

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume XLI SEPTEMBER 2013
Number 9

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

2012-2013 Officers And

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Director (2013)	Wally Smith	407-312-3506
Director (2014)	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Director (2013)	Al Pribble	369-2548

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**Museum Manager	Al Pribble	369-2548
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**Curator	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator Ass't	Sharon John	421-0518
**Gift Shop.	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Doris Smith	407-312-3506
Museum Workshop	Al Pribble	369-2548
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2012-2013

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Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Constitution/By-Laws	Linda Behr	349-0827
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Lon Peden	371-8450
Gemboree	Jack Jungles	369-6664
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Sharon John	421-0518
Librarian	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Membership	Linda Behr	349-0827
**Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Linda Smith	342-8288
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Jean Emerson	828-293-7784



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: September 26, 2013

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Macon County Community
Center on 441 South

Installation Banquet

And covered dish.



Lon Peden, President

Well, this is the final message that I will be giving as president! Hope all the hard work given by the board of directors and staff were to all's liking? We all worked hard this year to increase the club's well being. It wasn't easy at first, but everyone is on the same page and the club is in good hands. I don't want to single anyone out now!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as president for this past year and I hope can work harder for the club next year! Many new adventures are in the works and with the support of the club, the future of the gem club will grow and get even better.

I know one thing our club needs is for more children for the future of the club!

Thank you all for a great year for me!

October Birthdays

9 – Jacob Sterrett

10 – Julie Loewy

24 – Wally Smith

25 – Susan Fritz

31 – Ron Rossomando



October Anniversaries

18 – Paul & Nadine Thomas

19 – Lon & Laura Peden

Join us for our club sponsor SFMS
field trip to the

Cowee Mountain mine on 441...

September 25th.

Refer to August newsletter



New member, Ron Rossomando.

**Newsletter deadline is
September 30th**

Minutes of the August 2013 Board Meeting of
The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

The meeting was called to order by Lon Peden, President, on August, 27 2013 at 6:35 P.M. in the Museum Meeting Room. Present were: Lon Peden; Al Pribble; Elena Marsh; Fred Plesner; Tom Marsh; Dean Plesner; Ray Behr; Linda Smith; Marie Tsacrios; Linda Behr; Wally Smith; Doris Smith; John Hayes; Marty Martinez; Tom Morley; Norm Holbert and Arlon Eldridge.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported an income of \$3,437.61, expenses of \$1,880.98 leaving a profit of \$1,556.63.

Publicity – Fred Plesner sent brochures to I-77 North Welcome Center.

Curator – Fred Plesner explained that our Hiddenite specimen we have on display is unique in that being from North Carolina, it will not fade in light like those from different parts of the world. The North Carolina Hiddenite is colored green by chromium whereas those from other places are colored by iron which fades over time when exposed to light. Fred also related that Doris Smith made some wire stands for the faceted specimen on display.

Gemboree – Fred Plesner stated that the Chamber of Commerce would definitely not have a Mother's Day Gemboree next year. After a lengthy discussion on the possibility of the Gem Society taking over the show, Lon appointed Norm Holbert to chair a committee to discuss the situation and report at the next board meeting. The committee members will be Al Pribble, Marty Martinez, Marie Tsacrios, and Fred Plesner.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh thanked her staff Anamay Rossomando, and Doris Smith for their help in the Gift Shop. Elena secures a list of July Gemboree vendors from the Chamber of Commerce and is going to send them a Thank You letter for participating in the show. A gentleman came into the museum and donated a nice piece of polished Lapis for display in the museum. Elena wants to send him a picture of the display and a Thank You note. Elena would like business cards for use when shopping at the gem shows for Gift Shop items. Lon appointed Tom Morley to secure the business cards. Elena brought up requests from other organizations for gift or door prize items. After a long discussion, Linda Behr made a motion which was seconded by Arlon Eldridge "We donate an item which has been requested in writing by an organization and the gift along with its value should be recorded on the request which will be kept on file." After further discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.

