

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXIX SEPTEMBER 2015
Number 9
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 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

November 1 – April 30

Only 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.**

2014-2015 Officers

Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Vice President	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director 2016	Ray Behr	342-6360
Director 2016	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2015)	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director (2015)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
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

September Meeting

Date: September 24, 2015
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building on 441 South

Program: Banquet & Officer Installation

October Birthdays

3 - Joe Pinkous
 9 - Jacob Sterrett
 24 - Wally Smith
 25 - Susan Fritz
 26- Michael Gillen
 28 - Richard Hasle
 31 - Ina Rae Muncher
 31 - Al Pribble
 31- Ron Rossomando

**October Anniversaries**

18 - Paul & Nadine Thomas
 19 - Lon & Laura Peden



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
OCTOBER 13th, Tuesday

**Al Pribble****President's Message – September**

I trust all you Rock hounds had a pleasant Labor Day. The Field Trip Committee of Marsha, Ralph and Ellen are making weekly excursions, either hunting rocks or looking for places to hunt rocks. I hear that a couple of the roads Ralph navigated with his Jeep had the women ready to get out and walk, but that is only a rumor.

It is getting to the time of year that classes start at the Museum. Diane Mason's Wire Wrapping class will start at the end of September and finish before Christmas. There is a sign-up sheet in the Meeting Room for the Faceting and Cabbings classes. So all you new members come around and get your names on a list.

This month we will have our Installation Banquet along with the installation of Officers for the coming year. I hope everyone has let Jane Morgan know what dish you can bring. It will also be the last meeting before the Leaf Lookers Gemboree Show on the 16 -18 of October. We need everyone who can to sign up to take part in making the show a success because these shows are still our major source of income for the Museum and scholarships. Our new Show Chairman is Steve Dillon so please give him a lot of support.

Now I have a confession to make. Even though we live in the most beautiful corner of the entire United States, and October is the most beautiful month in which to be here, Rosie and I will be traveling during October. We still like the Southwest - Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and San Antonio and since there are tornadoes in the Spring, dust, fires and HEAT in the Summer and ice in the Winter it only leaves Fall to have a decent visit. Also, just as much as I like rocks and gems, Rosie likes quilting and the largest quilt show in the US is in Houston the end of October. Also, I may even get in some rock hunting out there if my knee holds together. :>)

But I am confident everything will be well taken care of here with all our capable crew.

Happy Rock hounding!

REMEMBER membership renewals are due
Please pay Claudette Rollins

Minutes – AUGUST 27, 2015 – General Meeting

Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, August 27, 2015, at 6:30 PM in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building meeting room.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections and Susan Fritz said that there was one correction she had made. Motion was made by Diane Mason and seconded by Fred Plesner to accept the General Meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was voted on and carried.

Membership – Claudette Rollins reported 49 members and 10 guests in attendance this evening.

Vice President – Tom Sterrett stated he had nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported we are "in the black" by \$114.00.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh stated that everything at the museum is running well.

Assistant Museum Manager – Virginia Bennis reported that many members will be heading back to their Florida residence soon and that volunteer hosts are needed. She urged members to sign up to host.

Curator/Publicity – Fred Plesner told us that our museum had a booth at the Cowee School Heritage Festival. Smoky Mountain Hosts informed him that their visitor count has been up this summer, the same as our number of visitors to the museum has been up. He reported that he discovered a new food truck and after some conversation, that vendor is willing to participate at our gem shows, so there are now two potential vendors who can provide food. The dates for the next gem show are October 16, 17, and 18. Hosts are also needed for this event. He stated that a recent donation of an emerald specimen to the museum is now on display in the States Room.

Fred Plesner also asked if anyone was interested in taking over the responsibilities of publicity chairman. That person should have good computer skills and an interest in meeting and talking with people. Fred wishes to relinquish these duties after many years but would be available to assist/teach someone new. If interested, please contact Fred.

Education – Arlon Eldridge reported in Diane Aiello's absence. There are two upcoming tours scheduled: one on October 2 with 36 students from Cashiers broken in two groups – one at 10:15 AM and one at 11:15 AM and one on October 9 with 80 students from Trinity Elementary broken into three groups – one at 9:15 AM, one at 10:00 AM, and one at 10:45 AM.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported that this has been a great summer. She thanked Virginia Bennis and Claudette Rollins for helping out when needed and she thanked everyone who hosted this summer. She also wished to thank John Hayes, Cy Amrich, Joyce Jacques, Sherry Newton and Scott Newton for their assistance at the Heritage Festival. Elena stated the Craft Gallery there is seeking crafters (30% commission). If anyone is interested, please contact Elena as she has more detailed information. She also mentioned that she would like to expand the display we have currently at the Rickman Store and is working on another display case.

