vacuuming all the small places normally missed or skipped such as the fluorescent room and the crevices between the cabinets, etc. Dean Plesner set about cleaning the library with the help of Christine Hubinger and Linda Behr came in at lunch time to print out and assemble our monthly bulletin, "The Mountain Gem".

Lunch was provided by the curator and was made a sweet experience when Elena Marsh produced one of her cakes to finish off the meal. Work began again after the lunch break and continued until about 3:30 P.M. when it was decided that we should wrap up whatever we were working on. It was a great day of both learning and fellowship.

Curators Report:

Fred Plesner

On April 23rd a second work day was held in which 5 people showed up. The 1st floor has now been cleaned and work has begun in the World Room upstairs. Good progress has been made and Sharon John and I would like to thank everyone who took the time to make themselves available on either day.

Thank You.

Gemboree Report:

Asst. Gemboree Chairman

Fred Plesner

The set-up day unfortunately began with a few glitches that were essentially beyond our immediate control but the day ended well. We were expecting 26 dealers but only 23 showed up so several booths were either moved or rearranged so that we had no empty booths or holes for opening day. From that point on everything went very smoothly right through takedown Sunday afternoon.

The biggest change from past Gemborees was moving our demonstration area out into the entrance foyer where anyone entering the building made an immediate eye contact with all the activity. This was an excellent move and drew a much larger group of people either asking questions or simply wanting to see how things were done. A bit noisy at times but all the activity seemed to provide that air of excitement we all like. Numerous contacts were made with potential new members so we can expect to see some new faces at future meetings.

Takedown was also different this year. This time we made arrangements with Boy Scout Troop # 235 to provide some of the manual labor. They are a fine bunch of young men who did an excellent job.

We would like to thank two of our dealers who made donations to our museum. El-Mar donated a fine piece of Hessonite Garnet from Somalia and Amde Zewdalem made a very generous donation of a large piece of Opal from Ethiopia.

For those of you who may have heard about all those blue lights in the parking lot in front of the Gemboree the night of our set-up it did not involve us. Apparently four police cars simply chose our parking lot to force a car off the highway to make a drug related bust. Lots of excitement but fortunately it did not involve us.

Via Internet

Ramblings of a Retired Mind

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse.



I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener.

I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think.

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age, and call it 'Pumping Rust'....

I've gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!

When people see a cat's litter box, they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'A Good Doctor'!

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me. They were cramming for their finals.



Program Report

By Rex Larkin

Due to a family emergency, Marty Martinez was called away, unable to provide his usual excellent program. Our thoughts are with you, Marty.

Instead, each member was encouraged to bring their own special rock, and what a wonderful assortment we had! First up were the incredible duo of Rex Larkin and Gary Gaetano, neighbors, with two rocks from the median driveway of Clair Miller, one of our past Gem Society Presidents. The best guess of Rex's reddish porous rock with a vent hole in the middle was some type of volcanic rock. Gary's reddish rock with oval black "eyes" was identified by Tom Sterrett as ocular jasper. Well, I could have guessed THAT, Tom...

Diane Aiello brought her favorite, celestite, also one of my favorites both because of its beauty and fragility.

Elena Marsh told a special story about her opal sample, given to her by Roy Ramsey, whom also took her and Tom on field trips, and seemed to always have a sample for her every time he saw her. Fond memories of past friends.

Laura Anderson had a rock she found on a Pacific Ocean beach, which, when shaken, sounds like it contains water. It does!

Susan Fritz had a specimen of Ant Hill garnets, which are brought to the surface by ants. Hers were faceted, and in "frontier" days, Indians used to shape them and use them as bullets.

Sara Lee Boyce had specimens of Opals from Australia to Peru to Ethiopia, that she faceted at William Holland Lapidary School.

Fred Plesner brought a rock scraper he found from Buck Creek, and also examples of Fordite which, believe it or not are made from layers of paint from the Ford Factory, so compressed you can make cabochons out of them. He also had a polyhedral geode found in only one place in Brazil.

John Hayes narrated an adventure in British Columbia, where he traded some Herkimer Diamonds for searches on private property to search for Jasper. He had to carry an elephant gun, courtesy of the landowner, to protect against grizzlies. The other details are kind of vague to me.

Ray Behr had two beautiful examples of rhodochrosite and blue opal that he passed around to the group.

Arlon showed and told us about the fakery that goes along with citrine: 95% of it was originally amethyst, heated until all the oxygen burns out. It will also lose its color if it sits too long in the sun.

All in all: an entertaining evening, with a theme that we could easily repeat and enjoy.

Via Internet:

We never get what we want,

We never want what we get,

We never have what we like,

We never like what we have.

And still we live & love.

