

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Volume XL1 MAY 2013

Number 5

Official Bulletin

Of

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc. is a founding member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. A schedule of our monthly meetings is on the back cover of *The Mountain Gem* as well as on the Society's web-page. Meetings are held at the Macon County Community Facilities Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

The objectives of this society shall be to effect a close association of those persons who are interested in the study of gems, rocks and minerals and the sciences and arts related to them. We are a working organization that operates and maintains The Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum.

The Society and Museum are self-supporting on a 100% volunteer basis.

The FRANKLIN GEM AND MINERAL MUSEUM

is operated under the direction of the
Board of Directors of

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.

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

Membership in the Society is \$15.00 per person with \$10 each additional family member, and \$3.00 for junior (pebble pups).

Membership is from September to September.

Non-member subscription to *The Mountain Gem* is \$15.00 per year. Donations are tax deductible.

Articles written by members of our club may be borrowed provided credit is given to the author and *The Mountain Gem*.



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@fastmail.fm

**2012-2013 Officers And
Board Of Directors**

President	Lon Peden	371-8450
Past President	Tom Morley	1-331-9512
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Ray Behr	349-0827
Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Assistant Treasurer	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Director (2014)	Linda Smith	342-8288
Director (2013)	Wally Smith	407-312-3506
Director (2014)	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Director (2013)	Al Pribble	369-2548

** Voting members on the Board

+++++

Museum Managers

**Museum Manager	Al Pribble	369-2548
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Tommy Marsh	369-8915
**Curator	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator Ass't	Sharon John	369-0161
**Gift Shop.	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Doris Smith	407-312-3506
Museum Workshop	Al Pribble	369-2548
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	John Hayes	524-8062
Calendar Chairman	VACANT	

**2012-2013
Committee Chairmen**

Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Constitution/By-Laws	Linda Behr	349-0827
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Lon Peden	371-8450
Gemboree	Jack Jungles	369-6664
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Sharon John	369-0161
Librarian	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Membership	Linda Behr	349-0827
**Publications	Linda Behr	349-0827
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Linda Smith	342-8288
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Jean Emerson	828-293-7784



**American Federation
Bulletin Awards**

1994 (7th), 1995 (2nd),
1996 (2nd), 1997 (5th),
1998 (5th), 1999 (3rd),
2000 (5th), 2004 (7th),
2005 (2nd) 2006 (10th)
2008 (5th) 2010(3rd)



**Southeast Federation
Bulletin Awards**

1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95
1996-99 (1st)
2003 2nd New Editor
2004 (2nd), 2005 (2nd)
2006 (1st), 2008 (2nd),
2010(1st)

American Federation (AFMS): www.amfed.org
Southeast Federation (SFMS): www.amfed.org/sfms
Franklin Gem Museum and Society: www.fgmm.org
Email for the Society is: franklingemsociety@fastmail.fm

General Meeting

Date: May 30, 2013

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Macon County
Community Center
on 441 South

Program:

Bring your favorite rock/mineral and
share WHY it is your favorite.
We will be in the room directly
opposite the entrance;
not the usual room.

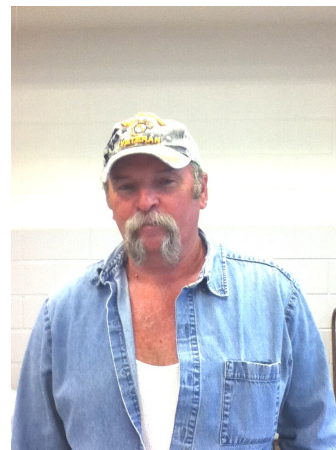


Lon Peden, President

Hope all is well, museum back in full swing!
Need all the help we can get to host the museum, contact Al
Pribble...please! Gem show starting this week, check out
the front of the museum, all has been redone, fountain and
landscaping.

Getting ready for a field trip; also working on the Sep-
tember trip to Brazil, contact Arlon Eldridge.

