



51 Years  
1972 - 2023

The Mountain Gem

April 2023

# THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

April 2023 Newsletter

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WWW.FGMM.ORG

Cover photograph by Reagan Williams. New Mineral Sculpture in front of WCU Science Bldg  
Do you know what it is?



**From the President**  
**Stacy Walbridge**



Spring is here and we're getting ready to kick off our summer schedule. May will be a busy month with expanded Museum hours, our Gem Show, a field trip to the Ducktown Basin Museum/Lost Sea Adventure, and a Streets of Franklin event on the 20<sup>th</sup>. With all these activities there are numerous opportunities for you to help your club. You can volunteer by signing up at the General Meeting next week, at the Museum, or online by going to FGMM.Org and selecting the "Members" tab.

We have a new feature outside the Museum that I recommend you check out when you sign up to volunteer. With all the rock donations that we've recently received there just wasn't room in the Museum so we've taken some of the donations and created a "spoils" pile for the members. See the enclosed newsletter article for more information.

See you at the next meeting.

Stacy Walbridge  
President

**March General Meeting Minutes**  
**March 30, 2023**  
**Thursday 6:30 pm**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Stacy Walbridge.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the February minutes posted in the March Newsletter was made by Marsha Harmon, seconded by Matt Castor, and approved by the members.

**Treasurer:** Kathi Walbridge. ([FGMM.Treasurer@mail.com](mailto:FGMM.Treasurer@mail.com)). Income exceeded expenses for the month. Gift shop sales were steady for the days the museum was open, donations were low with the exception of the donations by the Red Hat ladies.

**Gem Show:** Chandra Fox. ([FGMShows@gmail.com](mailto:FGMShows@gmail.com)), Sean Price ([blackpinesgeology@gmail.com](mailto:blackpinesgeology@gmail.com)). Vendors are still signing up – both large rooms at the Carpenter Building are almost full. Signup sheets for Gem Show volunteers at the back of the room; your support is critical to the success of the



show. There is also an online signup sheet on our website at fgmm.org (click on “More” then “Members”).

**Museum Manager:** Larry Ellert. ([clellert@yahoo.com](mailto:clellert@yahoo.com)). Received quote for replacement of 50 display cabinets in Melamine. Waiting on quote for Oak. To everyone thank you for your cooperation in letting me know when entering or leaving the Museum.

**Gift Shop,** Anamay Rossomando ([anamay@verizon.net](mailto:anamay@verizon.net)). Vicki Knisley ([dinkymanor@yahoo.com](mailto:dinkymanor@yahoo.com)). Vicki reported that she was getting familiar with the merchandise and adjusting the sales items to reduce clutter.

**Museum Curator:** Mark Laing. ([mw.laing@hotmail.com](mailto:mw.laing@hotmail.com)) Absent.

**Workshop:** Matt Castor. ([combatflyfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:combatflyfisher@yahoo.com)). Working on replacing the motor on one of the 10-inch slab saws.

**Refreshments:** Charlene Galbrecht ([charlenesg@bellsouth.net](mailto:charlenesg@bellsouth.net)), Thank you to Tamara Zwinak for substituting for tonight’s refreshments. Charlene & Gary will not be in town for the May Gem Show.

**Education/Tours:** Marsha Harmon. ([harmonmarsha06@gmail.com](mailto:harmonmarsha06@gmail.com)). Upcoming Tours: Mountain Discovery School, Bryson City, 4th Grade on 17th April and Heritage Christian Academy, Sylva, 3 and 4th Grade on 2nd May. Also stated that no one had volunteered to host these tours and the Walbridge’s, Nancy McShane, the Pipitone’s and Helen Rogers then volunteered.

