

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXIV MARCH 2014
Number 3
Official Bulletin

Of
The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc. is a founding member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. A schedule of our monthly meetings is on the back cover of *The Mountain Gem* as well as on the Society's web-page. Meetings are held at the Macon County Community Facilities Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

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 sciences and arts 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.

**The FRANKLIN GEM
AND MINERAL MUSEUM**

is operated under the direction of the

Board of Directors of

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.

School tours are always available by contacting our Education Chairman, Diane Aiello.



The 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: themountaingem@fastmail.fm

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Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Marty Martinez	332-8453
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)



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)

American Federation (AFMS): www.amfed.org

Southeast Federation (SFMS): www.amfed.org/sfms

Franklin Gem Museum and Society:

www.fgmm.org

General Meeting

Date: March 27, 2014

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Macon County Community
Center on 441 South

Program: Copper Creations by Victor Moralosa. He will be giving a talk about how he got started and show some of his pieces.

Hello from the president,**Arlon Eldridge**

Once again I would like to thank all of our members for all the hard work and time they have put in during the winter to keep the museum open and very well organized.



Thanks to Al Pribble, we now have our new computer as he went and picked it up and installed it. Thanks Al so much. Also we were having a big problem with our printer and we gave this problem to Ray Behr so he contacted the company with the problem and they replaced it with a refurbished one, Thank you Ray.

Lon Peden and Richard Hasel are working on the fountain and should have it up and running soon.

And again a big thanks to Marty Martinez for another wonderful program. We will have several things that are in the works to discuss at our next board and regular meeting so looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Notice – Notice**Museum Work Day**

April 16, Wednesday

10 AM

Lunch Provided

**Our Collection Needs Cleaning**

The Cabinets And More Need Cleaning

Thanks, Fred Plesner

Museum manager



New member: Vicki Knisley

New Classes Being Offered

Faceting II will be offered by Ray Behr. The objective will be to assist in the cutting of different shape stones. The completion of Faceting I is a requirement. The signup sheet is on the museum bulletin board in the meeting room. For questions call Ray on 349-0827.

Minutes – February 27, 2014 – General Meeting

The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by President, Arlon Eldridge, at 6:40 p.m. in the Community Center building meeting room.

Minutes - Arlon asked for any corrections or additions to the January minutes and there were none.

Membership – Linda Behr reported 35 members and 5 guests present.

Vice President – Ray Behr did not have anything new to report.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios was not present. Assistant Treasurer Norm Holbert reported the current bank balance.

Museum Manager – Al Pribble reported we now have a new computer. He and Laura Anderson worked together on getting it set up.

He said that we need hosts for the month of March; especially this coming Saturday. A sign-up sheet is at the membership table.

Museum Curator – Fred Plesner thanked Rex Larkin for his recent articles. He said that Expo will expand to include Spruce Pine and a story by Fred was accepted for publication.

Publicity – Arlon reported that the television program, **The Prospectors**, wants to do a show here and we will sponsor this. The tv crew will be here the end of May to do a mock up. There will be approximately 40 minutes of tape time and he would like that to include a lot of museum time. They are coming from Denver and we will make arrangements for accommodations for them; however, there will be no expense to the club.

Education – Diane Aiello said she had no bookings scheduled. She will be exchanging displays from the library to the courthouse and vice versa.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh brought the tourmaline pendant that has been donated by Emma's Place (Linda Smith) for our next raffle. It will be on display in the museum gift shop. She thanked Laura Anderson for getting hosts scheduled to cover the museum on Saturdays this winter.

Mother's Day Weekend Rock, Gem and Arts Show – Norm Holbert stated we now have 14 vendors with at least six more expected. He asked for an item to be donated for a silent auction and also asked for volunteers to help with the entire weekend event. Al Pribble said we have some Graves© equipment that might be considered for auction. Linda Smith suggested we ask the vendors to donate items to be auctioned. Norm also would like to have a membership/information table set up and manned to include some displays and information on area mines. We do have a food vendor lined up. The event will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., May 9, 10 and 11. Please mark you calendars and please consider volunteering to assist.

