



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

April 2019 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 (2018): Mike Gillen, (678-772-6375)
 Director (2018): 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: Sean Price, (336-964-2061)/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: Cy Amrich, (828-356-7816)
 Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Program Coordinator: Kathi Walbridge
 Calendar: Jay Mooney, (678-488-0620)
 Gemboree: Kathy Young, (387-941-4397)
 Education: TBD

Club Newsletter

Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

Club Contact E-mail: franklingemsociety@gmail.com

Club Website

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

Club Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/franklingems>

Monthly meetings

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society meets the last Thursday of each month, except for November and December, normally at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South), Franklin. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM.

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



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Minutes: March 28, 2019

Susan Fritz, Secretary

Photographs by George Fritz

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Morgan on Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building.

President – Jane Morgan announced that Joe Foreman passed away. She stated that the next Board meeting in April will be held at 6 p.m. She also reminded us that soon the museum will be open six days a week and that volunteer hosts will be needed.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge did not have anything new to report.

Membership – Tom Parker reported 42 members and three guests present. Tom also reminded us that in July all members will be given new applications to fill out and return so that records can be kept up-to-date.

Treasurer – Lake Holland stated we were in the plus column for the month of February.

Secretary – Jane Morgan asked for any corrections, deletions or additions to the February 2019 minutes as published in The Mountain Gem. There being none, Stacy Walbridge made a motion that the minutes be accepted and Diane Mason seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell is absent this evening but wanted to give Cindy Pease a big thank you for her work outside weed eating and also in the garden area. Also a big, “Thank you,” to all who came to help clean the building, both inside and outside. The trees will be taken out soon followed by refurbishment of the fountain.

The Mountain Gem

April 2019



FGMS Minutes (continued)

Curator – Sean Price did not have anything new to report.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported that he along with Jane Morgan and Tom Parker will be pre-recording a radio program airing on 04/04 on WFCB. On 04/05, he and Marsha Harmon are going to Swain Elementary to speak to 4th grade classes about rocks and minerals.

Gift Shop – Vicki Knisley spoke about hosting in the museum. She is willing to train and help anyone interested and soon we will sorely be needing hosts. Diane Mason reported that 30 cabs were added to the gift shop as a result of two “make-it” days, with cabs having been donated and the club furnishing the wire. In June and July there will be a beginning wire wrap classes and detailed information will be posted on the bulletin board in the museum. In August there will be a beading class for two days, a Friday and a Saturday. Please sign up for this class on the sheet posted on the museum bulletin board. Lee Bender and Joyce Jacques were given a big thank you for their donations to the gift shop. On Saturday, 04/13, Diane Mason and Vicki Knisley will participate in a tent sale representing our gift shop in the parking lot from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. as part of the Streets of Franklin event.

Editor – Stacy Walbridge stated the deadline for the newsletter is Thursday, 04/18.

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

Workshop Manager – Cy Amrich did not have anything new to report.

Education – Marsha Harmon has a tour for 4th graders from Charter School scheduled on 04/18 and needs three hosts to assist. A group from Sylva, 50 first graders, is interested but no date has been set yet.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon said there are samples of items on the back table that were found during the 03/23 field trip to Tennessee.



Carboniferous Tree Fern recovered from Ross Creek, TN

A trip to Bartow County, Ga., is slated for 04/06 and a trip to Summerville, Ga. is scheduled for 04/07. Another trip to Graves Mountain where nine different materials can be found is scheduled for 04/26, 04/27, and 04/28.

Gem Show – Norman Holbert stated the next show will be May 10, 11, & 12 with a silent auction. Items for donation to the silent auction are needed. He stressed the fact that *we need people* for set up, demonstrations, the auction, hosting, and take down. There are sign-up sheets.

Scholarships – Al Pribble reported that the Board of Directors has elected to present a mini-grant to Macon Middle School’s STEM program for end-of-grade assessment books. This presentation will be on Thursday, 04/04 at the school.

The Mountain Gem

April 2019



NEW BUSINESS:

Al Pribble said the Dollar Tree has LED lamps for \$1.00.

Diane Mason presented wire wrapping certificates to: Sherlene Dillon, Larry Ellert, Duane Haskell, Tom Parker, Kathi Walbridge and Stacy Walbridge.



(l to r) Kathi Walbridge, Stacy Walbridge Diane Mason, Sherlene Dillon, Larry Ellert, Tom Parker.

Jerry Mason presented cabochon certificates to: Carlene Henderson, Robert Henderson, Carl Seaman and Kevin Walter.



(l to r) Jerry Mason, Carlene Henderson, Robert Henderson, Carl Seaman. Below are the results.



Door prize winning tickets were drawn by Sara Young.

Jane Morgan thanked Arlon Eldridge who has been donating our door prizes for years. He received a big round of applause.

