

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXIV SEPTEMBER 2014
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 webpage. 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.

Membership in the Society is \$15.00 per person with \$10 each additional family member, and \$3.00 for junior (pebble pups).

Membership is from September to September.

Non-member subscription to *The Mountain Gem* is \$15.00 per year. Donations are tax deductible.



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**

Visit our website at

www.fgmm.org

Society email:

franklingemsociety@gmail.com

2013-2014 Officers And

Board Of Directors

President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Past President	Lon Peden	371-8450
Vice President	Ray Behr	349-0827
Secretary	Susan Fritz	524-4936
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Assistant Treasurer	Norm Holbert	634-0350
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Director (2014)	Linda Smith	342-8288
Director (2015)	Tommy Marsh	369-8915
Director (2015)	Marty Martinez	332-8453

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Al Pribble	369-2548
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Tommy Marsh	369-8915
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	Al Pribble	369-2548
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	John Hayes	524-8062
Calendar Chairman	Laura Anderson	371-4816

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	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	Claudette Rollins	349-4834
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)
2008 (5th) 2010(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)

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 25, 2014
 Time: 6:30 p.m.
 Day: Thursday
 Where: Robert Carpenter
 Community Center on 441 South
 (notice new name for the community
 building.)

Program: Installation Dinner
 Meats and drinks will be supplied by the
 Society.

We will need covered dishes (enough for
 your family and others to share) and
 desserts.

Help with set-up is also appreciated,
 so come earlier.

October Birthdays

3 – Joe Pinkous
 9 – Jacob Sterrett
 10 – Julie Loewy
 21 – Neal Hearn
 24 – Wally Smith
 25 – Susan Fritz
 26 – Michael Gillen
 31 – Ron Rossomando



October Anniversaries

18 – Paul & Nadine Thomas
 19 – Lon & Laura Peden



The President, Arlon Eldridge



Once again I would just like to
 thank everyone that has worked
 so hard at the museum and the
 gem shows this year because
 these are the things that keep the club going.

As everyone knows the year is now coming
 to an end and it has been a fast year for me but
 I have enjoyed it.

I hope everyone is ready for the installation
 of new officers as this will be done on Thurs-
 day September 25 at our regular meeting. We
 will need some more covered dishes for the
 party so if you can prepare and bring a covered
 dish please call Jane Morgan at 828-342-8703
 and let her know what you can bring.

Also we now have our new AC unit complete
 in the museum. See everyone at the meetings.



Fred
 and Dean



Scholarship winners:
 Kyle Cochran and
 Aaron Howard pictured with
 Chairman Christine Hubinger

Minutes – August 28, 2014 – General Meeting**The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, NC Inc.**

The meeting was called to order by President, Arlon Eldridge, on Thursday, August 28, 2014, at 6:40 p.m. in the Community Center building meeting room.

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

Membership – Claudette Rollins reported tonight we have 34 members, 13 guests and 2 new members.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported that last month we were in the black. She reported \$8,000 in gift shop sales since the beginning of the year. We have a new air conditioner that has been installed.

Vice President – Ray Behr reported that the faceting machines have been cleaned. He stated there is room for one more student in the faceting class.

Museum Manager – Al Pribble again mentioned the new air conditioner that covers the three rooms downstairs and the gift shop. He said a couple of electrical problems were fixed, including replacing a new circuit breaker. He mentioned the new A-frame sign for the museum that is ready to be placed outside by the telephone pole as a way to highlight the museum.

Arlon Eldridge noted that the new a/c unit was installed by Jay at All County Air Conditioning, who did a great job, saved us \$3400, completed the job in one day and we did not have to close the museum. Arlon has invited him to the Installation Banquet and says he can highly recommend this company.

Curator/Publicity – Fred Plesner mentioned the large article in *The Franklin Press* by Barbara McRae. He has sent brochures to the I-77 and I-85 Welcome Centers since they called and made the request, which means they are being taken by tourists. On Saturday, Fred will give a talk at the Rickman Store in the Cowee community. They will then go on a field trip/tour of four mines.

He said some 20 specimens have been donated to the museum since the last gem show. In Sharon John's absence, he has asked Christine Hubinger to assist him in getting these cataloged.

Jane Morgan (telephone: 342-8703) is the chairperson for the banquet committee.

Education – Diane Aiello is on vacation.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh told us of a large donation to the museum by Marty Martinez of 80 pounds of Brazilian apatite. She will gift one piece to any member who wants to make a cabochon for the museum. She indicated the hosting sign-up sheet was being passed around. She read a list of benefits of being a host and strongly urged everyone who can to please sign up so that the same members are not hosting month after month. We need to keep our museum open every day!

