



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

February 2020 Newsletter



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

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: Lake Holland, (828-369-5421)
 Assistant Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (828-349-9615)
 Museum Manager: Duane Haskell, (828-349-5123)
 Director (2020): Larry Ellert, (828-349-0774)
 Director (2020): Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
 Director (2019): Diane Mason, (706-379-1718)
 Director (2019): Tom Sterrett, (828-349-3774)

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
 Museum Curator: Larry Ellert, (828-349-0774)
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
 Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807), Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954), & Diane Mason
 Museum Workshop: Virginia Bennis (631-830-5403)
 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)
 Gembores: Norm Holbert (825-421-7776)
 Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Asst Education/Tours: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)
 Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

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



The 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 Society

Minutes: January 20, 2020

Susan Fritz

The meeting was called to order by Past President Al Pribble at First Christian Church. He explained that the "C" team was present this evening. Jane Morgan, Arlon Eldridge, Susan Fritz, Lake Holland, George Fritz and many others are absent and we send those who are ill our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Al Pribble stated that the first order of business is to encourage volunteers to sign up for bringing refreshments for our meetings as we enter the new year. He also said that we are in need of a chairperson for the recruitment calendar to volunteers at the museum. March has need of only two volunteers for Saturday and from there on the calendar is blank.

Al Pribble asked for a motion to accept the December meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter. Norman Holbert made the motion to accept seconded by Marsha Harmon. Voted and passed.

Norm Holbert addressed the group regarding the upcoming May gem show. A special offer is being made to members by the gem show committee. Members may purchase the use of one 6-foot table for \$60 at this show only. Any additional tables will be at full charge as for any vendor. Two members may work together for the purpose of selling lapidary-related items (no garage sale or flea market items will be accepted). There are also plans to hold a silent auction to be managed by Ron Bischoff. Norm Holbert also reported that security for the show is established and in place.

Present tonight are 27 members, 3 new members and 3 guests. Mr. Ed Dibble was recognized as an old member who has returned to be with the membership tonight.

Field trip chairwoman Marsha Harmon reported that the February trip has been cancelled and nothing is planned for March at this time. Please contact Marsha if you are interested in a trip during March.

Club Website: <http://www.fgmm.org>

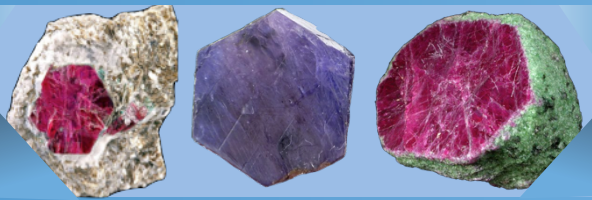
Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/franklingems>

Club Newsletter: fgmseditor@gmail.com,

Club Contact E-mail: franklingemsociety@gmail.com

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FGMS Minutes (continued)

Curator Larry Ellert stated that the museum inventory has been completed and he is now working to arrange it in an Excel file for the next curator.

In the absence of Workshop chairwoman, Virginia Bennis, John Hayes reported that we are currently looking to fill the position of Assistant Workshop Manager.

John Hayes presented cabochon cutting certificates to Mike Hartman and Bushy Hartman. Jerry Mason presented cabochon cutting certificates to Jay Mooney and Jenny Mooney.

John Hayes presented a fundraising idea to the membership to be held Thursday, 02/20, at First Christian Church. With a donation of \$10 a members will get a shot glass of very tiny sapphires, use tweezers to select the stones from the gravel and count them. The person obtaining the most will get their \$10 back and get to keep 50 sapphires. The rest will go to the museum to be sold in the gift shop. Participants will need an optivisor, a light and a small black light or pen light to recheck what they have picked out.

Diane Mason stated she is holding a beginning Wire I class on 03/06/20 in the classroom at the museum. Those who plan to take the class need to get their wire and return a response to Diane. Deadline to sign up is 02/25/20.

Gift shop representative Diane Mason stated that the last “Make-It” day was slow going and another is planned for 02/14/20. She reported that the 2020 gift shop inventory has been completed and is on file. Diane also explained the reasons why members need to keep up with and record their volunteer hours, the advantages of doing so and why this is important.

Education chairwoman Marsha Harmon reported on a tour the first week of February. Volunteers are needed for this group of 15 middle school students and 5 adults. Please contact Marsha if you can assist.

Door prizes were drawn.

Norman Holbert made a motion for adjournment seconded by Tom Parker. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Past President Al Pribble.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Charlene and Gary Galbrecht that included chicken, fresh fruits and vegetables.