**Publicity:** Kim Price ([kprice@safetworksinc.com](mailto:kprice@safetworksinc.com)). Continuing to post “Museum Monday” to Instagram and Facebook. We are growing more Followers after each post. Has any thought been given to Waldo Wednesdays? If so, do we have a start date? I’ll start an advertisement on Facebook and Instagram to build up to Waldo Wednesdays. I’ve contacted my web-developer, Octave Marketing about Facebook Geo-Fencing. They can assist us with the entire process for about \$500 for a 150-mile radius. Because they are a Facebook partner, they receive a discount gaining us more coverage for a lower cost than doing it ourselves. I’d like to begin the Facebook Geo-Fencing for the Franklin Gem & Mineral Show as soon as possible in April. If there is anything specific that the committee would like to have me post besides the current ad, please provide it to



me this week. Is there any other publicity the Society or Museum would like to see happen?

**Newsletter Editor:** Stacy Walbridge (Interim). A Newsletter Editor is needed. Deadline for the April newsletter is April 17, 2023.

**Scholarships/By-Laws:** Al Pribble. ([alton36@gmail.com](mailto:alton36@gmail.com)) Still working on Bylaw revisions with John Hayes.

**Streets of Franklin:** Nancy McShane ([twfancy@yahoo.com](mailto:twfancy@yahoo.com)), The Spring Makers Market will be on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Future Vision:** Ron Rossomando. Absent. Kim Price. ([kprice@safetworksinc.com](mailto:kprice@safetworksinc.com)) Nothing to report.

**Programs:** Kim Price ([kprice@safetworksinc.com](mailto:kprice@safetworksinc.com)). The program for this Thursday will be "Cabbing & Faceting and a Brief Overview of Collecting in Arizona" presented by Stacy Walbridge. A certificate of appreciation will be given to the presenter. Coming up in April – We'd like to change the topic in order to promote the Franklin Gem & Mineral Show in May, if that committee would like us to. We'd also like to promote the field trip for May to Duck Town and the Lost Sea Adventure.

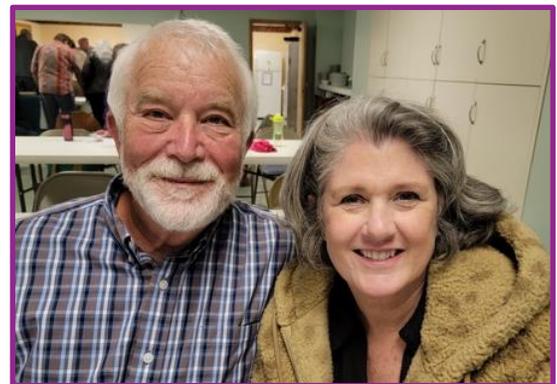
**Field Trips:** Sean Price ([blackpinesgeology@gmail.com](mailto:blackpinesgeology@gmail.com)) / Helen Rogers ([helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com](mailto:helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com)). The March field trip to the Consolidated Gold Mine and the Dahlenega Gold Museum was a big hit. The April field trip will be to Diamond Hill Mine on April 8<sup>th</sup> and the May field trip will be to Ducktown Basin Museum and Lost Sea adventure on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership:** Roberta & Leonard Pipitone ([RLPipitone@earthlink.net](mailto:RLPipitone@earthlink.net)). We're getting familiar with the committee. Attending: 36 members, 2 guests.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Stacy Walbridge will be hosting a rock party at his house on April 15<sup>th</sup> to clean and sort the large



Guests at the March 30 meeting of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society - Mark and Tae Nichols.



number of rock donations we've received over the past couple of months. Contact him if you're interested in helping.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, and approved at 6:55 p.m.

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### Faceting Class Completion

Photos and Article by Kim Price

Kathi Walbridge completed the faceting class. She created some beautiful faceted pieces which were displayed on the Show & Tell table. As is the tradition for those completing the course, one of her pieces was donated as the first door prize for the meeting. It was a royal blue glass faceted piece won by Leonard Pipitone. Pictured here, Kathi received her Certificate of Achievement from Brad Fleszar, the instructor. Congratulations Kathi.



