



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

February 2019 Newsletter



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
 Past President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
 Vice President: Arlon Eldridge, (828-369-5271)
 Secretary: Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Treasurer: Lake Holland, (828-369-5421)
 Assistant Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (828-349-9615)
 Museum Manager: Duane Haskell, (828-349-5123)
 Director (2018): Mike Gillen, (678-772-6375)
 Director (2018): Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
 Director (2019): Diane Mason, (706-379-1718)
 Director (2019): Tom Sterrett, (828-349-3774)

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
 Museum Curator: TBD
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
 Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807),
 Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954), & Diane Mason
 Museum Workshop: Cy Amrich, (828-356-7816)
 Public Relations: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Program Coordinator: Kathi Walbridge
 Calendar: Jay Mooney, (678-488-0620)
 Gemboree: Kathy Young, (941-323-0671)

Club Newsletter

Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

Club Contact E-mail: franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Club Website

<http://www.fgmm.org/>

Club Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/franklingems>

Monthly meetings

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society meets the last Thursday of each month, except for November and December, normally at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South), Franklin. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM.

The Club is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Southeast Federation of the Mineralogical Societies.



President's Notes

Jane Morgan

I hope everyone enjoyed their Holidays with family, friends or just relaxing at home. Also our Sympathy's go out to our members that have lost loved ones during this time.

The Board has been busy already starting to make some changes. As some of you have already noticed we do have some staff changes.

Tom Parker and Diane Mason are Co-Chairing the Membership Committee
 Stacy Walbridge is our new Editor
 Kathi Walbridge is our new Program Director.

We still have some positions available :

Curator (talk to Duane Haskell)
 Education (Marsha Harmon needs help)
 Refreshment (Barbra needs help)

Soon it will be time for a Spring cleaning at the Museum. If you will be able to help Please let Duane know. The dates will be forth coming.

We always need help at the Museum.



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Minutes: January 21, 2019

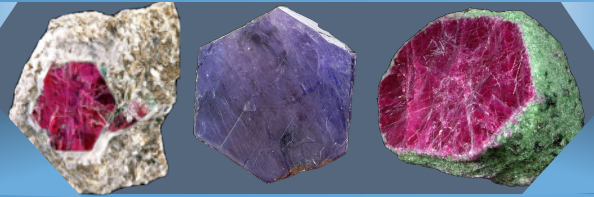
Susan Fritz, Secretary

Photographs by George Fritz

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Morgan on Thursday, January 31, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at First Christian Church of Franklin.

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FGMS Minutes (continued)

Membership – Tom Parker reported 27 members present. In order to keep our records up-to-date he stated that we will be asking all members to fill out new membership applications in September.

Treasurer – It was reported that we were in the plus column for the month of December.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell reported that he has changed the locks at the museum and he has keys for anyone who needs a new key. He requested that everyone be vigilant about keeping the refrigerator clean. He asked us to be sure to take any leftovers from lunch or any discarded food home before leaving. He reminded us that under no circumstances is alcohol allowed on the premises.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported on having spoken to a woman who stated she spent her honeymoon in the jail back in 1938.

Gift Shop – Diane Mason indicated that business has been slow this winter. She has been doing lots of cleaning, sorting and organizing inventory. She reported that Vicki Knisley will return shortly and that Anamay Rossomando will be back in March. On March 8 and March 15 she will hold two more Make-It days.

Publicity – George Fritz reported that the grant application from the Tourism Development Commission was approved; we have the check and that money covers the entire cost of our brochures.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes reminded everyone to be sure to pay for any classes; a check is preferable. Those using the workshop must be checked out and authorized to use the equipment. Virginia Bennis will be teaching a faceting class.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon had a trip on January 19 to Lake Douglas, TN (double-terminated quartz). She said it was very muddy and a 3-hour trip. On February 16, she has a trip planned to Girard, GA, Savannah River (agate). This is a 4-hour trip one-way.

Education – Marsha Harmon wished to thank Al Pribble, Norman Holbert, Duane Haskell, Fred Plesner and John Hayes for their assistance with a tour given recently for 25 home schooled children, from first to eighth grade.

