THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

February 2022 Newsletter
50th Anniversary

WWW.FGMM.ORG

In This Issue

Cover Photograph – 48 ½ lb Corundum Specimen in the Museum. Story inside

PRESIDENT's REPORT

Well we did it! This month our society is 50 years old. Everyone is invited to an anniversary party during our regular meeting this Feb. 24 at 6:00 pm. Our society has really come a long way since we started in 1972. Many people have put in an effort to make the Society what it is today. Fred Plesner will give a talk on the history of our club. If you have any tidbit's relating to the club please share them with us during the meeting.

Mark

February General Meeting Notes

The meeting was opened by Al Pribble, Vice President, in place of Mark Laing. Kathi Walbridge, Treasurer, reported that finances were good and that we are operating in the black. Norm Holbert reported that he placed an ad for the May Gemboree in Rock and Gem magazine. The Gemboree will be coming up sooner than you think and volunteers are needed. Mike and Bushy Hartman were recognized for their outstanding support of the museum, opening every weekend over the past several months, organizing the gift shop, and cleaning where needed. Without their support the museum would not have been open this winter. For their volunteer efforts they were awarded well deserved Certificates of Appreciation and a hearty round of applause from the members. Al Pribble reported that 2 scholarships were approved by the Board of Directors, one to Denise Shields 6th grade science class for soil testing kits and one to Denise Gibbs' 6th grade science class for fluorescent material both at Mountain View Intermediate School. Larry Ellert, Museum Manager, reported that the locks were changed at the museum and to see him if you needed a key.

Bushy Hartman, Mike Hartman presented Certificates of appreciation by Al Pribble.

Editor's Note: In recognition of our 50th anniversary there are a few historical articles included in this issue. They were uncovered by our Historian, Ron Rossomando.

Faceting Class in Progress

Under the careful eye and instruction of John Hayes, Mike Hartman is learning the intricacies of faceting.

Mike Hartman adjusting a facet angle

And Inspecting the results.

The Happy Miner Origins

In every issue of the newsletter since 1974 a graphic of the Happy Miner has appeared. In case you were wondering about the history of the image Ron Rossomando located a brief description of its origins and wanted to share it with the members.

The Happy Miner first appeared on the cover of our 1974 newsletter. The Happy Miner was created by Ed Lindner and his brother-in-law, Frank Hiedt. Ed was a graphic designer from Chicago and the husband to the then Society President Elizabeth Lindner. They printed 4,000 cover pages and contributed them to the museum. The Society paid for the plates and postage. The Happy Miner remained unchanged until 2013 when John Hayes added color to the Miner.

MAY GEMBOREE UPDATE

At the end of the January meeting Chandra Coffee volunteered to chair the May Gemboree. Relatively new to the club, she has a well of enthusiasm and is looking for a lot of member

support. Chandra has outlined several jobs that will need coordinators and supporters. This year we are going to have one individual in charge of each activity with preferably two additional members helping. The lead individuals will be responsible for signing up volunteers to cover the show. If you have an interest leading one of these tasks please let Chandra know at the next meeting. The jobs requiring leaders are:

Club Hosts
Set up and tear down
Cabochon Demonstration
Wire Wrapping demonstration
Ticket takers
Vendor Sitters (Sit in for a vendor when they need to use the facilities or get something to eat)
Member Displays
Security (We may need to supplement the night guard with a couple hours before the show opens and after it closes.

Mark Laing has agreed to pull some nice museum specimens for display during the show and Jane Morgan is working on the raffle item.

There are still a lot of details to work out (discounted member tables, painted rocks for prizes, kids scavenger hunt, packaged snacks and drinks for sale, knapping demonstrations, etc. so stay tuned.)

UPCOMING DMC FIELD TRIP

An Official Field Trip of the Mobile Rock & Gem Society (Mobile, AL) (HOST)

SUNDAY, March 20, 2022
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Eastern
Patty Construction Quarry
7525 Hwy 27, Summerville GA

NOTE: DMC field trips will continue to be planned and scheduled, but may be cancelled or rescheduled pending COVID-19 status.

TRIP: The March 2022 SFMS DMC Field Trip is sponsored by the Mobile Rock & Gem Society to collect Summerville Agate at the quarry in Summerville Georgia. This site has been a long-time favorite of many collectors. The agate forms within Mississippian age chert as delicate concentric bands. Colors are predominantly gray and red.

