



The Mountain Gem

January 2023

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

January 2023 Newsletter

- In This Issue**
- | | |
|--|---|
| p. 02 From the President | p. 10 Upcoming Shows |
| p. 02 Annual Christmas Party | p. 10 January Birthdays |
| p. 04 Education Opportunity Award | p. 11 Rockhounding Humor |
| p. 05 Gift Shop News | p. 11 Bench Tips |
| p. 06 Interest in Geology Reaching our Youth | p. 12 Club Announcements/Schedule |
| p. 07 FGMS Gemboree | p. 13 Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs |
| p. 08 Upcoming Field Trips | |



WWW.FGMM.ORG

Cover photograph: Provided by Chandra Fox. This cab was cut from an old broken jade statue, the setting was in very bad condition and Chandra refurbished it and then finished the jade stone to fit. Beautiful work!



From the President

Stacy Walbridge



Wow, it seems like 2022 went by in a flash and we're now in 2023. As I look ahead to 2023 we have a lot of exciting events and activities planned.

To start the year, the January meeting will focus on field trip planning. If you have a favorite place you would like to share with the club or a new place where you would like to go collecting, January's meeting will be the time to get it on our calendar. The Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) will also have monthly field trips that we can attend and in August we will serve as hosts for the DMC monthly field trip.

Our May GemBoree is scheduled for the 19th to the 21st of May. Planning has been ongoing since November and looks to be an exceptional show. We reserved the entire Carpenter Center and have numerous activities planned throughout the weekend. As we will be running the show without the Chamber we will need the full support of the membership. Signup sheets will be available at the meetings, in the Museum, or online (<https://signup.com/go/zgpSqRG>). We have a place for you and will need your help.

May will be a busy month as we will also begin summer hours at the Museum. The past couple of years have seen a reduction in the number of days open each week so I would like see us expand our days of operation from Friday and Saturday to at least Wednesday through Saturday. In order to do that we will need more members volunteering so don't be surprised if you receive a call asking for a time when you could volunteer as a Museum host. You can beat the rush and sign up online at: <https://signup.com/go/ZcyzRRD>

In no time, summer will be upon us with more gem shows, Streets of Franklin events, Museum events, and more so 2023 is looking to be an active and memorable year for everyone.

Stay safe and Best Wishes,

Stacy Walbridge
President

Annual Christmas Party/Meeting

By Kim Price

The Franklin Gem & Mineral Society held our annual Holiday Party & Dinner on December 10th. Delicious casseroles, desserts, and other dishes were provided by the members. A special thank you to Gary & Charlene Galbrecht for all their hard work setting up and preparing the main courses of smoked turkey and ham. Al Pribble presented a \$300 Educational Opportunity Scholarship to Kerrigan Ferguson, 5th grade teacher at Trimont Christian Academy and Jacey Fleszar, junior member of the Society and student in Ms. Ferguson's class. Tom Parker called Rock BINGO. Everybody was able to win a prize. The remaining prizes are being donated to the May 2023 Franklin Gem & Mineral Show. We are looking forward to next year and hope to see everyone there!





50 Years
1972 - 2022



Check out this spread!



Big THANK YOU to Charlene & Gary Galbrecht



What a happy crowd!



Stacy getting this shindig started



The Booty...to be seized in the war of Rock Bingo



Everyone digs in!





Educational Opportunity Award

By Al Pribble

At the annual Holiday Party & Dinner meeting, Franklin Gem & Mineral Society presented an Educational Opportunity Scholarship to Kerrigan Ferguson, 5th grade teacher at Trimont Christian Academy. Al Pribble, lifetime FGMS member, presented the \$300 award. Also pictured is Jacey Fleszar, junior member of the Society and student in Ms. Ferguson's class. (Photo by Kim Price)



L-R: Al Pribble (Lifetime Member), Kerrigan Ferguson (recipient teacher), & Jacey Fleszar (overjoyed student/junior FGMS member)





Gift Shop News

by Bushy Hartman

During Anamay's hiatus in Florida, soaking up the rays (we miss her!), as her assistant, I am managing the gift shop until she returns. While looking for rock and mineral specimens to sell in the Gift Shop and the upcoming FGMS Gem Shows, Tom Parker stepped up and donated a huge stockpile of specimens (see photo), and even helped us (Chandra Fox, Mike Hartman, and myself), transport everything to the museum for processing; two truckloads! We have been processing them by washing, sorting, identifying, and slabbing. Several members have been instrumental in assisting with the identification/pricing/slabbing, including Tom Parker, Stacy Walbridge, Sean Price, Al Pribble, John Hayes, Brad Fleszar and Mike Hartman.



