



50 Years
1972 - 2022

Happy
Holidays

The Mountain Gem

December 2022

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

December 2022 Newsletter

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WWW.FGMM.ORG

Cover Photograph: Rhodochrosite, from N'Chwaning I mine, South Africa; A. Schauss collection. Photo provide by J. Scovil, and was featured in the 2014 Minerals, The Collector's Newspaper, Issue #8



From the President Stacy Walbridge



With Thanksgiving over and everyone now rushing to complete Christmas lists, decorating, or planning travel to relatives I would like to take this time to express my gratitude for all the work done over the past year by volunteers for the Gem & Mineral Society. As I think back on the past year, there are a few people that stand out in my mind for the support they have given to the Society:

Mike and Bushy Hartman for the untold hours they've spent as Museum hosts,
Al Pribble for stepping in for Mark Laing during the last part of the year,
Chandra Fox coordinating our Gem Show participation,
Stephanie Brundage and Ron Bischoff putting together the ruby mining pamphlet,
Larry Ellert for his countless hours managing the Museum,
Kathi Walbridge and Ron Rossomando for organizing our finances,

Marsha Harmon for updating our community exhibits and organizing Museum tours,
Norm Holbert for donating the raffle necklaces and earrings,
Charlette Ellert for all her work on the Streets of Franklin,
Anamay Rossomando for managing the Gift Shop,
Matt Castor for his efforts on the workshop equipment,
The faceting and cabochon instructors,
Our past and current officers, board members, and committee chairs,
All the Museum hosts,

And above all I would like to thank you, our members, for your support, fellowship, and generosity throughout the year.

Looking forward to 2023, I am anticipating many great things that you will help accomplish and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Stay safe and Best Wishes,

Stacy Walbridge
President

November General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Chandra Fox, Secretary
Photographs by Kim Price

November 17, 2022
Thursday 6:30 P.M.
First Christian Church of Franklin

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by President, Stacy Walbridge
(fgmspresident1@gmail.com)

Minutes: Chandra Fox (franklingemboree@gmail.com) Motion made to accept the minutes.
Minutes unanimously accepted by attending members.

Treasury: Kathi Walbridge (FGMM.Treasurer@mail.com) The museum hours are now Friday and Saturday only. Membership fees are coming in for 2023. Class fees and workshop fees are steady with the increased activity in the workshop. Bottom line: Income is higher than expenses.

Stacy Walbridge stated the museum lease is paid through 2025.

Vice President: Mike Hartman (fgmseditor@gmail.com). No Report.





Museum Manager: Larry Ellert (clellert@yahoo.com). Change of museum access protocols. No single person entry allowed after hours or when the museum is closed. Must be two or more people. Please contact Larry before entering and upon leaving the museum during closed hours via text or call (727) 455-1849

Museum Curator: Mark Laing (mw.laing@hotmail.com) Absent. Acting Curator: Bushy Hartman (bushyhtm@yahoo.com) Continuing inventory of displayed museum specimens. Storage rooms have not been categorized yet. A spreadsheet was created for inventory organization. We are not replacing specimen labels.

Workshop: Matt Castor (combatflyfisher@yahoo.com). Absent. Stacy reports: We have received the refurbished wheels back for the workshop. There are new soft wheels on both Genie Cabbng machines. Faceting classes are currently going on. Slabs are being made for classwork. Bernd Phoenix and Cherie Pinner, two members who took the Introduction to Cabochon class and beginning Cabochon class were presented with a Certificate of Achievement before the general membership. We are awarding two door prizes tonight created by Bernd Phoenix and Cherie Pinner.

Gift Shop: Bushy Hartman (bushyhtm@yahoo.com) / Anamay Rossomando (anamay@verizon.net) Absent. Bushy announced a new raffle. The item up for raffle is a "lovely set of sterling silver, a bracelet and ring". The raffle item can be viewed at the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum gift shop.

Newsletter Editor: Mike Hartman (fgmseditor@gmail.com) Deadline for newsletter submissions is December 5, 2022. Holiday Party December 10, 2022 at 1pm. The December newsletter will not be published until after the Christmas Party so photos may be included. Anyone can access a copy of our newsletter through FGMM.org, on a handheld device, click three bars in upper left or right corner, click newsletter tab. On a Personal Computer, click on the word Newsletter at the top of the FGMM.org web page. Access to the most current newsletter is available there, however for archived editions, please contact the editor. Calling all members to submit photos of your work to be used for future newsletter covers.

Publicity: Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com) Requested volunteers to join the publicity committee. Please contact Kim.

Scholarships: Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com) Request for mini grant to be issued to Kerrigan Ferguson, a teacher with the Tri-mount Christian Academy.

Future Vision: Ron Rossomando. Absent. Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com) Any comments or suggestions please contact Ron Rossomando or Kim Price.

