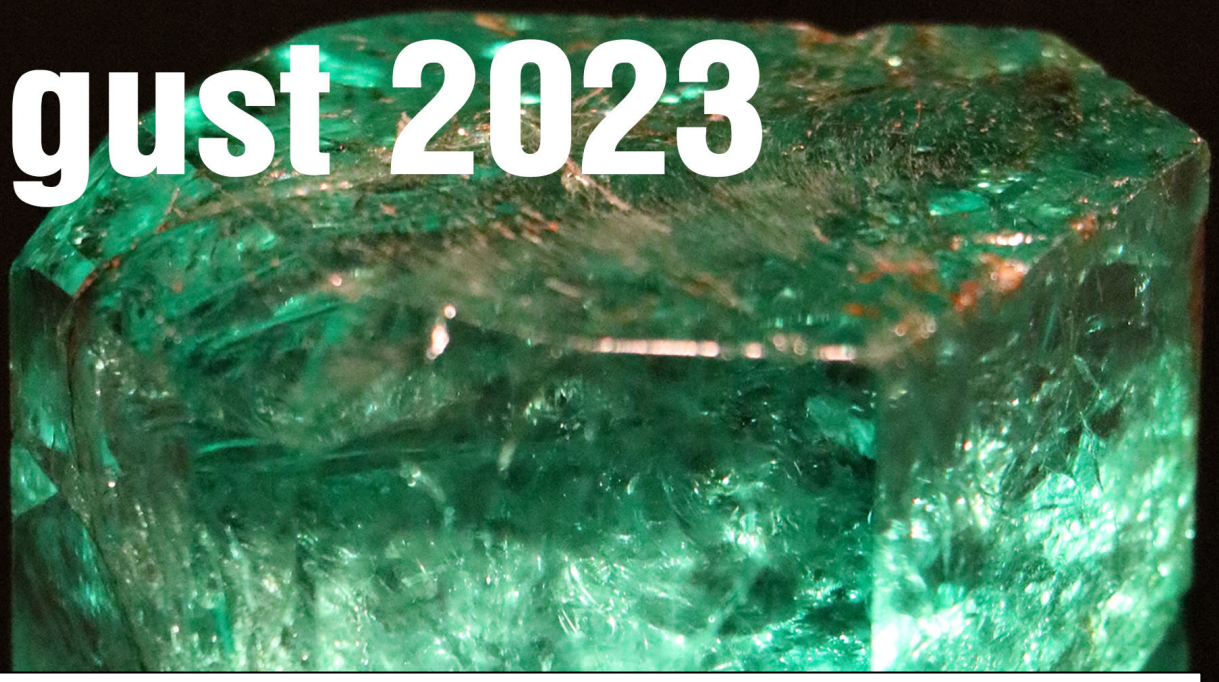
The Mountain Gem
August 2023



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Special thanks to Pam Martin for her cover photo of an emerald.

From the President

Stacy Walbridge

Eleven months ago, it became my honor to be elected President of this Society. One of my goals was to re-invigorate our Gem Shows. Under the coordination of Chandra Fox, the May and July Shows were a lot of work but I would consider them successful and a good foundation for the years to come. A major part of their success were the volunteers, which I can't thank enough for your help.

One of my other goals was to increase the hours of operation of the Museum. That has not gone as well as I hoped. Since COVID, we have increased the Museum operating days to Wednesday through Saturday although it has been hit or miss with volunteer support. Charlene Galbrecht and Doreen Freeman have done a wonderful and thankless job calling members to signup to host each month. We also tried signing up volunteers online, which was also hit or miss. There is still plenty of room for improvement.

Elections are this month. We have a good slate of candidates, all of them willing to devote their time to grow and improve the Society for the members and the community. With our Museum's 50th anniversary coming up next year, it promises to be an exciting year and one that I am looking forward to helping the new Officers make it a success.

Stay safe and Best Wishes,

Stacy Walbridge
President

General Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2023
Thursday 6:30pm
First Christian Church
Franklin, NC

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Stacy Walbridge. He greeted and welcomed new members and visitors.
Minutes: Chandra Fox (fgmshows@gmail.com). Motion made and minutes accepted as written.

A Few Announcements:

Online Signup for Volunteers is discontinued. All signup sheets are located at the Museum.
Also, a decision was made at the last board meeting to return future board meetings to the museum. If you are interested in attending a future board meeting, the meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Treasury: Kathi Walbridge. (FGMM.Treasurer@mail.com) / Charlotte Ellert. Absent. Rpt. Income exceeded expenses. Museum gift shop sales are going strong, especially credit card sales. Thank you to all the hosts and gift shop volunteers! We received a $2500 grant from Macon County for our 50th Anniversary celebration. A big Thank You to Kim Price for writing and submitting this grant. Kathi also reported the electric bill had increased for the museum.

Vice President: Larry Ellert. (clellert@yahoo.com). Absent.

Museum Manager: Larry Ellert. (clellert@yahoo.com). Absent. Donavon McDonald (). Rpt. Please report to Larry upon entering and leaving the building.

