



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina
June 2019 Newsletter



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
Past President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
Vice President: Arlon Eldridge, (828-369-5271)
Secretary: Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Treasurer: Lake Holland, (828-369-5421)
Assistant Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (828-349-9615)
Museum Manager: Duane Haskell, (828-349-5123)
Director (2018): Mike Gillen, (678-772-6375)
Director (2018): Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
Director (2019): Diane Mason, (706-379-1718)
Director (2019): Tom Sterrett, (828-349-3774)

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
Museum Curator: Sean Price, (336-964-2061)/Larry Ellert, (828-349-0774)
Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807), Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954), & Diane Mason
Museum Workshop: Cy Amrich, (828-356-7816)
Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Program Coordinator: Kathi Walbridge
Calendar: Jay Mooney, (678-488-0620)
Gemboree: Kathy Green, (941-387-4397)
Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Asst Education/Tours: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)

Club Newsletter

Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

Club Contact E-mail: franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Club Website

<http://www.fgmm.org/>

Club Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/franklingems>

Monthly meetings

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society meets the last Thursday of each month, except for November and December, normally at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South), Franklin. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM.

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



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Minutes: May 30, 2019

Susan Fritz

President Jane Morgan called the meeting to order on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the John C. Carpenter Community Building.

Minutes – Jane Morgan asked for any corrections, deletions or additions to the April 2019 minutes taken by Diane Mason in the absence of Susan Fritz. There being none, a motion was made and the minutes were accepted as printed.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported a negative balance for the month of April.

Membership – Tom Parker reported 40 members and 8 guests present. Of the 8 guests, 5 signed up as new members.



New members (l. to r.) Joel Smith, Brenda Smith, Matt Castor, Katie LaFlamm, Melissa Barfield

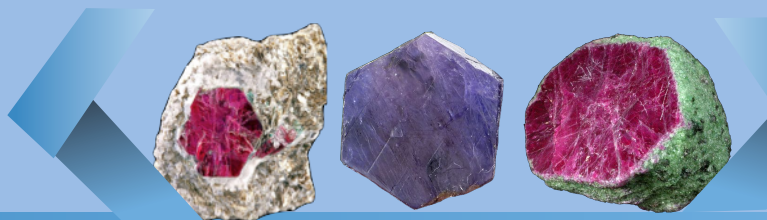
Museum Manager – Duane Haskell will be forming a committee in order to get new lines placed in the fountain area and complete any necessary repairs.

Gift Shop – Items for sale continue to be updated. We will participate in Heritage Days at Cowee on 08/17. Volunteers are needed for this event.

Gemboree – Norman Holbert stated all went well. Set up was done in record time and many members assisted with tear down. Our profit, including that from the silent auction, exceeded \$3,000.

The Mountain Gem

June 2019



FGMS Minutes (continued)

Workshop – Cy Amrich stated new wheels are needed for the capping machines. John Hayes will check on these and report back to us.

Field Trips – Lake Holland reported on an SFMS trip for Friday, 06/21, to Thermal City with a limit of 35 people.

Newsletter – Stacy Walbridge reminded everyone the newsletter deadline is Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

Tours/Education – Marsha Harmon is absent this evening.



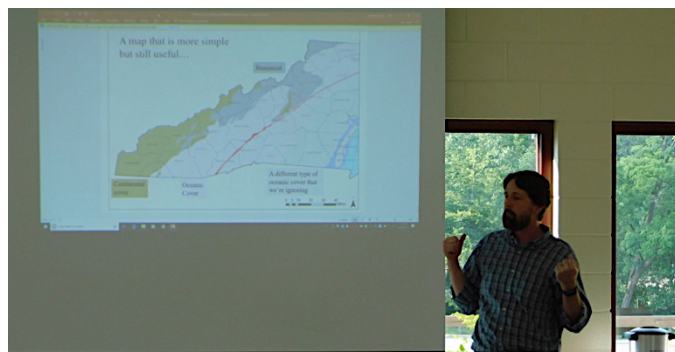
New Business

Jane Morgan announced a new protocol for General meetings: anyone speaking needs to step up to the front, face the group, use the microphone, give their report or state their business.

There will be a BBQ for our club members on Sunday, July 21, at noon. There are sign-up sheets indicating how many will be present and another sheet to indicate your willingness to volunteer for set up, clean up and what side dish each person can bring.

Regarding parking when at the museum, Jane Morgan asked everyone to be very mindful of parking on the street or in other areas to help prevent overloading our six assigned parking spots.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. by president, Jane Morgan. After the break, Bart Cattanach, North Carolina Geological Survey, gave a presentation on WNC geology with a focus on Macon County and surroundings.



