



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

July 2019 Newsletter



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
 Past President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
 Vice President: Arlon Eldridge, (828-369-5271)
 Secretary: Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Treasurer: Lake Holland, (828-369-5421)
 Assistant Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (828-349-9615)
 Museum Manager: Duane Haskell, (828-349-5123)
 Director (2018): Mike Gillen, (678-772-6375)
 Director (2018): Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
 Director (2019): Diane Mason, (706-379-1718)
 Director (2019): Tom Sterrett, (828-349-3774)

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
 Museum Curator: Larry Ellert, (828-349-0774)
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
 Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807), Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954), & Diane Mason
 Museum Workshop: Cy Amrich, (828-356-7816)
 Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Program Coordinator: Kathi Walbridge
 Calendar: Jay Mooney, (678-488-0620)
 Gemboree: Kathy Green, (941-387-4397)
 Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Asst Education/Tours: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)

Club Newsletter

Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

Club Contact E-mail: franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Club Website

<http://www.fgmm.org/>

Club Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/franklingems>

Monthly meetings

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society meets the last Thursday of each month, except for November and December, normally at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South), Franklin. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM.

The Club is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Southeast Federation of the Mineralogical Societies.



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Minutes: June 27, 2019

Susan Fritz

President Jane Morgan called the meeting to order on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the John C. Carpenter Community Building.

Minutes – Jane Morgan asked for any corrections, deletions, or additions to the May 2019 minutes. There being none, a motion was made by Stacy Walbridge and seconded by Gary Galbrecht that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter. Voted and passed.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported that the net for May was in the red.

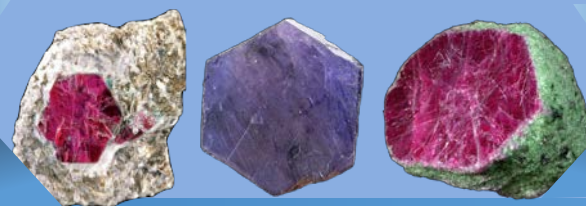
President – Jane Morgan introduced Dr. Bill Witherspoon, tonight's speaker, who asked that we please sign his guest book. Jane also asked that each member called upon come to the front, introduce themselves and stay up front while giving their report. Jane also wanted to acknowledge Arlon Eldridge and thank him for being the one who has donated our door prizes for years. She wanted to acknowledge Jay Mooney who has been our calendar chairperson for 13 months and who continued doing this even while suffering a bout of pneumonia. She also reported that Kathy Green, Gemboree chairperson, has been recovering at home from ankle surgery and has another nine weeks that she has to be off her feet.

Membership – Tom Parker reported 47 members and 3 guests present. Tom Parker acknowledged John Hayes who has been making our name tag/badges and now cannot keep up with the new software. He needs assistance and we need someone to volunteer.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell stated that we continue to need hosts during the week at the museum. Hosts will require a key and instructions, which Duane can provide; please contact him.

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FGMS Minutes (continued)

Curator – Sean Price announced that he will be stepping down as Curator and that Larry Ellert will take over this position. He reported that they have made significant progress on museum inventory.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported that he has written an article for our newsletter and has picked up brochures. He urged members to volunteer at the museum stating that not only do we need hosts but that all manner of things could be done such as vacuuming, pulling weeds, dusting, etc. He asked us to think about what we have done in our past careers and how we could utilize that knowledge to benefit the club.

Gift Shop – Anamay Rossomando reported the gift shop continues to restock.

Gemboree – Norman Holbert is absent this evening and Kathy Green is recovering from ankle surgery. Arlon Eldridge reported that the show will be July 26, 27 and 28 with set-up on Thursday, July 25.

Workshop – Cy Amrich stated he will be moving soon. John Hayes is coordinating classes for the workshop. He is starting a new cabochon class with sapphires and rubies. Those wanting to participate must have taken the regular cabbing class first. There is a sign-up sheet for this new class and John indicated he wants to see how many might be interested. He introduced a new member, Matt Castor, who may be able to serve as a faceting instructor.