I would like to give thanks all for the work all are doing
to help this club, be a success.

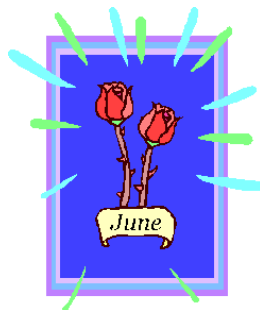


Bill Fisher, new member.

June Celebrations

Birthdays

- 6 – Kay Kennedy
- 13 – Sandra Moccia
- 14 – Amy Ramer
- 17 – Jean Emerson
- 18 – Vivian Donikowski
- 18 – Doris Smith
- 21 – Georgia-Marie Goldstein



Anniversaries

- 10 - Arlon & Sonja Eldridge
- 24 – Lee & Shirley Burley

As past president, Tom Morley is responsible
for setting up the nominating committee for the
officers and two board members. If you are inter-
ested in any one of these positions, please contact
Tom at 1-331-9512 or
at rocksmarttom@gmail.com

I'm sure that he would appreciate any help.

2013-05-31



Minutes Of The Board Meeting Of

The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, NC

The meeting was called to order by Lon Peden, President, on April 22, 2013 at approximately 6:30 PM in the Museum Meeting Room. Present were: Lon Peden; Tom Morley; Al Pribble; Tom Sterrett; Rex Larkin; Elena Marsh; Fred Plesner; Tom Marsh; Jack Jungles; Dean Plesner; John Hayes; Ray Behr; Linda Smith; Sharon John; Marie Tsacrios; Karen Stiwinter; Linda Behr and Arlon Eldridge with a Parliamentarian present. The Parliamentarian was questioned as it was voted out of our bylaws a number of years ago. Lon advised the Board that the Constitution from 1974 is the only document recognized by the state of North Carolina.

Arlon stated that there was a meeting this afternoon (April 22) requested by some of the County Commissioners and the County Manager. He advised the board that if we wanted to find out about the meeting, we could call the County Commissioners, Ronnie Beale or Ron Haven. The County Commissioners requested a meeting with the President and Vice President, Lon also invited Al Pribble, Museum Manager. Lon said they requested a copy of our Constitution and By Laws all the way back to 1974. Al Pribble stated they are concerned that there are a number of things amiss regarding our organization. We do not have a current Registered State Agent which is required by the NC Secretary of State for 501c3 organizations. This is a serious situation with the state. Changes to our Constitution and By Laws have never been registered with the state. Karen Stiwinter, a local Tax Preparer who has worked with 501c3 organizations, advised that she was asked to come to our board meeting. She stated that our Constitution is basically our Papers of Incorporation. She advised that we are required to contact the Secretary of State's office whenever the Registered Agent is changed and we have not done so since the origin of our society. This agent is the official means of contacting our organization. She advised the Constitution cannot be changed, but our By Laws can be changed. Lon advised that we can get a copy of our Constitution by going online to the Secretary of State's website and downloading it. There was an extensive discussion about the original Registered Agent who has been dead for a number of years and who should be the current agent.

Tom Morley made a motion to make the Vice President the Registered Agent with the Secretary of State's office. The motion was seconded. During the discussion, a suggestion was made by Tom Sterrett to make Karen Stiwinter the Registered Agent. The motion was voted down. Marie Tsacrios made a motion to make our society attorney, who works Pro Bono, the Registered Agent. The motion was seconded by Ray Behr. Arlon was assigned the task of asking the attorney if he would accept the responsibility of Registered Agent.

Lon read a letter from Tom Sterrett expressing his concerns that the vote for Secretary was invalid because he believed that proper procedures were not followed. Lon decided to table all discussion on the letter and appointed Tom Sterrett and John Hayes to a committee to investigate the situation. A discussion followed concerning tabling the discussion. Later discussion ensued about the legitimacy of the vote and it was brought out that the By Laws were followed and anyone who read the By Laws would find out the vote was conducted according to the rules by which we currently conduct society meetings and business. It was brought out that if the membership is not happy with the current handling of elections in the By Laws, then a change in By Laws may be in order. Discussion followed about when Roberts Rules of Order apply. Our By Laws state that when our Constitution or By Laws are silent, then Roberts Rules of Order apply.

