# THE MOUNTAIN GEM

## Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1972

## March 2023 Newsletter

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WWW.FGMM.ORG

Cover photograph by Stacy Walbridge
Rosetta Lace Agate from Durango, Mexico.

## From the President

**Stacy Walbridge**

Over the past month we've had several members volunteer for our open positions and I would like to extend a big thank you to Vicki Knisley for volunteering as the Assistant Gift Shop Manager, Nancy McShane as our Streets of Franklin (SOF) representative, and Roberta and Leonard Pipitone as co-chairs of the Membership Committee. We still have a need for a Museum Host scheduler and Newsletter Editor so if you think you may have an interest in volunteering for one of these positions don't hesitate to contact me.

While visiting one of the shows in Tucson recently I was amazed by this gorilla statue. What caught my eye was the material the artist used to construct the statue. If you look closely you'll see that the gorilla is made entirely of recycled spark plugs!

See you at the next meeting.

Stacy Walbridge
President

## February General Meeting Minutes

**Submitted by Kathi Walbridge for Chandra Fox**
**Photographs by Kim Price**

**February 23, 2023**
**Thursday 6:30 pm**

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

**Minutes**: A motion to approve the January minutes posted in the February Newsletter was made by Marsha Harmon, seconded by Matt Castor, and approved by the members..

**Treasurer**: Kathi Walbridge. (FGMM.Treasurer@mail.com). Income exceeded expenses. Gift shop sales steady for days museum is open, donations are low

**Gem Show**: Chandra Fox. (FGMShows@gmail.com) Absent, Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com). Vendors are signing up, the use of the

Carpenter Building is secured. There will be a call for volunteers to support the show – ticket takers, hosts for the Society Table, demonstrators, etc. There is an online signup sheet on our website at fgmm.org (click on "*More"* then "*Members"*.)

**Museum Manager**: Larry Ellert. (clellert@yahoo.com).

- Liberty Wood Products is working on a quote for 50 display cabinets in either Oak or Melamine.
- Need host volunteers for Fridays and Saturdays.
- Several Committee positions are open (Membership, Assistant Membership, Assistant Gift Shop Manager, Assistant Curator, Host Scheduler.)

**Gift Shop**, Stacy Walbridge for Anamay Rossomando (anamay@verizon.net). Hosts are reminded to let Larry or Stacy know if gift shop merchandise is getting low.

**Museum Curator**: Mark Laing. (mw.laing@hotmail.com) Absent.

**Workshop**: Matt Castor. (combatflyfisher@yahoo.com). Nothing to report.

**Refreshments**: Charlene Galbrecht (charlenesg@bellsouth.net),

- A big Thank You to Tamara Zwinak for bringing the evening's refreshments.
- A reminder to members to bring their own cups for refreshments to minimize waste.
- A volunteer for April refreshments is needed.
- A Garbage Committee is recommended to take the trash out to the dumpster after meetings. This is often big and bulky but not heavy. It is also recommended that liquids be poured in the sink (bathroom or kitchen) prior to disposing of the cup.

**Education/Tours**: Marsha Harmon. (harmonmarsha06@gmail.com). 3 tours coming up. Red Hat Society 3/2, no volunteers needed to help. 4/17 4th grade class, help needed. 5/2 3rd and 4th graders, need help.

**Publicity**: Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com).

- For those on social media please share/link our Facebook page.

- Looking for volunteers to put labels with updated museum hours on our brochures.
- Looking for volunteers to take pictures, write short articles for the newsletter of their activities.
- Looking for volunteers to write press releases.

**Newsletter Editor**: Stacy Walbridge (Interim). A Newsletter Editor is needed. Deadline for newsletter submissions is March 21, 2023.

- Helen Rogers was presented an awarded for 6th place in the national SFMS Contest for Newsletters and Art for her article Chunky Gal Field Trips.

**Scholarships/By-Laws**: Al Pribble. (alton36@gmail.com) Will be meeting with a STEM director next week regarding possible mini-grants. Still working on Bylaw revisions.

