

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXV FEBRUARY 2015
Number 2
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 Macon County Community Facilities Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

Forms for membership can be obtained by attending a meeting. Two meetings are requested before joining.

Dues are \$15 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$3. Membership privileges include newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Field Trips.

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.

**FRANKLIN GEM
AND MINERAL MUSEUM**

is operated under the direction of the
Board of Directors of
Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

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



**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

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is a founding member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

2014-2015 Officers

Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Vice President	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
Secretary	Susan Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Assistant Treasurer	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director 2016	Ray Behr	349-0827
Director 2016	Cy Amrich	828-356-7816
Director (2015)	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
Director (2015)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tommy Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	OPEN	
Curator	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator Ass't	Christine Hubinger	349-7360
Gift Shop.	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	
Museum Workshop	John Hayes (Temp.)	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	OPEN	
Calendar Chairman	Virginia Bennis	

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Gemboree	Jack Jungles	369-6664
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	
Librarian	Susan Fritz	524-4936
Membership		
Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Jane Morgan	
Refreshments	Elena Marsh	369-8915
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)

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

General Meeting

Date: February 26, 2015

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Robert C Carpenter

Community Building Center on 441 South

Program:

History
and
Modern update to
Wire Wrap
By Jane Morgan



The President

I hope everyone enjoyed the January program. We had some fine work from the members on display.

Our new membership is growing. Approximately 58 % of our members have been with us 5 years or less. Arlon tells me that we gained 12 new members in 2014. I would like to see the club grow by at least 15 – 16 new members this year. That would be 15 % growth, although there will be some I am sure who drop out due to health or leave the area. I am sad to say that one of our long time members, Gloria Durfey, passed away this month. I am told that she started and worked in the Gold Panning Club many years ago. I hope that we can revive some of that activity this year.

I know that many of you mention joining the club when you host at the Museum, but I want to urge everyone who hosts to speak to anyone who is local to Macon County or the surrounding area about joining our club, even if they are part-timers. We now have full time members from as far away as Young Harris Georgia. The more people we have the more expertise we have available for classes and group activities.

Speaking of group activities, thanks to Marsha Harmon for organizing the field trip to Diamond Hill Mine in South Carolina. I heard it was a great experience for everyone, even the last couple to leave who came back to a dead battery and no cables (no names but the initials are T&E M).

I know there are several more good trips being planned this year in addition to the DMC sponsored trips announced elsewhere in this news letter. There may even be some impromptu trips to Buck Creek or Chunky Gal some time, so be ready if we get a warm day. I will try to call, but sometimes there are only a couple of hours lead time.

Happy Rockhounding.

February Birthdays

12 – Diane Mason

17 – Rex Larkin

17 – Kay Swindle

20 – Vicki Knisley

21 – David Swindle

22 – Tom Sterrett



February Anniversaries

6 – Wally & Doris Smith

11 – Tom & Elena Marsh

15 – John & Sande Lolli (Hagdorn)

**Minutes – January 29, 2015 – General Meeting
Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina**

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, January 29, 2015, at 6:35 p.m. in the Community Center building meeting room.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked for any corrections or additions to the previous general meeting minutes and there were none.

Membership - Claudette Rollins reported 26 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios and Norm Holbert both are absent due to illness. However, Al Pribble reported we have \$24,000 in the bank and had gross gift shop sales of \$14,000 last year.

Vice President – Tom Sterrett is absent this evening.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh reported that the water pipes that run outside the building have been insulated. He mentioned the fact that Claudette Rollins is now a museum employee provided by the State of Franklin (not town of Franklin).

Curator – Fred Plesner stated he has spoken to Claudette Rollins and she is now available to assist him with museum inventory.

Education – Diane Aiello is absent tonight. However, Al Pribble said he has spoken to her and she really needs assistance in placing and picking up displays and scheduling tours. He asked for one or two people to volunteer to help. Please contact him to let him know if you are interested.



Gift Shop – Elena Marsh thanked all who volunteered to host over the past year and reported the gift shop had a phenomenal year that went beyond expectations. She reported that she and Anamay Rossomando attended the gem show in Asheville and purchased some items for the gift shop.

