

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXVIII AUGUST 2015
Number 8
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. Two meetings are requested before joining.

Dues are \$15 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$3. 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.

**FRANKLIN GEM
AND MINERAL MUSEUM**

is operated under the direction of the
Board of Directors of
Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

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 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: editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin,
North Carolina, is a founding member
of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.**

2014-2015 Officers

Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Vice President	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
Secretary	Susan Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Assistant Treasurer	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director 2016	Ray Behr	342-6360
Director 2016	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2015)	TBD	
Director (2015)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Virginia Bennis	
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	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Calendar Chairman	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Gemboree	TBD	
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	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Jane Morgan	342-8703
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)

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

Date: August 27, 2015
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building on 441 South

Program: Kim Cochran
Election for 2016 Officers

September Birthdays

2 - Elena Marsh
 2 - Paul V. Thomas
 9 - Marie Tsacrios
 15 - Claudette Rollins
 16 - James Granato
 18- Victoria Mahar
 26 - Frances Martinelli
 29- Norm Holbert
 30 - Denis Bernard



September Anniversaries

3 - John & Mary Greist
 19 - Robbie & Janet Hayles
 20 - Ralph & Ellen Crawford



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 10th, Thursday



Al Pribble

President's Message – August

August here already! We are having some cool nights and autumn like days. Summer has been hot and so have the visitors at the Museum. We are having a great year with some days seeing more visitors than two hosts can handle. There have been visitors from just about every state in the USA as well as many foreign countries.



Marsha has done a great job this year with several field trips to different locations that were fun and exciting for all who participated, and there have been classes to enjoy and the workshop is here for everyone's pleasure, but there are other aspects to our club. We are unique as far as clubs go in that we own and operate a Museum. So, how about coming on down and volunteering to spend a little time hosting at the Museum. No experience is necessary and the pay is top notch. You'll get to meet and talk to some really interesting people and what could be more valuable than that? And you may even learn something in the process. Bring your calendar with you to the meeting so you can fill in the schedule sheet and make Virginia's job a bit easier. If we all pull together the load is easy for all.

August also means that our program will feature Kim Cochran and he always has an informative and enjoyable presentation. We will also hold our annual election for board members and officers, so **BE THERE**.

In the meantime – Rock On!

REMEMBER membership renewals are due in September, Please pay Claudette Rollins

Minutes – JULY 23 , 2015 – General Meeting

Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, July 23, 2015, at 6:33 p.m. in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building meeting room.

Minutes – Motion was made by Ray Behr and seconded by Fred Plesner to accept the general meeting minutes for June as printed in the newsletter. The motion was voted on and carried.

Membership – Claudette Rollins reported 42 members and 13 guests in attendance this evening. We have two new members: Phil and Theresa Wheaton who have moved here permanently from Pennsylvania.

Vice President – Tom Sterrett is absent this evening.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported \$2100 net income for the month of June.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh stated that we desperately need folks to volunteer as museum hosts! He spoke of the large numbers of visitors we have had so far this summer. He again reported that the new security cameras are up and running.

Publicity – Fred Plesner reported that a picture of Elena Marsh, the outside of our museum with the new Wildlife Habitat plaque, and a related article was printed in the Macon County News. Fred has mailed a packet of brochures to the Welcome Center and to the gold museum in Dahlonega.

Education – Diane Aiello is absent this evening.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh stated things are going very well. The museum was open on the Fourth of July. Sales one day were almost \$500 in four hours. Everything she bought from the May gem show has sold and she will be going shopping for more goodies at the wholesale gem show coming up next week.

Field Trips - Marsha Harmon reported that the trip to Holland School was great. She stated there is another trip there scheduled for July 26 when there will be an auction and a tour. On August 1 there is a trip to Emerald Hollow in Hiddenite. She noted that this will involve a 3-hour drive one-way. Some will carpool. Overnight accommodations can be made. Marsha reported that Lake Holland has offered to assist her with field trips.

Other Business:

Virginia Bennis told the group that there are two museum employees, she and Claudette Rollins, and that they overlap days, but one of them each day. She said the museum has been very busy with visitors and volunteer hosts are needed. She is circulating a clipboard and sign-up sheet for same.

