



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

September 2021 Newsletter

WWW.FGMM.ORG

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**Cover Photograph – Quartz Cluster
Bower-Powers Farm, NY**

Photograph by Stacy Walbridge



August 26th GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Susan Fritz, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Morgan on Thursday, 08/26/21, at 6:30 p.m., at First Christian Church of Franklin.

Minutes – Jane Morgan asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the July meeting as printed in the newsletter. Stacy Walbridge moved that they be accepted and Marsha Harmon seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Treasurer- Kathi Walbridge reported that we continue to be in the black due to our insurance payment. However, donations at the museum have been generous.

Museum Manager – Larry Ellert stated he will buy two new wheels for the cabbing machines. He will replace the sink and hot water in the museum. He wished to thank Mark Laing, Marsha Harmon, Ron Bischoff, Anamay Rossomando and Ron Rossomando for the help with the new bookcase.

Museum Curator – Mark Laing reported about the moving of the bookcase and placing specimens in it. He will get a plaque in the States Room stating this was donated by Dave Bressler and Family.

Gift Shop – Anamay Rossomando wished to thank Ron Bischoff and Ron Rossomando for fixing up the Library. She discussed Market Day downtown this Saturday on 09/04. We will have our tent up outside.

Newsletter Editor – Stacy Walbridge stated the newsletter deadline will be September 22. He asks members to contribute articles and photos. He reported that Susan Fritz won an Honorable Mention from the AFMS for her article regarding chrome diopside.

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

Membership – Tom Parker reported 22 members present this evening and one guest – Don McDonald.

FROM JANE MORGAN Outgoing President

Autumn is in the air and giving way to change. The trees are on the verge of changing their colors. Summer flowers give way to Fall blooms. It is also time for our officers to change too. I wish the incoming officers the best of luck. I want to thank you all for allowing me to be your President the last couple of years. It has been my pleasure to serve you. Thank you for all your help during that time. Please support the incoming Officers and the Museum.
Thank You,

Jane Morgan.



Field Trips/Education – Marsha Harmon mentioned that the flat showcase in the public Library needs to be cleaned out by Monday. She explained about tours and that there are no school group tours now but some have requested that they be given a presentation at the school. Regarding the scholarship program, Marsha explained more in detail and stated we are all here to provide education. There is a field trip tomorrow and this is the first since December of 2019. The field trip is to Chunky Gal. Seven members are signed up to go and will depart at 8 a.m. sharp.



Members at the August Meeting
Photograph by George Fritz

FROM MARK LAING Incoming President

As the incoming president I would like to thank the outgoing officers who gave up their valuable time and efforts to keep the club going during the Covid epidemic. I would like to especially thank Jane Morgan for her unselfish devotion to the club. Susan Fritz also deserves a big hand for being at all the meetings and keeping the minutes. Marsha Harmon would also be next in line as well as all the people who gave of themselves.

If you've been to the museum you have probably noted that there is a large new display case in the meeting room. Heinz Bressler passed away and his collection of minerals and jewelry tools were donated by his son to the club. I have just about finished cataloging it in, and hope to have the display set up in the next few weeks. The club, has been having a hard time keeping the museum open due to the lack of help. If you can find the time we would love to see you volunteer.

Hope to see you soon.

Mark Laing

Streets of Franklin – Charlotte Frye reported that the interim president of this group will now be the owner of the Kitchen Sink.

July Gem Show – Norman Holbert reported that the show went extremely well and netted us over \$4,000. There is another gem show in October and he would like to have the new chairperson in place to handle that show.

Scholarships – Al Pribble gave an explanation of our mini-grant program to local teachers and our scholarships for college student studying in the field of Earth Science. Last year we were able to give some mini-grants to those in the STEM program.

Programs – Kathi Walbridge stated this will be her last time as program chairperson. In September we will have installation of officers by Mayor Bob Scott. The club will provide pizza. Kathi also



reminded everyone that we need a Refreshment Committee Chairperson.