A film on rock collecting in Western North Carolina completed the evening.

FIELD TRIPS **Marsha Harmon**

A trip is coming up on Sunday March 29, which many of our members seem to like. Patty Construction Quarry in Summerville, GA is about 3 hours away and is an easy place to pick banded agate for free. For those of you who like to pound on boulders, you can do that productively with the proper safety equipment or if you like to surface collect you can fill up your buckets that way. Most of the material here is suitable for cabbing or to keep as specimens.

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There will be a group of members leaving the museum at 6:30 with the possibility of car pooling and some of our members will be heading down there the day before. Please call me with any questions you may have. The trip notice will be posted on the board in the back of the museum please make a copy and let me know you are going.

We have also been snooping about a couple spots not far from Clayton, GA to hunt for amethysts. The weather has not cooperated and so until the rain provides a safe creek/river crossing we are holding. Marsha's phone is 828 369-7262 or email monaleaf28734@gmail.com.

NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM

Diane Mason

Wire Wrapping Class: There will be a Spring 2020 Beginning WIRE I class starting on March 6, 2020. Seven spots are available. The sign up sheet and all required information is on the bulletin board at the Museum. If you are interested, please make a copy of this information, order your wire, and contact the instructor (Diane Mason) when you have your wire in hand. The first (7) seven to complete this will make up the class.

Make It Day: On February 14th Larry Ellert and Stacy Walbridge joined Diane Mason to make earrings for the gift shop. The stones and wire were provided by the club and the members provided their time. The display is now full and we are ready to go for the opening 6 days a week in April.

Which weighs the most -- a pound of feathers or a pound of gold?

No one knows for sure when and where the Troy weight system was born, but the most commonly held explanation is that its name is derived from Troyes, a trade market in France. Merchants came from all over the world to buy and sell goods, so a standardized weight system would have made doing business much easier. Later, many places in Europe came up with their own version of the troy ounce, but the French troy is believed to be the system most closely related to the one that we use today.

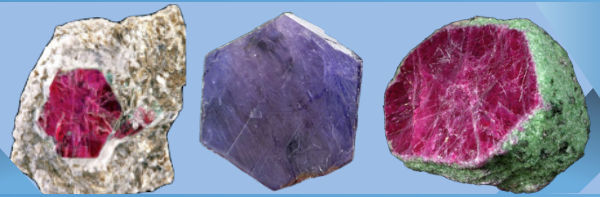
If we care to trace the origins of the troy even further back, we could look to the Roman monetary system. Romans used bronze bars as currency, and the bar that was equal to one pound today was referred to as an "aes grave." A twelfth of that was called an "uncia," or ounce. Today, a troy ounce is a twelfth of a troy pound. Most precious metals, like gold, are measured by troy ounces, goods such as sugar or other items, like feathers, are measured using avoirdupois ounces. The avoirdupois is the unit of measure that we use to weigh almost everything other than precious metals. The scales at the grocery store and the scales in your bathroom weigh things in avoirdupois ounces. Because the avoirdupois ounce so common, we simply refer to it as "ounces."

To answer the question of which weighs most it is best to convert Troy pounds and Avoirdupois pounds to grams. One Troy pound of gold weighs 372.2 grams and one Avoirdupois pound of feathers weighs 453.6 grams.

Therefore, one pound of feathers weighs more than one pound of gold. (Note that Rio Grande gold and silver weights are in Troy ounces.)

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JEWELRY BENCH TIPS

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

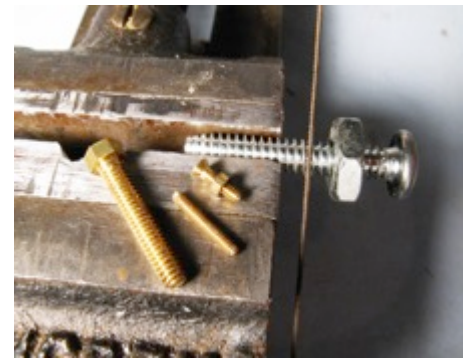
Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough. You can set the depth either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling to the correct depth, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level. Note that a little extra tape left free on the end will blow away debris from the drilling.



CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it.

First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off. Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt. Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing did to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away.



