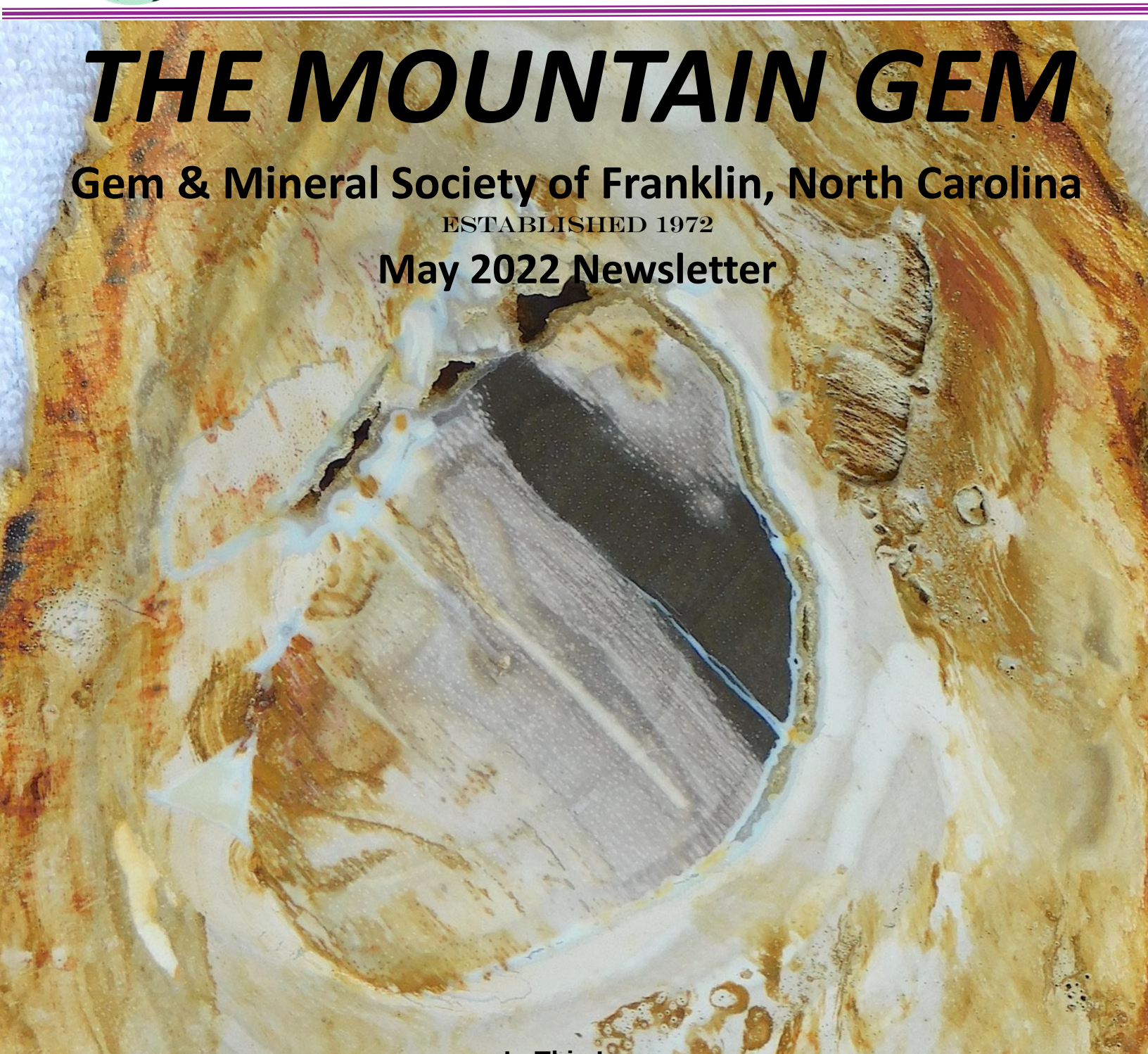
THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