COLLECTING: Material is generally found by simply surface collecting, although there are plenty of large pieces and boulders for those so inclined to break them apart.

BRING: Eye protection is a must for anyone wishing to break apart material with a rock hammer, or sledge, or are nearby someone else doing so! Things, such as a hammer, chisels, scratching tools, pry bars, buckets, small ground shovels and rakes, paper to wrap specimens, sunscreen, bug spray, food and drinks, sturdy shoes, and gloves. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pail of water is sometimes handy for dipping and identifying the better material. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material.

REQUIREMENTS: ALL participants will be required to sign a waiver of liability before being allowed into the collection area.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: THIS IS AN ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR ANY OF THE MACHINERY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY JEOPARDIZE FUTURE FIELD TRIPS TO THIS SITE

FEE: There is no fee.

CHILDREN: Children are allowed but are required to have adult supervision at all times.

PETS: No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: There are no facilities on-site. The nearest restrooms are approximately 3 miles away in Summerville.

Contact Helen Rogers if you are interested in attending.

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
A BRIEF HISTORY

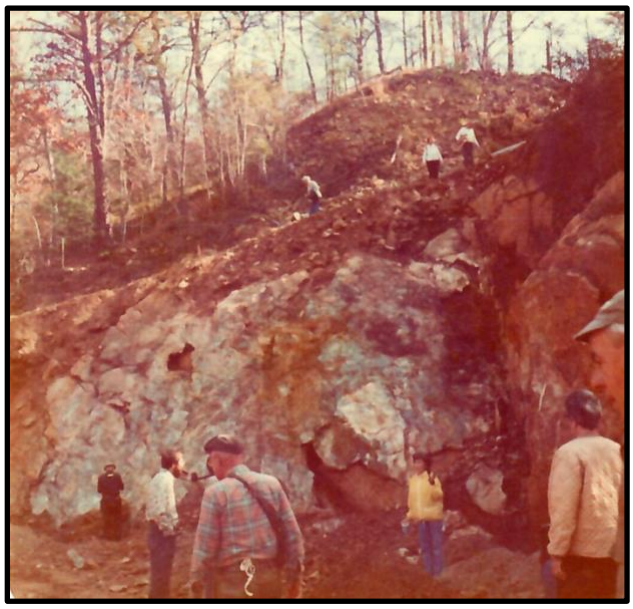
By Fred Plesner

The first meeting of individuals interested in forming ta Gem and Mineral Club was held on November 10, 1971 at the Macon Savings and Loan Building in the basement on West Main Street. Those “rockhounds” continued to meet informally until February of 1972.

An organizational meeting was held on Monday, January 31, 1972 under the leadership of Marion Doster at the Macon County Savings and Loan. This was immediately followed by a second meeting on February 3, 1972 with 21 charter members present. Acting with a sense of urgency they scheduled their 1st regular meeting for February 23, 1972 at the East Franklin Elementary School and elected Dick Chemlic their 1st president.

On February 28, 1972 a Charter of Incorporation was issued by the State of North Carolina and the official name became The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, N.C. INC. By December of 1972 the membership numbered 102 adults and 15 minors, with the financial report listing a balance of $231.59.

With the advent of warmer weather the society held their 1st field trip on April 23rd, 1972 at the 4-K Garnet Mine. They were obviously not deterred by the cold water.



Corundum Hill Field Trip - Oct. 1975

The Society, not having a permanent home, met at various places in those formative years and held their 1st Christmas Party at the VFW Hall.

Ruth Davis, our 2nd President, presented the idea of a museum to the County Commission with the understanding that the Society would do all the work and pay all the bills. The County Commission said yes to the proposal on January 2, 1973 and granted us a short term lease of 2 years.

Many supplies were donated and many a bake sale were held to raise the necessary funds. Dr. Joseph Sherman, later to serve as our 7th President, even held a special sale of some of his antiques. The display cases were designed by Herb Coe and Mr. T. E. Conner was nominated as our 1st curator. Mr. Conner had previously represented us at the 1st conference of the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies in Charlotte, NC from June 28 to July 1, 1972,

A contest was held to name the new museum and a prize awarded. The museum was publicly unveiled on May 25, 1974 and a formal opening was held on June 30, 1974. In 1980 the Fluorescent Room was opened and the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin NC was the subject of a four page article in the “Lapidary Journal”.