New member, Sandy Behrens was introduced to the group.



New Member Sandy Behrens

Kathi Walbridge introduced tonight's speaker, Ann Rogers, a professor of Native American Studies at WCU.



Ret. Prof Ann Rogers

Al Pribble made a motion for adjournment

The Mountain Gem

April 2019



seconded by Fred Plesner. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. by president Jane Morgan.

Refreshments were served followed by a very informative and interesting program by Ann Rogers.

!!!! REFRESHMENTS NEEDED !!!!

The club needs volunteers to supply the refreshments for the May, June, August, October, and November meetings. You supply the time, trouble, and preparation. Turn in your receipts and the club will reimburse you for the expenses.

Remember this is one way to be active and support our club. Your active participation ensures you the opportunity to take a class or a field trip.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Article & Photograph by George Fritz

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin presented a \$300 check to Macon Middle School 8th grade Science program for the purchase of End-of-Grade Assessment books as part of the Society's Mini-Grant Program. Each year the Gem & Mineral Society allocates money for grants to teachers of science curriculum for needed materials and/or equipment.



Shown here accepting a check from Al Pribble,

Gem & Mineral Society Scholarship Chairman, are from right to left: Davitta Henry and Monica McLain, 8th grade science teachers, along with Jennifer Love, STEM coordinator for Macon County Schools.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Diane Mason

We are currently busy cleaning, pricing, and stocking for the upcoming summer rush. Sales have been good for the number of hours we were open in March and April. Anyone with some spare time and wishing to give their volunteer hours for the club, please contact us. You can always write out price tags and apply them. This is a simple but much needed task. If you have not been to the museum lately, please come by and see some of our new looks.

Vicki Knisley.....828-371-4954 or

Diane Mason.....706-379-1718

Spring Clean-Out Sale Results

April 13 started out very clear and pretty. Our gift shop booth was set up along side other merchants of Franklin for a Spring Clean Out Sale. Business was slow but steady until 1 P.M. when the rain came. We had to close early but managed to make a grand total of \$278.50. Thank you to Jane, Vicki, and Diane for their work.

FIELD TRIPS

Stacy Walbridge/Marsha Harmon

Photographs by Stacy Walbridge

On Saturday, April 6th, a small group traveled south to Bartow County, GA to search for blue quartz embedded in granite gneiss that is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex currently being mined. Gary Galbrecht, Vicki Knisley, Jenny and Jay Mooney spent a wet day at the active mine and found several pieces worth keeping.

The Mountain Gem

April 2019



Vicki Knisley and Jenney Mooney taking a break on Saturday. (Note the mandatory safety equipment.)

Sunday, April 7th began rainy and humid as 7 club members traveled to Summerville, GA for a chance to find lace agate in chert. Marsha Harmon met with Gary Galbrecht, Vicki Knisley, Jenny and Jay Mooney, and Kathi and Stacy Walbridge at the 2nd location sponsored by the Georgia Mineral Society.

The working quarry had several areas open for the group with the most material piled in mounds about 100 yards from the parking area. With the recent rains the lace agate surface was exposed and easily identified.

By 10:00 the sun started shining through the clouds increasing the humidity and making it easier to spot good samples. While Gary, Vicki, and Marsha worked the south mounds, Jenny, Kathi, Jay, and Stacy were able to acquire buckets of the lace agate from the north mounds.



Vicki Knisley and Marsha Marmon smiling over their finds.

As it got closer to noon, Jenny and Jay were seen bending over a large boulder attempting to dig it out of the clay. Jenny had spotted the tip of a purple rock that she wanted to display in her garden. After a half hour of digging the rock was free, but weighed about 200 pounds. Jenny enlisted the help of Jay, Stacy, and Gary to move the rock 50 yards to an access road where Jay was able to back his truck for loading.



Jenny and Jay Digging out Their 200 pound yard rock. "We hope it was worth it."

By 12:00 everyone had several buckets of great material and started out of the quarry when the hosts announced that if we were interested we could

The Mountain Gem

April 2019



accompany them to a nearby residence where assorted cutting material would be available for purchase. After a short drive Doug Hawkins met us at his house, where he had several tarps on his lawn filled with slabs and cutting material. His driveway contained hundreds of larger rocks for the more ambitious cutters. By the end of the day everyone had selected numerous pieces that added to a very successful field trip.



Marsh Harmon with host Doug Hawkins.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Lake Holland will have information at the next meeting on two upcoming field trips; Graves Mountain on April 26, 27 and 28 and the May 18th DMC trip to Chunky Gal Mountain. He will also be available for questions. Make sure you sign a waiver of liability for one or both trips if you intend to use our club insurance. This is a must!

If you are interested in a visit to Mason Ruby and Sapphire Mine with a discount, friends of John Hayes have invited our club to join them on May 11th. They are from the Winston Salem rock club and details are in work at this time.

