

# ***THE MOUNTAIN GEM***

**JULY 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 contacting our Education Chairman, Diane Aiello at 828-371-2436 or 828-524-3307.

**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](http://www.fgmm.org)

Society email: [franklingemsociety@gmail.com](mailto:franklingemsociety@gmail.com)

Editor: [editor.themountaingem@gmail.com](mailto: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.	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	OPEN (Al Pribble - Temp)	
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	349-9416
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	OPEN (Al Pribble - Temp)	
Refreshments	Joyce Jacques	342-2543
Scholarships	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



American Federation  
Bulletin Awards  
1994 (7<sup>th</sup>), 1995 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
1996 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1997 (5<sup>th</sup>),  
1998 (5<sup>th</sup>), 1999 (3<sup>rd</sup>),  
2000 (5<sup>th</sup>), 2004 (7<sup>th</sup>),  
2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 2006 (10<sup>th</sup>)  
2008 (5<sup>th</sup>) 2010(3<sup>rd</sup>)  
2014 (3<sup>rd</sup>)



Southeast Federation  
Bulletin Awards  
1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95  
1996-99 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
2003 2<sup>nd</sup> New Editor  
2004 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
2006 (1<sup>st</sup>), 2008 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
2010(1<sup>st</sup>) 2014 (1<sup>st</sup>)

American Federation (AFMS): [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)  
Southeast Federation (SFMS): [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)  
Franklin Gem Museum and Society:  
[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)  
[www.facebook.com/franklingems](https://www.facebook.com/franklingems)

**June Meeting**

Date: July 20, 2017

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

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

Program: **Ice Cream Social**



**Tom Sterrett, President**

Hi Ya! It's July already and I'm ready for fall! Our July show is weeks away. I'm still not sure if it will occur but we can always hope. As soon as we hear, we'll send the message on.

Our June Auction was a big success. Thanks to all who helped make it happen. Lots of nice Rocks, Gems and Specimens were bid on and won.

There are still plenty of opportunities to help our club this year. Spend an hour (or more!) at our museum helping out. There are always things to be done. See Tom Marsh and he'll tell you how you can help.

The August 21 Eclipse is fast approaching as well. How about promoting our packs of Sunstone and Moonstone that celebrate the event? They are \$2 retail or \$1 wholesale to businesses (25 minimum).

Our July meeting is moved back a week due to the July show (Thursday through Sunday). July 20<sup>th</sup> is our Ice Cream Social. Bring toppings to share. August is our Kim Cochran show. September is our Installation Dinner for our new 2018 electors. Bring a side and/or dessert to share. Meat and drinks are provided. Lots of fun!

Elections are coming up. If you want to serve as an officer or board member, contact any board member.

Get up, Get Out, Volunteer, and as always...Rock On!!!

**August Birthdays**

- 6 - Garrett Morgan
- 24 - Rhonda Blanton
- 28 - Jennifer Montoya
- 29 - Theresa Holland
- 31 - Arlon Eldridge



**August Anniversaries**

- 3 - Tom & Linda Sterrett
- 9 - Doug & Jane Morgan
- 12 - Rhonda & Rick Blanton
- 14 - Gary & Susan Gaetano
- 20 - Jerry & Diane Mason
- 25 - Phillip & Theresa Wheaton
- 27 - Tom & Sandy Gadsden
- 30 - Fred & Dean Plesner
- 31 - Scott & Sherry Newton



Anamay is getting stronger and feeling better every day. She and Ron are in our thoughts and prayers.

We look forward to them returning home to NC.

**Newsletter DEADLINE  
Tuesday, August 15th**



**Minutes–May 25, 2017–General Meeting**

**The Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.**

The meeting was called to order by President, Tom Sterrett at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, June 29, 2017, at the Masonic Lodge.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 47 members and 5 guests present.

Minutes – Tom Sterrett asked if there were any corrections or additions to the last minutes and there were none. Norman Holbert moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Paul Thomas seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

President – Tom Sterrett announced that we will begin the Pebble Pup program next month and we will start off with giving them a tour of the museum. He also announced a change of dates for our next Board meeting and General meeting due to the July gem show. The Board meeting will be on July 18 and ***the next General meeting will be July 20.*** He asked that anyone who has nominations for officers to please see Al Pribble so that he can present these nominations to the Board.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge reported he has an application for a mini-grant and will meet with the applicant next week.