Gem Show – Norman Holbert stated the next show will be May 10, 11 & 12. Club members are invited to become a vendor. A 6-foot table will cost members \$50. Al Pribble inquired about the need for a sales license. Norm said he knew you could go online to check it out and believed you must make at least \$600 a year in sales in order to be required to have such a license.

NEW BUSINESS:

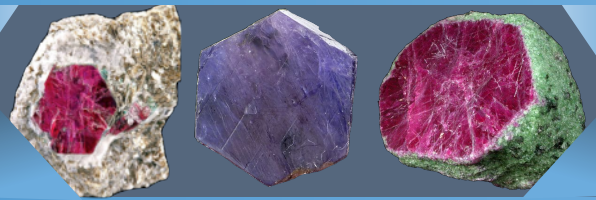
Installation of Treasurer – Vice President Arlon Eldridge presided over the installation of Lake Holland as Treasurer.



Lake Holland Installed as Treasurer by Arlon Eldridge
Photograph by George Fritz

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Lifetime Member Award – Fred Plesner presented Tom Sterrett with a Lifetime Membership Award. Fred explained that one has to be a contributing member of the Society for at least ten years.



A Surprised and Happy Tom Sterrett
Photograph by George Fritz

Cabbing Class – Jerry Mason brought samples of cabs and slabs for those interested in what results can be expected from his cabbing class.

John Hayes announced that Sean Price now has his degree in Geology.

Arlon Eldridge made a motion for adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Jane Morgan.

Door prize tickets were drawn. Refreshments were served. Arlon Eldridge gave a limited talk on Brazil and stated he would have a longer presentation at another meeting.

GIFT SHOP NEWS:

Diane Mason

Winter is slow with sales, but there is a lot going on. Gift shop cabinets are getting a thorough cleaning. Shelves are being dusted. We now have about 60 cabochons that are ready to wrap or mount. A "make it" day is planned for March 8 and 15. We need to get ready for that summer rush.

THANK YOU

A great big "THANK YOU" to Susan Fritz for her hard work and dedication to the club. We appreciate your time and effort in cleaning, organizing, and arranging the file cabinets in the office. Everything looks so much better now that it is in a semblance of order and we can actually find our needed materials. Thank you so very much!

We always need volunteers to host, but, remember that you can do other things. Other things include sweeping, vacuuming, dusting, labeling, making grab bags, general cleaning (break area and bathrooms) and many more simple jobs. Just remember that in order to take a field trip or a class, you are to be supporting the club with other volunteer responsibilities. FGMS needs all of our members.

Anamay and Vicki are in Florida....hurry back ladies 'cause I miss you. Vicki, you and your sister are in our thoughts and prayers.

Confusing Rockhound Definitions

BARIUM – What to do with your clothes after encountering a skunk.

CORAL – A place to keep horses.

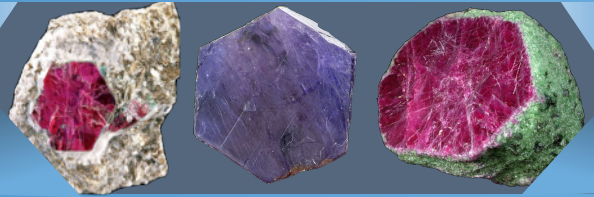
FIELD TRIP – An impossible trek to an inaccessible place for nonexistent specimens.

MICROMOUNT – A very small horse.

ROCKHOUND – A person who scolds his little boy for picking up a piece of candy that was dropped in the dirt, but will lick a piece of agate to see if it will polish.

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CATCHING UP ON FIELD TRIPS

Marsha Harmon

Despite the very unpredictable weather during the last two months we were able to get to a couple locations. The Ducktown Basin Museum and Douglas Lake trips did happen with some rescheduling. Unfortunately the DMC trip to Girard, GA did prove itself to be too far and bad weather for our members, this time anyway.

The next available DMC Field trip will be on March 23rd to a Pennsylvanian / Mississippian scale tree and tree fern fossil site in Tennessee, approximately 3 1/2 hours from Franklin.