Lon stated that at the next Board Meeting, he will appoint a chairman for the By Laws committee to be reviewed and approved by the board. The chairman may then appoint the members of the committee upon approval by the board. Elena suggested that when the new By Laws are complete, a copy be mailed to every member.

There were corrections to the March Board Meeting minutes. Tom Morley was in attendance, not Tom Sterrett. Linda B was responsible for mistake in the newsletter not Linda S. Billy's Originals should be Village Originals and it should not say lied, rather misinformed. Arlon's donation of an aquamarine pendant and earrings is for the raffle and not a door prize. There were several names misspelled. Elena worked on (dirt bag) tags, not taxes. Lon stated he did send a president's message, but it somehow got lost. Linda Behr requested that when you send something to the editor, make sure you get a response or it may not have been received.

Lon advised that we would have a new liability insurance policy very soon. Lon has received some questions by the agent about total value of our contents and it was decided that the value of our most valuable item would be used. This policy would also cover field trips.

There was a short discussion about sending newsletters via email.

Fred, Elena and Lon went to the radio station to interview for a program with Gordon Mercer. They considered it a complete success.

(cont'd to page 5)

Board Meeting Minutes cont'd

Lon advised that there has been a financial review conducted by Tom Marsh, Jerry Kolle, and Dean Plesner and everything looks fine. He is awaiting a letter to that effect from Tom Marsh.

Jean Emerson has sent an application and a letter of recommendation from a professor to nominate Kelly Ferri for a scholarship. Kelly is studying Environmental Hydrology at Western Carolina University. After a short discussion, the board voted to extend Kelly a \$1000 scholarship.

Linda Behr is working on publishing a new membership list.

The Past President, Tom Morley, is responsible to choose two members for a Nominating Committee and report back to the board by July.

Treasurers Report, for the month of March, we had an income of \$719.66, expenses of \$1,287.25 for a deficit of \$567.79.

Sharon John spoke and advised that since she is available, she has volunteered to remain as Assistant Curator and Historian.

Fred Plesner advised that there is no money budgeted for Curator supplies. Al Pribble made a motion to provide Fred a budget of \$200 for Curator supplies which was seconded by Ray Behr. The motion was voted and passed.

Al Pribble reported that thanks to Arlon Eldridge and Tom Morley, the carpets have been cleaned. Al also stated that the May calendar for museum hosting is available for volunteers to sign up. Al said that the fire extinguishers have been tested and he had to buy two new 5 lb. extinguishers because the other small ones were 12 years old and could not be updated.

The subject of Community Grants was brought up and a discussion followed. Lon asked Al Pribble to research the subject and let the board know what is required.

Fred Plesner advised that the Chamber of Commerce Mother's Day Gemboree will only be requiring use of our electrical cords and not any tables. He also advised that on May 11, during the Gemboree the "Airing of the Quilts" will be going on and we may want to open the museum early on that day. Fred reported that the radio interview which our members participated in will be broadcast on April 27th at 9:30 AM on radio station 1050am. He also advised that he sent 300 brochures to the I-95 North Welcome Center. Fred reported that the people looking into a new printer selected a Canon MF 8380 Cdw which is a multifunctional printer at a price of \$359.95.

Al Pribble advised that there were two science teachers from Rabin Gap School in the museum on Saturday and they will be attending our General Meeting on Thursday. He said that they are interested in learning to cabochon and would like to teach it at the school.

Elena advised that we had a table set up for Trail Days and we had over \$200 in sales. Diane Aiello also had a table set up next to ours. The tables helped draw attention to the museum and attendance at the museum was very good that day. Elena advised that she would like to set up a table at the "Airing of the Quilts" while a plant sale going on at the same time on May 11th. She along with Al Pribble is going to set up a training session for hosts. Please let her know if you are interested. Elena spoke with Doris Smith who is expected to be back next week and Doris will help Elena order books with local subject matter in mind.