Membership: Tom Parker. Absent. Attending, 36 members and 3 guest.

Education: Marsha Harmon (harmonmarsha06@gmail.com) Larry and Fred did a great job



with a group of eighty (80) fourth graders at Cowee School on November 10th. Marsha did a write up on the presentation with photos included. Library and Courthouse display specimens are being swapped out. Announced any information needed pertaining to education or tours, please see Ron Rossamando.

Field Trips: Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com) Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com). A field trip for Diamond Hill announced for December 3rd. Alternate date December 10th. The alternate date conflicts with the date for the Christmas Party. Please contact Helen or Sean for more information on future field trips. Next year we intend to have monthly planned fieldtrips outlined in January for our members review and planning. In August 2023, we will be hosting Dixie Mineral.

Gem Show: Chandra Fox. (FGMShows@gmail.com) (Franklingemboree@gmail.com) / Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com) Working on rebranding of our Gem Show with new advertisement. We will be seeking a grant for additional advertising funding through the Macon County Tourism Committee. We will know the results of the grant request in January. Two vendor contracts returned so far. We have received a check and profit breakdown from the Franklin Chamber for the October Gem Show. More vendor contracts will be sent out by the beginning of the year. Bushy Hartman will manage the Museum table at the May Gem Show. Please consider donating rocks, specimens, minerals, and fossils to sell on our museum table. Please mark the donations made specifically for the show. Thank you.

Reminder: The May Show will be solely sponsored by The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society.

Programs: Kim Price (kprice@safeteworksinc.com). This month we will have a general meeting program presented by Sean Price. Sean will share his recent trip to Morocco through a video and specimen presentation. There will not be a program for December. We will have a Holiday Celebration on December 10th. In December, Kim Price will aim to create a partnership between monthly programs and fieldtrips. In January, Kim will present an itinerary for the upcoming 2023 monthly presentations.

Constitution / By-Laws Committee: Al Pribble (alton36@gmail.com), Larry Ellert (clellert@yahoo.com). A summation of proposed changes to the By Laws / Constitution were reviewed via PowerPoint presentation to attending board and committee members. Motion made to accept the proposed changes, seconded, and approved by a unanimous show of hands.

Old Business: Board meetings will continue to be held at 4pm until April 2023. The end of the year Christmas Party will be held on December 10, 2022. Larry Ellert has agreed to serve with Al Pribble on the Constitution / By-Laws Committee. Any suggestion concerning constitution or by-law revisions should be directed to Larry or Al.

New Business: Motion to accept proposed 2023 Budget as shown via PowerPoint presentation to attending members, seconded, and approved by a unanimous show of hands.



Proposal made to change general meeting time from 6pm to 4pm. Proposal tabled to next board meeting for review.

The meeting was adjourned

Latest Cabochon Class Graduate

By Kim Price

Congratulations to Bernd Phoenix (Left) completing the Beginner Cabochon course. President, Stacy Walbridge (Right) presenting Bernd with a Certificate of Achievement.

Anyone interested in taking the Beginner Cabochon or Beginner Faceting course can sign up at the Museum.



Early Thanksgiving

By Kim Price

The Franklin Gem & Mineral Society celebrated Thanksgiving a bit early. After the business portion of the meeting, the members shared in food and camaraderie.



The wonderful spread provided by Charlene & Galbrecht





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Members enjoying the refreshments and receiving their door prizes!

We would like to welcome our guests and newest members: Joby, Eli, and Trish Santoro (pictured below)





Young Mineral Collectors Morocco Trip By Kim Price

Sean Price, one of our FGMS members, gave a fascinating presentation to the club about his recent trip to Morocco with the Young Mineral Collectors. This organization is made up of young rock, gem, and mineral enthusiasts under the age of 40. After landing in Casablanca, they drove about two hours to Marrakech where the entire team came together to start their experience. Sean and the rest of the group traveled for 10 days throughout Morocco meeting with local dealers, collectors, and miners. They were treated to the local cuisines, music, and hospitality at several mineral dealers' homes. Sean and the team had the opportunity to ride camels to one of their destinations and observe a desert sunset. Sean stated "Morocco was the trip of a lifetime. I hope to go back one day." After his presentation, Sean answered questions from some of the Society members and let them look more closely at some of the items he brought home.



Sean Price



L-R: Helen Rogers, Earl McGaughey & Varshana Dholakia asking questions of Sean Price (sitting)





Education/Tours
By Marsha Harmon

Two of our go to guys: Larry Ellert and Fred Plesner, did a great job representing our club during the November 10th, Cowee School 4th grade educational meeting. The goal was to present your area of expertise to some 80 local class students at a rate of 12 every 25 minutes. Larry and Fred used the basement of Rickman's Store to discuss local rock ID and Symbols of NC. We have two displays on loan to Rickman's Store and provide samples of a few local rocks and minerals there. They are open for free every Saturday thru December. Check it out!



