

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Volume XL1 JUNE 2013

Number 6

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@gmail.com

**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

General Meeting

Date: June 28, 2013

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Macon County
Community Center
on 441 South

Program:

Share your talents by presenting
items that you have made this past
year.

Now is your time to *shine!*

July Celebrations

Birthdays

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



Lon Peden, President

If you missed the last general meeting, you missed a great time in rocks!

Show and tell night was very interesting and fun. We all love our rocks!!

We had several visitors and I hope they return for more fun and knowledge.

Field trip at the end of the month with our fingers crossed.

Hosting in the museum is needed this summer more than ever, and I know the club will step-up to the challenge!. And a special thank you, to all the hard working members

Newest member: Susan Fritz



Wire Wrapping Classes Being Offered

We will have three classes, one each month in June, July and August. They will be held on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the museum meeting room.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the meeting room. If you want to attend, make sure you put your name and telephone number on the sheet...so I can call you.

If the class fills up quickly, call me and I will make other arrangements for you.

I am only taking four members to a class.

Call me at 407-312-3506, Doris Smith.

As past president, Tom Morley is responsible for setting up the nominating committee for the officers and two incoming board members (refer to inside cover of newsletter).

If you are interested in adding your name to the ballot for one of the BOARD positions, please contact Tom at 1-331-9512 or email him at rocksmarttom@gmail.com.

Please consider volunteering.

Minutes For The May 2013 Board Meeting Of
The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, NC

The meeting was called to order by Lon Peden, President, on May 28, 2013 at 6:30 PM in the Museum Meeting Room. Present were: Lon Peden; Tom Morley; Al Pribble; Elena Marsh; Fred Plesner; Tom Marsh; Dean Plesner; Ray Behr; Linda Smith; Marie Tsacrios; Linda Behr; Diane Aiello; Wally Smith; Doris Smith and Arlon Eldridge. Lon welcomed Wally and Doris back from Florida.

A question arose about an inquiry from a few mine owners who said some of their customers indicated the museum was closed on Saturday. After a short discussion, it was concluded that they probably came before opening time as Fred Plesner was hosting that day and assured the board that the museum was open.

Arlon addressed the question of assigning a NC Dept. of State Registered Agent. Possible candidates were: Tom Sterrett; Marty Martinez; Fred Plesner; and Al Pribble. Linda Smith made a motion to appoint Al Pribble which he declined because he leaves town occasionally. Linda withdrew her motion. Al made a motion to appoint Tom Sterrett as Registered Agent. Motion was seconded by Wally Smith. The motion was voted and carried unanimously.

Arlon stated that he would check tomorrow on the sixty T-Shirts which were ordered.

Lon presented a letter from Tom Marsh stating that the Financial Review Board found no discrepancies in our finances from last year.

Lon stated that our new insurance policy is now in effect covering the building, the large ruby, and liability. The insurance agent was very impressed during a tour when he came by the building to deliver the papers.

Lon revealed that there is still a leak in our waterfall fountain. An effort was made to repair the fountain, but the liner has a leak which cannot be repaired. There was a discussion on a number of possible solutions. Lon is going to look into estimated costs. The repair would not be performed until next winter.

Lon and Al are going to survey a field trip site for a possible future field trip. The location has two separate sites which we may be able to use. The sites are known to contain amethyst, sapphires and occasional rubies.

Treasurers Report – Marie Tsacrios reported for the month of April, we had an income of \$566.62, expenses of \$2,164.17 with a deficit of \$1,597.55. The large expenditure was due to replacing the carpet in the Meeting Room and the Library.

Newsletter – Linda Behr asked for newsletter articles to be submitted by June 7th. The subject arose concerning an assistant for the editor. Lon stated that if any committee or manager needs help; don't be shy in asking for help. If there are any last minute articles, Lon will drop them off with Linda Smith who will forward them to the editor.

Program – Linda Smith announced that the May program will be "Bring Your Favorite Rock or Gem." The June program will be a "Show and Tell."

Library – Dean Plesner had nothing to report.

