

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
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Number 11--12
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

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Curator Ass't	Christine Hubinger	349-7360
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Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	
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Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	John Hayes	524-8062
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Awards	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
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Field Trips	Lon Peden	371-8450
Gemboree	Jack Jungles	369-6664
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
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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

www.facebook.com/franklingems



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: November 20, 2014
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Day: Thursday
Where: Robert Carpenter
Community Center on 441 South
(notice new name for the community
building.
Program: Kim Cochran
This will be a great and informative
evening. One you won't want to miss.

Winter Wonderland
will be on two different
Fridays; one on
November 29th and one on
December 6th.

Tom and Elena Marsh will open
the museum both nights for the
visitors.

If you can come by and help to
host, please help.
5-8p.m.

**Hello from the president**

Once again I
would like to thank all the
officers and committee
members for an out-
standing job in making
this year a success. Also
to all the members that have spent many
hours in hosting in the museum. If not for
these members we could not man the mu-
seum.

Now that my year is coming to an
end we should all get behind our new offi-
cers and help support them as much as we
can. If not for them we could not exist.
Our last outing was the gem show which
went very well thanks to so many mem-
bers that stepped up and were there for the
set up and take down.

I am looking forward to see every-
one at our next meetings. Check in the
newsletter for some changes in our dates
for the *End of Year Party*.

Thanks so much to all.

Arlon

The "End of the Year" party and
Rock bingo has been changed to the first
Saturday on December 6th at
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We must be out of room by 4 p.m.

Please call dinner chairperson: Jane
Morgan at 342-8703 for your request of
what covered dish to supply. Meats and
drinks are provided by the club.

Minutes – October 30, 2014 – General Meeting**The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.**

The meeting was called to order by President, Arlon Eldridge, on Thursday, October 30, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center building meeting room.

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

Membership: Claudette Rollins reported 24 members and 9 guests in attendance. Jerry and Diane Mason of Young Harris were introduced and welcomed as new members.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios is absent tonight; however, Ray Behr went over a copy of the Treasurer's report. He stated this was a good month for us and we are "in the black." We have a considerable sum of money in our account going into the winter months.

Vice President – Ray Behr stated he currently has a faceting class and if anyone is interested in learning to please put their name on that list. He spoke of long time member Jean Emerson who is currently living in the Hermitage House. He and Linda Behr visited Jean not long ago. She is having some memory problems but would enjoy any current lapidary magazines, so if you have one or two that you can part with, get them to Ray and he will pass them along to Jean.

Museum Manager – Al Pribble said we need volunteers to sign up to host on Saturdays. Christine Hubinger has signed up for every Saturday in November and he thanked her.

He reminded us of the Christmas banquet and passed around a sign-up sheet for people to bring food. If anyone has questions, please contact Jane Morgan.

Al Pribble read a card received from Fran Rasmussen, recently named lifetime member, thanking us for bestowing that honor to her and her husband, Fred.

Al reported the Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Franklin, Tenn., is having a gem show on December 13 and 14. Al has money-off coupons for this event if anyone is interested in attending.

Curator – Fred Plesner mentioned that the recent articles in the paper, particularly those by Barbara McRae, have been of great benefit to the museum. He stated he has taken museum brochures to the I-85 South Welcome Center at Kings Mountain. He reported that set up for the October Gemboree went extremely well and he thanked all who came to help.

Fred mentioned that Bob Poindexter of the Franklin Historical Museum has discussed with us and with the Tartan's Museum approaching the TDA to request funding for joint advertising. Mr. Poindexter is currently working on the layout and hopefully can get this accomplished over the winter months.

Fred reported he has received a spear point from the Tampa Bay area and two arrowheads from Mali, West Africa that he will put on display.

(cont'd to next page.)

Minutes cont'd

Fred told us that new locks have been acquired for our 20-foot storage trailer

Education – Diane Aiello was absent this evening.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported an excellent month of sales and stated that during Pumpkin Fest the gift shop took in \$440 in just one day!

Raffle – Garrett Morgan drew the winning ticket for the raffle. The ticket belongs to Gary Felumlee of Zanesville, Ohio. Lon Peden called the number on the ticket but received no answer and left a message. Garrett also drew a second ticket in the event Gary Felumlee is unable to be reached in a reasonable period of time. Susan Fritz, secretary, will keep these tickets and will continue to attempt to reach the winning ticket holder.