Museum Open House – June 30, 1974

The original lease for the “Old Jail” was to the Society. At that time we neither needed or used the entire building so a sub-lease was granted to the Macon County Art Association. This lease was to lead to conflict when the Society was granted a 25-year lease on the building in 1990 with an option to renew the lease.

Our Society and the Museum were growing and we needed additional space. To break the sub=lease held by the Macon County Art Association we paid the #3,000 in 1991 and $1,500 the following year. They then moved in to the “Old Scottie Drug Store.:

The 1st Gemboree was held in 1965 and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The Gemboree's were first held in the High School lunchroom, then moved to the Macon County Fairgrounds. In 1979 the Gemboree was moved to the Macon County Facilities Building. We acted as volunteers at the Gemborees and in 1980 we become co-sponsers. In 1981, the July Gemboree was ranked as one of the top shows in the notion by the dealers.

Some miscellaneous notes:

1. The Gem and Mineral Society complained when the 1st salted mine opened in 1975.
2. The Arrow Head Collection was donated by Tommy Angel. Tommy Angel was the discovered of "Angel Falls" in Venezula, the world's highest waterfall with a drop of 3,212 feet.
3. The Sea Shells (on display since 1994) were collected by Al & Marion Hall, Society memebbers, over a 20 year period while on scuba diving vacations.
4. Herb Coe, Museum Curator, was elected President of the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies in June of 1976.
5. In 1984, Bob Schmidt, Society member, cut the clargest cut stone from the Cowee Valley. He cut a 61 caret ruby from a 307 caret stone.
6. In October of 1992, Verna Parrish, Society member, found a 12.8 lb. sapphire in Buck Creek while on a field trip.

BENCH TIPS

by Bradford Smith

MAGNETIC TOOL BAR

An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip. They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about $5 each. See http://www.harborfreight.com and search on-"magnetic-holder"

My only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Determining the Age of Materials—Radiometric Dating

By Helen S. Rogers

A popular plot device in science fiction is time travel and the pitfalls of using it. For example, in HG Wells' story, 'The Time Machine', the main character, gains glimpses of the ancient past and its effects on a dystopian future. Movies have also capitalized on the time travel concept to drive narratives involving paradoxical outcomes as a result of changing the past, for example, 'Back to the Future' or the complex storylines described in the Marvel 'Infinity War' franchises.

Without access to a time machine or a black hole (that would require in depth understanding of the theory of relativity), traveling to the future isn't possible, for now. Instead, looking forward in time is relegated to observation of our present, knowledge of our past and projection into the future.

While relativity does not allow us to physically travel back in time, we can observe the past. The James Webb telescope launched on Christmas Day, 2021, may enable us to look further into the past than ever before. The telescope will measure ancient light from stars millions of light-years away, essentially becoming a time machine to view the birth of the cosmos.

Here on Earth, however, we use an elegant interplay of relative and absolute dating methods to measure the age of artifacts or rocks from our terrestrial past. Relative dating does not offer specific dates, it simply allows us to determine if an object is older than another. It places events in order without any measure of the age between events. Common relative dating techniques are stratigraphy (observation of the placement of objects in soil strata), seriation (observation of the change in styles of artifacts) and fluorine dating (measurement of the amount of fluorine absorbed by bones buried underground).