It was announced that this Saturday is Heritage Day downtown and the museum will be opening at 9 a.m. in anticipation of visitors. Ray Behr will be on hand to cut geodes. Extra hosts are needed.

The gem show will be Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday – July 23, 24, 25 and 26. A sign-up sheet is being circulated for hosts and to help with set-up at the Community Building. Set-up will be on Wednesday, July 22. Due to personal reasons, Cy Amrich will be unable to do the October gem show. If anyone is willing to undertake this responsibility, please contact President Al Pribble.

John Hayes reported that during a field trip last fall to Ellijay, Vicki Knisley gathered over 1300 stones along with a package of garnets. These are on display on the table in the back of the room.

Diane Mason gave a very detailed presentation regarding her upcoming wire wrapping classes and passed out information sheets regarding dates, cost, etc. Classes will be from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on October 3, October 17, November 7, December 5 and January 9 with a total of 11 projects. Diane is donating her time, travel and expertise. Stones are being offered at wholesale prices. The first eight people to buy and receive their wire (per her handout) will be signed up as participants. Please contact Diane should you have questions.

Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Al Pribble stated that we are changing the structure for the museum workshop/equipment use. The new pricing schedule will be \$1 per hour. Those using the workshop are required to ask one of the employees to record your time and take your money. Al stated that this new pricing structure applies to *everyone*. The *only* exception will be those taking a class and using equipment with an instructor.

Fred Plesner presented a Lifetime Membership award to Rhoda Haber who was chosen for this honor by the Awards Committee.

Arlon Eldridge announced that Kim Cochran will be here as a presenter for the August general meeting.

Tom Marsh announced that he asked Virginia Bennis and she agreed to be museum assistant.

Al Pribble reported that our general meeting on September 24 will include officer installation and a banquet. The Society will provide fish and/or BBQ as a main course but we are asking everyone who attends to bring a covered dish. A sign-up sheet for food will be circulated.

Nominations:

Arlon Eldridge presented a list of members up for nomination and asked for any nominations from the floor.

The following were nominated:

President – Al Pribble

Vice President – Marsha Harmon and Tom Sterrett

Secretary – Susan Fritz

Treasurer – Lake Holland

Assistant Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios

Board of Directors – Jane Morgan and Norman Holbert

Voting will take place at the August general meeting and, as above, installation will take place during the September meeting and banquet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Al Pribble at 7:10 p.m. Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes. An ice cream social followed and was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



It's been a whirlwind summer so far, things are really busy at the museum which means that Anamay and I have been busy making sure the gift shop is well stocked and items available for guests to look at and hopefully purchase.

The gem show shopping experience went well for us, spending 2 long and hectic days to buy merchandise not only for the summer but items that will be available thru next May, when the next show comes to town and we are able to replenish our stock. Hopefully, our careful planning allows us to continue offering quality jewelry and specimens to our visitors and also members.

Thanks to Linda McKay, owner of Mountain Made (store on Main Street) who organizes Appalachian Heritage Days for the town of Franklin and included our museum as part of the festivities. With a table of specimens and items along with a geode cutting demonstration, visitors were able to come down Phillips Street to check out our museum. The extra help from some of our new members was greatly appreciated.

Thanks again for any and all donations of jewelry or specimens from club members. They are greatly appreciated. Anamay and I make sure that we price and display those as quickly as we can - you can usually find most of them in the 'rounder' case. A full calendar of hosts for each month is wonderful!! Please remember that the museum's hours are from 12 to 4 each day. Many times visitors are waiting anxiously for our doors to open at 12 to tour our museum. Hosts should make every effort to arrive early enough to be able to open up the museum, put your things down in the meeting room, turn on all lights, open exits, and count the money in the register and be able to open at the scheduled time of 12 noon. Please call the museum if you are running late to inform Claudette or Virginia or the other hosts that you are on your way.

Tom and I are always available to any and all members who want to be trained (or retrained) as hosts. Please check with us to schedule a time that is convenient for you.

