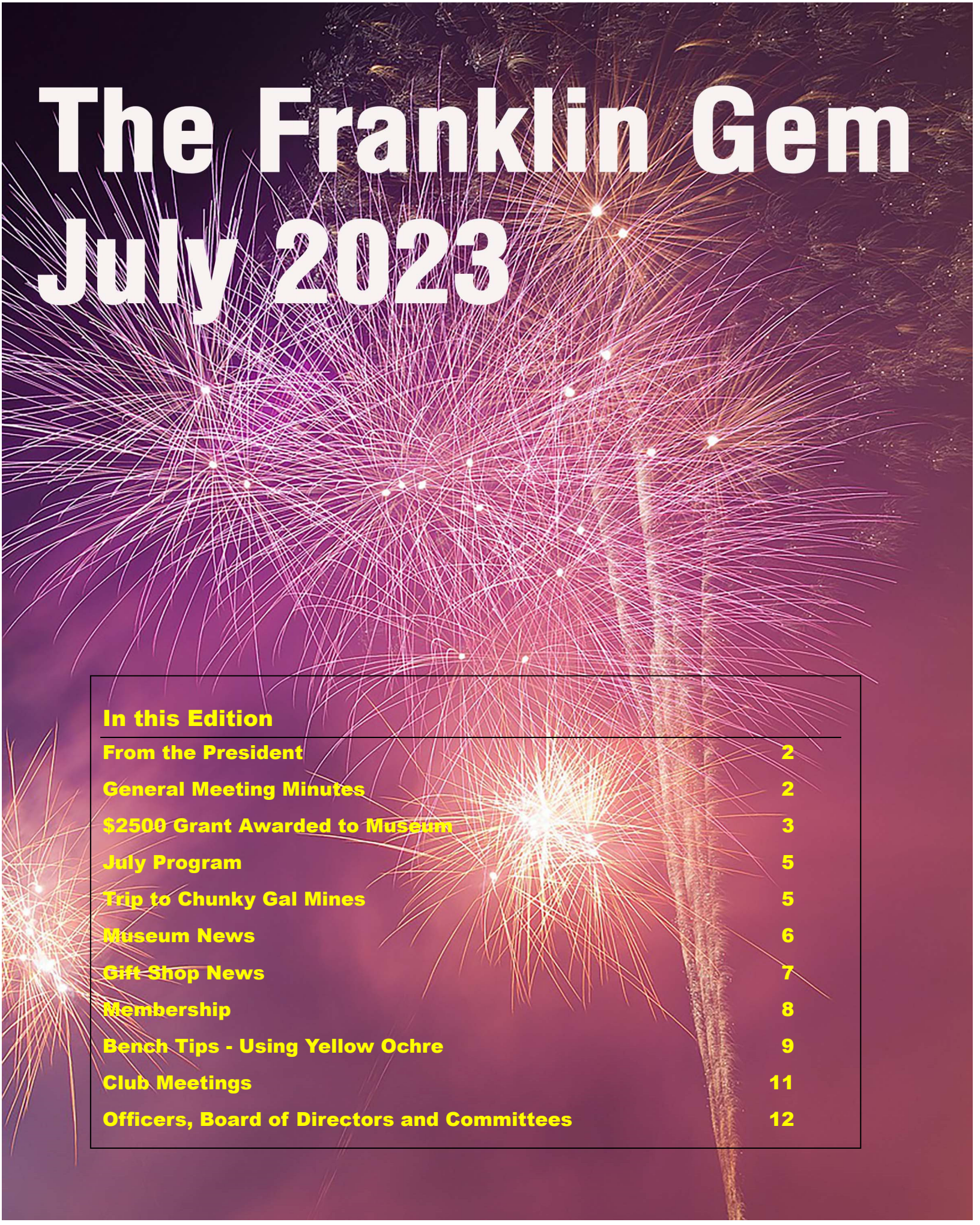
The Franklin Gem
July 2023



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From the President

Stacy Walbridge

We have another Gem Show coming up at the end of the month. This one is led by the Chamber of Commerce with support from our club. It looks like the Carpenter Center will be filled with vendors and our club table will be located in the same room as the May show. We still have plenty of openings and demonstrators so don't hesitate to sign up at the Museum or online (fgmm.org).

If you like ice cream, our July meeting is our annual ice cream social. Members are asked to bring a topping to share although you may also bring cookies or brownies as I have powerful sweet tooth. During the business part of the meeting an update to the Bylaws will be voted on and we will accept nominations for 2023-2024 officer and board positions.

In August we will have a club table at the Folk Festival at the Cowee Art School and the following Saturday we will host the DMC Field Trip to Chunky Gal. If you are interested in helping out with the Festival see Anamay Rossomando or helping with the Chunky Gal field trip let Chandra Fox know.

For news about our Southeast Federation here is a link to the July edition of the SFMS Lodestar. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lIDjI4zYKU5PgcwwqO80KIJb4fGkmvIl/view?usp=sharing

Stay safe and Best Wishes,

Stacy Walbridge
President

General Meeting Minutes

General Meeting
July 17, 2023
Thursday 6:30pm
First Christian Church
Franklin, NC

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Stacy Walbridge.

