

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
SEPTEMBER 2016
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 Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

Forms for membership can be obtained by attending a meeting of the Society.

Dues are \$20 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$5. Membership is from September to September. Non-member subscriptions to *The Mountain Gem* are \$25.00 per year.

Membership privileges include newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council 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.

School tours are always available by contacting our Education Chairman, Diane Aiello at 828-371-2436 or 828-524-3307.

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



**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 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

November 1 – April 30

Only Saturdays: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Open Year Round For Tours

And Special Requests

www.fgmm.org

Society email: franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Editor: editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

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

2016 - 2017 Officers And

Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Vice President	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director (2016)	Ray Behr	342-6360
Director (2016)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director (2017)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	TBD	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
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	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	TBD	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Steve Dillon	706-782-2389
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Ellen Williams	774-203-8017
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	631-1911
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
Scholarships	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



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

October Meeting

Date: October 29, 2016

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM Dinner Served

Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building
on 441 South

Program: **Banquet & Officer Installation**

October Birthdays

3 - Winn Henderson

3 - Joe Pinkous

9 - Jacob Sterrett

16 - Doreen Freeman

16 - Judi Kizer

24 - Wally Smith

25 - Susan Fritz

26 - Mike Gillen

31 - Ina Raye Muncher

31 - Al Pribble

31 - Ron Rossomando



October Anniversaries

18 - Paul & Nadine Thomas

19 - Lon & Laura Peden



Membership renewals are due.

**Please pay Ellen Crawford at meeting or mail
check to the museum "attention membership"**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 13th is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**



Al Pribble, President

Well, this being my last epistle and I would like to say a little bit about where the Society is to day and what may come about in the future.



We have progressed tremendously over the last 5 years, in both membership and attendance to the Museum. The attendance and an improved economy as well as our dedicated staff in the Gift Shop have resulted in an increase in our income. This has enabled to do more in carrying out our primary mission, i.e., supporting Earth Science Education.

Last school year we gave a scholarship to a very deserving student, Leslie Montoya. This year we have three applicants so far. They will be screened by the Board and a decision will be made this month on the scholarship award this year.

We have also budgeted for mini-grants of up to \$300 each, for which science teachers in Macon County schools may apply to supplement their classroom equipment and/or supplies.

A few months ago I mentioned a dream for the future of our Society. My dream is that someday, with continued growth we acquire our own building where we can hold our meetings without interference from other groups and where we could teach a complete range of classes in lapidary arts. Call it an Earth Science and Lapidary Arts Center for Education (ES-LACE). Many clubs in the country have obtained buildings for their own use but few for the purpose of education. Our Society contributed to the building of William Holland and now I believe it is time we spread our own wings. The Museum is a seed for a much broader program than we have previously considered. Forty plus years ago a few people in Franklin had a dream and the Museum became a place known worldwide. We can and should continue to dream.

We each need to be watchful for opportunities to acquire gifts of property or funds that could help accomplish this goal. If anyone knows of someone who would remember us in their will or would donate for this cause, we would like to know.



Thank you all for the support
you have given.

God Bless each one –

Rock On!

Minutes – August 25, 2016 – General Meeting

Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

Due to the absence of President Al Pribble, the meeting was called to order by Vice President, Marsha Harmon, on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 6:32 PM in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Minutes – Marsha Harmon asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July 2016 General Meeting minutes as printed in *The Mountain Gem*. Ray Behr moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Lake Holland seconded the motion. Voted on and passed.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 54 members and 6 guests present, 3 of whom joined: we welcome new members: Rhonda Blanton, Sean Price and Joe Laurello.

Vice President – As VP, Marsha Harmon did not have anything new to report.

Treasurer's Report – Lake Holland reported we were in the black for the month.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh indicated that everything is going well at the museum but stressed the fact that we continue to need members to sign up as hosts for the month of September. He reported a roof leak at the museum and Arlon Eldridge will be getting in touch with the county so they can look at it and decide what action is to be taken.