Museum Manager – Al Pribble thanked his assistant, Tom Marsh for his great work. Al will be on vacation in September and Tom Marsh, the Assistant Museum Manager, will be performing his duties. It was reiterated that we should not recommend one mine over another when asked, and never say anything negative about any mine. Al reported that we now have high speed Wi-Fi in the museum and it includes unlimited long distance service for 36 months for less than we have been paying for the phone service alone.

Librarian – Dean Plesner advised us that she is looking for a suitable book for the library in memory of Barbara and Edger Wing who were long time members.

Programs – Linda Smith reported that the August program will be by Kim Cochran on Gemstones of the Western Caribbean, September will be the Installation Banquet, and October will be a presentation by Arlon Eldridge and Marty Martinez on Brazilian gems, November is currently open.

Field Trips - Lon Peden reported that there will be a field trip in October. Arlon Eldridge updated the board on the SFMS Field Trip on September 25th. It will be at the Cowee Mountain Mine on Hwy 441 at 10AM. It will be completely free of charge. There will be mine dirt brought in a dump truck and available for the participants at no charge. There was a discussion and a recommendation to providing bottled water and hot dogs. The participants will meet at the mine. The club members are asked to help.

The meeting was adjourned by President Lon Peden at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, *Raymond Behr*, Secretary

Minutes - August 2013 - General Meeting

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

The meeting was called to order by President, Lon Peden, on August 29, 2013, at 6:45 p.m. in the Community Center meeting room. A prayer was given by Dean Plesner.

Membership – Susan Fritz represented Linda Behr who was out of town due to a death in the family. Susan reported 35 members and 10 guests present. We have 3 new members joining tonight: Joyce Jacques; Ron Rossomando; and Amy Fritz. President Lon Peden welcomed all new members and guests.

Arlon Eldridge explained the absence of Ray and Linda Behr; Ray's brother recently passed away. He asked that we take a moment of silence and offer a prayer for Ray and Linda.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported that we are now "in the black" with \$1500 net income, mostly as a result of gift shop sales. She expressed gratitude to Elena Marsh, Anamay Rossomando and Doris Smith.

Gemboree – Fred Plesner stated that the Town of Franklin is holding Pumpkin Fest on the same days as the Gemboree, October 25 through October 27. A new committee, headed by committee chairman Norm Holbert, will be looking into future Gemborees. Fred asked that everyone check the September newsletter for further details.

Curator – Fred Plesner stated that the Hiddenite specimen we received for the museum will not fade and can be displayed; check the newsletter for further details.

Publicity – Fred Plesner reported that brochures were delivered to the I-77 Welcome Center per their request.

Education – Diane Aiello reported that she had a call from a woman who would like to set up a tour but that no date has been set as of yet.

Field Trip – Arlon Eldridge spoke about our hosting and serving food for the Southeastern Federation this year on Wednesday, September 25, at the Cowee Mountain Mine. He said the man where he gets his dirt will not allow anyone on his property but that he has obtained approximately 200 buckets of dirt. Salted buckets can be purchased but otherwise the event will be free of charge. Arlon has had numerous emails and phone calls regarding this event and anticipates that a minimum of 60 vehicles will need to be parked. Tom Morley, Tom Sterrett and others will help with a 90-foot flume, which will be for members only; another flume will be utilized for regular customers at the mine. Marty Martinez will be cooking hot dogs. Drinks and ice will also be provided. Members are urged to bring potato chips, snacks, etc., to share. Since this is anticipated to be such a large, well-attended event, Arlon requested lots of help with parking, cooking food and serving food, etc. A clipboard was passed among the group so that folks could sign up to assist.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh gave thanks to Ron Rossomando for the many hours he has spent hosting in the museum as well as to Anamay Rossomando and Doris Smith for their hard work and valued assistance. Elena ordered a new book on rock hounding in North Carolina, many of which many have already sold, and she plans to reorder. Books sell for \$14.95 but the author is giving members a break at \$11. A new children's book was ordered that specifically mentions Franklin, NC, as a good town for rock hounds. She reminded us to keep these books in mind as excellent Christmas gifts for children/grandchildren. If anyone is interested, they should let her know and she will contact the author. Any special orders could then probably be obtained by the end of September. Recycling continues and she thanked everyone for helping in this regard. The Society's recycling efforts have been mentioned in two letters to the Franklin Press editor as well as a Smoky Mountain publication.