Old Business – Lon Peden told us that member Gloria Durfey, Otto, is currently homebound on oxygen and is unable to walk. Gloria's number is on the membership list if anyone would like to contact her. She would love to get a visit or hear from us via phone call.

Linda Behr reported that the deadline for the newsletter this month is Monday, November 3rd.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, our next general meeting will be on Thursday, November 20th.

Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m., after which there was a very interesting talk-question-answer program hosted by Arlon Eldridge on the culture of Brazil.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary

Stone Eating Bacteria

By Fred Plesner for *The Mountain Gem*

Have you ever looked at our tombstones, monuments, sculptures and buildings and wondered at the decay that you see? How could all the rain that has fallen over the years, particularly in desert areas have caused all that damage? Well, there is more going on here than meets the eye and it was more than just wind and rain. They are being eaten. Yes, molecule by molecule they are being eaten away.

There are several genus of bacteria that eat rock (stone). Most but not all of them fall into the genus "Thiobacillus, Nitrobacter or Nitrosomonas." The biggest culprit among all the stone eating bacteria is a little microbe called "Thiobacillus thioparus" which goes about his lifespan converting the sulfur dioxide (found in the air) into sulfuric acid and then uses it to transform calcium carbonate (marble) into calcium sulfate (plaster). This little microbe then draws its nutrition from the carbon dioxide formed during the transformation process.

The genus "Nitrobacter and Nitrosomonas" use the ammonia found in the air to produce nitric or nitrous acids. There are still other kinds of bacteria and fungi (lichens) that can attack rock (stone) by producing various organic acids (formic, acetic and oxalic acid). The increase of these bacteria and other biological-damaging organisms that threaten our monuments and buildings and the antiquity's of the past is due to the sharp rise in the levels of free sulfur dioxide gases in our atmosphere from automotive and industrial emissions.

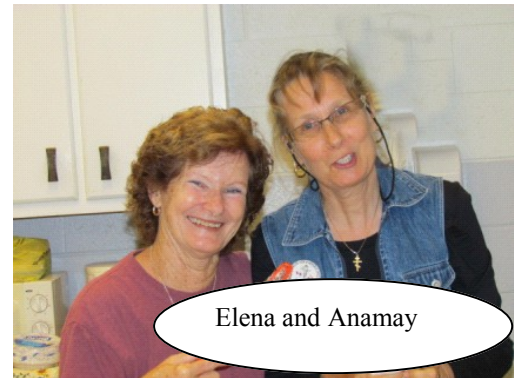
So, how fast is this process? Maybe a millimeter a year. That's not much but the onslaught is a never ending process and it eventually becomes a visible process.

Attributes: The handy Science Answer Book "1997"

Gift Shop

By Elena Marsh, Manager

Whew, we made it!! What did we make you ask? Made it through a hectic, fun filled, museum packed with visitors and local folks too, open 6 days a week schedule! Can hear the sighs of relief on all of us who have worked so hard to keep our museum and gift shop the best in Franklin! I think we succeeded in accomplishing that.



Elena and Anamay

Many thanks to all hosts who kept the museum open each day that was scheduled. Thanks for all the folks who have helped me with donations, working the special festivals in town, any other tasks that were asked of you all – it was and will always continue to be greatly appreciated.

This winter, I hope to be able to work on the gift shop areas, have asked members to help me with cleaning the entire area and take stock of what is there, what sold, what needs to be rearranged and what to buy at the next gem show in May.

Anamay was here for a brief weekend and delivered many jewelry items she had been working on, and even completed several projects during her short time here. She is amazing, my right and left hand gal and the club is very lucky to have both Anamay and Ron as totally active members!

Remember that Christmas is truly only a short time away and you all need to come in and check out the lovely and wonderfully priced items in the gift shop. We even have some great books for grandchildren to enjoy that highlight rocks and gems.

In December, Window/Winter Wonderland will be on the evenings of December 6 and 13. There will be lots of visitors and locals downtown to enjoy those festivities. These events are from 5 pm to 8 pm both Saturday evenings. We hope to open the museum both evenings to allow folks to enjoy our museum. If you have a spare hour or two, please come down and help. You will find out that it is fun to host and meet so many wonderful people in our town. The hosting sign up sheet will be passed around at the next meeting and also will be in the meeting room at the museum for anyone that wants to add their name for those evenings.

