

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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 the Museum, leave a message and our Educational Chairperson will call you to schedule.

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.**

2018- 2019 Officers And Board of Directors

President	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Past President	Al Pribble	342-3119
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Kathi Walbridge	349-9615
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Museum Manager	Duane Haskell	349-5123
Director (2018)	Mike Gillen	678-772-6375
Director (2018)	Tom Parker	342-3619
Director (2019)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718
Director (2019)	Tom Sterrett	349-3374

Museum

Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Ass't. Curator	Jade Kale	843-327-1136
Gift Shop Co-Chairs	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
	Diane Mason	706-379-1718
	Vicki Knisley	371-4954
Museum Workshop	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Kathi Walbridge	349-9615
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	Jay Mooney	678-488-0620
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	OPEN	
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Kathy Young	941-387-4397
Historian	Ron Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Librarian	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Kathi Walbridge	349-9615
Refreshments	Barbara Rizzo	864-506-4875
Scholarships	OPEN	



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

November Meeting

Date: November 29, 2018
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: **Robert C Carpenter Community Bldg.
1288 Georgia Rd. Hwy. 441 Franklin**
Program: **Rock Exchange**

December Birthdays

- 3 – Joan Bohmann
- 3 – Christine Hubinger
- 8 – Deborah Wright
- 14 – Doug Morgan
- 16 – Gary Galbrecht
- 19 – Carl Seaman
- 20 – Ray Behr
- 22 – Linda Behr
- 28 – Isaiah Simpson



December Anniversaries

- 15 – Tom & Diane Aiello
- 23 – Stephen & Susan Martin



January Birthdays / Anniversaries on Page 8

***Winter Wonderland will be on Saturdays,
November 24 & December 1.
The Museum will have extended hours.
Come join in the fun to kick off the Holi-
day Season.***

Membership renewals are past due.
To keep your membership benefits please
pay before December 1st.

***November & December newsletters
are combined due to Holidays
January 10, 2019 is deadline .***



Jane Morgan, President



Thank you to everyone that helped make PumpkinFest a great success. Good job everyone! As most of you know I was out of town on a family medical emergency during that time. I appreciate all the thoughts, well wishes, and prayers for my son in law. He is home and doing a lot better.

Winter is fast approaching and so is the end of this year.

The End of the Year party is right around the corner so please remember to add your name to the list to bring a dish and coordinate with Barbara Rizzo.

We still need to fill the following positions: (unless I have already talked to you)

Education Coordinator (tours/schools) + Ass't. (2)
Refreshment Ass't.

I am hoping that some of you will step up to fill these positions. We don't want to start the New Year out doing away with some of these.

There has been some hurt feelings and broken bridges in the past and I hope that we can repair some of that damage and put our petty differences aside for the good of the club and start anew this coming year.

Let's manage to work together to keep building this club up. Not tearing it apart. What has been done...has been done.

Let's try to start this coming year with a clean slate and a willing heart, soul, and love for this club and what we stand for. If there is something, I can do to start that healing process please let me know.



Continued on Page 6

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.
Minutes – October 25, 2018 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Arlon Eldridge on Thursday, October 25, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 35 members and 8 guests present. We have a new member, Nancy Hopp, and Sherry & Scott Newton have rejoined us. Membership fees are past due. Those who do not pay by the deadline, December 1, will lose membership privileges.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September minutes. Stacy Walbridge made a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed and Tom Parker seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Kathi Walbridge gave the Treasurer's report; we are in the plus column for September.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell indicated that the Leland cypress trees in the fountain area at the museum are overgrown. A horticulturist has been consulted and he recommends the trees be removed. We are going to contact the county to see if they can come to remove the trees as power lines are involved.

Curator – Ralph Crawford did not have anything to report.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner did not have anything new to report.

Gift Shop – Diane Mason reported that Pumpkin Fest went very well. She said there have been two "Make It" days and all items are on display. In fact, backlog items are being put out as items have sold quickly. She needs to order more wire. The gift shop also needs beveled cabs so that they can have another "Make It" day soon.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, November 15.

Education – Patty Nichols reported a great tour with the 4th graders from Fairview Elementary. The group spent approximately \$350 in the gift shop!

Workshop Manager – Cy Amrich is ill this evening, but John Hayes told the membership that if anyone wants training on the saws to please contact Cy. They are organizing cabochon and faceting classes for this winter. Please contact Cy Amrich or Virginia Bennis if interested.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon has a trip coming up on Saturday, October 27 to Diamond Hill. Ten have signed up so far. Carpooling will take place with everyone meeting at the museum and departing at 8 a.m. sharp. She would like to schedule some trips mid-week for those who work on weekends.