**Streets of Franklin**: Charlotte Ellert (fryecharlotte@yahoo.com), Due to scheduling conflicts, we need a new volunteer to represent the museum for Streets of Franklin the last Tuesday of the month. This is a fairly simple position, contact Charlotte or Stacy if interested.

**Future Vision**: Ron Rossomando. Absent. Kim Price. (kprice@safetworksinc.com Nothing to report.

**Programs**: Kim Price (kprice@safetworksinc.com). Introduced our guest speaker Allen Trotter and his presentation on "A History of Gold Mining and Prospecting." Next month Stacy Walbridge will give a presentation on Collecting, Cabbing, and Faceting.

**Field Trips**: Sean Price (blackpinesgeology@gmail.com) / Helen Rogers (helen.rogers.clay@gmail.com). March 4, trip to Consolidated Gold Mines in Dahlonega, GA for underground mine tour.

**Membership**: Stacy Walbridge for Tom Parker (Absent). Attending: 42 members, 8 guests, 1 new member. Tom Parker is preparing to relocate to Tennessee and has resigned his position as Membership chair. If you are interested in helping please contact Stacy Walbridge.

**Old Business**: None.

**New Business**:

- John Hayes recommends having a “Show & Tell” table at each meeting. For this meeting he brought some tiny sapphires for viewing with a microscope brought by Sean Price. When viewing the Show & Tell table do not touch any item unless there is a sign saying it is okay.

- Norm Holbert announced an informal presentation at the museum on March 4 to review Calibrated vs Non Calibrated and Synthetic vs Non synthetic stones for faceting.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, and approved at 7:04 p.m.

## New Member

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society would like to welcome our newest members that joined in February: Tammy Jones, Mark Marich, and Andy & Janee Smith.

Kim Price will be taking pictures of new members at the meeting on March 30th. Please stop by the Membership table sometime during the meeting to get your picture taken for the April newsletter and pick up your name badge.

**New Member Tammy Jones**

## Museum Tour

**By Marsha Harmon**

Vicki Kinsley and I had the pleasure of hosting the Red Hat Sassy Diva's earlier this month. I wonder if Blairsville, GA knows how they spent their time here in Franklin? It was time spent in the Slammer! If that was a misbehaved group, I will take them any day of the week. They stuffed the tip jar and also bought several gift shop goodies and followed with lunch at Cafe REL.

**Red Hat Sassy Divas in the Slammer**

The next day out for your group consider our Museum as one of your stops.
Call Marsha Harmon 828 369-7262 and set up a date and time for your private tour.

## Petosky (Petoskey) Stones for Trade on March 31st

**By Marsha Harmon**

Help welcome our guest, James Roush, who will be at the Museum on March 31@ 2pm. He will be trading your local material for MI Petosky Stones. James and his family have been visiting Franklin for several years, always promoting our Museum. He is working at the University of Michigan on an advanced Geology degree. Questions? call Marsha 828 369-7262.

### What Is A Petoskey Stone and How Are They Formed?

(From: https://www.rockseeker.com/what-is-a-petoskey-stone/)

Petoskey stones have become a favorite find for rockhounds who have researched their unique properties and seek to add them to their personal collection. The stone is most often pebble-shaped and may be found in either a rough state inland or smooth state along shorelines of certain lakes.

**Ancient Coral**

Petosky stone is a fossil rock formed from the remains of the rugose coral Hexagonaria percarinata. These corals are believed to have existed before the dinosaurs and thrived during a time when a warm, shallow sea covered a large part of the Great Lakes region. At that time a large reef supported an abundant variety of sea life, including these six-sided coral colony dwellers and the plankton they fed on. When living, the coral was made up of several parts that included soft living tissue called the polyp, the center, or 'mouth,' where food entered, and surrounding tentacles used for drawing food into the mouth. After the organisms died, the mouth was eventually filled in with mud and silt. After fossilization, it became a dark spot known as the 'eye.' Minerals such as calcite and silica replaced other cells, forming the unique fossil that exists today.