Publicity – Fred Plesner said that Smokey Mountain Hosts needs more brochures. Elena reported that the Chamber of Commerce was out of our brochures. She and Tom took a box of them to the Chamber building. At the May Gemboree we sold raffle tickets and our dirt bags. A further discussion followed on the May Gemboree without arriving at any conclusions. Fred reminded us that the "Taste of Scotland" is on June 15th and we will need extra help in the museum that day beginning at 9AM.

Curator – Fred reported that we now have a Sillimanite cat's eye specimen.

Membership Recruitment Committee – Diane Aiello said that they will meet at the City Restaurant on June 6th at 9AM for a Dutch treat breakfast and meeting.

Linda Smith brought up the possibility of a Public Announcement on the radio to ask for hosting volunteers for the museum.

Lon announced that they are working on a location for the SFMS/DMC field trip later this year.

Doris Smith volunteered to be the Sunshine chairman. Please let her know if you are aware of any member who is in need of anything special.

Corresponding Secretary – Ray Behr said he sent get well cards to Jack Jungles and John Hayes.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported that Doris Smith is helping her to price items and update inventory in the gift shop. Both of them went to purchase gift shop items at the Gem Show. Elena related that they sold over \$150 of items at the outside table during the Airing of the Quilts. She requested an account be set up for the gift shop on the computer which Al agreed to do. Elena reported that we are working with Macon Pride on our recycling project and she expects our museum to be featured in the paper at a later date.

Doris Smith agreed to be the Calendar Chairman for the month of June.

Museum Manager – Al Pribble expressed a need for a dehumidifier for the store room as it is getting a musty odor. He is going to look into a scanner to digitize our curator records. Al is planning to gradually replace the glass in the display cases with tempered glass.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Behr, Secretary

Minutes For The May 2013 General Meeting OF

The Gem & Mineral Society OF Franklin, NC

The meeting was called to order by Lon Peden, President, on May 30, 2013 at 6:40 PM in the Community Center Meeting Room.

Lon announced that anyone who is interested in a museum T-shirt should sign their name and their size on the sheet of paper on the table. Lon described the shirts to the people.

Treasurer's Report – Marie Tsacrios reported for the month of April, we had an income of \$566.62, expenses of \$2,164.17 with a deficit of \$1,597.55. The large expenditure was due to replacing the carpet in the Meeting Room and the Library.

Museum Manager – Al Pribble announced that Doris Smith is taking care of the calendar for the month of June. The museum had a donation of 1/3 horse motors and 1/2 and 5/8 inch arbors for making cab machines or saws. Having no need for them and no place to store them in the museum, he will be selling them. He has them in the back of his pickup truck in the parking lot and they can be purchased after the meeting. He expects the motors will be \$25 and the arbor and motor combined for \$35.

Curator – Fred Plesner reported that we now have a Sillimanite cat's eye specimen, a nice pudding stone which was donated, and a Mosasaur tooth along with several other specimens.

Publicity – Fred Plesner reminded us that the "Taste of Scotland" is on June 15th and we will need extra help in the museum that day beginning at 9 AM. If anyone is interested in setting up a table to sell personal lapidary items, there will be space provided. At the May Gemboree we sold raffle tickets and our dirt bags, with over \$120 worth of sales.

Education – Diane Aiello announced that in May we had four groups of school children tour the museum. In June we are scheduled to give two demonstrations at the county library. There will be a demonstration at the library in the children's section on June 12th at 2 PM and on June 24th at 9AM. Fortunately, she already has people volunteering to do the demonstrations. Anyone interested in learning about them is welcome. Diane displayed some of the "Thank You" cards sent by the children. They are precious.

Membership Recruitment Committee – Diane Aiello said that they will meet at the City Restaurant on June 6th at 9AM for a Dutch treat breakfast and meeting. There is a list of things that the committee has come up with. They will be working on the things that will grow our organization.

Membership – Linda Behr reported that we have 33 members and 12 visitors present this evening. Linda explained to the visitors about how to become a member. She then explained the dues structure. Susan Fritz is a new member. The Pebble Pups get a Diamond Dan Newsletter. Linda said that anyone who needs a name tag for hosting should let her know. The deadline for the June newsletter is June 7th. Linda announced that she is looking for an assistant for the editor.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported that Doris Smith is helping her in the gift shop. Both of them went to purchase gift shop items at the Gem Show. Elena related that they sold over \$150 of items at the outside table during the Airing of the Quilts. Al Pribble and Elena are ready to hold another class on hosting for anyone who is interested, just let them know who you are. Elena reported that we are working with Macon Pride on our recycling project and she expects our museum to be featured in the paper at a later date.