Curator – Ralph Crawford stated we have been receiving some very nice donations from members as well as the public. He requested that if you are working at the museum and receive a specimen for donation to please fill out the proper form and get as much information as possible so that acknowledgments and thank you letters can be sent out.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner said he is making packets of mineral specimens for our local schools as well as a school in Ohio.

Publicity – George Fritz did not have anything new to report.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported that gift shop sales have been wonderful. She indicated that although she spent a lot of money in July, those items are selling well. She thanked Anamay Rossomando and Sherry Newton for their invaluable assistance. Al Pribble discovered another more powerful UV flashlight that we can sell. If you want to purchase one this evening, they are \$18 to members.

Education – Diane Aiello is absent this evening.

Calendar -

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported on the SFMS field trip. She thanked Arlon Eldridge and thanked 12 volunteers who were at the mine, volunteers who were at Cowee School and members who were volunteering at the museum all in the same day. After food was paid for, we had hoped to come out even but actually profited a small amount. Marsha announced a field trip on 09/10/16 to Clarkesville (looking for kyanite). Participants should meet at the museum at 8:30 AM for departure.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Marsha Harmon re-introduced Lisa and Wayne, Athens, Georgia, who were married recently in the jail at our museum. Lisa took the podium and told the group that John Hayes and Virginia Bennis took a green bottle from their wedding reception and cut and faceted a stone from the bottle and made her a beautiful pendant. She and Wayne wished to express their thanks and they brought us a beautiful stone specimen in a lovely box.

Meeting Minutes cont'd on Page 5

Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Diane Mason reported that the Wire Wrap I class was to start on 09/10/16 but that she has to be out of town that date. Therefore, the class will start one week early on 09/03/16 at 8:00 AM.

Marsha Harmon announced that Susan Fritz would like to resign her position as Librarian and asked if anyone might be interested. Thank you to Ellen Williams who graciously volunteered her services.

Arlon Eldridge announced that on 09/20/16, 5:00 PM, there will be fish fry at the Masonic Lodge. The entire club is invited. There is no charge but donations are gratefully accepted.

Marsha Harmon announced that *next month is our Installation dinner – 09/29/16*. Fish and BBQ will be provided but sign-up sheets for side dishes and desserts will be passed around. Everyone is urged to bring a covered dish and sign the sheet.

If new members need training in hosting, please see Tom or Elena Marsh to arrange.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

John Hayes passed out paper ballots that were counted by himself, Ray Behr and Ellen Crawford. After the ballots were counted, the following results were announced:

President – Tom Sterrett
Vice President – Arlon Eldridge
Secretary – Susan Fritz
Treasurer – Lake Holland
Assistant Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios
Museum Manager – Tom Marsh
Board of Directors – Cy Amrich
Board of Directors – Diane Mason



There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Vice President, Marsha Harmon at 7:10 PM.

Garrett Morgan drew tickets for three separate door prize drawings this evening. Refreshments were served followed by tonight's speaker, Kim Cochran, who brought specimens and gave a very interesting presentation.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Jail Break

Ron Rossomando, Historian (interview with Johnny Myers, July 2015)

Around 1969 or 1970, the date may be lost due to old age, Johnny Myers a life-long resident of Franklin was called to handle an emergency at the Franklin Jail. Johnny worked as a mechanic in the gas station down the street from the Jail. He was known as a torch man. Which meant he knew how to operate an acetylene torch. Seems that a young man (Jay Hopkins) was arrested for some unlawful behavior and placed in one of the cells on the second floor of the Jail. His fine was paid and he was ready to be released but the jailer could not find the key to unlock the cell. So they called Johnny to cut the lock. It was Johnny's first and last experience being in the "old Jail". With a great deal of effort, Johnny carried his tank and torch up the stairs and cut the lock. Then Hopkins was released and Johnny returned to work. Soon after the jailer found the key to the lock that Johnny had cut off. Johnny fondly remembers helping someone "breaking" out of jail.

Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus

A box containing a dozen different mineral specimens plus some educational material has been delivered to every school in Macon County and one school in Hamilton County, Ohio. Each specimen was enclosed in a zip-lock bag and clearly identified.



Notes From The Classroom:

Diane Mason - Instructor

Well it's on!!