Election of Officers – Since there were only individual candidates nominated for each position available, no ballots were given out. Votes were counted by a show of hands. Before voting commenced, president Arlon Eldridge asked for confirmation that each person desired to serve in the respective position for which they were nominated and after receiving confirmations of same, the following were unanimously voted into office for 2015: President – Al Pribble; Vice President – Tom Sterrett; Secretary – Susan Fritz; Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios; Assistant Treasurer – Norm Holbert; Board of Directors – Ray Behr; Board of Directors – Claudette Rollins; Museum Manager – Tom Marsh. (Returning Board of Directors are Tom Marsh and Marty Martinez.)

Installation Banquet – At our next General Meeting on Thursday, September 25, we will hold the installation of officers and enjoy the installation banquet. Jane Morgan is the chairperson for the banquet committee. Sign-up sheets were passed around for food for that night. The club will provide meat and drinks. Everyone was urged to bring something to round out the menu so please be sure to contact Jane Morgan if you have not already done so.

Cont'd to page 7

Quirky Museum - World-Class Treasures

By Fred Plesner

There are those who would say that Franklin, North Carolina was an unlikely place to find a world class museum but the people of Franklin don't think so. The town of Franklin and Macon County have long billed themselves as the "Gem Capital" of the world. This is not because they have more gems but because they have more variety than any other similar location in the world.

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum has been called a quirky museum. As museums go, it probably is, since it started out as the Macon County Jail. It has all the charm and character that go with its humble origins. Its exterior is utilitarian and unattractive; its walls are thirty inches thick with every door and window protected by iron bars including the building annex where the jailer and his/her family lived. Although the building was last used as a jail in 1972 it once had a woman jailer. All of this makes it a very secure place to house some of "Mother Nature's" most beautiful treasures.

Most of the interior doors have been removed but the "jail" atmosphere lingers, particularly upstairs where the old holding cell known as "The Slammer" is retained intact. That unsettled feeling creeps back as one approaches the restrooms because they are also surrounded by iron bars.

The museum collection, though housed in the usual display cabinets, is a very comprehensive and well laid out collection that fills eight rooms and includes specimens from all 50 states and all seven continents, including Antarctica. Starting with the States Room there are specimens from every state, the Indian Artifacts Room with an outstanding collection of Native American Bowls, the North Carolina Room with an extensive state collection including a Macon County display which includes a two and a half pound (1 kg.) Ruby. The Fossil Room collection ranges from fossilized sponges and pine cones to a dinosaur (raptor) egg and the World Room and International Hall cover gems and minerals from all seven continents and outer space (meteorites).

Located in "The Slammer" is the museum's collection of glass and the materials to make it. Included in the display are items used in both the nuclear and space industries. Last but not least, the Museum's Fluorescent Room, containing dozens of mineral specimens which glow and fluoresce under ultraviolet lighting, and has been described as "world class." The word most often used by children to describe the experience is "COOL."

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc., a founding member of the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Society's, opened the museum on May 25, 1974. The Society volunteers operate and maintain the Museum as a public service. There is no paid staff and the Society operates the Museum as means of interesting the public into their hobby and interests. The Society considers the mission of the Museum and the Society to be education. The Society has twice been honored as a recipient of the prestigious Governors Award for volunteerism for its outstanding public service.

An outstanding example of the Society is exemplified in Della Samuel, who has been honored by the Society with a Life Membership. Della who is now in her nineties is still active as a volunteer at the Museum, demonstrating both faceting and cabochon cutting at public events at which the Society participates and as a teacher of lapidary arts at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. Two years ago while demonstrating at an event she was asked by a television commentator why she did it. Her response was that she felt an obligation to pass on to future generations what she knew of her craft.

The Museum is open to the public six days a week from May through October. Monday - Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.; November through March, it is open Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. and is closed on the 4th of July. The Museum is open by appointment for group tours at other hours by arrangement with the Society's Education Chairman. The Museum is located at 25 Phillips Street in downtown Franklin behind Rankin Square. Call 828-369-7831 for more information or you may visit the Museum's website at www.fgmm.org.

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, N.C. was established in 1972 and meets at the Macon County Community Building, U.S. 441 South. Meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of the month. The Society operates under a board of directors, it is a 501c3 charitable nonprofit, volunteer organization which sponsors educational scholarships for persons interested in the study of geology, earth sciences, lapidary arts and related fields of study.

