THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

May 2023 Newsletter

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WWW.FGMM.ORG

Cover photograph - Ferruginous Quartz
by Stacy Walbridge

From the President

Stacy Walbridge

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for the Gem Show! As of this writing there are still a few spots open but the member response has been fantastic. I can't thank you enough for your support of our society.

This year's Gem Show looks to be one of the best in several years with the Carpenter Center filled with vendors, presentations, and a few surprises. If you haven't yet volunteered and have some time this weekend, come on and stop by. Throughout each day there will be numerous small tasks where we could use your help and you can check out some of the great vendors we have this year.

And don't forget that we have our regular meeting next week where we will find out how Macon County contributed to the Washington Monument.

See you this weekend.

Stacy Walbridge
President

April General Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2023
Thursday 6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by Stacy Walbridge.

Minutes: Chandra Fox (fgmshows@gmail.com). Correction: Streets of Franklin (Maker's Market) will be held Saturday May 27, 2023. Minutes accepted with the exception of correction.

Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge. (FGMM.Treasurer@mail.com) / Charlotte Ellert. Museum gift shop sales and donations have increased. A big "Thank You" to all who host the museum and help in the gift shop. Called First Citizen's Bank to set up an appointment to move our CDs to one with a higher rate. A ½ page ad in the Vacation and Relocation Guide was placed.

Vice President: Larry Ellert. (clellert@yahoo.com) No Report.

Museum Manager: Larry Ellert. (clellert@yahoo.com). We are still having trouble filling Museum Hosting spots. We would like to open the museum more days but are in dire need of volunteers. The floor is soft around the toilet in the downstairs bathroom. An estimate is needed for the necessary repairs. The 10 inch saw in the museum workshop has been modified and is in working condition. A big "Thank You" to Deb Rogers for stepping up and hosting at the museum.

Museum Curator: Mark Laing. (mw.laing@hotmail.com) Absent.

Workshop: Matt Castor. (combatflyfisher@yahoo.com). Absent.

Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando. (anamay@verizon.net) Absent. Vicky Knisley. (dinkymanor@yahoo.com). Welcome to our new assistant gift shop manager, Vicky Knisley. Vicky addressed the membership and thanked all volunteers past, present, and future. Sales are up and things are moving slow but steady. It's the time of the year to open the museum up four days a week which requires more personnel.

Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge. (fgmseditor@gmail.com) Deadline for submissions to the newsletter: May 15, 2023

Publicity: Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com) Geo-Fencing started on Facebook and Instagram on Monday, April 10. It is targeted to 18+ years old in a 150-air mile radius showing an interest in rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry, crafting, etc. This area covers parts of Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, as well as North Carolina to Raleigh. The Facebook algorithms use a person's search history, interests, occupation, likes, location…..just about anything that would link a person as having an interest in the show will be served the ad. They recreated the Gem Show ad to fit the required sizing for Facebook and Instagram. The ads will run through May 21.

We are continuing to post to Instagram and Facebook – Museum Mondays and other information. The number of views continues to grow. Pam Martin, FGMS member, has agreed to take photographs of minerals, gems, and rocks from the Museum so we able to continue posting. Any other suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Stacy Walbridge, Chandra Fox, and Kim Price were interviewed for the radio show, “Citizen’s Making a Difference”, hosted by Gordon Mercer and aired on Saturday, April 8 on WFNC and WNCC 104.1 FM, 104.9 FM, and 1050AM. We talked about the Museum, the Society, and the upcoming Gem Show. Gordon, his wife, Marcia, and grandson, Wyatt, joined the Society. They sent me a link to the interview. (The interview is available on the Members page of our website and on our Facebook page)

Kim Price also did a short radio interview – Public affairs Program with Phillip Angel, a student at WCU, about the museum, society, and gem show.

Kim has placed a single ad for the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum in the “Business Card Directory” through the Franklin Press to get ready for the tourist season. Our ad in the Franklin – Nantahala Tourism magazine through the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce is now available.

Scholarships: Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com). Committee has been active writing a draft bylaws update.

Future Vision: Ron Rossomando (ronrossomando@verizon.net). Absent. Kim Price. (kprice@safetworksinc.com). We are holding a meeting of the Future Visions Committee on Wednesday, April 26 at 3pm at the museum. Discussions will include: Looking at the overall “Big Picture” for the Society and Museum’s future. Our 50th Anniversary Celebration will be coming up in 2024.