Carboniferous Tree Fern



Scale Tree (Lepidodendron)

You may sign up by looking on the back board of the museum for current information. Calling

Marsha Harmon 828 369-7262 or Lake Holland 828 369-5421 our clubs trip coordinators will work as well. Help us find locations of interest for our members by offering up suggestions for our trips.

Field Trip Rules and Operation

Those who desire to participate in our clubs Field Trip program need to be current members in good standing and must fill out a liability form for each trip taken. Only trips that are set up by our club and supervised by a designated leader will be covered by our clubs insurance. The clubs membership in the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. allows us to participate in all Dixie Mineral Counsel sponsored trips.

The SFMS club members are bound by the American Federation of Mineralogical Society, Inc. code of ethics, but the general public is not, and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. This program is provided to members of the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC and in return you will volunteer in some form or fashion. Please ask what you can do to help out with our club. Any member of our board can help you select the most needed activities in which to volunteer.

*Code of ethics, field trip policies, and SFMS by-laws about field trips can be found on the SFMS Dixie Mineral Counsel web page.

WWW.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc.htm

NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM

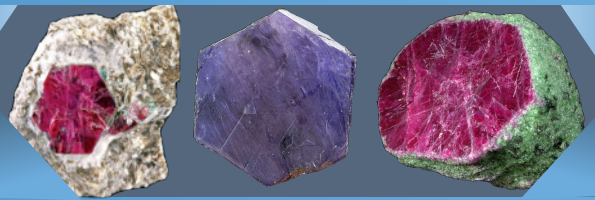
Diane Mason

Photographs by George Fritz

We now have faceting, capping, and wire classes in progress.

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A KEY

Fred Plesner
Curator Emeritus

If you should climb the stairs in the “Old Jail” to the 2nd floor you will be staring at an old key enclosed in a wooden case. If that old key could just talk, oh the stories it could tell. That old key has been around a long time. You see, it’s the key to the old cell block.

Back in the 1950’s it was stolen when some good old boys from Swain county came over to Franklin just to have a little “fun.” That little bit of fun mixed with a little alcohol landed them in Jail. This was more to sober them up than anything else.



Instructor Jerry Mason with Cabochon Students Carlene and Robert Henderson



Bracelet Class Students Hard at Work

Also, on tap for the summer.....a beading class. It will be taught by a volunteer from William Holland with Diane Mason as assistant. It will be held one 8 hour day in July and one 8 hour day in August with actual dates yet to come. Cost will be minimal for beads and findings and will include pearl stringing, and beading. A maximum of 6 students will be accepted.

As always a fee of \$25 is to be paid to the club for use of the facilities.

Remember that in order to be accepted for a class you are expected to volunteer and support the club in other areas.



The Key
Photograph by George Fritz

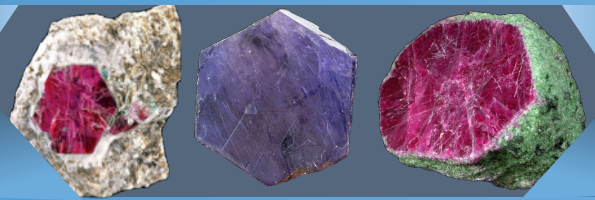
One of those good old boys woke up a little early, found the key, stuck it in his pocket, thinking it just might come in handy at some future date plus it just added to the present “fun.” Upon his release from jail in the morning, it was taken home and placed upon the fireplace mantle for all to see. It added proof to all the stories that would be told.

Years later that good old boy moved to Macon county. The key, being a treasured memento came with him. He became a junk dealer and had a booth at the flea market on the Highlands Road. This good old boy came to know Doyle Clark, a local antique dealer, who also collected things related to Macon county and its history. In time he showed Doyle Clark the key. Mr. Clark recognized



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the historical value of the key and encouraged our good old boy to donate it to the Macon County Historical Museum. Our good old boy liked the idea of making a donation of a “lost treasure” and the key was placed on public display at the Macon County Historical Museum.

I am a member of the Macon County Historical Society and upon seeing the key asked our society president to send a letter to the Historical Society requesting that the Key be placed on loan to the Gem and Mineral Society. For several years the key would swap between the two museums. In time the Macon County Historical Society came to the conclusion that the rightful place for that key to be displayed was “The Old Jail” the very place from where it was stolen.