Field Trips - Marsha Harmon stated there is a trip planned to the Old Pressley Mine on September 12; meet and carpool at the museum at 8:00 AM. Please contact Marsha for more details.

Historian – Ron Rossomondo reported he has brought in a display of photos of members during various activities this year; these are on the table in the back of the room. He urged members to volunteer to host and told us that because of his many hours of volunteering, he won a course at the William Holland School, which is just one of many advantages of being a volunteer host at the museum.

Election of Officers:

Ballots were given to each member to allow them the opportunity to write in a nomination if they so desired. Two members had previously been nominated for the position of Vice President: Marsha Harmon and Tom Sterrett and members were asked to vote on this position. After a count of the ballots by secretary Susan Fritz with assistance from Virginia Bennis, the results of the voting were:

Minutes cont'd from Page 4Election of Officers con't

President – Al Pribble

Vice President – Marsha Harmon

Secretary – Susan Fritz

Treasurer – Lake Holland

Board of Directors (two positions) - Norman Holbert and Jane Morgan

Al Pribble reminded everyone that the above new officers will be installed at the next General Meeting on September 24, during which time we will have a banquet. Meat will be provided by the club. All members are asked to bring a side dish and to sign the clipboard stating what food item they will be bringing. Please direct any questions regarding food for the banquet to Jane Morgan.

Other Business:

Diane Mason reported that eight members have signed up to attend her wire wrapping classes. The first class will be held on September 26 with other classes on October 2, November 1 and December 1. She brought finished samples of the various wire wrapping that she will be teaching that are located tonight on the table in the back of the room. She requested an email be sent to her from those who had already signed up.

Al Pribble presented Steve and Sherlene Dillon with certificates for having completed the beginning cabochon class taught by Deborah Wright.

Al Pribble asked if there was any further business. Norman Holbert moved that the meeting be adjourned and Claudette Rollins seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM by Al Pribble. Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes followed by a presentation by Kim Cochran on the gemstones of Africa.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



Family vacations have been put on hold now that children are back in school. The town of Franklin and our gem museum await the coming of the 'leaf lookers' who arrive in the fall when the leaves change. Grandparents are now free to take time to enjoy the beauty of the areas they have so fondly visited in the past.

Although visitors to the museum have slowed down, the enthusiasm shown by our hosts and members to those that do come by is amazing. Donations to the museum and gift shop sales continue to exceed all expectations. The museum was open on Labor Day with about 20 visitors coming in, many expressed thanks for being open while they were in town for the day.

Anamay and Ron have gone back to Florida and while Anamay is gone, I have taken a step back to reevaluate what is in the gift shop and what will need to be purchased in May when the first of 2 wholesale shows come to town.

A new book order has been processed with quite a few new children's books. Please stop by and check those out – they make great gifts for children.

Always remember that club members receive a 10% discount on all purchases of \$10 or more.

Thanks to all club members who continue to host and keep the lights on in the museum!! Also appreciated is the great effort made to show people the items in the gift shop. With all of us working together, it has been and will continue to be another amazing year.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Installation Dinner at the end of the month! Elena



Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

Despite the winding down of the year and Florida refilling it's boarders; 14 club members responded to the September 12th trip to The Old Pressley Sapphire Mine. Pretty sure those who chose working buckets at the sluice did better than those who worked the Canton dirt but many sapphire, mica, and moonstone specimens returned with them all to Franklin. The largest individual specimen award went to Sherry Newton who wrangled out a beautiful feldspar mica rock of 35+ lbs. Joan Bohmann working the sluice was the winner of the most sapphires found in one trip. George and Brenda McCannon were great host/mine owners for our members. Thank you to Ellen and Ralph Crawford for helping me scout the site location.

A family member of our field trip group, after hearing about The **Old** Pressley Sapphire Mine trip said "why don't you go to a **new** mine"? Sorry really struck me as funny!

Fall and winter trip plans are in the works for an eager rock hound group! A Gold Mining adventure is in the works with a date not set yet and sites further south are being looked at as the weather cools down. We are looking for a local mine which might open up in November for our group on a Saturday or Sunday? Suggestions are always appreciated for future sites!

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.