Treasurer – Lake Holland is absent this evening but Tom Sterrett said we are still in a hole; mostly due to a large insurance payment.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh thanked those who have signed up to host at the museum. We will have a museum clean-up day on Sunday, July 9 – both inside and outside the building. Please come at 1:00 p.m.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes stated that he has two Certificates of Completion to present but neither recipient is present tonight.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh told of the museum's participation in "Where's Waldo?" This is put on through the downtown bookstore each year. Hosts were asked to not make him too difficult to find and to make a note of where he is being placed.

Tom and Linda Sterrett worked hard to assemble a very large supply of the moonstone/sunstone packets for us to sell at the museum for \$2 each. Tom Parker also cabled and donated approximately 27 cabs of moonstone to the museum to sell.

Our raffle item at the museum needs to be promoted; a beautiful blue topaz pendant and earrings set.

Diane Mason and Collette Coyle cleaned all the sterling pieces in the display case and Elena thanked them.

The display in the case at Entegra Bank ends tomorrow.

The Chamber of Commerce display at our new facility has coupons for a free gift at our museum. For a \$5 donation or sale at our museum, that person will receive an amethyst or citrine cluster. This is one way of tracking the effectiveness of our display at the Chamber.

Librarian – Ellen Williams

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the deadline for the newsletter Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

Publicity – George Fritz is checking out the cost of an ad that will showcase our museum and gift shop along with mentioning the eclipse and sunstone/moonstone packets we have for sale.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon stated she has two trips upcoming: July 8 – Aiken Club Show, Chunky Gal and Buck Creek (meet at 8 a.m.), as well as July 15 – Spruce Pine. If interested, please contact Marsha directly.

Programs – In July we will have our ice cream social (please bring your favorite toppings). In August we have elections and also Kim Cochran as a speaker. In September we hold our banquet.

**Meeting Minutes** cont'd on Page 5

**June Meeting Minutes** cont'd from Page 4

**OLD BUSINESS:**

July Gem Show – Norman Holbert stated that if it is for sure that we have the gem show, we will have sign up sheets at the next meeting for set up, take down and hosting.

Eclipse – Members were reminded of the sunstone/moonstone packets that will be for sale for \$2 per packet.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Credit Cards – Tom Sterrett announced that the Board is very seriously considering obtaining a credit card machine for use in the gift shop.

Calendar Chairperson – Tom Parker graciously offered to fill this position for the month of July.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. by President, Tom Sterrett.

Refreshments were served followed by a lapidary auction with items for auction having been donated by our members. A big thank you to Diane Mason for being our auctioneer tonight.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan L. Fritz, Secretary*



*General Meeting & Auction June 29, 2017*

*Photos by Ellen & Ralph Crawford & George Fritz*

## Workday at the Museum, July 9th, 2017

Tom Marsh - Manager

Some members came a little early, some came on time but when 1 pm rolled around on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, things were hopping inside and outside the museum. Gardening, trimming, mopping, dusting, window and display counter cleaning, vacuuming – all done with determination and enthusiasm.

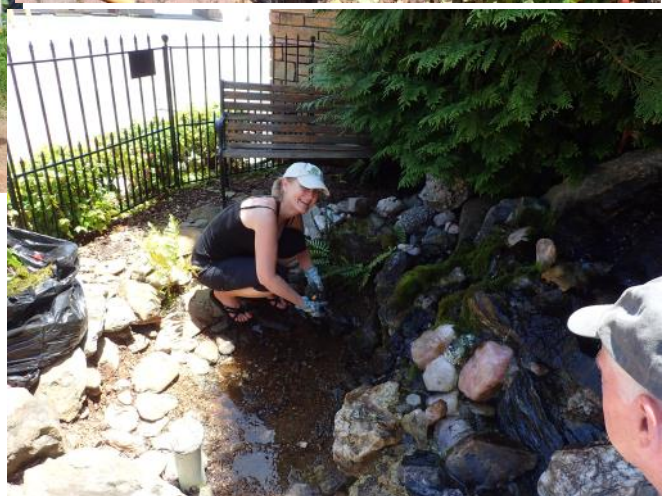
Imagine our surprise to find John Hayes making a bbq dinner for us – **THANK YOU JOHN!!!!**

What a treat – being rewarded for just volunteering!