Cont'd to page 6...

General Meeting cont'd

Museum Manager – Al Pribble reported he would be gone for almost five weeks on vacation and attending school to learn silversmithing and that Tom Marsh will be in charge of the museum in his absence. He thanked Tom for his past help at the museum with changing out light bulbs and the termite problem. He spoke of the big event on September 25th at Arlon's Cowee Mountain Mine; however, he said he is going to need two people to be hosting at the museum that day. He reminded female members that it is not a good idea to leave purses or other valuables in the meeting room at the museum and suggested leaving them at home or keeping them locked in their cars. Laura Anderson will be in charge of scheduling hosts for the museum assisted by Doris Smith. He also applauded Ron Rossomando for volunteering to host more than anyone else and thanked Anamay Rossomando for her many hours of work. Al made a special presentation to Ron of his new membership pin!

Classes - Doris Smith stated two jewelry making classes had been held, one in July and one in August. She may have one more class in September. There is a sign-up sheet in the museum meeting room. Students pay for only what they use. Tools are provided until students decide what tools they may need to purchase on their own. Tonight, on a table in the back of the room, members will be displaying jewelry they made during class. Mention was also made of a cabochon class offered at \$25 to any member. Lon Peden explained that one must be a member to take advantage of classes offered at the museum; otherwise, insurance will not cover them.

President Lon Peden introduced tonight's speaker, Kim Cochran, who will give a presentation on stones from South America. However, Lon asked that we vote and have refreshments first.

Voting – President Lon Peden announced that voting for nominees would be by ballot for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, and two Board of Directors seats. Ballots were handed out to each member present, returned, and carefully counted. Results were as follows and Lon Peden asked Susan Fritz to announce the new officers:

President – Arlon Eldridge

Vice President – Ray Behr

Secretary – Susan Fritz

Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios

Assistant Treasurer – Norm Holbert

Board of Directors – Marty Martinez and Tom Marsh

Lon Peden stated the Installation Banquet will be held at the September meeting on September 26th at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish. Lon reported that there will be several county officials attending this Installation Banquet; Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner, being the installing officer.

The evening's guest speaker, Kim Cochran, then gave a very informative talk on gems of South America. He brought with him several samples of rough and faceted stones as well as some jewelry, which were on display and also passed around for all to see.

Door prizes were won by: John Grist, Elena Marsh, Dean Plesner, Susan Fritz, Norm Holbert, Fred Rasmussen, Dennis Bernard, Fred Plesner, Marie Tsacrios, Paul Anderson, Ron Rossomando, Lon Peden, Ivy Shulman and Jerry Mitchell. Please forgive my excluding anyone else who may have won.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Lon Peden at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Fritz* (for Ray Behr, Secretary)

(Added news: Wally Smith's brother, Dan has passed away.

Sharon John has a new phone number: 421-0518).



Rose quartz set a price record for most valuable fine mineral specimen offered at auction

http://www.gemewizard.com/newsletters/view_article.php?id=208

The La Madona Rosa, a specimen of rose quartz, set a price record on June 2 as the most valuable fine mineral specimen ever offered at auction, when it was bought for \$662,500 at Heritage Auctions' more than \$3.57 million Nature & Science sale in Dallas. It was part of the Hoppel Collection, which accounted for almost 85 percent of the total value of the auction.

The La Madona Rosa is thought by many to be better than the celebrated Van Allen Belt rose quartz, which can be seen in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Standing almost 40 centimeters tall, the La Madona Rosa towers over the 23-centimeter tall Van Allen Belt.

The 2,000 piece Hoppel Collection is considered to be the most valuable fine minerals assortment ever offered at auction.

Condensed for publication.

Editor's comment: can you see why we should all be so proud of our museum!?!

