



# ***THE MOUNTAIN GEM***

**Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina**

**ESTABLISHED 1972**

**July 2021 Newsletter**

**WWW.FGMS.ORG**

## **In This Issue**

**p. 02 June Meeting Minutes**

**p. 04 Happy Anniversary**

**p. 05 Ice Cream Social**

**p. 06 Elections Are Almost Here**

**p. 07 Officer and Director Duties**

**p. 09 Bench Tips**

**p. 10 Franklin Gem & Mineral Showcase**

**p. 11 Meeting Announcements**

**p. 12 Officers, Directors, & Committee Chairs**

**Cover Photograph – Calcite on Fluorite from Illinois  
States Room FGMS Museum**

**Photograph by Stacy Walbridge**

## June 24<sup>th</sup> GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Susan Fritz, Secretary  
Photograph by George Fritz

The meeting was called to order by Larry Ellert on Thursday, 06/24/21, at 6:30 p.m., at First Christian Church of Franklin.

Minutes – Larry Ellert asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as printed in the newsletter. Stacy Walbridge moved that they be accepted and Marsha Harmon seconded the motion. Voted and passed.



Treasurer- Kathi Walbridge reported that our income was higher than our expenses this month, which puts us in the black.

Museum Manager – Larry Ellert reported that the trailer was moved to the church. A new jack has been ordered. Larry also mentioned that the wall behind the sink at the museum shows blistering again. The hot water heater is the suspected culprit and he is expecting that the wall and vanity will need to be replaced.

Museum Curator – Mark Laing reported that the most of the display cases have been cleaned and he thanked those who came to do this work. There are still more cases to be cleaned and there is a sign-up sheet for volunteers with the exact date of the cleaning to be announced.

Newsletter Editor – Stacy Walbridge stated the newsletter deadline will be July 7 as we are shifting the general meeting up a week due to the gem show.

Membership – Tom Parker reported 33 members with dues still outstanding. There are several guests with us this evening: Toni Garvin, Brad Fleszor and daughter, and John Markey and his family.

Publicity – George Fritz stated he contacted Linda Harbuck, Chamber of Commerce, regarding the radio station doing a remote program from the gem show. She told him it would cost \$500 just for them to show up. She told him she was not interested in paying out this much money and not interested in splitting that amount with us. We all agreed we were not willing to do this either. Linda Harbuck is going to contact television station WLOS to see if they might be interested in coming.

Field Trips/Education – Marsha Harmon had pamphlets she had made regarding field trips. If interested, please contact her as she would like to know the top five local interests. She explained education as being one of the main purposes of the club. She is also working on a fossil kit. She is desirous of stepping down from this position but is willing to help anyone who would be interested in taking over.

July Gem Show – Norman Holbert stated there is a sign-up sheet here tonight for set up, take down, hosts, and demonstrators. Volunteers are sorely needed. The Faceter's Frolic will take place at the Factory.

Programs – Kathi Walbridge said tonight's program will be on the Magic of Jade with two short videos and a presentation by John Hayes. For July we will have our ice cream social.

Yard Sale – Larry Ellert reported that the yard sale took place and was moderately successful. He wished to thank everyone who participated in this event as there was a lot of work to be done.



Yard Sale Volunteers, l. to r. Anamay Rossomando, Marsha Harmon, Ron Rossomando, Jane Morgan, Jay Mooney, Jenny Mooney, Al Pribble, Larry Ellert.

Church Building/Trailer – Larry Ellert reported on the Board meeting Tuesday night. He reported that church officials are only offering us two years with an extension. He reported that the Board voted to put this issue on hold for the next three months.

**New Business:**

July Meetings – Larry Ellert announced that due to the gem show next month’s meetings will be earlier than normal. The Board meeting will be Tuesday, July 13 and the General meeting will be Thursday, July 15.

Election of Officers – Nominations for election of officers and Board members will be taken at next month’s meeting on July 15. Voting will take place at the August meeting

Larry Ellert then asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Marsha Harmon and seconded by Mark Laing. There being no further business, Larry Ellert adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Refreshments were provided by Diane and Jerry Mason, Susan Fritz, Marsha Harmon and Larry Ellert.

Following the business meeting, tonight’s program consisted of two short videos on jade. John Hayes brought many samples of various kinds of jade and provided more education on some samples he brought. Specimens were set up on a table in the back of the room for everyone to see. John also provided the door prizes tonight.



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



Long time members and active supporters of the club, Jerry and Diane Mason, are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this month. A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a significant milestone and knowing these two it is even more impressive. So congratulations to Jerry and Diane. May you celebrate many more!