Many thanks to the following members who spent time working - Gary Galbrecht (who came a week early to weedwack and weed the back and front of the museum), Mike Gillen and Patty Nichols, Joyce Jacques (better known as JJ), Vicki Knisley, Virginia Bennis, Ralph and Ellen Crawford, Al Pribble, John Hayes and Elena Marsh.

The museum inside and out looks amazing. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to help.

Many hands made the work a lot more fun.



*Photos by Ralph & Ellen Crawford*

**Wire I & II - Upcoming Classes:**

Seven people were invited by letter to take part in this fall's WIRE II with all faceted stones. Please contact me within the next two weeks so that I can make arrangements for the stones.

There is also a beginning WIRE I in the plans for spring of 2108. Anyone interested, please contact me.

Thanks. Diane Mason [jimndee43@gmail.com](mailto:jimndee43@gmail.com)



*Taste of Scotland Weekend*

*General Meeting & Auction 06.29.2017*

*Photos by Ellen & Ralph Crawford and George Fritz*



## Field Trip

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator  
Lake Holland - Assistant

### Cherokee Mine trip on June 25

Six members of our club visited the Cherokee Mine on June 25. Huge rewards came in good weather, good company, good information provided by Cherokee Mine owners and a few notable stones were collected. Cherokee Mine is the last local mine near Franklin that offers **only** natural material. This picture is of Cherokee Ruby and Sapphire Mine Owner Matt and the club members that participated.



### Aiken Club visits Franklin on July 7, 8 & 9

After a little coordination between field trip representatives from the Aiken and Franklin clubs, a fun weekend was had by fourteen rock hounds. Our Museum tour started off the trip which provided a good orientation and visual representation of local minerals available in this area. Areas visited in two days were Chunky Gal Mtn, Buck Creek area, Brasstown and a Deep Gap location. Over a two day period, materials found included: Smargadite with Rubies, Staurolite, Garnets, Moonstone, Mica and Sapphire. Also two old mine location dump sites were explored: Big Shaft and Herbert Corundum Mines.

A special thank you to Willard Dills on helping out with a couple new sites that were visited. He and his wife joined our club a few months ago and has superior local knowledge on rocks and minerals.

### Trips coming up

August 26 Propst Farm Maiden, NC DMC Sponsored \$25 per person 2 1/2 hours one way

September 9 Linville Caverns Marion, NC Franklin Sponsored \$7.50 senior rate 2 hours one way

More information available on Museum board, at general meeting or by calling Marsha [828 369-7262](tel:828-369-7262).  
Car pool and equipment available to borrow for trips.



## Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



June proved to be a very busy month and so far in July, that trend continues. Our museum and gift shop have been full of visitors who are touring Franklin and the town's museums. We are always glad to see folks stop in and we want to make sure their visit to the museum is a positive one.

Work continues in the gift shop, sorting thru jewelry and specimens to keep shelves stocked. It has been a challenge for me to keep up the pace without Anamay this summer. I have made a long list of 'must find and buy' items for the upcoming gem show at the end of July.

Please remember that the Franklin Appalachian Festival will be downtown on July 15<sup>th</sup> and we will expect an abundant amount of visitors coming thru our museum on that day. We would like to open at 10 am and close at 4 pm. If you are willing to volunteer an hour or two on that day, it would be appreciated. This allows other club members to enjoy the festivities.

A short museum clean-up day scheduled on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July should be very productive. We have had one member already come a week early to weedwack the back parking lot area and do some much need weeding along the rose bush area on Phillips Street.



## Working the Night Shift

Fred Plesner - Curator Emeritus



Apprehending someone who is on the run is dangerous work and Sheriff J. Harry Thomas wasn't taking any chances when he got word that an escaped prisoner was hanging out in his jurisdiction. Sheriff J. Harry Thomas took his deputy Newell Pendergrass and enlisted the help of Franklin Police Chief C. D. Baird as part of a hunting party and went hunting on the evening of Thursday, July 14, 1955. Word had been received that an escaped prisoner been seen lurking about the Rose Creek Area, so a concentrated search was begun. Around 9 P.M. they caught up with and apprehended J. W. Grantan who had escaped from the Oconee County, Georgia prison camp.

The next evening, the 15th, the party reformed with the purpose of finding Fred Junior Bowers who was on attempting to elude officials in Alamance County, North Carolina. Fred Bowers was a Saxapaw resident who was wanted on a charge of Auto Theft. The party concentrated on the Cowee Community and the hunting was good. Fred Bowers was found hiding at the home of Harve Dills and around 9:30 P.M. he was taken into custody.