**Smoothed By Glaciers**

Later, glaciers scraped portions of the fossilized stones off the bedrock, smoothing them a bit as they pushed portions of the ancient reef along to what is now mostly the northwestern portion of Michigan's lower peninsula. There are also some deposits to be found along the northeastern side of the tip of that peninsula. This fossil is abundant in the Gravel Point Formation and was given its designation by

Dr. Edwin Stumm in 1969 because of the shape of each individual coral in the colony.

**How Petoskey Stones Got Their Name**

The coral's more common name is derived from the town of Petoskey, named after wealthy 19th-century fur trapper, landowner, and Ottawa Chief Petosegay. Petosegay was a descendant of a French nobleman and an Ottawa princess. The name is said to mean "rising sun" or "sunbeam of promise." The stones live up to their name, with what appears to be rays emanating from the center eye. Petoskey stones have been sought out by collectors for over 100 years along the shores around Petoskey and throughout the state.

## March 2023 FGMS Field Trip Report

## Consolidated Gold Mines & Dahlonega Gold Museum

**By Sean Price**

The March 2023 field trip to The Consolidated Gold Mines and the Dahlonega Gold Museum in Dahlonega, Georgia was a resounding success for the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society. In total, 20 members of the society participated in the field trip activities. Many of the participants met at our museum in downtown Franklin on Saturday, March 4th at 09:00 for a 09:30 departure. The drive was less than two hours long and took us through several very scenic areas of the North Georgia mountains. The weather for the day was bright and sunny and the temperature was very comfortable making it ideal for activities both above and below ground. Once everyone had arrived, we were able to get a group photo before going in and purchasing our tickets.

**from left to right – Leonard Pipitone, Roberta Pipitone, Nancy McShane, Kathi Walbridge, Trish Santoro, Stacy Walbridge, Eli Santoro, Varshana Dholakia, Betty Kimball, Earl McGaughey, Debbie Cowan, Jay Williams, Ilah Williams, Maggie Phoenix, Bernd Phoenix, Linda Cowan, Sean Price, Philip Rodgers, Helen Rogers, and Kim Price who took the photograph**

Our tour guide was a young man named Matt Collins aka; Miner Matt. Miner Matt gave our group a brief introduction to the mine before we began our decent into the nearly 150 year old gold mine. Just past the mine entrance, Eli Santoro spotted a group of small salamanders resting in a crack in the wall. There was quite a bit of water coming out of the crack due to a storm the previous day.

**Underground Salamander**

The first stop on the tour was at a large opening that had been cut into the ground. Miner Matt informed us that there used to be an enormous vein of gold bearing quartz here and it was all excavated in a single day. The yield of gold from the vein which has been dubbed “The Glory Hole” was estimated to be 57 pounds. Past the Glory Hole, we stopped at another vein of quartz and some of the gold was still visible. When asked why the owners of the mine don’t try to remove the gold, Miner Matt replied that the new gold mine for the area is tourism and it’s left for visitors to view and enjoy.

After walking down a flight of stairs and under a low hanging rock, we entered into a large chamber where water can be seen gushing out of the rock. At this time, Miner Matt informs us that we are now approximately 20 stories underground and asks us to all gather around for a short mining demonstration. Picking up a chisel and a hammer, Miner Matt showed us how the early Miners manually drilled holes for blasting the rock.

**Miner Matt pointing out the Glory Hole**

Matt also informed us that workers who mined this way were paid at the time one dollar per day. This sounded like a terrible deal for the miners, especially given the dangers of underground mining. However, it was enough to support their families and buy a home in just over one year's time.

One of the problems that the miners faced was getting the chisels stuck in the rock wall as they were drilling. This was a problem in two ways. First, they would have to start over and second, they would have to buy a new chisel for the mine which cost about one day's wages. Several of these stuck chisels can be seen in the walls of the tunnels throughout the tour.

**Inviting pool of water in flooded area of mine.**

Other jobs in the mine included pumping water, which was a job usually reserved for children, which paid about 25 cents per day. Looking down past the hand pump, a pool of water could be seen leading to other areas and levels of the mine which have been flooded since it closed in 1906.