Bart Cattanach describing western North Carolina geologic features.



FIELD TRIPS

Marsha Harmon

Preceding the June 27th meeting at 3:00 PM, the guest speaker at our June meeting, Bill Witherspoon, will lead a tour of the large outcrop and overlook adjacent to the visitor center at Black Rock Mountain State Park, Mountain City, GA. A \$5 parking pass or annual State Park pass is required. We'll meet at the Visitors Center at 3:00 and walk approximately 50 to 100 feet to a set of steps down to the overlook. The site is fairly easy to navigate but not handicap accessible.

DMC in July: The DMC trip for July will be to Diamond Hill Mine near Abbeville, SC. The site is well known for amethyst, smoky, skeletal, clear and milky quartz crystals. They are also listing beryl and cacoenite as more rare minerals to be found. Please see Marsha Harmon or Lake Holland for additional information about this trip scheduled for Friday July 19. See ya at the general meeting or call 828 369-7262. All active members are encouraged to participate in this program..



EDUCATION/TOURS

Ron Rossomando

On May 17th we hosted a Group of 15 Seniors from

The Mountain Gem

June 2019



Canton. Thanks to those who hosted- Fred Plesner, Paul Thomas and Duane Haskell. Ron Rossomando,

NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM

Diane Mason

During the May meeting several members displayed the results of William Holland classes they have taken over the past several months. These displays are the results of many hours of hard work and we ask that you respect the request not to handle these items unless given permission by the owner.



Scrimshaw by Diane Mason



Basketry by Sandy Behrens



Wire examples by Jenny Mooney (l) and April LaFlamm (r)



Chain bracelet and necklace by Sandy Behrens

The Mountain Gem

June 2019



THE COLENZO DIAMOND

Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus



The story of the Colenso Diamond begins with tragedy and ends in a mystery. The Colenso diamond was one of the earliest diamonds of note to be found in South Africa. The Colenso diamond is an uncut octahedral crystal that weights 133.145 carats and is a pale yellow in color.

The story begins with a storekeeper and two partners, all unnamed, who invested 2,000 pounds for a mining claim in 1883. The three partners began digging on their claim and after having very little success the store owner and one of the partners left the diggings. The third partner remained and continued digging. Unfortunately the workings collapsed and the third partner was buried alive.

After several months the store owner returned to the mine to retrieve the body. During the retrieval process he found several loose diamonds, among them was the Colenso diamond. He brought the diamonds to London, England and sold the Colenso diamond to R. C. Nockold, a well known precious stone dealer, with a good reputation.

John Ruskin was an author, art critic, social reformer and voice for good taste in Victorian England. He was also a friend and frequent visitor to Mr. Nockold's shop. Mr. Nockold sent a note to Mr. Ruskin informing him of the recent arrival of an important piece of stock. John Ruskin mis-read the

note and was expecting to see a 13 carat diamond not a 133 carat stone. Ruskin had been advising people to wear their diamonds uncut. He was captivated by this large stone and purchased it for 1,000 pounds

John Ruskin founded and was a member of the Guild of Saint George. Fanny Colenso was and early member of the Guild and the diamond was named after her. John Ruskin was also friends with the Keeper of Minerals in the British Museum. In 1887 he presented the Colenso diamond to the British Museum with the conditions that it remain uncut and be placed on public display with the following inscription:

*The Colenso Diamond,
Presented in 1887 by John Ruskin
"In honor of his Friend, the loyal
And patiently adamantine
First Bishop of Natal"*

The Colenso diamond remained on public view for 78 years until the night of 25 April 1965 when it was stolen when intruders broke into the Natural History Museum and made off with it. Some six months later David John Knight was arrested for the crime. David Knight lived in the residence of the Victoria and Albert Museum with his stepfather who was the head warden of that institution. He claimed to be watching "Tamla Motown" on television when the robbery occurred.

He was eventually convicted on evidence presented by Detective-Sergeant G. Harris who testified that Knight had confessed "All right, I nicked the diamond, the Colenso diamond, it is called for your information." Knight later said that the diamond had been shipped to Denmark. He was sentenced to three years in jail and later claimed that he had been framed by the police,

So, the mystery. Where is the diamond, Who has it, Has it been cut and who paid for this nefarious deed?

The Mountain Gem

June 2019



FEATURED SPEAKER FOR JUNE

Dr. Bill Witherspoon, co-author of the popular guide, *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, will present a talk, “The Buzzard’s Wings: Recent Insights into the Shaping of Southern Mountains,” as part of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society monthly meeting at 6:30 PM Thursday, June 27. The event, at the Carpenter Community Center at 1288 Georgia Rd (US 23), Franklin NC, is free and open to the public.