# Ice Cream Social

Yes... This month's meeting will be the annual Ice Cream Social. Vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry ice cream will be provided by the club and members are asked to bring a topping to share. (The editor's favorite is chocolate syrup and whipped cream.) This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends, get to know the new members, trade tall tales of field trips, and enjoy the dessert.

If you have a special rock you would like to show off to the members or need help with identification bring it along. We will also have a digital microscope available to view small specimens or faceted stones. You never know what you can see.

---



## ELECTIONS ARE ALMOST HERE

We owe a great big **THANK YOU** to the Officers and Board members that agreed to stay in their positions this past year. With all the uncertainty our normal election cycle was suspended and each one agreed to tough it out for another year. Now that the Museum is open and we are regularly meeting in person new elections will be held during our August general meeting, but before we go into that,



Jane Morgan- President  
Arlon Eldridge – Vice President  
Tom Parker, Diane Mason, Mark Laing, and Tom Sterrett – Directors  
Larry Ellert – Museum Manager  
Al Pribble – Past President  
Lake Holland and Kathi Walbridge - Treasurer

And last but not least, Susan Fritz -Secretary. After several years of fantastic work and support at every meeting, Susan is stepping down as Secretary - Thank you for everything!

---



Now for the upcoming elections. Under the club's constitution a nominating committee is formed to identify a slate of candidates for the upcoming year. The names and positions of candidates, which have accepted their nomination, will be presented at the July Board and General Meetings. Nominations from the floor during the general will also be added to the slate. The election will then be held at the August meeting.

As of the writing of this newsletter the following slate of candidates has been identified:

President – Mark Laing  
Vice President – Larry Ellert  
Secretary – Vacant  
Treasurer – Kathi Walbridge  
Asst. Treasurer – Vacant  
Museum Manager – Larry Ellert  
Board of Directors  
    Two Year Term – Marsha Harmon and Matt Castor  
    One Year Term – Susan Fritz and Charlotte Frye

As you can see there is a need for a Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Please give these vacant positions your consideration and if you have an interest in any of the other positions I have included explanations of the duties and responsibilities.

## **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

- A. The elected officers of this Society shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Second Vice President (Museum Manager).  
B. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the elected officers, the immediate past President, and four Directors elected by the Society membership.

### **The duties of the President are as follows:**

1. Be familiar with and abide by all provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.
2. Preside at all meetings of the organization.
3. Appoint chairpersons of all committees.
4. Serve as ex-officio member of each committee except the Nominating Committee.
5. By the first of August, appoint two members who are not serving on the Board of Directors to conduct a financial review each year. A written financial review report, signed by the two Financial Review Committee members shall be presented to the Board of Directors at its November meeting. After review by the Board of Directors, a summary of said Financial Review shall be presented to the membership. This review will cover the previous fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.
6. Be empowered to initiate new business and form new committees.
7. If the immediate past President is not available, the President shall appoint a Board member (not an officer) to serve as the Nominating Committee chairperson.

### **The duties of the Vice President are as follows:**

1. Be familiar with and abide by all provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.
2. Perform duties of the President in his absence.
3. Perform such special administrative duties as the President may request.
4. Maintain a list of volunteer member hours.
5. Will use the volunteer member hours list to determine names for the drawing of a

winner of a tuition scholarship to William Holland School of Lapidary Arts or the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) Workshops at Wildacres.

**The duties of the Secretary are as follows:**

- 1.Keep a record and file complete minutes of each meeting of the Society and the Board of Directors.
- 2.The minutes of each Board of Directors meeting shall include the names of Board members and visitors present.
- 3.Transmit all minutes of the general membership meetings in a timely fashion to the Editor of The Mountain Gem in suitable form for publication.
- 4.If requested by the Secretary and accepted by the President, the minutes may be taken by another member.
- 5.Conduct routine correspondence of the Society including but not limited to thank you notes, appropriate cards, etc.
- 6.Prepare and transmit any other correspondence as directed by the President.

**The duties of the Treasurer are as follows:**

- 1.Receive and account for all monies.
- 2.Pay all bills and present a monthly financial statement at each meeting of the Board of Directors. At each regular meeting of the Society, the Treasurer will present a monthly income and expense report.
- 3.Work closely with the Assistant Treasurer to keep the Assistant aware of all financial transactions.
- 4.Pay all bills and other obligations of the Society by bank check, signed by two of the following officers: the Treasurer, the President, the Secretary or the Assistant Treasurer.
- 5.Provide all pertinent data to the Financial Review Committee members for the annual financial review.