May 2022 Newsletter



In This Issue

p. 02 April General Meeting Notes
p. 04 Gift Shop News
p. 05 Museum On The Air
p. 05 June Field Trips
p. 08 Workshop/Class News
p. 09 A New Mineral
p. 10 Bench Tips
p. 11 Upcoming Shows
p. 12 Club Announcements/ Schedule
p. 13 Officers, Directors, & Committee Chairs

WWW.FGMM.ORG

Cover Photograph by Stacy Walbridge
Petrified Palm Wood - Indonesia

April General Meeting Minutes

Photographs by George Fritz

April 31, 2022
Thursday 6:30 P.M.
First Christian Church of Franklin

The meeting was called to order **by Vice President Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com)** Announcement to remember President Mark Lang's severe medical condition.

Minutes: Stacy Walbridge. (fgmseditor@gmail.com). Made a motion to accept minutes from March 31, 2022 meeting. Motion seconded by Marsha Harmon.

Treasury: Kathi Walbridge. (kwalbridge@mail.com) Reported a good amount of donations were received by the museum. She made an announcement of a payment for club insurance renewal dues coming up next month. Kathi also encouraged club members to keep the museum open as much as possible to generate revenue otherwise, the club's financial health stands in the black**.**

Museum Manager: Larry Ellert. (clellert@yahoo.com). Announced will be opening the museum for workshops on Wednesday nights.

Museum Curator: Mark Laing. (mw.laing@hotmail.com) Absent.

Workshop: Matt Castor. (combatflyfisher@yahoo.com) If you are interested in more workshop details, please contact Matt. Matt asks for volunteers to revamp the side garden. Stephanie Brundage volunteered to clean and take care of the side garden area of the museum.

Gift Shop: Bushy Hartman. (bushyhtm@yahoo.com) / Anamay Rossomando. (anamay@verizon.net) Absent.

Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge. (fgmseditor@gmail.com) Deadline for newsletter submissions is May 18, 2022. Open to all articles and tidbits of interest**.**

Publicity: George Fritz. (fritzga@hotmail.com) George announced Gordon Mercer will conduct an interview from the Museum board room on May 3, 2022. The interview was aimed at providing information about learning activities and outreach services offered through the museum.

Scholarships: Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com) Scholarships given last month were published in the Macon County News.

Membership: The club welcomed several new members that attended the meeting.

Field Trips / Education: Helen Rogers / Marsha Harmon. (monaleaf28734@gmail.com) Marsha, Fred and Brad provided a museum tour to a group of twenty people.
Marsha announced an upcoming club fieldtrip to the Ray Mine. Aquamarine, Tourmaline, Garnets, Mica and Kyanite may be found at the Ray Mine. The trip is planned for June 14, 2022.
Marsha announced tentative planning of a club field trip to the Hogg Mine in November 2022. This trip will be organized as a private tour for our club. Please contact Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com) for more information.

New Member Justin Hobert

Gem Show: Chandra Coffee. (rabuncoffee@gmail.com) Chandra requested volunteers for the July 29th, 30th and 31st Gem Show that could setup and teardown tables and man a greeting table at the main entrance of the Civic Center. At our next General Meeting there will be a signup sheet available.

Programs: Stacy Walbridge. Stacy queried the meeting for a Program Director. The club needs someone to volunteer to coordinate programs for monthly general meetings. If you are interested in filling this position please contact Stacy at **(fgmseditor@gmail.com).**

Old Business: Announcement made that the museum will be opening more days per week. Three volunteers are requested to organize scheduling. Stacy Walbridge has created an online calendar to make it easier for volunteer signup. For FGMS Hosting visit Signup.com
If you are volunteering at the museum and need a key, contact Larry Elbert (clellert@yahoo.com)

Charlene Galbrecht. (954-263-8157 or 954-592-1377) requested five volunteers to provide snacks for the club meetings. The snacks can be simple. Should be enough for thirty (30) people. The club will reimburse $40.00 for snacks upon presenting a receipt to the Treasurer, Kathi Walbridge. Al Pribble reminded museum volunteers to write down/log their hours served at the museum to be eligible to win a week scholarship at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts.