Cleaning Gems

By Linda Behr for *The Mountain Gem*

While on a cruise, I bought a "yellow" emerald (Heliodor). I occasionally receive emails from the provider, Patrick from Coughlin Jewelers. His recent email is one that I want to share with others.

He apparently was on a cruise and noticed how the emeralds lacked some luster. Outside of the store there was a hand sanitizer dispenser. Since the gems were new items, he suspected something was causing the cloudy film.

Below are his suggestions for eliminating the film:

Cleaning Tips for Yellow Emerald -

Emeryl Jewelstone®

1) Windex© or any window cleaner with ammonia. In fact you can also use straight ammonia, or mix it with some water. Just like in the movie "My Big, Fat Greek Wedding" Windex© is wonderful. Also, it works as lubricant if a ring gets stuck on your finger. If this happens, spray the ring and your finger thoroughly and it should come off much easier and it cleans it at the same time!

2) Toothpaste works as well, but it has to be rinsed really good or a film can also be remain on the gems.

3) Hydrogen Peroxide also can help clean the jewelry. Especially for those of you who live in areas with water that has strong iron content. Iron will stick to all the diamonds and gems causing the diamonds to appear yellowish, just like how cloths appear to have a yellowish cast with hard water. Soaking the jewelry in the peroxide overnight, we remove the iron deposits.

Chemicals to avoid:

1) Chlorine and bromine solutions found in many pools and hot tubs.

The chemicals will not damage our gemstones, but they will cause damage to the gold holding the gemstones. When taking a dip in a pool or hot tub, try to remove all your jewelry.

It will help keep the metals from having problems. If you do this occasionally that fine, it's when you are in pool or hot tub often where the metals start to breakdown.

"A small leak can sink a great ship."

Benjamin Franklin

By Rex Larkin

Our August general meeting program consisted of our annual visit by Kim Cochran. His depth of knowledge about gems and minerals is astounding. If you were absent, you truly missed an entertaining evening. Just a few highlights and I am omitting some anecdotes and information that was just too amazing to capture in one article.

Kim's topic was "Stones from South American" but his presentation included so much more. He traced early Spanish invasions of South American countries: usually with a saga of exploitation of the Indians for slave labor.

The Spaniards were interested primarily in gold and silver. Interestingly, platinum, because of the high temperatures needed to work it, was mainly used as a filler in the making of bronze cannons. But copper and aluminum were also mined for their intrinsic value.

The Incas had been mining emeralds for centuries. The Spanish took the emeralds, and profitably expanded their trade routes into the Middle East. The Muzo Mine in Brazil has been worked right up to the present.

Freshwater pearls originally came from South America, and the English, perpetual enemies of the Spanish, loved to pirate pearls and any other loot they could steal. In our present day, a recent news story showed amateur divers finding a \$300,000 cache of gold and gems from a sunken Spanish ship in the 1500s not from pirating but from a hurricane off Florida's coast.

Silver and pink opals came from Peru. In 2008, ten tons were exported, about a 10-fold increase from 2001. As we have seen from Arlon Eldridge and Marty Martinez's Brazilian adventures, this is an amazing feat, considering the primitive and dangerous techniques that are used.

In Argentina, condor or puma agate has been recently discovered. In 1951 palacite, consisting of stony iron and peridot was located INSIDE a meteor.

Chile is famous for its lapis, but it is solid gray. Bolivia, blue sodalite. Columbia, its emeralds. In Brazil, from 1725, diamonds, emeralds (15 million carats) were found in a sandstone matrix. Also in Brazil can be found, aquamarine, beryl, morganite, citrine, tourmaline, chrysoberyl, topaz, aventurine, amethyst and alexandrite. No wonder Arlon likes to head to Brazil a couple of times a year.

As one side note (and Kim had about a thousand of them) diamonds have been found in the Glade Creek area of Georgia, and both Maine and California contains deposits of tourmaline.

Kim, thank you so much for sharing your incredible knowledge, and stunning samples with us. Same time next year?



