



50 Years
1972 - 2022

The Mountain Gem

August 2022

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

August 2022 Newsletter

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WWW.FGMM.ORG

Cover Photograph: Ace of Diamonds
Mine Herkimer Diamond
By Stacy Walbridge



June General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Kathi Walbridge and Betty Kimball for Chandra Fox, Secretary
Photographs by George Fritz

July 28, 2022
Thursday 6:30 P.M.
First Christian Church of Franklin

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com)
Marsha Harmon made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 30, 2022 meeting as published in the July Newsletter. Motion was seconded by Larry Ellert and accepted by a show of member hands.



Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge. (kwalbridge@mail.com)
Reported sales at the museum are going well and paying the bills. Looking forward to the Gem Show 7/29-7/31.

Museum Manager: Larry Ellert. (cllellert@yahoo.com). Reported that he was dealing with an ant and mouse problem at the Museum and will call Terminix. He also reported that he spent an afternoon cleaning out the rock pond and the fountain is now operating properly.

Museum Curator: Bushy Hartman (bushyhtm@yahoo.com). Reported that she is updating the Museum inventory spreadsheet and is gathering additional information.

Workshop: Matt Castor. (combatflyfisher@yahoo.com), Kerosene and Hydraulic oil have been disposed of but we still need to properly dispose of the electroplating acid. Installing more pegboard to organize the workshop. Maintenance kits are on order for the Pixie and Genie cabbing machines.

Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando. (anamay@verizon.net) Shopping for gift shop merchandise during the week of shows. This most likely will be the final shopping spree until May. Tools from the museum and tee shirts for sale before and after the business portion of the meeting.

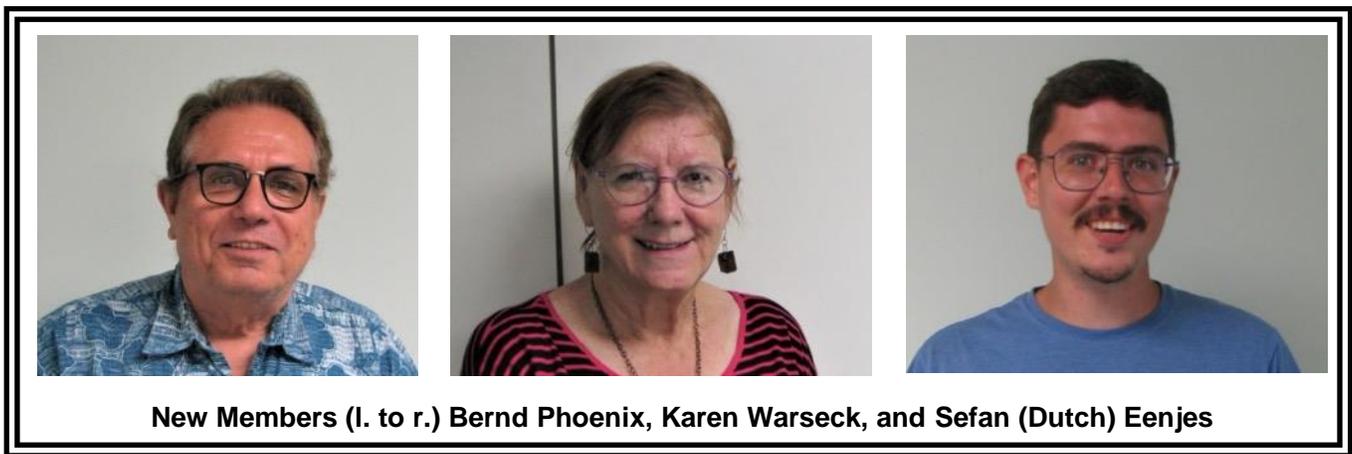


Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge. (fgmseditor@gmail.com) Deadline for newsletter submissions is August 18, 2022.

Publicity: George Fritz. (fritzga@hotmail.com). Nothing to report

Scholarships: Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com). Nothing to report.

Membership: Tom Parker (tthom2p@gmail.com). Nothing new to report. He has printed applications for the show and will bring membership cards.



Field Trips: Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com) for Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com) Sean Price reported that the Cullasaja River field trip went well. He brought several specimens to the meeting that were found during the trip. Sean mentioned that a proposed field trip to Chunky Gal on Sunday August 17th is being considered. Additional information will be provided via email.

Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon (harmonmarsha06@gmail.com) **Note Marsha's new email address.** Reported that she is working on the static displays at the Library, Courthouse, and Rickman's Store. The library display is finished. The displays will be periodically rotated.

