

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

JULY 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.	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403

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

July Meeting

Date: July 19, 2018

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Robert Carpenter Community Bldg**

Program: **“ICE CREAM SOCIAL”**
bring your favorite toppings



Happy Belated July Anniversaries

- 6 – Kevin & Karen Walter
- 18 – Robert & Carlene Henderson

August Birthdays

- 6 – Garrett Morgan
- 20 – Eddie Amig
- 22 – Edward Magness
- 24 – Rhonda Blanton
- 25 – Don Russ
- 27 – Linda Holmes
- 29 – Theresa Holland
- 31 – Arlon Eldridge



August Anniversaries

- 9 – Doug & Jane Morgan
- 12 – Rhonda & Rick Blanton
- 13 – Linda Holmes & Don Russ
- 20 – Jerry & Diane Mason
- 27 – Tom & Sandy Gadsden



***Thursday, August 16, 2018 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



Al Pribble, President



First let me commend everyone for the response to the call last month for volunteers to host at the Museum this month. The calendar was much better filled than had been the case for several months. Keep up the good work! Please remember there will be a need for helpers at the Gemboree July 25 – 29. Set-up will be Wednesday morning at 8 am and Demonstrators and Hosts will be needed the four days of the show. I must apologize for myself this year in that I have been put on restricted duty for the time being and I will not be able to help as much as I would like.

Tom Sterrett has talked to several people that have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors and those names will be presented to the members this month at the General Meeting. There will be an opportunity to make nominations from the floor. Ballots will be made up and voting will take place during the August meeting.

While I am sure it is mentioned at other places in this Newsletter, don't forget that July is our Ice Cream Social. Arlon already has the ice cream arranged for, so bring your favorite topping(s) and let's have a good time.

Until next month -

Rock On!



The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

Minutes – June 28, 2018 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble on Thursday, June 28, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 43 members with 6 guests; 4 of those joining the club tonight: Welcome Haley Thurman & Tom Morley and Carlene & Robert Henderson.



Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May minutes. Lake Holland moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected and Marsha Harmon seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported that we were in the red for the month of May. He did state that 60% of gift shop sales were on credit cards with some rather large purchases being noted.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge is absent this evening.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell did not have anything new to report.

Curator – Ralph Crawford is checking out LED lights for purchase for the cabinets at the museum.

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

Gift Shop – Anamay Rossomando indicated that everyone is getting used to using the computer. July 14 will be Heritage Day downtown and the museum will be open from 10 until 4. Extra hosts are needed on that Saturday.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, July 5.

Education – Al Pribble reported that Patty Nichols is in the hospital due to shoulder surgery.

Workshop Manager – Cy Amrich did not have anything new to report.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon will be managing a trip to the Iolta mineral rights site on July 3; meet at the museum at 10:00 a.m.; she will take the first six members who sign up. In the future she will set up more small trips with a limited amount of people being able to go. As we are this year's host, the SFMS event is coming up on August 4 and will be at Chunky Gal (3 different locations). We host this event every two years. She will need a great deal of assistance. If you can help, please contact Marsha.

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

Gem Show – July 26, 27, 28 & 29 – Norman Holbert reminded us that the July gem show is coming up quickly. Set up will be on Wednesday, July 25 as the show runs for four days. There is a sign-up sheet at the membership table. We need help with set-up, hosting, demonstrating and take down.

Left to Right, New Members: Haley Thurman & Tom Morley and Carlene & Robert Henderson

Photos by George Fritz



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

NEW BUSINESS:

Museum Volunteers/Hosts – Al Pribble recognized two members for their hard work and diligence. He asked Jay Mooney to come to the podium to be introduced. Jay has been our scheduler. He lives in **Lawrenceville, GA** and drives two hours one-way just to attend our meetings. Jay will be calling on folks to host. Thank you to Jay for taking on this important job.

Also, Ron Rossomando has volunteered to be at the museum on Mondays to train new members to host. Thank you, Ron. Al Pribble stressed the fact that our museum is an integral of our organization. Gem shows and our gift shop provide income. If we cannot staff the museum, we cannot have it open.

Fourth of July – Al Pribble reported the museum will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4. Extra hosts are needed.

Board Members/Officers – Al Pribble told the membership that next month we will be taking nominations from the floor for officers and two Board members positions. We will then vote at the August General meeting and have installation at our September General meeting.

Cabbing Certificates – Deborah Wright presented cabochon certificates of completion to: Bob Harris, Jay Mooney and Lara Jackson.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Lake Holland and seconded by Vicki Knisley. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m. by President, Al Pribble.

Door prize winning numbers were drawn and refreshments were served. The members then participated in a rock swap.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Left to right top, New Members: Paola Ascoli & Kevin Walter

Left to right bottom: Deb Wright, Robert Harris, Lara Jackson & Jay Mooney. Ron R, Jay & Al

Photos by George Fritz & Ralph Crawford

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assiatant



The first official trip to our mineral rights property happened on July 3. As expected the dump piles were filled with feldspar, mica, and white quartz. The hiking became challenging due to heat and elevation gain. After a couple hours we had explored only a small portion of the property.

