

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

JANUARY 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	Ellen Williams	349-9416
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Cy Amrich	356-7816

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	OPEN	
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	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	OPEN	
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	631-1911
Refreshments	Joyce Jacques	342-2543
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

January Meeting

Date: January 25, 2018

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30

Place: Robert Carpenter Community Bldg.

Program: Michael Gillen talks about new credit card procedures. Cy Amrich and John Hayes talk about workshop equipment safety. An informative program.



Happy Belated Birthday

January 10 - Ellen Williams

February Birthdays

- 12 – Diane Mason
- 13 – Steve Fox
- 19 – Chloe Tsacrios
- 20 – Vicki Knisley
- 22 – Tom Sterrett
- 28 – Darcel Green



February Anniversaries

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



***Thursday, February 8, 2018 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



Al Pribble, President

I have been directed by the Board to include this letter to the members as my message this month:

An open letter to the members of the Franklin Gem & Mineral Society from the Board of Directors

Our club is comprised of members with a broad background of experience, knowledge and talents. These differences are a strength, but may also become a source of discord because of differences in personality, culture and viewpoints. We should never let any such differences stand in the way of our club goals. We are all volunteers, doing what we can when we can. Let's embrace the camaraderie and fellowship that our organization offers us, always showing respect for one another.

The primary objective of this society is:

- * ***"to affect 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.***

We need all our members and we need to work together, to maintain our focus on achieving the objectives of this society. No one person can do it all. Sometimes we disagree on the way forward, but as adults we can work through it. We may disagree without being disagreeable, in other words.

Presidents Message cont'd on Page 4

Presidents Message cont'd from Page 3

We gather at monthly meetings and at the Museum where we can share in our common interests. We can talk about our experiences, our favorite pieces and our favorite field trips. We can get some good tips about local collecting hotspots, who's found what-where. We can get ideas and instruction on how to cut a special stone or do a complicated facet cut, or how to solder a special piece of silver.

When you come to a meeting or to the museum, bring the spirit of camaraderie and respect for one another, despite any differences of opinion you may have. Treat others as you would have them treat you.

Let's share in what we love and appreciate about this great club and this great museum, with some great people, the members of the Franklin Gem & Mineral Society.

The Board of Directors



**The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.
Minutes – December 16, 2017 – General Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, at 12 noon on Saturday, December 16, 2017, at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Today is our Christmas dinner meeting. President Al Pribble asked if any board member or committee chairperson had anything they wished to discuss. There being no one having business to be brought forward, the formal business meeting was adjourned.

The membership went on to enjoy a wonderful holiday buffet with lots of fellowship and rock bingo being played following dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Photos by George Fritz

Field Trip News - "Burr" it is cold!

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



Really dislike this time of year, with the cold weather and hit — miss scheduling of field trips but each year I try to set up trips. Usually we head south, hoping for better weather but not this year. Still I have many who want to try and I appreciate each and every one of them. The count has been December 9 Diamond Hill Mine cancelled due to weather, local trip for Staurolites and Chunky Gal cancelled for weather, and January DMC trip to Florida cancelled due to lack of interest.

Three strikes but on we go : February 11 Summerville, Ga. We have been here before hunting for agate predominantly gray and red with occasional druzy quartz. Mostly the material can be found by surface collecting or busting bigger boulders into totable pieces. This material can be sliced, made into cabs, yard art or specimens. I have several yard rocks from there out on my patio if that is your desire. Call me or email with questions. DMC information print outs available at the Museum, on the back board.

If you live at dual addresses please try to keep me up with where you are. Sometimes I do not consider that you are in Florida or Alabama and might be interested in what to Franklin is too far to travel. Most of our local rockhounds don't want to travel more than a couple hours.

Reschedule of Staurolite/Chunky Gal trip will happen once the weather allows with contact to original sign ups. Please call or email if you are interested in any field trip scheduled or you have a site desired. Marsha - 828-369- 7262 or marsha.harmon@frontier.com and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Unique Circumstances

Fred Plesner - Emeritus Curator



Sometimes when we go over old accounts or read old documents we are left wondering about what was going on, what happened, what changed, et cetera. Such was the case when I read an old column in the Franklin Press by Barbara McRae. The column discussed some old jail accounts that were paid during the period 1883 - 1884. Regular jail accounts were being paid during this period so the jail was open for business so what was going on is conjecture.

In 1883 a prisoner whom we know only as "Hellman" required special treatment for some mysterious reason. Illness, Injury, old age or a combination of these circumstances required that he be held at a local hotel. The December 1883 accounts show that W.H.A. Greenwood was paid \$14 for guarding "prisoner Hellman at Hotel." C.C. Smith was also paid \$2 for the same task, "per order of the Sheriff." "Prisoner Hellman" also ate hotel food because the same accounts show that D.C. Cunningham was paid only \$7 of his \$14 claim for feeding this prisoner for 14 days. When the medical bills were all tallied up Dr. J.M. Lyle was paid \$10 for his medical services rendered to "prisoner Hellman" per the April 1884 accounts.

Since Dr. Lyle's bills were not paid until April of 1884 I must wonder "was the prisoner transferred to the jail for recovery?" Your guess is as good as mine and what was the charge against "Prisoner Hellman"?