The Society co-sponsors with the Franklin Chamber of Commerce the Macon County Gemboree in late July as well as the Fall Leaflookers Gemboree in late October. At these events, as well as at area schools, libraries, at the Museum itself and at other public venues the Society leads various lapidary arts demonstrations such as stone faceting, cabochon cutting, wire wrapping, beading and other forms of jewelry making. They also give tips on gem and mineral identification.

Anyone interested in becoming a member must be of good character, willing to further the Society's goals, complete a membership application and attend 2 meetings and pay an annual membership fee. It is all pretty simple. You are given an application form at your first meeting, if you bring it back, well that's your second meeting. Membership introduces you to a new group of friends, entitles you to attend various field trips and to take lessons in various lapidary arts at the Museum.

I asked the waiter, 'Is this milk fresh?' He said, 'Lady, three hours ago it was grass.' -*Phyllis Diller*

The reason the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing. -*Phyllis Diller*

Gift Shop Reporting

By Elena Marsh



Where did the summer go? Leaf looker tourist season is just about here and the town is offering some wonderful events to draw both locals and tourists here.

The museum and gift shop are still teeming with folks who are enjoying our amazing place. Anamay and I have put out many of our fall color items already. There are also unakite and apatite specimens for sale now.

A BIG THANK YOU to both Marty Martinez who donated about 80 pounds of Apatite stones and to Virginia Bennis for donating sea glass, books and other small gems to the gift shop last month. These donations are greatly appreciated by all the members and will be added to the many items for sale in the shop! THANK YOU again!

I can only keep mentioning to you that Christmas is just around the corner and with the many beautiful pendants, earrings, bracelets and other items to purchase, what a wonderful way to mark off some 'what do I get Aunt _____' this year! We also have some children's books that would be the perfect present for that grandchild who seems to have everything – but reading material!

The 25th annual Pumpkin fest will be Saturday, October 25 – I am planning to have a table outside of the museum with items for sale and to also entice visitors to come visit our museum. Fred Plesner will be entertaining children with his geode cutting. The sandbox will be open for the youngsters to sift through and find some gems. The museum will need more hosts that day, it is always a busy time. If you have an extra hour or two on that Saturday, please come down to the museum and help. It will be greatly appreciated.

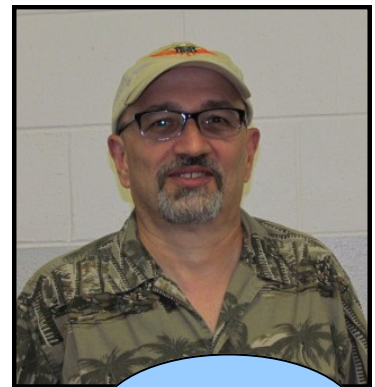
The museum and gift shop have had a marvelous summer. Thank you to all the hosts who contributed to this effort!

See you in the museum soon! Elena



Martha Ahrens and
Joan Bowman

Cabochons were made by
several members.



Cy Amrich
New member



Michael Gillen
New member

Minutes from page 4

New Business – John Hayes said that four members had completed the jade project and their work is displayed on the table at the back of the room. He presented certificates to Martha Ahrens and Joan Bohmann and these ladies were congratulated. He encouraged anyone interested to sign up for the cabochon and/or faceting classes to take advantage of the teaching available and the extremely reasonable cost of the classes.

Arlon Eldridge announced a fish fry at the Masonic Lodge from 4:00 until 7:30 p.m. on September 16. All members are invited. The dinner is free; donations accepted.

Linda Behr announced that member Gloria Durfey, is now housebound and would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to give her a call or visit.

Christine Hubinger introduced our two scholarship winners who are studying Earth Sciences at Western Carolina University. They are: Kyle Cochran and Aaron Howard.

Elena Marsh announced the upcoming 50th wedding anniversary of Dean and Fred Plesner and presented them with a card and a gift.

Arlon Eldridge apologized for us having no program this evening. Kim Cochran of Snellville was to be here tonight but had car problems and had to cancel. He will be coming for our November meeting.

Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by president Arlon Eldridge at 7:20 p.m., and refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary

Did You Know?