New Business: Museum New Hours are Wednesday – Saturday 12-4pm. Volunteers are needed. Starting the first week of May, Stacy Walbridge will open the workshop weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6-9pm. A formal instruction class is required before using equipment i.e.: saws, cabbing machines.

Members Circulating During the Break

A unanimous vote resulted in the selection and induction of a new club secretary, Chandra Coffee. Reminder of upcoming elections for President and Vice President in August 2022. Silent Auction Winners: Cabber / Sander / Polisher $25 Brad Fleszer, Antique Facet Machine $30 Sean Price, Roller Mill $35 Stacy Walbridge, Trim Saw $35 Donavan McDonald.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15, followed by light refreshments and a presentation on the Gemological Institute of America by Varshana Dholakia.

Gift Shop News

by Anamay Rossomando

The Museum Gift Shop is gearing up for the summer season. A heartfelt THANKS to Bushy & Mike Hartman for all their help shopping, organizing, identifying & pricing all the NEW merchandise. Plus all the time & effort they spent this winter season keeping everything stocked. (Our back closet's never looked this good, you can actually find stuff when you want it).

Thanks to Stephanie B. for ALL her jewelry she made this winter cabochons, fused glass, & copper enameled pieces. To Norm Holbert for his faceted earrings & pendant set to be used for the museum raffle this year. (Get your tickets now). Bushy Hartman (again) check out the rounder will all new mineral earrings. All the pieces are BEAUTIFUL. Plus Virginia Bennis for always bringing us presents that we put to good use. Their donations really help out the museum enormously

We will be participating in the Cowee Folk Festival Sat. August 20th we have sign-up sheets in the museum.

If you haven't been to the museum gift shop in a while you need to stop by, bring your family & friends, all our stuff is reasonably priced for the quality you get. We couldn't do any of this without our volunteers who keep the doors open to them & anyone else I've failed to mention another BIG THANKS

Museum on the Air

On Saturday, May 7th, an interview with Fred Plesner, Marsha Harmon, and Al Pribble was rebroadcast on WFSC 104.9 FM, 1050 AM, and WNCC 104.1 FM radio stations. The interview was given by Gordan Mercer onsite at the Museum.

June Field Trips

Helen Rogers

Wray Mine Trip Rescheduled: Unfortunately, May's trip to Wray (Ray) Mine was postponed due to inclement weather at the site. As a result, we will reschedule that trip for June 18th. Same meeting information as before. Please see details below:

This month FGMS will visit the Wray (Ray) Mine on Hurricane Mountain in Burnsville, NC, and located in the Pisgah National Forest. The material found here

is a mica-rich pegmatite that according to mindat.org contains a number of minerals: beryl (aquamarine), garnet (almandine), elbaite, epidote, lepidolite, schorl and zircon, to name a few. The mine is located approximately 124 miles from Franklin, NC (approximately 2 hours driving). We will caravan to the site—please meet at the museum in downtown Franklin at 8:00 AM on May 14th. We will sign waivers and distribute maps to the site. Be sure to bring water, lunch and snacks. To reach the site, there is a short hike up a stream covered with loose rock. Sturdy shoes and a hiking stick are recommended. Bring screens, hand trowels, etc-but remember, it will be a steep hike. If there collecting other sites you would like to visit, please drop me a note! Helen Rogers: 404-784-2531 or helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com

DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
www.southeastfed.org
Copyright © All rights reserved.

Saturday, June 25, 2022
9:00 a.m. Eastern Time
Propst Farm
Maiden, NC
Fee: Ages 14 and up: $30
Ages 11-13: $15
Ages 10 and under: Free

TRIP: The first “rock” was discovered inadvertently on the farm. While repairing a tractor, Moton Propst and his son-in-law Ronald Lineberger needed a hammer or something to knock a bolt through a hole. The handiest thing available was a large rock laying on the ground. Ronald picked it up and when the dirt fell off, he realized this wasn’t your average rock. It had an odd shape and was heavier than most rocks so he put it in his truck as a souvenir.