Minutes: Chandra Fox (fgmshows@gmail.com). Absent. Motion made and minutes accepted as written.

Treasury: Kathi Walbridge. (FGMM.Treasurer@mail.com) / Charlotte Ellert. Absent. NRpt. The treasurer reviewed proceeds from the May Gem Show. Museum and Gift Shop sales are doing well with a boost received from credit cards sales and donations. Thank you to all volunteers and hosts. You are greatly appreciated. The treasurer has also sent out payment to insurance and utilities. Proceeds and Donations exceeded expenses.

Gem Show: Chandra Fox. (FGMShows@gmail.com) Absent. NRpt. The 56th Annual Macon County

Gemboree is coming up July 28-30, 2023. The Gemboree will be held at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center in Franklin, NC. The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society and Macon County Chamber of Commerce jointly sponsor this Gem Show. We are still in need of volunteers for demonstrations (Cabochon, faceting, wire wrapping, etc.) and hosts for the club tables. Please see signup sheets located online, at the museum or contact Chandra at 706) 982-0402. Thanks for your help!!

Vice President: Larry Ellert. (clellert@yahoo.com). Absent. Nothing to Report.

Museum Manager: Larry Ellert. (clellert@yahoo.com). Absent. Donavon McDonald (d.macd1@frontier.com). NRpt. We are short for host in July at the Gift Shop and Museum. Please consider volunteering. It is a fun way to meet new people and we do offer training. (Last Month) "Ron is offering training for anyone who is interested in hosting at the museum. The training will focus on museum duties and how to operate the cash register. If you are interested in training contact Ron."

Museum Curator: Absent. NRt.
Workshop: NRt. See John Hayes for future Cabbing or Faceting classes.

Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando. (anamay@verizon.net) Absent. Vicky Knisky. (Vicky Knisley (dinkymanor@yahoo.com). Rpt. Things have been very busy at the Gift Shop with lots of visitors. The July Festival is coming up and we also need volunteers for manning club tables as well as assistant positions. Please contact Anamay for further details and to get started!!

Newsletter Editor: Deadline for submissions to the newsletter: July 17, 2023

Publicity: Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com) NRt. Kim has placed postings on Facebook and Instagram and replied to Google reviews.

$2500 Grant Awarded to Museum

The Franklin Gem & Mineral Society & Museum receives $2500 grant from the Macon County Community Funding Pool (CFP)

With the 50th Anniversary of the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum coming up in 2024, Franklin Gem & Mineral Society member, Kim Price, wrote a grant request to the Macon County Community Funding Pool for $2500 to be used as seed money for the celebrations. Kim is a member of the Future Visions Committee along with Ron Rossamondo, Al Pribble, Stacy Walbridge, and Larry Ellert.

The grant will serve all ages from as young as 2 years old (when children first start picking up rocks and bringing them to their parents and others as small gifts) to the very old who reminisce about their rock hounding adventures. This includes the folks in-between who either just love rocks, gems, and minerals, or want to learn more about their science or value. The Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum is a vital resource to Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina, and the World. People travel from all over the World to visit, see our collection, and

experience what this region has to offer. This is wide-open to every population without regard to their age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or religious belief.

The Goals of the Grant are:
To bring attention to and further promote the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum's longevity and activism in the community and region through a celebration of our 50th Anniversary.

To reach out to the Macon County Community through a series of 4 small events and one large event in 2024 through education, promotions, and celebrating the rich history of the Museum, its Collections, and its future in helping and promoting our regions rich gem and mineral history, natural resources conservation, ecology of the region, and educating the public from all around the World about the "Gem Capital of the World"

To show the community how the Museum and Society preserve and educate the public about the ancient art and culture of collecting rocks, minerals, and gems to make cabochons and faceting of gems and making of jewelry out of them.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum will provide the citizens of Macon County with several additional opportunities to visit and learn more about the programs, collections, history, and progress of the Museum from its humble beginnings in 1974 through 2024 and beyond. The public Ribbon Cutting and 3 other smaller events to be held at the Museum in 2024 will invite the community to revisit their museum and hopefully let them see gems and minerals from North Carolina, the United States, and around the World they never thought available in Franklin and Macon County. They will have an opportunity to see how to collect and process rocks and minerals into cabochons, faceted gems, and make jewelry. The "Gem Ball" event will bring attention to the next 50 years of the Museum and how it can grow to provide stewardship and conservation of the regional natural resources through education and hands-on experiencing of rock, gems, and minerals.

The application was submitted in late April and was awarded on June 30th. We have until December 31, 2023 to complete the planning process for our celebration and submit a final report for this grant to CFP. The Future Visions Committee is looking for Society members to volunteer to be the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee. If you are interested in being on the committee, please sign up at the July 27th meeting. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the room at the sign-in table or email Kim Price at kimsafetworks@gmail.com or kprice@safetworksinc.com

July Program

The program for July is Safety, Stewardship, and Conservation in our National Forests. Plus, our Ice Cream Social!

