

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

APRIL 2017

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 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 contact-

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.

2016 - 2017 Officers And Board Of Directors

President	Tom Sterrett	349-3774
Past President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director (2016)	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director (2016)	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718

Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	TBD / OPEN	
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 / OPEN	
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	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Ellen Williams	774-203-8017
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	OPEN	
Refreshments	OPEN	
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

April Meeting

Date: April 27, 2017

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Masonic Lodge at 50 Church Street**

Program: **Arlon Eldridge will speak about mineral mining in Brazil**

May Birthdays

- 5 - Anamay Rossomando
- 11 - Sande Lolli
- 12 - Jonathan Seaman
- 13 - Jane Morgan
- 19 - Tom Gadsden
- 20 - Fred Rasmusson
- 22 - Amy Fritz
- 23 - Robbie Hayles
- 24 - Bruce Billstein



May Anniversaries

- 4 - Duane & Carolyn Haskell
- 5 - Ron & Anamay Rossomando
- 13 - Ray & Linda Behr
- 16 - Fred & Fran Rasumsson
- 25 - Steve & Sharon Fox



Membership News

Rex Larkin died April 7. He was a dedicated member who scribed articles for *The Mountain Gem* and hosted at the Museum. He loved interacting with the visitors. We will miss him.

Our condolences to his family and dear friend Carol Rollick. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Newsletter DEADLINE
Tuesday, May 9th



Tom Sterrett, President

Hope you've been enjoying outside, maybe walking, rockhounding, gardening, rockhounding, site seeing, and did I mention rockhounding?

We sure are passionate about our hobby. I hope you would also be as passionate about our museum and our club. We could use a helping hand at the museum. There are openings in some behind-the-scene jobs, like our refreshment chairperson, our membership chairperson and the calendar chairperson. These positions involve very little physical labor instead utilizing the phones, the internet and personal interaction. Let's get going and help fill these positions quickly.

Think of our club, our museum and our mission of education. Volunteer, even if it is for a day, a month, a season, or a year. Our club gives back to our members through classes, field trips, fellowship and learning.

Our new slogan should be: "What Have You Done For the Club Lately".

So get out there, help out in some capacity. You will enjoy yourself, guaranteed!

And as always, Rock On!



Minutes –March 30, 2017 – General Meeting
The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Sterrett at 6:35 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at the Masonic Lodge.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 42 members present and 5 guests with two people joining this evening. Welcome new members: Willard & Tammy Dills. Guests were: Rebecca Cassel, Melinda McClure, Willard Dills, Tammy Dills and Sri Prabha. Updated membership lists are available at the museum.

Minutes – Tom Sterrett asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes as printed and there were none.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported that we were in the red for the month of February due to the purchase of a new Facetron machine as well as a microscope.

Curator – Ralph Crawford did not have anything new to report.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes introduced four members who have recently completed the Cabochon I class. Their work is on display at the table in the back of the room. John cautioned us not to pick up any stones for closer inspection, but to look only please. Tom Sterrett presented the graduation certificates to the following: Mary Bermke, Duane Haskell, Ellen Williams and Ellen Crawford. He presented Lake Holland with a certificate for completion of the Faceting I class. Appreciation was given to instructors Ray Behr and Virginia Bennis.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh announced two clean up days at the museum and passed around sign-up sheets for same. Those days will both be on Monday at 10:00 a.m. – April 10 and April 17. He encouraged members to please sign up to assist.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh stated that sales have been sluggish over the winter month but quite a few specimens were sold. She will be buying more items for the gift shop at the G&LW show in May.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon talked about trips scheduled for Graves Mountain, Sharpes Emerald Prospect and Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Mine (JXR). If interested, please contact Marsha directly.

Education – Diane Aiello is not present this evening. However, Tom Sterrett reported tours on March 17 for nine pre-school students and on March 24 for 12 students from Furman University. He thanked those who hosted and assisted with the tours. Two more tours are scheduled for the future: April 8 – University of Kentucky (16), and Upper Cartoogechaye on September 26.

Publicity – George Fritz showed the membership the full page article all about our museum that ran in The Franklin Press recently.



March Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

OLD BUSINESS:

Mother's Day Weekend Gem Show – Norman Holbert told the membership that at the Board meeting on Tuesday, the Board voted to cancel the May gem show due to lack of a good location. Consideration had been given to several places, including the fair grounds; however, the cost was prohibitive considering what we normally see as profit and as a result the Board felt it was not worth the time and effort.

Scholarship – Arlon Eldridge reported that Sean Price will still be considered as a candidate. Regarding mini-grants, we have received a few applications. Our initial letter was deemed to be a little confusing and will be re-written to clarify that the grant is to be utilized for school supplies only.