Historian – Ron Rossomando introduced himself as the club's historian.

Newsletter/Publications – Any members with items of interest may email them to fgmseditor@gmail.com. Stacy Walbridge reminded everyone the newsletter deadline is Tuesday, July 9.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon stated the next field trip is 07/19 to Diamond Hill, SC.

Tours/Education – Marsha Harmon and Ron Rossomando recently hosted 21 visitors from the Waynesville Nutrition Center.

Secretary – Susan Fritz introduced herself and also mentioned that she is the club's Sunshine Lady. She asked to be contacted if anyone knew of a member who was ill, in the hospital or who may have had a death or injury in their family so that she could send a card on behalf the membership.

New Business

Jane Morgan announced that starting July 1, the museum will be participating in "Where's Waldo" along with several other downtown businesses.

Jerry Mason, cabochon instructor, presented Cindy Pease with a certificate of completion. Her stones are on display at the back of the room. It was also mentioned that Cindy has volunteered and completed lots of landscape work outside the museum. Thank you, Cindy!

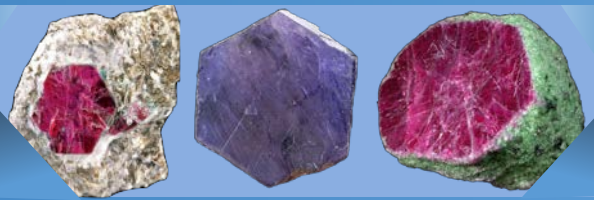


Jerry Mason Awarding a Cabochon Certificate to Cindy Pease with her work on display (below)



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Jerry Mason announced he is holding cabbing classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Jane Morgan thanked Mike Gillen and Patti Nichols for providing refreshments this evening.

Door prize winning tickets were drawn.

Kathi Walbridge introduced Dr. Bill Witherspoon, geologist, as tonight's guest speaker. He conducted a walk at Black Rock Mountain State Park earlier this afternoon.

Lake Holland made a motion for adjournment seconded by Diane Mason. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Jane Morgan at 7:10 p.m.

River drainage basin 1,500 feet below the overlook. The Gneiss formed over a billion years ago.



Bill Witherspoon providing an overview of North Georgia geologic features.



The "3 Wise Men" overseeing meeting setup
Jerry Mason, John Hayes, and George Fritz



Stephanie Brundage Deborah Wright (hidden), Kathi Walbridge, and Marsha Harmon with Bill Witherspoon overlooking the Tallulah River drainage basin.

BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN

Stacy Walbridge

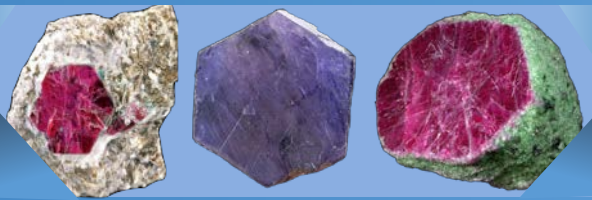
Preceding the June 27th meeting, at 3:00 PM, five club members traveled to Black Rock Mountain State Park to meet Bill Witherspoon, where he provided a geological overview of the Biotite Gneiss outcrop. Multiple folding events are clearly visible adjacent to the visitor's center as well as the Tallulah



Visible folding of the Gneiss interspersed with pegmatite

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UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

Marsha Harmon

DMC in July: There will be a field trip to Diamond Hill Quartz Mine on Friday July 19. Those wanting to go need to sign up, sign a waiver, and be a member of our club. This sight is known for quartz crystals in the form of amethyst, smoky, skeletal, clear, and milky. More rare minerals include beryl and cacoxenite have also been found. A signup sheet is posted on the back board of the museum and waivers are there also. The information there will answer most all of your questions. If you are interested in joining in a car pool leaving from the museum, be there before 7:30 AM. You are responsible for your equipment needs but Marsha does have some for borrowing. Call Marsha with additional questions 369-7262.

handle these items unless given permission by the owner.



