

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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 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

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	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
Past President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
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Director (2016)	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718

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		
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Ellen Williams	
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Jane Morgan	342-8703
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

November Meeting

Date: November 17, 2016

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building
on 441 South

Program: **Arlon Eldridge will speak about
Brazil**

December Birthdays

- 2 - Donna Tew
- 3 - Joan Bohmann
- 3 - Christine Hubinger
- 3 - Joe Pinkous
- 8 - Linda Sterrett
- 8 - Deborah Wright
- 14 - Doug Morgan
- 16 - Gary Galbrecht
- 20 - Ray Behr
- 22 - Linda Behr



December Anniversaries

- 15 - Tom & Diane Aiello
- 23 - Stephen & Susan Martin



Lake Holland recently had hip replacement surgery.

Arlon Eldridge has been in the hospital recently but is back at home and feeling better now.

We wish them a very speedy recovery.

***November & December Newsletters
are Combined Due to Holidays
January 12, 2017 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



Tom Sterrett, President

Howdy!

November Already! The leaves are changing, there are foggy mornings and crisp mountain air. Don't forget, our museum hours change with the season too. We're only open on Saturdays now from 12-4. We'll open during the week starting in May.

It was enjoyable seeing all the folks at our meeting in October to hear Fred Plesner's wonderful program on fossils. Surely with all the new members, we can fill up our winter-hours hosting schedule.

Here are some things to think about. Winter Wonderland will be on Saturday nights, November 26 and December 3. We'll need help at the museum then. We are also in need of a Calendar chairperson. See Al Pribble if you are interested or need more information. Our November program will be a presentation on Brazil by Arlon Eldridge and in December our end-of-the-year party will be filled with fun, food and festivities.

There are new field trips scheduled and they are listed in the newsletter. If you've never gone on one of our sponsored field trips, make it a goal this year to participate in at least one. You'll meet some fellow rock hounds, learn a lot and hopefully take home some great specimens for your personal collection.

This is your club, sign up to participate, ask questions, and of course...volunteer. Let's make the new year a great one.

And as always: Rock on!

Membership renewals are past due.



Minutes – October 27, 2016 – General Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Sterrett, on Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 6:35 PM in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

President Sterrett took an opportunity to thank everyone who has hosted over the summer but reiterated the fact that we continue to need volunteers to host at the museum and to that point circulated the sign-up sheet for the month of November during which the museum will only be open on Saturdays.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 28 members and 6 guests present this evening. We welcome

Mary Bermke as a new member tonight. Ellen reminded everyone that *it is now past time for annual membership dues to be paid.*

Minutes – Cy Amrich made a motion that the minutes from the September General meeting be accepted as printed in *The Mountain Gem*. Al Pribble seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Vice President – Tom Sterrett reported that Arlon Eldridge has been in the hospital recently but is back at home now. Tom spoke with him and he sounded in good spirits.

Treasurer – Assistant Treasurer Marie Tsacrios reported that the club is in the red for the month of September. Gift shop sales exceeded \$1800 for the month.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh mentioned that as of November 1, the museum will be closed during the week and only open on Saturdays. He stated that the vacuum has been fixed. He also reported that the museum will be open late for Winter Wonderland and that will include two Saturdays – 11/26 and 12/03. The museum will open at 12 noon and continue to stay open until 8:00 PM.; however, host coverage will be needed. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to host for a minimum of 2-hour shifts.

Curator – Ralph Crawford stated that he and Fred Plesner are working on items to be displayed at the Rickman store.

Museum Workshop Manager – John Hayes thanked Tom Marsh, Al Pribble and Cy Amrich for their assistance with the saws; they should be running by next week. He cautioned us to remember to sign the sheet on the wall and be sure to pay for your use of the equipment.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported September as being another profitable month and thanked all of those who have hosted. Regarding donated items for sale, she indicated that she and Anamay Rossomando will use their discretion when pricing items and if anyone has a problem regarding pricing, etc., to please come to either her or Anamay first to discuss. She reminded all of us that members receive a 10% discount on anything over \$10 and to keep the museum in mind for Christmas gifts.

Refreshments – Elena Marsh said that she and Dean Plesner would like some help with serving. She has the rest of this year covered but has a sign-up sheet for next year. She is requesting two people to help each month.

Publications – Ellen Crawford reported technical difficulties with the printer but said the website can be accessed. Next month will be a combined November/December newsletter. She encourages any articles or photos, so if you have anything you would like to submit, please contact her directly.

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

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon spoke of an upcoming trip on 11/06 to Summerville (lace agate). Those interested need to sign up at the museum or contact Marsha. On 11/19 there is a repeat trip planned for Diamond Hill Mine (crystals). Sean Price reported on a trip to Brasstown (staurolite) on October 22. He said that, as a club, we are invited to come back.

Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Program Chairman – Jane Morgan reminded us that we will have our end-of-year party on Saturday, 12/17. The club will provide turkey, ham and drinks. A sign-up sheet for other food will be circulated at the November General meeting.

Education – Diane Aiello is absent this evening.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ellen Crawford again mentioned that annual membership fees were due last month. Please pay Ellen if you have not already done so.

The club is still asking for someone to volunteer as a calendar chairperson.

Fred Plesner reported that the Leaf Lookers Gem Show did not have as many vendors as he would have liked and it was a rather paltry showing this year. He stated that unfortunately communication remains a problem.

Elena Marsh reported on a travel tour group who came through the museum. Hosts were John Hayes, Fred Plesner and Elena Marsh. There were 30 senior citizens who came from Deland, Florida, with one lady being 92 years old who was able to get up the stairs and see everything. Their tour director donated \$20.

NEW BUSINESS:

Don't forget that museum winter hours take effect as of November: 12 noon until 4 PM, Saturdays only.

Our next General meeting will be early – November 17 – due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

John Hayes presented a certificate of completion in faceting to Cy Amrich. His faceted stones are on display at the back of the room. Congratulations were given to Cy!

Ellen Williams, Librarian, was presented a book for our library donated by Tom Sterrett that had been given to him by Kim Cochran.

Jane Morgan drew tickets for door prizes that were donated by Arlon Eldridge.

Al Pribble made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fred Plesner. Tom Sterrett asked if there was any further business to be discussed and there being none, the meeting was adjourned by President Tom Sterrett at 7:10 PM. The meeting was followed by refreshments and a very interesting program presented by Fred Plesner – Fun with Fossils.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary





Jailhouse Honeymoon

Fred Plesner, Emeritus Curator



During the recent PumpkinFest activities someone introduced a woman to me with an unusual story. The woman claimed that her parents spent their honeymoon in the "Old Jail". When I questioned her about the dates she claimed she did not know. When I pressed her further about where the marriage was performed, she again claimed ignorance. It seemed an unlikely story but she insisted that her story was true and that her father was employed from time to time by the jailor to perform menial tasks around the "Old Jail".

I have done some research and have found that her father, Thomas Chandler Dufour, was born in Ghent, Kentucky, a small Ohio river town about halfway between Louisville, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio on October 19, 1918. How He wound up in Macon County or the circumstances by which he met the love of his life is a mystery. But somewhere he met Hazel M. Burrel and they were married. Hazel M. "Burrel" Dufour was born on October 7, 1918 and I have no idea where Hazel was born but the fact that she had a sister Lois Faye Burrel who married into the Cabe family would indicate that she was a local girl.

Thomas's obituary and the rest of the data that I could find would indicate the most probable marriage date would be in 1938. The Dufour family settled in Otto where they raised their family of five daughters. Thomas served in the military during W.W. II and at the time that he retired he was working as an aerospace engineer for the F.A.A. Thomas was evidently a great asset to his community because he was awarded the Governor's award for Volunteerism in 1996 and his greatest achievement would have been earning his Bachelor of Science degree at the age of 75 from Western Carolina University.

Thomas C. and Hazel M. Dufour now rest peacefully in the Asbury United Methodist Church cemetery in Otto.

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



I am not 100% sure but I do think this past year was the busiest ever. Visitors from all over the world found our museum and purchased items in our gift shop. Very positive feedback on both TripAdvisor and our Facebook pages indicate people thought our museum was amazing and items in the gift shop were beautiful and affordable too.

PumpkinFest was a very busy time for our museum and the club members who devoted so many hours to host and work in the different areas of the event. Gift shop sales and donations were excellent. Our next challenge will be November 26 and December 3 when Winter Wonderland will showcase Franklin and local businesses and museums. The museum will be open from noon to 8:00 PM both Saturdays to accommodate the many visitors to our town. Sign-up sheets are located in the meeting room at the museum for members who would like to help those evenings. Short shifts will make sure everyone gets a chance to be a part of the festivities and also help in the museum.



Anamay managed to attend a gem show in Orlando FL and purchased some items for the gift shop. Those will be featured as soon as she comes back to North Carolina and we get them carded, priced and in one of the display cases.

URGENT NEEDS of the gift shop – if anyone has any small packing boxes (size that would fit a pair of bookends or a gem tree), please save them and bring to museum for the gift shop. Many times our visitors need larger items packed up and those boxes come in handy. Please leave them in the meeting room with a note indicating for the gift shop.

Also, if anyone has the talent of making small gem trees, please contact me. I would love to have ‘member made’ gem trees to sell. I have quite a few rocks and slabs that can be used as bases for the trees. Please contact me if you are able to make some. THANKS!!