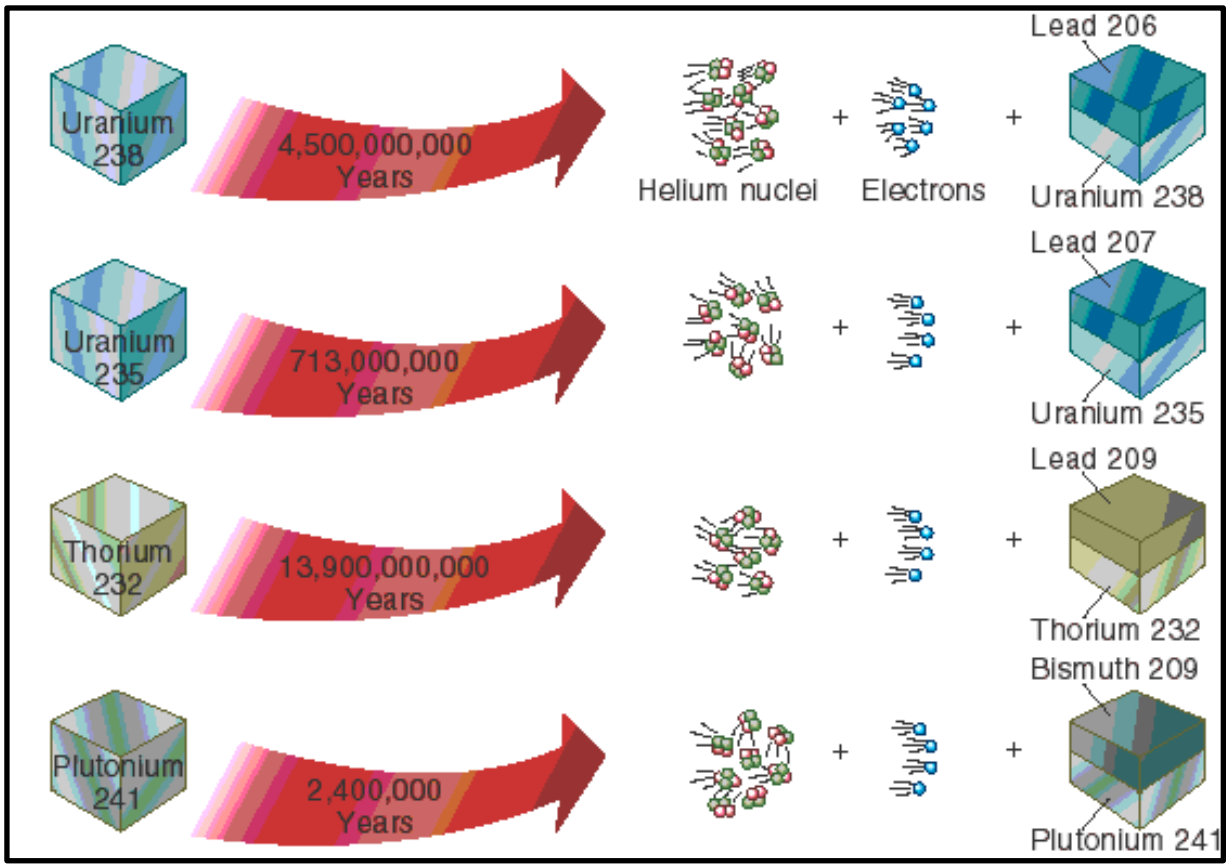
Most absolute dating methods determine the age of materials by measuring the ratio of long-lived radioisotopes to stable elements present in a material. Exceptions to radioisotope methods are obsidian hydration (measurement of the penetration of water into the surface of obsidian), tephrochronology (measurement of trace levels of elements present in ancient ash deposits) and magnetostratigraphy (determination of the magnetic polarity in ash samples and comparison with Earth's current magnetic field). While all are absolute dating methods, the methodology used relies on the content of the remains and whether they are archeological, paleontological or geological.

Archeological artifacts that contain carbon, for example, can be dated up to 55,000 years ago. Utilizing elements like uranium or potassium, fossilized plant and animal materials (paleontological remains) have been dated as far back as hundreds of millions of years ago. Some of the oldest rocks on Earth were formed about 3.5 billion years ago, but zircon crystals found in Australia have been dated to around 4.3 billion years old. So, based upon this, the geological age of the Earth itself is estimated to be 4.5 billion years old.

How does this work?

All atoms are made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. When the number of protons remains the same, but the number of neutrons changes, that atom is known as an isotope. An element and its isotope have the same chemical properties and the same atomic number. Isotopes, however, can be stable or unstable. If they are unstable, they will decay over time, and if that decay is in the form of energy (radiation) the isotope is known as a radioisotope.

A radioisotope will decay over time at a specific rate. This rate is called the half-life. The half-life is the amount of time it takes for half of the radiation being given off by the radioisotope to disappear. For some radioisotopes this may be on the order of milliseconds, and for others it can be in the thousands to millions of years.