Rob Henderson-Nancy Hopp



Gary Galbrecht-Lara Jackson

NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM

Diane Mason

Six strong and very capable students are almost finished with this year's beginning or WIRE I class. This was a 40 hour class. Three men and three women have been working very hard and learning a lot.



Larry Ellert- Cindy Pease



Diane Mason Instructing will be completed before the next meeting and these students will have their finished projects on display for all to see. There will also be finished products from the cabochon class.

A couple have missed a class, but very quickly made a date to make up their missed work. Thank you guys for caring and being so responsible. This class

These displays are the results of many hours of hard work and we ask that you respect the request not to

EDUCATION /TOURS

Marsha Harmon/Ron Rossomando

Eight ladies from the Waynesville Nutrition Center visited our Museum on July 21 and apparently we are the hot ticket in several senior group trip plans. Ron Rossomando became an on bus guide explaining some of the history and facts surrounding the Museum. The ladies left with smiles and bags with our gift shop treasures. We appreciate our own members who have been passing the word about us to area senior groups!

On behalf of the Field Trip and Tours/Education Committee you are asked to remember our clubs need for volunteers especially during these busy months. July and August seem to be peak times for us so please help us out as you can.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GEM AND MINERAL MUSEUM OF FRANKLIN

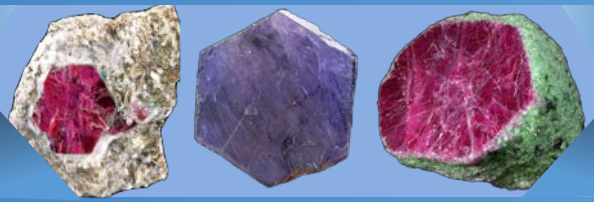
Helen Coe, April 1976

Winnie Dalen Ketchem, February 1996

Founder's Day was November 10, 1971 when a group of interested rock hounds decided to form a

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Gem and Mineral Club. They met at the Macon Savings and Loan Building basement on West Main Street. Mr. Dick Chmelick was the driving force with help from the Chamber of Commerce Director, Mr. M. R. Doster. On February 28, 1972 a Charter of Incorporation was issued. The official name became The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. Inc.

By December 1972, the membership listed 102 adults and 15 minors. The financial report gave a balance of \$231.59.

Early in 1973 several members had an idea to create a museum to help promote the ideas of the society. They set their sights on the old jail, which was no longer in use. Permission to occupy the old jail building for a Gem and Mineral Museum was secured by two ladies who would later become Presidents of our society, Mrs. Ruth Davis and Mrs. Betty Lindner.

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 Macon County and the General Public.

Members set about securing funds for a museum by asking local merchants and interested persons to pledge \$50 or \$100 in return for a plaque name on our wall. 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 \$700.

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.

Removing cell doors with picks and mallets, old wiring and older plumbing and toilets and shower stalls then shoveling it down to the dump filled the following days and weeks. Repairing a leaking roof, patching plaster walls, painting over graffiti of an offensive nature, new wiring and painting done by the Job Corps boys got the basic structure ready.

Nine display cases were built and display rooms wired, light fixtures and heaters installed along with 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 2,000 hours of labor, and \$2,500, 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.

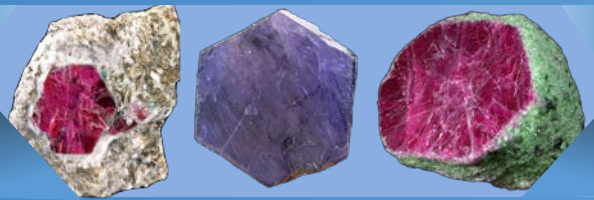
On June 30, 1974 an Open House was held and approximately 200 interested persons attended, many of whom were impressed by what had been done, and our members were proud of their results. The museum was closed for the winter on November 1, 1974. During the five months that it was open – 3,207 persons 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 January 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 Native American artifact were again loaned to the Native American Room for display.

