

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXV MARCH 2015
Number 3
Official Bulletin
Of
Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

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.

Forms for membership can be obtained by attending a meeting. Two meetings are requested before joining.

Dues are \$15 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$3. Membership privileges include newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Field Trips.

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.

**FRANKLIN GEM
AND MINERAL MUSEUM**

is operated under the direction of the
Board of Directors of
Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

School tours are always available by contacting our Education Chairman, Diane Aiello.



**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

www.fgmm.org

Society email:

franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Editor: themountaingem@fastmail.fm

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin,
North Carolina, is a founding member
of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.**

2014-2015 Officers

Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Vice President	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
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Director 2016	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2015)	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
Director (2015)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	TBA	
Curator	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator Ass't	Christine Hubinger	349-7360
Gift Shop.	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes (Temp.)	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	TBA	
Calendar Chairman	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Gemboree	Jack Jungles	369-6664
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Membership		
Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224



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)
2014 (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) 2014 (1st)

American Federation (AFMS): www.amfed.org

Southeast Federation (SFMS): www.amfed.org/sfms

Franklin Gem Museum and Society:

www.fgmm.org

www.facebook.com/franklingems

General Meeting

Date: March 26, 2015

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building on 441 South

Program: Members, Lon Peden and Robert Hasle will share their knowledge
on Indians and Indian artifacts.

Al Pribble**President's Message:**

Well, Old Man Winter got the best of us in February. Several members were either snowed in or afraid to be out at night when the roads might become frozen and icy. Diane Mason, our scheduled program presenter, lives in Young Harris Georgia. She called to say they had 6" of snow on the ground and expected another 6 – 8 inches and she could not make the meeting. Several years ago I wrecked my truck on an icy road in Texas and I do not venture out in that kind of weather except in case of life-or-death emergencies. So after consulting with several board members I decided the prudent thing to do was to cancel the February meeting.

Our March program will be Richard Hasle and Lon Peden with more information on artifact collecting in Macon County. Diane Mason will give the program on Wire Wrapping at a future meeting. On Saturday, March 7th, ten club members including yours truly left the Museum parking lot at 6:30 AM for an SFMS sponsored field trip to the Vulcan Quarry in Cartersville, GA. Everyone came away with a load of rocks even though they were not the same blue quality as the ones found a year or two ago. In fact, our group had to send a couple of buckets with Ralph and Ellen Crawford. Lake Holland, Elena and I were afraid we might have to get out and push Tommy's car up the hill coming out of the quarry. :>) Besides that, we had to allow room for Elena's trip to Publix on the way back. :>) Everyone had a great time and we thank Marsha for doing all the leg work and getting the maps together.

Marsha has several more local places lined up as well as more trips sponsored by SFMS clubs. I am sure there will be something for everyone this year.

Elena has secured the display case in the Macon Bank for the month of June, and she will be looking for specimen and members projects for the display.

So, till next month – Happy Rockhounding.

Newsletter Deadline

April 3

**Minutes – February 26, 2015 –
General Meeting
Gem & Mineral Society Of
Franklin, North Carolina**

The general meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015, was canceled due to inclement weather. Our next meeting will be March 26, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, secretary



**We need a new editor.
Linda Behr has decided to retire
after 12 years.**

A Sneaky Thief

By Fred Plesner for the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin

Early on Saturday morning, July 1, 1951 Lee Poindexter opened his service station. In going about the morning's routine the wall safe was opened and a small amount of cash was taken out for the cash register. The safe was left unlocked in case an employee had to access it to cash a check or break a large bill. Such was the case when Mr. Poindexter went to the safe at approximately 7:00 P. M. to cash a check for one of his customers.

He was shocked to find that a large amount of cash (c.\$250) was missing and that only a few small bills (c. \$40) were left in the safe. Sheriff J. Harry Thomas was immediately called and the attendant was questioned. Apparently the small bills were left in the safe in the hopes that the larger bills absence would not be noticed and the attendant stated that he had seen Richard Crane from the Gneiss Community at the station shortly before the money went missing.

The following Sunday morning, Sheriff Thomas paid a visit to the Crane residence. Richard Crane was questioned at length about his visit to Mr. Poindexter's Service Station and he finally admitted his guilt. One hundred and forty-four dollars of the missing money was recovered. He was then placed under arrest and taken to the Macon County Jail.

Source: *The Franklin Press* and *The Highlands Maconian*: July 5, 1951

Bench Tips for Jewelry Making: 101 Useful Tips from Brad Smith

Winding Jump Rings

Whenever you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.



To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution: If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.

Touching up a Bezel

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howelite, etc.

