

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

MAY 2018

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 emailed copies of the newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips. If requested, hard copy editions of *The Mountain Gem* will be mailed via USPS for an additional \$25 per year.

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 Educational Chairperson, Patty Nichols at 678-243-8036.

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.**

2017- 2018 Officers And Board Of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Tom Sterrett	349-3374
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Museum Manager	Duane Haskell	349-5123
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718
Director (2018)	Mike Gillen	678-772-6375
Director (2018)	Tom Parker	342-3619

Museum

Museum Ass't. Mgr.	OPEN	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Gift Shop	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes	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	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Patty Nichols	678-243-8036
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Kathy Young	941-387-4397
Historian	Ron Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Librarian	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	561-542-9650
Refreshments	OPEN	
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 31, 2018

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Robert Carpenter Community Bldg.**

Program: **Jeff Schlottman**, a specimen and crystal collector will do a presentation on turquoise that covers general facts, historical information, jewelry cutting, etc. His business, Crystal Perfection, sprang into existence more than 25 years ago.



June Birthdays

- 4 – Marsha Harmon
- 7 – Duane Haskell
- 11 – Jeanne Henrickson
- 18 – Doris Smith
- 19 – Joyce Jacques



June Anniversaries

- 10 – Arlon & Sonja Eldridge
- 10 – Roberta & Leonard Pipitone
- 16 – Fred & Fran Rasmusson



Heartfelt condolences to Kathy Young, daughters Abby and Sara and their family on the passing of Ross, beloved Husband and Father. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

**Thursday, June 14, 2018 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**



Al Pribble, President



Most of you know by now that Ross Young passed away on Sunday morning, May 20. Ross was a great guy with a keen sense of humor. Last year during our elections he nominated himself for President to run against me. He told me later that he did it because there was no one else running and he thought he should make it a real race. Ross reached the finish line and received his crown before the rest of us, but he made the world a better place and he will certainly be missed. Who knows, he may have some good rocks for us by the time we get there.

Thanks to all of you who made the Mother's Day Show a success. Norm tells me we did very well considering last year's fiasco of canceled shows and Kathy Young has already been talking about next year.

There has been a change in the Gift Shop Manager position. We thank Ellen Williams for her service, but she felt the stress was getting to her. Jane Morgan had recently retired from her full-time job and had several years' experience in managing gift shops and has volunteered to work with Anamay and Dianne Mason as a team to oversee the operation.

We are discussing ways to make opening and closing simpler and there will be hands-on training for all who want to participate soon. Many have been hesitant to work because of concern about credit card sales. Actually, the credit card sales are very simple – once the items are rung up there is nothing else to do. The customer gets a receipt and you are done. I wish every sale was by card! If there is change to be made for a cash sale the machine displays the amount and the drawer opens. In our old system we had to add up the amounts, make the change and record the items by hand, now there is no addition needed and the items are automatically recorded.

Presidents Message cont'd on Page 9

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.
Minutes – April 26, 2018 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble on Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6:35p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 47 members present and 3 guests. We have two new members: Paola Ascoli and Larry Ellert. Welcome Paola and Larry.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March minutes and there was one, which has already been corrected. Fred Plesner moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected and Marsha Harmon seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported that we broke even for the month of March.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge had nothing new to report.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell is absent this evening.

Curator – Ralph Crawford did not have anything new to report.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner stated that help is needed for Friday, May 4, for a tour with 100 children from Fairview Elementary that will be divided into two groups. Eight volunteer guides will be required.

Gift Shop – Ellen Williams reported that she is getting ready for May. She stressed the fact that hosts are needed as we will be open every day. Gem trees made and donated will be sold in the museum. She wants to have a \$1 raffle with proceeds going to the Young Family.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, May 17. With regards to the newsletter, she asked members to let her know of any changes in addresses, etc.; she has forms at the table tonight or you may email her.

Workshop Manager – Cy Amrich presented certificates for completion of the cabochon class to Darcel Green and Stacy Walbridge. He reports that two members are currently taking the faceting class. It was mentioned that the wheels have been replaced on the cabbing machine.



Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported a trip to Graves Mountain is planned from April 26 through April 29. This is a 2½-hour trip one-way. Another trip is planned for Harleyville, SC for May 19, Saturday. That is a 4-hour trip one-way. Vicki Knisley stated that she has accommodation reservations for Friday and Saturday nights, April 25 and April 26, king-size bed, for \$160. She is unable to go. If interested, please contact Vicki directly.

Publicity – George Fritz indicated he will be promoting our Mother's Day weekend gem show.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget – Copies of the proposed budget were handed out to members. Norman Holbert suggested that we take a vote on the budget tonight and not wait until next month. A motion was then made by Norman Holbert to accept the budget as printed. Randy Lawley seconded the motion. A vote by the membership was taken and the budget was accepted.

Refreshments – Joyce Jacques (“JJ”) has stepped down as our refreshment chairwoman. We need someone who will volunteer to replace her as she has been graciously filling this position for a year. Thank you, JJ.

Scheduler – Al Pribble stated that we need a host scheduler. Various Board members have been doing this in the past. Please contact Al if you are willing to volunteer for this important job.

Gem Show – Our gem show is fast approaching – May 11, 12 and 13. Norm Holbert circulated a sign-up sheet for assistance that is needed with set-up, hosting, security, demonstrations and take down. Set-up will be on Thursday at 8:00 a.m.; take down at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. He stressed the fact that we will need a great deal of volunteer assistance support.

Hosting at the Museum – Sign up sheets were circulated for May. ***Please sign up to host!*** If we are unable to “man” the museum on a given day then we cannot have the museum open.

Arlon Eldridge reported that Art Zoeckler has passed away. Tom Aiello has been at a hospital in Gainesville for rapid heart beat and other medical issues. Ray Behr is receiving dialysis but is doing better. Ross Young is at home; the family is receiving assistance from their church and the V.A.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Paul Thomas and seconded by Vicki Knisley. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. by President Al Pribble.

Refreshments were served. Door prize winning ticket numbers were announced and prizes distributed.

Gloria Adams gave a PowerPoint presentation, “From the Mine to You”, Quartzsite, Arizona, the location of a two-month long gem show. Ms. Adams designs wrapped pendants, earrings and bracelets, having learned her craft at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. She has been awarded Juried Member status in the Alabama Designer Craftsmen. As well, Ms. Adams brought specimens samples from Quartzsite that were put out on display for all to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Photos by George Fritz and Ralph Crawford

Graves Mountain Field Trip News

Stacy Walbridge & Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator



On the weekend of April 27th through the 29th, Clarence Norman Jr. “Junior” hosted a three day dig and rock swap at Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, Georgia. Led by Marsha Harmon, several members of the Franklin club traveled to Lincoln County, Georgia seeking Rutile [TiO₂], Iridescent Hematite [Fe₂O₃], Pyrophyllite [Al₂Si₄O₁₀(OH)₂], Lazulite [(Mg,Fe²⁺)Al₂(PO₄)₂(OH)₂], and several other minerals. Nancy McShane, Sean Price, Jay Mooney, Bob Harris, Kathi and Stacy Walbridge joined Marsha for the opportunity to collect some unique specimens.

History of Graves Mountain

An article by Charles Upham Shepard published in the 1859 American Journal of Science¹ described the impressive Lazulite crystals found at Graves Mountain. Primarily focused on the description of Lazulite the author briefly mentioned the gigantic (over 1 pound) lustrous Rutile crystals found within the Kyanite. This short article led many international collectors to descend on the site in search of Lazulite and Rutile. Prior to that time, the best Rutile specimens were found in the Alps and were measured in millimeters² compared to the inch and greater size of Rutile crystals from Graves. The quality of the specimens extracted from this area enticed Tiffany and Company to aggressively mine the site. They collected some of the finest specimens of Lazulite and Rutile, which may be seen in museums around the world. Interest in this site grew until in 1959 a geological survey³ was published identifying the economic viability of several minerals at this location, in particular Kyanite. The automobile industries' need for Kyanite to support the growing market lead to the purchase of the mountain by Combustion Engineering, where they mined Kyanite until 1986. Junior is now the caretaker of the site and opens it twice a year for everyone to try their luck finding their own museum quality specimens.