Witherspoon notes that the Southern Appalachians contain Eastern North America’s highest summits, as well as spectacular rocky slopes at places like Tallulah Gorge, Whiteside Mountain, and Chimney Rock. A famous Cherokee creation legend told about a tired buzzard whose wings scraped valleys into the still-soft landscape. It captured the truth that the mountains were carved out rather than individually pushed up or piled up. The scientific story is a work in progress, with notable advances within the last decade or so.

In a slide show, Witherspoon will explain that, although colliding continents cooked and compressed the region’s rock to its present state hundreds of millions of years ago, the landscape is far younger. Twenty million years ago, only modest mountains comparable to the Ozarks likely existed here. Witherspoon shares recent studies indicating that thousands of feet of uplift took place since then and may be ongoing. He will show how river basins’ competing for territory, and eroding into old weaknesses in the rock, produce some of the Southeast’s finest scenery.

Roadside Geology of Georgia, a full-color 320-page guide, has sold more than 7,000 copies, and is part of a Mountain Press Publishing series for the general reader that has sold over one million copies. “Our goal is to take the reader to Georgia’s natural wonders and explain the science that lies behind the scenery,” says Witherspoon, who taught geology to K-12 students and their teachers for 17 years at DeKalb County Schools’ Fernbank Science Center, and co-authored the 2013 book with Dr. Pamela Gore of Georgia Perimeter College.

2019 Meeting/Event Schedule



July 21st - The July Barbeque will be July 21st (Sunday) at the big pavilion on the backside of the community center past the pool and tennis courts. It is the same road as the Factory and The Performing Arts Building. We will plan to eat around 1:30. We need help cooking, setting up and side dishes. There is a sign up sheet at the Museum.

July 18th -Ice Cream Social - Show & Tell. We’ll provide the ice cream. You provide the toppings and the stories. Bring your favorite rock and tell us what it is, where it came from, and why it is important to you.



August 29th – Club Elections/Kim Cochran
September 26th - Officer Installation and Banquet
October 31st - TBD
November 14th - TBD
December 14th - End of Year Banquet/Rock Bingo

The Mountain Gem

June 2019



The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. Please remember us when planning your estate.

**July Newsletter Deadline is
Tuesday, July 16, 2019**

UPCOMING SHOWS

Gemboree - Faceters Frolic 2019

26-28 July 2019: Franklin, North Carolina

Sponsored by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin. 9am to 7pm Friday and Saturday, 10am to 4pm Sunday. \$2 admission, children under 12 free. \$1 off tickets available around town and at the Chamber's offices.

Robert C. Carpenter Community Center
1288 Georgia Road, Franklin, NC

24-28 July 2019: Franklin, North Carolina

Echo Valley Gem Show - The Echo Valley Gem & Mineral Show provides the attendees with an opportunity to explore wholesale and retail fashion accessories, gift merchandise, lapidary, beads, antique & estate beads, gemstone, glass, crystal, ball beads, metal beads, tools, jewelry, buttons, lampwork, seed beads, pearls, and more.

6456 Sylva Road, Franklin, NC 28734

25-28 July 2019: Franklin, North Carolina

G&LW Wholesalers

Watauga Festival Center

6295 Sylva Road, Franklin, NC

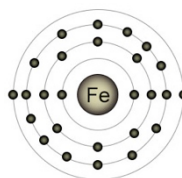
Advance registration:

<https://adiregisterme.com/login.php>

The Greatest Miracle

Frank Mayo, October 1990

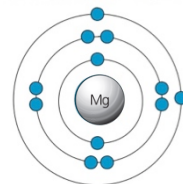
The greatest miracle is that the iron and magnesium atoms that have such a close affinity for each other



to form the four black ferromagnesian minerals continue their close relationship after they are weathered out of the rocks.

The close association of the iron and magnesium elements make possible all plant and animal life from chlorophyll and hemoglobin.

Iron is very essential to green plants, without it plants develop chlorosis and lose their green color and die. The most essential function of iron in plants is its catalytic role in the biosynthesis of chlorophyll. As fast as the iron atom presides over the biosynthesis of the complicated chlorophyll molecule it is replaced by the magnesium atom which starts the miracle of photosynthesis of sugar from carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight. Plants are the master chemists!!



After the animal eats the plant for food the iron atom that created the chlorophyll replaces the magnesium atom from the center of the chlorophyll molecule and the same molecule with an iron atom becomes heme, the red active part of hemoglobin that makes possible red blood necessary for all animal life.