We are putting a sign-up sheet online for the Ice Cream Social toppings.

If you are willing to help with the toppings, please sign up by going out to the MEMBERS portal on the museum website: www.fgmm.org

We are looking for the following toppings:

Hot fudge sauce
Caramel sauce
Chopped nuts
Mini-marshmallows
Whipped cream (#1)
Whipped cream (#2)
Chocolate sprinkles
Rainbow non-pareil sprinkles
Maraschino cherries
Mini M&Ms
Mini-cookies
Cones
Cones
Strawberries
Blueberries
Sliced Bananas

Trip to Chunky Gal Mines

CONTACT: Chandra Fox, fgmshows@gmail.com, (706) 982-0402 for more information and to volunteer

FGMS will host a trip to Chunky Gal mines on Saturday, August 26, 2023. It is sponsored by DMC and the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

3 Sites on Chunky Gal Mountain

There will be 3 sites for collecting: Buck Creek, Chunky Gal Mine, and Herbert Corundum Mine, with guides/monitors posted at all areas. Each area has safety precautions and will be supervised by the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin members.

COLLECTING AREAS: Degree of difficulty for each area assigned.

Moderate 1) BUCK CREEK is known for its small gemmy almandine garnets. In and around the creek, quartz and chert are available, as well as a blue corundum dump pile and a ruby area.

Hard 2) CHUNKY GAL MINE, on the top of the mountain, has smaragdite with ruby confirmed with a long wave UV light. Some bronze sapphire and some blue corundum can be found there as well.

Hard-Demanding 3) HERBERT CORUNDUM MINE has hexagonal corundum crystals, mostly white and blue, found in the creek. Collecting in this area requires the ability to hike 2 miles round trip. Tiffany's first mined rubies/sapphires at this location for gem-abrasive quality minerals in the early 1900s. An old vertical mine is located here with several horizontal tunnels to see but not to explore!

Museum News

Thanks to Stephanie Brundage for this photo of flowers around the museum.

While Susan Ray was hosting on Wednesday, July 12th, she was struck with how busy the members area of the Museum was so she took a couple of pictures. Susan snapped these pictures Wednesday, July 12 at the museum.

Stephanie Brundage & Marsha Harmon hard at work with the cabbing machines.

Jim Carpenter and Karl Williams overseeing John Hayes instructing Chandra Fox in the fine details of faceting.

Gift Shop News

Anamay Rossomando

Want to Thank brand new member Jim Carpenter, Mr. Reliable Karl Williams, Mike White, & Ron R. for helping with the outside Heritage Day sales, Stacy for always helping with early morning set up, Ron B., Roberta & Lenny P. for hosting the visitors inside the museum. It was great seeing Marie T, Christine H.,

Elena & Tom M., Kathi & family who stopped by to say Hi.

Our next big event is the Gemboree on July 28-30. Vicki & I would like to Thank Barbara R. for volunteering to oversee the setup of our tables with merchandise from the museum gift shop.

We will be shopping for new & unique items to restock the gift shop. So, stop by for always great prices & friendly service from our Great Hosts!

Membership

By Roberta & Leonard Pipitone

Franklin Gem and Mineral Society would like to welcome our newest members and they attended the June meeting. Be sure to say Hey and introduce yourself, if you see them in town or at the next meeting.

Left to right; Angela Harvey, Scott Harvey, Marcia Mycko

Bench Tips - Using Yellow Ochre

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

Ochre Applicator

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.

Upcoming Shows

July 28-30 Franklin, NC
Macon County Gemboree, The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce & The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC; Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4.

July 26-30 Franklin, NC
Highlands Road Gem Show, 1602 Highlands Road, Franklin, North Carolina 28734

July 27-30 Franklin, NC
G&LW Wholesale Gem Show. Over 200 booths featuring U.,S. and International Wholesale Vendors of Diamonds, Gemstones, Pearls, Fine Jewelry, Fashion Jewelry, Findings, Minerals, Fossils and Lapidary Equipment. Wholesale Only Shows – Open Only to the Trade Valid Business License OR Tax Certificate OR Sales and Use Tax Permit in Gem or Jewelry Related Business Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-3.

August 3-6 Spruce Pine, NC
NC Mineral and Gem Festival. Thursday-Saturday 10am-6 pm and Sunday 12:30-5:00 pm Three Peaks Enrichment Center (Formerly Pinebridge Coliseum) 97 Pinebridge Ave. Spruce Pine, NC.

Club Meetings

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
July 25, 2023	Board Meeting	6:30 PM	All members are welcome	
July 27, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	USFS Safety & Stewardship Ice Cream Social	Bernd & Maggie Phoenix
August 29, 2023	Board Meeting	6:30 PM	All members are welcome	
August 31, 2023	General Meeting	6:30 PM	The Importance of Local Material Quarries Election of officers	Chandra Fox
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 Provided
October 24, 2023	Board Meeting	6:30	All Members are Welcome	
October 26, 2023	General Meeting	6:30		
Meeting Location First Christian Church of Franklin 156 Belleview Park Road Franklin, NC				

Newsletter Deadline for August is August 17

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.