Let's Talk Kyanite

Fred Plesner - Publicity Chairman



Living in Macon county leaves us in a fortunate position for finding many different minerals and Kyanite is one of the more unusual ones. It is an Aluminum Silicate found in association with such minerals as Talc (Soap Stone), Corundum, Quartz, Sillimanite, Almandine Garnet, Hornblende. With minerals such as these being common here we have a rich hunting ground.

It is usually found in long, flat prisms which have somewhat of a unique characteristic in hardness. It is about a 4 or 5 along the blade (axis) and about a 6 or 7 across the blade (axis). It is typically blue in color. I was surprised when I was shown some black Kyanite found locally and I have since learned that it can be found in white, gray, green and orange as well as colorless. It can be transparent, translucent or nearly opaque all of which may be cut as a cabochon and the transparent material may be faceted. It has a habit of color streaking and blotching which has to be taken into account when cutting. It is a bit difficult to work because it has perfect cleavage which leaves the edges a bit fragile and sensitive to pressure when mounting. Also a good hard knock can crack the stone so when cleaning the stone you should avoid the use of ultrasonic cleaners and any kind of harsh chemicals.

While it is the gem qualities that we admire it has far more mundane uses. Most of what is mined is used in the refractory or ceramic industry. Plumbing fixtures, dishware, electronics, electrical insulators (spark plugs), heating elements and abrasives all come to mind.

It is typically sold untreated although there are reports that in some places it is being treated with oil to enhance its luster. It is also on occasion being sold for blue sapphire by unscrupulous dealers.

Kyanite got its name from the Greek word "kuanos" or "kyanos" which means deep blue. It is known by other names such as Disthene, Rhaeticite or Cyanite which are more usually found in older documents. It fluoresces a weak red and it has a slight magnetic quality such as is found in tourmaline. Because of this magnetic quality in ancient time it was believed that a piece of Kyanite hung from a human hair could follow the earth's magnetic force in the same way as a compass needle.

Attributes: Gems of the World by Cally Oldershaw - 2009

Kyanite: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - www.wikipedia.org

Kyanite Gemstone Information - www.gemselect.com



**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 27th Annual Show; Morocco Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. Club; 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South; Fri 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM; Sat 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sun 10:00 AM - 5:00 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 2 – 4, 2015, DALLAS, NC

37th Annual Gaston Gem & Mineral Show; Fri & Sat, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Sun 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Gaston County Park; 1303 Dallas Cherryville Hwy, (HWY 279) / or GPS 120 Leisure Lane; FREE ADMITTANCE & FREE PARKING; Minerals and Fossils from around the world, cutting material, quality gemstones, wire wrapping, settings, geodes, jewelry, etc.; SLUICE - A real working sluice, \$3 & \$5 sand buckets; perfect for children and adults.

Amethyst, Quartz Crystals, Faceted Stones mixed at random in buckets; you just might get that special stone or treasure!; Hourly Raffles for Prizes, FUN FOR ALL!; Show Chairman, Rick Perkins 704-825-9456; Website is GastonGemClub.com; Show chair contact Rick Perkins 704-915-8366

October 16 – 17, 2015, KNOXVILLE, TN

25th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; Kerbela Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave; Fri & Sat 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Sun 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM; \$5 daily for adults or \$8 for the whole show; children under 12 FREE. The 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>

October 23 – 25, 2015, AUSTIN, TX

AFMS Convention and Show, hosted by the South Central Federation. More details to come.

October 31 – November 1, 2015, PLANT CITY, FL

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club's "Hot Rocks, Cool Gems and Fabulous Jewelry"; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Florida Strawberry Festival Expo Hall; Adults \$5; Teens 12-16 & Students with ID \$4; Kids under 12 FREE



OCTOBER BIRTHSTONES

October is another month with two birthstone choices – *Tourmaline* and *Opal*.

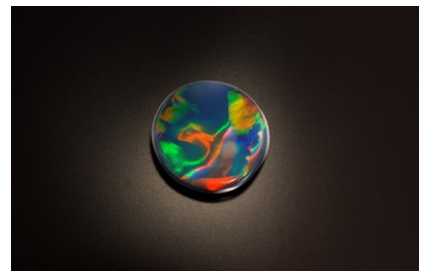
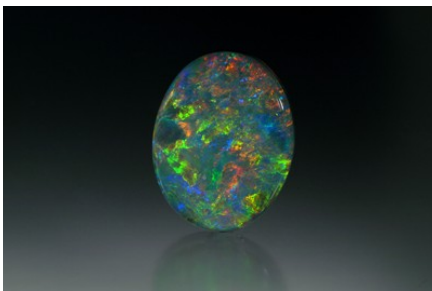
Tourmaline

Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These *bi-color* or *tri-color* gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as *watermelon tourmaline*, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.