Jewelry and specimens on displays cases have been done by Anamay and me. It is important that nothing be moved, changed or added without Anamay or me doing so. We try to keep an inventory of what we have for our records and restocking and appreciate that we are the only ones allowed to make changes in any way. We do accept and consider any and all suggestions.

Although I say it a lot but I NEVER want this to be taken for granted - THANKS FOR HOSTING - you are representing the club in the finest way.

See you in the Museum soon! Elena



Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

July 21st a small group visited William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris. It was Tuesday night auction and a small school tour was added. Students from the school provide auction materials and you never know what you will find there. We had an evening of fun and a couple of club members found rocks and beading materials of interest to them.

The August 1st club trip to Hiddenite had a great turn out with 17 total. Nice to see new souls out: Sandy and Tom Gadsden with Evan and Ryan their grandsons, Joan Bohman, Sherry and Scott Newton and Barbara and Pete Rizzo. I had gone up the day before to check things out at The Emerald Hollow Mine. Several things were questioned directly by me with the mine manager, concerning policy changes and inaccuracies in internet public mine information. Despite their attempt to make us rent their equipment with a "no metal tools" rule we continued on to sluice and work the creek with plastic Walmart tools. A few did try mining but the mine was closed so they dug in a roped off area. One of these folks did find an emerald, smaller than a fine pea in the roadway. The degree of "salting" although advertising natural material was very disturbing and our sand box will benefit by most all materials gathered there. All club members were great sports about this mine but I do not suggest a trip back there. **Thumbs Down To The Emerald Hollow Mine!**



Before and after my trip; I was able to check out Little Pine Garnet Mine in Marshall, Hoot Owl and Brushy Creek in Spruce Pine, The Lucky Strike near Marion, and The Old Pressley Mine near Canton.

Later Ralph and Ellen helped place further focus on Old Pressley. This is a possible outing requiring a quick change of elevation and lots of hard work up at the mine tailings. We had good results up the hill and down in the sluice with a \$50 bucket. Cost of working the tailings is \$25 for the day.

For those interested in Gold, The Lucky Strike presented, high banking with their equipment, panning in the stream, or working their sluice with their material. There is a campground, The Miners Diner, and restrooms on site. Check it out www.luckystrikegoldandgem.com for details.

The Brushy Creek Mine did show some good Aquamarine along with golf ball size garnets, nice quartz, beryl, and criterion crystals. 4 hours, no shade, hard work and \$75 each. I will need at least 5 others to make this trip work! Check it out www.gemmountain.com.

Graves Mountain will be having their free weekend dig on October 2, 3, and 4. Clarence Norman opens his mine in Lincolnton, GA only two weekends a year to the public. I am not sure if we will be sponsoring a trip due to other club obligations but this would be an easy independent opportunity. Talk to me first for more details, if you would like.

From the Southeast Federal Mineral Society**Gem and Mineral Shows****September 25 – 27, 2015, Jacksonville, FL**

"THE FLORIDA FACETERS FROLIC"; presented by The Tomoka Faceters Guild and The United States Faceters Guild in conjunction with The Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society's; 2015 27th Annual Show; Morocco Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. Club; 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South; Jacksonville, Florida 32224; Friday 1 PM to 6 PM; Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM

There will be faceting equipment dealers, faceting rough dealers, lectures and hands on faceting instruction, plus door prizes; show contact Tom Mitchell 352-446-4866; tommitchellx@gmail.com

**October 16 – 17, 2015, Knoxville, TN**

25th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; Kerbel Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave in Knoxville TN.; October 16th - 17th, Friday and Saturday 10:00 am to 6 pm; October 18th Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; The Gem Show is open to the public and has an admission fee of \$5 a day for adults or \$8 for the whole show; children under 12 are admitted free.

The Gem and Mineral Show will have many vendors that offer great products including a wide variety of jewelry, rare fossil and mineral specimens, meteorites, gems of all colors shapes & sizes, lapidary & jewelry equipment, and much more.

<http://knoxrocks.org/gem>

A Diamond or Is It?

Fred Plesner - Publicity Chairman

If you have spent any time around the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum the subject of diamonds will be brought up on occasion. This has set me to thinking about them from the rockhounds perspective.

