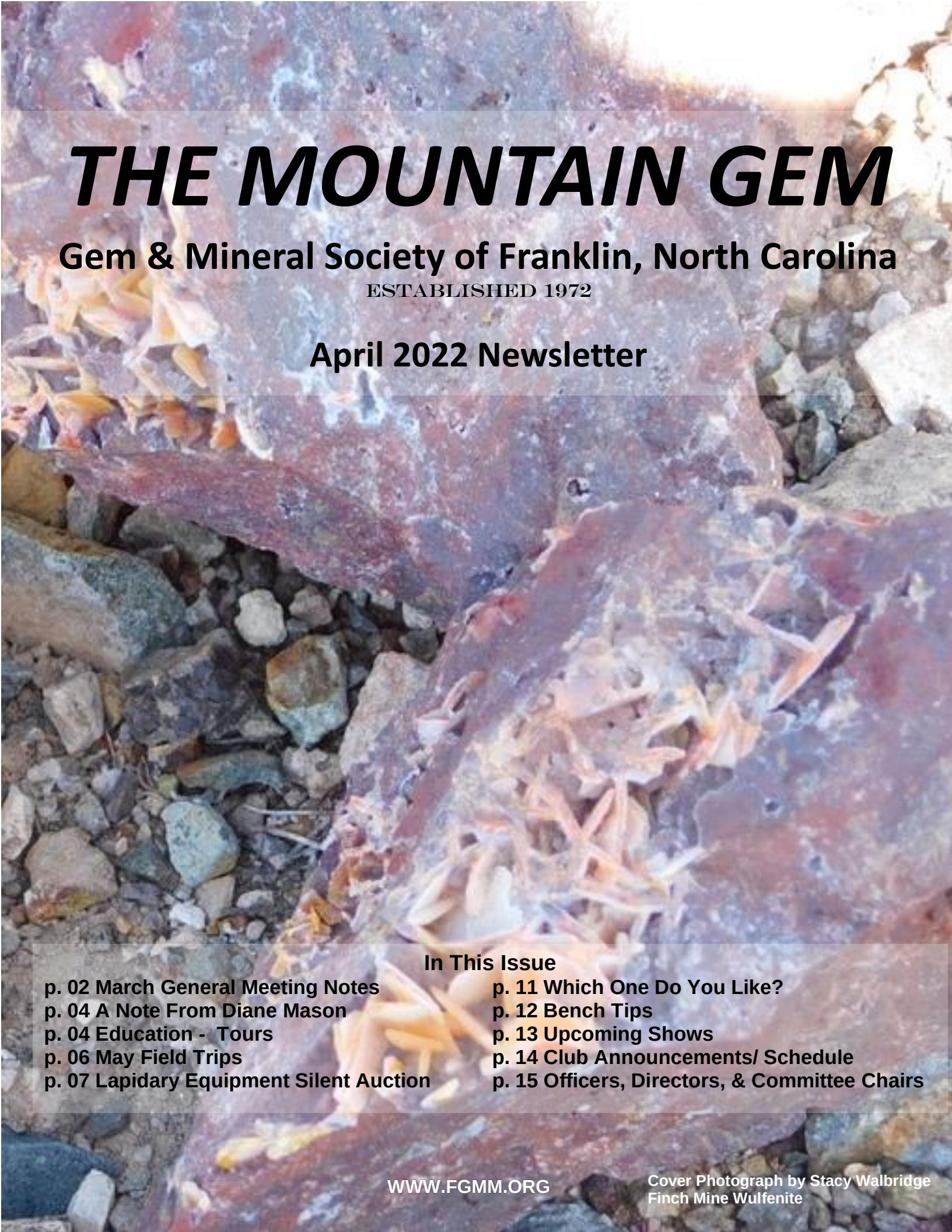
THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

April 2022 Newsletter



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WWW.FGMM.ORG

Cover Photograph by Stacy Walbridge
Finch Mine Wulfenite

March General Meeting Notes

Photographs by George Fritz

March 31, 2022
Thursday 6:00 P.M.
First Christian Church of Franklin

The meeting was called to order by **President Mark Laing.** (mw.laing@hotmail.com)

Minutes: No February minutes were recorded.

Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge. (kwalbridge@mail.com) We are continuing to operate in the black although expenses were higher this month due to the 2 scholarship awards. Donations at the museum have been generous. Suggested opening museum more days to generate more revenue considering the cancellation of the May (Gemboree) Show.

Museum Manager: Larry Ellert. (clellert.yahoo.com) The lid on the sandbox needs to be replaced. We need a scheduler for lining up hosts for the museum.

Museum Curator: Mark Laing. (mw.laing@hotmail.com). Specimen inventory is nearing completion. Ilah and Regan Williams have been a big help. The display at Franklin High School was taken back as they had no need for those specimens.

Workshop: Matt Castor (combatflyfisher@yahoo.com). Nancy McShane asked about conducting a monthly group meeting for various crafts. No decision was made.

Gift Shop: Bushy Hartmen (bushyhtm@yahoo.com) for **Anamay Rossomando.** (anamay@verizon.net),
Announced the Museum Gift Shop now offers a “local rocks section” and a “healing rocks section”. Brad Fleszar was thanked for removing plexiglass sheets and cleaning the windows for the museum.

Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge. (fgmseditor@gmail.com) Deadline for the April newsletter is April 20.

Publicity: George Fritz. (fritzga@hotmail.com) Announced two mini grants presented to two sixth grade teachers, Debbie Gibbs and Denise Shields. The grants will provide funds to purchase equipment including fluorescent mineral identification kits for earth science classes.

Scholarships: Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com) Brief description of our mini grant program was given.

Denise Shields and Debbie Gibbs receiving scholarships from Al Pribble.

Membership: Diane Mason. Announced Membership Dues were current. She also announced that she was relinquishing her seat as membership co-chair.

Field Trips / Education: Marsha Harmon. (monaleaf28734@gmail.com)

Announced two field trips for all club members. One trip is to DMC, Corbin Gneiss Complex near Cartersville, Ga, sponsored by DMC. The second trip is planned for Goodensville Mine Creek. Further information available by contacting Marsha Harmon.

Several private tours of the museum were completed during March. The museum is offering private/special tours to groups of 10+. Macon Early College will utilize the museum April 12th to further explore the "rock cycle" and "rock identification". Any members with degrees or special talents are encouraged to help further the rock and mineral education and interests of the local community.

Streets of Franklin: Larry Ellert for Charlotte Frye (fryecharlotte@yahoo.com)

Streets of Franklin is hosting an event on April 16 so we are looking for volunteers to set up and man a table in front of the museum.

John Hayes presented a Faceting Class completion certificate to Mike Hartman. Several of Mike's faceted stones were on display during the meeting

John Hayes awarding Mike Hartman with Faceting Certificate

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 and was followed by light refreshments and a presentation on Gold in Alaska by Ron Coffee.

A Note From Diane Mason

I have resigned as a helper for the FGMS membership committee as of this past meeting. We will retain our family FGMS membership and will attend meetings when possible.

The reason I have dropped out is due to overwork. My plate is full and overflowing. Teaching 10-12 classes per year both at home, William Holland and other Gem and Mineral Clubs, doing 10-12 large shows per year, running our Rock Shop, and being an ambassador to our show group has just all added up to almost too much.

I certainly never would have thought that retirement would be so busy! I will miss most of the club members and just want you to know I have learned a lot from you and most of it was good. My heartfelt thanks to Tom Parker for his help, guidance, and hard work over the last 2-3 years, but most of all for his friendship.

I now know and understand what that old statement of "I'm drinking from my saucer 'cause my cup has overflowed." means and I am very, very thankful.

Keep up the good work and enjoy your club.