There was discussion about using a short check list written by John Hayes to aid hosts opening and closing the museum.

The subject was brought up about using the Macon Bank display cabinet to publicize our items for sale.

The program for next month is bring your favorite rock or gem and be prepared to talk about it.

The Member Recruitment Committee gave Lon a copy of the items they are working on. Diane Aiello has requested to be removed from the committee.

The updating of our web site was brought up for discussion. Since our web site has dynamic content, Tom Morley has agreed to keep it up to date. It was suggested that we put a QR code on our brochures to bring people to our web site.

Lon thanked Karen Stiwinter for all her work and her willingness to continue working with us.

There was a short discussion about who is preparing our income taxes. Lon stated that Karen Stiwinter is doing our taxes.

The deadline for the May newsletter is May 8, 2013.

Lon advised that he would be absent from the General Meeting and that Arlon, as Vice President, would conduct the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Behr, secretary

Minutes of The General Meeting Of
The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

The meeting was opened by Arlon Eldridge, Vice President, on April 25, 2013 at 6:37 PM in the Macon County Community Center. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the March General Meeting as published in the Mountain Gem.

Arlon discussed the need for a State Agent to be a contact point for state business relating to our 501c3 organization. This need was determined by our Attorney who does Pro Bono work for our organization. Arlon asked Ray Behr to poll some members for few people willing to be this State Agent. He will present the names at the next Board meeting to determine who will serve in this capacity.

The **Treasurers Report** was presented by Marie Tsacrios. We had an income of \$719.66 and expenses of \$1,287.25 with a deficit of \$567.59. Marie stated the deficit is typical for the winter months with low income.

We had 28 members and 5 visitors present, with William Fisher as a new member.

Museum Manager – Al Pribble reported that the carpets had been cleaned thanks to the efforts of Tom Morley and Arlen Eldridge. The fire extinguishers are being inspected and tested. Al then presented and passed around the sign-up sheet for hosting in May.

Curator – Fred Plesner at Al Pribble's request, counted the specimen in our museum with the following tally: Touch Table (gift shop) 140; North Carolina Room 558; States Room 1258; Native American Artifacts 1452; Fluorescent Room 80; Slammer 84; International Hall 600; Fossils Room 740; World Room 513; for a total of 5,427 specimen. Fred reported he sent 300 brochures to the I-95 North Welcome Center.

Work Shop – John Hayes reported that on May 9 at 6:30 PM, he will be conducting the picture pendant project.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported that the Trail Days celebration was a success with many visitors to the museum. During the celebration, she set up a table out front and sold over \$200 in items on display. Diane Aiello also had a table set up next to her. Elena is planning on setting up a table out front on Saturday on the day of the Airing of the Quilts and Plant Sale which will be held at the same time as the Mother's Day Gemboree. Please consider hosting more often in the museum. Elena and Al will be conducting a session on hosting for anyone who is interested. Please contact either Elena or Al for details. Doris Smith will be back next week and they are planning to get more books that cover our local area.

Gemboree – Fred Plesner reported that the Chamber of Commerce will probably only use our electrical cords and not require the use of our tables for their Mother's Day Gemboree. That will mean less revenue for our club. Fred will meet with the Chamber of Commerce on Friday April 26 to discuss their Gemboree.

Scholarship – The Board approved a \$1000 scholarship for Kelly Ferri, a student at Western Carolina University, who has a major in Environmental Hydrology.

Program for next month – Linda Smith requested you bring your favorite rock or gemstone to talk about.

Education – Diane Aiello reported that we have four school tours in May. She has tour guides for all of the tours except May third where she still needs four more tour guides. There will be a lapidary demonstration in the Public Library on June twelfth. Al Pribble will be demonstrating the steps in making a cabochon and Fred Plesner will be cutting small geodes.

