

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
AUGUST 2016
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 \$25.00 per year.

Membership privileges include newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips.

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 Education Chairman, Diane Aiello at 828-371-2436 or 828-524-3307.



**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

Only 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.

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin,
North Carolina, is a 501 (c)(3) organiza-
tion and donations may be tax deductible.
Please remember us when planning your
estate.**

2016 - 2017 Officers And

Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Vice President	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director (2016)	Ray Behr	342-6360
Director (2016)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director (2017)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	TBD	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Gift Shop	Elena Marsh	369-8915
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes (Temp)	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Cy Amrich	356-7816

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	TBD	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Steve Dillon	706-782-2389
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	631-1911
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
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

August Meeting

Date: August 25, 2016

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building
on 441 South

Program: **Kim Cochran**

Elections and Installation of 2017 Officers

September Birthdays

- 2 - Elena Marsh
- 2 - Paul Thomas
- 9 - Marie Tsacrios
- 15 - Claudette Rollins
- 18 - Victoria Mahar
- 29 - Norm Holbert
- 30 - Denis Bernard



September Anniversaries

- 19 - Robbie & Janet Hayles
- 20 - Ralph & Ellen Crawford



**Membership renewals are due in September.
Please pay Ellen Crawford at meeting or mail
check to the museum "attention membership"**

***THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15th is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



Al Pribble, President



This being my next-to-last message, I would like to talk about the newsletter and the people who are and have been responsible for getting it to the members each month.

Currently Ellen and Ralph Crawford have the responsibility and before them it was Linda and Ray Behr. Both couples have done a fantastic job in writing, editing, printing and mailing the newsletters. It truly is a team effort when putting this all together. Not only is it necessary to put the articles and words into the computer. There are the mechanical problems that occur with printing several hundred pages in a short time span. It only takes one (out of four) ink cartridges to malfunction for the schedule to go out the window, so to speak. Add that to the complexity of the modern two-sided color printers and you can understand the importance of having someone handy who can get it going again when (not if) it fails.

Recently, the US Postal Service in Franklin started enforcing a rule that had been in effect for quite some time that charged a special handling fee for stapled booklets such as ours. This required that we glue the pages which has increased the assembly time by a factor of two or three.

In order to try to reduce printing costs, we have attempted to use re-manufactured cartridges at about 1/2 the price of brand name cartridges. Unreliable cartridges, however, sometimes delivered 1/3 the promised number of copies, plus when one went bad it usually fouled several copies and the machine before the process could be stopped. So, for reliability as well as overall cost we have been using only brand name cartridges.

The bottom line in all of this is that the printed newsletter is quite costly in terms of ink, paper and time. Our best estimate of the cost of a printed newsletter is about \$2 per copy. Add to that the approximately \$6 per year for postage for a total of \$30 per year for a mailed copy. Therefore, I am asking everyone who has an email account to consider donating \$30 per year to the Gem & Mineral Society by receiving your copy via email.

Rock hound on...



Minutes – July 21, 2016 – General Meeting

Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, July 21, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June 2016 General Meeting minutes as printed in *The Mountain Gem*. Marsha Harmon moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Doreen Freeman seconded the motion. Voted on and passed.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 51 members and 8 guests present. We have four new members: Susan Phillips, Duane Haskell, Carolyn Haskell and Steven Tacheny

Vice President – As VP, Marsha Harmon did not have anything new to report.

Treasurer's Report – Holland reported we were in the black for the month of June.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh indicated that everything is going well at the museum but stressed the fact that we continue to need members to sign up as hosts.

Curator – Ralph Crawford reported the museum has purchased a new refractometer that will be helpful in identifying faceted stones. He is looking for a good scale. Specimens continue to be donated.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner stated that he, Ralph Crawford and Ron Rossomando are recording a radio program to be aired soon on station 1280. He reported we have four more vendors for the Gemboree and all four rooms will be filled.

Publicity – George Fritz did not have anything new to report.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported lots of visitors to the museum over the past month. She thanked Sherry Newton and Anamay Rossomando for their continued assistance with the gift shop. She said that if any new members need to be trained in hosting, to please let her or Tom Marsh know and they will set up a time to do this.

Education – Diane Aiello stated there were two tours in June, both with ESL students. She thanked Fred Plesner and Linda Behr for providing their time as tour guides.

Calendar -

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported on the SFMS field trip that our club is hosting on Saturday, August 20. She said Arlon volunteered to hold the event at his mine and we will be serving lunch; hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. Steve Tacheny graciously volunteered to help cook. Members are urged to sign up to assist during this all day event.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Gemboree - The Gemboree will be held next week on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (07/28, 07/29, 07/30 and 07/31). Set-up will start at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 07/27. A clipboard was passed around for members to sign up to help with set-up, hosting, demonstrating, security, and with take down on Sunday afternoon.