Education-Tours

By Marsha Harmon

Marsha Harmon showing a few Museum specimens

Sean Price explaining local geology

A group of Petrology students from Indiana State Southeast visited the Museum on Saturday May 9th. Professor Gary Potter, Professor Jennifer Lathem and 6 Geoscience Majors were touring our area, taking advantage of diverse area Geology. Due to extreme weather they passed on a local sluice mine and requested to tour the Chunky Gal Mountain area.

Professors Gary Potter and Jennifer Lathem with their IU students.

As the Museum tour completed, Sean Price walked in and volunteered to help out. So we all drove out to Herberts Mine, Big Shaft Mine, and checked out garnets in Buck Creek. The group was fun and seemed happy despite some wet feet. One sapphire, some granite, dunnite, asbestos and lots of garnets were found. We will probably see them again.

Note: Sean and his mother have moved to South Franklin and will be assisting with the Museum and the club when needed, as he finishes his Masters in Geology.

May Field Trips

Helen Rogers

This month, FGMS will visit the Wray (Ray) Mine on Hurricane Mountain in Burnsville, NC, and located in the Pisgah National Forest. The material found here is a mica-rich pegmatite that according to mindat.org contains a number of other minerals: beryl (aquamarine), garnet (almandine), elbaite, epidote, lepidolite, schorl and zircon, to name a few. (https://www.mindat.org/feature-4487292.html) The mine is located approximately 124 miles from Franklin, NC (approximately 2 hours driving). We will caravan to the site—please meet at the museum in downtown Franklin at 8:00 AM on May 14th. We will sign waivers and distribute maps to the site. Be sure to bring water, lunch and snacks. To reach the site, there is a short hike up a stream covered with loose rock. Sturdy shoes and a hiking stick are recommended. If there collecting other sites you would like to visit, please drop me a note! Helen Rogers: 404-784-2531 or Helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com

DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve

www.southeastfed.org

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Saturday, May 14, 2022
8 a.m. Central Time
Bayou Pierre
Hazlehurst, Copiah County, MS
Pre-Registration Required

Also on May 14th, the Dixie Mineral Council will run a trip sponsored by the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. The trip will meet in Mississippi at 8 AM to

caravan to Bayou Pierre, Hazlehurst, Copiah County, MS. The Bayou Pierre River is a tributary to the Mississippi River, joining the Mighty Muddy near Port Gibson.

The May 14th field trip site is on the eastern portion of the river. Don't be misled by the name "Bayou." It's a free-flowing river. Native Americans lived in villages near the river before European settlers migrated to the area. Extensive deposits of Citronelle Formation gravel are exposed in the streambed and along the banks of the Bayou Pierre River as it meanders through rural Copiah County, Mississippi. Expect to find agates, petrified wood, fossil brachiopods, bryozoans, coral, crinoid stems and other gravel. Advance registration is required. If you are interested in this trip, please contact Helen Rogers for the full flyer.

FACILITIES: There are no restroom facilities at the site. Recommend taking a restroom break at the meeting location.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Registered attendees will receive directions via email.

CONTACT: If you have any questions you may call Helen Rogers at (404) 784-2531 or email at Helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com. This will be an independent trip and signed waiver sheets are required by our club and the DMC both!

Lapidary Equipment Silent Auction
April General Meeting

Four pieces of lapidary equipment were recently donated to the museum that we would like to auction off to members at the April meeting. All proceeds will go to the museum. The equipment is used but appears serviceable and will be a great deal for someone. The silent auction will occur during the refreshment break. Mandatory minimum bids will be listed on the auction sheets for each item. The auction will close just prior to the program with a two-minute warning for final bids. Winners will be announced at the end of the program. If the minimum bids are not reached the items will be made available for sale to the general public so bring cash or your checkbook.