OLD BUSINESS:

Secretary – Susan Fritz announced again that this will be her last meeting as secretary and that we need someone to step up and volunteer for this position.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jane Morgan reported that Arlon Eldridge is in the hospital. She also stated that Bushy and Mike Hartman have been ill with Covid.

John Hayes announced that he will be presenting the Curator with an old sign he acquired from the Crater of Diamonds mine in Arkansas. He also has a Corundum Mill specimen he will be donating.

Election of Officers – Al Pribble made a motion that we have the election by acclamation. Stacy Walbridge seconded the motion. The motion was put out for a vote and the motion passed. Therefore:

President – Mark Laing

Vice President – Al Pribble

2nd Vice President – Larry Ellert (the museum manager acts in this position)

Secretary – This position is open

Treasurer – Kathi Walbridge

Assistant Treasurer – Charlotte Frye

Museum Manager – Larry Ellert

*Curator – Mark Laing (this position is appointed by the Museum Manager)

2-year Board of Directors – Marsha Harmon

2-year Board of Directors – Matt Castor

1-year Board of Directors – Charlotte Frye

1-year Board of Directors – Susan Fritz

Silent Auction: Arrowheads are available at \$15/each; two shadowboxes; 5-speaker surround sound system donated by Marie Tsacrios (would like a minimum \$100 donation).

There being no further business the business meeting was adjourned by President Jane Morgan at 7:15 p.m.

Door prize winning tickets were drawn. Tonight's program was on Montana sapphires presented by Tom Parker.



MEMBERSHIP – SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

According to our Rules of Incorporation we may accept the 2022 dues beginning in September. They are technically due between October 1 and December 1 of the current year. We will be set up and ready at our next open meeting for anyone wishing to pay a little early.



Thank you.

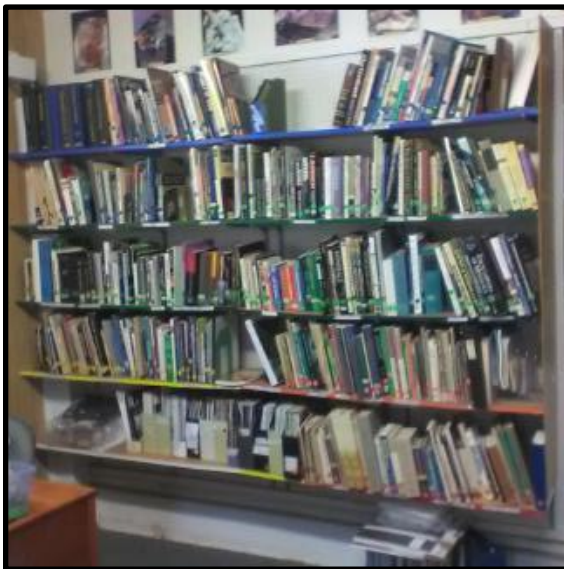
Tom Parker/Diane Mason
Membership Committee



LIBRARY CHANGES

Photographs and Article by Ron Rossomando

Heinz Bressel, former curator (1998-99) passed away July 17, 2021. He was 93 years old and lived in Franklin for the past 29 years. He was an active member of the society as curator and 2nd vice-president. Thanks to a generous donation from the family we have received three book cases and over 150 books and journals. On Monday, Aug. 9th, Larry Ellert, Marsha Harmon, Mark Laing and Ron Rossomando took possession of the gifts. It will take several months to document and display the gems, minerals and books.



Old Library Shelves



New Library Shelves



The old library shelves have been dismantled and replaced with the new book cases, pictured here, the books have been reviewed, indexed and filed. His extensive gem and mineral collection as well as his library of over 150 books was gifted to the museum by his family. We are very thankful for this generous donation.

Many journals were distributed to our members at the last General Meeting and any remaining journals have been donated to the Franklin Public Library. Duplicate copies of the books are on sale in the gift shop.

It was a group effort and many thanks to those who helped with this change: Ron Bischoff, Larry Ellert, Mark Laing, Marsha Harmon and Anamay and Ron Rossomando.