New Business – Arlon reported that the a/c compressor has been fixed. He also noted that we will be working on a budget for this year.

John Hayes gave a certificate of completion to Deborah Wright who has been taking his cabochon classes. She brought in several examples of her work, which will be displayed on a table in the back of the room. John asked us not to touch them, only to just look, as she spent three to four hours on each stone.

Arlon then introduced Dorothy Crawford who spoke briefly on the AARP Funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant and programs to help family caregivers. She asked us to consider the fact that Macon County has more citizens over the age of 60 than in the 1-17 year old age group. She reported that she is the chairperson for the Resolution Committee. Informational fliers were supplied.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m., followed by refreshments and a film on emerald mines in the Minas Gerais area of Brazil. Thank you to Arlon Eldridge and Marty Martinez for the very interesting film as well as emerald rough specimens brought in for us to view.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, secretary



Member News

Reporting by Linda Behr

Susan Fritz had to have root canal and a cap.

Ray Behr had to have a cap. (*What's with these people with teeth problems?*)

Sharon John has returned to Franklin.

Rosie Pribble is still on her long road to recovery for her back surgery.

Roy Ramsey passed away on March 4 at the age of 88. He was a well-known rockhound.

Christine Hubinger will take over for Jean Emerson as Scholarship Chairman.

Gift Shop

By Elena Marsh



Keeping positive that spring is just around the corner, the gift shop continues to improve with new displays and items for sale. Continuous support from the hosts each Saturday make the museum a wonderful place to spend some time during the cold times in the mountains.

We have a few new members who are always welcome to any club or organization. Do want to mention and highly suggest that if any member, whether new or someone that has been with the club for many years – if you would like a review of hosting procedures and duties, please contact either Al Pribble or me to set up a convenient time to go over some details, including opening and closing the museum. Now is a perfect time to come in and get to know the rooms and displays along with the items for sale in the gift shop.

Thanks again to all who have hosted during the winter months. Positive feedback on social media indicate that our museum is still one of the highlights of anyone's visit to Franklin.

Remember to check your calendars for May and mark at least one day that you can host! It will always be appreciated. See you in the museum soon!



April Birthdays



7 - Laura Peden

12 - Dean Plesner

16 - Ivy Mitchell

24 - Dorothy Crawford

27 - Jamie Loewy

30 - Frances Rasmusson

April Anniversaries

26 - George & Susan Fritz

30 - George & Ivy Mitchell



February Program on Brazilian Emeralds

By Rex Larkin

February's program featured another presentation by Marty Martinez, continuing the theme of Brazil's rich mineral varieties, specifically Brazilian Emeralds. Marty had a couple of short films with him, dealing with both the beautiful specimens, and also mining techniques—thankfully not as dangerous as the primitive methods we have seen in previous videos.

Brazil, already acknowledged as the center, not only of the most productive colored gems in the world, but also containing the greatest variety, has a specific area, Minas Gerais, meaning “general stones.” For example, in the Capoeirine Gem Mines, mined by independent prospectors, is a relatively small area. Basically, veins of schist are followed as the key to emerald mining. Vats of stone are brought up, and searched for emeralds. By the same token, leather straps lower the miners several feet in these same vats, with footholds, hopefully, in the walls of the shaft, small comfort for the several hundred foot descent!

More modern mining techniques are used at the Belmont Emerald Mine—though these are stripping techniques, the areas are carefully restored afterwards. There is also mining blasting, but after the initial hole is made, modern drilling machines are brought in. Stone brought to the surface is also crushed and sorted by state of the art machines. About two kilos of gem quality stones are produced, out of five times that much mined—to me, that seems like a pretty good ratio.

Gold mining, for example, is much more destructive, much less productive—with few attempts at restoration.

Some of the mines in Brazil go back 60 years—hundreds of years more if you include the attempts by early conquerors and the indigenous peoples. About 1% of most stones found are gem quality; the rest are used as beads though these may be very attractive. Many of these “secondary” gems are dispersed to tourist mines around the world, including our Franklin mines (though I did find a small emerald crystal one day at the now—defunct Jacob's Mine).