Leave a Legacy Campaign – Tom Sterrett said that committee members are needed. Please contact Tom if you can assist.

NEW BUSINESS:

SFMS – Tom Sterrett announced the SFMS will be holding their board meeting in Franklin from May 12 thru May 14. Friday night there is a dinner at 6 p.m. at the Sunset Restaurant and the public is invited. Saturday morning they will hold their meeting at the library and afterward visit our museum. 20 to 30 people visiting may be possible. Extra hosts will be required on Saturday, May 13.

Refreshments – Elena Marsh announced that effective with the April General meeting she and Dean Plesner are relinquishing their duties as they have fulfilled this position for many years. Everyone applauded and thanked them! If anyone is interested in taking this on, please see Elena.

Programs – We are still in need of a program chairperson. Al Pribble stated next month's program will be on Brazil.

Eclipse – This upcoming event was widely discussed. It was suggested that it would be nice if we could have moonstone and sunstone cabs to give out to visitors and that the museum needs to consider further involvement during this weekend.

Pebble Pups – Ellen Crawford stated that we have eight young people as members now and we need a chairperson. We are open to ideas and suggestions for this segment of our membership.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by President Tom Sterrett at 7:00 p.m. Door prize tickets were drawn. Refreshments were served. A video on rock hounding in Idaho was shown.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary

Photo by Ellen Crawford





Photos by Ellen Crawford, Ralph Crawford and George Fritz

How One Brilliant Woman Changed The World

Submitted by Al Pribble, Past President

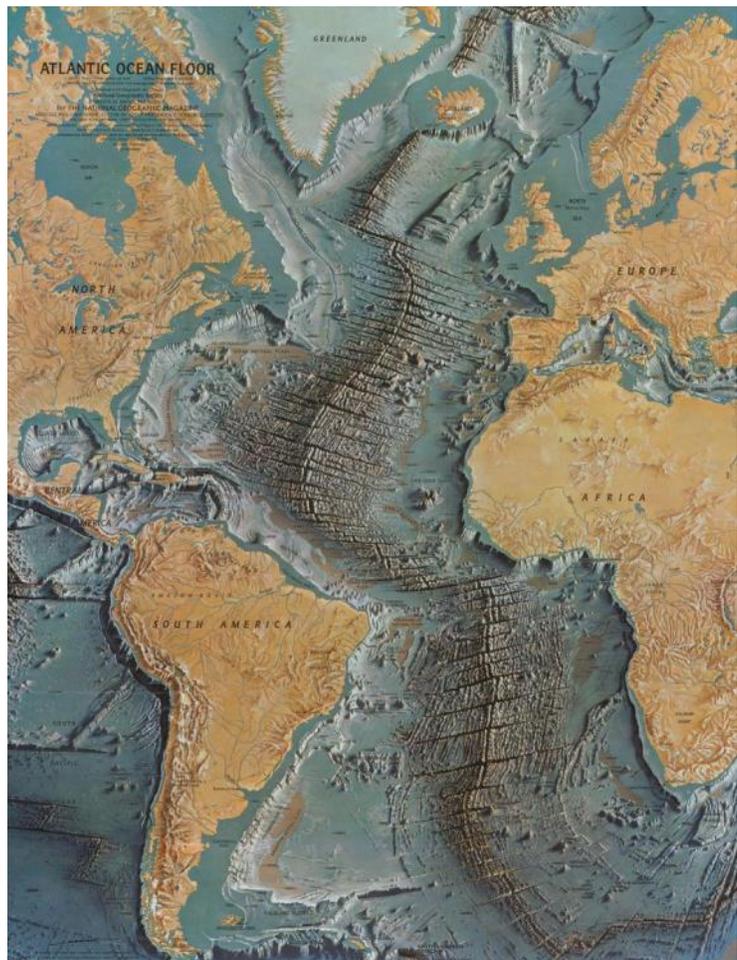
There is a great deal of hype these days about the women of NASA during the Saturn Moon Program of the 1960's and 70's, but there is an even lesser known woman who single handedly changed the world view and advanced the geological sciences by promoting the acceptance of continental drift and seafloor spreading, the key components of plate tectonics.

In 1912, a German geophysicist Alfred Wegener proposed the revolutionary idea of "continental displacement". His thesis suggested that the earth's continents once formed a single land mass that had gradually drifted apart over time. Wegener's thesis was largely disregarded and he was made a laughingstock by his peers in the geoscientific community. Until 1953 that is. That year a young geologist at Columbia University named Marie Tharp began charting ocean floor depth measurements from massive data gathered by another geologist, Bruce Heezen.