By Fred Plesner

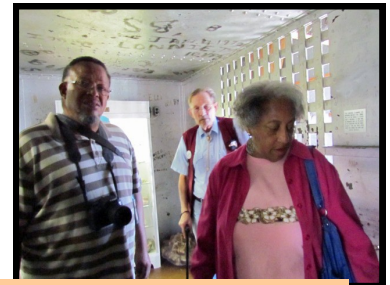
Did you know:

The 49 pound corundum crystal that we have on display in the museum was discovered by a woman, named, Miss Hulda Burdick. She was the paymaster at the Corundum Hill Mine in the late 1800s. That crystal disappeared (was lost) for many years. It was rediscovered by *The Franklin Press* Editor, Bob Sloan, the grandson of George Bidwell, owner of the mine, and was donated to our museum. Bidwell Street is named after George Bidwell.



Did you know: That fossilized trilobites as well as brachiopods and gastropods have been found in Cades Cove in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. These rare finds have been found in Ordovician Age dolomite and limestone deposits.

Did you know: That there were several active mines in what is now The Great Smokey Mountains National Park. The most active mine was the Fontana Mine which produced over 500,000 tons of ore between 1926 and 1944. This ore assayed out at an average 7% percent copper, 2% zinc, 14 grams of silver and 0.28 grams of gold per ton. All the old mine sites in the park are considered off limits by the National Park Service because the old mine shafts are now considered important bat habitat.



Commissioners from across the state came to Franklin guided by Macon Commissioner Ronnie Beale.

They toured our museum as well as other museums in Franklin. Many had never been beyond Asheville.

Jail Graffiti

By Fred Plesner

Tracking down the dates, times, names and circumstances of graffiti is at best a difficult chore since it is done when no one is looking. I have found a few of these people so the next time you are hosting see if you can find them. Here are a few names I can put a date or circumstance to. The first and foremost of these names is Garry Shields.

Both articles were written by
Fred in 2010 .

Garry Shields is the principal at Franklin High School today and is retiring at the end of the school year but at the time his name was placed on the slammer wall he was just 16 years old. That all important date was August 17, 1962 and it appears that at least one of his partners in crime left his signature behind as well. The name Garry Shields can be found to the left of the display case in the slammer about head high and the name Thomas Roan can be found written in pencil to the left of the outer door to the slammer. Thomas J. Roan was from the Cartoogechaye Community and was older than Garry Shields by about 4 years. Garry Shields learned his lesson but it appears that Thomas Roan did not. Thomas Roan was picked up on a warrant and again jailed on September 28, 1963. This time it took him several days to get out of jail.

To the left of the outer door to the slammer is the notation "Floyd Thomas 500 days". Floyd Thomas also started out as a juvenile offender. He was arrested on October 2, 1959 as an 18 year old and held on suspicion, a month later he was picked up on November 1, 1959 on a public drunkenness charge, again a similar charge on December 3, 1960. From this point on he apparently got into some sort of serious trouble because he was picked again on December 3, 1960 on a warrant from South Carolina. The question is did Floyd Thomas leave the notation or was it left by someone else who knew of his circumstances.

Jimmy Crane left his signature behind four times. You can find his name written on the steel door to the international Hall three times and on the right doorframe as you enter the rest room area. As best I can tell Jimmy Crane was another juvenile offender (18 at the time) who was allowed to serve his sentence on weekends because he was jailed on December 6 - 7, 13, 20 - 21, and 27 - 28 a total of seven days. I can only hope that serving the weekend before and after Christmas was an awaking call to straighten up and fly right. I find it interesting that he was jailed four times and each time he felt compelled to leave his name behind.

The Cowee Valley Rubies of Macon County had their first brush with National Television Publicity in 1958 on the Ed Sullivan Show. Mr. Bob Cox, a CBS talent scout for this region of the country, had arranged to have the local "Smoky Mountain Cloggers" appear on the "Ed Sullivan Show." A local gem cutter found a unique way to show his appreciation and thanks.

Mr. Jim Brinkman, the local gem cutter, took four donated stones and faceted them. There were two rubies, one blue sapphire and a rhodolite garnet, each stone cut out at approximately 1 carat. He then contacted and met with Mr. Bob Cox and asked that the stones be given to Mr. Sullivan as a "Mountain Gesture of Appreciation."

Mr. Cox stated that he would personally present them to Mr. Sullivan "on camera" during their upcoming show that was scheduled to air on March 2, 1958.



Happy 40th Anniversary
Franklin Gem & Mineral
Museum

Star Rubies

By Fred Plesner

Rubies of gem quality are rare and only approximately 1 in 100 will possess asterism or "Star Quality." This makes a true star ruby of gem quality a truly rare treasure. Western North Carolina produces such treasures.