There has been one (1) and only one diamond found in Macon County and that was in the 1800's. Is that the only one or are we simply not looking for them? Perhaps we should be giving a closer look at the small stuff that we throw away. So what are the odds of finding one? Pretty slim, at best a really long shot. The odds are somewhere in the neighborhood of 1 in 10,000,000 (ten million) and the odds of finding a diamond of ten (10) carats or larger are approaching something astronomical 1 in 1,000,000,000. That is one in a billion. It's going to take a lot of looking by a lot of people.

So what are we looking for?

1. It is going to be small probably less than 3/8th of an inch in diameter.
2. It will weigh less than 2 grams (10 carats).
3. Did you find more than one (1) that you suspect is a diamond? The odds are really stacking up against you that it is not a diamond.
4. OK, you think it's a diamond. You have beat the odds, where do we go from here?
5. Look at it's crystal structure. It should be cubic (4 sided). Quartz is six (6) sided.
6. Look for a fracture. If fractured it should be clean and flat and smooth and not rounded (conchoidal). Quartz and glass will have conchoidal fractures.
7. Test for hardness. Here we are very fortunate, we have an abundant supply of corundum (ruby or sapphire). If it will scratch corundum you have probably beat the odds as there is no other hardness test for a diamond.
8. If you have gotten this far your stone warrants additional study. Congratulations!!



Emerald Donation

Fred Plesner Curator The Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

The Museum was given a donation of a beautiful Emerald crystal in matrix during the Gemboree. Many thanks to Baron Jewelry of Ashville, North Carolina. This magnificent specimen will certainly give you a touch of Green Fever upon viewing it.

This beautiful crystal comes from the mines in Muzo, Colombia where the worlds purest Emeralds are found. This is the world's only site location where Emeralds are found in sedimentary rocks.

Emeralds are a beryllium stone and here the necessary materials, Beryllium, Chromium, and Vanadium found here in liquid and gaseous states, find their way into cracks in the rocks where they cool and crystallize. Here a saline solution found in the sedimentary rock eventually washes out the impurities such as iron which would otherwise cloud the stone. This is why Colombian Emeralds are the most sought after in the world. Their color and clarity make them beyond compare.

We are excited to have this specimen added to our Museums' collection.

EMERALD
MUZO, COLOMBIA



FIG. 14.—PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING SORTING SHED AND MANNER IN WHICH EMERALDS ARE SEPARATED FROM THE CRUSHED MATRIX.



FIG. 12.—PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING "PEONS" WORKING ON A BANK, BREAKING DOWN THE EMERALD FORMATION WITH LONG, IRON CROWBARS.

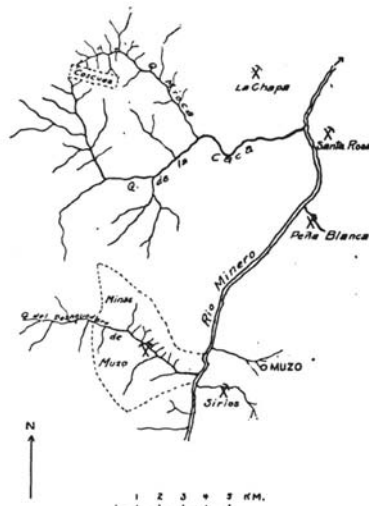


FIG. 2.—SKETCH MAP SHOWING THE MUZO AND ADJACENT EMERALD DEPOSITS.
(The Muzo preserve, the property of the Colombian government, is inclosed by broken lines.)

September Birthstone

Sapphire, the birthstone for September, is a relative of July's birthstone, ruby. Like ruby, it is a form of the mineral corundum, a normally drab grey mineral. Red corundum is called ruby, while all other gem quality forms of corundum are called sapphires.

Typically, sapphires appear as blue stones, ranging from very pale blue to deep indigo, due to the presence of small amounts of titanium and iron within the crystal structure. The most valued shade of blue is the medium-deep cornflower blue. Sapphires also occur in other natural colors and tints – colorless, gray, yellow, pale pink, orange, green, violet and brown – called fancy sapphires. These different colors are caused by different kinds of impurities within the crystal. For example, yellow sapphires get their color from ferric iron, and colorless gems have no contaminants.