John Hayes presented recent graduates of "Beginning Cabochon" class with a "Certificate of Completion". The graduates, Susan Ray and Karl Williams also displayed some of their work. Mary Beth Stager recently finished her Silver Smithing Classes at William Holland Lapidary School.

Museum Curator: NRt.

Workshop: See John Hayes for future Cabbing or Faceting classes.

Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando. (anamay@verizon.net) Absent. Vicky Knisky. Rpt. Things have been very busy at the Gift Shop with lots of visitors. We plan to re-stock at the shows. Streets of Franklin was ok. Table placement varies. Asked for decals for 50th Anniversary Celebration to promote the jail/museum. We need volunteers for the Cowee Festival. Saturday August 19. Please contact Anamay for further details and to get started!!

Newsletter Editor: Deadline for submissions to the newsletter: August 17, 2023. Send pic to be included in future editions of the newsletter to: fgmseditor@gmail.com

Publicity: Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com) Rt. Kim reported contact from a Para-normal group out of South Carolina who would like to feature the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum on their website. Any suggestions or comments for future publicity, please contact Kim via email.

Scholarships: Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com)

Future Vision: Ron Rossomando. Kim Price. (kprice@safetworksinc.com). Rt. Our 50th Anniversary Celebration will be coming up in 2024. We received the $2500 grant earmarked to promote, educate, and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum as well as the gem history of Franklin NC. A signup sheet is available for volunteers for the Pre-50th Anniversary committee.
Still working with Commissioners to find a larger, suitable future location.

Seeking Committee Members for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Membership: Roberta Pipitone, Leonard Pipitone. (rlpipitone@earthlink.net). NRt. 44 members, 2 visitors.

Education: Marsha Harmon. (monaleaf28734@gmail.com). Rt. Request to place lightning in courthouse

display. We will have an exhibit at the North Carolina State Fair. There will be a senior tour on Thursday, August 17th. Spruce Pines is having a Gem Show next week on August 4th. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more information.

Field Trips: Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com)
Announced Fieldtrip: August 26, 2023 to Chunky Gal Mountain Franklin, NC.

Programs: Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com). Rt. "Safety, Conservation – stewardship of our forest" presented by Benjamin Keener and Barry Cabe. Requested to present speakers with a Museum T-Shirt. Certificates will be given as well. August: Vulcan – The Importance of Material Quarries.

Constitution / By-Laws Committee: Al Pribble (alton36@gmail.com), Larry Ellert (clellert@yahoo.com). Rpt. Proposed revisions were reviewed and edits suggested. Changes were individually explained by Al Pribble. Pg. 2 #8 unchanged from last month, Standing Rules: #3, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10-14, #16. If these changes are approved tonight - A copy of the changes to the by-laws will be sent to all general membership. Motion to Accept the Changes to By-Laws. Accepted Unanimously by show of hand.

Old Business: No Report.

New Business: Open Nominations for upcoming August board elections. Roberta Pipitone nominates Kim Price for President position. Susan Ray and Pamela Martin are nominated for Vice President position. Floor nominations closed.

Nominations:

President:	Varshana Dholakia
	Kim Price
Vice President:	Susan Ray
	Pamela Martin
Secretary:	Chandra Fox
Treasurer:	Kathi Walbridge
Asst. Treasurer:	Charlotte Ellert
Board Member(s):	Earl McGaughey
	Carl Seaman

Meeting Adjourned 7:12p.m.

July Program

Everyone had fun at the July Franklin Gem and Mineral Society meeting. The ice cream social hosted by Berndt and Maggie Phoenix was delicious. Many Society members provided a variety of toppings for the sundaes. A great big thank you to everyone who did.

Pictured above is Marcia Mycko with her cleverly made ice cream sundae.

A young visitor to our meeting, Caleb Cain, won the grand prize during the prizes raffle.

After a fun and delicious ice cream social hosted by Berndt and Maggie Phoenix, the July program was presented by Benjamin, B.J., Keener and Barry Cabe from the North Carolina Forest Service. Both men are natives to Franklin and Macon County. They provided an excellent informative program on Safety, Conservation, and Stewardship in our Local Forests. B.J. and Barry answered several questions from the Society members providing an abundance of insight into our local forests, trees, history, and more. They had pamphlets and brochures about trees, invasive insects, safety on Forestry lands, and map information for Society members to take with them. The gentlemen were presented Certificates of Appreciation and Franklin Gem and Mineral Society 50th Anniversary shirts.

In the photo from left to right are B.J. Keener, Kim Price (Program Committee Chair), and Barry Cabe.

August Program

We are so excited to present "The Importance of Materials Quarries" at our August meeting. The education director from Vulcan Materials Company will be sending a representative to speak with us about local and regional materials quarries and why they are so important to keeping rocks, sand, and other regional materials so much more economical than transporting from greater distances.