In 1990 Jarvis Wayne Messer made a major discovery, the "Appalachian Star Ruby." Mr. Messer's find weighed in at 377 carats and was cut to 139.43 carats. This magnificent find was documented by the Gemological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain in London, England. It was then declared to be both larger and of better quality than the "Rosser Reeves Ruby" which was at that time the world's finest star ruby. The "Rosser Reeves Star Ruby" weighs 138.70 Carats and is thus .73 carats smaller.

The "Appalachian Star Ruby" was to be displayed at both the Natural History Museum of London and the Smithsonian Institute and was later sold at public auction at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina. I have no idea what it sold for but I do remember talking with Ted Robles about the stone and he assured me that he had seen it and that it was everything that it was purported to be.

I have been asked many times what this stone was worth and each time the answer has been "I don't know." Today I have an answer. I started looking around the internet and I found the following posted by Robert Goldstein on July 14, 2011:

I represent the estate sale of a collection of museum quality, very large star rubies. The largest in the collection is the Appalachian Star Ruby, which is larger (139.43 Carats) and of finer quality than the "Rosser Reeves Ruby. It was valued at \$300,000 per carat in 2007. The 4 rubies in the collection contain over 342 carats and are all very fine museum quality gems.

That's right; it said \$300,000 per carat. That works out at $(139.43 \times 300,000 = 41,829,000)$. That is a lot of money and would make "The Appalachian Star" North Carolina's most valuable gem.



**25th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree
The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin,
NC**

**(Co-sponsored with the Franklin
Chamber)**

Date(s): Oct 17, 2014 - Oct 19, 2014

**When: Friday - Saturday 10am - 5pm;
Sunday 11am - 4pm**

**Where: Bob Carpenter Community
Building**

Volunteers are needed!

**Contact Fred Plesner to sign up for host-
ing at Gemboree**

April-1976

The Mountain Gem

A Brief History of

The Gem and Mineral Museum of Franklin, N C

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum was born on June 2, 1973 when the Macon County Board of Commissioners granted The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin permission to use the abandoned old Macon County Jail building, in which to establish a Museum, which would be open Free to, the citizens of this community and the general Public,

The Challenge was given to our Society to create - to achieve something permanent in our community. This challenge was accepted by many of our members and they went to work.

Twenty two persons, members and local "citizens-who-cared" each gave \$50 to \$100 each, and thus became "Museum Founders". Our lady members held two Bake Sales which added "\$304 to the museum funds and also helped with an Antique Show and Sale that raised an additional \$360. Carpeting was given by generous local shops, also building materials - altogether these were worth approx. \$700. Nine display cases were built and display rooms wired, light fixtures and heaters installed; the Job Corps lads painted the rooms; paneling and a drop-ceiling erected in the lower hall. Room for a Library and Gift Shop was established and stocked.

Finally, after almost-12 months of work, the expenditure of over 2000 hours of labor, and \$2500, our museum opened its doors on May 25, 1974. It was a proud moment for many who had "Dreamed A Dream" and then worked hard to make it come true.

On June 30, 1974 an Open House was held, and approx. 200 interested persons attended, many of whom were impressed by what had been done, and our members were proud of their results.

The museum was closed for the winter on Nov. 1, 1974. During the five months it was open - 3207 persons had signed the Guest Book - from 41 of our United States and 4 Foreign Countries.

The museum was on its way - but more remained to be done. From Jan. 1 1975 until May 1975 attention was given to the 2nd floor, where plans were made to create a Lapidary Workshop. Cleaning, repairing, and dismantling was carried out. Rest rooms were completed and the electrical wiring started. Six new display cases were built in order to hold all the materials being donated or loaned to the museum. Many Indian artifact. were again loaned to the Indian Room for display.

The museum was opened for its second season on May 31, 1975. Again an open House was held on June 29 with approx. 150 people attending.

The Gift Shop was an added attraction for many persons who visited the museum, and for 1975 it contributed over \$1000 to the museum funds. \$190 was donated by visitors, some of the 3947 who signed our Guest Book and who came from 45 States and 12 Foreign lands. The museum was closed on Nov. 1, 1975 for the winter.

During the winter months of 1975/1976 the workshop area on the second floor was greatly improved - work benches were built, wiring and lighting completed. Classes were started in March 1976 the teaching of Cabochon cutting and Faceting of gem stones and have become quite popular with the students - our eager-to-learn members. The Library is gradually building up to an adequate and comprehensive group of books on Gems, Minerals and Earth Sciences in general.

