

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

MAY 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

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. | 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 | 774-203-8017 |
| 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 (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

May Meeting

Date: May 25, 2017

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

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

Program: **TBD**



Tom Sterrett, President

Hey There! Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our volunteers within our club. Give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back! Spring is here and our museum is now open, Monday through Saturday, 12-4. Please step up and put 4 hours in at the museum this month...this year!

Ralph Crawford and I completed the Gem & Mineral display at the new Chamber of Commerce site and it's looking great (if I must say so myself!) A big thank you to Ralph for his help with the installation of the display.

Thank you also to our new refreshment chairperson, Joyce Jacques (aka JJ). Call her if you want to help. We still need a membership chair and help with our calendar chair.

New Class sign-up sheets are up at the museum. Classes are open to all members in good standing. Just remember our equipment at the museum is for personal enrichment only. No commercial ventures are allowed.

Parents of junior members, our Pebble Pup classes will start with our August meeting, hopefully held at the renovated community center. Please let me know which month you can lead the class. We'll provide instruction materials and specimens. The following month, we'd like the students to provide a short synopsis of what was learned.

Fun field trips are planned this year. We would like to offer Geology field trips as well. No collecting, just educational.

Please share your opinions and suggestions, and as always...Rock On!!!



June Birthdays

4 - Marsha Harmon

11 - Duane Haskell

18 - Doris Smith

19 - Joyce Jacques



June Anniversaries

10 - Arlon & Sonja Eldridge

16 - Fred & Fran Rasmusson



Birthstones: Pearl, Alexandrite & Moonstone



***Newsletter DEADLINE
Tuesday, June 13th***

Minutes—April 27, 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, April 27, 2017, at the Masonic Lodge. Tom Sterrett reported the recent death of one of our members, Rex Larkin, and asked for a minute of silence. Rex will be very much missed by all.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 39 members present and 3 guests with one person joining this evening: Colette Doyle.

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

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported that our bills outweighed income for the month of March.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge indicated that our scholarship applicant, Sean Price, is present this evening.

Curator – Ralph Crawford suggested we might think about local field trips focusing solely on geology.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh reported two separate Mondays were spent cleaning the museum and he thanked all of those who volunteered and worked. He stated that he, Ron Bischoff, John Hayes and Al Pribble completely rebuilt the outside sandbox.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes thanked Virginia Bennis and Cy Amrich for volunteering their time as instructors. Cabochon classes are to be scheduled. John has been working on a Waiver of Liability for the workshop, which is almost completed. Members will be asked to sign this when memberships are renewed in September.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh reported a slow winter with sluggish sales. Al Pribble is working hard on obtaining bigger black lights that we will sell for \$20 (will be \$18 for members). She intends to go to the GL&W show to seek out purchases for the gift shop. She reported that Mary Bermke and Sherry Newton did a rough inventory. She indicated that Anamay Rossamondo may be back at the end of this month. Anamay is still recovering from her fall.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the deadline for the newsletter will be Tuesday, May 9.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported on the Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig" this coming weekend (3½ hours away). On Wednesday, May 10, another trip is scheduled for Sarah's Creek, which is about 10 miles outside of Clayton, Georgia. There is a Federation trip to Cumberland's Furnace (slag) in Tennessee.

Education – Diane Aiello is not present this evening.

Publicity – George Fritz did not have anything new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mother's Day Weekend Gem Show – Norman Holbert again reminded everyone of the Board's decision to cancel this show. Regarding the July show, the Chamber of Commerce is hopeful; they were told the community building would be ready by then. We will have to wait and see.

Pebble Pups – Tom Sterrett suggested children could meet in a separate room. We could ask that parents of Pebble Pups supervise the meeting and rotate months. A suggestion was that the children could learn about a particular stone or mineral and then have discussion. Specific age-related activities were discussed and members are asked to think about suggestions.

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 6:00 p.m. at the Sunset Restaurant and the public is invited. Saturday morning they will hold their meeting at the library.

Chamber of Commerce Display – Our display is still being worked on with a preview by May 15.

Meeting Minutes cont'd on Page 5

April Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

NEW BUSINESS:

Refreshments – Joyce Jacques has graciously agreed to be our new refreshment chairperson.