Only small escorted groups will be allowed onto this property. If you are interested in seeing this area contact Marsha Harmon, Ellen or Ralph Crawford, Kathi or Stacy Walbridge (your mineral rights committee) or put your name on the sign up sheet on the board at the Museum.

August 4 - The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin will be hosting the Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (SFMS) field trip. To see the official write up please look on the bulletin board at the Museum or go to our club's web page www.fgmm.org. We can use a few more club members to help make this a trip to remember. Questions pertaining to club field trips can be answered by Marsha Harmon 828-369-7262 or Lake Holland 828-369-5421.



Photos by Kathi Walbridge & Ralph & Ellen Crawford

Up Coming Trips

August 4, the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin will be hosting the DMC (Dixie Mineral Council) 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 available 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



Summer at the Gift Shop is in full swing. We are seeing a steady increase in sales and visitors. We need your help with hosting because of the larger number of families visiting the Museum. Please...consider hosting a few hours each month.

Also, if you have any specimens, jewelry (even if we can repurpose it), or other interesting items you have around the house that you would like to donate to the Gift Shop for re sale see Jane, Diane or Anamay.

Stop by and check out the Gift Shop and visit the Franklin Public Library and the Macon County Court House to see our updated display cases.

Any time we have special occasions in town we plan to have an outside sales table and could always use your help there, too.

If you have a couple of extra hours and want to volunteer but can't find four hours to host at the museum there are other things that require attention. There is always grass to cut, the fountain to clean, flowers to cut back, floors to vacuum, floors to mop, shelves to dust, repairs of various types, and just general maintenance. Every member could contribute by doing something. This is OUR museum and it needs attention as well as needing hosts. Informative hosts are very important but those who contribute behind the scenes help everyone as well.



Notes From The Classroom

Diane Mason - Wire Wrap Instructor



One more class left for the wire students. Certificates will be presented at the July meeting. We will also have our show & tell.

All six students have done a wonderful job and worked very hard. Great students and I am very proud of each of them. Way to go gang!!

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

Secrets from the Hills of Macon County

THE GLITTERING Days of Mica in Western N.C.

Fred Plesner – Curator Emeritus

We have all seen it or heard about it, but what is mica? Simply put it is a mineral that crystallizes in thin flat plates. It is somewhat flexible and is easily separated into thin layers. Generally, it is shiny and it will shimmer like a mirror when the sun strikes it and it is resistant to electrical currents. In its transparent form it was known as isinglass.

Mica from early Native Americans through the 1800s

Mica from the Macon County area has been found in gravesites that are at least 600 years old. It is a common belief that the mound builders were the first mica miners. I have heard that the old mica mine in the Baird Cove area west of Franklin was of Native American origin.

In 1874 the Knoxville Stove Company began buying mica for sight glasses (windows) and mica mining began to have serious meaning. Most of the mines in western North Carolina were very small operations often dug by one man or as a family operation. On the surface it would appear that such operations would have only a very small impact. To the contrary, they made a big impact. Much of the economy at the time was essentially barter or credit and mining produced cash money at a time when little cash was in circulation. This cash found its way into the local economy in a very positive way.

Miners came and went, mines opened and closed as veins petered out or the price of mica went up or down. The miners simply moved to greener pastures because a skilled and respected miner could find another employer even if wages were low.

How mica change the tire industry

In 1908 a bag of mica changed the tire industry. At that time both tires and tubes were made of natural rubber, and a non-adhesive powder was placed between them. Most of the time it didn't work. As the story goes, Raymond Dent was changing a bicycle tire and found his powder can empty. He then took a bag of ground mica from his father's mine, applied it, and the tube literally fell from the tire. His father then took a 100 lb. bag of ground mica to the Goodrich Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio. In a few weeks an order for five bags had blossomed into a railroad carload and by 1930, 40% of all the wet ground mica being produced was used by the automotive industry.

Mica during World War II

One of the most unusual uses for ground mica occurred in WWII. Airfields had to be built in places where it was nearly impossible to build asphalt plants. A central plant was established and asphalt was rolled out in thin sheets and rolled into huge rolls. To keep the asphalt from sticking to itself and turning into a big unusable blob it was spread with ground mica before being rolled. The rolls were easily shipped and upon arrival would be placed on a machine called a stamp licker and rolled out and packed down.

Western North Carolina and its miners were so important to the war effort in WWII that miners could get a military deferment. By the end of the war, 90% of the world's mica production was coming out of North Carolina.

Mica Mines cont'd on Page 9

Mica Mines cont'd from Page 9

Old mica mines in Macon County

The earliest record of a working mica mine in Macon County that I have heard of is the Mill Knob Mine in 1875. Dr. Jim Lyle worked this mine for sheet mica. Other mines in Macon County include the Iotla Bridge Mine, sometimes known as the Bradley Mine. From what I have heard this mine operated from 1905 until 1947. The Chalk Hill Mica Mine was on the lower slopes of Trimont Ridge and produced high-grade sheet mica. A.W. Reid built a processing plant on the property in the early 1930s. A major mica producer was the Shepherd Knob Mine on Bench Mountain just north of Caler Fork in the Cowee Valley.

