

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
Volume MMXVI JUNE 2015
Number 6
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 Robert C. Carpenter 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 arts and sciences 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 and group tours are available by contacting our Education Chairman, Diane Aiello at 828-371-2436 or 828-524-3307.



**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
Secretary	Susan Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Assistant Treasurer	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director 2016	Ray Behr	342-6360
Director 2016	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2015)	TBD	
Director (2015)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't Mgr	TBD	
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.	Cy Amrich	356-7816

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Calendar Chairman	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Gemboree	TBD	
Gemboree Ass't	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	
	727-367-9196 or 349-2807	
Librarian	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Membership	Claudette Rollins	349-4834
Publications	Ellen Crawford	404-457-4478
Publicity	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Programs	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Christine Hubinger	349-7360



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: June 25, 2015
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building on 441 South
Program: Presentation by Arlon Eldridge

July Birthdays

2 - Fred Plesner
 4 - Ina Raye Muncher
 5 - Lee Burley
 8 - Marty Martinez
 15 - Rhoda Haber
 16 - Sonja Eldridge
 16 - Albert Moccia
 18 - Jim Huebler
 18 - Marilyn Kolle

**August Birthdays**

6 - Garrett Morgan
 6 - Linda Smith
 22 - John Greist
 22 - Edward Magness
 25 - Art Zoeckler
 29 - Theresa Holland
 31 - Arlon Eldridge



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JULY 2nd

**Al Pribble**

Sorry for the lapse last month. That bloomin' sling with a big pillow kinda' put a stop to my typing there for a while. I'm still in the sling but able to take it off once in a while.



This is the first news letter for our new editor, Ellen Crawford, but I want to just take some space to thank our old (but still young) editor, Linda Behr. She did a great job for a long time in the job and got the club some recognition with her award winning style. Also, to Ray for all he did to support that effort. Like keeping the printer going amidst good days and bad. Thanks to you both.

Our new Historian, Ron Rossomando is back in town and on the trail of how things were in yester-year. He has been reading all the old issues of The Mountain Gem and I am sure we will be hearing (or seeing) more from him about the "Good Old Days" of the club. On a sadder note, Jack Jungles had to resign as our Show Chairman due to health problems. If you like hard work for three days three times a year and think you have an aptitude for organizing workers, please see me.

One thing that Ron and I found in reading those back issues – getting workers for the Museum has been a chore since day one. 😞 So, please keep volunteering. One thing that is mentioned most often in all the reviews we see about the Museum is how great our Volunteers are and how helpful and friendly. So, every one of you who work in as guides are recognized by people you do not even know. Keep it up. If you want to see some of the comments from the visitors try this web site:

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g49146-d255222-Reviews-Franklin_Gem_and_Mineral_Museum-Franklin_North_Carolina.html

I suppose I have mentioned this before but I am also proud of the way our meeting room in the Museum has become a popular gathering place for members. It speaks well of the club when members like to be around other members.

So, keep Rockhounding!

Minutes – MAY 28 , 2015 – General Meeting

Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 6:35 p.m. in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Minutes – The general meeting minutes for April printed in the newsletter were accepted without corrections or additions.

Membership – Claudette Rollins reported 31 members and 6 guests in attendance this evening.

Vice President – Tom Sterrett is absent this evening.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported that we are minus \$37 for the month of April.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh reported that we now have a new security system in the museum.

Curator/Publicity – Fred Plesner stated that we received a donation of a very unusual specimen – a whelk shell with calcite from Indian River, Florida. He has ordered 2,000 brochures and already has had three requests for a total of 950. He reminded us that Tartan's Day will be coming the weekend of June 20th and that extra volunteers will be needed in the museum.

Education – Elena Marsh spoke on behalf of Diane Aiello who is absent tonight. Elena said that Diane has had several tours recently and that she wanted to thank all everyone who volunteered to host during the tours.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported that her book order has been received and books are on display for sale. She said she appreciated all of the donations of handcrafted pieces. She acknowledged Anamay Rossomondo for all her hard work and assistance. She said that the month of May was difficult but looks forward to an exciting and busy summer. She and Anamay are working on the display representing our museum that will be at Macon Bank for the entire month of June.