The finale of the program was a picture of an emerald from the state of Bieah, the largest cut and polished emerald ever found—25 pounds! It will come up later this year for bidding, starting at \$500,000; estimated value is \$1.15 million. Truly a work of art—though it would make a pretty clunky necklace!

We had NO questions from the audience—not because people weren't curious. I think because Marty, in conjunction with our President Arlon, have given us, over the past few months, such an insight into the country of Brazil, we all feel like we have gone there.

Well done, and thank you!

(Picture obtained from YAHOO: Brazil's largest emerald)



SPEEDING TICKET

A police officer stops a blonde for speeding and asks her very nicely if he could see her license. She replied in a huff, 'I wish you guys would get your act together.'



Just yesterday you take away my license and then today you expect me to show it to you! Via Internet

**April newsletter deadline
will be April 11th, Friday.**

**Thank you to all who submit
articles for *our* newsletter.**

Jimmy Angel

By Fred Plesner for the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin

Many of you are familiar with the name “Jimmy” Angel and some of the stories that have been attached to some of the artifacts in our Native American Artifacts Room. No! None of those artifacts belonged to Jimmy Angel and Jimmy Angel was not from Macon County so what is his connection to Macon County? Well, simply put he was a cousin of the local Angel Clan and yes he has been known to fly in for a visit. For those of you who are not familiar with who Jimmy Angel was, he was the discoverer of Angel Falls, the world’s tallest waterfall.

James Crawford “Jimmy” Angel was born on August 1st, 1899 near Cedar Valley, Missouri and died on December 8th, 1956 at Panama City, Panama. Jimmy was said to have been 5’8” tall with black hair and brown eyes. His face was badly burned and permanently scarred when he was in his 20’s when the cockpit wiring in an airplane he was flying caught fire. He frequently told people that he was mostly American Indian. This was partially true since his mother, Margaret Belle Marshall Angel, was part North Carolina Cherokee Indian.

Finding the truth about Jimmy Angel is not easy because he encouraged and embellished the stories and legends, and there were many, that were told about him so the following story may or may not be true.

Jimmy Angel has been said to have foiled one of the first skyjackings. The story goes that in the 1920s, Jimmy had the job of flying the payroll “cash” to a gold mine in Mexico. There was a man who kept trying to bum a ride with him. He was persistent and Jimmy finally gave in. The man climbed aboard Jimmy’s open cockpit airplane. It was normal in these planes for the passenger to sit in the front cockpit and the pilot to sit in the rear cockpit since this gave him a better view of everything.

Jimmy took off and climbed into the cooler air above. Once they had leveled off the passenger released his seatbelt, turned around, pointed a pistol at Jimmy and demanded to be taken to a different location. Jimmy immediately did a roll and inverted the airplane. No one has ever said whether they found the man or for that matter even looked for him. Jimmy proceeded on his way and landed at the mine with the payroll.

Attributes:

Internet: The Truth about Jimmy Angel and Angel Falls

Jimmy Angel – Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia

The Franklin Press: April 20, 2007 – Author takes look at aviation in the news

Laura Anderson presenting Deborah Wright with her certificate for completing her cabochon class. Her stones were displayed at the meeting. Congratulations Deborah.

