



50 Years  
1972 - 2022



The Mountain Gem

November 2022

# THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

November 2022 Newsletter



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Cover Photograph: Some of Brad Fraszar's beautiful cabochon work!  
Provided by Brad Fraszar



### From the President Stacy Walbridge



The Museum is now on the winter schedule and is typically open only on Saturdays through April. Mike and Bushy Hartman have volunteered to open the Museum on Fridays and Saturdays – Thank You! If you never volunteered as a Museum host the next couple of months is a great time to receive some training and try your hand at hosting. It is actually quite fun and you will always learn something new about our Museum. If you would like to give it a try contact Mike or Bushy and they will set up a time for you to host.

Larry Crary gave a great presentation on Astro-Geology and how the earth was formed at our October meeting and I'm looking forward to the November program on Minerals of Morocco. On December 19th we will have our traditional holiday luncheon/pot luck along with a rousing game of Rock Bingo. Members are asked to bring an inexpensive gem-mineral-fossil related gift for the bingo prizes (no leaverites). There is a signup sheet in the Museum for side dishes/desserts. We'll also have an online signup sheet coming soon.

With the winter months soon upon us now is a good time to learn a new lapidary skill or to refresh some of your techniques. There are faceting and capping signup sheets in the museum and we're looking to schedule a wire wrapping "Make It Day" in the near future. Cabs and wire will be provided by the gift shop for the "Make It Day" with the finished Pendants and Earring sets put up for sale in the gift shop.

Stay safe and Best Wishes,

Stacy Walbridge  
President

## October General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Chandra Fox, Secretary

Photographs by George Fritz

**October 22, 2022**

**Thursday 6:30 P.M.**

**First Christian Church of Franklin**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by President, Stacy Walbridge. (fgmspresident1@gmail.com) He welcomed new and returning members.

Minutes: Motion made to accept the minutes. Minutes unanimously accepted by attending board, members, directors, and coordinators.

**Treasurer:** Kathi Walbridge. (kwalbridge@mail.com) New officers met and updated bank account and signature cards. Financial review conducted by Ron Rossamando has been completed and his report delivered to the society president. Museum sales continue to do well even with fewer visitors. The Pumpkin Festival outside sales were excellent as were the sales from the societies table at the October Gem Show. We have had some equipment expenses for the workshop. Those using the workshop are being good with payment of fees. Bank statements were last reconciled for September 2022. The societies financial health stands in the black.

**Vice President:** Mike Hartman (fgmseditor@gmail.com) . Due to Thanksgiving, the general membership meeting will be held on November 17th.

**Museum Manager:** Larry Ellert. (cllert@yahoo.com). Announced anyone accessing the museum and sets off the alarm system to [Please contact Larry.] His number is posted on the door of the museum.





**Museum Curator:** Mark Laing. (mw.laing@hotmail.com) Absent. Bushy Hartman (bushyhtm@yahoo.com) Acting Curator reports inventory of museum contents is ongoing. We will be giving away artifacts tonight after the meeting at a table in the back of the meeting room.

**Workshop:** Matt Castor. (combatflyfisher@yahoo.com). The workshop is doing well. The Pixie cabbng machine broke at the Gem Show. We have received the refurbished wheels back for the workshop and plan on sending off another set soon. Once all wheels are refurbished, we should be in good condition for years. The society received a donation of an additional cabbng machine from Steve Fox's wife. Thank you.

**Gift Shop:** Anamay Rossomando. ([anamay@verizon.net](mailto:anamay@verizon.net)). Anamay announced the society did well at Pumpkin Fest. Also, proposed organizing a wire wrapping class soon. Time and dates to be announced.

**Newsletter Editor:** Mike Hartman (fgmseditor@gmail.com) Deadline for newsletter submissions is November 7, 2022. Early deadline because we will be meeting a week early as not to conflict with Thanksgiving. Please send photos of specimens from your collection to be published in next month's newsletter. Suggested committee heads submit a report to the secretary.

**Publicity:** Kim Price (kprice@safeteworksinc.com) No Report.

**Scholarships:** Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com) Stacy Walbridge attended a recent zoom meeting featuring a presentation on common opals by Helen Serras-Herman. She is a contributor to Rock and Gem magazine and will be the guest lecturer at Wildacres in May. There is still time for members to enter our drawing for a scholarship to Wildacres or William Holland by recording your volunteer hours at the Museum.

**Future Vision:** Ron Rossomando. (ronrossomando@verizon.net) The Future Vision Committee has met three times over the last month. We are working toward a three-year, five-year, and ten-year growth and development plan for the society.

**Membership:** Tom Parker. (thom2p@gmail.com). The society welcomes several new members again this month. Forty-one (41) members and two (2) guests attending.