Mike has been running two saws, slabbing at the museum and has three small boxes of slabs already cut. Sadly, while using the ten inch saw the rock moved, jamming up the saw blade, and we had billowing smoke coming from the motor. Mike and Tom were standing right next to the machine when it happened (apparently, the sound of the blade being jammed sounds a lot like a slab being cut); it was just a freak accident. Matt Castor, the workshop manager, came right out the next day and removed the green saw and replaced it with a blue ten inch saw so no time lost. Thank you, Matt!! I have already started stocking some of the specimens and slabs in the gift shop, if you would like to come by and check out our wares. There are also some specimens from the storage for sale with their numbers still on them and a copy of their museum inventory card, which Sean Price informed me increases their value. Thank you for the insight, Sean. I learn something new every day!





Mike Hartman displaying one of the slabs



Piece of petrified wood being slabbed

Big Gift Shop news! For those of you who host the museum and remember that large Sodalite blue clock that has been for sale forever in the gift shop, **it SOLD!** Big thanks to Brad Fleszar for being so helpful in fixing the clock mechanism (made the clock actually work) because it sold two weeks later!

Mike and I will be taking lead on the sales table at the May Gem Show (all three days), at Chandra Fox's request, so some items will **ONLY** be for sale at that time.

We have a request if you can help: If you have any "heels" or ends of rocks that you have slabbed and don't have any use for them, could you please donate to the museum? We can use them for gem tree bases. We also are in need of scrap 2X4's to attach rocks to for slabbing, that are unable to be locked into either one of the saws.

Interest in Geology Reaching our Youth

by Mike Hartman

Ms. Chloe Pedersen sent us the following:

"As a youth services librarian and educator, I would just like to reach out with a quick word of thanks! The Gem and Mineral Society's resource links list has been a big help to me during these times of remote learning, as I've been running a fun educational project on rocks, minerals, fossils and gems for a small group of students over the last few months. We were even able to use some of this information for our most recent group project - thank you very much for sharing with us! fgmm.org/links

I hope you don't mind, one of our youngest and most enthusiastic, Anna has also asked me if I could share a piece that she and her mother found together on 'A Career in Geology' (<https://www.uscareerinstitute.edu/library/a-career-in-geology>), which includes a great





breakdown on rocks and minerals, the study of geology, etc. I've included it below if you'd like to review!

We noticed you don't have this one listed, but Anna was actually the one to bring up that this could be something you might like to include for students and families who may also enjoy learning more about rocks and minerals during their down time, like our group!

If you find you are able to use this one, would you please let me know? We're meeting tomorrow, and I would absolutely love to surprise Anna if you're able to do so - I'm hoping to keep spirits up in light of the past few years' challenges, and I think it would make her proud to see she was able to pay it forward and maybe even show her mother her contribution if it ends up being included!"

As reflected above, "A Career in Geology" was recommended by Anna, an enthusiastic young person learning more about rocks and minerals, after being enticed by Ms. Pedersen's educational project on rocks. Anna's enthusiasm comes in part from a dedicated youth services librarian and educator! **Kudos to both!** And, let's not forget the supportive parent! **Kudos to mom** as well! Upon receiving this, the above link was added to the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum website.



FGMS Gemboree
by Chandra Fox/Sean Price

THE FRANKLIN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

The Franklin Gem & Mineral Show

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

MAY 19, 20, AND 21, 2023

Hourly Prizes, Demonstrations, Presentations

10AM - 6PM Friday & Saturday, 10AM - 4PM Sunday

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

For More Information Call (828) 369-7831




SCAN ME





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
Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (Jacksonville, FL) (HOST)

Saturday, February 18, 2023
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time
Abbeville, SC
Registration Required
Fee: See Below

TRIP: At the Diamond Hill Mine, you will have a rare opportunity to collect your own crystals. They do not “salt” the piles. It is “unsalted”, meaning everything you will find came from this actual mine. There are 6+ acres of dirt that are loaded with quartz crystals to surface collect or to dig through.