If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one inch diameter ones such as those shown at
riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2

Bench Tips for Jewelry Making: 101 Useful Tips from Brad Smith

Can be purchased at Amazon; Kindle version is FREE

After bob died, everyone gathered at his funeral.

Then the minister started to speak: "He was a model husband, a decent man, a terrific father."

The widow then makes a motion for her son to come to her.

"What is it mother?" he whispers.



"Dear, go check the casket, I think we're at the wrong funeral..." Via Internet

March 7, 2015
Field Trip to
Cartersville, GA

By Marsha Harmon,
 Field Trip Chairman

I can say without a doubt that Georgia has been “robbed blind” by the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin. Actually we were invited: Vulcan Materials Company, Bartow Quarry in Cartersville, Ga. and we made out well on our invitation. Buckets, cars and pockets full, of porphyroblastic granite with beautiful blue quarts within the granite were easily extracted by 10 eager rockhounds from our club. Thank you to the host club from Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society in Macon, as they did a wonderful job with the 40 + responding participants there.

You can be looking forward to all our “club elves” producing jewelry, gem trees, bookends, paperweights or whatever else these guys might think up! If you like granite and blue quarts just stand by... I challenge each participant to make at least one donation with their loot, for our gift shop! If you need material for contributing, please just let me know.



Pictures by AL Pribble and a nice lady with a baby.



Future field trip opportunities:

Hogg Mine, La Grange Ga.

April 18, 2015

Host: Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society



April 24, 25, 26, 2015 Graves Mountain Lincoln, GA “Rocks, Swaps and Digs”

Dahlonega Gold Museum and Mine Trip in May 16, 2015 and looking for gold panning spot near there with equipment shared by club members... Please let me know if you have pans to share?

Corundum Hill walk about (35 acres to explore) with history presentation? Tuff hiking, original mine is not available but panning opportunities on the Cullasaja River are.



Gift shop Reporting

By Elena Marsh



Snow, snow and more snow plus freezing temperatures have dwindled the existence of many folks, not just visitors but locals too, in town this last month. We all know spring is coming soon – but sure hope it hurries along a bit!

We managed to keep the museum open each Saturday and although we may have lacked visitors, there were quite a few club members that stopped by to chat, finish up classes, work on some of their rocks/gems or to buy an item from the gift shop. It is always refreshing to see so many of our members enjoying the opportunities that the club and museum offer.

I will be concentrating on a new book order and also making a list of items that Anamay and I feel may need to be purchased at the next gem shop for our gift shop inventory. With such success last year, some items that we thought we had a decent amount of stock available for this coming season have been sold! Of course, we will be looking for the next trend and/or color for the new year.

In June, in the back lobby of the Macon Bank, our club will have a display of rocks/gems/minerals, information about the museum and club and also jewelry items that are for sale in the gift shop. We will also have some information about the July gem show. Anamay and I were told of this opportunity by Fred Plesner last year and decided to pursue that option, successfully obtaining the use of the display case for the entire month of June. If anyone has any items or collections that you think may be of interest to be on display, please contact either Anamay or me. We are in the process of working out the details of this adventure.

Stay safe and warm --- and if you can get out, stop by the museum!! Elena

Refreshment Committee

Dean and I would like to thank all the members who signed up to bring refreshments for the upcoming meetings. The sign-up sheet went around the room and came back full of people willing to help make or bring something!!

Thanks so much to Theresa Holland for the excellent cream cheese pound cake that was enjoyed at our January meeting. I know personally that Theresa is a ribbon winner, many blue ribbons, in categories of baking, canning, etc. at the county and state fairs. Although our February meeting was cancelled, Joyce Jacques who had signed up to bring something that night, has indicated that she will be making something for our March meeting!!

We would also like to thank Sande Lolli for taking home and washing all the cups, glasses, plates, silverware from the Christmas dinner. What a treat to have someone come up and offer to help!

Most of you know that for the last year or so, we have reduced our waste at each meeting while enjoying our refreshments by using glasses, cups and silverware as much as possible. We also recycle in the museum and have bins for paper products and also a bin for plastic bottles, aluminum cans and other recyclable items. If you have any questions about what you can or cannot recycle, please contact Elena for more information.

Come to our meeting, enjoy a wonderful program, some friendships, learn about gems, rocks and minerals and enjoy some refreshments too.

Elena and Dean

If.....GOLD is found in QUARTZ, I'd be happy to find it in pints, or even half-pints.