Antique Faceter

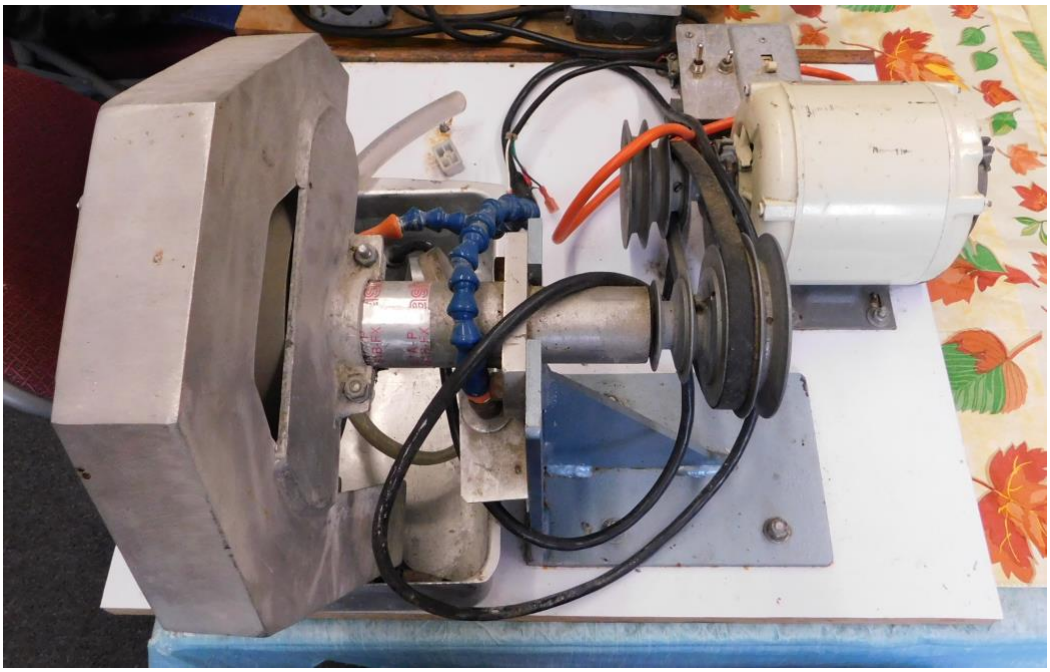
I can't tell you much about this faceting equipment other than it is an antique. If you're interested in bidding on this piece it will be available for inspection before the meeting.

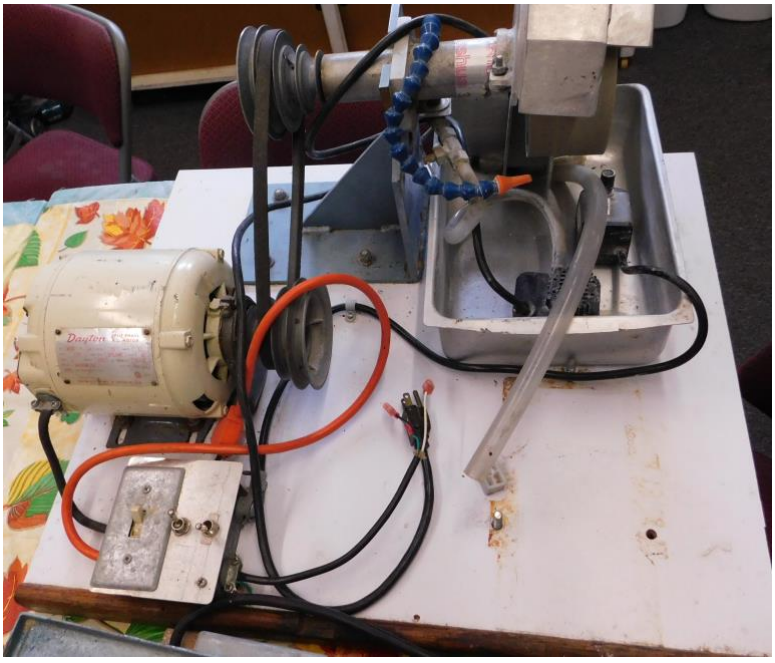
Trim Saw

All metal construction. Drive spindle and tray for additional wheel. Integrated assembly. Needs replacement gasket between reservoir and top plate.

Grinder Polisher

This has one expandable six-inch wheel, all metal construction, removable aluminum water tray, and variable speed pulleys mounted on a wood base.