Programs – We are still in need of a program chairperson. Al Pribble continues to serve temporarily.

Calendar Chairperson – Al Pribble reported that three people have agreed to do this one month at a time over the summer.

Eclipse – Rhonda Blanton reported that her downtown committee liked our idea of moonstone and sunstone cabs to give out to visitors.

Norman Holbert inquired if anyone might be interested in having a tailgate buy-sell-trade event for members only. Some interest was demonstrated and we can continue to discuss.

There being no further business, Marsha Harmon made a motion for adjournment seconded by Fred Plesner. The meeting was adjourned by President Tom Sterrett at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments were served. A very interesting talk was given by Arlon Eldridge on gem mining in Brazil.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Photos by Ralph Crawford



More General Meeting Photos by Ralph Crawford & George Fritz



*First Visitors in May 2017: Luna & Tanis Deal
from Bryson City, NC*

Photo by Ralph Crawford

Hair

Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus



Do you remember the "Hippy Era" and men with long hair?

There is nothing new about men and long hair as evidenced by the following story:

In 1898 Franklin had a male school teacher by the name of J. C. Ross. Mr. Ross came to Macon county from Union county, Georgia where his luxuriant locks seem to have caused him a certain amount of trouble since he apparently wore his long locks with as much vanity as a peacock with his tail in full feather. On a Monday night in July he was accosted on a street near the western edge of Franklin by a group of boys.

The boys were intent upon having a bit of sport by removing Mr. Ross's long and luxuriant appendage and obtaining some "wool" as they put it. Things didn't go as planned. When the boys attacked J. C. Ross pulled out a pistol and fired a shot through the thigh of Frank Curtis. Panic ensued and the boys fled. In the morning's aftermath warrants were sworn out for Frank Curtis, Otto Love, Charles Robinson, Harry Jones, James Lyle and Will Curtis for assault and for J. C. Ross for carrying a concealed weapon, so everyone wound up being arrested. By days' end on Wednesday everyone had posted bond except Frank Curtis who was unable to leave his bed.

When trial date rolled around all the boys were acquitted except Harry Jones, who was fined one dollar and costs. As for Mr. J. C. Ross, he was required to post a bond in the sum of \$200.00 for his appearance at the next term of the Superior Court. He was then released on his own recognizance.



7.44-carat diamond found at Arkansas state park

Ed Adamczyk



March 17 (UPI) -- A boy found a 7.44-carat brown diamond after 30 minutes of casual digging at Arkansas' Crater of the Diamonds State Park, park officials said.

The park bills itself as "the world's only 'keep what you find' diamond site," and Kalel Langford, 14, found the seventh-largest diamond ever located at the park. Langford, of Centerton, Ark., visited the park Saturday with his family during a break from a baseball tournament in which he competed.

"It was just a few inches from a stream of water, with a bunch of other rocks that were about the same size," he said in a statement Thursday.

The family was shocked to discover the gem, which it quickly named Superman's Diamond – after naming their son Kalel, his parents learned it was also comic book hero Superman's birth name – was real.

"Conditions were ideal for Kalel to find his diamond. About an inch of rain fell on the plowed search area during the week. A heavy rain can uncover larger diamonds near the surface. Diamonds have a metallic-looking shine and are often easier to spot on top of the ground," said park official Waymon Cox. "Kalel's diamond is about the size of a pinto bean, and it's very dark brown, similar to coffee. Overall, the gem has a frosted appearance and is shaped somewhat like a pillow or a kite."

The value of the diamond has not been determined. Kalel said he intends to keep it as a souvenir of his visit.

Photos courtesy of Crater of Diamonds State Park

Field Trip

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



April 28-30 made for another great Graves Mountain trip and six club members took full advantage. This year my goal was to visit all 3 pit mines and find as many different materials as possible. While some members focused on just one or two. The list of found materials included: rutile (quarter-size crystal), green kyanite, lazulite, iridescent hematite (rainbow and huge splashes of color), blue quartz, quartz crystals, pyrophyllite, and pyrite (small cubes).