Registration through our club is required to participate on field trips as well as the safety equipment listed in the notice.

A Diamond Has Left Forever

Linda and Ray Behr

We wish to share some history about Mary Bedrick and the many contributions she made to our museum.

Mary passed away on Saturday, March 30th.

Behind the scenes, she was a treasure for this club and museum. For some of you who did not know Mary, we will try to share some of her many gifts and contributions. First of all, she was our curator for many years. Her sidekick was Sharon John. They would play with the specimens and she was always teaching Sharon and others about her knowledge of the specimens. With the museum manager, she maintained an updated five thousand plus inventory of the many specimens in our museum.

She took personal pride in the museum; she would arrive before her scheduled hosting time and vacuum the entire museum. At that time, our restrooms and floors stayed clean.

If she was hosting on a day when only a few people came through, she would pick up a rag and clean the glass on the cases.

Have you ever noticed the beautiful artworks hanging in the windows of the States' and North Carolina rooms? Well, these were made and donated by Mary. She was quite creative in her stained glass pieces.

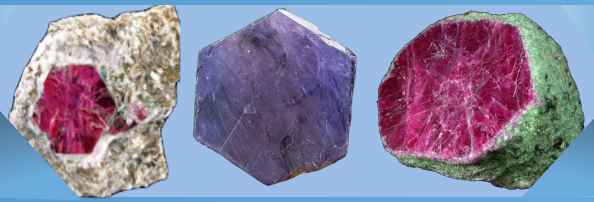
When we had school tours, she would be available to elaborate on the different minerals and rocks. Just listening to her was a wonderful experience.

I remember on one occasion that she designed her son's fiancée's engagement ring. She had an ongoing friendship with many of the Gem Show vendors.

Mary will be missed by all who knew her. If only we had more with her enthusiasm and pride.

The Mountain Gem

April 2019



EDUCATION

Marsha Harmon

On April 5th Fred Plesner and Marsha Harmon visited East Side Elementary School in Whiter. They were greeted by 4 classes of twenty 4th graders all in one morning. Working from two of the NC curriculum guidelines for these classes, they presented three types of rocks and how minerals are identified. It was fun to watch Fred work his magic with the children, as many have seen him do so many times at our museum. The program was well received, Museum information was handed out and mini grant guidelines were shared with the Science Director.

On April 18th we conducted a museum tour for Summit Charter School located in Cashiers. The group of 29 came in the biggest bus we have ever seen. After the tour the students were headed to Rose Creek Mine. The students came all fired up with lots of questions and engaged toward learning. They were each given a ruby, a piece of beryl, a quartz crystal and staurolite. The lead instructor was also given several puzzles, an information sheet pertaining to each rock given, instructions for our mini grant program and a copy of A-Z Rocks Around the World to use as reference for their science program. The biggest help came from our own volunteers: Vicki Knisley, Duane Haskell, and Virginia Bennis. Thank you all very much without you it would have not been possible.

copies. Contact information is included so please call if there are any questions.



Cabochon Instructor Jerry Mason (ctr) with current students Jade Kale (l) and Duane Haskell (r)



Thanks to Cy Amrich for doing the much needed repairs to the bathroom floor in the museum. We appreciate your hard work

BLOODSTONE

**Fred Plesner
Curator Emeritus**



Bloodstone is green and has red spots in it. It looks like Jasper but it is not, it is really a form of dark

NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM

Diane Mason

There is a cabbing class currently in progress with plans to do at least one a month during the summer months. Anyone signed up for the June/July BASIC WIRE I class, please go ahead and copy the back two pages of the sign up sheet and get your wire ordered. This is located on the bulletin board in the museum classroom. Just be kind to all others and replace the information after you have made your

The Mountain Gem

April 2019



green Chalcedony spotted with red.

So what is Chalcedony? It's really just a variety of cryptocrystalline Quartz. It has a dull waxy appearance and the green color is a result of chlorite and or hornblende particles and the red spots are caused by iron oxide.

There are fakes on the market. Why? I don't know, it's not rare or uncommon. So, how do you know you have the genuine article? A simple streak test using an unglazed porcelain tile. If the streak is reddish you have bloodstone.

Bloodstone has a legend attached to it that is a part of the Easter Season that we Christians celebrate. Legend says that the red spots were formed when the blood of Christ dripped onto the green stones beneath the cross upon which he was crucified. Another legend says that as his blood dripped onto the stones beneath the cross staining them the tears of his mother Mary, also falling onto the stones turned them green.

Medieval Christians used to carve scenes of the crucifixion or of various martyrs into bloodstone; therefore Bloodstone is sometimes referred to as the martyrs stone. Bloodstone, along with Aquamarine is used as the traditional birthstone of March. When cut it is usually cut as a cabochon either round, oval or octagonal.