Scholarship – Jean Emerson is sending scholarship packages to the guidance counselors in three North Carolina colleges which teach earth sciences preferably Geology. She now has a working relationship with the dean at Western Carolina University. Jean introduced Kelly Ferri from WCU as the recipient of our \$1,000 scholarship. Kelly is a senior majoring in Geology while concentrating on Hydro Geology. Kelly gave a short background of herself and expressed her sincerest thanks for the scholarship which we provided.

John Hayes introduced John and Dorothy Crawford who are said to have been instrumental in starting our club. John announced that there will be a craft night on Tuesday June 4th at 6:30 PM to complete the project which had been started. Doris Smith announced that she will hold a wire wrapping class to be held in three sessions. The classes will be held on Saturday mornings with a limit of four people per class. Doris has also volunteered as our sunshine lady.

Program – Linda Smith announced tonight's program will be "Bring Your Favorite Rock or Gem." The June program will be a "Show and Tell," July is open and August will be a presentation by Kim Cochran on Gemstones of Central America. Cont'd to next page

General Meeting Cont'd

Field Trip - Lon and Al are going to visit Bobby Nickels to survey a field trip site in Tate City, NC for a possible future field trip. The location has two separate sites which we may be able to use. The sites are known to contain amethyst, sapphires, Indian artifacts and occasional rubies.

Nominating Committee – Tom Morley reported that he has asked John Hayles to help. At the meeting, Marty Martinez volunteered as the other member.

Door prizes were won by the following people: Jo Loewy; Amy Fritz; Jackie Loewy; John Hayes; Kelly Ferri; and Elena Marsh.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

After refreshments, the people came up to explain their favorite rocks which they had brought. A good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Behr, Secretary

Franklin Gem & Mineral Society Education Report for June Newsletter



Diane Aiello
Education Chairperson

The most exciting aspect of the tours and demonstrations is the opportunity to spark a fire in the hearts of children to discover and appreciate the rocks and minerals of God's beautiful creation and the amazing history behind their formation. Sometimes they let us know that their interest has been generated with their thank you cards. One child drew pictures of gem rocks on the cover of her thank you card. She labeled them: sapphire, pyrite, amethyst. Inside she wrote, "Thank you so much. I enjoyed it. I loved it. I had so much fun." Another child drew and labeled gem rocks on the cover of her card, but on top of one drawn rock she placed a question mark. So precious – she couldn't remember its name, but drew it anyway. The teacher inserted a note telling how much she appreciated the volunteers. It is not unusual for us to receive a large envelope stuffed with thank you cards and letters following a tour or a demonstration.

We had three school tours of the museum in May. These included the Kindergarten – First Grade classes from Heritage Christian Academy on May 3rd, 43 middle school girls from Mountain View Intermediate in Franklin on May 8th, and Debbie Gill's Kindergarten class from South Macon Elementary on May 17th. Al Pribble, Fred Plesner, Lon Peden, Ray and Linda Behr, Sharon John, Elena Marsh, Gayle Kumbalek, and yours truly served as tour guides during the month of May.

Two demonstrations are scheduled in June at the Fontana Regional Library in Franklin. Fred Plesner, Al Pribble, John Hayes, and yours truly will participate at one or both of these demonstrations. Demonstrations usually consist of a demonstration of slicing small geodes and a demonstration of how gem rocks are cut in cabochon. We sometimes include a brief talk and display on gem rocks in their rough form and their cut form and on gem rocks found in North Carolina.

In May I changed out the "Gems of the Sea" display at the library with an eclectic display of agates, geodes, North Carolina gems and minerals, and one shelf keeping gems of the sea. Thank you to Fred Plesner and Linda Behr for loaning items for that display.

Gift Shop Manager News

Elena Marsh



Busy days are here, seems we see more and more visitors coming to town and touring the museum and purchasing items from the gift shop! Thanks to all our hosts for volunteering and also representing our club so well. Let's leave all our visitors with a positive attitude about our town and museum.