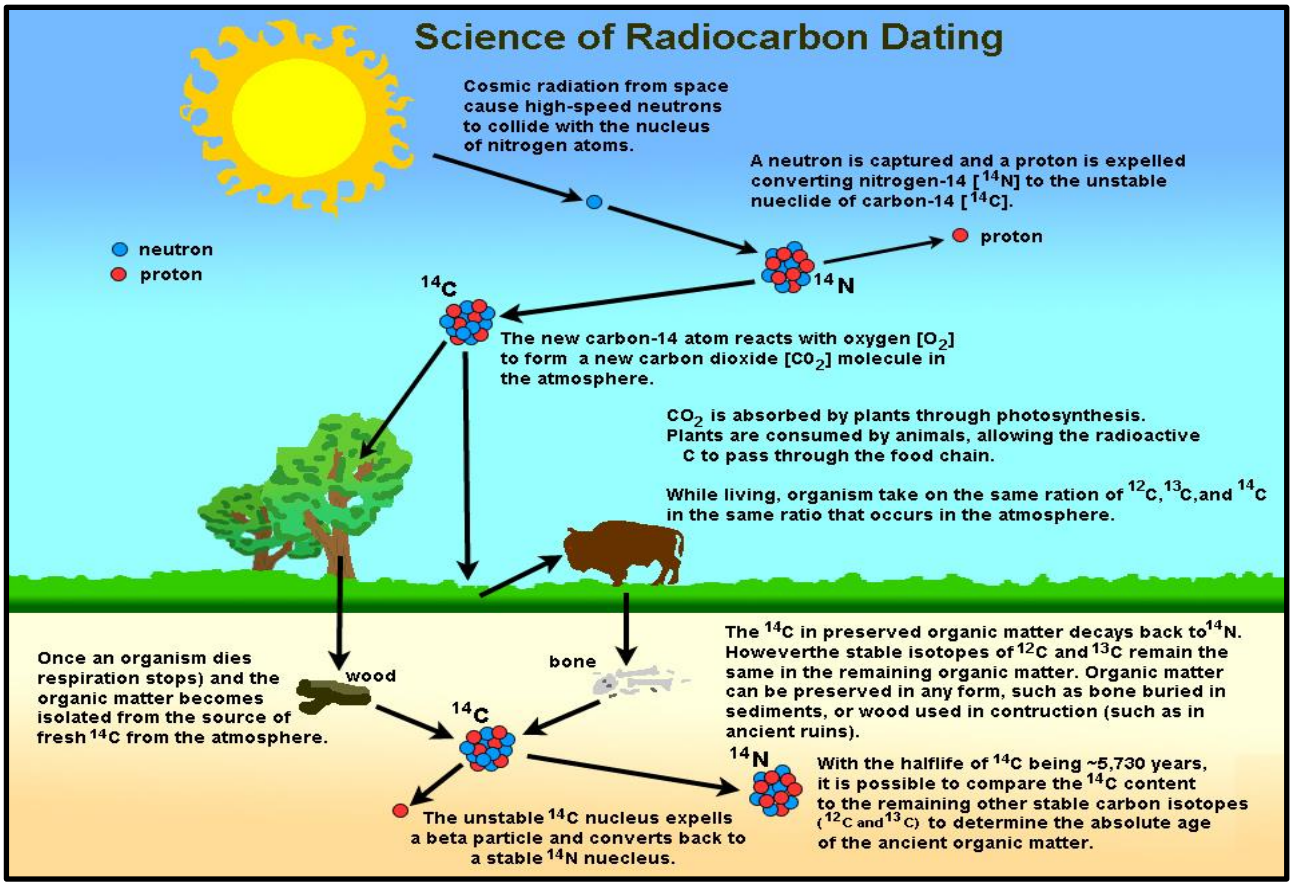


Graphic Courtesy of: https://www.geologyin.com/2015/02/radiometric-dating.html

This is the key to measuring age using radioisotopes and radiometric dating. If a material has measurable amounts of the radioisotope present, and a sensitive enough method is used, then its age can be determined using a ratio.

Let's take carbon as an example. A carbon atom has 6 protons and 6 neutrons, its atomic number is 6 (same as number of protons) and it has an atomic mass of 12 (6 protons + 6 neutrons). Carbon is present in all organisms on Earth and it has 15 different isotopes! Most of

these isotopes have very short lives, so we don't concern ourselves with them too much. The isotopes that tend to hang around for a little while are Carbon-13 (C13) and Carbon-14 (C14). Carbon-13 (6 protons and 7 neutrons) is a stable isotope, but very rare. Carbon-14 (6 protons and 8 neutrons) is not a stable isotope and will eventually decay. So where does it come from?