New Business:

Elena Marsh said she was circulating a sign-up sheet among the membership tonight for people to volunteer to bring refreshments to the general meetings, such as a cake, cookies, brownies, chips, etc.

Al Pribble reported that Rex Larkin is ill with breathing problems and mentioned that if anyone wanted to send him a note or a card to please do so. Susan Fritz said she would send a card out to him.

Al Pribble mentioned that annual dues need to be paid!

Al Pribble asked for volunteers to assist Christine Hubinger as Scholarship Chairman. Christine mentioned that this would probably require no more than an hour of your time at the most. Please contact either Christine or Al if you think you can be of assistance.

Al Pribble introduced Virginia Bennis to everyone as the new Calendar (scheduling) Chairman. He said that he really appreciated all who have volunteered to host, especially during the winter months,.

Al Pribble has been teaching a silversmith class and presented each student with a certificate of completion. Each student made a cabochon and silver ring. All are on display on the table in the back of the room tonight. The following members received certificates of completion: Marsha Harmon, Claudette Rollins, Virginia Bennis, Elena Marsh, Joyce Jacques and Marie Tsacrios.

Past president Arlon Eldridge installed new board members to replace positions previously held by Tom Marsh, Marty Martinez and Claudette Rollins. He reminded them that they are to attend all board meetings. The following new board members were installed: Cy Amrich, Virginia Bennis and Jane Morgan.

Marsha Harmon spoke about the field trip this coming Saturday to the Diamond Hill Mine in South Carolina where crystals, amethyst and smoky quartz can be found. Everyone will meet at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning at the museum. She reminded everyone to remember that they will get dirty and to dress accordingly.

Cont'd to next page.

General Minutes cont'd

Arlon Eldridge donated two beautiful gem trees to the gift shop to sell.

Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. by president Al Pribble after which the membership enjoyed refreshments, fellowship and member's treasures that were on display in the back of the meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, secretary

Gift shop

From Elena Marsh

As the new year progresses, the museum and gift shop are still managing to woe many visitors and locals to our treasure-trove of fine gems, minerals, specimens and jewelry. Thanks to Anamay Rossomando for working so diligently on new jewelry items that we bought at the Ashville gem show in early January. She is my 'energizer bunny,' working to the wee hours of the mornings most times and coming to the museum with finished products that are displayed for sale in the gift shop as quickly as possible. I am really happy that she is willing to give so much of her time to our museum and gift shop – along with Ron as a host.



Thanks to Claudette Rollins for working with me when I ask her. She is also a big help in keeping my inventory and the gift shop up to date and clean. She has always been willing to help in any way possible and that is always appreciated.

All donations to the gift shop will be evaluated and when possible, priced and displayed for sale. It is through generous offerings by club members that our sales for the year continue to stay high.

Many give and don't want to be singled out and mentioned – so special thanks go out to you.

The great success of the museum and gift shop last year is the efforts of many hardworking individuals – but without each and every member helping, this can't be possible.

Every committee chairperson needs help in some way – please contact one of them and offer your assistance. Many times it is only an hour or two a month, maybe each week. It gives a member insight into what goes into keeping the club strong and productive.

Training for hosts continues when necessary. One area that isn't mentioned much is the fact that there are notebooks located near the cash register explaining information about the museum's history and display cabinet contents room by room. Although some notes may need to be updated due to changes in what is being displayed, this notebook gives a host a great idea about the museum. There is also a notebook explaining the procedures for any incidents or accidents that may occur when the museum is open. Also, there is a camera to take any injury pictures for future reference. If there is an incident and there are any questions about what to do, always contact Tom Marsh, Museum Manager, 369-8915 or cell: 727-267-4312 or if we can't be reached, please contact Al Pribble, President, 342-3119.

Hope to see you in the museum soon! Elena

My Mama always said, "Life was like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get."