Doris and I continue to introduce new items for sale and also rearrange displays to highlight different rocks/minerals/jewelry each month. It must be working as we see more and more empty spaces that need to be filled. Anamay Rossonando is also here for the summer months and will be helping me in the gift shop.

I was able to get Al Pribble and Lon Peden into the museum together for a picture when I, as a representative of Macon Pride, presented the club with a 'Proud to Recycle Here' sticker. This photo and a short article will be sent to all the local papers (and hopefully published in an upcoming month) explaining the club's efforts to 'recycle, reuse, repurpose' both in the museum and at our meetings. This will be wonderful publicity for our museum.

If you haven't been aware, my big push is for the club to continue recycling, reusing and repurposing as many items as we can, so please use our 'recycle all paper' box and 'aluminum cans and plastic bottles' trash can located in our meeting room in the museum whenever you are there.

Thank you to the members who have donated silverware for our refreshments at meetings.

Feel free to contact me with any recycling questions you may have. Macon Pride works closely with Macon County Recycling Department in these areas to answer any concerns.

Thanks again for hosting at the museum!

One Way of Avoiding Tarnish in Sterling Silver

By Linda Behr

Do you ever get frustrated by your silver tarnishing? I do. After reading a tip on this problem via another newsletter, Ray Behr starting putting chalk in with some of the silver pieces in the museum. Hosts now you know the *secret of the chalk*.

I followed the same procedure at home. I like putting some of my special pieces in a plastic bag with a small piece of chalk; not much larger than 1/4 inch.

Tarnish is caused by the surface of the sterling silver reacting with sulphurous fumes. Apparently the chalk absorbs the sulphurous fumes.

If you want to use something different, you can purchase anti-tarnish strips.

Anti-tarnish strips are very inexpensive and available online through many different jewelry supply houses.

Linda Smith of Emma's Place also carries these strips. I use these also in my little baggies with my silver pieces.



Pictured is Kelly Ferri from WCU our society's recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship. Kelly is a senior majoring in Geology while concentrating on Hydro Geology.

From on the lighterside

<http://www.ncfbmagazine.org/2013/01/on-the-lighterside-20/>

The child was a typical 4-year-old girl—cute, inquisitive, and bright as a new penny. When she expressed difficulty in grasping the concept of marriage, her father decided to pull out his wedding photo album, thinking visual images would help.

One page after another, he pointed out the bride arriving at the church, the entrance, the wedding ceremony, the recessional, the reception, everything.

The father asked, "Now do you understand?"

The child replied, "I think so. Is that when mommy came to work for us?"

Pat and Mike, both in their 90s, had played professional baseball together. After they retired, they remained close friends.

Pat suddenly fell deathly ill. Mike visited Pat on his deathbed. After they talked a while, and it became obvious that Pat had only a few more minutes to live, Mike said, "Listen old friend, after you die, try and get a message back to me. I want to know if there's baseball in heaven."

With his dying breath, Pat whispers, "If God permits, I'll do my best to get you an answer."

A few days after Pat died, Mike is sleeping, and he hears Pat's voice.

Pat says, "Mike, I've got good news and bad news. The good news is, yes, there is baseball in heaven. The bad news is you're scheduled to pitch the top half of tomorrow's doubleheader."

MEMBER NEWS

Reporting by Linda Behr

Lee and Shirley Burley will not be visiting Franklin due to Lee's health.

John Hayes has serious back problems but he is still helping in many ways to our club. We wish him good health!!!

New member, Bill Fisher's father died recently.

It was good seeing Jean Emerson at the May meeting. With her health issues and living so far away, it is rare that we get to see her.

Claudette Rollins husband is under hospice care. Claudette is busy taking care of him and therefore we don't get to see her much lately.

Doris Smith has been selected by Lon Peden to be our "sunshine" chairman and therefore please call her if you have news about a club member. Her number is in the newsletter under assistant Gift Shop Manager.



Safety

By Bob Green, SFMS Safety Chair

This month, we start with our thoughts and prayers are with John Wright, Billie, John's wife, passed away in April.

Last month, "preppers" were mentioned. We all need to be prepared for some emergencies. First aid kits, supplies for the trip, spare tires, even though present day spares in some cars can be a bit over-stated, good for 50 miles or the first place to get a real tire.