What we found

In addition to the Friday to Sunday dig, Junior opened the mountain to rock club members on Thursday as long as they were going to the site on one of the other days. Kathi and I took advantage of the opportunity and arrived at the mountain around noon where we ran into Nancy McShane. After signing in and introducing ourselves to Junior as first time attendees, Junior recommended going to the upper pit as it would get crowded on the weekend. We agreed, so Junior drove the three of us up to the upper pit and introduced us to several diggers that were onsite and told them to take care of us. Nancy and Kathi started skimming the surface while I jumped down into the pit and started looking for a likely place to start digging. Within a few minutes I spotted some iridescent hematite on the surface and began scratching through the dirt.



Iridescent Hematite

It wasn't long before I pulled out a 3 inch long terminated quartz crystal along with some small pieces of iridescent hematite. Moving along the pit wall, numerous outcroppings of Kyanite embedded in quartz were visible, which I initially mistook for Lazulite.

Graves Mountain cont'd on Page 7

Graves Mountain Field Trip News cont'd from Page 6

I eventually found a boulder with a seam of speckled Lazulite running through it and was able to chip off a small piece. While I was working in the pit Kathi was busy picking up pieces of Pyrophyllite and iridescent Hematite along the top. She can find the most amazing specimens just by skimming the surface.



Lazulite split from a larger vein



Kathi at the base of the north wall

About mid-afternoon, Kathi and I trekked to the lower pit to scope out where we might like to dig on Friday. After talking to several diggers we elected to work the tailings along the south wall for rutile. We found some likely spots and picked up about 4:00 pm. We got back to the truck in time to beat the rain and rain it did for the next 3 hours. The weather forecast showed the front moving through quickly with the prospects for a dry weekend.



Solid Pyrophyllite

Friday through Sunday

On Friday we arrived bright and early and were surprised at the line of cars waiting to get into the site. License plates from all over the south and mid-west were represented.

After entering the site we found a good parking spot and elected to hike to the lower pit instead of taking one of the shuttle ATVs. By the time we set up I noticed Sean Price screening some tailings next to us in a trough. He was having a little luck finding some miniature scarred pieces of Rutile while Kathi and I got skunked. I had a previous commitment on Saturday so Kathi and I left around noon on Friday when we ran into Marsha Harmon, Jay Mooney, and Bob Harris.



Sean Price screening for Rutile



Nancy McShane taking a break

Graves Mountain Field Trip News cont'd from Page 7

Marsha escorted Jay and Bob around the site and spent the afternoon helping them find some good specimens to keep. Jay and Bob left Saturday morning for another commitment while Marsha went in search of the other club members.



Saturday morning Sean, Marsha and Nancy found each other in the main pit where Sean was back for rutile. He did move his spot from Friday but even after digging a trench 4 feet deep he did not find the elusive mineral. However, just an arms length away another collector filled a 12 by 8 case full of rutile with a few pieces over an inch. In a collecting site like this the mineral distribution is somewhat random so one spot is as good as another.



Jay with his finds.

Nancy and Marsha hiked up to the top of the pit to rim search for Lazulite. From their bird's eye view the floor of the site looked like an ant colony with collector's coming and going from the red tent (rides to and from the parking area). By mid-afternoon they had seen lots of Kyanite but limited their collections to unique specimens. Based on a tip, they searched one area of the rim looking for Lazulite of quality. and did have success (about 25 lbs. with nice dark blue spots).

Nancy was also looking for micro minerals and quality material and seemed happy with the Lazulite, which should make some nice cabochons.

As the weekend came to a close, Marsha headed back to Franklin, Nancy to Key West, and Sean returned home to prepare for his Geology internship in Raleigh and then onto a masters program. Graves is always a good spot to buy or trade minerals, meet/socialize with mine owners, field trip coordinators and folks looking to visit Franklin and all we have to offer. Graves Mountain will again be open for all the first weekend October so keep your calendars open and your eyes on the newsletter for the field trip announcement.

