

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

SEPTEMBER 2017

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. Temporary contact for tours is Diane Aiello. Call her at 828-371-2436 or 828-524-3307.

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.**

2016- 2017 Officers And Board Of Directors

President	Tom Sterrett	349-3374
Past President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director (2016)	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director (2016)	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	OPEN	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
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	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	OPEN (Al Pribble - Temp)	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Ellen Williams	349-9416
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	OPEN (Al Pribble - Temp)	
Refreshments	Joyce Jacques	342-2543
Scholarships	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



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 28, 2017

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Masonic Lodge at 50 Church Street**

Program: **Officer Installation and Banquet**



October Birthdays

- 3 - Winn Henderson
- 3 - Joe Pinkous
- 14 - Abby Young
- 16 - Doreen Freeman
- 24 - Wally Smith
- 25 - Susan Fritz
- 26 - Mike Gillen
- 31 - Ina Raye Muncher
- 31 - Al Pribble
- 31 - Ron Rossomando



October Anniversaries

- 18 - Paul & Nadine Thomas



Mr. Rich Williams and his wife Judy Bilbry will be doing our program on October 26, 2017. They will be speaking on the Art of Scrimshaw. This will include its origins, history, and uses today. They will also cover the topics of Ivory and the new laws that govern it's use and exportation.

***Newsletter DEADLINE
Tuesday, October 10th***

Tom Sterrett, President

September is here, temperatures are down, hurricanes abound! Lots of tourists and Irma refugees are in town. The October Leaf Lookers show is still going forward as planned. We will keep you posted.

Our September meeting is our installation of new officers banquet. Please bring a dish to share and a story to tell. As the new season and year approaches, please plan to help your club and the new officer make this year a success. Volunteer to help out in some way.

I want to thank all those that volunteered this year. We could not have made it without your help. Thank you!

Get up, Get Out, Volunteer, and as always...

Rock On!!!

Membership renewals are due.

Please pay Ellen Crawford at a meeting or mail a check to museum "attn membership".



Minutes–August 31, 2017–General Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Sterrett at 6:35 p.m. on Thursday, August 31, 2017, at the Franklin Masonic Lodge.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 56 members and 2 guests present.

Minutes – Tom Sterrett asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July minutes and there were none. Norm Holbert moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Marsha Harmon seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

President – Tom Sterrett reported that the eclipse packets of moonstone and sunstone were a success netting approximately \$1,000. He told the membership that Gwen Taylor of the Downtown Merchants Association visited the Board meeting and has invited us to join.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge indicated that he will present the \$300 mini-grant to the teacher at Macon Middle School on Monday.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported the month of July was extremely profitable, which drew applause from the members.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh thanked those who volunteered their time and efforts to host at the museum during the eclipse weekend (he reported the museum was very busy) and also for those who volunteered to be at our table during the Cowee Heritage Festival.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes presented two Certificates of Completion for the cabbage class that was taught by Cy Amrich. Congratulations to Brenda Isaacs and Joe Laurello.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported that the club has been offered the mineral rights to 36 acres of land and he explained that mineral rights and ownership rights are two entirely different things. The property is south of the airport and is steep. At the recent Board meeting, the Board decided to exactly locate the specific property, which has taxes of \$13 per year and a value of \$3,800. In addition, information will be given to an attorney to check all paperwork prior to the club accepting the offer.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported an excellent month thus far. Raffle ticket sales, with the drawing to be in October, have been good. She reminded us that tee shirts are for sale and she brought some with her this evening. She reminded us again that she and Anamay Rossomando will be stepping down effective December 31, 2017. She is willing to train whoever may step into this position and she suggests two people; a manager and assistant manager. She has typed up a job description. Elena and Anamay Rossomando were given a big round of applause for her work over these last few years.