We are truly blessed to have this gift and to display these items in our museum for all to admire. What a wonderful legacy he has left us to remember him by.

CHUNKY GAL FIELD TRIP

By Helen Rogers

Photographs by Stacy Walbridge

Early morning on Friday, August 27th, a small group (Marsha Harmon, Jay and Jenny Mooney, Lara Jackson, Helen Rogers, Kathi and Stacy Walbridge and a guest) met at the FGMS Museum in Franklin, NC to hunt rubies at Chunky Gal Mountain. This was the first official club field trip since December 2019. Following waiver signing, we had the opportunity to look at ruby specimens at the museum in daylight and while using ultraviolet light. Rubies fluoresce a shockingly bright violet-red under ultraviolet light excitation aiding in their field identification. While this trip was daytime, we were reminded several times that an ideal time to hunt for rubies is at night using a UV light (long wave UV at 365nm) source to illuminate the ground.

Chunky Gal Mountain and Buck Creek are best known for corundum (including garnets, rubies and sapphires), smaragdite (a green colored chromium actinolite), mica, asbestos, and other minerals. Corundum has the chemical formula Al_2O_3 (2 aluminum atoms bonded to 3 oxygen atoms) producing a hexagonal crystalline structure. When the aluminum component of corundum is substituted with chromium at 1% concentration in its crystal structure, the red color associated with ruby develops. The ruby at Chunky Gal is found mostly as small crystals peppered



throughout the smaragdite matrix. Chips may be found weathered out of the matrix and there have been reports of hexagonal crystals of good gemstone quality being found.

Promptly at 8AM, we pulled out caravan-style and headed west on Highway 64. On this morning, we were reminded that we live in a temperate rainforest by the lush green landscape, and the fog hanging between mountain ridges. This was late August, rain had fallen the night before, and it was a mere 67 degrees when we left Franklin. As we traveled out Highway 64, the fog lifted, giving way to a hanging mist that rose with the warming air currents. Occasionally, the mist pulled back like a curtain revealing a burst of sunlight that quickly disappeared as the curtain swung shut.



Jay Mooney, Lara Jackson, Jenny Mooney taking a break

We proceeded on Highway 64 to Barnett Creek FS Road (FS 6236). The exit is not marked, but it lies approximately 1.25 miles from Buck Creek Road. From there, it was a short drive to the trailhead (GPS: 35 04.888N 083 37.566W) up the rocky forest service road. The road ends with a parking area that accommodates several cars. The foot trail, initially level, soon climbed steeply to a hunting camp. Green crystalline matrix was present underfoot and bordering the trail in a smaragdite kind of 'yellow-brick road' to the main excavation area.

Our group spread out upon arriving in the main excavation area, and soon we were all sifting-digging-squinting-pounding-cracking material. Several years ago Lara Jackson wrote a song, "The Sapphire Squat", about collecting sapphires and good naturedly sang it for us during a break in collecting.



After several hours of hard work and good-natured conversations, everyone left with considerably more to carry out than when they arrived.



Marsha Harmon giving instructions on the proper technique for collecting

A few last thoughts...Chunky Gal Mountain and Buck Creek have a similar geologic history. The area in which they are located is the Blue Ridge province of the Appalachian Mountains. The Blue Ridge mountains are comprised of igneous and metamorphic rock from ancient volcanic eruptions and the pressure, temperature and time that followed. While Chunky Gal is known for its corundum and smaragdite deposits, Buck Creek is known for its deposits of almandine garnet and dunite containing olivine. Mineralogically speaking, smaragdite is metamorphically altered olivine gabbro.