COLLECTING: Erosion has occurred to the Southern part of the Appalachian Mountains over millions of years which has exposed a small 3-acre spot full of some of the widest variety of quartz crystals in the world known as Diamond Hill Mine. Amethyst, Smoky, Skeletal (Elestial), Angle Plated, Iron & Manganese Oxide Coated Aura and other crystals are found here. Other minerals including beryl, garnet, and epidote have also been recovered.





BRING: Gloves, a thin yet durable pair, for example, a great kind is the thin garden type with rubber or poly palms. Tools you might use: a long screwdriver is a must, shovel, rake, rock hammer, sledge hammer, and pick. Boxes or flats to carry and store your finds in. Newspaper or similar for stuffing/packing. Drinks, food, snacks, sunscreen, first aid kit.

REQUIREMENTS: You can dig from sign in until dusk if you have current signed waivers. Digging is allowed anywhere on the property unless marked. No digging is allowed in the parking area. No night digging. No trailers allowed. Limit on rocks is a car/truck load. No throwing rocks in the pit. Shirts and shoes are required for digging. (Gloves are optional but suggested.) It has been suggested that you dig more than a foot deep and up to waist deep if you want to find valuable gems like amethysts. Don't forget to bring a long screw driver. It's an invaluable tool for digging hillside. Children must be accompanied by a paid adult in the mining area.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Limited parking space. Carpooling suggested.

FEES: Adult	18+	\$20
Teen	13-17	\$10
Senior	65+	\$10
Children	6-12	\$5
	5 & under	Free
Veteran		\$15

CHILDREN (Yes): Must be accompanied by a paid adult in the mining area.

PETS (Yes): YES, BUT MUST BE KEPT LEASHED AT ALL TIMES

FACILITIES: The only facilities available are an outhouse, porta-john, and picnic tables. There is no running water. There is a mini-mart type gas station about 5 minutes away.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: There are excellent accommodations in the area such as the Belmont Inn and the Abbevilla Motel. Camping grounds are Hickory Knob State Park, Calhoun Falls State Park, and Greenwood State Park.

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



January Birthdays

1-JOE DAUGIRDAS
5-MEREDITH GAIL
5-STEPHANIE HANDTE
8-RODNEY BARFIELD

11-MARY JO WILHELM
15-SANDY GADSEN
21-ROBERTA PIPITONE
23-MAGGIE PHEONIX

24-JIM MAHAR
25-MARK W LAING
26-JESIAH DIAZ
27-ELLEN WITHERS
28-CHANDRA FOX

Happy Birthday!



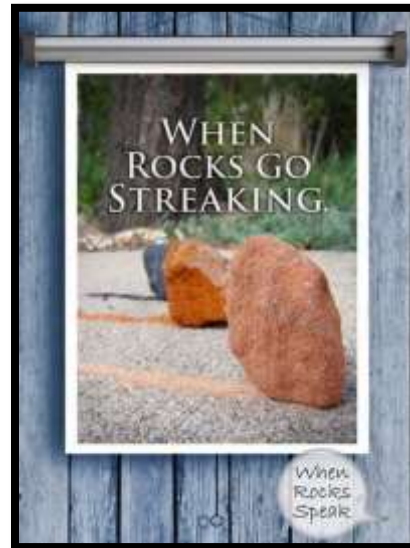
Birthstone information extracted from <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones>

Those born in January are lucky to have the beautiful and diverse garnet as their birthstone. Garnets are commonly red but also come in an extraordinary range of beautiful colors, including orange, yellow, purple and vibrant green. There are even garnets that change color from blue to purple in different lighting.





Rockhounding Humor



Bench Tips

by Bradford Smith

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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.





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 February is 02/13//2023

2023 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
January 26, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	2023 Programs & Field Trips planning by Kim Price, Sean Price & Helen Rogers	Matt & Christine Castor
February 23, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Gold Prospecting & Regional History by Allen Trotter	Mike & Bushy Hartman
March 30, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Cabbing & Faceting by Stacy Walbridge	Brad & Jacey Fleszar
April 27, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Bernd & Maggie Phoenix
May 19-20 Franklin Gem & Mineral Show				
May 25, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Jenny & Jay Mooney
June 29, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Varshana & Earl McGaughey





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)
 Museum Manager Assistant: Donovan MacDonald 828-226-3131
 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: 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: 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]