Roller Mill

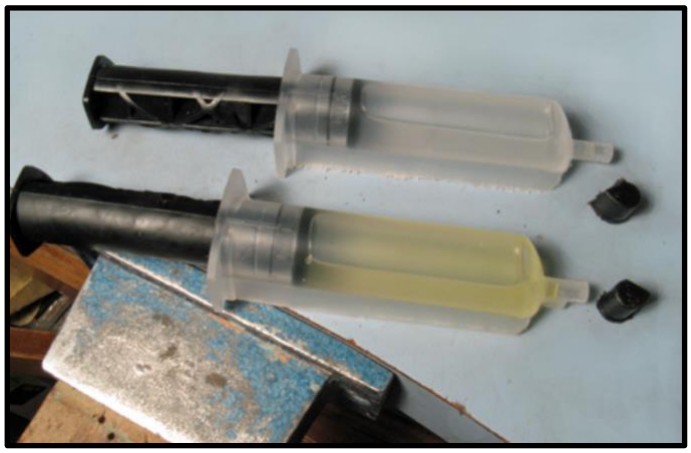
Which One Do you Like?

John Hayes faceted these items from two blocks of Dichroic glass that pass a red, green, or blue light depending on the orientation. These two pieces were dopped on different sides of the blocks to provide different reflections to the discerning eye.

BENCH TIPS

by Bradford Smith

COLORING EPOXY



There are two ways to add color when you are using epoxies. The first is to add a powdered material like colored chalk, charcoal, or powdered colors from an art supply store. One that I particularly like is a set of pastel glitter powders. A second way is to add a liquid pigment like nail polish, model airplane paint, or tinting pigments from a marine supplies store.

In preparing epoxy for use, the important things are to use exactly equal parts of the two components and to thoroughly mix them together. Coloring material can be added at any time. If I'm making just a small amount, I squeeze out equal sized droplets onto a piece of scrap paper or aluminum foil and mix thoroughly with a toothpick.

To mix larger amounts of epoxy, I use a gram scale to weigh the first component. Then I zero the scale and weigh out the same amount of the second component, add coloring if needed, and mix.

If you are using 5-minute epoxy, the mixing needs to move quickly. But I like to work carefully when adding color. So I squeeze out equal sized droplets side by side on the scrap paper. Then I work with just one of the droplets to add the colors. The 5-minute clock only starts when you mix in the second droplet.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

UPCOMING SHOWS

May 6-8 May Marietta, GA
Georgia Mineral Society
53rd Annual Mother's Day Weekend
Cobb Civic Center
548 South Marietta Pkwy SE, Marietta, GA
Scavenger Hunt with Prizes! Hourly Door Prizes!
Grab Bags! T-shirts! Workshops! Demos!
Free Admission & Free Parking

May 21-22; Miami, FL
Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild
Evelyn Greer Park
8200 SW 124 Street
Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5,
$6/Children under 12 Free
Silent Auction all weekend

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Board Meeting
6:00 pm Tuesday, April 26th, 2022

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

April General Meeting
6:30 pm Thursday, April 28st, 2022
The Gemological Institute of America (GIA)
By Varshana Dholakia and Earl McGaughey

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

Newsletter Deadline for May is 5/18/2022

2022 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
April 28, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	GIA Varshana Dholakia, & Earl McGaughey	Gary & Charlene Galbrecht
May 26, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Volunteers Needed
June 30, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	Volunteers Needed
July 28, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Ice Cream Social	N/A
--- July 29-31, 2022 Gem Show ---				

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
Past President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
Vice President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
2nd Vice President: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)
Assistant Treasurer: Charlotte Frye, (727-455-1849)
Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Director (2023): Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Director (2023): Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Director (2022): Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Director (2022): Charlotte Frye, (828-200-6023)

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)
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: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
Field Trip Coordinator: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)
Program Coordinator: Vacant
Museum Calendar: Vacant
Gemborees: Chandra Coffee (706-982-0402)
Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)
Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge, [fgmseditor@gmail.com]