Training for hosting at the museum is available for all new members and to anyone else that thinks they need a refresher course. Please contact Al Pribble or me (or my husband, Tom) to set up a time or times to come down to museum. We will accommodate your availability. Our phone numbers are in the newsletter if you need to call us.

Thanks again for an awesome season! See you in the museum soon! Elena



CELEBRATIONS

January Birthdays

5 – Dave Snyder
 13 – Penny-Lynn Goldstein
 18 - Aidan Barr
 20 – Joseph Foreman
 20 – John Crawford
 23 – Claire Miller
 28 – Cy Amrich
 29—Jerry Mason

January Anniversaries

1 – David & Kay Swindle
 20 – Marty & Rebecca Martinez
 26 – Art & Mary Anne Zoeckler
 27 – Quinton & Mittie King
 29 –John & Susan Jurss

Your editor forgot to enter
 Joan Bohmann's birthday for
 December 3.

If you remember Gloria Durfey, a
 long-time member, please give
 her a call. She would love
 to hear from us.
 Her phone number is 524-9913.

Jean Emerson

Our previous scholarship
 chairman, Jean Emerson is
 now in an assisted living home
 in Sylva, NC.



She had water on the brain and is recovering
 nicely but it will take some time for the brain to
 cooperate from the surgery

As a result of her illness, her short term mem-
 ory is gone; however she remembers our club and
 her job as scholarship chairman.

I feel that she would enjoy a “thinking of you”
 card from any member (include that you are “with
 the gem society”).

Her address:

Jean Emerson
 The Hermitage
 185 Brick Farm Rd ·
 Sylva, NC 28779



STONE SAYINGS –

Submitted by: Lynn Hartley -

Resource: rocksforkids.com

The following are just a few saying, expressions or
 idioms that use rocks & minerals to paint a picture:

Stones:

stone soup
 cast in stone
 can't get blood out of a stone
 stone cold sober
 have a heart of stone
 a rolling stone gathers no moss.
 stone dead
 leave no stone unturned
 sticks and stones may break my bones but words will
 never hurt me

sink like a stone
 kill two birds with one stone
 He who lives in glass houses shouldn't throw stones
 a stone's throw away

Rocks:

as solid as a rock
 between a rock and a hard place
 be on the rocks
 rock bottom

Via:

Penobscot Mineral & Lapidary Club September 2012

Birthstone for November is Topaz

By Jonathan North

Rock Writings November 2014

Topaz is a unique crystal that seems to be easily confused with citrine and aquamarine. However, that is only by its appearance.

The composition of Topaz puts it into a class of its own. Topaz is made of Aluminum silicate fluoride hydroxide. Its crystals are transparent to translucent. Topaz has a luster that is adamantine to vitreous. It has an orthorhombic crystal system that has perfect cleavage in one direction.

Topaz has a hardness of 8. It is the hardest silicate mineral and is one of the hardest minerals that there is. Topaz comes in yellow, orange, red, blue, green, or clear. It is excellent as a gemstone, but is also used in industry because of its optical properties.

As a gemstone, Topaz is usually faceted. Topaz is primarily found in Brazil, Pakistan, Russia, Mexico, Utah, and California.

So, you lucky folks that have a November birthday, you have a very special birthstone to brag about to those less fortunate!

(The Mountain Gem editor: I must be very special because I have a piece from Brazil that was given to me by Arlon Eldridge.)



Pumpkin FestOctober 2014
Pictures by Al Pribble



Handling Hot Potatoes

Bob Green, Safety Chairperson for the SFMS



Special Note: The days are getting shorter, as you all know, and many folks are still in their summer habits. I see a number of vehicles going down the road with their lights off. They can see, but unfortunately they cannot be seen as clearly as they should to avoid being involved in an accident. This past weekend, I made a trip to Young Harris, Georgia, travelling on a very rainy Friday. Leaving Clayton, Georgia, I came up behind a large gray car with no taillights. I assumed that this was a car with their auto lights on and their headlights were on. After passing this gentleman, I realized that his headlights were OFF. Here it was a heavy rain and a gray car and no lights. I certainly hope he made it safely to wherever he was travelling and I was certainly glad that he was behind me. So you may be able to see, but can others see you?