So, why is this interesting? It turns out that olivine is considered an exotic mineral from the continent of Africa. So what is this material doing in the Appalachian mountains of Western North Carolina? Well, 350 million years ago, the

The Sapphire Squat

By Lara Jackson, circa 1991
Sung to the tune of "Hokey Pokey"

Museums are fine
You can have a good time
But the gems they hold
Are neither yours or mine

Chorus

You have to put your shovel in
You have to take your shovel out
You dump it in your screen
And you shake it all about
You hunker, hunker down
And you look at all your rocks
That's called **The Sapphire Squat!**

It takes a mountain climb
Just to reach that mine
Then you dig that dirt
Until you hurt

Repeat Chorus

Smaragdite

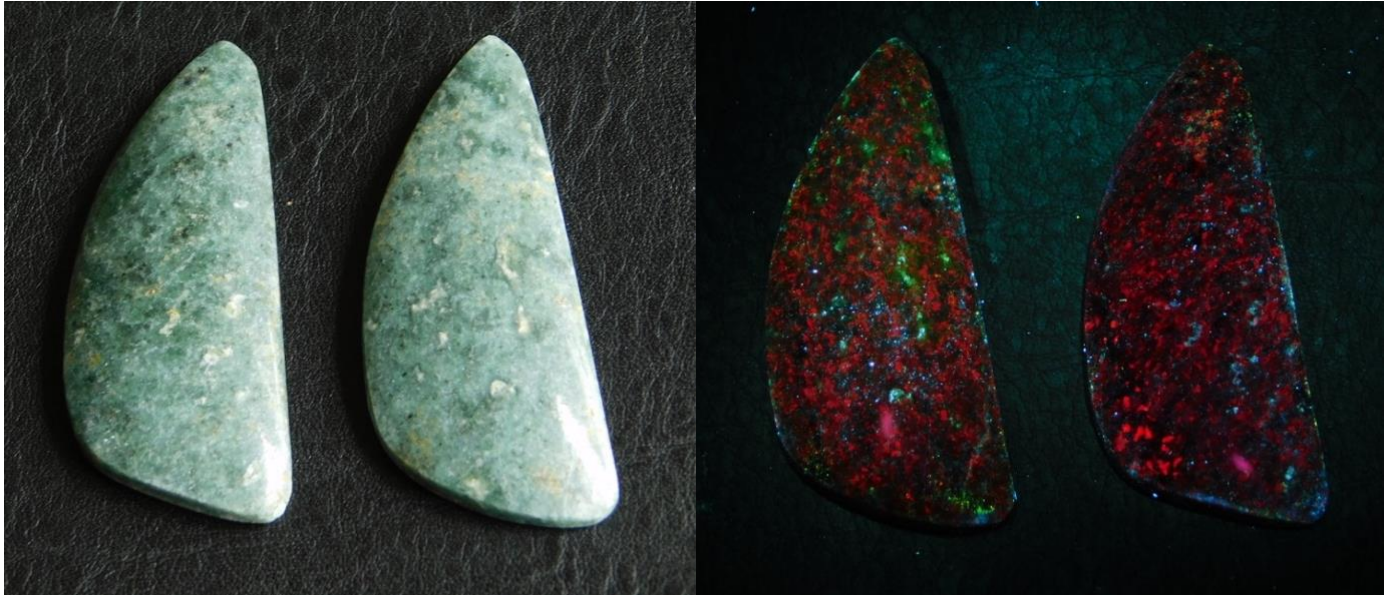
Smaragdite is named from the Ancient Greek word *smaragdos*, originally meaning *emerald* but later meaning *green gem* or *green*.

<https://nationalgemlab.in/smaragdite/>



Appalachian mountains were attached to Africa.

It may be a stretch, but now we can say we've been to Africa.... You just never know where a rock hound is liable to end up.



Ruby in Smaragdite, Natural Light (l), UV Light (r),
Photograph by Stacy Walbridge

References:

Minerals found at Chunky Gal Mountain: <https://www.mindat.org/loc-12747.html>

Forest service information: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5411895.pdf

Smaragdite relationship with olivine: <https://www.epigem.de/en-us/smaragdite.html>

Directions to Chunky Gal and Buck Creek: From: https://sherpaguides.com/georgia/mountains/blue_ridge/eastern/map_buck_creek_chunky_gal.html

Did you know ?