**The duties of the Assistant Treasurer are as follows:**

- 1.Assist the Treasurer as needed and shall act in the absence of the Treasurer to carry out all financial duties for the Society.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- A. The Board of Directors will be familiar with and abide by all provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.
- B. The Board of Directors constitutes the governing body of the Society.
- C. Members of the Board of Directors shall participate in Board meetings and shall notify the President if unable to attend.
- D. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of seven members.
- E. Any non-budgeted expenditure approved by the Board of Directors that exceeds \$1000.00 shall be voted on by the membership, except in an emergency so declared by affirmative vote of 75% of the entire Board of Directors.
- F. The immediate Past President shall automatically become a member of the Board of Directors.



**BENCH TIPS**  
By Bradford Smith

**FANCY RIVET HEADS**

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 16 or 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "escutcheon pin"



For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to a leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.

**EASIER PRONG SETTING**

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers with a slight groove on one jaw.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the quickest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a separating disc. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



**Franklin Gem & Mineral Showcase**  
\*\*\*\*\* 5 Shows Running Concurrently \*\*\*\*\*



- ⇒ **Macon County Gemboree, 1288 Georgia Road (7/23 to 7/25)**
- ⇒ **Highlands Road Gem Show, 1602 Highlands Road (7/21 to 7/25)**
- ⇒ **Echo Valley Gem Show, 6456 Sylva Rd (7/21 to 7/25)**
- ⇒ **G&LW Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers, 6295 Sylva Road (7/22 to 7/25)**
- ⇒ **Faceters Frolic, 1024 Georgia Road (7/23 to 7/25)**



**Anil B. Dholakia, Inc.**  
Fine Gemstones & Jewelry  
P. O. Box 1824  
Franklin, NC 28744



**Varshana Dholakia GIA, GG**  
**Earl McGaughey**  
jwala123@aol.com  
(828) 342-3135  
(828) 342-7340

Wholesale & Retail 



**COWEE MTN. RUBY MINE**  
Precious, semi-precious stones  
Jewelry repair, gold & silver  
Mine dirt shipped anywhere in US  
Cut & rough gem stones

**828-369-5271**  
Fax: 828-524-0633  
6771 Sylva Road  
Franklin, NC 28734

Amiee Bailey, General Manager  
Sonja H. & Arlon Eldridge, owners  
email: cowee@yahoo.com  
web: www.coweemtnrubymine.com



71 rockhaven dr  
Franklin NC 28734

oldcardinalgemmine.com@gmail.com

8285247306  
8283696673  
Parcel, Charles, Morgan ,Isaiah

**OLD CARDINAL  
GEM MINE**



**ROSE CREEK MINE**  
**Gift & Rock Shop**  
**GOOD CLEAN DIRTY FUN!**

Beginners Welcome • Equipment Supplied  
Covered Flume For Rain Or Shine  
Discounts For Groups & Minor Miners  
Restroom • Picnic Area • Snacks

**OPEN  
APRIL 1 - OCTOBER 31  
CLOSED SUNDAYS**

115 TERRACE RIDGE PK • FRANKLIN, NC • 828-549-9774 • ROCKS@ROSECREEKMINE.COM  
WWW.ROSECREEKMINE.COM

WARNING:  
Mining Can  
Be Addictive.

**July General Meeting**  
**6:30 pm Thursday, July 15, 2021**  
**Ice Cream Social – Bring a Topping to Share!**  
**First Christian Church of Franklin**  
**156 Belleview Park Road**  
**Franklin, NC**

**July Board Meeting**  
**6:30 pm Tuesday, July 13, 2021**  
**First Christian Church of Franklin**  
**156 Belleview Park Road**  
**Franklin, NC**

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina**  
Established 1972

**Club Officers and Board of Directors**

President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)  
Past President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)  
Vice President: Arlon Eldridge, (828-369-5271)  
Secretary: Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)  
Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)  
Assistant Treasurer: Vacant  
Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)  
Director (2020): Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)  
Director (2020): Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)  
Director (2019): Diane Mason, (706-379-1718)  
Director (2019): Tom Sterrett, (828-349-3774)

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

**Committees**

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason  
Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)  
Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)  
Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)  
Museum Workshop: Vacant  
Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)  
Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)  
Program Coordinator: Kathi Walbridge  
Museum Calendar: Jay Mooney, (678-488-0620)  
Gemborees: Vacant  
Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)  
Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)  
Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)  
Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge, [fgmseditor@gmail.com]



**August Newsletter Deadline is  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