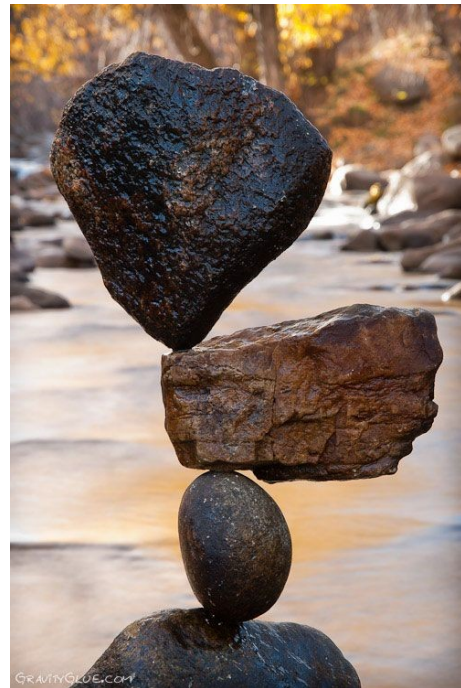
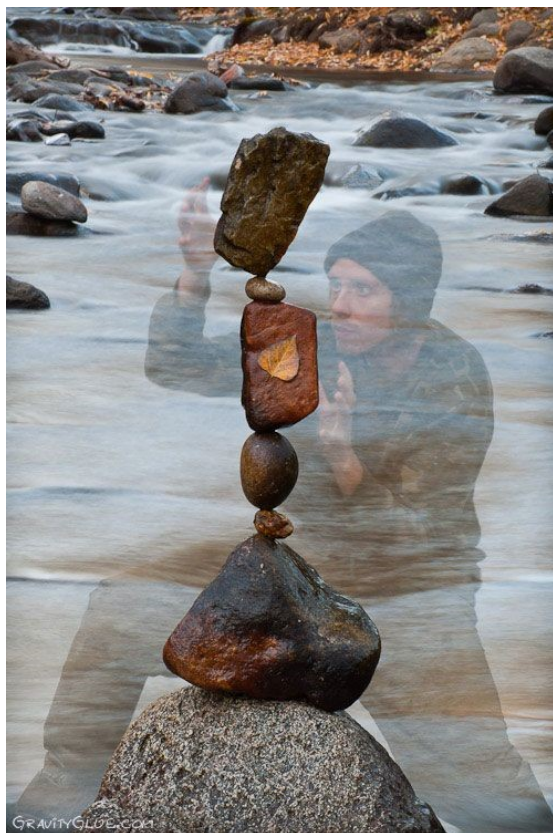


What to do with your left over "not-so-good-as-you-thought- when-you-picked-them-up-to-bring-home" rocks.

Michael Grab is an artist who has been rock balancing since 2008. Much of his recent work has been done around the Boulder, Colorado, area. Grab explains: The most fundamental element of balancing in a physical sense is finding some kind of tripod for the rock to stand on. Every rock is covered in a variety of tiny to large indentations that can act as a tripod for the rock to stand up-right, or in most orientations you can think of with other rocks. By paying close attention to the feeling of the rocks, you will start to feel even the smallest clicks as the notches of the rocks in contact are moving over one another. These "sculptures" have no support other than the rocks themselves.

Bill Friday, Editor for the
Rocket City Rocks and Gems

Can you see his silhouette?



ALAA WITHIN SOUTHEASTERN FORESTRY PLAN

- Shirley Leeson, ALAA President

At the recent meeting of the Southeast Federation in Jacksonville, I offered to send the 'editor' a list of the U.S. Forests within the bounds of the Southeast.

Those forests are listed below by state.

Please note, if each club would contact the Forest Service in their state and ask the following:

1. Does your forest have a travel management plan yet?
2. At what stage is that in?
3. Can you forward maps of your plan.
4. Is it too late to make comments?

If you can get these maps to see if there are any collecting areas or roads through the forests to collecting sites that might be closed under the travel management plan and get involved in comments or possible closures, it would go a long way in making the forest service aware that rockhounds are watching.

Also, those clubs along the coasts, search out who is responsible for issuing plans for collecting on the beaches. In the state of Oregon the State Department of Parks is responsible and they have tried to close the beaches to collecting the famous agates that are washed up after heavy winter storms.

Sometimes the U.S. Fish & Wildlife get involved if there are nesting birds in the dunes along the beaches.

If we could get some idea of what is being done in each state by the federal or state governments, it would help all rockhounds.