This month we will talk about handling hot horseshoes. My kin folks who lived somewhat back in the woods used that expression to address various issues about how quickly someone learns that they have picked-up or handled something that is not kind to their wellbeing.

My wife and I were at the July Franklin, NC gem shows. One of the vendors had a very neatly penned sign stating that the goods on the table were hot. The goods were darker colored specimens and his warning very appropriate. Several years ago, at the same show I found a marvelous piece of Labradorite. There was water in the tub displaying these and being a keen observer of these fine specimens I picked one up and very quickly doused the specimen and my hand into the tub of water. It is amazing how hot these can be when exposed to direct sunlight for a period of time. And very quickly my vision of handling hot horseshoes can up.

This caution can be applied to many things. This includes the hot sand at the beach, while you are traversing the distance from your shade umbrella to the “cooling” water. I enjoy watching the “Survivorman” television programs as I have mentioned in the past. One episode and I am not sure whether it was Les Stroud or someone else, the show was about Aboriginal survival in Northern Queensland, Australia. This was extremely interesting as it viewed the way of life some centuries ago, while being transported to the coast in modern vehicles.

Anyway, toward the end of the show, the host was complaining about an injured toe, he had stumped it on a rock while trying to dig a ray. Though not an open wound it was quite obvious this was impacting his walking. The Aboriginal chief noted that he would do better if he ditched his sandals and walked bare-foot in the sand. The best comment about this from the host was he really appreciated the way he was received by the tribe and if he ever got out of the “thousand degree sand” he was certain he would be better. Though the sand was nowhere near the stated temperature, if your feet are not used to this, it can be extremely painful.

Now, we all (maybe not all) enjoy an outdoor fire, as long as it is done safely, a fire pit being my personal preference. As you are tending the fire, some pieces may need to be adjusted in the fire. The use of tongs is strongly recommended or else you may get to enjoy how quickly you learned to examine hot horseshoes.

Oh, for those who have never had the opportunity to watch a blacksmith make horseshoes, I encourage you to attend a fair where this tradition is still practiced. If you have never tried “smithing”, it really does build muscles and since you are close to the heating furnace, you do lose a lot of water weight. So, building muscles and losing weight cannot be too bad. Just understand where the saying came from. And keep hydrated.

My wife bought a reconditioned century old forge. She really enjoys beating metal. She also did get plenty of exercise pounding metal. If you get into “smithing” remember this is not a hobby for those that abhor safety equipment. Proper gloves, eye protection and a leather apron are the minimum. Also, steel toed boots and do not try this with shorts on, the hot sparks can inflict a substantially unpleasant burn.

So, back to watching out for the hot things around you, while in the kitchen, practice safety. Picking up a hot cast iron frying pan is also a lesson in itself. Pot holders, appropriate cooling times, etc. are required. Always have a fire extinguisher close by and remember water on a grease fire leads to a very spectacular flash which will quickly transform your kitchen into a raging inferno.

So be careful and be safe.

This is a combined Nov/Dec Newsletter. Your next one will be in January....2015

The following facts are from the November issue of *Mini Miners Monthly*

Some dates have been deleted for space. The home website is: www.diamonddanpublications.net

1773: Abraham Gottlob Werner (1749-1817) publishes his first book on mineralogy. He collected minerals all of his life, lectured on minerals and crystallography and was the curator of the mineral collection of a mining academy for most of his adult life. He created a classification system for minerals. Werner is known as “The Father of Modern Mineralogy.”

1783: Arnould Carangeot creates the earliest contact goniometer for measuring the interfacial angles of crystals.

1783: Rome de l’Isle presents the first collections of crystal models. They were made out of “terra cotta” and were connected to the sales of his 4 volume book set, “Cristallographie.” These crystal models were about 3 centimeters in size.

1784: Professor Benjamin Waterhouse uses a collection of minerals for teaching purposes at Harvard University. This collection is the beginning of the mineral collection at Harvard which continues to this very day. The mineral collection at Harvard is the oldest ongoing mineral collection in the United States.

1798: Lady Henrietta Clive traveled to India with her husband where she discovered minerals and started the first mineral collection by a wealthy noble-woman. It can be said that Lady Clive was the first female mineral hobbyist.

1799: “The American Mineralogical Society” was formed in New York. It did not last very long.