Publicity – George Fritz said he has ordered and received 25,000 brochures. He will be submitting a grant request to the Tourism Development Commission; perhaps we can get some or all of that money back through this grant.

Gem Show – Norm Holbert reported the October gem show was cancelled due to lack of vendors. We just received reimbursement for the July show, which indicated a nice profit. If attending other gem shows in another state or in our area, he asked that we consider talking to the vendors at those shows about participating in our own gem show here in Franklin in May.



NEW BUSINESS:

Membership Development Committee - Tom Parker volunteered to be the chairman of this new committee. He will be asking several other members to be a part of this committee the purpose of which will be to review and update rules of membership and participation in all club functions, including the workshop.

Beginning Faceting Class – John Hayes presented two certificates of completion to Mike Gillen and Tom Parker. Examples of their work are displayed on the table in the back of the room.

Awards Committee – Fred Plesner presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Elena and Tom Marsh for their years of commitment and service to our club and museum.

Scholarships – Arlon Eldridge introduced Kevin Cottingham, Richardson Pedigo and Sean Price who each received a \$1,000 scholarship for this year. Each recipient was asked to tell the membership a little about themselves.

Jay Mooney donated a bucket of flint for anyone who would like to have some. The bucket is located in the back of the room.

Door prize tickets were drawn and refreshments were served.

There being no further business Arlon Eldridge adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Guest speaker tonight was Ken Rush, Museum Director of the Ducktown Basin Museum, Ducktown, Tennessee, who spoke about that museum as well as the history of Ducktown and Copper Basin.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



*Pictures L to R, Top to Bottom:
Elena & Tom Marsh; Arlon Eldridge, Kevin Cottingham, Richardson Pedigo & Sean Price; Tom Parker & Mike Gillen; attendees at meeting; more attendees at meeting*

Photos by George Fritz

President's Column continued from Page 3

Remember we are grownups and need to be a good example for our youth. There is a new President and a lot of new faces. There will be new members (I hope) stepping up taking for these positions. More importantly there are our By Laws/Articles of Incorporation that we MUST follow. It's time to get back to "the rules" that you all have put before us and we must hold to.

Remember if you have any suggestions please jot them down and put them in the box at the Museum or email me. I am open to listening to all of them and taking them under advisement.

Thank You.

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.



Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant

October 27 eight members of our club visited Diamond Hill Mine. It is located near Abbeville, SC and is known for several types of quartz. Most of our group were able to locate milky, smoky and skeletal quartz by the bucket full. One cluster of amethyst and a quartz scepter was also found. Scepter quartz crystals are a naturally occurring formation where the base of a crystal forms around a central crystal rod. This one was a clear quartz scepter approximately 2 inches long and 1/2 inch in diameter. This was a fun trip despite the mud available after some rather heavy rains.

A short notice trip to Chunky Gal took place November 1 and a side trip to Deep Gap on that same day. Smaragdite with Rubies and Garnets both in good quantity were found. There will be more of the mid-week trips to come. Please call Marsha if you are interested.

After our program given by Ken Rush about the Ducktown Basin, several people have expressed interest in visiting this museum. This trip is scheduled December 8 leaving from the museum at 8 AM. Bring lunch, a drink and entry for adults will be \$5. Carpool available with notice. Sign up in the museum or call Marsha if you wish to participate.



Pictured L to R: some field trip members: Marsha Harmon, Doreen Freeman, Gary Galbrecht, & Linda Holmes not in photo: Sean Price, Kathi & Stacy Walbridge and Nancy McShane; Nancy McShane; quartz crystal Photos by Stacy Walbridge

Gift Shop News

Anamay Rossomando - Co-Chair



Great ideas for Christmas and holiday gift giving can be found in the gift shop in our Museum. Stop by and start shopping, we have some of the best prices in town and lots of new inventory.

We received another generous donation from Fran Rasmusson, including one of a kind jewelry, gem trees and specimens. They are now available for sale.

Thanks to all our great hosts, we hope to finish out the year in a positive way.



Donation

Diane Mason - Gift Shop Co-Chair

On November 1, 2018, The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society received a very generous donation from Kingsley North, Inc. for use in the gift shop.

Included were a Lortone 4 lb. variegated tumbler, two pounds of mixed stainless steel shot, one pound of cleaning soap, and a Speed Brite turbo ionic cleaner for a grand total of \$341.00.