By Fred Plesner Curator Emeritus

1. In October of 1992, Verna Parrish, a Society member, found a 2 # 12 ½ oz. sapphire in Buck Creek (near Chunky Gal Mountain) while on a club field trip.
2. The Sea Shells (on display since 1994) were collected by Al and Marion Hall, Society members, over a 20-year period while on scuba diving vacations.
3. In 1984 Bob Schmidt, Society member, cut the largest cut stone from the Cowee Valley. He cut a 61 carat Ruby from a 307 carat stone.
4. The Arrow Head Collection, 3 cabinets, was donated by Tommy Angel. Tommy Angel was the discoverer of "Angel Falls" in Venezuela, the world's highest waterfall with a drop of 3,212 feet.
5. The Gem and Mineral Society complained, when the 1st salted mine opened in 1975.
6. With the advent of warmer weather our society held its 1st field trip on April 23rd, 1972 at the 4 – K Garnet Mine, now known as the Rose Creek Mine. They were obviously not deterred by cold water.



LITTLE PINE GARNET MINE FIELD TRIP

By Helen Rogers

Not long before our wedding, my husband and I were locating trail rides with a lot of elevation changes in Georgia and North Carolina. We were getting saddle-ready for a two-week horse-camping adventure in the Peruvian Andes. During a break to stretch our legs and water the horses on one particular ride, I remember being gob smacked when I found three rather large garnets in the creek. We were told by the wranglers that the land we were riding across had an old garnet mine. Years later, I had forgotten the name of the trail company, but still had those garnets and the memory of finding them. Now, I know that Sandy Bottom Trail Rides and the Little Pine Garnet Mine in Marshall, North Carolina were where I had found those garnets

On Saturday, September 18th, six members and a guest of the club traveled to Marshall, NC to search for garnets at the Little Pine Garnet Mine. Led by Marsha Harmon; Helen Rogers, Kathi and Stacy Walbridge, Gary Galbrecht, Chandra Coffee and her husband drove about 1.5 hours to Sandy Bottom Trail Rides. We took the highway most of the way with the last half hour on scenic secondary roads that wound through tightly packed mountains and valleys with late 19th century farmhouses and barns. To access the mine, one first proceeds to the trail office and pays for a full or half-day (\$50 or \$25). The friendly folks at the office then provide a map to the mine location.

After parking, there is a road/footpath with moderate incline that leads to the mine. The mine has a cave to the right at the top of the hill which is off-limits to digging and exploration. The story is that someone had dug in the ceiling of the cave causing a minor collapse. Since then, no more cave privileges for anyone. However, there seemed to be plenty of material in the surrounding area without need to enter the cave.

Observing the cave from where it is blocked off, one can get a sense of some of the difficulties of working in it. There is



Mine Entrance – Now Closed
Photograph by Helen Rogers



a rather large opening at the front, with what appears to be a lower chamber in the back wall of the cave, and to the right, an upper chamber that also partially opens to the sky. One could see how it could be cramped-requiring a helmet-and the darkness alone would require head lamps and lanterns. Even if the mine was open, I would opt for mining in the creek.

Ah, the creek. Across from the mine, there is a creek, and on the other side of the creek, a crumbling hill nearly devoid of vegetation. The hill is pockmarked with various holes and comprised of a yellow-dun colored mix of soil, sand and clay. There are two approaches to the stream-the easy and sensible being a descending trail that runs parallel to the stream and road, and though a bit slick, is fairly direct. The second approach is to cross the stream and pick your way down the steep pockmarked hill. Given how slippery this second approach is, experience dictates it's best to venture down the hill in a modified low-profile, crab-walk.

Most people who were at the mine were looking in the stream bed and using the creek as a sluice. Others were digging in the hillside. The garnets found were heavy with squared off edges. Many had a coat of mica schist or were still embedded in the schist matrix. Still, many that had lost their coating of schist or had broken had a deep burgundy color usually associated with garnets.