1810: Archibald Bruce publishes the first issue of his periodical, The American Mineralogical Journal. This was the first scientific journal published in the United States. It focused on the mineralogy and geology of the United States. Only four issues were published, from 1810 to 1814. Archibald Bruce died in 1818 at the age of 41.

1812: Friederich Mohs creates “The Hardness Scale” of minerals (now commonly known as “Mohs’ Hardness Scale.”)

1816: The first mineralogy book printed on American soil, An Elementary Treatise on Mineralogy and Geology (Boston) was published by Parker Cleaveland. This book was very important at the time and helped make him one of the most important mineralogists of his day. He is known as “The Father of American Mineralogy.”

1828: Gold is discovered in Dahlonega, Georgia. This is the first gold discovery (and gold rush) in the United States of America.

1837: James Dwight Dana publishes his book System of Mineralogy.

1848: J.D. Dana publishes his book Manual of Mineralogy.

These two books are considered two of the most influential books in the field of mineralogy. Dana’s Manual of Mineralogy is in its 23rd edition and is still used by college students today. (**The Mountain Gem Editor: I believe that we have this book in our museum library.**)



1947: The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) is formed.

March 2007: The first issue of *Mini Miners Monthly* is published. Now in its 8th year, this is still the only monthly publication written for young mineral collectors .



To God from Dog

Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it still the same old story?

Dear God: Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a Dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We do love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?



At the October meeting, visitor, Judy from Highlands brought in this beautiful amolite. We could not decipher what it was that caused the "moss" look on it. It also had some speckled rainbow colors.

Program Report

By Linda Behr

It was another very interesting program by Arlon Eldridge. I never get bored by his talks about Brazil.

We had a visiting couple that asked a lot of questions of Arlon. It seems that they have a friend who lived in Brazil and they were comparing friend's opinion to Arlon's.

Did you know that there are two areas in southern Brazil that have their own languages? One was Italian and the other German. So if you visited this part of Brazil, you had better know these; Portuguese will not help. Arlon speaks Portuguese but I don't think he speaks the other two since his farm is not in the southern area of Brazil.

Al Pribble was "Vanna" in place of Marty. He did a great job of holding the map of Brazil while Arlon pointed out his farm and nearby towns.

It has taken a few years for Brazil to adjust to not being under Portugal's direction. The country is doing much better according to Arlon. They now have electricity! They will not allow a nuclear plant to operate anywhere in Brazil.

He had Lon Peden give us smoky quartz pieces. Arlon let us see and hold a cut piece of smoky quartz which he had faceted....I might add that it was a nice size.

Hopefully our Rex Larkin will make the next meeting. I suspect the parking problem prevented him from attending our meeting.

Campers

From Cathy Gaber,
Micro. Nat'l Capital Area



These are actual comments left on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

"A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call."

"Escalators would help on steep uphill sections."

"Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness."

"Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."

"Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals."

"All the mile markers are missing this year."

"Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse."

"Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."

"Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."

"Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow in the winter."

"Chairlifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them."

"The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals."

"Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights."

"Need more signs to keep area pristine."

"A McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead."

"The places where trails do not exist are not well marked."

"Too many rocks in the mountains."

AFMS Newsletter - April, 2004

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

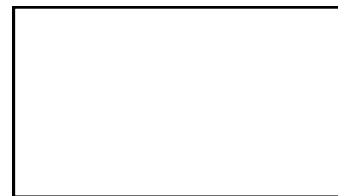
Linda Behr, Editor

25 Phillips Street

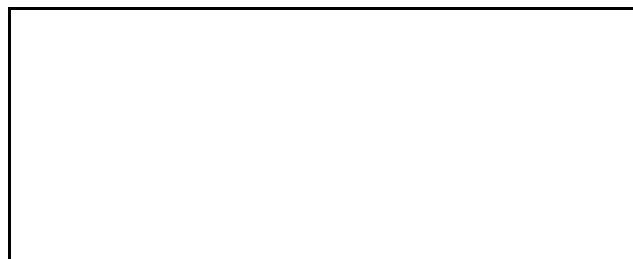
Franklin, NC 28734

themountaingem@fastmail.fm

website: www.fgmm.org



Dues for 2015 are now due.
Is your name highlighted
in yellow?



Month	Board Meeting	General
November	18	20
December	9	6 End of Year party 12—4 P.M.

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.