Mother's Day Weekend Gem Show – Norman Holbert reported a profit of \$4,200 from the show! He would also like to do a presentation on faceting at some point soon.

New Business:

Al Pribble thanked Tom Marsh, Ralph Crawford and Ron Rossomondo for their hard work on the security system at the museum.

Al said that we now have a new editor, Ellen Crawford, who will take over from Linda Behr this June. He urged everyone to support her as much as possible. The deadline for the newsletter is June 5.

Ron Rossomondo spoke as our new historian. He says that he has arranged all of the past newsletters and photographs (all the way back to 1973). He asked anyone who had photos to contribute to please let him know.

Al reported that Susan Fritz is our new librarian, having been asked by Dean Plesner who is retiring from this position.

Al Pribble wanted to remind us that we are a very unique club in that we run a business; we own a museum. He stated we have one of the largest collections in the Eastern United States and that our mission is education.

Al Pribble stated that Virginia Bennis has resigned her position from the Board of Directors in order to work for the State of Franklin in our museum. Since her Board position expires in two more months, the Board has decided to wait until election time to replace this position.

Arlon Eldridge wanted everyone to know that elections are coming up in July. If anyone is interested in a position, please let him know so that names can be placed on ballots.

Virginia Bennis is also working on scheduling hosts for the museum. The month of May was difficult. She passed around the clipboard and urged members to please sign up for an afternoon of hosting; the museum cannot stay open without hosts!

Regarding Tartan's Day, Al Pribble said that tables could be set up outside the museum if anyone has items they would like to sell.

Minutes cont'd from page 4

Joe Foreman has some equipment for sale. If anyone is interested, please contact Joe directly.

It was reported that there will be a gem show at Tannehill in Alabama on June 6 & 7.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. by president, Al Pribble.

Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes. Refreshments were served. The guest speaker for this evening had to cancel at the very last moment due to a serious family emergency. Fred Plesner graciously offered to present tonight's program which consisted of 16 different specimens that members were asked to identify. The three members with the most correct answers were rewarded with beautiful amethyst crystals mounted on wood, provided by Arlon Eldridge. Deborah Wright correctly identified the most specimens. Discussion and fellowship followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, secretary



**Cheryl Jenkins won the trillion pink tourmaline pendant at the May Gemboree raffle
The prize was donated by Linda Smith of Emma's Place**



October raffle prize donated by the Rose Creek Mine

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon – Club Coordinator – 369-7262

The **Buck Creek** trip which took place on **May 16th** included 5 adventurous souls. Rock hunting took on a new meaning when gold panning, river sifting, meadow hiking and mine hunting were all included in the same trip. Yes, this area has potential to provide many a hunter's desire and is less than 30 minutes from Franklin. A huge exposure of olivine, many small garnets, and an uncharted mine with tailings were all found, in and around the creek.

For the flower lover the wild Iris were abundant. We have many more spots to explore along this beautiful river and for those who like to camp there are spaces also. I would like to welcome Gary to the field trip group and thank all who participated. Even the one who had to be bribed with cookies, thank you Ralph.



Due to a late notification, the **Summerville Lace Agate** DMC field trip did not make the news letter but I did manage to call all prior trip participants or talk to them in person. This trip took place on June 7th.

The **Dahlonega GA "Gold Trip"** is planned for **June 27th**. Claudette and I did a pre-run and really enjoyed the day. Choose what you want is the idea of this trip!

The Museum cost will be \$6.50 and last about an hour.

The Consolidated Mine tour and indoor panning for \$9 is also on the list of opportunities there. I found plenty of things to see for free and we still are planning to use the Chestatee River in the National Forest for a stream panning adventure, if our contact in town doesn't "pan" out. Please sign up at the Museum and bring your own picnic (coolers will be provided), a chair, panning gear if that is of interest to you. We will be leaving from the Museum at 8 am and car pooling is always available.

A visit to **Holland's School** in Young Harris GA is planned for **Friday July 3rd**. This trip will provide an opportunity to see "show and tell", lunch at the school and hunt for Fairy Crosses very close by. The only cost will be your lunch.