April's Mystical Birthstone - Opal
By Ted Robles for *The Mountain Gem* 2007

Chemically, Opal is hydrous Silicon Dioxide (Quartz), some of which may be the Cristobalite modification. It is in the class Tectosilicate, which is defined as three-dimensional linkage of the tetrahedral molecules. Structurally, it is built of microspheroids of hydrous (water-bearing) silica whose alignment gives rise (in the 'precious' variety, to a diffraction grating-like play of color. Mineralogically, it is non-crystalline (but not amorphous), hard, (6.0 ± 0.5), light (Specific Gravity 2.2 ± 0.3), no cleavage, easily fractured, Transparent to translucent with greasy luster. With proper care takes an excellent polish, and is a favorite lapidary stone, the main difficulty in working it arising from the fact that frequently the most brilliant portions of the stone lie in layers, making it quite possible to destroy a valuable gem if proper attention is not paid during cutting. Also, the fact that it contains water of crystallization causes the necessity to take proper care of the stone. Many "Investment-Grade" Opals have been destroyed by the action of trying to safeguard the stone by putting it in the "Safe Deposit Box" in the bank. Since the humidity in these boxes is held as close to zero as possible in order to protect paper, the water which is innately a part of a precious Opal will evaporate, converting the stone to sand. If you **MUST** put your precious Opal in Safe Deposit, first place it in a bottle of water, and seal the bottle! Also, the fact that much of the play of color in precious Opal comes in layers leads to "Flat" stones, which are best protected by covering them with a "Dome" of clear quartz. This process creates "Opal doublets," or "Opal Triplets" when a thin slice of precious Opal is also "Backed" by a contrasting flat slice of black Onyx or similar material. The legend that Opals are "Bad Luck," allegedly arose from Sir Walter Scott's story "Anne of Geierstein," wherein a magical stone turned on its owner; however, since the stone was not identified as Opal, this notion is at least questionable. My own belief is that Opal, being notoriously fragile as well as subject to destruction by dehydration, it was easy, in older times before the manifold methods of protection were determined, to destroy a stone worth as much as a small farm with a moment's inattention. This fact would seem to warrant some trepidation! Opal is mostly in the 50 – 65 million year old range, meaning that they were laid down when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Precious Opal may be found in Australia, Mexico, Romania, Hungary, and in Idaho, Nevada and Oregon.

Opals are alleged to help open the mystical side of the wearer, leading to insight, foresight, and prophetic ability. They also aid in "Invisibility," not to say that they render the wearer transparent, but that they confer the property of keeping one from being noticed, if so desired. (For this reason it was once maligned as 'the thieves' stone'.) Interestingly, Opal was one of the seven sacred stones of the Cherokee; since Opals are not frequently found in the ancestral grounds of this Amerindian Nation, cross-continent trading in antiquity is indicated. It is a stone of happy dreams and positive visions, and is helpful in strengthening and healing eyesight.

It is an attractive stone, and whether one was born in April and treasures it for its mystic qualities, or in October for its traditional birthstone identity, or merely because one is attracted by its beauty, Opal is a magnificent addition to any jewelry collection. Just remember – it needs to be moistened occasionally, and cannot stand long periods of low humidity. Take good care of your Opals, and they will last many lifetimes. (After all, the stones that are still in the ground have been there for at least fifty million years!)

Sources:

Prinz et al, ed's, Simonn and Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals, New York, 1978

Kunz, G.F., The Curious Lore of Precious Stones; New York, Dover,, 1941

Verrill, A.H.; Minerals, Metals, and Gems; New York, Grossett and Dunlap, 1939

www.jewelrymall.com/birthstones



Pictured is an opal specimen from the States Room oval glass case.

Dear club members,

It is time for me to retire as your editor for *The Mountain Gem*. I have mixed emotions as I leave this very important position for our club.

With our new incoming members, someone should be willing to undertake this most rewarding job.

I will be very, very happy to teach the new person whatever I can. There are many resources for publication. There should be no problem finding materials for the newsletter.

We also have wonderful volunteers who write articles for the newsletter.

Please consider this job opening and contact Al Pribble if you are interested.

Remember: the newsletter is the heart of the organization. ♥

Linda Behr, editor



May 8, 9, & 10, 2015, Franklin, NC

Retail Club Show: Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Fri. & Sat., May 8th & 9th, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sun., May 10th, 10:00 AM - 4:00PM

Location: Carpenter Community Center, 1288 Georgia Rd. (US441), Franklin, NC

No admission charge, rough and finished gemstones and jewelry, minerals and local crafts.