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### April Program

The program for the April 27th meeting will feature information about the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society's upcoming May Field Trip locations. We will be presenting information about the rich copper mining history of far Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee to be visited at the Ducktown Basin Museum and Burra Burra Copper Mine, and for some underground fun and exploration, the Lost Sea Adventure in Tennessee. Kim Price will also share a few interesting geological pictures from her trip to Japan.

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### Field Trips

By Sean Price

**Graves Mountain:** This is not an official trip for our society but, Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA, will be open for collecting from April 28-30th 8am-6pm. Everyone is welcome and donations for the care of the mountain is appreciated upon arrival and sign in. There are two main collecting areas on the mountain; the Main Pit where you might find Rutile, Kyanite, Lazulite, Iridescent Hematite,



Pyrophyllite, Pyrite, Ilmenite, Fuchsite, Barite, Sulfur, Variscite, blue quartz and quartz crystals; and the Back Pit where there is Iridescent Hematite, Lazulite, and Pyrophyllite

More information about Graves Mountain is available at:

<https://www.gaminerall.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>

A cook out will be held at the Cullers Inn in Lincolnton GA Friday April 28th at 5pm and will be hosted by Bob Summers. Everyone is welcome.

### Ducktown Basin Museum & Lost Sea Adventure May 13, 2023

**Ducktown Basin Museum:** In Tennessee's southeastern corner, on the site of the old Burra Burra Mine, the unique heritage of one of America's great copper mining communities comes to life once again.



The Ducktown Basin Museum is located on the historic mine site, which was the headquarters for Tennessee Copper Company and Cities Service mining operations from 1899 through 1975. The site, now owned by the Tennessee Historical Commission, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983. The 16 structures remaining on the site include virtually all of the original mine buildings and outbuildings except for the headframe, which was demolished after the closing of the mine in 1958.

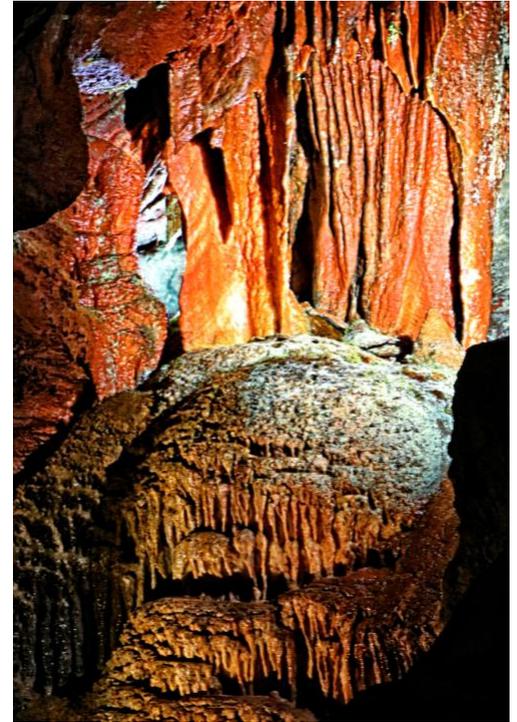


The mine office houses the museum's collection and is the only building permanently open to visitors. An audiovisual presentation provides a brief historical introduction to the museum and its collection, which includes artifacts, photographs, and displays depicting the industrial and cultural heritage of this former mining community. Larger artifacts are displayed on the grounds, where a collapsed

and flooded portion of the old Burra Burra mine works can still be seen from the fenced area bordering the parking lot. A free self-guided walking tour covers most of the primary structures on the site.



**Lost Sea Adventure (Photographs by Pamela Martin):** The Lost Sea adventure begins with a guided tour of the caverns. This involves a ¾ mile round-trip walk on wide sloping pathways. While touring the caverns and underground lake the guides will tell of the cavern’s exciting and colorful history. They will also explain the fascinating geological development of the immense cavern rooms and rare formations. At the bottom of the cave, you will take a boat ride on The Lost Sea, America’s Largest Underground Lake.