There has been interest in a trip to Hiddenite or Crabtree expressed by several members so it is in work for probably early August? Details to come and I am always listening for new or old ideas. Just get my attention PLEASE!



From the Southeast Federal Mineral Society

An Official Field Trip of the Southern Appalachian Mineral Society (Asheville, NC) HOST
An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club 9:00 AM to dusk Saturday, July 18, 2015 to the Little Pine Garnet Mine, Madison County, N.C. FEE Site

DIRECTIONS: From Asheville take I-26 west to US 25-70 (exit 19A for Marshall, NC right exit). From north of Marshall, take I-26 south to US 29-70 (exit 19 for Marshall). Travel US 25-70 toward Marshall approx. 12.6 miles and turn left on Little Pine Road. There will be a sign for Sandy Bottom Trail Rides at this corner. Follow Little Pine Road 3.8 miles and turn left onto Caney Fork Road. Parking will be at the end of Caney Fork Road. Collectors will car-pool from here to the site. Maps and/or directions will be available from the office to the mine site. We will meet at the office of Sandy Bottom trail Rides 1459 Caney Fork Road, Marshall, NC 28753 at 9:00 AM. Release forms must be turned in and admittance fee paid. You will receive a ticket which you must keep with you. Representatives randomly visit the collecting site and check collectors. From I-240 at Asheville time should be 35 to 40 minutes. (approx. 25 miles). The Sandy Bottom Trail Rides website also had maps and directions sandybottomtrailrides.net.

HISTORY: Little Pine was worked commercially around 1904-05 for Garnets to produce sandpaper (garnet paper). Good crystals of Almandine Garnets can be readily found from ½ to 4 or more inches. Some remain in the Chlorite schist matrix and can be cleaned to produce very showy matrix specimens. There are some crystals that exhibit an elongated growth that is very desirable. Note: All DMC member clubs are required to maintain field trip liability insurance!

ASSEMBLY: Parking at the collecting site is limited, so members of attending clubs should arrange to car-pool from the meeting site to the collecting area. The road into the mine crosses a shallow stream, however most vehicles should pass without problems. WE CANNOT BLOCK THE DRIVE as it is also a homeowner's access road.

EQUIPMENT: For dump collecting bring scratching tools, small shovel, or pick type rock hammers. To enter the mine, a hardhat and some type of headlamp is necessary. The ceiling of this mine has some loose material and is not suited for children. DO NOT dig into or weaken the support columns! Believe it or not people do this foolish thing. Fill in all dug holes.

COST: The Dixie Mineral Council Group is receiving a discounted rate of \$20.00 per person per day. There is not a special rate for children who attend! Please identify yourself as being a member of the Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip to receive this rate!

The collecting limit is one gallon of Garnets per person. Children 8 and older allowed with close adult supervision. There are dump areas that are child friendly; however there is also a mine shaft and tunnel where children should not be allowed to venture.

RELEASE FORM: Each individual MUST fill out a Sandy Bottom Trail Rides release form. Go to their website - sandybottomtrailrides.net to download form. It will save time if you have these completed prior to arrival. Children under 18 must have a parent or guardian fill out a form on their behalf NO EXCEPTIONS.

A Port-O-Let is located at the mine site. Bring water, food, and bug repellent. No pets.

Please contact Marsha Harmon if interested.

Space Needed

Fred Plesner Curator The Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

The Old Macon County Jail has often been ignored and as a result has been in a run down condition. Attitudes were changing in the 1950's and a Grand Jury inspection by jurors Joe Reese, T. A. Bateman and Wiley Stamey in December of 1955 found that the jail was being kept in a good manner, however additional space was badly needed.

Their report as printed in the Franklin Press and Highlands Maconian of December 15, 1955 reads as follows. "Jail is being kept in good manner, but more space is badly needed. Often times prisoners must be transferred to other jails for the simple reason that there is not sufficient room, according to the law, to accommodate them. We



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have reference to mixed sex, and also to minors and mixed races. Additional space could be made at a very small expense to the county."