Awards Committee – Fred Plesner asked all members who had received Life Memberships to please come up to the podium: Linda Behr, Ray Behr, John Hayes, Doris Smith, Wally Smith, Della Samuels and Dean Plesner all came forward. Fred Plesner then presented Arlon Eldridge with a lifetime membership certificate! Arlon expressed surprise and gratitude and he thanked the entire club and Board of Directors. Everyone posed for photos.

Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Elections – Voting will take place during the next General Meeting on August 25. Arlon Eldridge read the names nominated for the following positions:

President – Tom Sterrett

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge

Secretary – Susan Fritz

Treasurer – Lake Holland

Assistant Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh

Board of Directors – Cy Amrich

Board of Directors – Diane Mason

Ellen Crawford announced that the deadline for *The Mountain Gem* is Thursday, August 11.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Al Pribble at 7:00 p.m.

John Hayes announced that for door prizes this evening the first three tickets drawn will win something special: the first ticket drawn will be the winner of a faceted ruby; second ticket drawn will be for a rhodochrosite pendant, and the third ticket drawn will be for an amethyst crystal. Garrett Morgan then drew tickets for all the door prizes.

Refreshments were served to us for our annual July ice cream social.

Our guest speaker was Larry Carby who gave a very interesting presentation on working with sterling silver utilizing the bezel mount method for freeform stones, calibrated stones and fossils.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Fritz, Secretary





*Life Members (Ray & Linda Behr, Della Samuels, Doris & Wally Smith, John Hayes, Fred & Dean Plesner L to R)
Arlon Eldridge awarded Life Member
President Al Pribble with Larry Carby, Speaker
Mayor Bob Scott in Museum
Doris & Wally Smith, Host at Gemboree Joellyn & Ted Reckwerdt, Host at Gemboree*

Photos by Ralph Crawford, George Fritz & Ron Rossomando

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



Anamay, Sherry and I survived shopping at the July gem show! Many new and interesting purchases were made, most have been carded, priced and put on the shelves and display areas for sale and amazingly, some have already sold.

I want to thank Anamay and Sherry for working long hours during that week. Without them, I could not have done most of it. We have strived to make the gift shop something that the club is proud of and I hope we have succeeded. Please stop by and see our new items. Remember Christmas is just around the corner – maybe even for a gift for you.

A book order will be completed soon and I expect to have quite a few new books for children. This may not be accomplished until September but as soon as the new items arrive, I will let you know.

Please check out our Facebook and TripAdvisor websites. Cy Amrich has done an amazing job to highlight our museum and activities. Visitors' comments indicate they have enjoyed their visit to the museum and that our hosts are super friendly and helpful.

Thanks for hosting and see you in the museum soon - Elena

Notes From the Classroom

Diane Mason

Well, the BEGINNING WIRE CLASS for 2016 is now officially filled and closed. All seven students have their wire in hand and are ready to go! This time around there are four men and three women which sounds like a wonderful group. They are: Amy Fritz, Diane Aiello, Susan Fritz, Lake Holland, Winn Henderson, Bobby Bland, and Tom Parker.

Look out Gemborees for 2017 here come a new wave of wire demonstrations!!

Thanks to everyone who signed up and to those who have shown an interest. If you want to take this class and didn't get in, please sign up faster next time.

Field Trip News for August

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

Lake Holland - Assistant



I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers for their very hard work at The Club Federation trip to Cowee Mountain Ruby Mine. More details next month. Thank you again.

51st Gemboree Fred Plesner, Assistant Show Chairman

It was a great show. The crowds are back and the attendance was up 30% at the gate.

We were scheduled to have 29 dealers at the show but a death in the family caused one dealer to cancel out. With 28 dealers present every room at the Community Building was filled. The last day of the show 2 dealers left early, one because of previous commitments and one because of slow sales. The other dealers in the room simply spread out and used the extra tables and the room remained full.

After we had set up the booths we decided to rearrange the center booths which gave our dealers extra working space and all this entailed rearranging the electrical lines. It all worked out well and we only tripped one breaker during the show and that one was to the food truck. We were a little late getting our dealers in to set up but all the extra effort was well worth it.

All in all, most of our dealers were well satisfied with sales and at least one was essentially jumping for joy.

Unfortunately, we did have one dealer who lost an item due to theft. Ouch!!!

The takedown was quick, easy and uneventful.