Garnets are a silicate material with the chemical formula $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$. The color of the garnet relies upon the identity of X and Y. The X site of the formula is usually occupied by a divalent cation (calcium, magnesium, iron (II) or manganese), and the Y site by a trivalent cation (aluminum, iron (III) or chromium). Garnets are usually found as dodecahedral crystals (12 sides). One of the interesting properties of garnets is that



(Top to Bottom) Marsha Harmon, Stacy Walbridge, Gary Galbrecht, and Helen Rogers
Photo by Kathi Walbridge



they do not have cleavage planes—which is why when you hit a cluster of crystals with a hammer and chisel, you get a bunch of broken garnets.



Garnets and Fragments Collected by Helen Rogers
Photograph by Helen Rogers

In reading up on garnets, one of the most interesting pieces of information I found was that neodymium magnets can be used to identify garnets. Garnets (presumably iron containing garnets) are magnetic. Further, magnetic susceptibility and refractive index can be used together as a tool to differentiate garnet species.

If you decide that you want to go to Little Pine Garnet Mine, a few suggestions: bring a potting knee pad to sit on—it makes a jagged, non-level rock a more comfortable place to sit for a few hours. Wear clothing that can get wet and muddy—and bring an extra pair of shoes to drive home in (plus a bag for your muddy shoes). We had very good weather, with the threat of rain holding off until we left. Although the temperature was predicted to get to 79, the coolness of the creek never made it feel overly warm—so that’s a plus if it’s summer, and a warning if it’s winter. And lastly, bring bug spray. We didn’t encounter any bugs, but it’s always a good idea to be prepared. Oh, and save the environment—use a ‘natural’ bug spray if you can—you will be hanging out in or near water. Fish and water insects will appreciate it.

The Little Pine Garnet Mine was originally used from the early 1800s to 1952 for a variety of minerals from talc used in nearby steel mills for chalk pencils to mark on steel before cutting, to garnet used in crafting high quality sandpaper. The mine continued operation after being purchased by Logan Ball in 1918. Logan used the mine searching for high quality garnet specimens. Logan and his son, Jack, continued to mine it until the early 1950s. Jackie remembers how Tiffany had a contract with the mine and removed garnet stones for use in their store in New York City. Jackie acquired the property in 1961 and allowed people to dig in the “spoil piles” from the old mine. But it wasn’t until 1998 that Jackie and his wife, Sue, started to promote it as a tourist attraction with his Sandy Bottom Trail Rides. Whether you are a serious rockhound or a curious amateur, you can spend a few hours or a day digging in those spoil piles.



Sign at the Mine
Photograph by Stacy Walbridge



BENCH TIPS

Photograph and Article by Bradford Smith

LAYOUT TOOLS



Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision on a piece is important, good layout techniques are essential. These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes in the right place, to achieve correct angles, and to cut pieces the correct length.

I like crisp sharp lines to follow, so I often coat surfaces with a dark marker and scribe my layout lines onto the metal. A square makes quick work of checking right angles or marking where to cut, and the thin center punch helps me mark a place to drill holes exactly where I want them.

Finally, a good set of dividers is probably my favorite layout tool. They let me quickly mark a strip for cutting, swing an arc, and divide a line or curve into as many equal segments as I need. I keep at least one set of dividers in every toolbox.



Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Additional Note from Brad:

Last month I mentioned my club's effort to start holding in-person meetings in September. These are now allowed by the city, but we worried that many of our members might not be ready to venture out just yet. So we opted to try it in hybrid mode to accommodate both.

By hybrid, I mean that our club meeting would be attended by some members from home via their computers and by other members at an in-person session in our old meeting room.

Well it was a success in every way. Our club's Zoom Coordinator, Darren, pulled off this nice technical success without a glitch. Attendance was like a typical meeting. A total of thirty people showed up - 10 in person and 20 online. And that included two in-person guests who may join as new members. Participants from home took part in the business meeting and enjoyed the speaker's talk as we've done over the last 18 months with Zoom.

Participants in the meeting room watched everything via the digital projector we use for speaker presentations and could speak to the online participants using a camera and microphone. Both audiences could ask questions at our business meeting and during the speaker's presentation. The evening speaker and the Club President participated from home.