Experts also recommend several days of food and water being available in case you loose power due to storms or other incidents. If you are traveling in winter in areas where the temperature can drop precipitously, some method of staying warm, some food and water. Les Stroud's program "Survivorman" is a great example of maximizing your chances of survival with minimal preparation, however, I really like being warm and dry. I enjoy eating regularly.

Being safe as you travel can approach some of Les Stroud's adventures if you are not prepared. Barb and I were fortunate to be on an extended assignment in southern Germany many years ago. As was our normal weekend activities we always traveled. On one trip we were hiking in a location not far from the little town we were living at the time. We looked at the sky and said, nice weather, a bit cloudy, so we took our wind breakers and along with our friends struck out on about a 5 mile hike through the country side. Well, about half way through the hike, it started raining, and to describe the intensity, it was very similar I am sure to the start of the 40 days of rain. We were not prepared for the drenching that we received.

So back to being safe: When you travel, there are many hazards. My wife and I recently traveled to Australia to visit our son and his family. While fishing, I caught and was trying to release a puffer fish. The puffer fish was not happy about being caught and he bit my finger.

That was painful and I stained a lot of paper towels, but the indignity of being bitten by a puffer fish was a bit of a comeuppance. We had not packed our antibiotic cream so we used a hand lotion, until we could get to the pharmacy. So, I did not get prepared.

So, being prepared for whatever you run into can be a challenge. Planning for your trips, your home projects or your hobbies is a definite requirement.

Whether this requires personal protective equipment, safety glasses, gloves, steel toe boots, etc. So, like a good Boy Scout, "Be prepared".



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies web site is at: <http://www.amfed.org>

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical
www.amfed.org/sfms

SFMS class information, schedules and registration forms for Wildacres & William Holland can be found at their website.

Also, the SFMS newsletter, LODESTAR is obtainable on this same website; look for "newsletters."



The website is packed with lots of information. The Gem & Mineral society is one of the founding members of the SFMS. We are very proud of our association with them.

Agate Index

By Michael Brown

There is an Agate Index available on line for free download. Below are the authors own words from one of his Agate Index Volumes:

"This series is considered to be a living document, one that will expand and become more complete as additional rockhounds volunteer images of their collections for our use. Updates will be made and the date of the last change will be posted on this page. Please go to Rock Tumbling Hobby at <http://andy321.proboards.com/index.cgi> for additional information.

Future volumes, already begun, will focus on other regions of the United States, including California, the Northwest, the Midwest, for example. A final index will act as a visual glossary of agate and jasper terms, as well as provide an index that will cover the entirety of the series. We thank everyone who has helped, will help, or supports this endeavor. Please spread the word about this project. We are hoping more collectors across the United States will participate. If you have images of material to add to this index, please e-mail it to lowellfos@yahoo.com. Sincerely,

Index Editor, Lowell Foster; Assistant Editor, Mel Hixson "The Clackamette Gem June 2013

(From The Mountain Gem editor: I checked out this website and there are so many hints and solutions. Check it out! LB)

Program Report By Rex Larkin

May's meeting was devoted to members bringing their favorite rock and talking about it. Sounded pretty ho-hum until the program started, and, as a rank amateur, I was totally blown away by the many different samples brought, and the tales behind them. Just goes to show what an amazing diversity of members; we have always something new to learn and appreciate.

Diane Aiello started off with two samples, one polished, and one unpolished Labradorite. She gave a short history on it. The mineral is found not only in its name-sake, but also in Finland and the U.S. The interesting thing about Labradorite is that it refracts colors not indigenous to it.

Marty Martinez, who bought five hundred pounds of Brazilian Emeralds from club member, Arlon Eldridge, was able to sell all of it literally the next day to another dealer at a profit. He also related the story of the 840 pound Bahia Emerald, which was bought, stolen, surfaced in New Orleans, LA after hurricane Katrina. According to the Internet, that emerald is worth \$400 million. Marty also bought his own Emerald, assessed at \$5000.

Della Samuel brought her beautiful Amethyst geode, which she purchased in Morocco.