It has been permanently donated to The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin and now has a permanent home where it belongs. So, when you see that “Old Key” think back and perhaps, just perhaps have a chuckle or two.



UPCOMING SHOWS

8-10 March 2019: Augusta, Georgia

31st Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show
Organized by: [Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society](#) and [Augusta Gem & Mineral Society](#)
Julian Smith Casino (2200 Broad Street, Augusta)

31st ANNUAL AIKEN-AUGUSTA
GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW
MARCH 8-10, 2019



Grand Door Prize

Fri & Sat: 10am - 6pm
Sun: 11am - 5pm

JULIAN SMITH CASINO
2200 BROAD STREET
AUGUSTA GEORGIA 30904

Admission Price (Cash Only)
\$3 Daily per person

\$5 Weekend Pass per person

Children under 12 free with
a paid adult

22-24 March 2019: Hickory, North Carolina

49th Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show
Organized by: [Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club](#)
Hickory Metro Convention Center (1960 13th Avenue Drive SE)

6 April 2019: Madison, Tennessee

6th Annual “Dig It!”, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Festival
Organized by: Middle Tennessee Rockhounds
Amqui Station (303 Madison Street, Madison, TN)
<http://www.rockhound.org/swap>

12-14 April 2019: Orlando, Florida


Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show
Organized by: [Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society](#)
Florida National Guard Armory (2809 South Fern Creek Avenue)

27-28 April 2019: Memphis, Tennessee

The Earth Wide Open - 40th Annual Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show
Organized by: [Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society](#)
[Agricenter International](#) Expo Center (7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis)

27-28 April 2019: Franklin, New Jersey

49th Annual New Jersey Earth Science Association Gem & Mineral Show
Organized by: [New Jersey Earth Science Association](#)
Littell Community Center (12 Munsonhurst Road)
Indoor / outdoor

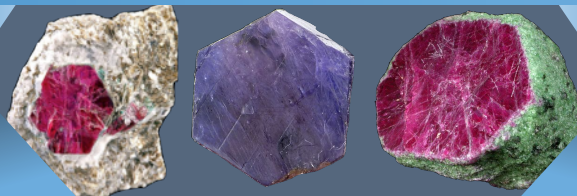


The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible.

Please remember us when planning your estate.

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Valentine's Day Mineral Heart or "Hard"ness

One of the properties of a mineral is its Mohs hardness. In 1812, Friedrich Mohs compared the hardness of one mineral against another by seeing which one scratched the other. He sorted the minerals by their relative hardness and assigned them a value between 1 and 10. For this month's puzzle see if you can find the mineral names listed to the right in the shape of the heart. They may be in any direction.

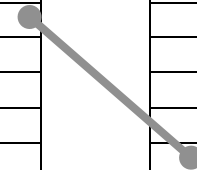
Then for each of the Mohs hardness values, match the one mineral that is recognized in geology handbooks as the standard hardness value by drawing a line from the mineral to the hardness number. There are more minerals than hardness values. (Hint: 10 is for Diamond)

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  O R O Q M H O K S M    T O P A Z D J L S O
T V L H M F F N D Z O T  Q B Y A N I S Y E J C V
T I O A C X W M G H H A M  H T X L P A F R U R C X F
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| Mineral |
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| Apatite |
| Bismuth |
| Calcite |
| Chrysoberyl |
| Corundum |
| Diamond |
| Emerald |
| Feldspar |
| Fluorite |
| Garnet |
| Gypsum |
| Hematite |
| Malachite |
| Opal |
| Quartz |
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| Mohs Hardness |
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The Next Meeting - February 28th

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on February 28th at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South), Franklin.

Club Anniversary and Appreciation Night

Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum

25 Phillips Street, Franklin, NC 28734

FRANKLIN
GEM
& MINERAL
MUSEUM
HISTORIC JAIL
ESTABLISHED 1850

FRANKLIN
GEM
& MINERAL
MUSEUM
OLD JAIL
FREE ADMISSION

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

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

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