North Carolina

Croatan, Nantahala, Pisgah, and Uwharrie National Forests

South Carolina

Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests

Tennessee

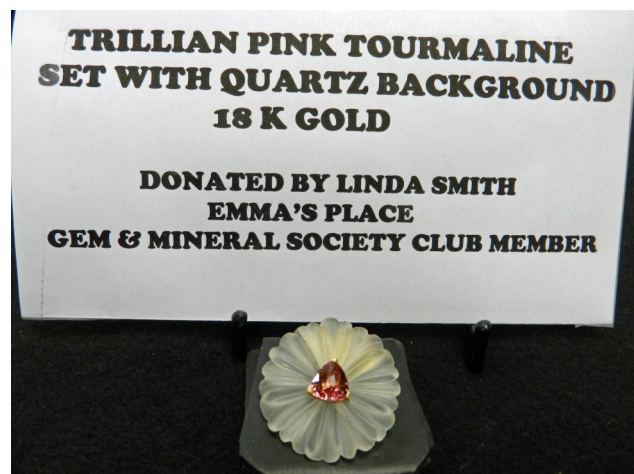
Cherokee National Forest

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area

Georgia

Chattahoochee – Oconee National Forests

(CONDENSED FOR PUBLICATION from the Lodestar)



2014 Raffle pendant can be viewed in the Gift Shop.

Tom, Dave and Steve went to a party. After the party, they returned to the hotel. The hotel was 60 stories high. Unfortunately for them, the elevator was not working. They made a plan for the first 20 stories, Tom will crack jokes.



The second 20 stories Dave will tell a happy story, and lastly, Steve will tell a sad story. They then started up the steps after an exhausting climb, it was Steve's turn. He turned to the other two and said, "OK guys, here's my sad story. I forgot the keys downstairs."

NEW WEBSITE

Southeastern Federation website is
www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm

NEW DMC EMAIL ADDRESS - sfms-dmc@amfed.org

AFMS website has listed shows, LODESTAR newsletters, officers as well as contact people,

Coming Events for SFMS MEMBERS:***April 26-27, 2014 Memphis, TN***

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show

Memphis Archaeological and

Geological Society

"The Earth Wide Open"

Memphis International Agricenter,

7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN

Saturday, April 26, 9-6:00 and Sunday,

April 27 10-5,

Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Kids Area
with Rockzone featuring Gem Dig, Geode
Bowling, Rocks Around the Clock.

Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00.

web: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com,email info@theearthwideopen.com.

Show Chair James Butchko 901 743-0058

Dealer Chair WC McDaniel 901-274-7706

Bob Green, Safety Chair

Well, one month down so far. Gads. January went by very quickly. Barb and I went to Australia to visit our son and his family over Christmas and New Years.

We ate Christmas dinner in Bermuda shorts and t-shirts. We went fishing on New Years' Eve, caught fish and had them for dinner, on the deck overlooking the ocean. Then before we left, endured a heat wave, several days the temperature was about 100 degrees F. But, we were prepared, partially, but not for the high temperatures. When we got home it was 15 degrees F.

Anyway, we will not discuss being prepared for the weather. We will take a quick look at a couple of issues. The first is we are in the flu season. I noticed a pictograph on the television that had basically every state in some degree of flu outbreak. It is noted that this flu strain is attacking younger healthier folks. The flu is not to be taken lightly, no matter your age.

Prevention is paramount. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Also, do a good job washing your hands. There was an ad several years ago suggesting that you be sure to wash properly including "squeezing your thumb" to effectively cover all of the areas of your hand.

This makes sense, if you slow down and look at how hand washing is typically done, except by surgeons, of course. The other important issue is attendance at work, my employer suggests that if you are sick, stay home and do not spread your cold or flu. The local hospitals have put a restriction on children entering the hospital because kids are the world's most effective transmitters of the cold and flu. Another issue is we are coming out of the holiday season and we have all probably gained a few pounds. It is a lot harder to take off the pounds than it is to put them on. So a prudent approach to exercise and diet is strongly suggested. We should all be concerned with our weight. Increased weight drastically impacts our joints and severely impacts our over-all health. I realize this is just a blurb and for more information, contact your family physician.

Winter also means more time indoors and more time for our hobbies. One issue that has confronted me is that as I am running my "cabbing" machine, the water seems to get colder.

Well that is true, because with the colder weather, the dew point drops and as a result, the water spray and rotating wheels evaporate the water and this cools the water. This means colder hands and this also means joints that become a bit stiffer. I have gotten more manicures in winter than in summer because of my stiffer joints.