Door Prizes were won by the following people: Marina Fisher; Joan Bohmann; Tom Morley; Diane Aiello; Gayle Kumbalek; Fred Rasmusson; and Susan Fritz.

The meeting next month on May 30 will be in the smaller meeting room directly in front of you as you enter the building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Dean Plesner said a blessing over the food.

After refreshments were served, Bill and Suzie Gingrass from Lenoir, NC gave an excellent demonstration on flint knapping, making some arrow heads and tools out of obsidian.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Behr, secretary

Curator's Report - April

Al Pribble, museum manager wanted to know how many specimens we had since he had seen these figures mentioned in the websites of other museums. I discussed the subject with Sharon John (Asst. Curator) and we thought it was a good idea. We spent several hours counting specimens and the figures are as follows:

Touch Table:	140
North Carolina Room:	558
States Room:	1,258
Native American Artifacts:	1,452
Flourescent Room:	80
Slammer:	84
International Hall:	600
Fossil Room:	740
World Room:	513
Total Items:	5,427

If you have not taken the time to take a good close look at what we have then you will have missed a lot.

Fred Plesner, Curator

Tips

Many lapidarists now heat nodule and thunder egg halves under a heat lamp for a few minutes before polishing with tin oxide or cerium oxide on felt. The polish comes up almost instantly. Alternatives include putting specimens in a 200° F oven until they are warm to the touch or putting specimens in hot water until they are warm. Dry off excess water before polishing.

Via *Stoney Statements* Sept. 2011;

Via *Star-o-Lite* May 2013

WIT and WISDOM

Too many of us are like wheelbarrows -- useful only when pushed and too easily upset.

Some people give and forgive;
others get and forget.

The Calgary Lapidary Journal February 2009

Gift Shop Manager's Thoughts

Our busy season has arrived - keeping the museum and gift shop staffed by volunteers is always a challenge during the spring/summer/fall months. This is your club and it is very important to continue to understand that members need to be willing to host at least once a month. Al Pribble and I are willing to help anyone that isn't comfortable with hosting and will always make sure that we try to make it an enjoyable experience, both for you and for visitors. Please talk to either of us about more training or a refresher course in that area.

Doris and Wally Smith are back and I am so excited to have Doris here to help me in the gift shop and also in ordering books and buying new items to sell.

The Aquamarine necklace and earrings for this year's raffle are now in the circular display case in the museum with a small note indicating what the stones are, where they were mined and also that they cut and faceted by a club member. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 for one ticket, \$5 for 6. These tickets will be behind the counter in the gift shop, usually on top of the TV monitor along with the jar to put the tickets in. Please make sure each ticket has the name and phone number of the person buying it. Remember, it is not necessary to be present to win - drawing is October 2013.

Thank you to all who have been recycling items in the museum and also at the meetings during refreshment time. I continue to get silverware that will be used for refreshments at meetings instead of plastic and that will in time keep the costs down for the club. Any questions about how and what to recycle, please contact me or pick up brochures that are on the table where the newsletters are during a meeting.

At the time I am writing this article, plans are in the works to put a table outside the museum on Saturday, May 11th, during the Airing of the Quilts and the Franklin Plant Club's yearly plant sale.

Since we had such great success during Trail Days, I am hoping to be able to draw lots of folks down to our museum, allow them to tour it and to also sell some 'Mother's Day specials'. In advance, I want to thank the hosts for that day as the museum will be open earlier than usual.

Elena Marsh



Manager's Memo (Al Pribble)

It has been a busy month already and not even one third the way through it.

We opened for our summer schedule on May 1st and Fred Plesner and Doreen Freeman had a very busy day, Diane has already had one tour with about 20 people and two more scheduled for Wednesday the 8th, so it is starting off as a busy year.