Tom Gadsden and Della Samuel
demonstrating
at the July Gemboree.

Why did Percy keep returning to Macon County?

By Fred Plesner, archivist for the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum.....Jail

There are those individuals whose behavior defies any form of rational explanation. Percy Webb would apparently fit that description. Percy Webb was a fugitive from a Georgia Prison and had apparently been living a quiet and undetected existence here in Macon County when he walked into the Macon county jail early Tuesday morning, November 25, 1947 and voluntarily surrendered to Sheriff Perry Bradley.

Percy Webb had been sentenced by a Georgia court to serve from five to seven years on a breaking and entering charge. It all sounds simple enough but that's not the way it all played out. Percy Webb was an escape artist to be admired and had escaped the Georgia authorities several times and on at least two occasions had been returned to the Georgia authorities by Macon county officials.

Local authorities immediately suspected Webb may have been one of the participants in a series of robberies that had been occurring in the Highlands section of Macon County. Percy Webb denied any involvement in criminal activity. So, what was going on here? Why keep escaping and why keep returning to Georgia only to escape again? Why did he keep returning to Macon County?

Attributes: *The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian* Nov. 26, 1947



Gift Shop

From Elena Marsh



Kids are back to school, tourism has mellowed out, and we are now anticipating the leaflookers who will be visiting our wonderful town and hopefully the gem museum very soon!

Our gift shop continues to change and be rearranged as items are sold, highlighted for the week and maybe just to let folks see all the specimens we do offer for sale. Anamay Rossomando managed to get all her recent jewelry creations out on display and now I am trying to keep up with filling the empty spaces as many of these items sell!

Want to thank Lon Peden and Norm Holbert for donating their recent door prizes to the gift shop! What a wonderful gesture – thanks so much guys! The gem tree and men's ring are priced and in the shop ready for that right visitor to buy! John Hayes has donated petrified wood pieces and a few other specimens – he will be working with me to price these and get them on our shelves for sale. Some pieces may even become slabs which we will also price and put in the gift shop. Gary Gaetano recently donated a gem tree which was made by a former club member. So I want to thank any and all gem club members who have donated items to the gift shop. A wonderful way to 'pay it forward'. The gift shop always appreciates any and all resalable items that members may wish to donate.

The recent addition of A Rockhounding Guide to Western NC by Mike Streeter in our book section has been a big success. More than 1/2 of the order has already been sold! I am sure for next season, I will have that on my 'reorder' list.

Remember to think Christmas, it isn't that far away. What a great way to show the grandkids or even great grandkids what you are a part of in Franklin. Let's make sure those young folks all become great rockhounds.

The wire wrap projects were made by (from l to r):
Joan Bohmann; Al Pribble; Elena Marsh; and
Anamay Rossomando.
Classes were offered by Doris Smith.

DMC Field Trip Sponsored by
 Augusta Gem & Mineral Society Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"
 8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 4, 2013
 8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 5, 2013
 8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 6, 2013



"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during April and October of 2013. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events.

Contact Information: Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.401.3173 (his cell)

THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL SFMS CLUBS and the GENERAL PUBLIC!

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the "Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to obtain a liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

Graves Mountain code of conduct!

- a.. Park your vehicle in the designated area (at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).
- b.. **CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER STRICT ADULT SUPERVISION!**
- c.. ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- d.. The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- e.. Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- f.. **STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!**
- g.. **NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!**
- h.. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA!**

(The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)

- i.. **EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK.** (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Internet website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>

Jim Flora, SFMS Chairman E-Mail jimflora@windstream.net



he

July's Gemboree brought in vendor,
 Mr. Amjad Chohan. Through his generosity,
 he has donated to the museum this Lapis Lazuli.
 His Michigan business is Nayah Gems & Minerals.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

Middle Tennessee Rockhounds, Nashville, TN (Host)