Two guys and their hats! Larry Ellert (standing) and Fred Plesner (sitting)

So, do you know more than a 4th grader? 1) What is the official Rock of NC? 2) What is the official Precious Stone of NC? 3) What is the official Mineral of NC? 3) What is the official State Fossil of NC?

Both of the guys admitted to having had a fun time and information as well as a few gifts were passed on to the teachers to share with their students.

Answers: 1) Granite 2) Emerald 3) Gold 4) Megalodon Shark Teeth If you didn't get at least two of four, go find a 4th grader... and ask for help!



Two guys and their hats! Look at all of the interest and interaction! How great is this?

Gift Shop News
by Bushy Hartman

This was the first time that the Museum was open on Black Friday, and what a pleasant surprise! We had seventy-five people come in, and the Gift Shop was booming! A big thank you to Ron Bischoff for coming in and providing a helping hand!





Input from one of our avid newsletter readers!

by Mike Hartman

Chandra Fox forwarded the recent edition of the society's newsletter to her aunt (Bobbi Fox Wages), which she usually does. And, according to Chandra, Aunt Bobbi had nothing but praise for the professional look, colorful and catchy pics and tidbits. She raved about the overall look and stated it "really caught your eye and made you want to read it". I just want to share with Aunt Bobbi, that all of the groundwork was laid by Stacy Walbridge (our current Society President), so thank you Stacy, for turning over a very awesome looking newsletter to me; I hope that I can continue to do it justice.

A big THANK YOU to Aunt Bobbi!! And, we hope that she continues to enjoy our Mountain Gem!



FGMS Gemboree

by Chandra Fox

The new and improved ad for the upcoming Franklin Gem & Mineral Show!

THE FRANKLIN GEM & MINERAL SHOWS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 10AM DAILY

MAY 19 - 21	JULY 28 - 30	OCTOBER 20 - 22
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Minerals Jewellery Demonstrations
Fossils Equipment Hourly Prizes
Kids Events Lapidary Grand Prize

Robert C. Carpenter Community Building
1288 Georgia Rd. Franklin, NC

Proudly Sponsored by
The Franklin Gem & Mineral Society

For More Information
Call (828) 369-7831
or scan this code

As mentioned in the minutes above, please consider donating rocks, specimens, minerals, and fossils to sell on our museum table. Please mark the donations made specifically for the show.





Upcoming Field Trips



DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
www.southeastfed.org
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An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL)
(HOST)

Saturday, January 21, 2023
Meet at 10:00 AM Central Time
Franklin County, AL
Mississippian marine fossils
Registration Required
Fee: \$8.50 per day

TRIP: This is a good site depending on the level of the lake.

COLLECTING: Mississippian marine fossils.

BRING: Lunch, collecting containers, paper to wrap fossils in and labels for identifying them.

FEE: An \$8.50 pass per day is required and can be purchased at the meeting site.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children are welcomed but need to be supervised at all times. We will be on a lake.

PETS (Yes): All pets must be on a leash. This means cleaning up after too.

FACILITIES: There are NO facilities at this location, but there are facilities where we will meet.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you are unable to attend the trip, **please be considerate** to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s).

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Directions and meeting place details will be emailed to registered participants.

CONTACT: Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com) or Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com) for more information.





Field Trips by Helen Rogers

Unfortunately, the December field trip to Diamond Hill in SC was canceled due to rainy weather. We do not have any field trips planned for January; however, we will be taking part of the January general membership meeting to discuss field trips for 2023.

In the past, we've planned field trips 1-2 months in advance, but in 2023, we will be planning all trips at the beginning of the year based on your input. In order for us to do this-we need you to participate! Where would you like to go? What are you interested in collecting? Minerals, fossils? Do you want to go to developed sites or undeveloped? In NC or elsewhere? Tell us, so we can investigate distance, type of site, cost, needed equipment, etc.

Please bring your ideas to the January meeting. If you can't make it, send your ideas to us! Remember, this is your club, and for the club to go to sites where you want to collect, we have to know what you're thinking!

Thanks!

Contact Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com) or Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com) for more information.

Upcoming Shows

February 9-12 Tucson, AZ

Tucson Gem & Mineral Society

"SILICA - Agates and Opals and Quartz, Oh My!"

Tucson Convention Center - 260 S. Church Avenue, Tucson, AZ

\$12 Adults, Children under 14 are FREE with a paying adult.

<https://www.tgms.org/show>



May 19-21 Franklin, NC

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin Show and Sale; Robert C. Carpenter

Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; \$3 adults; 12 7 under Free.