After carrying that rock around for several years, Ronald stopped at a friend’s house who he knew to be a Rock Hound (Tobe Cash from Lincolnton). Tobe was

sifting dirt that he had just brought home from Hiddenite, NC. Upon seeing the "ROCK" Tobe said, "Where did you get that?" Ronald told him it came out of his backyard and Tobe said, "Let's go home!" Tobe immediately went to Ron's house and crawled around on his hands and knees for several hours discovering more of the same type rocks. Being a well-known rockhound, Tobe began bringing friends from all over the world to the farm which led to what is known today as the "Propst Corundum Mine".

COLLECTING: This is a great location to get some nice corundum specimens.

Corundum and Kyanite found by Peter Falcone

Nice piece found by member Jonas Boston

Picture of one of the dig areas

Things found here are Corundum (var. Ruby, Sapphire), Quartz and Kyanite (rare).

BRING: Hand Tools Only -- Buckets, Shovel, Pick, Classifier i.e., screen (1/4" and 1/2" mesh), Hoe, Gloves, and Knee pads, Water and snacks/lunch.

CONTACT: If you have any questions you may call Helen Rogers at (404) 784-2531 or email at Helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com. Signed waiver sheets are required by our club and the DMC both!

WORKSHOP/CLASS NEWS

Photographs by M. Hartman

The workshop is seeing increased activity this month. Mike Hartman completed his faceting course taught by John Hayes and did such a great job that he is now an instructor-in-training. Brad Fleszar is his first student under the watchful eye of John. During last month's meeting it was mentioned that the standard faceting class (8 faceted stones) was divided into 2 parts, a beginning class of 4 faceted stones and an advance class. The beginners class is a great way to see if faceting is for you. If so, then you can progress into the advance class.

Brad intent on faceting his third gem

While Brad was busy faceting, John Hayes and Al Pribble took the opportunity to build a new Cerium Oxide polisher. It is now installed in the cabbing room and ready for use. The polisher is a fantastic tool to put the final shine on your cab. It works great on obsidian and goldstone as well as other material. See John or Al if you have any questions on its use.

John and Al putting the final touches on the replacement Cerium Oxide polisher

To increase accessibility, the workshop is now open on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:30 pm, except for the week of our General Meeting. If you've never cut or cabbed this is a great opportunity for an introduction.

A NEW MINERAL

By Stacy Walbridge

While Kathi was shopping at G&LW this past weekend I was cruising the tables and stopped at Ariel Treasures when I noticed their address change from New Jersey to Florida. I asked the owner, Jonathan Bartky, if he moved due to taxes. He replied that he found a cheaper warehouse and then asked if I would like to see a relatively new mineral. From under the table he pulled out a cherry red rock, which is called Tanzurine. There is a red variety (cherry) and a green variety (emerald) from his mine in Tanzania. The name, Tanzurine, was coined and patented by Bartky. These two gem deposits are near Tanzania's border with Kenya and in Maasai tribal land.

In 2017, samples were provided to Dr. Loretta D. Dickson at Lock Haven University for analysis. Dr. Dickson found that the cherry Tanzurine was quartz with inclusions of pink mica that is most likely lepidolite. The crystals are aligned within the quartz host, which results in differing shades of red depending upon the orientation of the cut. The green Tanzurine quartz was colored by inclusions of the chromium variety of muscovite known as fuchsite. The fuchsite crystals also have a parallel orientation within the quartz but are much smaller than the lepidolite crystals. Reference: Rock & Minerals, volume 93.

Jonathan's enthusiasm for Tanzurine convinced me to buy a sample of the cherry-colored quartz. Back home, I cut a slab and made a small cabochon. As shown in the above photograph, this cab is similar in color to rose quartz. (Note: a cerium oxide polish put a nice shine on the cab). It has potential for some interesting pieces.