Tharp's detailed maps of the ocean floor revealed rifts and valleys throughout the world's oceans that confirmed Wegener's controversial theory. Initially dismissed as "girl talk," by Heezen, he and Tharp eventually brought the concept of plate tectonics to the mainstream in 1968 when they published their ocean floor map in *National Geographic Magazine*. Tharp was awarded the National Geographic Society's *Hubbard Medal* in 1978 for her pioneering research and the *Mary Sears Woman Pioneer in Oceanography Award* in 1999 by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

A short clip detailing her accomplishment can be seen here:

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/short-film-showcase/how-one-brilliant-woman-mapped-the-secrets-of-the-ocean-floor>



Gift Shop and Museum

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager

Tom Marsh—Museum Manager



The winter months have been here and have gone and now a new season has begun. The museum and gift shop have been busy although not as much some Saturdays but then other times, it is packed with folks on vacation or just passing through.

With the G&LW (wholesale) show coming to town in May, I have been reviewing some of the stock and am making a list of items needed. With Anamay not by my side, it has been a bit harder to concentrate and focus on what needs to be done. But with the help of Sherry Newton a few times and Mary Bermke the rest of the times, we have almost managed to do a very rough inventory of the gift shop items. It is difficult to identify each and every rock specimen in the storage areas but we did the best we could with the knowledge and labels that sometimes were accurate and other times not accurate at all – this list will be provided to the officers and board members and kept at the museum for future reference.

Mary continued working on the inventory during our first cleanup day on April 10th. The members who came to help worked for several hours in all areas of the museum. Peter, Mary's husband, was the 'high area' cleaner (he's tall!!) and others cleaned glass, vacuumed and did general maintenance. With the help of Duane Haskell, we tackled the garden area near the fountain. Flowers were planted, plants pruned and trimmed, top soil and mulch laid down. What an amazing transfer from the drab area during the winter to now! Ron Bischoff put some of the final touches on the garden after he finished working in the museum. Another clean up day is scheduled for the 17th of April and I am sure we will be able to put the last finishing touches on the museum before we open 6 days a week on May 1st.

Not all the names of members who came to help have been mentioned but we do want to give a big THANK YOU to all that came – you are amazing!!!

The bigger fluorescent flashlights are now available and are \$18 for members. That is with the 10% discount. I will have some at the meeting on the 28th, come see me if you wish to purchase one.

Please remember Anamay as she continues her recovery from her accident. I know I wish that she and Ron can get back up to NC soon!

Elena and Tom

Field Trip

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

Lake Holland - Assistant



Marsha Harmon [828 369-7262](tel:8283697262) or Lake Holland [828 369-5421](tel:8283695421) - Your friendly Field Trip Coordinators



The refreshment table has been coordinated by Dean Plesner and Elena Marsh for the last few years. With so many other commitments in both our lives, we have decided to step down from this responsibility for the club meetings. At the March meeting, it was announced by Tom Sterrett, President, that this would occur and asked for someone else to step up to continue this part of our meetings.

The refreshment committee is responsible for coordinating with 2 members each month who bring something to share such as cake, fruit, veggies, chip and dip. The club provides the coffee and other drinks. The club also provides the plates, napkins, utensils cups and glasses. These supplies are in marked bins kept at the museum for the month until the next meeting. At that time, the refreshment committee picks up the bins, makes sure all are stocked and take those bins to the meeting site. Tables are set, coffee made, other drinks set out, ice cubes provided along with the cups and glasses, napkins, plates and silverware. Some extra dishes and utensils are kept in the bins in case they are needed. After the meeting, the bins are restocked, dishes cleaned, put back in appropriate bin and stored at museum until the following month.

A sign up sheet for those members who will bring cake, etc. to the meetings has been passed around and is kept so that the refreshment committee knows who will be bringing something. Contact with those people is made prior to the meeting to ensure that is still possible. If not possible, other arrangements need to be made. This sign up sheet has been completed thru September 2017.

All members and guests enjoy the refreshments – it brings talk and friendship with other members and guests after each meeting. But at this time, this may not continue. The same people should not be expected to continue in positions that they have done for a long time. Other members need to step up and help.

If no one steps up to do these tasks next month, there probably won't be coffee, drinks, plates, napkins, utensils, glasses, cups – only the items that 2 of our dedicated members have said they would bring to share for that meeting.

Please contact Tom Sterrett – 349-3774 or Elena Marsh at 369-8915 for more information.

It has been a pleasure to serve the club – Thank you - Elena & Dean

Mothers Day Gemboree

CANCELED

Norm Holbert

The Board of Directors after careful consideration, voted to cancel our May show. The usual venue for the show at the Carpenter Building (community center) is under renovations and will not be ready by show time. We considered the use of the Macon County Fairgrounds that has a greater rental cost with iffy at best electrical service, no heat or air conditioning. The number of show dealers wasn't enough to pay the costs for building rental, security, and advertising. Our club would have been in the red well over a grand if we continued our attempt at having this year's show. Overall, the Board decided that it wasn't worth the effort and volunteer hours needed just to end up with a deficit. The Carpenter Building renovations may or may not be completed in time for the July Macon County Gemboree.