Come around and look at the new additions to the fountain, it looks GREAT. A big thanks goes to President Lon Peden, Tom Sterrett and John Hayes for all the work they put in. Tom and Lon did the heavy stuff, they gave John the dangerous work of turning the pump on and off. Ask him about it. Also, many thanks to Arlon Eldridge for donating some really beautiful stones to decorate with.

Over the winter Lon has been at work taking care of the rose bushes and other plants to make sure they come out and make our place as beautiful as the Garden club next door. He put new edging around all the flower beds, added new mulch to the courtyard and since the warm wet spring has brought out all the weeds in the parking area he has been busy cleaning that area as well. More thanks goes to all the Volunteers that keep our Museum operating. Some are doing more than their share and I really appreciate everyone who helps out.

I saw an anonymous quote recently that goes like this:

Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless, but because they are Priceless.

I can only add and Amen.

Elena and I held a Hosting Workshop for those who either were new or wanted to refresh their skills. We are hoping that there will be enough interest that we can do another one sometime this summer. By getting together we can all learn a little and make the operation smoother. One thing that has been brought up is the need to mention in our introduction to the Museum, the fact that it is free but we can only keep it that way through donations and sales in the Gift Shop (nicely).

Tom Marsh will be covering the operations for two weeks starting May 13th while my wife and I take a trip. Doris Smith has graciously agreed to do the scheduling for the month of June. I need one more person who will help by taking the job for a month at a time. With three people working our 6 month season will not be a burden on anyone. Please see me if you are willing.

Elena and Tom with help from Doris have done wonders in the Gift Shop. I believe our sales are going to improve this year.

The Bradley Mine Fire

By Fred Plesner for *The Mountain Gem*

In September of 2012, I mentioned that a fire forced the closure of the Bradley Mica Mine. The Bradley Mica Mine was located about four miles north of Franklin on the Bryson City Road near the Iotla Bridge. I did some more digging into records and here is the rest of the story.

The Franklin Press and *The Highlands Maconian* of March 27, 1947 reported that a fire broke out late on Friday night, March 21, 1947 and that the fire got out of control and destroyed approximately two thirds of the plant facilities before being extinguished. Floyd Mason, an employee of the mine, discovered the fire at about 11:30 P.M. as he started on his way home from work at the mine. He immediately raised the alarm but it took 20 minutes before the alarm was received in Franklin and another 25 minutes for the firemen to arrive at the Mine.

It was then necessary to dam a small stream that ran by the plant to raise the water level to a sufficient depth that the intake hose for the fire departments pumper truck to have sufficient suction to provide the necessary water supply to extinguish the fire. Once water was available the firemen went to work but high winds hampered their efforts and it took until 3:00 A.M. before the fires were all extinguished.

The mill house, the washing plant and a storage building were all destroyed. A tank containing about 700 gallons of fuel oil, the office and several trucks were saved as was the repair shop equipment and the machinery in the mine itself.

Andy Buchanan, superintendent of the mine, reported that all 20 to 25 men normally employed at the mine would remain on the job, but that it would be necessary to change, temporally, from two to three shifts. Unfortunately the mine was never able to get back on its feet financially and was forced to close the doors for good in 1947.

June newsletter deadline

is June 10, Monday.



Program Report

By Rex Larkin

Our April program was one of the most interesting I have attended. Bill and Susie Gingrass, from their company in Tennessee, Backwood Survival Skill, did a presentation on flint knapping, or the art of creating arrowheads, ax heads, spears, etc. While showing our people a live demonstration, they also added commentary, much of it amazing, about the early Native-Americans.

They were quick to point out that ancient peoples were not shaping their stone implements for ornamental purposes. Indeed, with the jagged edges found on their implements, it was apparent they were used to inflict jagged, bleeding wounds, not to put too fine a point on it!

Hammer stones and deer antlers, were used to both shape and shear off pieces of rock. They had no certain shape-the main purpose was to produce pieces of rock, many as small as a quarter, that could be used as arrowheads. These pieces could then be placed into a notched stick, straightened by heating over a fire, and then tied into place. For spears and throwing shafts, the remaining large piece of rock, carefully shaped by sanding and edging, also layering, could be thrown from an atlatl, or cupped holder, thereby increasing both its force and distance.