Gem Show: Stacy Walbridge for Chandra Fox. (franklingemboree@gmail.com) Absent. Stacy provided an overview of the Gemboree layout with a list of vendors participating. He also showed our club's tables and layouts reviewing where hosts and demonstrators would be located. The current volunteer signup sheet was shown with a request to fill the remaining open slots. Several people volunteered during the meeting. Marsha Harmon then provided a review of what tasks were required as a host.



Programs: Vacant. Al Pribble mentioned that we needed someone to volunteer for this position.

Old Business: Mike Hartman (mike_bushyhtm@yahoo.com), Faceting Instructor, presented Brad Fleszar with a certificate of completion for the Faceting class. Brad had his beautiful faceted stones on display and donated a faceted marble for the first door prize.



(l.) Mike Hartmen Presenting Brad Fleszar with Certificate of Completion for Faceting. (m.) Brad’s Door Prize Donation, (r) Brad’s Faceted Gems

New Business: Discussion of next month’s officer election took place. Doreen Freeman asked about the possibility of absentee voting – online or mail-in. Al Pribble explained that the original reason for elections in September was to have most of our Floridian members present before they traveled south for the winter. Stacy Walbridge volunteered to investigate the possibility of online voting for next year.

Al Pribble presented the list of candidates and asked for nominations from the floor. After several nominations were received the final list of candidates was presented. Voting will occur at the August meeting.

- President** – Stacy Walbridge
- Vice President** – Mike Hartman and Sean Price (vote for one)
- Secretary** – Chandra Fox
- Treasurer** – Kathi Walbridge
- Asst. Treasurer** – Charlotte Ellert
- Museum Manager** – Larry Ellert
- Board Members** – Charlotte Ellert, Susan Fritz, Kim Price (vote for two)



Al Pribble asked for a Motion to Adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Sean Price made the motion, which was seconded by Larry Ellert and approved by acclamation. The formal business meeting was followed by an Ice Cream Social.



Education

By Marsha Harmon

All members called to help create a new cabinet within our Macon County Courthouse. It will be titled "Rock Art" and every tasteful application will be accepted until the cabinet is filled. So far we have two actual pictures, a rock clock, a rock sculpture and a wire wrapped bracelet. Please no for sale signs or business cards but you are encouraged to use your name, phone number and a very short descriptor for your Rock Art. Individual space provided will be 7" x 7" x 7" with light colored cloth or felt material to protect glass shelves. Case has two locks and the courthouse has multiple security locks with guards. Interested members call Marsha 369-7262.

Gift Shop News

by Anamay Rossomando

We were busy shopping for some new items for the Museum Gift Shop. Summer & Fall are the times we have to keep the museum open for our visitors. Thanks to all our Hosts for helping us do just that. If you haven't stopped by in a while, check us out or sign up to host. The time spent with other members is rewarding in gaining knowledge & having fun. We have a Fall Festival coming up Saturday, Sept. 3rd, if you have any free time to help us out a signup sheet will be @ the next meeting

***** NEW MOUNTAIN GEM EDITOR *****

I am pleased to announce a new Editor for The Mountain Gem beginning in September. Mike Hartman has graciously volunteered to take over the responsibilities as newsletter editor.

When I took over as editor in February of 2019 I had no idea what to expect or how it would work out. It has been a rewarding experience for me and I have to thank everyone who contributed to the newsletter and gave me words of encouragement. It is my hope that you provide Mike with the same level of support and allow him some time to become familiar with the process. The email address for the editor will stay the same so feel free to email Mike at fgmseditor@gmailcom with articles, suggestions, and committee reports.

Thank you again for your support.

Stacy Walbridge



July Gem Show



Bernd Phoenix, Marsha Harmon, and escapee Doreen Freeman working the club table.



Matt Castor hamming it up.



Brad Fleszer on the Genie



(l.) John Hayes selling tickets to his Coke bottle lamp with faceted glass.



(r.) The drawing at the Museum.



Ron Bischoff with his man cave cairn



Helen Rogers with her fanciful clay trilobites



Bushy Hartman wire wrapping earrings





September Field Trips
Helen Rogers



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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An Official Field Trip of the Knoxville and Mineral Society (Knoxville, TN)
Saturday, September 24, 2022
Walker County, AL
Meet at 8:30 am Central Time
Depart at 9:00 am Central Time
Fossil Tracks and Pennsylvanian Fossils
Limit 50 People
Registration Required

TRIP: The Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society will host the September DMC field to the Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint Site, also known as the Union Chapel Mine. The mine was days away from being reclaimed when the significance of the fossils found there were realized, and reclamation was halted. The site is named for the geologist who led the effort to preserve it for future study. The Alabama Paleontological Society has been instrumental in preserving the site.