The science behind the radiocarbon absolute dating method
Graphic Courtesy of: https://geo.libretexts.org

Carbon-14 is produced in the atmosphere. Our atmosphere is made up of over 70% nitrogen, and when cosmic radiation bombards nitrogen (7 protons and 7 neutrons), nitrogen loses a proton and captures a neutron. So now, the atom has 6 protons and 8 neutrons. An atom with an atomic number of 6 is carbon, and with 8 neutrons, it is C14.

In the simplest example, let's say that C14 is part of a molecule of carbon dioxide. Plants take in carbon dioxide and incorporate it into sugars and starches that become part of that organism or gets consumed by other organisms. Over the organism's lifetime, the ratio of C12 to C14 remains constant. When the organism dies, however, the ratio of C12 to C14 begins to slowly change because no new carbon is being incorporated into the organism.

Radiometric dating can be used to determine age in different materials as long as the following is true: The radioisotope has a long enough half-life to ensure that it will be present in significant amounts at the time of measurement, the half-life is accurately known, and enough

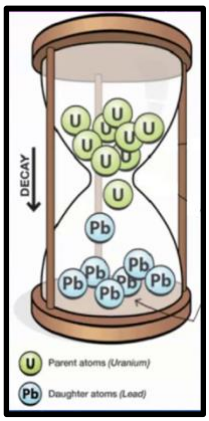
of the product is produced to be accurately measured and distinguished from the initial amount present in the material.

In the carbon example, high resolution mass spectrometry is used to measure the ratio of C12 to C14. Carbon-14 follows its half-life of 5,730 years, but since there is a distribution of carbon atom ages in any organism, the mean age (8,200 years) is used for calculations. As a material gets older, the less radioisotope remains to be measured. Because of this, radiocarbon dating is limited to 50-60,000 years, or about 10 half-lives.

Radiocarbon dating is very useful for dating human events, but what about older history, like paleontological (fossil record) and geological materials that were formed much, much earlier? These materials may or may not contain carbon, and even if they did, it is unlikely that sufficient C14 would remain to determine their age. In the case of very old, ancient samples we must look to radioisotopes with longer half-lives. In the table below, several of these alternative radioisotopes are listed for measuring the age of inorganic materials.

Alternative Radioisotopes

Parent	Daughter
Carbon 14	Nitrogen 14
Uranium 238	Lead 206
Uranium 235	Lead 207
Thorium 232	Lead 208
Rubidium 87	Strontium 87
Potassium 40	Argon 40



Zircon crystals contain Uranium-238 and -235 which decay to lead isotopes (Pb-206 and Pb-207, respectively) over relatively long half-lives, As described earlier, the age of zircon crystals were used to help provide a date for the age of the Earth. Since there are two uranium isotopes decaying to two different lead isotopes, there is a means of using the result from one radiometric analysis to verify the age of the other.

Rubidium-87, with its very long half-life (48.8 billion years), doesn't seem like it should exist on Earth, however it is present in the crust, having been deposited there by magma. Remember that not all of a particular radioisotope are the same age, but are rather a distribution of ages. Rubidium-87 and its decay product Strontium-87 were present during stellar nucleosynthesis before the solar system was formed. So when this transition is measured, it is measuring something far older than our planet. Similarly, the decay of rare element Samarium-147 to Neodymium-143 with its very long half-life (106 billion years) can be traced to a similar genesis. Since these radioisotopes are so incredibly long lived, they can also be used to date cosmic materials like meteorites.

Potassium-Argon dating has a half-life of 1.25 billion years. Rocks displaying this transition are most likely terrestrial in origin, and often associated with a very young Earth and her volcanic activity.

In short, radiometric analyses can be applied to different materials by measuring different elemental transitions/decay. Because there is no one method that can be used to measure every sample in the same way, relative and absolute dating methods are used with finesse to fill in missing details by overlapping with other techniques to provide a clearer picture of the past, both terrestrial and cosmic.