Education – Diane Aiello and Al Pribble will be doing a demonstration on September 26, 2017 at the Upper Cartoogechaye Community Club.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the deadline for newsletter Tuesday, September 12. Membership dues are now due: \$20 for one member; \$10 for each additional family member and \$5 for Pebble Pups. Also, she stated that effective October, anyone desiring hard copy newsletters will be required to pay an additional fee of \$25 over and above their membership dues.

Publicity – Tom Sterrett thanked George Fritz for the two ads that were placed in the Macon County News and Franklin Press the Friday prior to the eclipse.



July Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon has a trip on this Saturday near Lincolnton and three other trips that are upcoming, which she discussed. If interested, please contact either Marsha Harmon or Lake Holland directly. John Hayes stated he will be offering a local trip sometime in October, panning for gold in a pile of sand. If anyone has a tub, please let him know and contact John for further details.

Programs – Next month is our Installation Banquet. A sign-up sheet for food was passed around. The club will provide meat and drinks. If you haven't signed up, please contact Jane Morgan at 342-8703 to let her know what you will be bringing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pebble Pups – Tom Sterrett stated that the group will start as soon as we are able to get into the Community building as they need a separate room to meet, which is not available to us at the Masonic Lodge.

Credit Cards – The Board has decided to shelve this subject for the time being.

NEW BUSINESS:

October Gemboree – Norman Holbert stated this event is scheduled for the third weekend in October. The Community building is still unfinished at this time; however, if open we will need members to help with set up on 10/19, tear down on that Sunday 10/22, security coverage, hosting, and demonstrations (cabbing, faceting, wire wrapping, beading, etc.). Norman Holbert has a sign-up sheet; please contact him if you can assist in any of these areas. LATE BREAKING NEWS - The Show has been CANCELLED.

Election of Officers – Ballots were distributed to each member and counted. Tom Sterrett announced the results. The following are the new officers to be installed at our September meeting:

President – Al Pribble

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge

Treasurer – Lake Holland

Assistant Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios

Secretary – Susan Fritz

Board Member – Tom Parker

Board Member – Mike Gillen

Tom Sterrett announced that today is Arlon Eldridge's birthday and he received a rendition of Happy Birthday sung by the membership and a round of applause.

Door prizes were drawn. There being no further business, Fred Plesner moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by several members. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. by president, Tom Sterrett.

Refreshments were enjoyed followed by a most interesting talk by Kim Cochran of the Georgia Mineral Society. Kim spoke about birthstones, each month in detail including the history of each stone, chemical properties and the country in which they are sourced. He brought many samples of stones that were passed around for all to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



The Propst Farm, Lincoln County, NC is an area that has been reopened recently after land/permission changes. This dig was on August 26th, in hard-red clay to find Corundum crystals which are usually larger than those found in our area. Some Magnetite and Quartz/crystals are also found in this area. This trip was sponsored by Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club. Thank you, Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club for this opportunity.

The Franklin group pitched in together and worked at digging, screening and the cleaning processes. Gary Galbrecht brought almost all essential equipment as was listed on the DMC trip list. Sean Price, Ellen Williams and myself had bits and pieces to supplement his supply. After hard work, mostly small (1/4 inch some well defined) crystals were found and split among our 4 members. Some much larger crystals were found by the Gaston group and Aiken, Atlanta, and Charlotte Clubs had varied success. Thank you to all of them for their help with suggestions as to various techniques to obtain maximum results.

As a club member, you are eligible to attend Dixie Mineral Council trips such as this trip, a branch of The Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies and in turn, The American Federation of Mineralogical Society field trips. If you are traveling away from the Southeastern area of the USA, you can still hunt for rocks and minerals with local area guidance where ever the location.

You are expected however to participate in support of the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. The easiest way to do this is to **volunteer to host at our Museum or give back in some way.**

Please keep up with field trip information which is posted on the back board at the museum or call Marsha 828 369-7262 or Lake Holland 828 369-5421 for upcoming trips. Come dig holes with us and enjoy nature as it is meant to be appreciated, up close.