Contact: Norm Holbert, 828 634-0350, normholbert@comcast.net

May 8 - 10, 2015, Norcross, GA

The Georgia Mineral Society's 47th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show, at a new location, North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court, Norcross, GA. We will also be celebrating our 80th birthday with an open house at our club house. Contact person: Shelley Stubbs;

email address: mayshow@gamineral.org

Web site: www.gamineral.org.



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee - Copyright © All rights reserved.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society
(Montgomery, AL) HOST

An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

8:45 am EST (7:45 CST) – 5:00 pm EST (4:00 CST)

April 18, 2015

Hogg Mine, La Grange, Ga



Location: Hogg Mine, La Grange, Ga

HOURS: 8:45 am EST (7:45 CST) – 5:00 pm EST (4:00 CST)

Fee Site: \$25 per person age 16 and above. Children under 16 dig free.

Meeting Point: McDonalds, 2408 Whitesville Rd. LaGrange, GA 30240

YOU CANNOT JUST GO DIRECTLY TO THE MINE!_

Tools to Bring: Pick, Shovel, Potato Rake, Rock Hammer, Sledge Hammer, Chisels, Rock Bars, 5 Gallon Buckets, Gloves, Safety Glasses (Extra boots / shoes are helpful if it's muddy or the weather becomes damp.

There is a Port-a- Potty on site.

Collecting: Beryl, Star Rose Quartz, Black Tourmaline, and Aquamarine.

(Limit one 5 gallon bucket of material per person and one yard rock per dig.) This is a surface mine for the most part. However, there may be some deeper areas to explore. For safety reasons, you cannot dig outside of the designated areas.

Food: Food, water, and soft drinks are permitted. However, all alcohol is prohibited at the mine.

Please don't show up with it. You will be asked to leave.

Directions: From Alabama, take I-85 N to the Georgia state line.

Proceed to exit 13. Turn left off the ramp - McDonalds is located a quarter mile up on the left, next to the Pilot truck stop.

From Georgia, take I-85 South to exit 13. Turn right off the ramp and McDonalds will be on the left.

Cont'd to next page...

Details: We will be signing up on the inside of McDonalds. If you park on the drive-through or south side of the store, enter the door and turn to the right. Look for an area of tables for sign up. You will pay a fee of \$25 per person, fill out release forms, and get a safety briefing before going to the mine. Mr. Painter (mine owner) will take people down in groups beginning at 8:45 am EST. Sign up will extend through 9:15 am EST for late arrivals. He will come back to get others who aren't able to get there before 9:15 am EST. They can email him or call if they need him to come back for them.

Where to Stay: Nearby La Grange, GA offers many hotel choices.

There are many nearby private camp grounds as well as state owned ones since West Point Lake is nearby.

Local state parks offer a full range of camping options.

HOST: MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Jeff Edwards, VP / Field Trip Coordinator, (334) 312-0572

thestonehunter@hotmail.com

or email thegoldennugget@hotmail.com

For more information on HOGG MINE: www.hoggmine.com / Chris Painter

rockdgr@yahoo.com

Mr. Painter will have a Mobile Rock Shop onsite for the regular scheduled digs where you can purchase rocks and minerals.



April Birthdays

7 – Laura Peden
12 – Dean Plesner
13 – Jack Jungles
24 – Dorothy Crawford
27 – Jamie Loewy
30 – Frances Rasmusson



April Anniversaries

8 – Lake & Theresa Holland
26 – George & Susan Fritz

Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS (or Eastern Federation) liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!" Only DMC program member societies may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

Hope

Wife: "What are you doing?"

Husband: "Nothing."

Wife: "What do you mean nothing? You've been staring at our marriage certificate for over an hour!"

Husband: "Yea, I'm checking the expiration date."

Via Internet



Southeast Federation includes the following states: Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia.

Their website is: www.amfed.org/sfms



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor

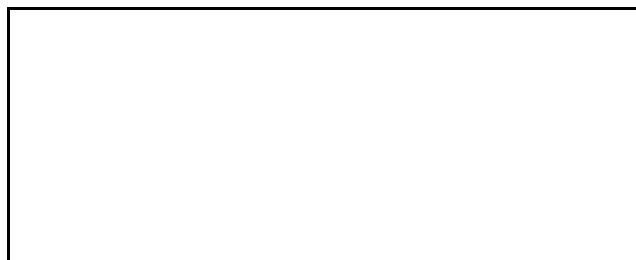
25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail

Indian Artifacts Presentation



Month	Board Meeting	General
January	27	29
February	24	26
March	24	26
April	21	23
May	26	28
June	23	25
July	14	16
August	25	27
September	22	24 Banquet
October	27	29
November	17	19
December	8	12 end of Year party

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. the last Thursday of the month in the 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.