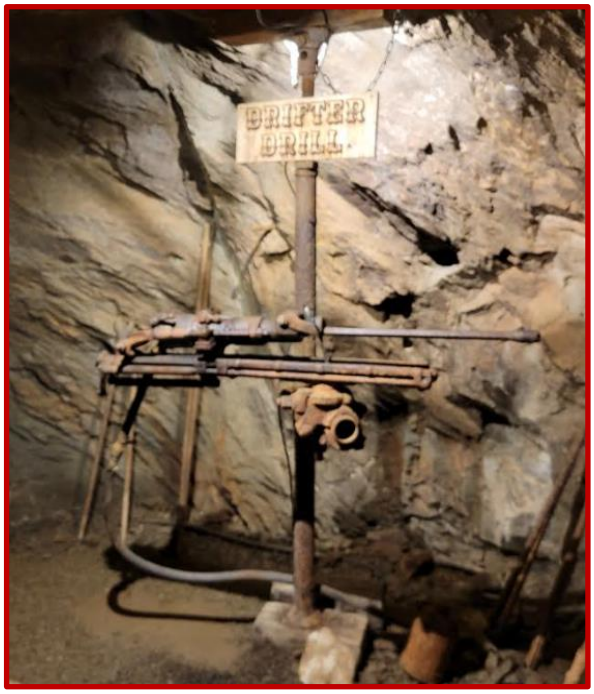
One of the most interesting aspects of the tour was the dynamite demonstration. Luckily, there are no explosives in the mine today, but Miner Matt demonstrated how the volatile sticks of TNT were carefully loaded into the bore holes and set off. The high-tech tool for this loading process was a humble broom handle. Made of wood, this rod could

not create a spark which might set off the dynamite early. After loading was complete, all the fuses were tied together, and a timing fuse was added. Miner Matt showed us the conditions the miners faced while doing this by turning off all the new LED lights and lighting a single candle. He explained how the light of candles was all the miners had to navigate the mine at that time and how dangerous it would have been to have open flames around the sticks of TNT. It was very dark indeed.

**Miners used candle power for lighting.**

One of the last stops along the tour was at a pneumatic drill which was original to the mine and would have been state of the art mining technology at the time. This drill still worked, and we were told to cover our ears as it was quite loud. Miner Matt informed us that operators of the drill would unfortunately go deaf in just a matter of months and that the wages were higher for them because of it.

The final stop of the tour experience is to try your hand at gold panning. We were all asked to watch a short instructional video on how to properly pan for gold without losing any gold. After watching the video, we exchanged a small token that we were given when we purchased our tickets for a gold pan filled with sand. Everyone had a great time panning for the gold which was from the local area. Eli Santoro was able to recover 5 pieces of gold from his pan. Some of our members needed some help with panning and the staff at the mine were happy to help. Everyone was able to find some gold to take home.




**Pneumatic Drifter Drill**

## Dahlonega Gold Museum

After a short break for lunch, we all met at the front of the old Lumpkin County Court House which has been converted into the Dahlonega Gold Museum. Once everyone purchased their admission ticket, one of the staff, a young man named Sam Wentworth, accompanied our group around to the different rooms and provided educational information at every turn. Sam was kind enough to even open up an old door which is usually locked and unavailable to the public so that we could see the small flakes of gold which were exposed in the brick used to make the building.

Sam told us that the Dahlonega area was so rich with gold, brick makers could not avoid incorporating the gold into the bricks. Other aspects of the tour included a video presentation about the mining history of the area and its direct impact on the displacement of Cherokee Indians living in the area. Many historic items are also in the museum including one of the water cannons used for Placer mining.

The back corner of the museum is considered the discovery corner where guests may open the different drawers to view what is inside. Many of these drawers contained mineral specimens and many personal items from miners who lived in

Dahlonega during the gold rush. One of my favorite things in the museum was a scale model of a stamp mill in action. This model was mechanized to show the movement.

On the first floor of the museum is the gold display which houses several million dollars' worth of gold coins and nuggets from the Dahlonega area. The U.S. Treasury had established a mint in Dahlonega during the gold rush. The coins on display are from the Dahlonega mint. The building in fact has the best security system in the whole town. Everyone enjoyed their time at the Dahlonega Gold Museum. I highly recommend visiting if you get a chance.