The museum is scheduled to open for its 3rd season on May 3, 1976. We all hope that the displays of Macon County's Natural Heritage will prove of lasting interest and benefit all who see them.

Written by Helen Coe

Editor's note:

Helen Coe wrote this article for *The Mountain Gem* on April 1976. I copied it directly to this newsletter.

Helen was a founding member for the museum and society.

2014 Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show Please join the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society for the at our NEW VENUE for 2014 the Jaycee Community Building on Airport Road Friday and Saturday, October 10 & 11: 10 AM to 6 PM Sunday, October 12: Noon to 5 PM Jewelry, Stones, Minerals, Fossil, Beads, Carved Stones, Lapidary Supplies, Displays, Kids' Activities, Demonstrations, Mining Flume, FREE PARKING! AND MORE! Check our webpage for more information: www.huntsvillegms.org

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 KYANA Geological Society, Louisville, KY
(HOST)

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



Saturday, October 11, 2014

Taylorsville, Spencer County, Kentucky

"Ordovician rocks and fossils"

Our plans, weather permitting, will be to take the participants on Saturday the 11th to a series of road cuts in the area of Taylorsville, Spencer County, Kentucky. We will be collecting Upper Ordovician fossils.

The primary formation we will be collecting in is the McMillan or Grant Lake, or the Maysvillian Stage. Most of the fossils will be loose, very little digging is required. There are about 100 different fossils in these units. Most participants can expect to find, with some diligence, 25 different fossils. There are many varieties of brachiopods, bryozoans, pelecypods, gastropods, along with corals, cephalopods, rare finds include trilobites, edrioasteroids, and a very rare cycloostoid was found here a couple of years ago. The highway department has severely scrapped most of the cuts on Hwy 44, thus reducing the usual amount of rubble, making collecting more difficult to find fossils.

Taylorsville State Park will be our meeting site for Saturday morning October 11, 2014. Highway 155/55 runs north south through the town of Taylorsville, turn east on to highway 44, take highway 44 to highway 248, take highway 248 east to the entrance of Taylorsville State Park, turn south on Park Road, pass the Park Office and to the covered picnic shelters, park here. If you go too far, you will end up at the Possum Ridge Boat Ramp.

I would like to leave the meeting area at 9:00 AM EST. We will be collecting along highway 44 and perhaps highway 155. If you arrive early please, do not collect these stretches of highway.

At a time yet to be determined, we will break from collecting and join KYANA Geological Society at our Annual Picnic at one of the covered shelters where we met in the morning. It is a pot-luck with KYANA providing the meat [fried chicken] and the drinks. You are not required to provide anything, it is our treat!

What to bring: Standard rock hound tools [hammer, chisels, goggles, wrapping materials, and buckets] we will be in the sun, sunscreen, sun hat, sun glasses.

You can access our website <http://kyanageo.org/> and see some of these fossils and more.

Camping information contact: Charles Oldham charlesoldham@ymail.com or 502-2410-8755.

Children in Church

A little boy was in a relative's wedding.

As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd.

While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar.

So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle.

As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard, by the time he reached the pulpit.

When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

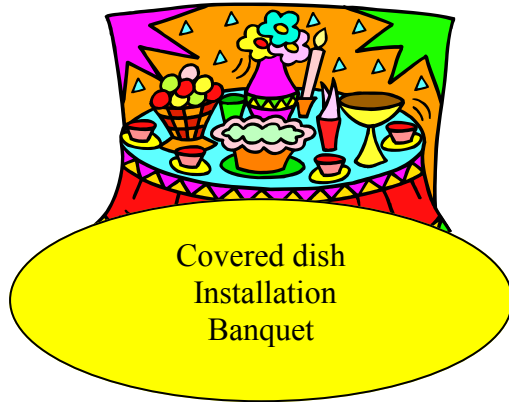
Linda Behr, Editor

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Franklin, NC 28734

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Month	Board Meeting	General
September	23	25 Banquet
October	28	30
November	18	20
December	9	13 end of Year party 1—5 P.M.

25th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC (Co-sponsored with the Franklin Chamber)

Date(s): Oct 17, 2014 - Oct 19, 2014

When: Friday - Saturday 10am - 5pm;
Sunday 11am - 4pm

Where: Robert Carpenter Community Building
Gem Show with dealers from all over the
southeast offering fine jewelry, costume jewelry,
beads, rough and cut gemstones.
For more information contact the Franklin Cham-
ber at 828-524-3161; toll free: 1-866-372-5546

General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. the last Thursday
of the month (note changes)

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.