In our area, rhyolite and quartz were the preferred rock to chip and shape. It was amazing to watch Bill produce arrowheads and leave an ax head from the original stone, this time using obsidian, in a very short period of time. He showed different techniques, such as percussion flaking, to remove lumps; pressure flaking to break pieces into conchoidal fractures; and contouring and sharpening by using certain "hammer" rocks. He made these techniques look deceptively easy, but it still seemed to me, after looking at our museum collection of stone tools, how you would first, recognize one left by some ancient tribe, and second, how did they learn all these things.

For instance, Bill could strike, layer, fracture, and shape these rock segments almost at will, while cautioning how easy it was to crack open the large rock you were working with. Today, we can use what he called a "copper-bopper," and yes, it is a copper-tipped shaft that, well, bops the rock. Stones that will create a powder against the rock are used as a finishing, or sanding, into points. We were all encouraged to take home a sample from the debris pile.

Bill and Susie brought some of their own handmade items for sale, and they were amazing: DVDs, books, spears, arrowheads, axes, and arrows, all at very reasonable prices. I bought a beautiful dance stick made from jasper, leather, brass, and feather-I could go on and on.

Thank you Bill and Susie, and a big thank you to Linda Smith for bringing us consistently thought-provoking programs.



Bill and Suzie Gingrass
from Lenoir, NC

Amazing Eye Test

Motion Induced Blindness
Via Internet



This is frightening! It works exactly like it says, and is one major reason people in cars can look right at you (when you're on a motorcycle or bicycle)---AND NOT SEE YOU.

From a former Naval Aviator.

This is a great illustration of what we were taught about scanning outside the cockpit when I went through training back in the '50s. We were told to scan the horizon for a short distance, stop momentarily, and repeat the process. I can remember being told why this was the most effective technique to locate other aircraft. It was emphasized (repeatedly) to NOT fix your gaze for more than a couple of seconds on any single object. The instructors, some of whom were WWII veterans with years of experience, instructed us to continually "keep our eyes moving and our head on a swivel" because this was the best way to survive, not only in combat, but from peacetime hazards (like a midair collision) as well. We basically had to take the advice on faith (until we could experience for ourselves) because the technology to demonstrate it didn't exist at that time.

Via Motorcycle Safety Foundation: <http://www.msf-usa.org/motion.html>

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.

An Official Field Trip of Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Hendersonville, NC) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC
9:00 AM EDT til Dusk
Saturday, June 8, 2013
Mason Farm Staurolite Prospect, Brasstown, NC

FEE Site

Collecting: Staurolite crystals (Maltese and St. Andrew's crosses)---these are also known as Fairy Crosses (brown/gray to red-tinged well-formed crystals) Gold (pan for it in small stream)

You will be digging in red clay, then sifting for the Staurolite crystals. This appears to be an alluvial wash with lots of loose crystals, mostly whole, as well as some crystals in matrix. Many of these are found within the first foot of soil, but they can be found as deep as three feet (especially the bigger ones). Crystals range in size from 1/4" up to over 2". Digging is allowed on the hillside and in the field. The boundaries are marked with flagging tape. There is a lot of room for digging.

The St. Andrew's crosses form an X and are plentiful. The Maltese crosses look like a large plus (+) or perfectly equal-sided cross. Single Blades are also found. Clusters of crystals are uncommon. Crystals on matrix can be found, but are much less common than loose crystals. Black sands are found in the small stream. Gold has also been found within the quartz. (I have NOT personally found any GOLD yet---too busy digging for Staurolite, but have seen some BLACK SANDS while washing the Staurolite crystals. The owner HAS found some GOLD, but I have not personally seen it).

For a site report, visit <http://wncrocks.com/magma/masonfarmstaurolite-1.html>

Cost: \$20 per person; children 12 and under are free. Everyone will be required to sign a liability release form when you pay your fee.