Christmas Party Sneak Peek

By Charlene Galbrecht

We had a fun Holiday Party, 10 December, and were able to fill out the 2023 calendar for refreshments! I am amazed, awestruck, astonished, and very grateful for everyone who signed up to provide refreshments for 2023. Thank You, Merci, Gracias, Danka!!





A note from Stacy; "The snacks can be as simple or as elaborate as you choose to make them. There is, on average, 40 persons attending each meeting. The club will reimburse \$60 for snacks. If you choose to buy more, it is considered a donation to the club. Submit receipts to the Treasurer for reimbursement. Also, track the number of hours it takes you to buy, set up, serve, clean up, put away and check inventory as hours donated to the club. Charlene Galbrecht will call you Tuesday before the meeting to remind you to prepare snacks".

IMPORTANT EDITOR'S NOTE: The drawing was held for the 2023 Volunteer Scholarships to William Holland. There were **3700 hours of volunteer labor for 2022!** And, those were just the hours that were actually logged in, it doesn't count the many hours that never made it to the log. Thank you so much to ALL of you volunteers!!

Now, for the winners of the 2023 Volunteer Scholarships to William Holland, they are:

**Anamay Rossomando
Ron Bischoff**

Congratulations!! You must register for you class right away, because the classes fill up very quickly, and registration started today, 12 December!

December Birthdays

7-Karen West
8-Deborah Wright
13-Jay Mooney

16-Gary Galbrecht
19-Carl Seaman
30-Jillian Echlin

Happy Birthday!



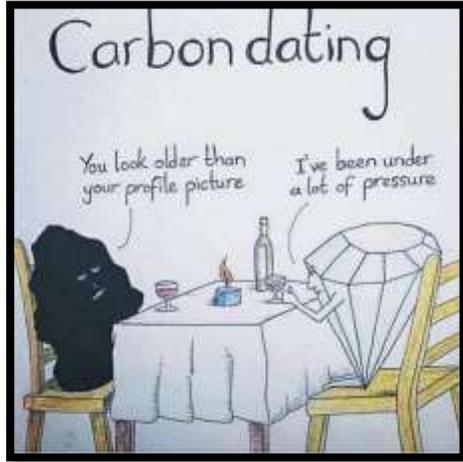
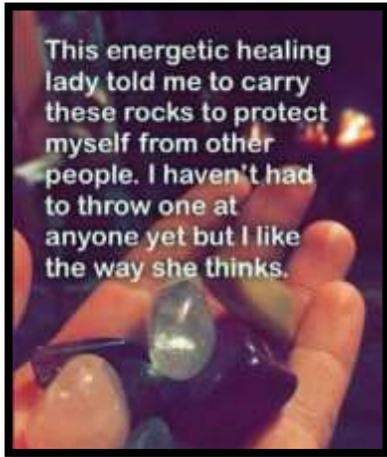
Turquoise/Tanzanite/Zircon

Birthstone information extracted from <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones>





Rockhounding Humor



Bench Tips by Bradford Smith

Pre-Made Bezel Cups

As a general rule of thumb, I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.



Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).



Club Announcements

January 2023 Board Meeting
(All members are welcome)
4:00 pm Tuesday, January 24th, 2023
First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

January 2023 General Meeting
6:30 pm Thursday, January 26th, 2023
First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

Newsletter Deadline for January is 01/16//2023

2023 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
January 26, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Field Trip Planning	Matt & Christine Castor
February 23, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Mike & Bushy Hartman
March 30, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Brad & Jacey Fleszar
April 27, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	
May 19-20 Franklin Gem & Mineral Show				





Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Stacy Walbridge, (802-598-9548)
 Past President: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
 Vice President: Mike Hartman (850) 868-1576
 2nd Vice President: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
 Secretary: Chandra Fox (706-982-0402)
 Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)
 Assistant Treasurer: Charlotte Ellert, (727-455-1849)
 Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
 Director (2023): Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
 Director (2023): Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Director (2022): Charlotte Ellert, (828-200-6023)
 Director (2023): Brad Fleszar (828-371-1211)

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

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
 Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
 Assistant Curator: Bushy Hartman, (850-868-1576)
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
 Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Gift Shop Assistant: Bushy Hartman, (850-868-1576)
 Museum Workshop: Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
 Publicity: Kim Price (336-653-1201)
 Field Trip Coordinator: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)
 Field Trip Assistant: Sean Price (336-964-2061)
 Program Coordinator: Kim Price (336-653-1201)
 Refreshments: Charlene Galbrecht (954-592-1377)
 Constitution and By-Laws: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)
 Future Vision: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Museum Calendar: Vacant
 Gemborees: Chandra Fox (706-982-0402)
 Gemborees Assistant: Sean Price (336-964-2061)
 Scholarships: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)
 Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)
 Newsletter Editor: Mike Hartman, [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