John Hayes presented his 10.2 pound Jade boulder from the Frazier River in British Columbia. He traded some of his Herkimer diamonds for it.

Wally Smith exhibited a beautiful framed and glassed sample case of Intarsia, which he learned to make while at William Holland Lapidary School.

Linda Behr showed a beautiful carved Jade vase from China.

Al Pribble had several samples from Pacific City, OR, Winston-Salem, NC and Clay County in North Carolina. He also displayed a two-color stone square with granite and three rubies.

Jean Emerson amused us with her tale of owning a share in an Opal mine and that only her husband "ever found any good stones."

Fred Rasmusson brought a rock from our museum, a Herkimer diamond; ugly on one side but on the other – WOW!

Ray exposed an excellent example of a Biggs Canyon Jasper slab.

Doris Smith showed us her Herkimer stones she found in the "pouring" rain, Cyanite found in Camden, NC and Mica from her own back yard.

Wally Smith showed us his "fig newton" stone-and that says it all. Wally also showed us a Sapphire he plucked out of a muddy ditch in California.

Christine Hubinger, not yet a member but a good volunteer already, brought her favorite, yellow fluorite with calcite from Gold City.

Tom Gadsden from Texas talked of finding many Native American Points of all time periods in the Rio Grande area mostly made of agate, plus a hammerstone for left-handers.

Fred Plesner showed a ruby from the now-defunct Jacob's Mine in Cowee, a spear point from Walhalla and gold from Cherokee.

Marta Evolea, one of our guests, had a beautiful sample of green striated Chrysoprase.

Linda Smith had a one-sided cut and polished "emu egg" of Quartz with beautiful interior colors.

Kelli Ferri, who was awarded our academic scholarship for her studies in geology at WNC, presented a Staurolite Crystal she found in Murphy, embedded in schist, and a remnant of the earliest mountain-building time period.

Ed Magnus bought an uncut blue Sapphire he found in the Buck Creek area that he hopes will cut well.

Lon Peden had an excellent example of green Tourmaline he had acquired while working for a dealer in Brazil.

Fran Rasmusson showed her specimen of amethyst flowers.

Marie Tsacrios brought a beautiful specimen of Mexican Crazy Lace Agate.

Tom Morley, while walking along the shore of the Bay of Fundy, found a porcelain fragment with the word morley on it—talking Twilight Zone here, folks.

Fred Plesner showed an interesting black stone with a figure of a rabbit on it.

The *grand finale* was Tom Aiello's 600 carat ruby from India.

What a great night—might I suggest this become an annual event?

As editor, I would like to recognize Rex Larkin for his fine job of writing up a program report for our monthly meetings!!!



Paddy and the Jigsaw (Puzzle)

Paddy walks through town one day when he spots an interesting looking box in a shop window.

He enters the shop, grabs the box and gives it a shake.

Paddy thinks to himself 'God, this must be some sort of million piece puzzle.' He buys the puzzle.

When he arrives home, he pours the puzzle out across the table. But all of the pieces are the same. Paddy tries turning them over but they still all look the same. So he decides to ring up his mate Patrick.

'Hello Patrick?'

'Hello Paddy!'

'Patrick I've got a bit of a problem. I've bought this million piece puzzle and all of the pieces look the same.'

'Well have you tried turning them over, Paddy?'

'Yes, yes I've tried that and they still all look the same.'

'OK I'll come round to your house in a minute, but tell me one more thing, what's on the front of the box?'

'Oh, some sort of cockerel.'

When Patrick arrives at Paddy's, he takes him through to the living room where the puzzle is laid out across the table.

'You see Patrick; this is my million piece puzzle with all the pieces that look the same.'

And Patrick says...

'Paddy, that's a box of corn flakes!!!'

(Editor changed jigsaw to *puzzle*.)

July newsletter deadline is
July 5th,
Friday due to the newsletter
being
published **before** the
Gemboree..



Humor

Four friends all took organic chemistry at a local university. Each one had a perfect grade going into the semester's final exam.

These four friends were so confident that the weekend before finals they decided to go to another university and party. They had a great time, but they slept all day Sunday and didn't make it back to their campus until Monday morning.

Rather than taking the final without preparing, they decided to find their professor after the exam and explain why they missed it. The friends said they went away to another university to visit friends. They had a flat tire on the way back, didn't have a spare and couldn't get help. As a result, they missed the final.

