

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

FEBRUARY 2018

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 emailed copies of the newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips. If requested, hard copy editions of *The Mountain Gem* will be mailed via USPS for an additional \$25 per year.

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 Educational Chairperson, Patty Nichols at 678-243-8036.

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.**

2017- 2018 Officers And Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Tom Sterrett	349-3374
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Museum Manager	Duane Haskell	349-5123
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706- 379-1718
Director (2018)	Mike Gillen	678-772-6375
Director (2018)	Tom Parker	342-3619

Museum

Museum Ass't. Mgr.	OPEN	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Gift Shop	Ellen Williams	349-9416
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Cy Amrich	356-7816

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	OPEN	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Patty Nichols	678-243-8036
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Kathy Young	941-387-4397
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	OPEN	
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	561-542-9650
Refreshments	Joyce Jacques	342-2543
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

February Meeting

Date: February 22, 2018

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30

Place: **Robert Carpenter Community Bldg.**

Program: **Diane and Jerry Mason present:**

Jerry will talk about how to build a stone cooker and Diane will talk about the Active Shooter Response workshop she recently attended. Sure to be informative.



March Birthdays

- 2 – Shirley Burley
- 8 – Diane Aiello
- 12 – Elyse Haber Freedman
- 14 – John Speer
- 20 – Tom Marsh
- 24 – Gary Gaetano



March Anniversaries

- 8 – Tom & Diane Aiello
- 22 – Gary & Charlene Galbrecht
- 27 – John & Nancy Speer
- 28 – Pete & Barbara Rizzo



We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to The Haskell's and family on the death of Carolyn's dear Father. They are in our hearts and prayers.

***Thursday, March 15, 2018 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



Al Pribble, President



Workshop Safety

Well, we are at the time of year when the Museum workshop can really come alive. John and Cy either have held classes or are in the process of starting new classes on cabbing and faceting. So along with that I want to emphasize the importance of safety.

The first thing we should think of is safety for our sight. It is probably the most important of our senses, especially in lapidary work. So, I want to urge everyone to wear safety glasses always when doing lapidary work. We have glasses available in the workshop and John Hayes will be placing signs to remind everyone to use them. We realize that we are all adults, and no one can be forced to use them, however, if it becomes necessary the Board can mandate that the use of the machines requires wearing safety glasses. I hope that everyone understands the need for this rule.

Secondly is the consideration of the clothing that we wear when using the machines. Loose fitting sleeves can become tangled in the rotating wheels and cause injury, so, be aware of what you wear.

Most safety rules involve common sense and consideration of what may happen. There are probably other factors I could mention, but these two will go a long way in keeping us all happy rock polishers.

Rock On!



The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

Minutes – January 25, 2018 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble on Thursday, January 25, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 43 members present.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December minutes and there were none. Ellen Crawford moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Fred Plesner seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios gave the report for the month of December. Fred Plesner moved that her report be accepted and Tom Parker seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge is at the gem show in Tucson.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell is absent this evening.

Curator – Ralph Crawford reported that Sean Price has agreed to assist him.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported the mineral rights for donated the property is still status quo.

Gift Shop – Ellen Williams reported on a positive outlook for the gift shop.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, February 8.

Education – Patty Nichols was introduced by Al Pribble. She will be taking responsibility for education and tours.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported there was a makeup trip to Chunky Gal on January 19. There is another trip to Summerville (agate) scheduled for February 11. She asked if anyone had interest in a field trip to a particular area or place to please let her know.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gift Shop – Al Pribble announced that the Board of Directors is taking under consideration the possible relocation of the gift shop to one of the other downstairs rooms in the museum. Discussion is in the very early stages at this point in time.

Gem Show – Norm Holbert reported that Kathy Young will be his assistant. He said he was able to secure a \$5,000 grant from the Tourism Board. Part of that money will be utilized for ads for the show in three issues of Rock & Gem. Norm stated that we will need many volunteers to cover security, hosting and demonstrations.

Craft Night – Tom Parker indicated he was interested in putting together a craft night and asked that anyone who would like to participate to please let him know.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ross Young and seconded by Tom Parker. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. by president, Al Pribble.

Refreshments were served. Door prize winning ticket numbers were announced and prizes distributed.