The museum was opened for its second season on May 3, 1975. Again an Open House was held on

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June 29 with approximately 150 people attending. The Gift Shop was an added attraction for many persons who visited the museum, and for 1975 it contributed over \$1,000 to the museum funds. \$190 was donated by visitors, some of the 3,947 who signed our guest Book and who came from 45 States and 12 foreign lands. The museum was closed for the winter on November 1, 1975.

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. Cabochon and Faceting Classes were started in March 1976 and have become quite popular with the students – our eager-to-learn members.

2019 Meeting/Event Schedule

July 18th -Ice Cream Social -Show & Tell. We'll provide the ice cream. You provide the toppings and the stories. Bring your favorite rock and tell us what it is, where it came from, and why it is important to you.

July 21st - The July Barbeque will be July 21st (Sunday) at the big pavilion on the backside of the community center past the pool and tennis courts. It is the same road as the Factory and The Performing Arts Building. We will plan to eat around 1:30. We need help cooking, setting up and side dishes. There is a signup sheet at the Museum.

August 29th – Club Elections/Kim Cochran

September 26th - Officer Installation and Banquet

October 31st - TBD

November 14th - TBD

December 14th - End of Year Banquet/Rock Bingo

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. Please remember us when planning your estate.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Franklin Gem & Mineral Showcase Gemboree - Faceters Frolic 2019

26-28 July 2019: Franklin, North Carolina
Sponsored by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin. 9am to 7pm Friday and Saturday, 10am to 4pm Sunday. \$2 admission, children under 12 free. \$1 off tickets available around town and at the Chamber's offices.
Robert C. Carpenter Community Center
1288 Georgia Road, Franklin, NC

24-28 July 2019: Franklin, North Carolina
Echo Valley Gem Show - The Echo Valley Gem & Mineral Show provides the attendees with an opportunity to explore wholesale and retail fashion accessories, gift merchandise, lapidary, beads, antique & estate beads, gemstone, glass, crystal, ball beads, metal beads, tools, jewelry, buttons, lampwork, seed beads, pearls, and more.
6456 Sylva Road, Franklin, NC 28734

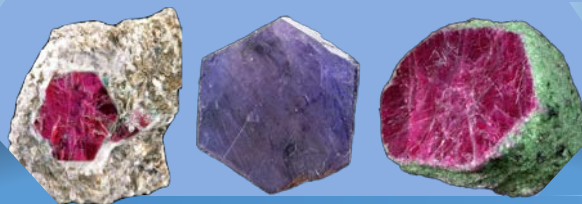
25-28 July 2019: Franklin, North Carolina
G&LW Wholesalers
Watauga Festival Center
6295 Sylva Road, Franklin, NC
Advance registration:
<https://adiregisterme.com/login.php>

24-28 July 2019: Franklin, North Carolina
Highlands Road Gem Show - One of the area's longest-running and most popular gem shows is the Highlands Road Gem Show. The Highlands Road Show is a retail show, open to the public. Admission is free. Dealers come from across the United States and feature a wide range of products. Daily 9-5, with many dealers available before and after these hours.

**August Newsletter Deadline is
Tuesday, August 20, 2019**

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Word Search on Museum History

(Answers in next month's Newsletter)

B
W P Y
M A J T R
I L G J K S C
O R R F A Z O I V
M M H A A G S B G S J
A L U Q R H O C O Q M E I
E N Y F T J C N F H S B B U X
H E Y E I H I O O O P S N I W Q U
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D P E N E J J A H V W E Y G D I U
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WORD LIST

ARTIFACTS
BAKESALE
CABOCHON
COMMISSIONERS
DISPLAYS
FACETING
FOUNDER
FOUNDERSDAY
FUNDS
GIFTSHOP
JAIL
JOBCORPS
PLAQUES

The Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on July 18th
at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South),
Franklin.