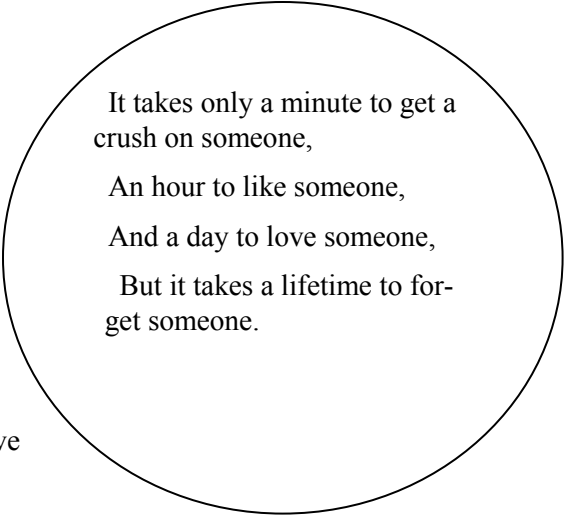
That's life...

The best kind of friends,

Is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with,

Never say a word,

And then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've
ever had.



It takes only a minute to get a
crush on someone,

An hour to like someone,

And a day to love someone,

But it takes a lifetime to for-
get someone.

Member News

Reporting by Linda Behr

This has been a busy month for our members.

Here is just some of the news:

First of all, it is with sympathy that I report that Jan Robles has passed away. She was at one time a host for the museum plus keeping up with the Constitution records.

I heard from Penny-Lynn Goldstein that her aunt, Rhoda Haber had an automobile accident in Florida. They hope to be up here this summer. Rhoda is back to driving and doing well.

Rex Larkin and Vicky Knisley won awards at the Senior Games.

Wally and Doris Smith hope to be back here in June. Marilyn Kollé should be back the first week in June.

As you can see from the pictures of the Gem Show, we had fun as well as being very tired from all of the work. Oh, and Paul Thomas showed up at closing time to help out. Club members, Diane Aiello, Linda Smith and Neal Hearn were vendors.

We had several demonstrators: Marie Tsacrios, Ray Behr, Deborah Wright. If I missed anyone, I apologize since I wasn't there each day. I can't wait for Norm Holbert to give us the financial report. What a wonderful group of members!!!

Did you see the Opinion Page in the Franklin Press on our museum's hosts for Saturday, May 10th?



Gift Shop

Elena Marsh, manager



May's opening of the museum six days a week has been fantastic. Many visitors have already experienced the museum and have bought items in the gift shop. Sales this month have been well above expectations.

Mother's Day weekend, even with the gem shows in town, brought over 100 visitors thru our doors so our hosts were super busy each and every day. Thanks to all that worked those days!

New books and other items are now on the shelves. If anyone is interested in information about healing stones and their meanings, there are charts that will give you some insight.

Playing cards featuring gems, rocks and minerals are also one of the new items. Buying at the gem shows has given me numerous new jewelry items, most are already priced and in the display cases.

Anamay promises to be back in NC soon and she will be a huge help to me while I sort thru more of the recently purchased items and get them priced and on display for sale.

Thank each and every host who takes time out of their busy schedules to donate hours to keep our museum open. Remember, the museum cannot function without each and every member contributing something to its success. Please find time to host at least a few hours in June, it will be greatly appreciated. And I must add, it is fun too. You meet so many wonderful people that come through our doors.

Taste of Scotland will be celebrated on Saturday, June 14, and the museum will need a few extra hosts that day as hours of operation will be extended to accommodate visitors that are in town for the festival. Please sign up for a few hours that day.

See you in the museum soon! Elena



Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday in the Month of May in honor of armed forces personnel killed in war.

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.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. (Winston-Salem, NC) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral society of Franklin, NC Inc.

8:00 AM to 4:00PM Saturday, June 21, 2014

Little Pine Garnet Mine FEE Site

DIRECTIONS: From Asheville take I-26 west to US 25-70 (exit 19A for Marshall, NC – right exit). From north of Marshall, take I-26 south to US 29-70 (exit 19 for Marshall). Travel US 25-70 toward Marshall approx. 12.6 miles and turn left on Little Pine Road. There will be a sign for Sandy Bottom Trail Rides at this corner. Follow Little Pine Road 3.8 miles and turn left onto Caney Fork Road. Parking will be at the end of Caney Fork Road. Collectors will car-pool from here to the site. Maps and/or directions will be available from the office to the mine site. We will meet at the office of Sandy Bottom trail Rides 1459 Caney Fork Road, Marshall, NC 28753 at 9:00 AM. Release forms must be turned in and admittance fee paid. You will receive a “ticket” which you must keep with you. Representatives randomly visit the collecting site and check collectors. From I-240 at Asheville time should be 35 to 40 minutes. (approx. 25 miles). The Sandy Bottom Trail Rides website also had maps and directions –sandybottomtrailrides.net