COLLECTING: Pennsylvanian fossils, e.g., seed ferns, lepidodendron, and calamites, plus vertebrate and invertebrate tracks. An excellent field trip guide is available at the Alabama Paleontological Society’s website: https://48efaeda-a166-4c9c-9ba2-36e0c85aed1f.filesusr.com/ugd/59a392_ecfa9bc5569b4ed18e9a66a9b420f87e.pdf

REQUIREMENTS: IMPORTANT!!! One of the conditions for collecting fossils here is that you must agree not to sell them. Also, some fossils may be retained by the Alabama Paleontological Society for study. All participants must sign a form agreeing to the collecting rules.

FEE: There is no fee



DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Directions and meeting place details will be provided to registered participants

Contact: Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com) or Marsha Harmon (monaleaf28734@gmail.com) for more information.

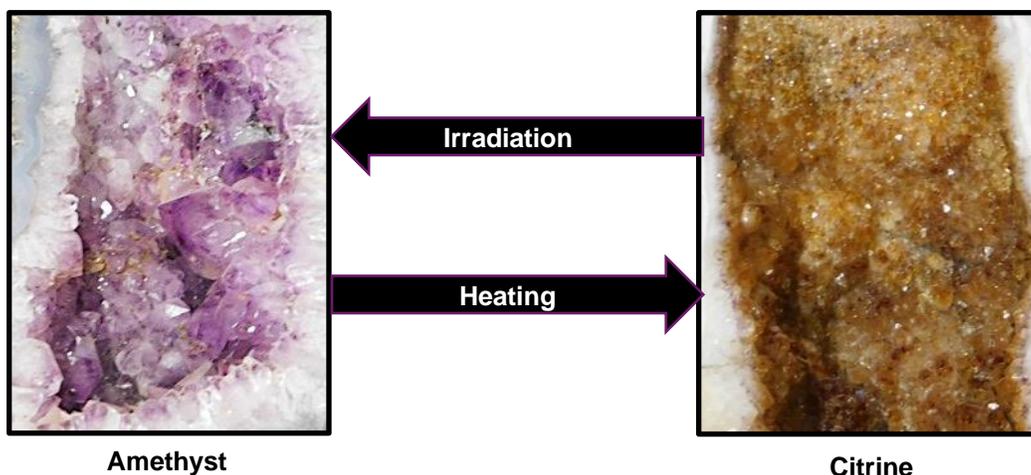
A Little Iron Goes a Long Way

People are always searching for ways to counteract the effects of the rusting of iron and of iron rust stains. However, it was not always that way. Ancient peoples often used iron rust, or ocher, in their decorations.

Iron rust is very common in nature and the iron oxide (of which rusts consists) or sometimes iron atoms themselves, are often responsible for the coloration of some of our most important gemstones. Some minerals that are used for jewelry have iron as a principle constituent. Hematite is 70% iron, and pyrite (marcasite) is 40% iron. Most of the agate and jasper that contains yellow, brown, and red colored zones are colored by the iron that is included in them.

In some gemstones, however, very small traces of iron within the crystal structure of the mineral can produce dramatic changes in color. A few tenths of a percent of iron within the crystal can turn an ordinary looking mineral into a beautiful gem that has both esthetic and monetary value.

A few tenths of a percent of iron in the lattice structure of quartz produces both the citrine and amethyst. If citrine is irradiated, it becomes amethyst, and if amethyst is heated it is altered to citrine. This process is reversible.





Beryl is another gemstone in which traces of iron can influence the color. In aquamarine, a few percent of iron causes both the green and the blue color that can be found in the gemstone, depending upon where the iron atoms are located within the crystal lattice. The green color can be removed by heat, leaving only the blue color. This is more pleasing by present day standards. The green color can be replaced by irradiation if desired.

The color of golden beryl also is caused by a small percentage of iron atoms, in fact, the same atoms that sometimes make aquamarine look green. It can be bleached to a colorless beryl (goshenite) by heat and then returned to its golden hue by irradiation. When one tenth to three tenths of a percent of the mineral corundum is iron atoms, it produces a yellow gemstone known as yellow sapphire. If a like amount of the metal titanium is also present, we have the more desirable and better known blue sapphire. There are many other gemstones and minerals that owe their color to traces of iron, sometimes by itself and sometimes in combinations with other elements.
Source: reprint from The Drifter 3/96.

BENCH TIPS

by Bradford Smith

SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS

I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.