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

Saturday October 5, 2013.....10AM - 2PM CST

Coon Creek Science Center.....McNairy County, Tennessee

FEE \$15 - Limited to 35 participants



Description: Within the grounds of Coon Creek Science Center, located in rural McNairy County, Tennessee, lies one of the most important fossil sites in North America. Acquired by the Memphis Museum System in 1988, this property contains a treasure lode of superbly preserved Upper Cretaceous marine shells and vertebrate remains left there 70 million years ago when the water of the Gulf of Mexico receded. Coon Creek fossils are mostly marine invertebrates (clams, snails, oysters, shrimp etc.) that are about 75 million years old. They are found in an unconsolidated clay/sand matrix. Coon Creek fossils are very unique because of the state of their preservation. They are original material - the shells have not turned to stone. They are also very abundant with a huge variety of species. Collecting will take place in a "quarry" area. You will be "carving" fossils out of the Coon Creek formation by looking through chunks of the formation that have been loosened from the quarry. Participants will use a curved linoleum knife for collecting. Museum instructors will demonstrate how to collect your fossils and how to clean them. Everyone will find fossils! Some of the fossils are very fragile. The program includes time for surface collecting in Coon Creek for fossils that have been washed into the stream bed gravel. This will be guided by the museum staff. You keep what you find with a few exceptions. If you find a specimen that would be beneficial for the Museum's collection or research, the Museum reserves the right to keep that fossil. See also: http://www.memphismuseums.org/coon_creek-overview/

Program - Field Paleontology (4 Hours): Introduction - 30 minutes; Collecting Session (quarry and surface) - 2 Hour; Lunch - 30 minutes; Clean and Identify Fossils - 45 minutes

Registration Procedure: After you supply required information by email to Middle Tennessee Rockhounds (MTR), MTR will assign you a registration number by return email - bring registration number the day of the fieldtrip. [Instructions for mailing the \$15 participant fee will be included with registration number.] Once registration reaches 35, registration is closed. To register, email MiddleTnRockhounds@gmail.com with: Name(s; Last, First), Address/ City/State, Phone (include cell for day of trip), club, age of children under 18. Registration request are limited to family members, couples, and significant others; non-related individuals must email separate registration request.

Children: Yes (10 years old and up; must be accompanied by a parent or a guardian)

Pets: No

Rain or Shine: This fieldtrip is rain or shine. The Science Center will cancel only if weather conditions are threatening.

Bring: Boots or shoes that can get wet/dirty, poncho, towel, change of clothes & shoes (for return home), lunch (there is no food nearby & no vending machines at the center), water, bucket, small digging tool (optional; linoleum knives will be furnished), roll of aluminum foil (to protect your finds), and bug spray.

Address: 2985 Hardin Graveyard Road, Adamsville, TN (approximately 2.5 hours from Nashville; approximately 2 hours from Memphis)

Directions: Click "Directions" on http://www.memphismuseums.org/coon_creek-map/, enter your city (in Box A), click on GET DIRECTIONS.

Lodging & Camping: Rooms are available in nearby Henderson and Savannah, Tennessee. Campsites are available at Chickasaw State Park (<http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/Chickasaw/>) and Mousetail Landing State Park (<http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/MousetailLanding/>).

Contact: Wayne Ramsey, Fieldtrip Chair MTR; 615-859-7472; WRamsey205@comcast.net or John Stanley, President, MTR; 615-885-5704; jstanley@picagroup.com (no calls after 10pm CST; to register for fieldtrip email MiddleTnRockhounds@gmail.com)

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734



**Bring Covered Dishes to
accompany club's
ham and turkeys at
the
Installation Banquet**

First Class Mail



Board and General Meetings for 2013

MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL
JANUARY	29	31
FEBRUARY	26	28
MARCH	26	28
APRIL	23	25
MAY	28	30
JUNE	25	27
JULY	16	18
AUGUST	27	29
SEPTEMBER	24	26
OCTOBER	15	17
NOVEMBER	19	21
DECEMBER	1 pm-5 pm	14 End of
Board Dec. 10	Saturday	Year Party

24th Annual Gemboree

Oct 25, 2013 - Oct 27, 2013

Friday - Saturday 10am - 5pm;

Sunday 11am - 4pm

General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. the last Thursday of the month 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.