It is indeed very remarkable that these two chemical elements iron and magnesium should have such a close relation in the mineral world and the living world. The magnesium atom in the chlorophyll creates the food and the iron atom is the heme or hemoglobin that oxidizes the food for animal energy.

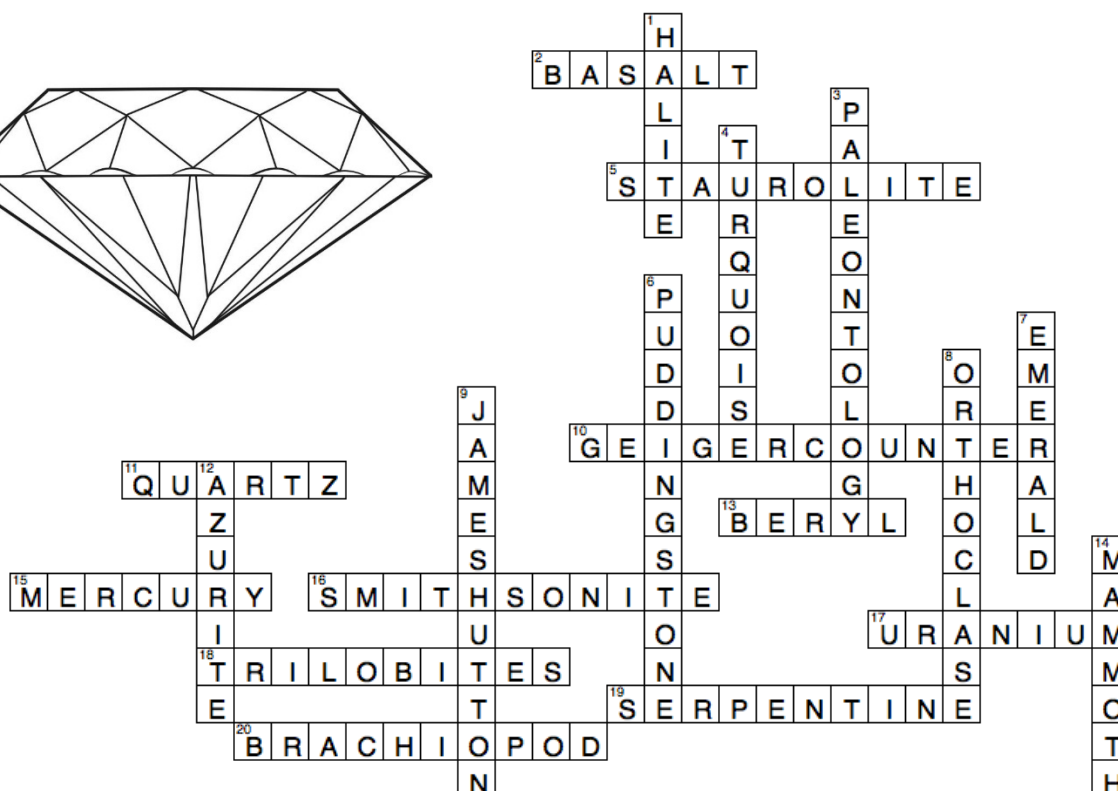
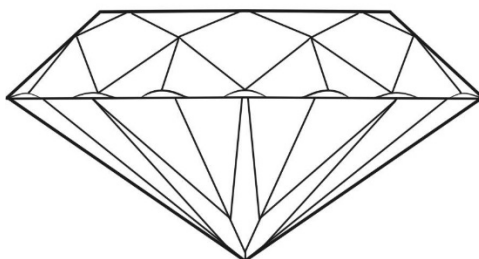
There could be no life without magnesium and iron!

The Mountain Gem

June 2019



Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils May Crossword Puzzle Solution



The Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on June 27th
at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South),
Franklin.

The Buzzard's Wings: Recent Insights into the Shaping of Southern Mountains

By

Bill Witherspoon

In addition to informative talk Bill will conduct a Geology tour of an overlook and
outcrop at Black Mountain State Park 3pm 6/27.

Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum

25 Phillips Street, Franklin, NC 28734

FRANKLIN
GEM
& MINERAL
MUSEUM
HISTORIC JAIL
ESTABLISHED 1859

FRANKLIN
GEM
& MINERAL
MUSEUM
OLD JAIL
FREE ADMISSION

Phone: 828-369-7831

In the Old Jail House

FREE ADMISSION

May 1 – October 31

Monday Thru Saturday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

November 1 – April 30

Saturdays: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Open Year Round For Tours
And Special Requests

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

fgmseditor@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734