Work Smarter With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

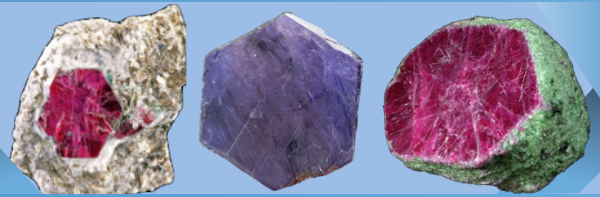
MOTHERS DAY GEMBOREE

May 8, 9, & 10, 2020

Our first show of the year is only about 3 months away! Members of our society will be asked to help out. So, you ask "How can I help?" Well if you are willing, here's some of the tasks that have to be covered: Set up the day before the show, placement of roadside signs, hosting during the show, demonstrating your skills for the public, walking around the show looking for shop-lifters, greeting and relieving vendors for breaks, and tear down at the close of the show. There are always other things to do. If you feel that you can help out with any of the above or you have suggestions, let me know.

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It would be nice to get new name badges for vendors and volunteers. Maybe lanyards with names. Maybe a hospitality area for volunteers and vendors. Just ideas that might be feasible. Let me know what you and maybe a partner might want to tackle. I'll hopefully have some sign-up sheets at our next meeting. Hope to see you there.

Norm Holbert
828 634-0350-home
828 421-7776-cell

SAFFORDITES AND FLUORITE

Article and Photographs by Stacy Walbridge

There is a small Arizona town near the eastern border with New Mexico that if you blink you'll miss it as you are driving. But within that town is a rock shop where the owner, Doug Barlow, welcomes visitors with open arms and is free with stories about the local mining history and what minerals may be found nearby. Kathi and I recently spent a few days in Duncan, AZ and shared a meal with Doug, which is not unusual as the town only has 2 restaurants and a surprisingly good pizza shop.

We were looking for Saffordites. Saffordites look like Tektites and are sometimes marketed as such but they originated on our earth tens of million years ago. When volcanic rock cools quickly, it makes a dark rock called obsidian. Because it cools so quickly, it forms a glass. As this rock weathers over time, it absorbs some water, loses its glass-like nature, and fractures into roundish rocks that look a lot like tektites, but they are not¹.



Mt. Graham, Arizona

Doug provided us with some general directions and we were off. Between Safford and Bowie and east of Mt. Graham is a relatively flat plain where Saffordites have been found in the past. Unfortunately, Saffordites are similar in color and size to the local desert rock so finding them is a challenge. After about 30 minutes of unsuccessful searching Kathi found a small piece of what might be a Saffordite. The easiest way to tell is to hold it over a flashlight as they are translucent, so I ran back to the truck and brought over the flashlight. Eureka, it was translucent.



Saffordite in Natural Light



Saffordite Backlit to show Translucency

Approximately 2 cm in diameter

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Back in Duncan we reconnected with Doug and received rough directions on where to find Fluorite and more importantly what areas to stay away from. On the border with New Mexico is a very old fault line where numerous abandoned and current mines are located. Running roughly parallel to the fault line is a vein of Fluorite. The next day we took off in search of Fluorite and were fortunate to locate a promising area. We spotted some clear Fluorite on the ground in one area and by digging down a foot or so we were able to find some dark green Fluorite. The best find was a green piece with two bands of purple running through it that was 5 cm wide by 10 cm high. We considered the day a success and have Doug Barlow and his Rock-A-Buy shop to thank for our success.

We discovered Duncan, AZ a couple of years ago when we were looking for Fire Agate, Kathi's favorite. Just south of Duncan is the Round Mountain BLM Rockhound Area where chalcedony litters the ground for miles. With careful searching there is fire agate embedded with some of the chalcedony although the pieces are rare. Also located on the BLM land near the rockhound area is the Lazy B Ranch where Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female Supreme Court Justice, was raised. But that is another story.



Purple and Green Fluorite
Duncan, AZ (5cm x 10cm)

1- Hunting for Saffordites East of Mt. Graham and the Vatican Telescope.
<https://www.vofoundation.org/blog/series/hunting-for-saffordites/>