Photos by Gary Galbrecht and Sean Price

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



Wasn't the eclipse amazing? I hope everyone got a chance to enjoy such a wonderful sight? The museum was open extended hours on Saturday, Sunday and Monday for that event. Special thank you to the members who volunteered many hours during that time – we received compliments and thank you's from visitors when they could tour our museum. Several of us were at Cowee School during the Heritage Days festival, with Tom and Ron cutting geodes for children and our table offered information about our museum and society along with a nice selection of items for sale.

Anamay and Ron were here for about a month – Ron hosted several days and Anamay worked diligently to ensure that all our jewelry stock was carded, labeled and priced for future sales. Mary Bermke helped me with the new book order. There are now a few new children's books available for sale.

If anyone is interested in working with me while I am doing some of the gift shop manager's duties, please call or let me know. I will work out a time slot that will accommodate both our schedules. Please consider being part of this responsibility. Several members can work together to make sure the gift shop continues to offer jewelry and specimens for our many visitors.

Please check out our Facebook and TripAdvisor websites. Cy Amrich has done an amazing job to highlight our museum and activities. Visitors' comments indicate they have enjoyed their visit to the museum and that our hosts are super friendly and helpful.

The club and museum are only as strong as the members who serve it – please consider volunteering in some capacity each month.

Thanks for hosting - see you in the museum soon – Elena



Museum Schedule for PumpkinFest

Tom Marsh - Museum Manager

The museum will be open from 10 AM until 4 PM on October 21 to accommodate the many visitors who attend PumpkinFest. Each year, we display our banner and items from the gift shop outside the museum along with the saw to cut geodes for children and the sandbox open for children to dig in.

With these extended duties, I would like to ask members to please volunteer a few hours that day to help - man the outside tables, monitor the sandbox, supervise the children while they are cutting geodes or host in the museum.

There will be a sign up sheet in the museum with times and areas to volunteer – This will be passed around during the September installation dinner and hopefully, there are enough members who have signed up to help. If you have not signed up and would like to help, please come by the museum before October 21 to sign up or come on Saturday, October 21, and stay for an hour or so in some capacity. The extra help will be greatly appreciated.

Since the October Leaf Lookers Show has been cancelled we will need the extra help at the Museum.

Thanking you in advance for your help - Tom

An Outlaw Haven

Fred Plesner - Emeritus Curator



Macon county was settled in 1818 and all her best lands (the bottom lands) sold quickly. The rest of the lands (the ridges) remained on the market for quite some time. This vast reservoir of unsold land gave room to a drifting population of what might "at best" be called a low-grade civilization for 20 years between 1820 and 1840. Many of these people stuck like burrs to the robes of Macon County's social character.

A look at Macon County's Superior Court docket during this tumultuous period attests to large numbers of petty theft, assault and battery, etc. During this period a rather respectable two-decked pillory and stock stood on the public square. A judge by the name of Robert Strange sat on the bench during this period and it was his custom to hear cases during the week and to withhold Judgment until the last day of court for the week. It was during this period that that a rather ludicrous incident occurred.

The sheriff took his convicted prisoners to the pillory and filled both the upper and lower decks, there were three prisoners left. The sheriff took the three men back to the judge, stated the facts and asked for instructions as to how he should dispose of the three men in question. The judge was both stern and curt in his reply. "Lift the corner of a rail fence, run their heads through the crack, and let them stand their time out there!!"

Linville Caverns

Eleven members toured Linville Caverns on September 9th followed by a picnic lunch and to our surprise Maries' homemade chocolate chip cookies. The colors of the cave formations were amazing, stalactites plentiful and even an underground stream with "native trout." It was a cool and incredible trip.