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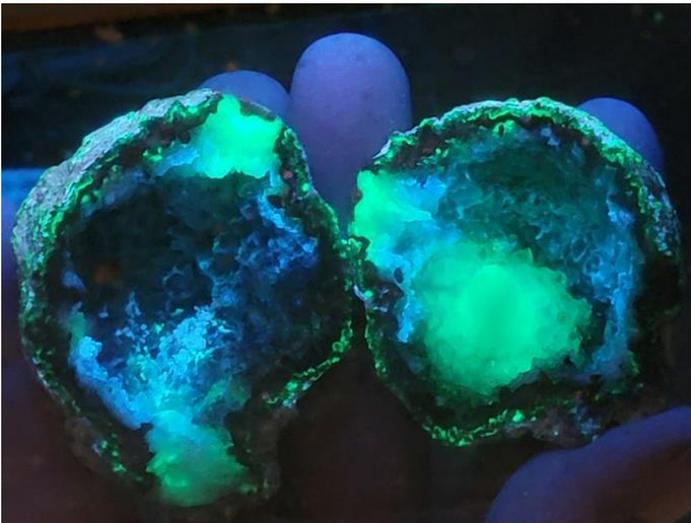
**February Field Trip Report**  
**Mineral & Lapidary Museum of Hendersonville**  
By Sean Price

Our society’s first official field trip of 2023 was to visit The Mineral and Lapidary Museum of Hendersonville, North Carolina. In attendance from the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society were Vicki Kinsley, Pam Martin, Kim Price, Sean Price, and Helen Rogers. We had the opportunity to share this excellent trip with members from the Gaston Gem and Mineral Club which was led by Dodany Garcia.





This was an educational field trip that we have been wanting to take for some time now. The Mineral and Lapidary Museum of Hendersonville is about one hour and thirty minutes by car from our museum on Phillips Street and is right in the middle of downtown Hendersonville on the bottom floor of the Henderson County History Center. The museum is managed by the Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society. The museum houses many beautiful specimens of minerals, crystals, fossils, and lapidary crafts. There are many well curated displays in the museum with a particular focus on large or very high-quality specimens that were donated by the founder of their society, Larry Hauser. Some of the display cases focus on minerals of North Carolina or fossils from around the world. Other display cases show off vibrant assortments of faceted and polished stones. There is even a case dedicated to coral and exotic shells.



earth elements to be used in the creation of the Edison light bulb. These crystals glow a soft yellow color under short-wave UV-light and hold a prominent position in the case.

Jerry Howe, a museum docent, informed our group that he was excited to see both clubs in attendance and that he made it a point to put out on display a dinosaur rib bone which was recently acquired by their museum for our enjoyment. He then sent us on a scavenger hunt to find it.

Much like our museum, the Hendersonville Mineral and Lapidary Museum hosts a fantastic fluorescent mineral display with an audio overview of the specimens in the case. Within this display there are zircon crystals from the area of Tuxedo in Henderson County where at one time noted mineralogist William E. Hidden (the namesake for the town and Mineral Hiddenite) was mining the zircons for their rare





One of the biggest draws for the Mineral and Lapidary Museum of Hendersonville is the geode cracking which is a part of their gift shop. Visitors of the museum may try their luck picking out a “coconut” geode and having one of the very knowledgeable staff members help them crack it open. Vicki and Kim both purchased geodes and had them cracked open. These geodes are from Chihuahua, Mexico. According to the staff, they formed from gas bubbles that were trapped deep underground from ancient volcanic eruptions.



Vicki and Kim were the first to see what the inside of those geodes looked like since they formed over 40 million years ago. Some of the minerals inside the geodes included quartz, either clear or amethyst, calcite, todorokite, and barite. Many of these even glowed a ghostly green under a UV-light. Everyone was thrilled with what they got. There is also a display case featuring many geodes that have been cracked open which show many of the possible minerals that can be found inside.

Sharing the field trip with the Gaston Gem and Mineral Club was a lot of fun. It was nice to see the members from their club and catch up. In the future, I hope that we can share other outings with them. The members of the

Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society also loved the idea of clubs teaming up and going on trips. Hopefully, we can have them come along on a trip soon too.