Remember to shop locally this holiday season - the best way to do that is start in our own gift shop – prices are excellent, club members get a 10% discount above \$10 in purchases and you support your club.

Thank you for all donations to the gift shop. And thank you for hosting in the museum.

Field Trip

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



Sean Price stepped in to lead the October 22nd field trip to Brasstown to search for staurolite. Everybody had a great time and lots of goodies were found. Thank you, Sean.

More info to come on the November 6th field trip to Summerville, GA for lace agate.

Diamond Hill field trip is scheduled for November 19th. We have found lots of crystals in the past. You can find smoky quartz, amethyst, skeletal quartz, milky quartz, clear quartz, garnets, aquamarine, drusy quartz, mica, & epidote. This is south of Franklin so it should be warmer. 8:00 AM til dusk, \$15 per person. Club members only.

Chunky Gal Mountain and Buck Creek field trips are in the works, targeting new members and old members interested in returning. Please provide input for date requests for December/January time frame. Close by trips!



Wire Wrap

Diane Mason - Instructor / Jane Morgan - Assistant

Well we are down to the wire for the completion of our class.

We are looking forward to showing off our completed pieces at the Year End Party, December 17th with a Show and Tell!

I am very pleased with what was accomplished.

January Birthstone

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. *Garnet*, derived from the word *granatum*, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry. *Garnet* is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorite. Today, the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka, and India.



www.americangemsociety.org/january-birthstone

January Birthdays

- 4 - Jack Jungles
- 5 - Dave Snyder
- 10 - Ellen Williams
- 13 - Penny- Lynn Goldstein
- 16 - Susan Martin
- 17 - Scott Newton
- 19 - Carolyn Haskell
- 20 - Ralph Crawford
- 23 - Ellen Crawford
- 24 - Jim Mahar
- 28 - Cy Amrich
- 29 - Jerry Mason



January Anniversaries

- 10 - Al & Rosie Pribble
- 27 - Quniton & Mittie King
- 29 - John & Diana Jurss



December Birthstones

Lapis Lazuli – Traditional: The best lapis has been mined in Afghanistan for centuries. A soft stone, lapis in only 5 to 5.5 on the Mohs scale, and can have inclusions of white calcite and shiny pyrite. Lapis is thought to promote wisdom and insight.

Blue Zircon – Traditional: Zircon is heat-treated to obtain the desirable blue color. With a high refractive index of about 1.95, zircon's sparkle rivals that of diamond.

Turquoise – Modern: Adopted by the American National Association of Jewelers in 1912 as the December birthstone, turquoise was reported mined by the ancient Egyptians in 6000 BC. The best turquoise comes from Iran. Hardness: 5 to 6.

Blue Topaz - Modern: The name topaz comes from the Sanskrit and means "fire." Topaz can cleave with a single hard knock, so should be placed in a protective setting.

Tanzanite – Modern: Added as an official December birthstone in 2002 by the AGTA. It is said Maasai cattle herders in Tanzania discovered this gemstone in 1967, after a fire caused by lightning naturally "heat-treated" the local brown zoisite crystals.

Source: THE PEGMATITE Dec 2006 as published in *The Mountain Gem* Dec 2007.



geology.com, AJSgems.com, gemselect.com & gia.com



**“We make a living by
what we get, but
we make a life by
what we give.”**

Winston Churchill



**From the Southeast Federation of Mineral
Societies Gem and Mineral Shows**



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/>

November 18 - 20, 2016, Marietta, GA

Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies Annual Meeting hosted by Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society. For registration, events and hotel information www.amfed.org/sfms

November 25 - 27, 2016, Salem, VA

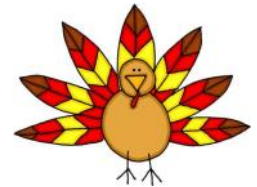
Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society; Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153; Friday 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday Noon to 5:00 PM; Admission \$5.00 good for all 3 days; fluorescent mineral display & video room about rocks & minerals; door prizes

December 9 - 11, 2016, Lawrenceville, GA

21st annual Mammoth Rock Show, The North Atlanta Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show; Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugar Loaf Pkwy, Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 to 5:00 PM; Free Parking; Admission \$5 adult (good for all 3 days)

December 10 & 11, 2016, Franklin, TN

"Earth Treasures" Show at Ag Expo Park; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 10am-5pm; Adults \$4; 30 + Dealers; classes, speakers, exhibits, demonstrations, silent auction & door hourly prizes. www.MTGMS.org.



Other Events

November 24, Franklin, NC, 5K Cold Turkey Run, 9:00 to 10:30 AM, on Greenway, register before race, race to benefit Macon TRACS, www.macontracs.org

November 26 & December 3, Saturday, Franklin, NC, Winter Wonderland, 5:00 PM

November 27, Sunday, Franklin, NC, Annual Christmas Parade, 3:00 PM



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