Our sincerest thanks go out to this company not only for their much needed and appreciated donation, but, also, for their great products and support that many of us receive when we make purchases from them.

Please in the future when you write a check to this company, also include a thank you for their support and donation.

Kingsley North and Mark Poupore all of us sincerely thank you for this great donation.

Pictured - L to R: President, Jane Morgan; Gift Shop Co-Chairs, Anamay Rossomando & Vicki Knisley; Museum Manager, Duane Haskell; and Gift Shop Co-chair, Diane Mason.

Photo by George Fritz



The Year End Party and Rock Bingo is almost here.

Saturday, December 15th

Bring Food 11 AM

Dinner from 12 Noon to 4 PM

Bring a Side Dish & \$5 Exchange Gift per person for Bingo

Barbara Rizzo, Coordinator 864-506-4875

A Calcite Cabochon

Fred Plesner – Curator Emeritus



I usually carry a calcite cabochon in my vest pocket when I am working at the gem museum. It is a token from my more youthful days as a novice in the Gem and Mineral Society. What makes this calcite cabochon so unique is that it has been dyed with beet juice.

At that time in my earlier days I had been hearing about various techniques for treating stones, being curious and knowing that calcite was soft I dropped my newly cut and polished stone into a jar of beet juice and waited. After 3 or 4 days I retrieved my stone and carefully washed it. It didn't turn out quite the way I expected it to. Instead of taking the hoped for color uniformly it was speckled with violet dots. Many people have looked at the stone and assumed that the spots in it are possibly garnets.

I am using this illustration as a means of encouraging you to follow your curiosity. Many of us have taken lessons at the museum and are curious about many things. If you are curious about how it may turn out, try it. It may be like my experience or it may exceed your expectations.

Some years ago, John Hays and I gave a talk at a local women's luncheon. I like the women present were impressed by the range of material that John Hayes had faceted, such as a stone cut from the screen of an apple computer. If you are curious, go for it and have fun finding your answer.



Photo by Jane Morgan



Union Academy's High School Science Teacher, Dr. Mickey Henson and Principle, Diane Cotton were the proud recipients of a mini grant on Tuesday, November 13th.

Junior Member, Garrett hand delivered the check. They were very pleased to have received this to further aid their studies in Earth Science.

January Birthdays

- 10 Ellen Williams
- 13 Penny Lynn Goldstein
- 16 Susan Martin
- 17 Scott Newton
- 20 Ralph Crawford
- 21 Roberta Pipitone
- 23 Ellen Crawford
- 24 Jim Mayhar
- 25 Mark W Laing
- 28 Cy Amrich
- 29 James Mason

January Anniversaries

- 10 Al & Rosie Pribble
- 28 Dianna & John Jurss



From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies



Gem and Mineral Shows

November 30, December 1 & 2, Montgomery, AL

48th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; Garrett Coliseum; 1555 Federal Dr., Montgomery, AL; Friday 9 AM to 6 PM; Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 11 AM to 5 PM; \$2 Adult or \$3 for weekend pass; FREE parking

December 8 & 9, Franklin, TN

38th Annual Earth Treasures Show; Sponsored by Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society; Williamson County Ag Expo Park; 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN 37064; Saturday 9 AM to 6 PM; and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM; FREE parking; Adults \$5; \$7 for 2-day pass; \$1 Students 18 and under

Other Events

Franklin, NC, Cowee Community

T. M. Rickman General Store; 259 Cowee Creek Road; Saturdays; 10 AM to 4 PM

November 9 thru December 31, 2018, Bryson City, NC

Great Smoky Mountains Railroad, THE POLAR EXPRESS; purchase tickets on line www.gsmr.com or call 800-872-4681

November 24, Downtown Franklin, NC



Small Business Saturday

November 24th and December 1st, Saturdays, Downtown Franklin, NC



Winter Wonderland; 5 PM to 8 PM

November 25, Downtown Franklin, NC, Annual Christmas Parade; 3 PM SUNDAY



December 31, Downtown Franklin, NC, 5th Annual Ruby Drop; 8:30 PM to midnight; bring in the new year with music, games, activities, and before midnight countdown and lowering of the ruby



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2019	22	24
February	26	28 Anniversary
March	26	28
April	23	
May	21	23
June	25	27
July	16	18 Ice Cream Social
August	27	29 Elections
September	24	26 Banquet
October	22	24
November 2018	27	29
December 2018	11 4:00	15 End of Year Party Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00

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 news letter.

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, please contact the President at least 1 week prior to the meeting to get this scheduled on the Agenda.

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734

First Class Mail