If you have not made it to Graves Mountain, then you really need to. Plan to stay nearby and plan to go as many days as it takes to sample the wide variety of minerals available. This mine is open free of charge two weekends each year, thanx to Junior, the mine's caretaker. A couple hundred rock hounds (April 2017) can't all be wrong!

The month of June we will focus on 2 DMC trips: Earthen Paradise, June 17th and Hammett Gravel Pit, June 10. We will also report on a new local spot Sarah's Creek near Clayton, which has moonstone (white and peach), quartz with garnet inclusions, and sapphires of the large variety. Information for all 3 locations will be available at the next general meeting on May 25th.

If you have a place or type of material you are interested in, just let us know!

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



April Field Trip to Graves Mountain

Photos by Sean Price

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



Museum open 6 days a week, busy with visitors and friends. What more can we ask for. The gem show is in town as I write this, so new items for the gift shop will be purchased and ready for sale soon.

During our work days in April, the garden area was weeded and plants taken care of. At this point, the weeds seem to be winning over the flowers. If anyone could spare a few hours to come in and take care of the area, it would be greatly appreciated. No need to call and ask anyone if you can. Just show up, bring a few tools, a hat, some sunscreen and something to kneel on and do it. Thank you in advance!!

Hoping Anamay and Ron will be back at the end of May.

Always want to say THANK YOU for hosting. If you are a new member, we will be happy to train you. It isn't hard and a lot of fun. Just let us know -

Estwing Geology Picks (Part 2 of 2) Continued from the April 2017 *The Mountain Gem*

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

The Estwing Geology Picks, A Legend Was Born, 1934

As a young boy, little Ernest had an interest in collecting pebbles while walking along the shore of the Baltic Coast in Sweden during the 1890s. It is not known what types of rocks he was collecting, but they were probably beach-rounded agates and any other colorful rocks. He was known as "Rock Boy" by the local Swedes, where he lived near Oland. This was based on his bulging trouser pockets that were often full of good rocks. There is no doubt that Mr. Estwing's interest in rocks dates back to his early childhood.

In 1934, Estwing received a note attached to an order for carpenter hammers sent by a mining engineer from Arizona:

"My blacksmith has been welding pick points to the claws of your hammers, but that still doesn't do the job where busting rocks is concerned. Have you ever considered manufacturing a special hammer-pick for prospectors and mining men? There might be a market for such a product."

It didn't take Estwing very long to see the opportunity for an entirely new line of tools. He immediately began designing the new product and the legendary Estwing geology pick was born during 1934. His initial design featured the familiar short blunt square head, long sharp four-sided pick end, one-piece forged steel, thin shank between the head and the handle and the distinguished laminated-leather grip. After finalizing his design and manufacturing method for the geology pick, Estwing applied for a patent to protect his interests. His initial design has not changed very much since 1934.



To introduce his new product, Estwing sent complimentary rock hammers to the geology departments of several leading colleges during the mid-1930s. Geology students armed with these new "rock smashers" demonstrated the new tool's abilities while in the field, and word of the tools' availability began spreading like wildfire. After the Depression Era economic downturn and the War Years had passed, the Golden Age of Rockhounding began emerging and the demand for the geology hammers increased. However, the sale of Estwing rock picks really took off during the Uranium Rush beginning in the early 1950s. Uranium prospectors throughout the Western States included Estwing geology picks in their list of essential prospecting equipment and as a very important survival tool.

Estwing Geology Picks cont'd on Page 10

Estwing Geology Picks cont'd from Page 9

High Quality Carbon Steel

Estwing's steel, applied to the manufacturing of all of their hammers, axes, knives, pry bars and wood splitting tools, is supplied by Nucor Steel Nebraska and is delivered to Rockford, Illinois from Nucor's plant in Norfolk, Nebraska. The steel billets are composed of high-quality carbon-steel with trace amounts of chemicals added to make the metal malleable during hot-forging operations as well as to enhance strength and durability. The steel is free of non-metallic inclusions, which insures that the solid one-piece tool will be very hard, but not brittle.