The professor thought it over and then agreed they could make up the exam on Tuesday. The students were elated and relieved. They studied and went in the next day at the time the professor told them. The professor placed them in separate rooms and handed each of them a test booklet and told them to begin.

They looked at the first problem worth five points. It was something simple. "Cool," they thought at the same time, each one in a separate room. "This is going to be easy." Each finished the problem and then turned the page.

On the second page was written: For 95 points – which tire?

<http://www.ncfbmagazine.org/2013/05/on-the-lighter-side-21/>



Harry Winston Buys 101-Carat Diamond; Who Will Wear It First?

We were a little short on pocket change last week when a 101.73 carat flawless pear-shaped diamond went up for auction at Christie's Geneva. The stone, which Christie's was calling the most perfect diamond ever up for auction, was snapped up by jeweler Harry Winston and renamed the "Winston Legacy."

For context, the Winston Legacy diamond is roughly the size of a small lime — completely eclipsing some of the most amazing diamonds we've seen throughout the years. And while the sight of this jaw-dropping stone has us reminiscing about some of our favorite Harry Winston memories, we also can't help but wonder who will be the first to sport this newest bauble.

Read the rest of the story at:

<http://stylenews.peoplestylewatch.com/2013/05/20/diamonds-harry-winston-legacy/>

Source: *Star – O – Lite* June 2013

**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 -

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An Official Field Trip of the Carroll County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
(Carrollton, GA)(HOST)

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

Patty Construction Quarry

Summerville Lace Agate

Chattooga County, GA

July 28, 2013



9:00 AM EST

MEET: At the site, on US 27 in Chattooga Co. Ga. This is in the NW corner of the state of Georgia.

WHEN: July 28, 2013

TIME: : 9:00 AM EST

Directions: From Summerville, Ga. follow US 27 South for 2.20 miles. The site will be on the right between the county owned waste dumpsters and the US Forestry office. Coming north from the Rome area, the site will be on the left side of US 27, and approximately 3.0 miles beyond the intersection of Gore Subligna Rd.

Tools: Eye protection is a must for anyone wishing to break apart material with a rock hammer, or sledge. Chisels would be valuable, as would small ground shovels and rakes. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pale of water is sometimes handy for dipping and identifying the better material.

Other: Bring plenty of fluids. This is a good site for children. Any pets MUST be on a leash at all times.

Facilities: In town about 2 miles away

Special: THIS IS AN ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR ANY OF THE MACHINERY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY JEOPARDIZES FUTURE FIELD TRIPS TO THIS SITE.

DMC CONTACT:

Kelsie Grizzard, President CCGMS

770-328-1217

Kelsie.grizzard@southwire.com



NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm

NEW DMC EMAIL ADDRESS - sfms-dmc@amfed.org

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

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Record broken in London as 5.3-carat blue diamond sells for \$9.6 million

Fetching a record \$1.8 million per carat for a blue diamond, it beat the previous world record of \$1.68 million per carat.

Read full article at:

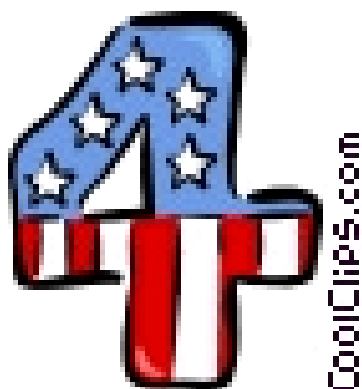
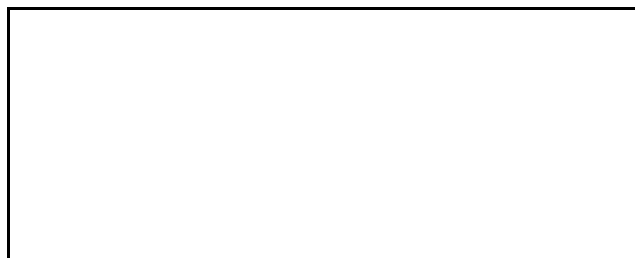
http://www.gemewizard.com/newsletters/view_article.php?id=191

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

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



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.