Opal

The name *opal* derives from the Greek *Opallos*, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance.



Upcoming Shows

October 15–18 - FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA, Gem Show on 441 & Lake Emory; Corner 441 & Lake Emory; 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

October 16–18 - FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA, 26th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree; Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; Fri & Sat 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Sun 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

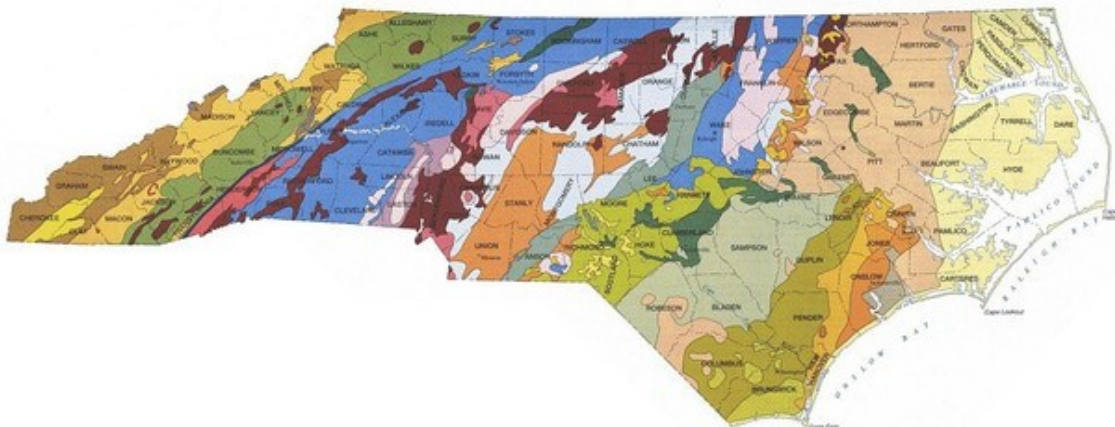
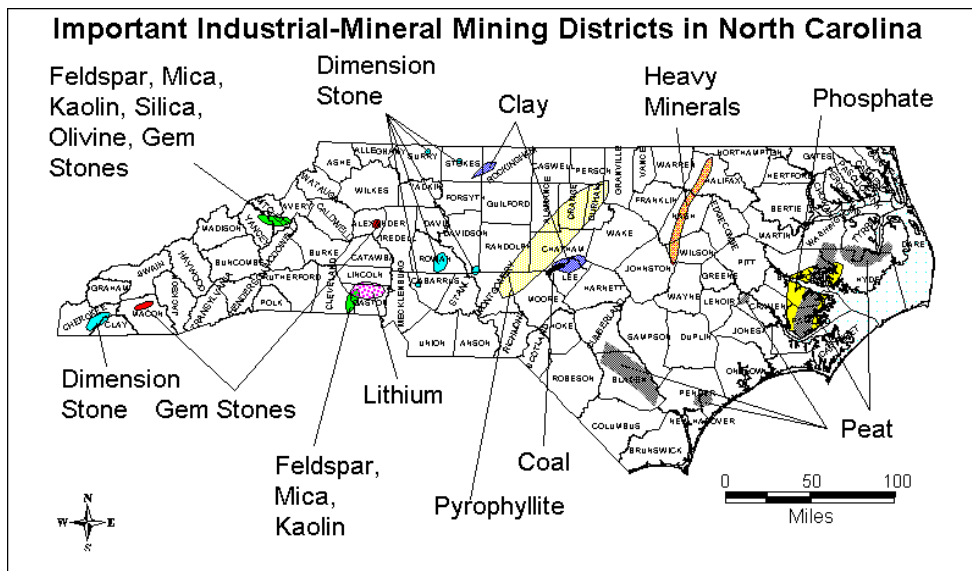
Other Events

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

September 29 - FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA; Mingle on Main; Downtown Gazebo; Tues 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM; entertainment by Ronnie Evans

October 24 - FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA; Pumpkin Fest; Downtown Franklin; 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

November 11 - FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA; Veteran's Parade; Downtown Franklin; 11:00 AM



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734

First Class Mail



**REMEMBER THE BANQUET
BRING YOUR COVERED DISH**



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 PM 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 PM
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.