The boys have come out to play in wire. They came out in a big roar today in the first session of the WIRE I class for this fall. All seven students were exceptional. Everyone worked really hard and completed their practice in record time and then went on to make a ring and a pair of earrings. All are very talented and were great to work with. This one's going to be a lot of fun. We all decided that we will go to Rizzos for lunch one day just to show Barbara some of our great creations.



Photos by George Fritz

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



Our August was super busy with visitors and special events. What a great way to slip into Fall and our leaf lookers' season! Since there isn't too much more to say about how our gift shop has been running for the month, I would like to include in my column a brief note about the 12th Annual Franklin Area Folk Festival on August 20th.

This was the club's second year participating in the Folk Festival at the Cowee School, Arts & Heritage Center. Although the day started off cloudy and a bit rainy, the heavens were good to us and provided lots of sunshine and a slight breeze every now and then.

Thanks to Lake and Theresa Holland, who suggested and then arranged for our tent to be near their Poultry and Otto Community tents which were on pavement near the entrance and furnished electricity so we could bring the small saw and a bucket of geodes along with our tent and many specimens and jewelry items to sell.

Many thanks to Anamay and Ron Rossomando, Wally and Doris Smith, who, along with Tom and me, manned the booth and the saw area for the day. The men delighted many children and quite a few adults as the geodes were cut and sparkling crystals inside were revealed. We handed out many brochures and several member applications. It was amazing to hear how many visitors had already been in the museum and commented about how wonderful it was.

Our sales and donations for the day were amazing – it was a long day but well worth the effort ! Thanks again to Lake and Theresa for helping us thru the application process. The festival organizers have already invited the club back next year, so make sure you mark your calendars for August of 2017 and join us at Cowee.

I can't end my column without thanking all the members of the club who give generously of their time to host and participate in all the club's activities.



Photo by Lake Holland



Field Trip News for August: The Southeastern Federation comes to Franklin

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant

Our club sponsored the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Society field trip on August 20th. At least 59 rock hounds from numerous clubs, joined us for a full day of sluice mining, BBQ-ing, swapping rock stories and rock locations. States represented were TN, FL, AL, NC and GA, with the largest turnout of 26 registered visitors.

Some stayed for several days to enjoy local sites but most spent a full day of Cowee Mountain Ruby Mining, visiting the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum, the 12th Annual Franklin Folk Festival at the Cowee School and Pickin' on the Square to top off the day.

None of this would have been possible without a huge effort from our volunteers at various locations throughout the day. This great support of at least 22 club members made for a wonderful show of the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin.

Thank you to all participants and volunteers who helped make this a great federation trip.

Special thanks to: Pictures by Joe and John. Food by Virginia and Arlon.

Field Trip News for September: Clarkesville, GA - Kyanite

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

A hand full of our clubs' best rock hounds had a very successful day in Clarksville, on September 10. Sean and Joe, two of our newest members adjusted well to GA, on a very hot and dirty but fun federation trip. Most of the other participants having come from the Georgia Mineral Society, we knew well from our own federation trip last month.

Vicki almost had the record find until her best 6-inch single blade, turned out to be wood and Brenda did well with volume numbers in cabochon candidate blades. The cobbles were spread about averaging 5 to 7 inch groupings with no larger sized specimens. As for me, I choose to make my mark with careful selection using the "sit and search" technique.

This was a great private location trip which will provide many blue/gray blades for our gift shop as well as broadening personal collections and producing great cab material.



Field Trip News cont'd from Page 8

* There are several projected field trips coming up. We have been invited to come along with the GMS club by their rock hounds, on a couple of trips.

Oct 7, 8, 9 - Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA. 3-day dig and rock swap. Free to all rock hounds with 18+ different materials to choose from.

Oct 22 - Brasstown, staurolite hunt. \$20 for each person with 5 gallon bucket limit. An invited trip by GMS. Club member only.

Nov – Summerville, GA, lace agate hunt with GMS. Club members only. Details to follow.

Nov or Dec (date in work) - Diamond Hill Mine, Abbeville, SC hunt for quartz and amethyst crystals. This is a warmer location a couple hours away. Club members only.