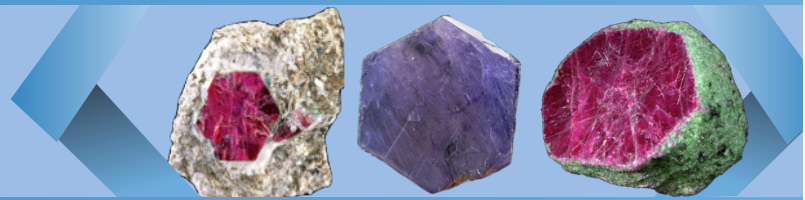
2020 Meeting/Event Schedule

February 27th – Club Anniversary Night & Larry Ellert, Museum Curator
March 26th - Collecting in the Sonoran Desert - Stacy Walbridge
April 30th - Regular Meeting
May 8th to 10th - Mother's Day Gemboree
May 28th – Opals – Tom Parker
June 25th – Brazil Minerals – Arlon Eldridge
July 24th to 26th - Faceters Frolic
July 30th – Show & Tell / Ice Cream Social
August 27th - Elections & talk by Kim Cochran
September 24th - Installation Banquet
October 17th - PumpkinFest
October 29th - Regular Meeting
November 19th - Regular Meeting
November 28th - Winter Wonderland
December 5th - Winter Wonderland
December 19th - End of Year Banquet

**March Newsletter Deadline is
Friday, March 13, 2020**

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UPCOMING SHOWS

13-15 March: Augusta, GA

Augusta Gem and Mineral Society
Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society
Julian Smith Casino
2200 Broad Street
Show Hours: Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6pm, Sunday
11am - 5 pm
Member display cases, demonstrations, dealers selling
geodes, silver, jewelry, gemstones, cabochons, minerals,
fossils, and activities for children.
Admission: \$5 or \$6 for 3 day pass, children 12 and under
free with adult

20-22 March: Arden, NC

Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Assoc (MAGMA)
Annual Show. Camp Stevens, 263 Clayton Rd.
Show Hours: Friday & Saturday 9 am - 6 pm, Sunday 9
am - 4 pm
Dealers specializing in gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites
and artifacts from North Carolina and around the world.
<http://www.americanrockhound.com>
Admission: FREE

20-22 March: Marietta, GA

Bellpoint Gem Show Annual Show.
Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy.
Show Hours: Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday
10 am - 5 pm
Crystals, fossils, beads, jewelry, geodes and minerals
from all over the world.
<http://www.bellpointpromotions.com>
Admission: Adults \$5, children under 15 free when
accompanied by a paying adult.

21 March: Cartersville, GA

Mineral Symposium 2020
Tellus Science Museum, 100 Tellus Dr.
9 AM to 5 PM
Join experts in the field at the 2020 Tellus Mineral
Symposium to learn about fine mineral collecting. We
will have speakers discuss building a collection for any
budget, valuing your collection and assessing its quality,
joining an organization, and going out in the field to
collect.
<https://tellusmuseum.org/museum-events/mineral-symposium-2020>
MEMBERS: \$30 | NON-MEMBERS: \$40, Prepaid
reservation required.

27-29 March: Hickory, NC

Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club 50th Annual
Show. Hickory-Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave
Dr. SE
Show Hours: Friday & Saturday 9 am - 6 pm, Sunday 10
am - 5 pm. Held in assoc. with the annual Eastern
Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies. 24
vendors.
Admission: \$5, free for law enforcement, youth groups,
scouts in uniform, children 12 and under

THE COW JUMPED OVER THE MOON Frank Mayo, April 1980

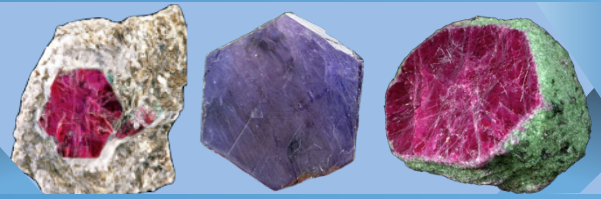
The Apollo astronauts brought back a total of 843 pounds of rock from the moon. These were stored in airtight nitrogen-filled containers in the super-clean Lunar Receiving Laboratory at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, at Houston, Texas.

A list of Universities were selected to receive the samples of moon rocks for detailed analysis for age and chemical composition.

After all the moon rock samples had been sent out, it was discovered that a certain large and important University had been forgotten: no moon rocks had been sent to them and there were no more moon rocks available. To cover up his oversight, the Administrator went to a cow pasture and hastily picked up some rocks at random and sent them to the University. He later received a thank-you letter with this note: "After a careful preliminary examination of the sample of rocks, they look as though a cow really did jump over the moon!"

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The Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, February 27th
at the First Christian Church, 156 Belleview Park Rd, Franklin, NC 28734.

Museum Curation by Larry Ellert

FGMS Board meets the Tuesday before the regular meeting at 4:00 pm at the Museum

Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum

25 Phillips Street, Franklin, NC 28734

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