Bloodstone as you might guess, was said to cure many ailments that involved blood. It was said to stop nosebleeds, anemia and help blood circulation. It was also believed that it could cure tumors. Stones were pulverized and mixed with egg whites and honey and applied to the skin. It was even used to remove poison from venomous snakebites.

If you were a warrior, Bloodstone would be worn as an amulet to stop the bleeding from wounds and to protect you from the evil eye. It was also worn as a stone of courage, to ease a broken heart and to bring good luck.

UPCOMING SHOWS

28-29 April: Memphis, Tennessee **"THE EARTH WIDE OPEN"**

39th Annual Memphis Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show
Organized by: Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
Agricenter Expo Center
7777 Walnut Grove Road
Memphis, Tennessee

10-12 May 2019: Franklin, North Carolina

Mother's Day Gemboree
Organized by: [Franklin Gem & Mineral Society](#)
Robert C. Carpenter Community Building
1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South)
Franklin, NC

10-12 May 2019: Franklin, North Carolina

Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers,
Watauga Festival Center
6295 Sylva Road
Franklin, NC

10-12 May 2019: Marietta, Georgia

51st Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show
Organized by: [Georgia Mineral Society](#)
Cobb Civic Center (548 South Marietta Parkway SE)

18-19 May 2019: North Olmsted, Ohio **(Cleveland area)**

51st Annual Rockarama - Jewelry, Gem, Crystal, Fossil & Mineral Show
Organized by: [Parma Lapidary Club](#)
Soccer Sportsplex (31515 Lorain Road, North Olmsted)

1 June 2019: Colfax, North Carolina

Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club
Free Admission & Free Parking
Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market
2914 Sandy Ridge Rd.
Colfax, North Carolina 27235

1-2 June 2019: Marion, Kentucky

14th Annual Clement, Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show - June 1 & 2, 2019
At Historic Fohs Hall
205 North Walker St, Marion, KY

The Mountain Gem

April 2019



“...the streets were paved with gold.”

America’s first gold rush started in 1799 by a twelve year old boy named, Conrad Reed, who didn’t want to go to Sunday School. He lived in Cabarrus County, North Carolina on the bank of Meadow Creek, a branch of the Piedmont River. On a bright Sunday morning in 1799 Conrad announced that he was too sick to accompany his parents to church in Concord. But immediately after they left in their wagon, Conrad went wading in Meadow Creek. There he found a, “real purty” yellow rock and took it home. His mother thought the rock was so heavy and attractive that she used it for a doorstep. For three years visitors to the Reed home admired the unusual rock, which gave Conrad’s father, Joel, an idea that he might sell it for money which the Reed’s needed more than a doorstep. So he took it to town and was delighted when a sharp-eyed jeweler in Fayetteville paid him \$3.50 for it. Only later did he learn that the “purty” doorstep he had sold was a solid gold nugget weighing 17 pounds and was resold for \$4,000.

News of the huge gold nugget traveled quickly and from up and down the eastern seaboard hopeful gold diggers hurried to Meadow Creek and Piedmont River. Within months there was a mine at Conrad Reed’s wading place that yielded 10 million dollars in gold and another gold nugget weighing 28 pounds.

In 1821 a mass of almost 50 pounds of gold was found in a nearby rock crevice. Mines sprang up all along the Piedmont River. So much gold was found that hunters used small gold nuggets for bullets and the government established a mint in nearby Charlotte. The mint turned the gold produced in North Carolina into 55 million dollars worth of coins before the Civil War broke out.

During this early gold rush the city of Charlottetown, later to become Charlotte was found to be built on top of a rich gold deposit, 100 feet wide and half a mile long. This was the Rudisill Lode. Eager gold miners promptly staked out claims and proceeded to undermine that part of the city with a labyrinth of catacombs. One of the most colorful of these early miners to operate under the city of Charlotte was the Count Vincent de Rivafinoli. The flamboyant Count arrived in Charlotte in 1829 and leased the St. Catherine, The Rudisill, and several other gold mines under the golden city. By 1831 the Count had recovered 4,630 ounces of gold from under the city of Charlotte.

Discarded rock from the underground mines had a definite gold content. It was crushed and used for roadbeds. Charlotte was a city whose streets were paved in gold.

Frank Mayo 1980

The Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on April 25th
at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road (Hwy 441 South),
Franklin.

Sean Price Radioactive Rocks

Recent graduate geologist and club member/museum curator, Sean Price, will give a presentation on naturally occurring radioactive rocks. In addition to the presentation Sean will bring a Geiger counter with samples. If you suspect a rock in your collection is “hot” bring it to the meeting and Sean will test it for you.

Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum

25 Phillips Street, Franklin, NC 28734

FRANKLIN
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And Special Requests

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