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

This evening's program was a presentation by Cy Amrich and John Hayes regarding workshop equipment safety following which Mike Gillen gave an overview presentation on the new credit card machine now being utilized in our gift shop.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Photos by The Crawford and George Fritz

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



There are 15+ club members signed up for our February 11th trip to Summerville, GA. This I attribute to cabin fever. Look forward to a report on this trip with our next newsletter.

Current trip requests from our members are Brasstown Staurolites, the Old Pressley Sapphire Mine and of course any DMC trips of interest to us.

March 10th trip to Clarksville, GA. We will be hunting for Kyanite, Mica books and rare Graphite. More details to come.

Don't forget Graves Mountain April 27, 28, and 29th. Be warned Lincolnton, GA is a very small town so making a reservation early is suggested, if you choose to stay over. There are 12 different rocks and minerals found here, only opened twice a year to us rockhounds, thanx to Junior.

We now officially have the mineral rights to land in the Iotia community. This land will be used as a club asset and field trips scheduled as well as guided by authorized members only. Further information will be provided as soon as possible. Marsha Harmon [828-369-7262](tel:828-369-7262) or marsha.harmon@frontier.com



Photos by Stacy Walbridge

Not everyone knows this rock, but it is of interest to most local rockhounds. Our museum has several of the same materials, in our NC room. "Smaragdite" and stripes of Corundum are visible with or without a UV light on this rock.

Where is this rock located?

Ref: mindat.org Described as "Dunite containing metamorphosed screens of schist that have been recrystallized to form Zoisite - bearing rocks containing Ruby and pink Corundum".



Mineral Rights

Fred Plesner - Emeritus Curator

We, The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc. are now the owners of the mineral rights to 38 acres of land. The site contains the remains of a once commercially operated mica mine. The deed to those mineral rights was duly registered at the Macon County Court House on January 23, 2018. These mineral rights are a taxable asset and all that would be necessary to divest ourselves of those rights would be to not pay the taxes and those rights would return to the land owners.

Mineral rights are not land ownership but only the rights to the minerals that lie beneath the surface of the land. Those mineral rights of necessity include the right of access (the right of trespass) to those minerals. We in turn must pay for any damages to any structures, fences, gardens or roads, etc. that we may damage. There is also the possibility that we may be held responsible for injuries to individuals.

Mineral Rights cont'd on Page 7

Mineral Rights cont'd from Page 6

Because of these responsibilities neither the name of the mine or its location will be released to the general membership until some basic ground rules are formulated and the property owners in question are notified. I, Marsha Harmon and Ralph Crawford have been on the property and we can attest that it is quite rugged and that there is no available parking. Because of these considerations offsite parking must be arranged, transportation to and from the site taken care of and some basic safety rules put in place before that first field trip takes place. Understand that any abuses of any rules set by the board of directors or the field trip chairman will have to be dealt with in a most severe manner.

I am sure that Marsha Harmon, our field trip chairman, will be diligently working with the board of directors and others to set everything in place so that first spring outing will be both a successful and joyful adventure.

Gift Shop News

Ellen Williams - Gift Shop Manager



So many changes have been made to the gift shop. Without an effective advertising campaign, it is our well kept secret that we now take credit cards and have an expanded jewelry, gem and specimen inventories. Not to mention the books and other items on sale.

The gift shop will continue to carry books for sale, but it will be those books that reflect the educational and exploratory spirit and philosophy of our society. It will also be books that have a history of selling well.

The gift shop will continue to change as stagnation breeds indifference. I encourage suggestions, donations and workshops.

I would also like to thank the many who have donated and assisted this month in stocking and re designing our gift shop. As always; Ralph and Ellen Crawford, Anamay, Tom Sterrett, Tom Parker, Norman Holbert, Diane Mason, Cy Amrich and Lee Bender. I apologize to any and all I may have forgotten. This job needs all our members to lend a hand, which included hosting and for that I/we are also very grateful.

Program News - February and March Presentations:

Sande Lolli - Program Coordinator



Club members, Jerry and Diane Mason, will give an interesting and informative presentation at our February 22 meeting. Jerry will explain how to build a stone cooker and educate us on stone stabilization processes. Diane recently attended an Active Shooter Response workshop and will share with us what she learned.

Our meeting on March 29 will feature Cheryl Waters-Tomey, Department Head and Associate Professor of Geology at Western Carolina University. Topic to be determined.

Big “Thank You” to the Tourism Board

Norm Holbert - Gem Show Chairman

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Franklin/Nantahala Tourism Development Board. The purpose of this grant is to promote our gem shows.