I recently replaced the wheels on my "Genie". I had bought the machine several years ago and had gotten a good deal on this unit. The new wheels were really aggressive towards fingernails and skin parts that came in contact with the spinning wheels. I had several "wheel rashes" before I got used to the new hazard. This was a classic case of performing the same activities on the old wheels and then adjusting to the new wheels. This is a good lesson learned, so when you "upgrade" to something new and have gotten into habits on an older unit, whatever it may be, be aware that there are new hazards with the new equipment. It should be obvious when you put on the new wheels on your "cabbing" machine that the "bristles" of the diamond coating will not ignore fingernails and skin. These are made for the removal of material and fingernails and skin may also be a part of the materials removed.

So be safe, wear your personal protective equipment, enjoy your winter activities, and please avoid the flu.

Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee - Copyright © All rights reserved.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc



9:00 AM TO 3:00PM(CST)

Saturday, March 29, 2014

Sugar Creek near Millington, TN

Where: Sugar Creek near Millington, TN

Assembly Time: 9:00 am (CST) Popeye's is located in front of Wal-Mart at 8845 U.S. 51, Millington, TN. Corner Street is Wilkerville Blvd.

Sugar Creek is located about 20 miles north of Memphis, TN and 10 miles north of Millington. We will assemble and depart Popeye's parking lot at 9 am Central Standard Time. We will caravan to the collecting site. There are multiple motels located on Highway 51 in Millington. Majority within one mile of meeting place.

Collecting: This will be the DMC first trip to Sugar Creek. The creek begins at the Mississippi River and meanders around 5-6 miles through West Tennessee loess hills. Along the creek are multiple gravel bars. Primary collecting will be at these gravel bars. Material will be agate, jasper, chert in multiple colors and banding, fossil chert and petrified wood. Rare finds include Lake Superior Agates, Ice Age fossils such as horse and bison, and mastodon has also been found in area. Material is excellent for tumbling and lapidary work,

Collecting Conditions/ Tools: Creek collecting. You must wade (get wet) in order to access many of the gravel bars. Recommend boots or water proof shoes or a change of shoes/socks. No digging required. Recommend walking stick. Stick with a metal point is good for checking for petrified wood as it will sound like glass when poked. Also recommend backpack, fanny packs and/or plastic buckets although five gallon buckets can be cumbersome in creek collecting. Children are ok. However, they must be supervised and in direct contact/site of an adult at all times.

Weather - Weather in late March is unpredictable and may vary. Be prepared; if there is adverse conditions. The host club will make every effort to inform attendees. Check club site www.memphisgeology.org for updates.

IMPORTANT NOTE. If heavy rains make the creek inaccessible or unsafe for collecting we will move the collecting trip to the Memphis Stone and Gravel pit which is near Millington. It will not change or alter the meeting time or location

Special note: The host club, The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, will provide drinks, snacks, dry socks and special awards/prizes for your creek finds.

Traveling west I-40 from Nashville

- a.. Take TN-385/TN-205 exit, EXIT 24-25, toward Millington/Arlington/Collierville
- b.. Take Exit 24 toward Millington 17 miles to Highway 51
- c.. Merge -51 N/US-51 N/TN-3 N toward Millington
- d.. Travel 3.6 miles to Popeye's is on the left

Traveling north I-55 from Mississippi

- a.. Travel north on I-55
- b.. Follow directions to 240 north
- c.. Take exit 2A on the left toward US-51/Millington.
- d.. Travel 15 miles to Popeye's is on left

Field trip leaders Charles Hill 901-626 4232,
WC McDaniel 901 490-3575. w.c.mcd@att.net.

Rocks of Sugar Creek:

Assorted agates., Fossils. Petrified wood
Agates
Fossils

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail

March program will be on copper
creations by Victor Moralosa



Month	Board Meeting	General
March	25	27
April	22	24
May	27	29
June	24	26
July	15	17
August	26	28
September	23	25 Banquet
October	28	30
November	18	20
December	9	13 end of Year party

Mother's Day Weekend Rock, Gem
and Arts Show dates: Friday, Saturday
and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the
Community Center on Highway 441/
Georgia Road. FREE Admission

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. the last
Thursday of the month in the West Large Meeting
Room of the Macon County Community Facilities
Building

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 want to submit something before the
Board, contact the President prior to meeting.*