Photos by Ellen Crawford

August 31, 2017 General Meeting



Photos by Ralph Crawford, George Fritz and Sande Lolli

Upcoming Field Trips



September 30, Saturday, **Clarksville, GA**; has been CANCELLED and replaced with this trip

October 1, Sunday, **Summerville, GA**; Lace agate/chert, silicified oolitic chert & some jaspers; 10 AM; Dixie Mineral Council Trip sponsored by Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society

October 6, 7 & 8, Friday, Saturday & Sunday; **Graves Mountain** Open House, Lincolnton, GA; 8 AM to 6 PM; FREE; 3 huge pit mines; rock swap/shop; restrooms, food/drinks on site; various minerals; premier GA location — a must; 2 hours and 50 minutes one way; great sleep over opportunity

On the back board of our Museum there is additional information on each trip.

If ya can't get there just call Marsha Harmon [828 369-7262](tel:8283697262) with your questions and/or if you are looking to carpool or need equipment.

All Dixie Mineral Council sponsored trips require club membership.

Notes From The Classroom

Diane Mason Instructor



Well, I have been taken to task!! A couple of ladies from Florida approached me at the last meeting and wanted to know why I never did a wire class in the summer while they were here.

They wanted to come. Simple answer...I just never thought of it. SORRY! Did not mean to leave anyone out. The summer is usually my busy time with weeklong classes and classes in my studio. I have just always scheduled my out of state and weekend classes around this busy time.

Next summer (2018) I will work in a couple of beginner classes for you ladies. Just remember that there must be at least 3-4 students requesting this. It is not financially possible for me to drive over for less than at least three. Please send me an e-mail and let me know NOW if you are interested. I have my classes booked through November of 2018. I will need some time to do some schedule juggling. Thanks for bringing this to my attention, ladies!!

We have 2 positions that need to be filled, Education Chair and Gift Shop Manager.

Step up and enjoy these opportunities.

If you are interested or would like more information, please see Al Pribble.

Thank you.



EDITORS are always WRITE.

From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

Gem and Mineral Shows



October 6,7 & 8, Lincolnton, GA

Graves Mountain 3 Day Rock Swap & Dig; 8 AM to 6 PM; FREE; open to all

October 13, 14 & 15, Huntsville, AL

49th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show; Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday Noon to 5 PM; \$3 donation; 2180 Airport Rd

October 20, 21 & 22, Franklin, NC

28th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree; CANCELLED; Sponsored by Chamber of Commerce and Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin

November 17, 18 & 19, Marietta, GA

32nd Annual Show & Sale; Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM; Cobb County Civic Center; 548 S Marietta Pkwy SE, Marietta, GA

Other Events

March 18 to December 16, Franklin, NC

SEBA 3rd Saturday; BlueGrass Jam Session; Historic Cowee School; Noon to 3 PM; FREE

Franklin, NC, Cowee Community

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

October 21, Downtown Franklin, NC

21st Annual PumpkinFest; 9 AM; pumpkin roll; arts & crafts; food and more

October 20, 21 & 22, Knoxville, TN

SFMS Annual Meeting; sponsored by Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society; Kerbela Shriners Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave

October 24 & 25, Asheville, NC

G&L W Trade Show; US Cellular Center; 87 Haywood Street; Tuesday 10 AM to 6 PM and Wednesday 10 AM to 3 PM



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

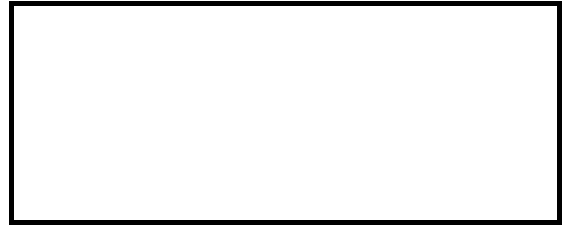
Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



Officer Installation & Banquet
Remember to Bring Your Side Dish

First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2017		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September	26	28 ** Banquet
October	24	26
November	14	16
December	12	16 End of Year Party Saturday

**** General Meeting at Masonic Lodge
50 Church Street, Franklin, NC**

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 South

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.