Membership: Roberta Pipitone, Leonard Pipitone. (RLPipitone@earthlink.net). Thirty nine (39) members and three (3) quest attending. We have (5) new members since our last meeting and (9) total new members this year. The application available on our web page is the most up to date membership application available.

Education: Marsha Harmon. (monaleaf28734@gmail.com) Tours: May 2nd 3/4 Grade 9:00 a.m. start with Heritage Christian Academy, Hosts: Roberta and Leonard Pipitone and Deb Rogers. May 17th – 2nd graders 9:00 a.m. start with South Macon Elementary, 2 groups x 45 minutes Hosts: John Hayes, Marsha Harmon, Larry Ellert.

Field Trips: Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com) / Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com) Ducktown Basin Museum and the Lost Sea Adventures Field Trip will be on May 13th. Contact Sean or Helen if you are interested in attending this trip or for more information on future field trips.

Gem Show: Chandra Fox. (FGMShows@gmail.com) / Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com). Our Gem Show is getting closer and the excitement is building! We have nineteen vendors signed up for our May Gem and Mineral Show. We still need spots filled by club members such as Ticket Takers, Demonstrators, Hosts, Set-up and Tear-Down. Volunteer signup sheets will be available at the General Meeting, Board Meeting and online. Please consider volunteering.

Programs: Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com). The Program for April is about Ducktown Basin Museum and the Lost Sea Adventures Field Trip on May 13th. The Ducktown Basin Museum decided to send us a video to present at the meeting rather than sending someone over. Sean Price will show photographs from the Lost Sea Adventures. Kim Price will share a few photos from her trip to Japan.
Coming up over the next couple of months:

MAY: The Washington Monument: A History of How Macon County Contributed to the Capstone.
JUNE: The Cherokee Mineral Trade: Mica & Copper
JULY: U.S. Forest Service Safety and Stewardship presented by the US Forest Service and the Ice Cream Social
AUGUST: The Importance of Local Materials Quarries

We will be handing out a questionnaire at the meeting about the programs being offered and asking for recommendations for future programs.

Streets of Franklin: Nancy McShane (twfancy@yahoo.com). Correction: Spring Makers Market will be Saturday, May 27th. Hometown Heritage will be on July 15th. There will be no “Where’s Waldo?” this year. Instead, we will see “Where is Cowee Sam?”

Constitution / By-Laws Committee: Al Pribble (alton36@gmail.com), Larry Ellert (clellert@yahoo.com). No Rpt.

Old Business: No Old Business.

New Business: Board meeting time will change from 4pm to 6:30pm. We would like to do a "Make it Day". If you are a wire wrapper and are interested, please contact Diane Mason through the Museum.
We also need a Curator, a volunteering scheduler, and a newsletter editor.

Ron Bischoff just finished up a week-long Cabochon Class at William Holland School for Lapidary Arts. He won a scholarship for the class during an annual drawing which uses volunteers recorded hours as entries. Ron said, "Good food, good company, nice facility." He encouraged the membership to record their volunteer hours. "Definitely worth it!" Don't be intimidated. We are here to support each other.

GRAND OPENING of TWO MEMBER Owned MINES

Rose Creek Mine
115 Terrace Ridge Drive
Franklin, NC. 28734

Highlands Road Gem Mine
4961 Highlands Road
Franklin, NC 28734

Meeting Adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Education & Tours News

by Marsha Harmon

The Heritage Christian Academy of Sylva, grades 3 and 4, toured our Museum on May 2nd. They were very inquisitive about the rooms with a special excitement for
the fluorescent room, jail cell, native American room and fossil room. Their teacher seemed very happy to have been given quartz specimens, worksheets for each student and a class book featuring quartz.

Happy students and their teacher, Laurin Anderson, during their tour of the Museum

These tours are made possible by voluntary hosts and in this case Deb Rogers, Roberta Pipitone and Leonard Pipitone made all the difference.

Gift Shop News

By Anamay Rossomando

Vicki Knisley and I are working on getting the Gift Shop in shape for the Summer Season. The gem show is coming up so we will be shopping for new & interesting items for the shop. There will also be a table at the show with our Fall raffle prize, stop by & see us, get your raffle tickets & if you haven't had a chance to volunteer for any hosting or helping out it's not too late.