I wanted to include some testimonials from our members:



**Vicki:** “I really enjoyed the trip to Hendersonville’s gem museum. It’s rather small but very high quality and specimens very, very well displayed. Loved getting the geodes and cracking them right there!”

**Pam:** “Today was an excellent day trip, fascinating watching them crack open geodes. I’ve never seen somebody crack a geode, examine it with a loupe to identify all the crystals, then show you your geode under UV, and encourage you to take a picture of the UV. Amazing. Interesting variety in the gift shop, too. A little something for everyone.”

**Kim:** “It was fun selecting geodes from the various sizes bins. The goal is to choose one that is not too heavy because you want lots of open space with crystals. I got two great specimens with amazing minerals in them. One had chalcedony and glowed under UV, the other had calcite and todorokite. They came with display stands. Both were like opening little gifts hidden away for centuries.”

**Helen:** “The Hendersonville Mineral and Lapidary Museum has a genuinely beautiful collection and display of museum quality, regional and international rock, fossil and artifact specimens.”

I would like to thank the friendly and very knowledgeable staff of the Hendersonville mineral and Lapidary Museum: Deb Harmon, Jerry Howe, Tom Lapp, and Charlie Summey. I would also like to thank Dodany Garcia for helping to organize this for his club.





## Education and Tours News

By Marsha Harmon

On April 17th the 4th grade class from Mountain Discovery School in Bryson City visited our Museum. The students were well behaved under the supervision of Mr. Luke Webb, which was quite a chore as the students were very excited to be here, after an hour and a half bus ride. The driver managed to park a huge yellow bus in only 3 spaces of our front parking lot. This fact received a round of applause for the female driver. The 4th graders were split into 4 groups with 1 adult in each group. Our volunteers each manned two rooms, one on each floor of the museum with a 6-minute rotation and the one hour requested flew by smoothly.

There were many great questions asked and what seemed like good answers given. So what is the state mineral? Several students already knew: Emerald. In the States room. Which stone is not synthetic? The one next to the Red faceted stone. In the hallway, an introduction to dinosaur poop (Coprolite) took place and the fluorescent room received the standing ovation award.

Mr. Webb was very happy with their visit and the arm full of educational materials for his classroom that will help out with the next earth science lesson.

Special thanks to Kathi Walbridge, Stacy Walbridge and first timer Nancy McShane for volunteering their time and energy towards this requested process.

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## Donated Rocks

By Stacy Walbridge

Tom Parker and Janet Amig have graciously donated hundreds of pounds of rocks from their decades of collecting across North America. Many of these rocks have been stored outside for several years so a group of members got together on April 15<sup>th</sup> to clean and sort the rocks.

Each of the rock containers were emptied, cleaned, and the rocks sorted among the different categories of Workshop, Education, Gift Shop-Door Prizes, Museum Display, and a new “spoils” pile at the Museum.



In case you're wondering what a "spoils" pile is in mining operations the overburden that is removed to access the minerals is called spoils. Although these excess rocks are not overburden there were so many rocks that it was decided to make a rock pile outside the Museum of



excess rocks or ones that didn't quite fit into one of the categories. These rocks are now available for members to select for cabbing, faceting, home display, or other use. I did see some fire agate, petrified wood, small blue opal pieces, and lots of chalcedony and quartz. I would ask that you limit your selection to one or two rocks so that they will be available for future members or Museum visitors.

After selecting a rock to take home, go ahead and sign up to host or volunteer for the upcoming Gem Show.



**Donovan MacDonald & Larry Ellert (l.) Pressure Washing while Marsha Harmon, John Hayes, Vicki Knisley, Al Pribble, Brad and Jacy Fleszar (r.) evaluate and sort.**

Thanks to Larry and Charlotte Ellert, John Hayes, Al Pribble, Vicki Knisley, Varshana Dholakia, Earl McGaughey, Brad & Jacey Fleszar, Donovan MacDonald, Stephanie Brundage. Special thanks to Kathi Walbridge and Betty Kimball for providing lunch.