The county officials took the report seriously and added the present annex to the jail in 1957. When the jailor moved his family into the newly built annex the front two rooms were then converted to cells by tearing up the wooden floors and putting down concrete and adding steel doors. These two cells were then used to segregate minors and women from the rest of the jail population.

During this building process the back door to the jail in the old boiler room was sealed over and the annex was built over the old town well which had been filled-in in 1939.

Indeed, we have had some very interesting people pass through our doors.

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager

If you haven't noticed, our busy season is here – we have had many visitors touring the museum already and we expect the rest of the summer and fall to be the same. So it's important that the museum be open each day that it is scheduled to accommodate those who have come to beautiful Franklin. Please find the time from your busy schedules to host!

The whirlwind you may have noticed around town is not a weather related event – it is Anamay who is back from Florida for the summer and has been working diligently on jewelry items, making new displays and organizing the mess I made over the winter when she was gone. She is tireless (well, almost, can find her asleep a minute after she starts riding home in the passenger side of the car that Ron is driving!) and make the gift shop and museum even better than it already is.

The Macon Bank's back lobby now features our society and all that we do. This is an opportunity to display our brochures, specimens, some jewelry items made by our members and it gives the general public the chance to see what we are all about. Stop by the bank and see what the display looks like. This is FREE advertisement, the bank does not charge to allow us to showcase our society and museum.

Thanks again for all donations to the gift shop. Thanks to members who have helped me clean, organize, sort thru specimens for sale and any other projects that need to be done in the gift shop – it is great to have an extra set of hands to make any task go quickly and efficiently.

Although I say it a lot but I never want this to be taken for granted – THANKS FOR HOSTING – you are representing the club in the finest way.

See you in the museum soon! Elena



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN!

Upcoming Shows

June 13—GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club, Greensboro Day School; 5401 Lawndale Drive; Sat. 10 am-6 pm; Adults \$4, Seniors \$2, Students \$2, Children \$2; Numerous gem and jewelry and mineral vendors, demonstrations, food and fun for the young and old and curious!; contact Charlie Finch, PO Box 13087, Greensboro, NC 27410, (336) 696-7745; e-mail:

June 13-14—CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA: Show and sale; Tellus Science Museum, Tellus Science Museum; 100 Tellus Drive; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$14, Seniors \$12, Students \$10, Children \$10. Contact Mary Vinson, PO Box 3663, Cartersville, GA 30120, (770) 606-5700; e-mail: maryv@tellusmuseum.org; Web site: tellusmuseum.org

July 23-26—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA: Macon County Gemboree; Robert C. Carpenter Building; 1288 Georgia Road/US 441; Thurs. - Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-4 pm; Adults \$3.00, Children under 12 free; Thurs. Senior Citizen Day \$1.00; Sun. Macon County Residents Day \$1.00; Sponsored by The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce and The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

May Show

We did it and we did it well! Although we have had a general membership meeting since the show and the financial profits were announced, I want to again thank all who showed up, participated, and made this show a better success than last year's. If were to attempt to list those of you who helped, I'm sure that I would have missed several of you. So no listings. You know who you are – Thank You.

I would be remiss if I didn't at least call out and thank the two members that showed up to help with the initial set up of the tables in the gym, meeting room and club area. Fred and Cy showed up that Thursday morning and we had the tables in place when several more club members showed up. We got the electric set and allowed the vendors to start loading about an hour early. Load out Sunday afternoon went well. We had many club members who stayed to help, and we also had the Boy Scouts there to load our tables into our trailer.

As with any show of this type, some of our vendors didn't do all that well and indicated that they may not return next year. For the rest, most said that they did really well. Jimmy Robbins of El-Mar Enterprises told me that this was probably the best May show he had ever had here in Franklin.

Looking back over the past two shows that we sponsored on our own, all looks good. There are areas for us to improve on such as having a Hospitality person, and more help with set-up and load-in. And of course, any suggestions from our membership will be considered.

Again, **We did it!** Thank you to all,

Norm Holbert

Ruby—July's Birthstone

Ruby. There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.

See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/july-birthstone#sthash.YmS0f9WU.dpuf>



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Have A Safe & Happy 4th!

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 Ice Cream Social
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.