Field trip will go on RAIN or SHINE!!

Tools: screens and gold pan to collect gold and/or black sands; 1/4" screen and shovel (minimum essential tools needed to collect staurolite), bags, buckets, mattock, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray.

Facilities: Port-o-lets on site. Clay's Country Store 2 1/2 miles away for snacks, drinks, lunch (or bring your own)

Parking: in a grassy field; the lower area gets slick in a hurry when it rains (think slick red clay)

Site: open hardwood forest on hillside, grassy field, small stream

Directions: From Franklin, North Carolina, head west on Hwy. 64 and go past Hayesville. Turn left on Hwy 141 South (at redlight), heading toward downtown Brasstown, following for 1.7miles. Turn left at Clay's Country Store onto Brasstown Road, following for .6 miles, then left onto Folk School Road, following for .4 miles. The road forks and is named Mason Road (the one on your left). Follow Mason Road for 1 mile, then turn left onto Cedar Lane (gravel road). Follow Cedar Lane for .4 miles to the digging site, parking in the grassy field.

CONTACT for more information: Tim Barton (828) 885-8248 home, (828) 577-4505 cell (NO CALLS AFTER 10:30 P.M.)

Member News

Reporting by Linda, editor

Ray Behr is doing fantastic after his total hip replacement.

John Hayes injured his back while working at the museum.

Jack Jungles had a gout attack and had to make a visit to the hospital.

Some of our seasonal friends have returned: Fred and Fran Rasmusson; Della Samuel; Wally and Doris Smith.

Important web sites:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies web site is at: <http://www.amfed.org>
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Website at: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>. You can find the scheduled SFMS classes for Wildacres & William Holland

2013 SFMS Workshop

Class Schedule

Session One - William Holland

Sunday, June 9-15, 2013

Session Two - Wildacres

Monday, August 19-25, 2013

Session Three - Wildacres

Monday, September 23-29, 2013

Session Four - William Holland

Sunday, October 13-19, 2013

A very interesting website is:

[www.http://geology.com/](http://www.geology.com/)

The pictures are great! I hope to use some of their information in future newsletters.

Linda, editor

A, B, C's Of What One Can Do With Rocks*Author Unknown*

A - Admire them
 B - Brag about them
 C - Cut and Cab them
 D - Display them
 E - Enjoy them
 F - Facet them
 G - Gloat over them
 H - Hunt them
 I - Idolize them
 J - Joy their beauty
 K - Kick them
 L - Lick them
 M - Make something with them
 N - Never tire of them
 O - Ogle them
 P - Polish Them
 Q - Quick - collect them
 R - Roam for them
 S - Stumble over them
 T - Trade / Tumble them
 U - unable to resist them
 V - Vastly enjoy them
 W - Wonder about them
 X - X-Ray them
 Y - Year for more
 Z - Zoom to collect more

From SCFMS Newsletter May-June 2008; via
 The Calgary Lapidary Journal February 2009

At the May Meeting

**Now is your time to share your
 favorite specimen
 either a rock, piece of jewelry or just some-
 thing that you would like to brag about.**


**Punography
 Via Internet**


- When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.
- PMS jokes aren't funny; period.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- We're going on a class trip to the Coca-Cola® factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection urine trouble.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- I dropped out of Communism class because of lousy Marx.
- All the toilets in New York 's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.
- Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor
25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734
Editor's Email:
themountaingem@fastmail.fm



In May, we will meet in the room
directly opposite the front door.
Bring your favorite rock or mineral to
share with others.



First Class Mail



Board and General Meetings for 2013

MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL
JANUARY	29	31
FEBRUARY	26	28
MARCH	26	28
APRIL	23	25
MAY	28	30
JUNE	25	27
JULY	16	18
AUGUST	27	29
SEPTEMBER	24	26
OCTOBER	15	17
NOVEMBER	19	21
DECEMBER	1 pm-5 pm Saturday	14 End of Year Party

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