## Klerksdorp Spheres: Strange Spheres Found In 3 Billion-Year-Old Rock

By James Felton (<https://www.iflscience.com/>)

Klerksdorp spheres, found inside pyrophyllite deposits mined in South Africa, are weird. Looking like tiny ancient cricket balls, with seam-like lines around their middle, it's easy to see why they became the subject of conspiracy theories involving aliens and ancient, forgotten civilizations.

In articles in the 1980s, they were speculated to be made by "a higher civilization, a pre-flood civilization about which we know virtually nothing", while the same museum curator who said this claimed that the spheres rotated of their own accord while locked in a "vibration-free" display case.

Pseudo-scientists claimed that the spheres could only be manufactured, despite being found in 3-billion-year-old rock, while even pseudo-er scientists believed them to be proof of aliens.



The claims about the spheres caught the attention of geologist Bruce Cairncross in 2006, who wrote that he had been amused by an article that described them as "mystery spheres", and by one program's choice to have a psychic examine the stones, declaring them to be the remains of an ancient spaceship.

Cairncross offered up a rational explanation for the spheres, found in a geological formation known as the Dominion Group. The feature is made of conglomerate, with layers of volcanic lava that were deposited on top. After a lot of pressure and heat, the layers of volcanic rock became pyrophyllite, the casing in which the Klerksdorp spheres were found.

The spheres are known as concretions: spherical, elliptical, or oblate objects made of different minerals to the host rock, and are fairly common, with thousands having been found around the world. They are often found in fine-grained rocks, like pyrophyllite, as it allows for the movement of water.



"They form by precipitation from an aqueous solution and consist of minerals crystallized in the host rock," Cairncross explained.

The spheres are spherical (or slightly off-spherical) as they form around a tiny grain of mineral in a solution containing iron, calcium, and other elements.

"Because the host rock is evenly textured all-round the growth of the concretion takes place, unrestricted in all directions, as a 360-degree, three-dimensional sphere," Cairncross writes, adding that if the liquid is moving or the rock surrounding it is not the same consistency in all directions, the shape can become distorted.

The lines across the spheres are caused by imprints from the host rock, which was built up in layers over a long, long time, leaving the layered effect.

Meanwhile, the mystery of why the sphere supposedly spun "on its own" was explained by the curator of the Klerksdorp Museum, after which the spheres are named.



### Bench Tips

by Bradford Smith

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

### PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things.

First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver





is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).



### Upcoming Shows

#### 4/22-23/2023 Memphis, TN:

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show. Sponsored by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Memphis Agricenter 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, Sat. 9-6:00 pm, Sun. 10-5pm. Adults \$6.00. 2-day pass \$8.00. Children 12 & under \$2.00. Scouts in uniform free Contact WC McDaniel 901-490-3575



#### May 12-14 Marietta, GA

Georgia Mineral Society 54th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show, Cobb Civic Center 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE Marietta, GA 3006. Fri-Sat. 10-6, Sun. Noon-5. Free Parking and Admission. <https://www.gamineral.org/showmain.html>



#### June 10-11 Gastonia, NC

Gaston Gem & Mineral Club Summer Gemboree, a Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show: Johan Newcome Event Center/Habitat for Humanity 1840 E Franklin Blvd Gastonia, NC 28054. An inside show presenting Gems, Minerals, Fossils and jewelry and other related items from around the world. A working Gem Sluice. A Geode Cracking Station. Food Truck. Free Admission. Free Parking.



**Franklin Gem & Mineral Showcase – May 18 to 21, 2023**

**May 19-21 Franklin, NC**

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin Show and Sale; Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4.



**May 18-21 Franklin, NC**

Highlands Road Gem Show, 1602 Highlands Road, Franklin, North Carolina 28734

**May 18-21 Franklin, NC**

Echo Valley Showplace  
6456 Sylva Rd., Franklin, North Carolina 28734, United States

**May 19-21 Franklin, NC**

G&LW Wholesale Gem Show. Over 200 booths featuring U.,S. and International Wholesale Vendors of Diamonds, Gemstones, Pearls, Fine Jewelry, Fashion Jewelry, Findings, Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Equipment. FREE!! Wholesale Only Shows – Open Only to the Trade Valid Business License OR Tax Certificate OR Sales and Use Tax Permit in Gem or Jewelry Related Business Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-3.