Forrest Gump 1994

<http://www.great-quotes.com/>

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt.—

Abraham Lincoln

<http://www.great-quotes.com/>

Written by Elena Marsh

Recent Adventures With Club Members -- The South Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) offered a program at Tallulah Falls, Georgia on January 24, 2015, a geologist-led walk and talk about the Gorge. Dr. Bill Witherspoon, co-author of *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, was the presenter. Since this book has been sold in the museum's gift shop, I thought the program would be worth attending. Several club members joined Tom and me to Tallulah Falls -- Marsha Harmon, Joyce Jacques, Vickie Knisley and Virginia Bennis. The hike and talk were excellent and covered some of the geological features of the Gorge and other areas in northern Georgia. I have given Jane Morgan, our new program chair, Dr. Witherspoon's business card with the hope that we can possibly have him speak to our club in the future.

On January 31, 2015, Marsha Harmon, field trip chairperson, organized a club trip to Diamond Hill Mine in Antreville, SC. Some of the same club members attended this trip but also newer members, Ellen and Ralph Crawford and Diana Jurss also came. A chilly morning ended up to be a sunny, beautiful day at the site and all of us came home with some great memories, maybe a few nice crystal quartz specimens and long lasting friendships, along with some aching backs and tired bodies.

Remember to check the bulletin board in the meeting room at the museum and also read our monthly newsletter to keep up with upcoming events. There may also be signup sheets for classes for making cabochons, faceting stones and gems, making a silver ring and hopefully other areas.

Diamond Hill Mine Field Trip

By Marsha Harmon, Field Trip Chairman

Nine Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin members enjoyed a field trip to Diamond Hill Mine S.C. on January 31. Quartz crystals specimens varying in size and description were found by all participants to include several "yard rocks" 25-50 pounds each. It started out cold but warmed up soon and fun was had by all. North Carolina now owns several pounds of good old South Carolina red mud. Diana Jurss even shared fossils from Kentucky with these lucky members.

Future field trips being considered at this time: Corundum Hill Mine, Buck Creek, Dahlonega, Georgia Gold Mine and Museum, Chunky Gal Mine and Cat Eye Cut. Additional suggestions as to where you would like to go are always appreciated!

This time of year Lake Chatuge's water is down which provides opportunity for corundum, hematite, rubies, chalcedony, spinel, tourmaline, and limonite collecting, on the exposed lake shore.

Details are provided in "Rock, Gem, and Mineral Collecting Sites in Western North Carolina" written by Rick Jacquot, Jr. A 2003 copyright provides many WNC locations for our independent rockhounds but some information is outdated.



Pictures taken by
Joyce Jacques





Diamond Hill with
club members



Tapered Reamers

Jewelry Bench Tips

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. It's not a tool you'll use every day, but they're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin.

Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 gauge, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.

101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" can be found on Amazon





We lost a wonderful club member, on February 2, 2015.

A Great Person Called Gloria Durfey

By Linda Behr

If you met Gloria, you met a very, very interesting woman.

She was not afraid to try anything. The one thing that impressed me was the lack of fear of traveling to Australia and touring the entire country. She loved to “find” all kinds of items from the earth: rocks, gold and shells, etc. She loved to share her enthusiasm of rocks with the people of our club. One piece of jewelry she would wear while hosting at the museum was a “huge” gold nugget.

She had many hobbies. She made gem trees and wire wrapped jewelry pieces that were sold in the Gift Shop. I bid and won one of her flower pictures at a fund-raising event. One year, I volunteered to teach peyote seed beading for club members. Well, don't you know that Gloria decided that she wanted to learn this hobby. One day she handed me a mini gem tree in remembrance of the seed beading experience. I will refrain from giving you her name for the gem tree. She never again attempted seed beading—to my knowledge.

She had a great sense of humor.

For many years she served on the Board and was a great asset for knowledge of running the museum as well as the Society. She hosted as well as demonstrated at many of the Gemborees. There was a time when the museum was opened on Saturday evenings during Pickn' on the Square. She convinced three other club members to join her since she could no longer climb the stairs. She said that they made good money and was pleased to be available. **She was a Great saleslady!**

As the years progressed, we didn't see Gloria at the functions as much. She did try to attend the dinners...and you could find Alex Vuillemin sitting with her. Many times she would join me at the membership table and help. She always wanted to help.