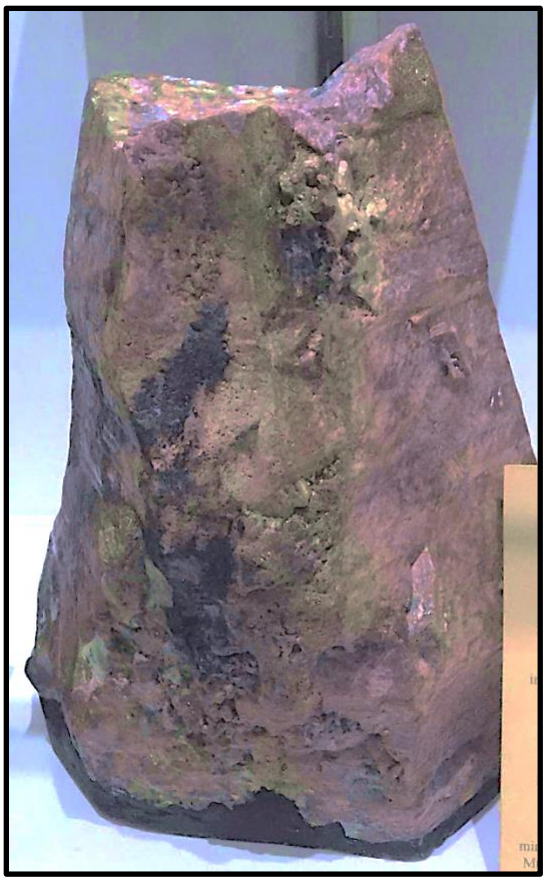
Carl Sagan said, “The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself.” The raw materials that make up our physical bodies were forged in the bellies of distant, long-extinguished stars. Radiometric analyses gives us a glimpse into our own terrestrial past and a link to our more distant past in the cosmos.

History Behind The 2 ¼ Ruby
(and other Corundum crystals)

The Museum acquired the Ruby along with two Corundum pieces in the showcase on March 31, 1978. It was a package deal; a deal that almost did not happen.

The 48 ½ lb. Corundum Crystal, the largest ever found in Macon County, was unearthed around 1988 at the famous Corundum Hill Mine. The crystal found its first home with Miss Hulda Burdick, a relative of George Bidwell, the mine owner. The crystal was somehow lost and just a rumor for almost ninety years until it was rediscovered in 1977. Mr. Bob sloan, Editor of the Franklin Press, and grandson of George Bidwell, found the specimen while emptying the attic of the old homestead prior to a sale. It was in an old wooden box for almost a century.

He sold it to Mr. Harry Moses, who held it for a while, then traded it to Steve and Ted Higdon as part of a land deal. Ted Higden had offers to sell the crystal to out-of-state interests, but his desire was to keep it in Macon County. He approached the Gem and Mineral Society to purchase it but the asking price was too high for their consideration.



48 ½ lb. Corundum

Now the rest of the story: The board was hesitant about spending such a large sum on one specimen and Ted Higden was anxious was anxious to sell it. Well they went round and round for almost a year until Ted Higden was about to sell to an outsider. In comes John Hayes (yes, our John Hayes) who convinced the board that it was a good qcquision and also negotiated a fair price for the crystal.

Not only was he successful in negotiating the purchase of the 48 ½ lb. Corundum Crystal, but included in the deal was the 2 ¼ lb. Ruby, and the 7 ½ lb. white/blue corundum specimen. The final price took half of the Society's savings. Well everyone was happy and the specimens were able to stay here in Macon County in our Museum. Thanks to John's negotiating skills we were able to make the purchase of what has become the cornerstone(s) of our Museum.

2 ¼ lb. Ruby

7 ½ lb. White/Blue Corundum

UPCOMING SHOWS

February 26, 2022; Lakeland, FL
2022 Annual show;
Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society;
First Presbyterian Church; 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.; Sat. 9-4:30;
adults $3, students, children and teachers free; door prizes, Spin & Win Mineral Wheel, kids' Treasure Dig, demonstrations, educational displays, silent and Chinese auctions, dealers with rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts, hobby supplies, lapidary demonstrations, wire wrapping, cabochon making.