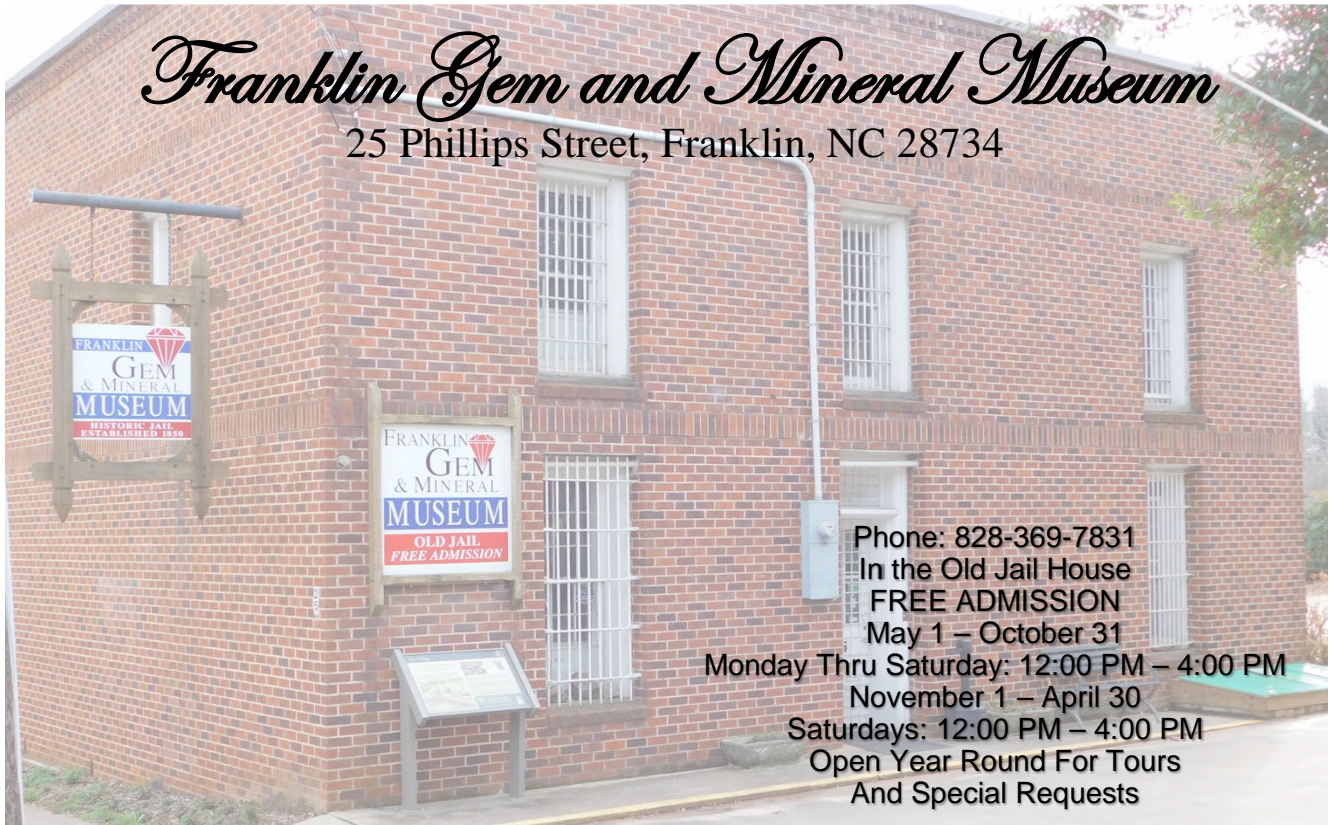
Ice Cream Social and Show & Tell

We'll provide the ice cream. You provide the toppings and the stories.

FGMS Board meets the Tuesday before the regular meeting at 6:30 at the Museum

Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum

25 Phillips Street, Franklin, NC 28734



Phone: 828-369-7831

In the Old Jail House

FREE ADMISSION

May 1 – October 31

Monday Thru Saturday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

November 1 – April 30

Saturdays: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Open Year Round For Tours

And Special Requests

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

fgmseditor@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734