Many thanks to all who showed up to do all the necessary work, set-up, take-down, host, security or demonstrate. Again, thank you.



Was There a “Blue Moon” during the Gemboree? Norm Holbert

Well the gem shows are over for now. As some of you may already know, I'm involved with a specialty show called the Franklin Faceters Frolic that occurs while the Gemboree is happening. We had a raffle at the Frolic similar to the raffle that was held at the Gemboree. The phrase that something happens once in a Blue Moon – well, the same person from Dalton, GA won both raffles at each show.

When I spoke to him on Sunday afternoon to tell him he won again, I also suggested that he might want to head out and buy a Lottery ticket or two!

Ghosts Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus

Recently I wrote about ghosts at the "Old Jail" and how the people running the Ghost Tours in town made a stop at the Gem and Mineral Museum. I was familiar with the story of Maurice Phillipe and his ghost and dismissive of the ghost they were referring to. The person or ghost referred to in the tours, if you will, was a real person and the story is one of tragedy.

Thanks to the determination and research of Ron Rossomando we can add a time and a name to our Ghost. The year would have been 1968 or 1969 and our man would have been Clifford Barnes / Clifford Lawton Barnes or perhaps it was Lawton Clifford Barnes. Why he was in jail we do not know, nor do we as yet know the details of his untimely death. Clifford Barnes took his own life by hanging himself in what is now our Indian Artifact Room.

If you should be at the museum and feel a presence, a chill or hear odd or unusual sounds, well, you may be encroaching on someone else's territory. It would appear that we may have more than one ghost roaming about the museum.

Historical Note: Behind The 2 ¼ lb. Ruby (and other Corundum crystals)

Ron Rossomando, Historian

The Museum acquired the Ruby along with the other two Corundum pieces in the showcase and a 1 pound, crystal shaped dark pink Corundum (on the bottom of case #3) on March 31, 1978. It was a package deal; a deal that almost did not happen.

The 48 ½ lb. Corundum Crystal, the largest ever found in Macon County, was unearthed around 1888 at the famous Corundum Hill Mine. The crystal found its first home with Miss Hulda Burdick, a relative of George Bidwell, the mine owner. The crystal was somehow lost and just a rumor for almost ninety years until rediscovered in 1977. Mr. Bob Sloan, Editor of the Franklin Press, and grandson of George Bidwell, found the specimen while emptying the attic of the old homestead, prior to a sale. It was in an old wooden box for almost a century.

He sold it to Mr. Harry Moses who held it for a while and then traded it to Steve and Ted Higdon as part of a land deal. Ted Higdon had offers to sell the crystal to out-of-state interest, but his desire was to keep it in Macon County. He approached the Gem and Mineral Society to purchase it but the asking price was too high for their consideration.

Now the rest of the story: The board was hesitant about spending such a large sum on one specimen and Ted Higdon was anxious to sell it. Well they went round and round for almost a year until finally Ted Higdon was about to sell to an outsider. In comes John Hayes (yes our John Hayes) who convinced the board of a good acquisition and also negotiating a lower price for the crystal.

Not only was he successful in negotiating the purchase of the 48 ½ lb. Corundum Crystal, but included in the deal was the 2 ¼ lb. Ruby, the 7 ½ lb. white/blue corundum and a 1 lb. crystal shape, dark pink corundum crystal (now in case #3) The final price was settled at \$1,500, a large sum at that time, and half of the Society's savings. Well, everyone was happy and the specimens were able to stay here in Macon County in our Museum. Thanks to John's negotiating skills we were able to make the purchase of what has become the corner stone (s) of our museum.

September 10, 2016 Scheduled Trip

Our next scheduled Field Trip will be a repeat to Clarksville, GA to search for Kyanite blades and mica books. This trip will be available to all club members and will be mostly easy with level land and minimal physical effort. Last time many sat on a bucket and collected, as some others dug and all participants found lots of Kyanite/mica. There is a sign-up sheet and additional information on the back board of the museum that is important to read. You might like to bring lunch, drinks, scratching tool, shovel, pick, screens and baggies/bucket. Car pool leaves at 8:30 sharp rain or shine.



Check out Graves Mountain Mine in Georgia. October 7, 8 & 9; 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM; 3 day dig and rock swap.

Suggestions for field trip locations are always appreciated.
Questions? Call Marsha Harmon or Lake Holland

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Cornelia, GA) (Host)
An Official Field Trip of the Georgia Mineral Society, Inc.

Saturday, September 10, 2016

Clarkesville, GA

10:00 AM Eastern (9 AM Central)

Fee: \$10 per person

TRIP: This location is located in a band of kyanite bearing material. The material has been moved around so the kyanite is not in situ, but with a little digging and some perseverance, it has become a fun and productive site.