Our endeavor is to advertise our shows in a national magazine: *Rock & Gem*. Our half page ad will appear in three issues starting in March. National ads could bring more people from out of state to our shows and possibly give us more vendors. We hope to also place ads in papers from Atlanta, Asheville, and other close by cities.

This grant will also allow us to purchase new runners to cover electrical cords at our shows since we can no longer duct tape cords to gym floor covering as we have done in the past.

Notes From The Classroom

Diane Mason - Wire Wrap Instructor



There will be a summer WIRE I or beginning wire class held at the museum this year.

This time slot was requested by some of the folks from Florida. Dates are: June 9,16 and 23, and July 7 and 14.

This will be my traditional WIRE I class of 40 hours. Hours will be 8 AM until 5 PM with an hour for lunch. You are required to buy your own wire, but all other supplies will be provided by me at my student prices. There must be a minimum of 4 students. The cutoff date for registration is May 1, 2018.

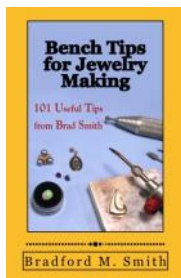
Please e-mail me your name, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number so that I can get your requirement letters out to you early enough for you to purchase the supplies needed. ladydeeswire-works@gmail.com

Thanks to the ladies who let me know that I had been leaving out these students by only teaching in the spring and fall. It certainly was not on purpose. So here we go.....

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

Local Metals Source: Local companies that use sheet metal typically have barrels of scrap copper, brass and aluminum sheet that they save for recycling. The shop owner/manager will usually let you go through it to select the shapes and thicknesses you want. Prices vary but will generally be close to the wholesale per-pound scrap value. For me at this time, that's \$3 per pound for copper.

I've found it's much cheaper to buy metal this way than ordering from a catalog. There are no shipping charges, and you'll be supporting a local small business in your community.



Remember to bring your work gloves if you try this. Also useful is a thickness gauge. When I asked if they had any 14 gauge, they didn't know. Turns out they measure the thickness of copper by its weight per square foot.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are available at <facebook.com/Bench Tips/> or on Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

Gem and Mineral Shows



March 9, 10 & 11, 2018, Augusta, GA

37th Annual Aiken-Augusta, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM; Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St. Augusta, GA; Kids under 12 FREE with Adult Admission; Adult Admission \$3 day/\$5 weekend pass; Sponsored by Aiken, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society and Augusta Gem & Mineral Society; Show Chair, Chris Glass 706-284-9239

March 17 & 18, Dothan, AL

Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM; Houston County Fram Center, 1701 East Cottonwood Road, Dothan, AL; Admission FREE; Show Chair, Jeff DeRoche 334-673-3554

March 23, 24 & 25, 2018, Hickory, NC

48th Annual Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club show; Hickory Metro Convention Center; 1960 13th Ave Drive SE; Fri 9 am to 6 pm, Saturday 9am to 5 pm, and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm; Admission \$5, Children 12 and under FREE; www.cvgmc.com; Dean Russell, show chair, cvgmcsecretary@aol

April 27, 28 & 29, Lincolnton, GA

Graves Mountain Spring Dig & Rock Swap; 8 AM to 6 PM; FREE; Family fun; All Welcome

May 11, 12 & 13, Franklin, NC

Mothers Day Gemboree

July 26, 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC

Franklin Faceters Frolic

July 26, 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC

Macon County Gemboree

Other Events

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”
Maya Angelou



**46th Anniversary of our
Museum and Society**

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

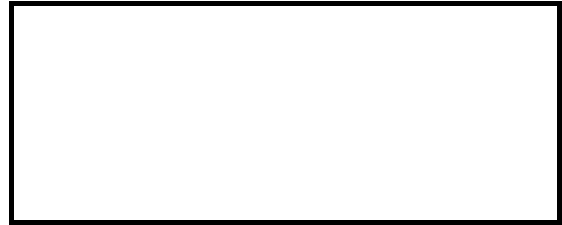
Ellen Crawford, Editor

Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2018	23 4:00 pm	25
February	20 4:00 pm	22
March	27	29
April	24	26
May	29	31
June	26	28
July	17	19 Ice Cream Social
August	28	30
September	25	27 Banquet
October	23	25
November	27	29
December	11 4:00	15 End of Year Party 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Road Hwy 441 South

Meeting changes will be posted in the monthly newsletter.

Board Meetings: 6:30 PM
At the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum
All Board Meetings are open to the members