**The Difference Between a Show and a Showcase**

Towns and counties across North Carolina — and in particular, western N.C. — take their mineral and mining heritages seriously, and several proudly hold annual festivals, fairs or shows to celebrate their rich gem, mineral, and mining history and culture. This region is one of the richest in the world for hosting important gem and mineral related shows. Each year in the spring and summer, the little town of Franklin becomes a magnet for buyers and collectors from throughout the southeast states and around the country. They come to shop at four shows in Franklin in May and four shows in late July. Local organizations and volunteers enthusiastically participate in the gem show season. Some shows are operated by the local gem and mineral club and the chamber of commerce, and the dozens of area “gem mines” enjoy their peak season, providing tourists with the unforgettable experience of sluicing for authentic gemstones — sapphires, rubies, garnets, emeralds, and many more!

**June 24 Apopka, FL**

Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society; 1937 Lakeville Rd., Apopka, FL 32712; Saturday, 6/24/23—9am-4pm. Rock Clubs and Individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell and swap anything that is LAPIDARY related! Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry, to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped sold or purchased! \$25 per 10x20 space. See the flyer on page 16 More info at [Wekivagem.com](http://Wekivagem.com)





**Club Announcements**

**April 2023 Board Meeting**  
(All members are welcome)  
**4:00 pm Tuesday, April 25th, 2023**  
First Christian Church of Franklin  
156 Belleview Park Road  
Franklin, NC

**April 2023 General Meeting**  
**6:30 pm Thursday, April 27th, 2023**  
First Christian Church of Franklin  
156 Belleview Park Road  
Franklin, NC

**Newsletter Deadline for May is 05/15/2023**

**\*\* Field Trip to Ducktown & Lost Sea Adventure: May 13, 2023 \*\***

**2023 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)**

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
April 27, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Geology of Japan & Field Trips by Kim Price	Trish Santoro
May 19-20 Franklin Gem & Mineral Show				
May 25, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	The Washington Monument: How Macon County Contributed to the Capstone by Al Pribble and Sean Price	Jenny & Jay Mooney
June 29, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	The Cherokee Mineral Trade by an EBCI Tribal Historian	Varshana & Earl McGaughey
July 27, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Ice Cream Social	Bernd & Maggie Phoenix
July 28-30 Franklin Gem & Mineral Show				



51 Years  
1972 - 2023

**Club Officers and Board of Directors**

President: Stacy Walbridge, (802-598-9548)  
 Past President: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)  
 Vice President: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)  
 Secretary: Chandra Fox (706-982-0402)  
 Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)  
 Assistant Treasurer: Charlotte Ellert, (727-455-1849)  
 Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)  
 Museum Manager Assistant: Donovan MacDonald 828-226-3131  
 Director (2022): Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)  
 Director (2022): Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)  
 Director (2023): Charlotte Ellert, (828-200-6023)  
 Director (2023): Brad Fleszar (828-371-1211)

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

**Committees**

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: Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954)  
 Museum Workshop: Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)  
 Membership: Roberta & Leonard Pipitone, (828-332-2837)  
 Publicity: Kim Price (336-653-1201)  
 Field Trip Coordinator: Sean Price (336-964-2061)  
 Field Trip Assistant: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)  
 Program Coordinator: Kim Price (336-653-1201)  
 Refreshments: Charlene Galbrecht (954-592-1377)  
 Constitution and By-Laws: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)  
 Future Vision: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)  
 Museum Calendar: Vacant  
 Gemborees: Chandra Fox (706-982-0402)  
 Gemborees Assistant: Sean Price (336-964-2061)  
 Scholarships: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)  
 Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)  
 Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)  
 Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