<cid:part3.07000607.08050001@amfed.org>. <www.sandybottomtrailrides.net>

HISTORY: Little Pine was worked commercially around 1904-05 for Garnets to produce sandpaper (garnet paper). Good crystals of Almandine Garnets can be readily found from ½” to 4” or more. Some remain in the Chlorite schist matrix and can be cleaned to produce very showy matrix specimens. There are some crystals that exhibit an elongated growth that is very desirable. **Note:** All DMC member clubs are required to maintain field trip liability insurance!

ASSEMBLY: Parking at the collecting site is limited, so members of attending clubs should arrange to car-pool from the meeting site to the collecting area. The road into the mine crosses a shallow stream, however most vehicles should pass without problems. WE CANNOT BLOCK THE DRIVE as it is also a homeowner’s access road.

COST: The Dixie Mineral Council Group is receiving a discounted rate of _\$ 20.00 per person per day_. There is not a special rate for children who attend! Please identify yourself as being a member of the Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip to receive this rate!

The collecting limit is one gallon of Garnets per person. Children 8 and older allowed with close adult supervision. There are dump areas that are child friendly; however there is also a mine adit and tunnel where children should not be allowed to venture.

RELEASE FORM: Each individual MUST fill out a Sandy Bottom Trail Rides release for; go to their website - sandybottomtrailrides.net <www.sandybottomtrailrides.net> to download same. It will save time if you have these completed prior to arrival.

Children under 18 must have a parent or guardian fill out a form on their behalf NO EXCEPTIONS.

A Port-O-Let is located at the mine site. Bring water, food, and bug repellent.

No pets

EQUIPMENT: For dump collecting bring scratching tools, small shovel, or pick type rock hammers. To enter the mine, a hardhat and some type of headlamp is necessary. The ceiling of this mine has some loose material and is not suited for children. DO NOT dig into or weaken the support columns!

Contact: Ken Reed - Phone 1-336-766-8581 No calls after 8:30 PM please! E-mail: mckinleycreed@bellsouth.net

The Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club

3rd Annual Piedmont Open Air Gem,
Mineral & Jewelry Sale

Saturday, June 14, 2014

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Greensboro Day School

5401 Lawndale Drive

Greensboro, NC

Sponsored by the Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$4.00

STUDENTS K-12: \$2.00 (WITH I.D.)

(Rain or Shine)

Contact Debbie Livingston, Show Director,
ggmc.rocks@gmail.com

or call 336-706-2285 for more information.

Free Parking

Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society presents their

41st Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, &

Jewelry Show at Tannehill Ironworks State Park near
McCalla, Alabama

June 7-8 9 a.m.-5p.m.

Show is free with paid admission to the park. For

more information contact Gene Blakerby at

gene@lapidaryclub.com and webpage:

www.lapidaryclub.com

Dressing Up

A woman will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the trash, answer the phone, read a book, and get the mail.

A man will dress up for weddings and funerals.

Thought For The Day

A married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing!

Via Internet

Men are Seldom Depressed:**Men Are Just Happier People**Nicknames

If Laura, Kate and Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Kate and Sarah.

If Mike, Dave and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Bubba and Wildman .

Eating Out

When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave and John will each throw in \$20, even though it's only for \$32.50. None of them will have anything smaller and none will actually admit they want change back.

When the girls get their bill, out come the pocket calculators.

Money

A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.

A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale.

Bathrooms

A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel.

The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337. A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

Arguments

A woman has the last word in any argument.

Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

Future

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

Marriage

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

and get the mail.



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor

25 Phillips Street

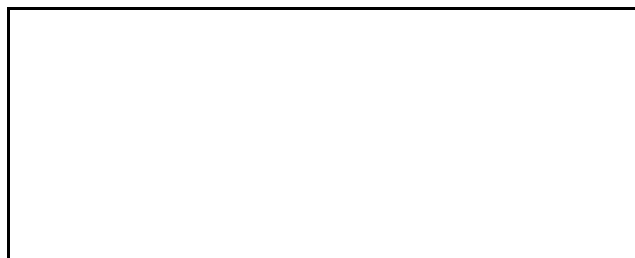
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail

Look for us in the room straight into the building.

Marty Martinez will present “silver mining today compared to the past.



Month	Board Meeting	General
April	22	24
May	27	29
June	24	26
July	15	17
August	26	28
September	23	25 Banquet
October	28	30
November	18	20
December	9	13 end of Year party 1—5 P.M.

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. the last Thursday of the month in the 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.