I would like to thank Helen Rogers for assisting me with this field trip and Kim Price for taking many great photos. I would also like to thank the staff at both the Consolidated Gold Mines and Dahlonega Gold Museum for their time and for going above and beyond to accommodate our group and make the field trip a great success.

The field trip for next month will be to Diamond Hill Mine in South Carolina. Helen Rogers will lead this trip.

## March Program – From Field to Finish (Collecting, Faceting, & Cabbing)

**By Kim Price**

The program for the March meeting of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society will be about cabbing and faceting. Our very own club president, Stacy Walbridge, will be presenting.

We have such amazing opportunities as society members to be able to learn how to make cabochons from the materials we collect or purchase and learn how to facet stones. Another added benefit is we have all the necessary equipment available to us through our club.

Stacy has been a member of the Society for 5 years. He and his wife Kathi, have been collecting for decades but it was only when they moved to Franklin in 2017 that Stacy took up cabbing and metal smithing. Stacy will talk a little about how Kathi and he go about collecting and then provide an overview of our workshop and what you can do with the minerals you find. He will also bring samples of their finds and finished items.

## Exceptional Natural-Color Fancy Red Diamond

**Maryam Mastery Salimi**

(From: GIA Lab Notes - Gems & Gemology, Fall 2022, Vol. 58, No. 3)

**This 1.21 ct round brilliant diamond is notable for its size and natural Fancy orangy red color. Photo by Diego Sanchez.**

The Carlsbad laboratory recently received a 1.21 ct Fancy orangy red round brilliant cut diamond (6.62–6.84 × 4.14 mm; see above) for a colored diamond grading and identification report. Results of standard gemological testing and microscopic observation confirmed it had a natural color and no color treatment or clarity enhancement. The stone displayed faint fluorescence under long-wave indicated a type IaB diamond, while ultraviolet/visible (550 nm band and H3 [503.2 nm] center) and photoluminescence (PL) spectroscopy indicated natural color without any treatment and none under short-wave UV. Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy The 550 nm absorption band is closely linked to plastic deformation, which is clearly reflected in the broad emission features in the PL results. Due to the extensive plastic deformation, some fractures could have developed.

The rarity and high value of red diamonds has resulted in many attempts to reproduce this color through treatment or even laboratory growth procedures with post-growth treatment.

However, treated red diamonds are often accompanied by purplish or brownish color components that are not desirable and are different from the purer hues of naturally red diamonds. Natural-color red diamonds are so rare that only around a couple dozen true red diamonds are known to exist, and most of these are under half a carat.

The exceptional natural-color 1.21 ct Fancy orangy red diamond examined here is a fine example of natural-color red diamond. It has yet to be named.

## Bench Tips

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

### BURNISHING BEZELS

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting some 10 mm cabs on a piece of fili-gree. It was difficult to get enough pressure with a pusher or a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel) and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough so its curvature hits the top of the bezel at the best angle to burnish it down onto the stone.

### SUPER PICKLE

We've all made the mistake of putting some steel in the pickle pot. This can cause all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I've found to clean it off is to fill half a coffee cup with new hot pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store.
Throw your pieces in and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.
Many people think that when some steel gets into the pickle, the solution is contaminated and should be thrown away. Not true as long as you can remove all the steel from the pickle. In fact, the pickle should work even better after the steel is removed. Pickle works by dissolving the copper oxides that form during soldering. Pickle gets "old" when it cannot hold any more dissolved copper. Putting steel in the pot forces some of the copper to come out of solution, meaning the pickle is then able to dissolve more copper.