## NOTICE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to the increasing expense of printing and mailing the Society Newsletter each month, it has been decided that we must institute a charge for hard copies delivered via US Postal Service. Copies will remain free of charge when delivered via email.

This decision was made after much deliberation and a look at what other clubs charge for their newsletters. Other clubs have been charging a fee for several years as postal fees and cost of supplies have increased. In addition to that, our income in 2017 has been severely reduced by the lack of a Mother's Day Gem Show due to construction on the building where the show was to be held. We are taking this action in order to continue to have sufficient funds on hand to provide scholarships and other educational programs as required by our Mission of education. We hope that the members will understand that while the Society provides them with programs for enjoyment, it also has a higher function, in that we provide the community with educational services.

It is therefore with some sense of regret that we must announce that beginning with the October issue the cost of receiving a hard copy of the Newsletter via USPS will be \$25 per year in addition to the member's dues. This will apply to **all hard copies** sent out except those sent to other clubs that send us their own newsletter.

Board of Directors

## AUCTION NEWS

Boy!! What a night. I finally found a profitable use for my big mouth and loud voice! My figures state that we made roughly \$800 from the silent and live auction. In a year when we (the club) have a decreased income due to the renovations at the Civic Center and no shows yet, the club members came out and opened their pockets and helped to raise our bank account.

It was so much fun. Mr. Mason even made a couple of nice purchases which he has not seen since they arrived at our house. Wonder where he lost them? Better yet, wonder where I found them.

I saw some new faces bidding and helping us and I send a very big welcome and thank you to them.

Seriously, a very big thank you to all who made donations and participated in the auction.

Diane Mason



**From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies**

**Gem and Mineral Shows**



**July 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC**

Franklin Faceters Frolic 10; The Factory; 1024 GA Road/US Hwy 441; Thurs & Fri 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sat 10:00AM to 4:00 PM; Norm Holbert 828-634-0350; normholbert@comcast.net; franklinfacetersfrolic.com

**July 27, 28, 29 & 30, Franklin, NC**

Macon County Gemboree; The original Franklin Gem Show; Thurs thru Sat 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sun 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Sponsored by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin

**July 30 to August 6, Spruce Pine, NC**

33rd Annual Grassy Creek Mineral & Gem Show; Sponsored by the Parkway Fire & Rescue; 60 vendors; 136 Majestic View (new fire station on top of the hill); 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Free Admission and Parking; Donna Collis 828-765-5519; collisdonna@yahoo.com; grassycreekgemshow.org

**Other Events**

**March 18 to December 16, Franklin, NC**

SEBA 3rd Saturday; BlueGrass Jam Session; Historic Cowee School; 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM; FREE

**Franklin, NC, Cowee Community**

T. M. Rickman General Store; 259 Cowee Creek Road; Saturdays; 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**July 20 to July 30, Waynesville, NC**

34th Annual Folkmoot Festival; Folkmoot.org; 828-452-2997; Parade, Thursday, July 27 4:00 PM Franklin, NC

**August 11 & 12, Franklin, NC**

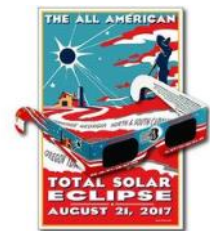
9th Annual Mountain High BBQ Festival & Car Show; Macon County Fairgrounds; 11:00 AM

**August 19, Franklin, NC, Cowee Community**

13th Annual Franklin Folk Festival

**August 21, Downtown Franklin, NC**

The Great American Solar Eclipse; Eclipse Block Party; Monday 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM; more details to follow soon



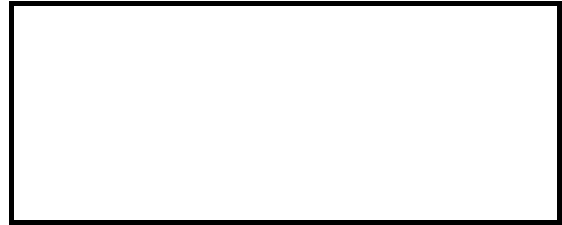
*THE MOUNTAIN GEM*

*Ellen Crawford, Editor*

25 Phillips Street  
Franklin, NC 28734



**First Class Mail**



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2017		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July	18	20** IceCream 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.*