In 1952, the Mauney Mica Mine, located 14 miles northeast of Franklin, was being worked by the Pitt Mica Corporation and Texas Mining of Dallas. There were also other mines in such diverse locations as Willis Cove, Lyle Knob and Wayah Bald.

When you include gold, corundum and precious stones, Macon County does indeed have a rich mining history!



Photo Credit: Scott Horvath, USGS



TO ALL OUR MEMBERS:

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

52nd Annual Macon County Gemboree. Set-up begins Wednesday, July 25th. Volunteers needed as hosts, demonstrators, security, set up and break down, and over all assistance to make this Gemboree successful.

Please contact Norm Holbert or sign up at Museum.

Show is Thursday thru Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM.

August 4, Chunky Gal Mountain (3 locations), between Hayesville and Franklin, NC

Our Club is the Host of Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) field trip. Volunteers needed for set up and beak down, registration, guides, monitors, refreshments, and over all assistance to make this a great event.

Please contact Marsha Harmon or sign up at the Museum.



Minerals of the Museum: Staurolite

Stacy Walbridge



As you enter the museum, the first room on your left contains many local minerals, one of which is Staurolite. The name "staurolite" is from the Greek word "stauros," which means "cross." The mineral commonly occurs as twinned, six-sided crystals that sometimes intersect at 90 degrees to form a cross, hence the common name, "fairy cross" or "fairy stone". Staurolite is the official state mineral of the state of Georgia and one of the original state parks in Virginia is called Fairy Stone State Park after the abundance of Staurolite found there. From the park's website (<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/blog/fairy-stone-state-park-is-a-magical-place-3022>) is the legend:

"Many hundreds of years before Chief Powhatan's reign, fairies were dancing around a spring of water, playing with naiads and wood nymphs, when an elfin messenger arrived from a city far away. He brought news of the death of Christ. When these creatures of the forest heard the story of the crucifixion, they wept. As their tears fell upon the earth, they crystallized to form beautiful crosses."

Staurolite was originally used commercially as an abrasive until being replaced by several other minerals. It is now used by geologists to assess the temperature-pressure conditions of a rock's history and is classified as a Silicate with the Chemical Composition $(\text{Fe,Mg})_2\text{Al}_9\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{23}(\text{OH})$.

Word Search for Staurolite

To prepare you for finding Staurolite in the field you can look for Staurolite and other words in the following word search puzzle. The words are hidden and may be spelled in any direction.

J E D K V F M K Y V W M O Y Z U D B N I
 B Y S K C O E U U B D V F R C R E J Z N
 C B X B C X C E S E I M C H C F T Y P Q
 S W C Y R I A F N E D Q Y T V G I D P H
 M E C B A D G N X T U P U G T C L K E J
 D J Q L B E I Q Y R L M Y T P F O Q E L
 B Y J P T W Z F K B D X Q C N Z R W T Z
 Y G W C T I Z T N E D I S E R P U D Q Z
 O N H R O Z A X I L K H K M C T A L F V
 F W Z D J H G P L F A O V U C M T Q E R
 Z X H K P R A C Y F Z R O X Z O S C B M
 G R F B P G X P B Q N P E Y G R M R M R
 J M G C Z D L W M J L T W N W P N O Y U
 V D E W V N B F I E A B H K I D N S I R
 X P I H M U M U Z H Y F N P Z M K S T M
 Z C S I L I C A T E O T I D R Q V G N Y
 K L Z M D R M R A H C M Y G E O R G I A
 E B X S T J P G J P P T U F A N A F P L
 I M H V F O F G E N O O G K P I R S D H
 Q O B N C T S P I C G Y M X Z S N L B U

WORD LIST

CROSS
 FAIRY
 GEORGIA
 MINERAL
 MUSEUM
 PRESIDENT
 SILICATE
 STAUROLITE
 TWINNED



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; contact normholbert@comcast.net; www.franklinfacetersfrolic.com

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; contact Norm Holbert normholbert@comcast.net

Field Trips

August 4, Chunky Gal Mountain, between Hayesville and Franklin, NC

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC hosts the Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) field trip at 3 sites on Chunky Gal Mountain; 9 AM to 4 PM; Free; current paid members only; registration on site required; contact Marsha Harmon or Lake Holland

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 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

August 18, Cowee Community, Franklin, NC

14th Annual Franklin Folk Festival



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

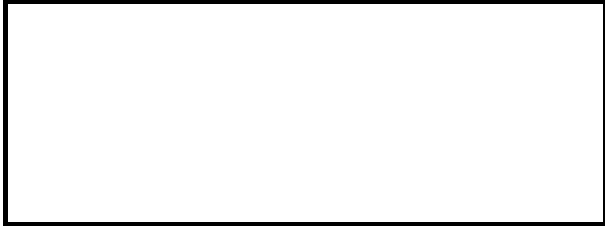
25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734

First Class Mail



Ice Cream Social

bring your favorite toppings



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2018	23	25
February	20	22
March	27	29
April	24	26
May	29	31
June	26	28
July	17	19 Ice Cream Social
August	28	30 Elections
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