Museum News

On Thursday, Aug. 17th we hosted a tour of 15 seniors from Clemson University's OLLI program. Karl, Susan, Larry and Judi Crary assisted with the tour.

On Sat., Aug. 19th the Society had an education booth at the Franklin Folk Festival that was held at the Cowee School. Ron, Anamay, Barbara Rizzo, Larry Ellert and Anamay's brother Sam manned the booth. We had a nice collection of gems and minerals for guests to admire. Larry cut geodes and thunder eggs for the children and adults.

Gift Shop News

Anamay Rossomando

Busy Summer, Thanks to all our Great Hosts we couldn't do it without you! We would love to open a few more days during the week, if anyone has any interest, please let us know. The winter slow season is just around the corner, so the more we do now will benefit us later.
We are going to try something new, on Sat. Sept. 9th they are having a Philips St. Market from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. with Pickin' from 6-8 p.m. the Street will be closed & vendor space is available for $10. The theme will be Handcrafted, Handmade, Homegrown & Vintage. Anyone interested in manning our both or getting their own, just let us know, should be fun!

Education

Karl Williams (left) and Susan Ray receiving Certificates of Completion for the beginning cabochoning course taught by John Hayes (center). Congratulations!

Membership

By Roberta & Leonard Pipitone

Please welcome our new members. If you see them out in our community say "hey"

Left to right Stephen Lewis Jim Carpenter Judy Brookshire

If you are a new member and haven't had your picture in the newsletter, please see Kim Price or Pam Martin at the August meeting. We will get your picture taken for the September newsletter.

Bench Tips – Soldering Copper

by Marji Ferrel, Instructor
Willaim Holland School of lapidary Arts

Upcoming Shows

Treasures of the Earth - 9/1/2023
Start Date: 9/1/2023
End Date: 9/4/2023
Hours: Fri Noon-6:00 Sat/Sun 10:00-5:00 Mon 10:00-4:00
Address:
4285 Trinity Rd
North Carolina State Fairgrounds
Raleigh, NC 27607
Website: http://treasuresoftheearth.com/

G&LW Asheville - 10/31/2023
Start Date: 10/31/2023
End Date: 11/1/2023
Hours: Tues 10:00-6:00 Weds 10:00-3:00
Address:
765 Boylston Highway
WNC Agricultural Center
Asheville, NC
Website: https://www.glwshows.com/

Election Time

Come around 6:00 pm for a chance to meet and talk to the candidates. Regular meeting will start at 6:30 on August 31.
On the Ballot for next Year's Officers:

- **President** – Varshana Dholakia and Kim Price (vote for one)
- **Vice President** – Pamela Martin and Susan Ray (vote for one)
- **Secretary** – Chandra Fox
- **Treasurer** – Kathi Walbridge
- **Asst. Treasurer** – Charlotte Ellert
- **Board Members** – Earl McGaughey and Carl Seaman (vote for two)

Club Meetings

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
August 29, 2023	Board Meeting*	6:30 PM	All members are welcome	
August 31, 2023	General Meeting	Meet with candidates 6:00 6:30 PM	The Importance of Local Material Quarries Election of officers	
September 26, 2023	Board* Meeting	6:30 PM	All Members are Welcome	
September 28, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Installation of Officers & Dinner	Club President
October 24, 2023	Board* Meeting	6:30	All Members are Welcome	
October 26, 2023	General Meeting	6:30		Theresa & Lake Holland

Please Note: Board Meetings are held at the Museum

General Meetings First Christian Church of Franklin 156 Belleview Park Road Franklin, NC	Board Meetings Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum 25 Phillips St Franklin, NC 28734

From the Editor

My sincerest thanks to all contributors. It's so great to see the photos and learn about members. I'd love to have some photos for the cover too. And remember to caption everyone in the photo as well as credit the source.

Please submit all entries, comments and corrections to fgmseditor@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Pam Martin for this Month's cover of an Emerald.

Newsletter Deadline is September 19

Officers, Board of Directors and Committees

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Stacy Walbridge, (802-598-9548)
Past President: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
Vice President: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Secretary: Chandra Fox (706-982-0402)
Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)
Assistant Treasurer: Charlotte Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
Museum Manager Assistant: Donovan MacDonald 828-226-3131
Director (2022): Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Director (2022): Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Director (2023): Charlotte Ellert, (828-200-6023)
Director (2023): Brad Fleszar (828-371-1211)

Committees

Museum Curator: Vacant
Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Gift Shop Assistant: Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954)
Museum Workshop: Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)
Membership: Roberta & Leonard Pipitone, (828-332-2837)
Publicity: Kim Price (336-653-1201)
Field Trips: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)
Program Coordinator: Kim Price (336-653-1201)
Refreshments: Charlene Galbrecht (954-592-1377)
Constitution and By-Laws: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)
Future Vision: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Museum Calendar: Charlene Galbrecht (954-592-1377)
Gemborees: Chandra Fox (706-982-0402)
Scholarships: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)
Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
Newsletter Editor: Mary Beth Stager 404-314-2469
[fgmseditor@gmail.com]

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