The biggest source of sapphires world-wide is Australia, especially New South Wales and Queensland. Found in alluvial deposits of weathered basalt, Australian sapphires typically are blue stones with a dark and inky appearance. Kashmir, in India, used to be a well-known source of the cornflower-blue stones. In the United States, a major source is the Yogo Gulch Mine in Montana that mostly yields small stones for industrial use.

The word *sapphire* has its roots in several ancient languages: the Arabic *safir*, the Latin *sapphirus* (meaning *blue*), and the Greek word *sappheiros* for the island of Sappherine in the Arabian Sea where sapphires were found in ancient Grecian times. Ancient Persians called sapphire the “Celestial Stone.” It was the gem of Apollo, Greek God of prophesy and was worn by worshipers visiting his shrine in Delphi to seek his help. It was used by ancient Etruscans as far back as the 7th century B.C.

The sapphire was said to represent the purity of the soul. Before and during the Middle Ages, it was worn by priests as protection from impure thoughts and temptations of the flesh. Medieval kings of Europe valued these stones for rings and brooches, believing that it protected them from harm and envy. Warriors presented their young wives with sapphire necklaces so they would remain faithful. It was believed that the stone's color would darken if worn by an adulterer or adulteress, or by an unworthy person.

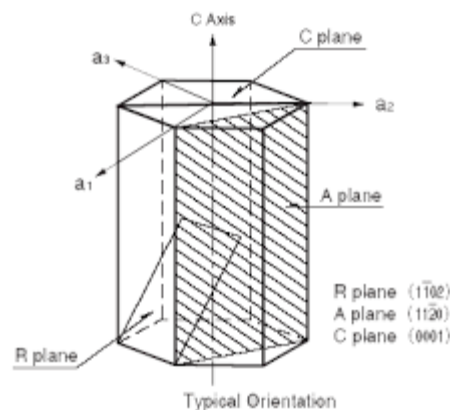
Sapphires were once believed to be protection against snakes. It was said that if poisonous reptiles and spiders were placed in a jar containing the stone, the creatures would immediately die. The French of the 13th

century believed that sapphire transformed stupidity to wisdom, and irritability to good temper.

One of the most famous sapphires rests on the Imperial State Crown, worn by Queen Victoria in 1838. It resides in the British Crown Jewels in the Tower of London. This gem is called the St. Edward's Sapphire because it once belonged to Edward the Confessor, who wore the stone on a ring during his coronation in 1042.

EarthSkyscience

Images Credit: Wikipedia



Upcoming Shows

September 4-7 - RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA; Treasures of The Earth; Retail Show; NC State Fair Grounds; Fri 12-6; Sat & Sun 10-5; Mon 10-4; Adults \$5; Military Free with ID; Children 16 and under Free

September 4-7 - HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA; Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society; Whitmire Center; Fri Sat & Sun 10-6; Mon 10-5; Adults \$4; Children under 12 Free w/ paid admission; Opals is the theme

September 11-13 - WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA; Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club; Education Bldg, Winston-Salem Fairgrounds; Fri & Sat 10-7; Sun 12-5; Adults \$3; Students K-12 Free

October 15-18-FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA, Gem Show on 441 & Lake Emory; Corner 441 & Lake Emory; 9-6

October 16-18 - FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA, 26th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree; Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; Fri & Sat 10-5; Sun 11-4

Other Events

September 16-20-FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA; Macon County Fair; Macon County Fairgrounds

October 24-FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA; Pumpkin Fest; Downtown Franklin

North Carolina was the site of the first gold rush in the United States and remained the most significant producer until the California gold rush. In 1799, the son of farmer John Reed found a 17-pound gold nugget in Cabarrus County. Panning produced the majority of gold until the middle of the next century. Although huge strikes are unlikely, panning continues as a pastime for North Carolinians and visitors suffering from gold fever.



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734

First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General
January	27	29
February	24	26
March	24	26
April	21	23
May	26	28
June	23	25
July	14	16 Ice Cream Social
August	25	27 Elections
September	22	24 Banquet
October	27	29
November	17	19
December	8	12 End of Year Party

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. 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 p.m.
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.