BENCH TIPS

by Bradford Smith

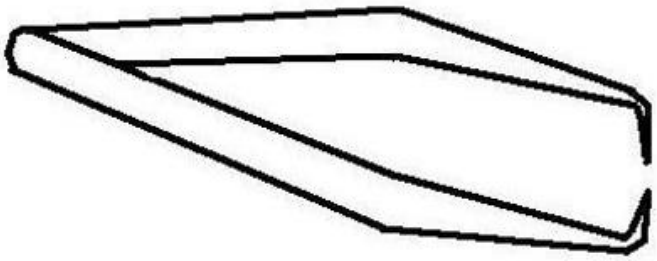
TRY A TOOTHPICK

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, and with Zam for polishing in tight spots.

Toothpicks are also handy for holding a small faceted stone while setting it. Just break off the sharp tip, mold a little beeswax over it, and press it onto the table of your stone**.**

FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight.



A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other.

To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

UPCOMING SHOWS

June 3-5 Lawrenceville, GA
Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Gwinnett Co. Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Pkwy; Fri. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; Admission $5 Cash Only at the Door. Kids Under 7 Free if Accompanied w/ Paying Responsible Adult; Select dealers from near and far selling extraordinary minerals, jewelry, fossils, healing stones, beads, crystals, rocks

June 11-12; Gastonia, NC
Annual Gaston Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Johan Newcombe Event Center/Habitat for Humanity, 1840 E. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia, NC 28054, **FREE ADMISSION! Free Parking.** Minerals and Fossils from around the world. Cutting material, Quality Gemstones, Wire wrapping, settings, Geodes, Jewelry, etc.**SLUICE** - A real working sluice, $5 & $10 sand buckets; perfect for children and adults. Amethyst, Quartz Crystals, and much more in buckets. **Raffles for Prizes**, not just a jewelry show

June 17-19; Arden, NC
Annual show; MAGMA, Jacquot & Son Mining; Camp Stephens, 263 Clayton Road; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Free; Indoor and Outdoor Vendors offering: Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Artifacts, Rocks, Meteorites, Trinitite, Moldavite, Silver and Gold Jewelry, Crystals and other hobby related items. Food and Drink Available Daily. Rain or Shine.

Franklin NC JULY Gem & Mineral Showcase
Four Shows – One City

July 27-31 Franklin, NC
Annual show; Echo Valley Gem Show ; Echo Valley Showplace (across from GLW), 6456 Sylva Rd.; Wed. 10-5:30, Thu. 10-5:30, Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-3; Free Admission; Dealers from around the world selling extraordinary mineral, fossils, cabochons, slabs, rough rock, jewelry, beads, crystal

July 27-31 Franklin, NC
Highlands Road Gem Show: Hours: 9:00 - 6:00, 1602 Highlands Rd, Franklin, NC 28734

July 28-31 Franklin, NC
G&LW Wholesale Gem Show: Watauga Festival Center, 6295 Sylva Road, Franklin, NC, Hours: 9:00 - 6:00, 1602 Highlands Rd, Franklin, NC 28734, 10AM-6PM Daily; 10AM-3PM Sunday

July 29-31 Franklin, NC
Franklin Gem & Mineral Show: Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Fri/Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

May Board Meeting
(All members are welcome)
6:00 pm Tuesday, May 24th, 2022

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

May General Meeting
6:30 pm Thursday, May 26th, 2022

The Museum Gift Shop on Display

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

Newsletter Deadline for June is 6/20/2022

2022 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
May 26, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	A.Rossomando	Jay & Jenny Mooney
June 30, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Stephanie Brundage
July 28, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Ice Cream Social	N/A
--- July 29-31, 2022 Gem Show ---				
August 25, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Kim & Sean Price

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
Past President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
Vice President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
2nd Vice President: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Secretary: Chandra Coffee (706-982-0402)
Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)
Assistant Treasurer: Charlotte Frye, (727-455-1849)
Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Director (2023): Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Director (2023): Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Director (2022): Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Director (2022): Charlotte Frye, (828-200-6023)

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

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Gift Shop Assistant: Bushy Hartman (850-868-1576)
Museum Workshop: Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Field Trip Coordinator: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)
Program Coordinator: Vacant
Museum Calendar: Vacant
Gemborees: Chandra Coffee (706-982-0402)
Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)
Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge, [fgmseditor@gmail.com]