COLLECTING: Kyanite blades and cobbles, small mica books, and graphite specimens (rare). The kyanite ranges from gray to pale blue and may contain graphite. Some of the blades can be polished and, because of the graphite, they have a curious depth and shimmer when they are polished.

BRING: Small blades can be found weathering out onto the surface. Bigger blades and cobbles are found by digging. You will need scratching tools and baggies for surface collecting, and a shovel and pick for digging. **All holes must be refilled.** This site can be muddy at times, so a change of clothes would be good too.

FACILITIES: There are no facilities at the site, but Northeast Georgia members will have free water and snacks available for everyone.

CHILDREN: This field trip is suitable for children but they must be supervised at all times.

PETS: Because this is a working farm, pets are not allowed.

SAFETY: There are electrified fences on the farm so **do not** touch any fences. Field trip leads will open and close gates. This is a working farm and there may be animals present – **do not** approach any of the animals. **Do not** enter pastures where animals are present.

Car pool leaves Museum 8:30 sharp rain or shine & then caravan to meeting location.
Questions, contact Marsha Harmon or Lake Holland.

Ingles Market (the only Ingles in Clarkesville)

199 East Louise Street (US Old/Historical 441)
Clarkesville, GA 30523

We will meet in the parking lot close to the highway. Coordinates: 34.603124,-83.517801

CONTACT: Kim Cochran, 770-979-8331

ALTERNATE: Charles Carter, fieldtrips@gamineral.org



Kyanite cobble and blades

From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies Gem and Mineral Shows



August 20, 2016, Franklin, NC

Cowee Mountain Ruby Mine; Franklin Gem & Mineral DMC/SFMS sponsored trip

September 2 - 5, 2016, Hendersonville, NC

35th Annual Gem & Mineral Spectacular, Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society; Color-ful World of Jaspers; Labor Day weekend; Friday-Sunday, September 2-4, 10 AM to 6 PM; Monday, September 5, 10 AM to 5 PM; Whitmire Activity Center, 301 Lily Pond Rd, Hendersonville, NC; website: HCGMS.com; \$4.00 Adults, Children under 12 with an adult free; \$1.00 off admission with coupon on website

September 23 - 25, 2016, Jacksonville, Florida

28th Annual Show Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society; Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville, FL 32224; Friday 1:00pm-6:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm; \$4 or \$6 for three day pass; Children under 12 FREE with guardian; Seniors and Military with ID \$1 OFF; 80+ dealers; hourly door prizes, 5 Grand prize drawings; Moon rock display on loan from NASA made possible by Dr. Mike Reynolds. Lectures from noted Faceters. Major faceting equipment and tool dealers. Scouting educational sessions to earn merit Badges in rocks and metal work. www.jaxgemandmineral.org/; Contact and Chair Jason Hamilton, 904-294-4744, JGMS-SHOW@jhotmail.com; <http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org/show.html>

October 14 - 16, 2016, Franklin, NC

27th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree; Robert C Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Rd S Hwy 441; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 11AM to 4 PM

Other Events

May 28 to October 15, Saturdays, Franklin, NC

Pickin' on the Square; fun, free, weekly entertainment on just about every Saturday night throughout the summer; bring family, friends and a chair; 6:30 PM open mike; around 7:30 PM entertainment

August 20, 2016, Franklin, NC

12th Annual Franklin Folk Festival; "A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage"; Cowee School, Arts & Heritage Center, 51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin, NC; (800) 932-5294; 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

September 14 -17, Franklin, NC

Macon County Fair; Wayne Proffitt Agricultural Center (Macon County Fairgrounds); 9:00 AM

October 22, 2016, Franklin, NC

20th annual PumpkinFest; Downtown Franklin; 9:00 AM



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

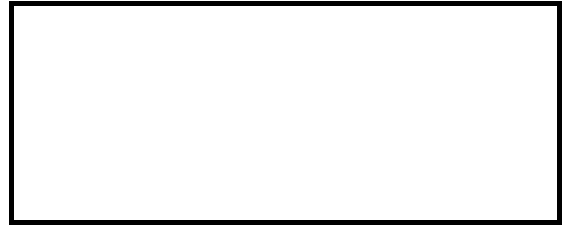
Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



**ELECTION NIGHT
and
KIM COCHRAN**

First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July	19	21 Ice Cream Social
August	23	25 Elections
September	27	29 Banquet
October	25	27
November	15	17
December	13	17 End of Year Party

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month in the West Large Meeting Room of 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

If you wish to submit something before the Board, contact the President prior to meeting.