**Education:** Marsha Harmon. ([harmonmarsha06@gmail.com](mailto:harmonmarsha06@gmail.com)) Marsha reported the last tour printed in the newsletter went off great. Larry and Fred have volunteered for a tour at Cowee School. Prizes will be given. Larry and Fred will speak on mineral identification in the "Cider Room".

**Field Trips:** Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com) / Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com). Helen was absent; Sean reported that there will not be a fieldtrip this month. Sean will be out of the country December 3rd thru December 10th. Please contact Sean for more information on future field trips.





**Gem Show:** Chandra Fox. (franklingemboree@gmail.com) The October Gem Show was a success. We do not have all the figures back of profits shared with the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Our next Gem Show will be May 19 thru 21st, 2023. The May show dates have been moved back a week to coincide with the G&LW Wholesale Show. The May Show will be solely sponsored by The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society. It is our show! Please consider how you can volunteer to make the May show the best yet!

**Programs:** Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com). This month we will have a program presented by a member of the society, Larry Cleary. Larry will review, compare, and educate us on the fantastic wonders of "Astrology & Astronomy". The November program will be "Minerals of Morocco".

**Old Business:** For FGMS Hosting visit Signup.com. If you are volunteering at the museum and need a key, contact Larry Elbert (clellert@yahoo.com). Volunteers are reminded to write down/log their hours served at the museum to be eligible to win a week scholarship at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts or Wild Acres. Volunteer hours are totaled the first week of December.

**New Business:** Guest Lecturer and Opal Author, Helen Herman will be speaking at Wild Acres May 15-21st 2023. Door Prize Raffle for a set of earrings and necklace was pulled. The necklace and earrings were constructed of Ethiopian glass, faceted, and set in Sterling Silver. Valued at \$150.00. Tickets for the raffle were offered at the last Gem Show and through the societies Gift Shop. The winner will be reached by phone.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.



## Gift Shop News by Anamay Rossomando

It's been a busy summer & fall; a big THANK YOU for all the help we got from our members, we couldn't have done this without you! Bushy Hartman will be taking over the winter & spring shift, thank you Bushy!! Any ideas or input can be given to her. Our Raffle for the next year has already started, we would like to thank Doreen Radich (a friend of the museum), from Florida, for donating a beautiful sterling silver & 14k gold turquoise bracelet & ring. If you haven't been by the museum, stop by & check them out & buy some chances to win!

## Leaf Looker Gemboree by Kim Price

Chandra Fox and Sean Price did an amazing job with the 2022 Leaf Lookers GEMBOREE. They spoke with many of the vendors and got them pumped for the 2023 May Show. Vendors were happy to see "new blood" working on the Gemboree and are looking forward to a new and invigorated May Show. Several have even volunteered to work with FGMS to ensure the show is a success.





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L-R: Jay Mooney, Earl McGaughey, Norm Holbert, John Hayes, and Chandra Fox (Gemboree Chairperson)

Chandra and Sean want to thank all the volunteers who helped, set-up, tear-down, and staff the FGMS booth all three days. One of the vendors who wished to remain anonymous stated, "With their help and dedication, the show was a success."



L-R: Earl McGaughey, Chandra Fox (Gemboree Chairperson), Norm Holbert, Jay Mooney, and John Hayes





50 Years  
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Norm Holbert



Roberta & Leonard  
Pepitone

Jay Mooney



Jenny Mooney

Deborah Wright





Presentation by:  
Anamay & Ron  
Rossomando



How many men does it take to fold the banners...SEVEN! L-R: John Hayes, Mike Hartman, Ron Bischoff, Donovan MacDonald (behind Ron), Paul Thomas (Behind Gary), Larry Ellert (just the top of his hat), and Al Pribble

### Pumpkin Fest by Mike Hartman

A table was set up outside the Museum, with plenty of passers-by! And, it was quite busy inside as well!



L-R: Ron Rossomando, Jacey Fleszar, & Virginia Bennis



L-R: Ron Bischoff, Marsha Harmon (helping a customer) and Mike Hartman (hiding behind the counter)





### Monster Mash & Boo Bash by Mike Hartman

Fun was had by all!! Great costumes, (L-R) Charlotte Ellert (Poodle Skirt 50's) (Scarry) Larry Ellert, with Mike Hartman (Jailbird) & Bushy Hartman (Venice Carnevale), and quite a turnout!



Bushy Hartman's costume (Venice Carnevale) was captured by Bob Scott, and presented in the Life in Franklin! For Mike Hartman, he was arrested and returned to the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum jail!