Pictures show her at the Gemborees and receiving an award for one of her articles published in *The Mountain Gem* (Linda Behr is with her).



No Regrets

- There are at least two people in this world that you would die for.
- At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.
- The only reason anyone would ever hate you is because they want to be just like you.
- A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
- Every night someone thinks about you before they go to sleep.
- You mean the world to someone.
- You are special and unique.
- Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.
- When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.
- When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look.
- Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.

Never Have Regrets!!!

"Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble."

Via Internet

Humor

A blonde went to the appliance store sale and found a bargain. "I would like to buy this TV," she told the salesman.

"Sorry, we don't sell to blondes," he replied.

She hurried home and dyed her hair, then came back and again told the salesman, "I would like to buy this TV."

"Sorry, we don't sell to blondes," he replied.

"Damn, he recognized me," she thought.

She went for a complete disguise this time; haircut and new color, new outfit, big sunglasses, then waited a few days before she again approached the salesman. "I would like to buy this TV."

"Sorry, we don't sell to blondes," he replied.

Frustrated, she exclaimed, "How do you know I'm a blonde?"

"Because that's a microwave," he replied."

Via Internet



The Four P's of Gemstone Analysis . . .

By Dr. Gerald Wykoff GG CSM

from <http://www.gemsociety.org/article/how-to-facet-gems/> (condensed for publication)

If you never cut a gemstone but want to be able to evaluate one professionally, keep in mind that any cut--diamond or colored stone--is evaluated on the basis of what I call the 5 P's of cut appraisal:

- 1)--Points (edges and intersections meet precisely which proves that facets have been cut evenly and uniformly)
- 2)--Proportions (for the height of most faceted gems the top part represents 1/3 and the bottom part represents 2/3)
- 3--Polish (a fine polish proves that the previous steps, too, were done properly)
- 4)--Positioning (an astute faceter has studied the gem crystal and oriented to conform with optical laws and to minimize the visibility and interference of imperfections and, finally,
- 5--Performance (if the vital angles are observed, the stone's facets reflect and refract the maximum amount of external and internal light *i.e.*, it will perform optically - even when tilted or tipped away from normal. This reflective capability contrasts with an uninteresting piece of see-through glass when the gem is viewed straight down through the table).

Mineral of the Month - Spinel

By Ted Robles for *The Mountain Gem* 2007

Chemically speaking, Spinel is Magnesium Aluminum Oxide, which means, basically, that it is a close cousin to Corundum (Aluminum Oxide), hence a close relative to the gemstones Sapphire and Ruby. Actually, Spinel, being a series of oxides, can be thought of as the great imitator; in color it may be red, violet, pink, blue, green, yellow, orange, brown, black, or colorless. Being compounds of two metals with Oxygen, it can vary from transparent to opaque. It belongs to the isometric crystal system, frequently appearing as cubic, octahedral, or dodecahedral crystals, as grains or masses, or as pebbles. In hardness it is 7.5 – 8, specific gravity 3.8 ± 0.3 , white streak, luster vitreous to dull, Conchoidal fracture, no cleavage, brittle.

It is a well-known mimic of other gemstones, depending on the nature and quantity of the oxides present. It has been confused with, and often sold as, Ruby, Topaz, Tourmaline, Emerald, Sapphire, and Zircon. Some of the world's most famous "Rubies" (notably "The Black Prince's Ruby," which is the centerpiece of the English Crown Jewels), are actually Ruby Spinel.

Gem quality Spinel is found in Myanmar (Burma), Sri Lanka ((Ceylon), Madagascar, Canada, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Montana. Associated minerals are calcite, corundum, hornblende, olivine, marble, mica.

Spinel is an important gemstone, less popular than they deserve, possibly because they are so easily confused with other stones. Their beauty and durability are undeniable; while softer than Corundum or Topaz, they take a magnificent polish, and deserve a place in anyone's gem collection. They may, in fact, be more economical than more well-known stones, because they are "Only" Spinel, yet they may rival more popular gems in sheer beauty. As gems, they are definitely desirable; as items for the Lapidary, they are easier to work than their more famous cousins, being softer than corundum or topaz, and much more durable than emerald. Whether you are a collector, a lapidary, or merely a person who admires beauty, Spinel is a gemstone worthy of consideration.