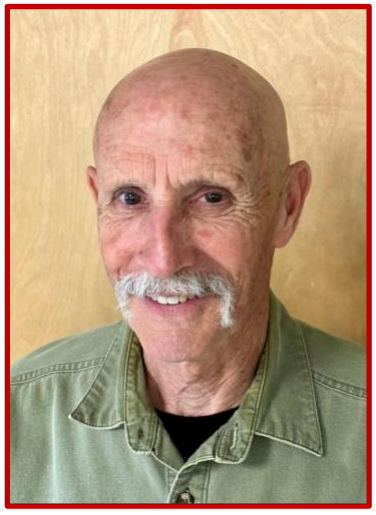
We will be participating in the Spring Makers Market May 27th with a table on Main St. from 9-4. Any help would be greatly appreciated. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

A Big "**Thank You**" to Ron Bischoff. for making these unique walking sticks. They are for sale in the gift shop so stop by to take a look.

Membership

By Kim Price

At the April meeting we had two guests who became members. Please welcome Bill Hodge and Angela Krebeck to the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society.



Bill Hodge

Angela Krebeck

Bench Tips

by Bradford Smith
Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over the plier jaws if needed to avoid scratches.

DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about $6.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

Upcoming Shows

Franklin Gem & Mineral Showcase – May 18 to 21, 2023

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.

May 18-21 Franklin, NC
Highlands Road Gem Show, 1602 Highlands Road, Franklin, North Carolina 28734

May 18-21 Franklin, NC
Echo Valley Showplace
6456 Sylva Rd., Franklin, North Carolina 28734, United States

May 19-21 Franklin, NC
G&LW Wholesale Gem Show. Over 200 booths featuring U.,S. and International Wholesale Vendors of Diamonds, Gemstones, Pearls, Fine Jewelry, Fashion Jewelry, Findings, Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Equipment. FREE!! Wholesale Only Shows – Open Only to the Trade Valid Business License OR Tax Certificate OR Sales and Use Tax Permit in Gem or Jewelry Related Business Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-3.

The Difference Between a Show and a Showcase

Towns and counties across North Carolina — and in particular, western N.C. — take their mineral and mining heritages seriously, and several proudly hold annual festivals, fairs or shows to celebrate their rich gem, mineral, and mining history and culture. This region is one of the richest in the world for hosting important gem and mineral related shows. Each year in the spring and summer, the little town of Franklin becomes a magnet for buyers and collectors from throughout the southeast states and around the country. They come to shop at four shows in Franklin in May and four shows in late July. Local organizations and volunteers enthusiastically participate in the gem show season. Some shows are operated by the local gem and mineral club and the chamber of commerce, and the dozens of area “gem mines” enjoy their peak season, providing tourists with the unforgettable experience of sluicing for authentic gemstones — sapphires, rubies, garnets, emeralds, and many more!

June 10-11 Gastonia, NC
Gaston Gem & Mineral Club Summer Gemboree, a Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show: Johan Newcome Event Center/Habitat for Humanity 1840 E Franklin Blvd Gastonia, NC 28054.

Club Announcements

May 2023 Board Meeting
(All members are welcome)
6:30 pm Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

May 2023 General Meeting
6:30 pm Thursday, May 25th, 2023

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

Newsletter Deadline for June is 06/19/2023

2023 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
May 19-20 Franklin Gem & Mineral Show				
May 25, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	The Washington Monument: How Macon County Contributed to the Capstone by Al Pribble and Sean Price	Jenny & Jay Mooney
June 29, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	The Cherokee Mineral Trade by an EBCI Tribal Historian	Varshana & Earl McGaughey
July 27, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	USFS Safety & Stewardship Ice Cream Social	Bernd & Maggie Phoenix
July 28-30 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: 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)
Museum Manager Assistant: Donovan MacDonald 828-226-3131
Director (2022): Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Director (2022): Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Director (2023): 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

Museum Curator: Vacant
Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Gift Shop Assistant: Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954)
Museum Workshop: Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Membership: Roberta & Leonard Pipitone, (828-332-2837)
Publicity: Kim Price (336-653-1201)
Field Trip Coordinator: Sean Price (336-964-2061)
Field Trip Assistant: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)
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: Charlene Galbrecht (954-592-1377)
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)
Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]