## Upcoming Shows

**March 31-April 2 Raleigh, NC**
Annual show; Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club; Kerr Scott Bldg, NC Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd; Fri. 3-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free; contact Cyndy Hummel, Email: mchummel@mindspring.com; Website: tarheelclub.org

**4/22-23/2023 Memphis, TN**:
Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show. Sponsored by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Memphis Agricenter 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, Sat. 9-6:00 pm, Sun. 10-5pm. Adults $6.00. 2-day pass $8.00.Children 12 & under $2.00. Scouts in uniform free Contact WC McDaniel 901-490-3575

**May 12-14 Marietta, GA**
Georgia Mineral Society 54th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show, Cobb Civic Center 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE Marietta, GA 3006. Fri-Sat. 10-6, Sun. Noon-5. Free Parking and Admission.
https://www.gamineral.org/showmain.html

## Franklin Gem & Mineral Showcase – May 18 to 21, 2023

**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.

**May 18-21 Franklin, NC**
Highlands Road Gem Show, 1602 Highlands Road, Franklin, North Carolina 28734

**May 18-21 Franklin, NC**
Echo Valley Showplace
6456 Sylva Rd., Franklin, North Carolina 28734, United States

**May 19-21 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. FREE!! 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.

## The Difference Between a Show and a Showcase

Towns and counties across North Carolina — and in particular, western N.C. — take their mineral and mining heritages seriously, and several proudly hold annual festivals, fairs or shows to celebrate their rich gem, mineral, and mining history and culture. This region is one of the richest in the world for hosting important gem and mineral related shows. Each year in the spring and summer, the little town of Franklin becomes a magnet for buyers and collectors from throughout the southeast states and around the country. They come to shop at four shows in Franklin in May and four shows in late July. Local organizations and volunteers enthusiastically participate in the gem show season. Some shows are operated by the local gem and mineral club and the chamber of commerce, and the dozens of area "gem mines" enjoy their peak season, providing tourists with the unforgettable experience of sluicing for authentic gemstones — sapphires, rubies, garnets, emeralds, and many more!

## Upcoming Shows (continued)

**June 10-11 Gastonia, NC**
Gaston Gem & Mineral Club Summer Gemboree, a Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show: Johan Newcome Event Center/Habitat for Humanity 1840 E Franklin Blvd Gastonia, NC 28054. An inside show presenting Gems, Minerals, Fossils and jewelry and other related items from around the world. A working Gem Sluice. A Geode Cracking Station. Food Truck. Free Admission. Free Parking.

**June 24 Apopka, FL**
Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society; 1937 Lakeville Rd., Apopka, Fl 32712; Saturday, 6/24/23—9am-4pm. Rock Clubs and Individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell and swap anything that is LAPIDARY related! Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry, to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped sold or purchased! $25 per 10x20 space. See the flyer on page 16 More info at Wekivagem.com

**October 20-22 Knoxville, TN**
The Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society; Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923, Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5; The Gem Show is open to the public and has an admission fee of $8 a day for adults or $15 for the whole show; children under 12 are admitted free. Website http://www.knoxrocks.org/gem-show/

## Club Announcements

### March 2023 Board Meeting
**(All members are welcome)**
**4:00 pm Tuesday, March 28th, 2023**

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

### March 2023 General Meeting
**6:30 pm Thursday, March 30th, 2023**

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

**Newsletter Deadline for April is 04/17/2023**

**** Field Trip to Diamond Hill Mine April 8, 2023 ****

**2023 SCHEDULE (Subject to change.)**

| Date | Event | Time | Program | Snacks |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| March 30, 2023 | General Meeting | 6:30 PM | From Field to Finish by Stacy Walbridge | Brad & Jacey Fleszar |
| April 27, 2023 | General Meeting | 6:30 PM | Geology and Collecting in Japan by Kim and Sean Price | Trish Santoro |
| May 19-20 Franklin Gem & Mineral Show | | | | |
| May 25, 2023 | General Meeting | 6:30 PM | The Washington Monument: How Macon County Contributed to the Capstone by Al Pribble and Sean Price | Jenny & Jay Mooney |
| June 29, 2023 | General Meeting | 6:30 PM | The Cherokee Mineral Trade by an EBCI Tribal Historian | Varshana & Earl McGaughey |
| July 27, 2023 | General Meeting | 6:30 PM | Ice Cream Social | Bernd & Maggie Phoenix |
| July 28-30 Franklin Gem & Mineral Show | | | | |

## 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)

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

## Committees

Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
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 Trip Coordinator: Sean Price (336-964-2061)
Field Trip Assistant: 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: 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)
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