Sources:

Sinkankas, J. Mineralogy, A first Course; Princeton, NJ, D. Van Nostrand, 1966

Arem, J.E., Gems and Jewelry; Tucson, AZ, Geoscience Press, 1992

<http://www.minerals.net/mineral/oxides/spinel/spinel.htm>

March 20-22: 36th Annual Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show. Sponsored by the Rome Georgia Mineral Society. Free admission at The Forum in Rome, GA.

Club members will offer mineral and fossil identification, exhibits, and demonstrations. Contact: Jose Santamaria, Show Chair 678.488.9560; rogams.show@gmail.com.

New Board Members; Cy, Jane and Virginia

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 **Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society (Macon, GA)** HOST**An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC**

10:00 AM to 2:00 Noon,

Saturday, March 07, 2015

Vulcan Materials Company, Bartow Quarry

Cartersville, GA

**Where:** Vulcan Bartow Quarry, 5840 Highway 20 SE, Cartersville, 30121

The Quarry began operations in 1995 at this location. They have 797 acres and their pit is approximately 1,200 feet wide and 250 feet deep at this time.

FREE AREA: This field trip is free for all who participate

Directions: Interstate 75 North to exit 290. Highway 20. At the exit you make a right and go 1 and 1/2 miles to the quarry on the right. This is past the McDonalds. Turn right into the quarry and continue to a small building where we will meet before going to the pit. If you are coming from the North, you would still exit at 290 but turn left, go east and continue to the quarry. When we arrive we will meet a Vulcan employee who will be our guide for this trip.

Collecting: The rock found here is a porphyroblastic granite gneiss and is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex. These rocks are some of the oldest in Georgia dating back some 1.2 billion years, making it much older than the granites found at their other locations. This quarry is known for the blue quartz found within the granite. While most of the blue quartz is small, you can normally find some large enough to polish into a very nice cabochon. Some may be found with pyrite inclusions as well as other minerals within the granite.

WHAT TO BRING: Clothes that would be appropriate for this time of year in Georgia. That could be almost anything and I would suggest layers that could be removed and something in the event of a shower. A hard hat, safety glasses, and steel toe shoes/boots, or at least a good pair of shoes. We should be finished early enough to go to the McDonalds for lunch but something to drink is always good to bring along.

They are blasting rock every week and, as a working quarry, there are spoil piles all around. No one will be allowed near any of the high walls but with the abundance of material we normally just have to bend over and pick things up. All you really need is a bucket to take your samples home. If you want to chip off a piece of a larger boulder be sure you have all your safety equipment including safety glasses, gloves, hard hat and a chisel and crack hammer.

Field Trip Contact: Jay Batcha.**rocky1s@cox.net****Phone: 478-784-1965 Cell: 478-957-5002**

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

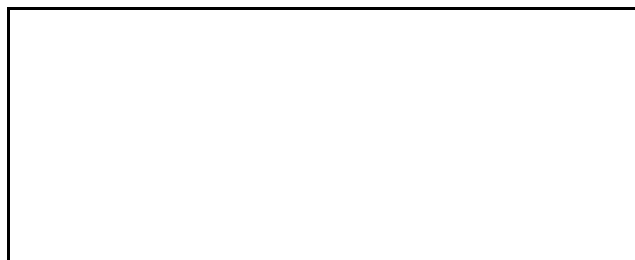
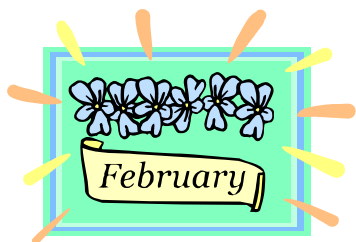
Linda Behr, Editor

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Board meeting date for December
was incorrect in last month's news-
letter. TU Elena

Month	Board Meeting	General
January	27	29
February	24	26
March	24	26
April	21	23
May	26	28
June	23	25
July	14	16
August	25	27
September	22	24 Banquet
October	27	29
November	17	19
December	8	12 end of Year party

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.