Please read the more detailed information and note sign-up sheets, both found on the back board in the Museum and/or call Marsha Harmon - [828 369-7262](tel:8283697262) - Field Trip Coordinator or Lake Holland.

Suggestions for new field trip locations are always appreciated.



Photos by Sean Price

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONES

October is another month with two birthstone choices – *Tourmaline* and *Opal*

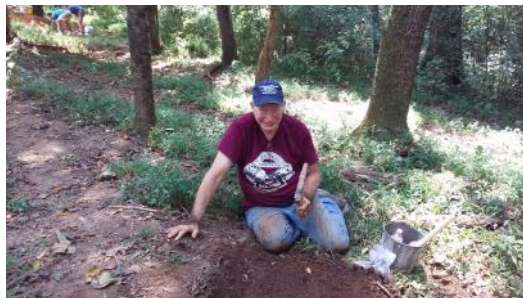
Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These bi-color or tri-color gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as watermelon tourmaline, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.



Opal derives from the Greek *Opallos*, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance.

<https://www.americangemsociety.org/october-birthstones>

More photos from the Kyanite Field Trip



From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

Gem and Mineral Shows



September 23 - 25, 2016, Jacksonville, Florida

28th Annual Show Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society; Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville, FL 32224; Friday 1:00pm-6:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm; \$4 or \$6 for three day pass; Children under 12 FREE with guardian; Seniors and Military with ID \$1 OFF; 80+ dealers; hourly door prizes, 5 Grand prize drawings; Moon rock display on loan from NASA made possible by Dr. Mike Reynolds. Lectures from noted Faceters. Major faceting equipment and tool dealers. Scouting educational sessions to earn merit Badges in rocks and metal work. www.jaxgemandmineral.org/; Contact and Chair Jason Hamilton, 904-294-4744, JGMS-SHOW@hotmail.com; <http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org/show.html>

October 2 - 4, 2016, Lincolnton, GA

Graves Mountain 3-day Rock Swap & Dig; Friday thru Sunday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

October 14 - 16, 2016, Franklin, NC

27th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree; Robert C Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Rd S Hwy 441; Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

November 18 - 20, 2016, Marietta, GA

31st Annual Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society; Cobb County Civic Center; 548 Marietta Parkway; Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Free Admission; Contact Tami Watkins at 404-861-8670; CCGMS.TamiWatkins@gmail.com; Web site: <http://www.cobbcountymineral.org/>

Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies Annual Meeting. Details coming soon.

November 25 - 27, 2016, Salem, VA

Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society; Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153; Friday 2pm – 7pm; Saturday 10am – 6pm; Sunday 12pm – 5pm; Admission \$5.00 good for all 3 days; Door prizes, Fluorescent mineral display & new this year a video room showing videos about rocks & minerals; Door prizes & grand prize drawn Sunday at 4:30pm

Other Events

May 28 to October 15, Saturdays, Franklin, NC

Pickin' on the Square; fun, free, weekly entertainment on just about every Saturday night throughout the summer; bring family, friends and a chair; 6:30 PM open mike; around 7:30 PM entertainment

October 22, 2016, Franklin, NC

20th annual PumpkinFest; Downtown Franklin; 9:00 AM



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

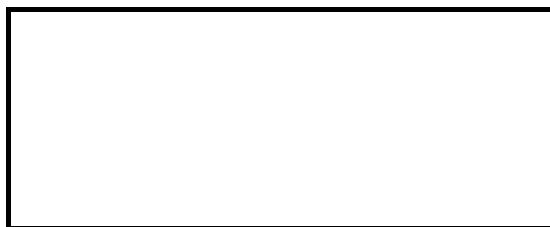
Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



**Installation Banquet
Remember to Bring A
Covered Dish**

First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September	27	29 Banquet
October	25	27
November	15	17
December	13	17 End of Year Party

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month in the West Large Meeting Room of the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Road Hwy 441 South

Meeting changes will be posted in the monthly newsletter.

Board Meetings: 6:30 PM
At the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum
All Board Meetings are open to the members

If you wish to submit something before the Board, contact the President prior to meeting.