November Field Trips  
by Helen Rogers



DMC Field Trip Sharing Program  
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve  
www.southeastfed.org  
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An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (Columbia, SC) (HOST)

Saturday, December 3, 2022  
Meet at 7:30 AM Eastern Time  
Trip 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Eastern Time  
Mount Pleasant, SC  
Registration Required by November 15th  
Limit 60 People  
Fee: \$50

**NOTE:** DMC field trips will continue to be planned and scheduled, but may be cancelled or rescheduled pending COVID-19 status. If there are any changes to a trip, all contacts listed for DMC member clubs will be notified via email as soon as possible. The DMC trip schedule page on the SFMS website (<https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program/dmc-field-trip-schedule>) will also be updated with the current status of trips. **Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator**





**TRIP:** We are heading to Morris Island to collect Miocene fossils (teeth and bones) that have been deposited through Charleston Harbor dredging operations. The trip includes a scenic boat ride across Charleston Harbor that passes by Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter where the first shots of the civil war occurred.

**COLLECTING:** Our target is surface collecting fossils on Morris Island beach in Charleston Harbor. Morris Island is used as a spoil deposit area for dredging Charleston Harbor and the spoil material contains abundant fossils. You reach the island by a boat that takes folks to the back side of the island where you are dropped off to collect.

**BRING:** Bring a backpack or small bucket along with zip lock bags and wrapping paper for carrying your finds. Bring your own snacks and drinks.

**TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Boots or sturdy tennis shoes (that you don't mind getting wet) are recommended for walking on the beach. Bring weather appropriate clothing because you will be exposed during the boat ride (boat has a roof but not enclosed) and on the beach.

**FEE:** \$50.00 per person for the chartered boat ride to reach the collection area.

**CHILDREN (Yes):** Suitable for children, 5 years and older.

**PETS:** No

**FACILITIES:** No facilities once you get on the boat.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Hotels are available in Mt. Pleasant and a little further away in Charleston, SC. Hotel rates should be lower due to being outside of tourist season. Early December is an excellent time to visit the Charleston area.

**REGISTRATION:** We have access to two boats that hold up to 30 people each so we have to limit the number of folks to 60 individuals. Therefore, we need an **RSVP by November 15<sup>th</sup>** so that our club can contact the outfitter to confirm our boat needs. If you have reserved a place but are unable to attend the trip, **please be considerate** to your fellow fossil collectors and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s). Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If the trip is full, click [here](#) to fill out a waiting list form.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:** The meeting place will be in the Mt. Pleasant area. Once you reserve, you will be informed of the exact meeting location to board the boat. There are restrooms available before you board the boat. Please bring the fee (cash or check) and give it to Ron Ahle. Please arrive 30 minutes early to complete payment and fill out a release form.

**CONTACT:** Helen Rogers ([helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com](mailto:helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com)) or Sean Price ([blackpinesgeology@gmail.com](mailto:blackpinesgeology@gmail.com)) for more information.





**Upcoming Shows**

**November 18-20 Columbia, SC**

Columbia Gem & Mineral Society

54<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; 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.

Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd., Columbia, SC; Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; \$5 Adults, 16 & under FREE, All military & their dependents FREE.



**February 9-12 Tucson, AZ**

Tucson Gem & Mineral Society

"SILICA - Agates and Opals and Quartz, Oh My!"

Tucson Convention Center - 260 S. Church Avenue, Tucson, AZ

\$12 Adults, Children under 14 are FREE with a paying adult.

<https://www.tgms.org/show>



**May 19-21 Franklin, NC**

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin Show and Sale; Robert C. Carpenter

Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; \$3 adults; 12 & under Free.





**Club Announcements**

**November Board Meeting**  
(All members are welcome)  
**4:00 pm Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
First Christian Church of Franklin  
156 Belleview Park Road  
Franklin, NC

**November General Meeting**  
**6:30 pm Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
First Christian Church of Franklin  
156 Belleview Park Road  
Franklin, NC

**Newsletter Deadline for December is 12/07/2022**

**2022 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)**

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
October 21-23 Gem Show				
November 17, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Minerals of Morocco by Sean Price	TBD
December, 2022	General Meeting	6:30 PM	Christmas Party	Christmas Party





### Club Officers and Board of Directors

President: Stacy Walbridge, (802-598-9548)  
 Past President: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)  
 Vice President: Mike Hartman (850) 868-1576  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)  
 Director (2023): Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)  
 Director (2023): Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)  
 Director (2022): Susan Fritz, (828-524-4936)  
 Director (2022): Charlotte Ellert, (828-200-6023)

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

### Committees

Membership: Tom Parker, (828-342-3619)  
 Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)  
 Assistant Curator: Bushy Hartman, (850-868-1576)  
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)  
 Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)  
 Gift Shop Assistant: Bushy Hartman, (850-868-1576)  
 Museum Workshop: Matt Castor, (828-421-8701)  
 Publicity: Kim Price (336-653-1201)  
 Field Trip Coordinator: Helen Rogers (404-784-2531)  
 Field Trip Assistant: Sean Price (336-964-2061)  
 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: Vacant  
 Gemborees: Chandra Fox (706-982-0402)  
 Gemborees Assistant: Sean Price (336-964-2061)  
 Scholarships: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)  
 Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)  
 Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)  
 Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)  
 Newsletter Editor: Mike Hartman, [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