March 4-6; Athens, GA
6th Annual Spring Athens Rock, Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show

More than a two dozen professional dealers of all things mineral, gemstone, jewelry, and fossil.
Classic Center's Grand Hall 8, in downtown Athens, Georgia.
$6 tickets for adults 16+, kids free! Admission good for all three days. Tickets are available now online, no cash will be accepted at the door, per Classic Center policy.

March 4- 6: Largo, FL
Show and sale; Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society; Largo Event Center (formerly Minn Reg Hall), 6340 126 Ave N; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Donations: $5/adults good for all 3 days, children under 6 FREE, students with parent or ID card $4, $1 off with coupon; Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Fossils, Beads, Door Prizes, Exhibits and more; contact Bill Schmidt, 5622 Orange Rd, Seminole, FL 33772; Email: sgamsgemshow@gmail.com;

March 11-13; Agusta, GA
Annual show; Aiken - Augusta Gem and Mineral Society; Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; $4 per adult/$6 weekend pass, cash at door; under 12 free with adult; Dealers: • Gold • Silver • Fine and everyday jewelry • Loose gemstones • Cabochons • Crystals • Minerals • Fossils. • Meteorites • Beads • And more to intrigue, treasure, and collect Member displays • Lapidary demos • Hourly door prizes • Educational resources • Treasure dig • Grab bags; contact Vincent Verrecchio ; Email: vincent.verrecchio@gmail.com

March 25-27; Lexington, KY
Bluegrass Gem & Mineral Club of Kentucky
Clarion Convention Center, 1950 Newtown Pike
Lexington, Kentucky (Exit 115 I-75)
$5 admission, children under 12 are free.
Stunning 42 inch Amethyst cathedral Grand Prize

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

February Board Meeting – 2022 Budget & Gemboree Planning
4:00 pm Tuesday, February 22th, 2022

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

February General Meeting
6:00 pm Thursday, February 24th, 2022

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

Newsletter Deadline for March is 3/23/2022

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Website

While looking for newsletter article ideas on the internet a while ago I noticed that the SFMS website has moved and taken on a new look. When you visit the site you'll notice a map on the bottom of the page. This map shows the geographic location of Gem and Mineral Clubs in our region. Zooming in on Franklin, you will see our club's name and by clicking on the red pin above our name a small window opens with general information about our club. The website is still under construction so not all regional clubs are shown but there is a lot of general information on the site. The website is located at: https://www.southeastfed.org/

Looking Ahead to 2022

The past two years have been difficult for everyone with our club being no exception. But 2022 is looking up and full of promise. In person meetings are planned, DMC is restarting field trips, and the workshop will be opening soon. (Many thanks to Larry Ellert for fixing the water leak!)

As we look forward to 2022 we have a need for a Secretary and Program Coordinator. If you have an interest in either of these positions please speak to Mark Laing. You don't need any experience, just a willingness to support the club. You will get a lot of help from the members.

We also need members to volunteer to provide snacks and drinks for our meetings. The meeting break is a great time to meet and socialize with other members so please consider volunteering to bring snacks and drinks to a meeting (you will be reimbursed for your expenses).

2022 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
February 24, 2022	General Meeting	6:00 PM	50th Anniversary	Club Provided
March 31, 2022	General Meeting	6:00 PM	TBD	Mike and Bushy Hartman
April 28, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Volunteers Needed
--- May 13-15, 2022 Gem Show ---				
May 26, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Volunteers Needed
June 30, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Volunteers Needed
July 28, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Ice Cream Social	
--- July 29-31, 2022 Gemboree ---				
August 25, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Club Officer Election	Volunteers Needed
September 29, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	New Club Officer Installation	Pizza or ???
--- October ??, 2022 Leaf Lookers Gemboree ---				
October 27, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Volunteers Needed
November 17, 2022	General Meeting	6:00 PM	TBD	Volunteers Needed
December 17,2022	Holiday Party	11:00 AM		

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
Past President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
Vice President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
2nd Vice President: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)
Assistant Treasurer: Charlotte Frye, (727-455-1849)
Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Director (2023): Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Director (2023): Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Director (2022): Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Director (2022): Charlotte Frye, (828-200-6023)

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

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Gift Shop Assistant: Bushy Hartman (850-868-1576)
Museum Workshop: Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Field Trip Coordinator: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)
Program Coordinator: Vacant
Museum Calendar: Vacant
Gemborees: Chandra Coffee (706-982-0402)
Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)
Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge, [fgmseditor@gmail.com]