Estwing Geology Picks (Part 1 of several)

Written by Stephen P. Mulqueen, The Venture Gem and Mineral Society

The Estwing Brand of Hand Tools



The Estwing brand, a trademark of the Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. (Estwing), is the most popular source of quality striking tools applied to the sampling and gathering of rocks, minerals, crystals, metallic ores, industrial minerals and fossils. Estwing Geological Tools include rock picks, crack hammers, engineer's hammers, drilling hammers, chisels, geo/paleo picks and treasure scoops. The hand tools are popular due to their durable steel composition and well-balanced design. Estwing Geological Tools are used extensively by geologists, paleontologists, engineers, surveyors, miners, prospectors and rockhounds.

Estwing also produces carpenter's claw hammers, roofing hammers, axes, hatchets, knives, machetes, gad pry bars, hacksaws and a variety of specialty tools. Related equipment supplied by Estwing include safety goggles, gloves, daypacks and sheaths. All of their hand tools are fabricated at their manufacturing facility in Rockford, Illinois.

Ernest O. Estwing (1884 – 1982)

Ernest Otto Estwing, the founder of Estwing Manufacturing Company, was born in Oland, Sweden on December 24, 1884 with the name Ernest O. Johnson. As a 16-year-old, during the year 1900, he immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island Immigrant Inspection Station in New Jersey.

After settling in Illinois, he found that the name "Johnson" was very common in Rockford due to the large community of Swedes who were living in the area. As a direct result, he officially changed his name to Ernest O.

Estwing. "Estwing" means East Island or Easterly Peninsula in his native language, referring to the region in Sweden on the Baltic Coast where he was born. Later in life, Estwing married and had a family of 5 children. Estwing passed away at the age of 97 on June 3, 1982 after a great life with a successful career.



ERNEST ESTWING
Founder of Estwing Manufacturing

Estwing's Early Patents



Mr. Estwing's first patent application involved a design for a rear-loading shotgun. His second patent application, filed on July 29, 1926, detailed the design of a one-piece carpenter's claw hammer with laminated leather grip. His patent application for this first hammer was approved on April 2, 1929, and issued as Patent # 1,578,502, granted from the U. S. Patent Office. This was only the beginning of his unique designs in an extensive array of hand tools. Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. continues to apply for patents as new products are designed and improved.

**From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies
Gem and Mineral Shows**



April 28, 29 & 30, Lincolnton, GA

Graves Mountain Spring Dig & Rock Swap; FREE; 8 AM to 6 PM; Family fun; GA Mineral Society

May 12, 13 & 14, Marietta, GA

49th Annual Gem & Mineral Show & Auction; The Georgia Mineral Society; Cobb Civic Center; Fri & Sat 10 AM to 6 PM & Sun Noon to 5 PM; www.gaminal.org

Other Events

March 18 to December 16, Franklin, NC

SEBA 3rd Saturday Jam; BlueGrass Jam Session; Historic Cowee School; 12 PM to 3 PM; FREE

May 13, Downtown Franklin, NC

Airing of the Quilts; Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM; FREE

June 11 & 12, Cartersville, GA

Tellus Science Museum 26th Annual Rock Fest; 10 AM to 5 PM; Members free; Adults \$14 + tax; Children & Students with ID \$10 + tax; tellusmuseum.org; 770-606-5700; Fun for all ages

July 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC

Franklin Faceters Frolic 10; The Factory; 1024 Georgia Road/US Hwy 441; Thurs & Fri 10 AM to 5 PM & Sat 10 AM to 4 PM

August 21, Franklin, NC

The Great American Solar Eclipse; Monday 2:30 to 3:00 PM will peak for 2 1/2 minutes over Franklin

EARTH DAY



APRIL 22



**Memorial
Day**

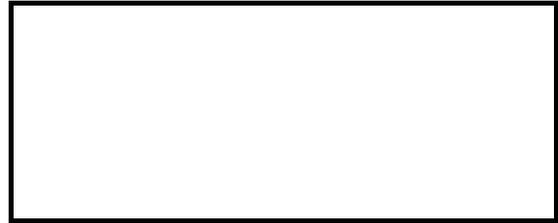
THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2017		
February		
March	28	30
April	25	27 **
May	23	25
June	27	29
July	25	27 Ice Cream Social
August	29	31 Elections
September	26	28 Banquet
October	24	26
November	14	16
December	12	16 End of Year Party Saturday

**** General Meeting at Masonic Lodge
50 Church Street, Franklin, NC**

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.