When fabricating a hammer in Estwing's machine shop, a steel billet is heated to a high-temperature and then subjected to several strokes on the drop-forge equipment, set with the proper dies (based on the tool's general form and design). The forged steel is then annealed in an oven for a brief period and allowed to cool slowly. The steel is finally heat-treated for an extended length of time and quenched in oil. Some variations to this process are applied to certain tools, depending on the mass of steel being formed and the tools' design applications. Details of the metallurgical chemistry, as well as manufacturing temperatures are proprietary.

After forging, annealing and heat-treating, the steel is allowed to finish cooling to room temperature. The tool is then machined into its final shape. For the manufacturing of hammers and axes, the leather or vinyl grip is formed, and the tool is then machined and polished for the removal of any burrs or upsets where the grip meets the steel. The Estwing insignia is then applied to the grip. The tool is given a final polish, coated with a clear finish and applied with an adhesive decal.

The Innovations and Improvements Never Stopped

In 1960, after years of applying laminated leather for the hammer grips, Mr. Estwing introduced a blue molded nylon grip. In 2001, the chemistry of the nylon grip was improved by Estwing Manufacturing Company, allowing for the absorption of 50% more of the vibration shock generated from a blow of the hammer on a hard surface.



Estwing Manufacturing Company's building in Rockford, Illinois has expanded numerous times since those early years, to address the increase demand for tools, to house new machinery, to upgrade new electric power requirements, to modernize the office space and to produce new product lines. Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. is still a family-owned and family-managed business enterprise. Today, the company has over 200 employees. Over fifty of their employees have been with the company for more than 25 years.

The Company's dominant product line continues to be their hammers, including geology picks, carpenter's hammers, engineer's hammers, crack hammers and drilling hammers. Their greatest markets include the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Norway, New Zealand and Australia. In Germany, Estwing supplies the "Latthammers", specially designed roofing hammers made to exact German specifications.

Conclusion

Hand tools fabricated by Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. are still made to the quality standards specified by Ernest O. Estwing beginning in those early years of the 1920s. After numerous patents, the Estwing continues to develop new product lines and improve existing tool designs, never deviating from the high standards that made the company successful. Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. still operates just as Mr. Estwing envisioned, remaining as a family-owned and operated business-enterprise staffed with dedicated employees. Estwing's company website states: "The history of Estwing Manufacturing Company reflects the promise of the free enterprise system, that success comes to anyone who can 'build a better mousetrap' "

From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

Gem and Mineral Shows



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

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

June 10 & 11, Cartersville, GA

Tellus Science Museum; RockFest 27; 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; fun for all ages; tellusmuseum.org; 770-606-5700

June 15, 16 17 & 18, Downtown Franklin, NC

Taste of Scotland Clan Dinner; Tartan Hall; 6 PM; \$25 per plate
Taste of Scotland Festival; Events 16th & 17th Free; all things Scottish; always Father's Day weekend; www.tasteofscotlandfestival.org

July 4, Downtown Franklin NC

Full day of food, games, cornhole tournament, etc.; 10:00 AM Parade; 7:00 PM Entertainment on Stage; 9:30 PM Fireworks; Franklin Chamber 828-524-3161

July 21, Downtown Franklin NC

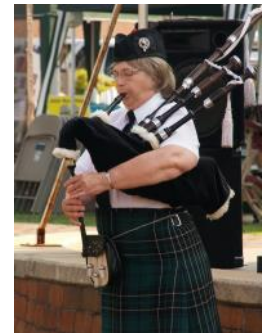
Appalachian Heritage Festival; 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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; franklin-facetersfrolic.com

August 21, Monday, Downtown Franklin, NC

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



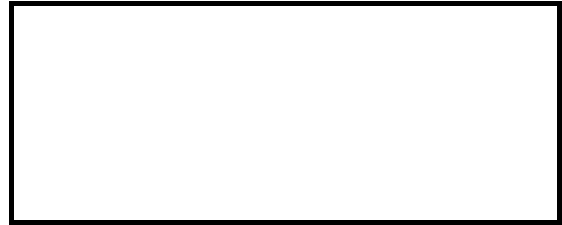
THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



| Month | Board Meeting | General Meeting |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| January 2017 | | |
| February | | |
| March | | |
| April | | |
| May | 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.