We're keeping track of the numbers. Obviously, the rental cost of the meeting room is a little expensive for a small turn-out of just 10 people, but we feel it's necessary to continue experimenting to find the best way forward for the club to be able to serve all members. October and November are already booked as hybrid meetings.

Wishing you well,

- Brad Smith

BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com



UPCOMING SHOWS

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society

Presents

Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show

featuring

APOLLO 15 MOON ROCK ON DISPLAY

Fine Gold and Silver Jewelry, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Beads, Lapidary Supplies, Children's Fossil Dig and Mining Flume (panning for gem stones), Also Lapidary/Jewelry Demonstration, Displays, Hourly Door Prize Drawing, and Raffle.



Free Parking

Jaycees Community Building, Airport Road, Huntsville, AL

October 8-9, 2021 10 AM to 6 PM

October 10, 2021 10 AM to 5 PM

\$3 donation at the door - children under 5 free

\$1 Students - \$5 Weekend Pass (3 Days)

For additional information call Tony Smith 256-603-3095



November 13 – 14, 2021; Melbourne, FL
 Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society Annual Parade of Gems Show & Sales
JEWELRY & GEM CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOW
 Parade of Gems
 Saturday & Sunday, From 10am - 5pm
 At the Melbourne Auditorium
 625 E Hibiscus Blvd
 Melbourne, FL 32901
<https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/our-show.html>
 \$5 door donation or \$4 with coupon on our website or FB page

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Nov. 21, 12-5
 Adults \$5.00
 Children 16 & Under Free
 All Military Free
 3 day pass \$10

2021 CGMS
Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
19-21 November 2021

Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals,
gold, silver, & tools for sale. Geodes sold & cut.

Club member's rock collections on exhibit
& lapidary demonstrations.
South Carolina amethyst on display.
Lots of fun for the whole family.



November 20 – 21, 2021; West Palm Beach, FL
 Gem, Mineral Jewelry, Bead and Fossil Show
 Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches
 Sat: 9AM-6PM; Sun: 10-5PM, South Florida Fairgrounds, Expo Center East,
 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33411, FREE Parking
 Adults/Seniors \$9; Children under 12 free; 2-day pass \$14; see website for \$1 off coupon
<http://www.gmspb.org>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Board Meeting

6:30 pm Tuesday, September 28, 2021

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

September General Meeting

6:30 pm Thursday, September 30, 2021

Installation of New Officers & Pizza Dinner

First Christian Church of Franklin
156 Belleview Park Road
Franklin, NC

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies: If you are interested in seeing what our regional federation is up to, their monthly newsletter, "Lodestar", is available online at <https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter> or if you wish to subscribe to the Lodestar and/or submit an article/show/report for publication, send SFMS an email at: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com. As always, send your request from the email address you want the newsletter sent to.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies: And for those looking for information at the national level, the monthly newsletter is also online at <http://www.amfed.org/news/>. I did notice an interesting item in the October newsletter regarding Lapis from Afghanistan. Written by John Martin, Conservation and Legislation chair, he identified a bill recently introduced in the House of Representatives that would prohibit the importation of any mineral from Afghanistan. Titled, "H.R. 5088: Stopping Terrorist Minerals Trade Act", the text of the bill may be found online at: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr5088>



Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina
Established 1972

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Jane Morgan, (828-342-8703)
 Past President: Al Pribble, (828-342-3119)
 Vice President: Arlon Eldridge, (828-369-5271)
 Secretary: Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Treasurer: Kathi Walbridge, (802-598-7025)
 Assistant Treasurer: Vacant
 Museum Manager: Larry Ellert, (727-455-1849)
 Director (2020): Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
 Director (2020): Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)
 Director (2019): Diane Mason, (706-379-1718)
 Director (2019): Tom Sterrett, (828-349-3774)

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

Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
 Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
 Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Museum Workshop: Vacant
 Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Program Coordinator: Vacant
 Museum Calendar: Vacant
 Gemborees: Vacant
 Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)
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