My latest find are some plastic vials about 15mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They can't be used after their expiration date and are thrown out. On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if they had any expired vials. She replied, "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. (We settled on 200).



The ones shown above are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They're clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on.



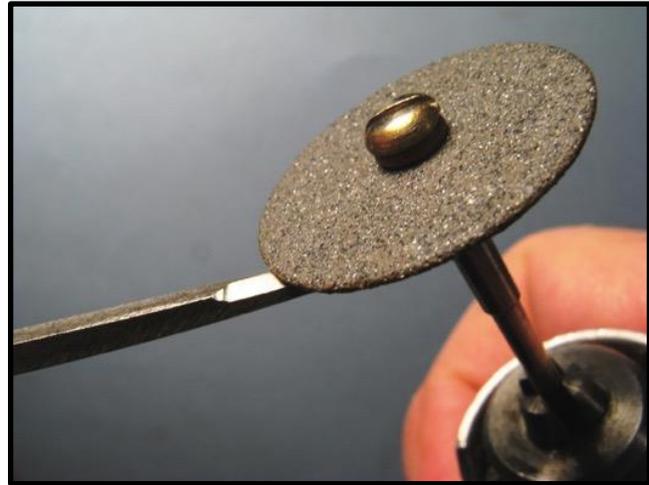
I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts and bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

FINISHED PIERCED PATTERNS

After sawing patterns there's always a little cleanup to do, and the smaller cutouts can be a challenge. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escapement files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners.

But I often find myself wanting even smaller files. I couldn't find them, even at a watchmaker tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a small 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in your Dremel or Foredom.

Be sure to wear your safety glasses when using this tool. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.



Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

UPCOMING SHOWS

September 2-5, Hendersonville, NC

Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society - 40th Annual Gem & Mineral Spectacular
Featuring the Colorful Gems of North Carolina;

VENDORS*DEMOS*DOOR PRIZES*REFRESHMENTS;

Fri. – Sun. 10– 6, Mon. 10– 5; Whitmire Activity Building, 301 Lily Pond Road, Hendersonville, NC; \$5 Adults – Children 12 & under FREE when accompanied by an adult

September 2-4, Bessemer, AL

Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society Annual Gem Show

Browse through over a hundred tables of unique gem, mineral & fossil specimens from a variety of vendors. Seasoned rock hounds to casual collectors, ALL are welcome!

Fri/Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4; \$5 Adults, \$3 Teens, 12 & under FREE

Bessemer Civic Center, 1130 9th Ave SW, Bessemer, AL 35022



September 9-11 Winston-Salem, NC

Annual show; Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club, Educational Building, Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, 412 27th Street, Northwest; Fri. 10-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5; Adults \$3 - Children thru Grade 12 free with accompanying adult; Website: www.forsythgemclub.com



October 14-16, Huntsville, AL

Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society
Vendors, Displays, and Demos; Kids' Activity Area Extravaganza! minerals, crystals, jewelry, lapidary supplies, rock-hunting supplies, and more! You'll also see gem, mineral, and jewelry displays, and lapidary and related arts and crafts demonstrations! Hourly drawing for Door Prizes and Raffle Prizes
Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; \$3 per person at the door, children under 5 FREE, \$1 Students; Jaycee Community Building, 2180 Airport Road SW, Huntsville, AL



October 15-16, Tampa, FL

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club,
63rd Annual Fall Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL. Gem Minerals, Jewelry, Fossils, Beads, Kids Activities, Concession, ATM Onsite
\$8 Adults, \$7 Seniors, Kids under 10 Free



October 21-23 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; \$3 adults; 12 7 under Free. Website: www.visitfranklinnc.com



November 18-20 Columbia, SC

Columbia Gem & Mineral Society
54th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale. Geodes sold & cut. Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. South Carolina amethyst on display. Lots of fun for the whole family.
Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd., Columbia, SC; Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; \$5 Adults, 16 & under FREE, All military & their dependents FREE.



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>





CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Board Meeting
(All members are welcome)
6:00 pm Tuesday, August 23rd, 2022
First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

August General Meeting
6:30 pm Thursday, August 25th, 2022
Officer Elections
First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

Newsletter Deadline for September is 9/19/2022

2022 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
August 25, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Officer Elections	Kim & Sean Price
September 29, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Installation of Officers	N/A
October 21-23 Gem Show				
October 27, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	TBD
November 17, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	TBD	TBD



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: Chandra Fox (706-982-0402)
 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: 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: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Field Trip Coordinator: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)
 Program Coordinator: Vacant
 Museum Calendar: Vacant
 Gemborees: Chandra Fox (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]