Gift Shop News Setting Achievable Goals for Our New Year



Ellen Williams - Gift Shop Manager

Our Gift Shop made some major changes at the end of 2017. We are already seeing the benefits of these changes. Visitors are using their credit cards to make purchases. Our stock has increased in value and is selling well.

So, with that in mind, and the fact that Anamay can make a Cadillac park in a shoebox without a scratch, I believe it would be safe to say we can increase the sales of last year.

This does not mean we can all sit back and watch. The gift shop needs the time and talent of all our members for its' continued success.

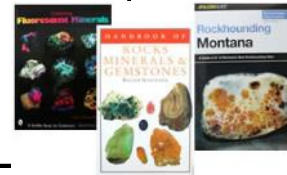
Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to the many members who have been helpful in making the gift shop what it is today. Ralph Crawford has put in many hours getting the new system established and teaching our members how to use it.

Thanks Ellen, again, for all the time you've spent on writing those tiny id and price tags for the stock. It's a tedious job, but someone's' got to do it. Any volunteers?

And now it's time to take inventory. A job now extra large, due to new inventory, but perhaps will be made much easier with our new credit card system.



To Our Members Special Book Sale
Most Books Up to 50% off
Selection available at Jan 25th Meeting
Bring Your Wallets & Check Books
Books available in Gift Shop for purchase



Program News - January and February Presentations:

Sande Lolli - Program Coordinator

Our January 25 presentation will include useful information for our new members and for our long term members. Michael Gillen will do a short presentation on our new credit card processing procedures. This will be a good time to ask questions so that you are prepared for your next hosting. Following Michael, Cy Amrich and John Hayes will do a presentation on equipment safety. This will be a good refresher for some members and educational for newer members.

Get ready for February's presentation because it involves You! This will be our "Show and Tell" night. Do you have a unique rock? Do you have an ordinary rock with a unique story? Bring your rocks and stories to our February 22 meeting. Rocks will be displayed, and you will get a chance to tell your story.

Please contact me if you have a great idea for a presentation or know of someone that would do a presentation. It's best to contact me by email - sande42@yahoo.com

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

Mini Drill Press

If you find yourself drilling a number of small holes for your work, you might want to look at the small, inexpensive drill presses now available. They take up just minimal space on your bench and are always ready to give you nice straight holes. Some models even have a variable speed control. I've been very pleased with a low-priced one that's been well-used in my classes for over a year.



Because these machines are only a foot high, they're limited as to the size of workpieces that can fit into the machine and the size of the drill bits you can use. But I've had no problems with drill bits up to about 3/16" (4.5mm), even drilling steel.

The machines are sold by a number of companies. If you do get one, be sure to buy a spare belt because they are generally not available at local hardware stores.

Laser Welding

A question came up recently about how to solder some jump rings to hold blue topaz briolettes onto a necklace. We've all heard about ways to do some soldering close to a stone, and some of us have sized a ring without taking the stones out of their mounts. We've used wet paper towels, garnet sand, cooling gels, and my favorite of suspending the stone in a dish of water. All techniques bank on the principal of using a small, hot flame to do the job quickly before the stone gets hot enough to crack or change color.

But each job is somewhat of a gamble. Some stones are hardy and some are frail. Jades and jaspers will generally take some heat, but I'd never chance it with the likes of topaz or opal. Trying to shield a stone from the torch is always a betting game, and sometimes you lose.

If soldering something close to a stone is too risky, perhaps it's time to consider a no-heat method like laser welding. Most jewelry stores have laser welders these days, and the cost of having it done is quite affordable. They used to have problems doing silver, but now seem to do it routinely.

I've used a local shop twice recently, once for a piece with little emeralds that a "friend" asked me to repair and for a second piece where I needed a safety catch and didn't want the torch heat to expose all the solder lines again.



From Brad's Bench Tips [www: BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)

Brad Smith's books are available at [www.facebook.com/Bench Tips](http://www.facebook.com/Bench-Tips) and www.amazon.com/Bench-Tips-Jewelry-Making

**From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies
Gem and Mineral Shows**



March 9, 10 & 11, 2018, Augusta, GA

37th Annual Aiken-Augusta, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM; Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St. Augusta, GA; Kids under 12 FREE with Adult Admission; Adult Admission \$3 day/\$5 weekend pass; Sponsored by Aiken, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society and Augusta Gem & Mineral Society; Show Chair, Chris Glass 706-284-9239

March 17 & 18, Dothan, AL

Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM; Houston County Fram Center, 1701 East Cottonwood Road, Dothan, AL; Admission FREE; Show Chair, Jeff DeRoche 334-673-3554

May 11, 12 & 13, Franklin, NC

Mothers Day Gemboree

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

Franklin Faceters Frolic

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

Macon County Gemboree

Other Events

January 26 to February 11, 2018, Tucson, AZ

64th Annual Tucson Gem & Mineral Show; Tucson Convention Center; www.tgms.org



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

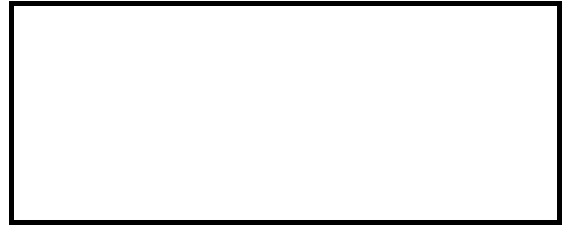
Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



JANUARY

First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2018	23 4:00 pm	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
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