1- <https://archive.org/details/mobot31753002152541>

2 - <https://www.gamineral.org/writings/graves-haegel.html>

3 - https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/B-68.pdf



Up Coming Field Trips

June 15 (Friday) Local Shared Trip to Goodensville Mine Franklin, NC. Meet at Moss Knob shooting range, off Elijah Rd, 9 miles off Highlands Rd, 2 pm. Bring shifter 1/8 inch, UV lite, black trash bag, hand trowel (to dig), rubber boots or water shoes and bucket or gallon plastic zip lock bag. We will be working the creek and hunting for garnets, quartz, rubies, sapphires, and feldspar. This is a National Forest Area, so rules do apply and will be enforced. No restrooms (except shooting range), no food or drinking water and count on poison ivy and mosquitoes. No cost for this field trip.

June 23 DMC Unaccompanied Trip to Coon Creek Science Center, Adamsville, TN. They will be hunting for Fossils and a program at the Science Center will be provided. Limited registration needed to participate. \$15 for this field trip.

Please sign up in the Museum, on the information board and leave a contact number for last minute changes. Need to borrow equipment? Note that as well or call Marsha 828-369-7262 with questions.

President's Message cont'd from Page 3

It has been suggested that we have a rotating Refreshment person. To that end I would like for someone to volunteer to be a Coordinator. Nine people would be enough to cover the entire year and there is no reason why men should not be included. I think even most of the guys could buy some cookies (with club money) and make a pot of coffee (since instructions are with the coffee pot).

Next month we need to start considering candidates for the board for next year. A slate will be needed by July with an opportunity then for nominations from the floor. The elections will then take place in August.

And we always need volunteers to man the Museum. Too few are having to carry all the load. Remember – we are a working club and we need ever member to work at least once a month.

Until then Rock On!

Gift Shop News Passing the torch (es)



Ellen Williams - Gift Shop Manager

It's been an experience to be your gift shop manager. But quite honestly I prefer a more creative role and so I have passed the torch, aka keys, to Jane Morgan and Diane Mason, who will be assisted by Annamay, due to return this week from FL. This frees me to be one of the creative persons in the shop. A role I truly enjoy and look forward to expanding.

Thank you to all the hosts who have continued to keep the Museum and Gift Shop open.

See you in the museum soon.

Notes From The Classroom

Well, the WIRE I class for June is full. Thank you ever so much for signing up. I hope by now that all of you have ordered your wire. If not, you had better HURRY!!

It looks like an interesting group of ladies and gentlemen. We will start on June 9 at 8 A.M. I am looking forward to this class. We have a variety of age groups, backgrounds, rock experience, and sexes. Looks like this one is going to be a barrel of fun.

WELCOME EVERYONE!!!!.....Diane

706-379-1718 H; 843-621-0003 C; 706-379-3124 (rock shop) ladydeeswireworks@gmail.com



Mothers' Day Gemboree 2018

Our May show is now a thing of the past and I want to thank those of you who took time out of their lives to volunteer and made our show a success. Whether you spent an hour with us or spent almost the entire time of the show – THANK YOU! If I attempt to thank each of you individually, I'm sure that I'd accidentally leave someone out – so, again THANK YOU! I do have to mention two individuals that went above and beyond with their help – John Hayes, who was there practically for the entire show, and Ralph Crawford who was at the club table daily.

Most of the vendors did okay or even better. There was one who didn't make back even the cost of their table rental. That vendor stated packing up several hours before the show ended. Set up and take down went very well, and there were usually enough club members to keep an eye on the club table as well as being “walking security” as the show was going.

After all expenses were paid, we did end up with a profit for our club. Noting that we only had 13 vendors, we took in enough to put \$2,660.00 into our coffers.

Truly thanking all who helped, Norm Holbert



Photos by Al Pribble, George Fritz and Ralph Crawford



From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

Gem and Mineral Shows

July 26, 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC

11th Annual Franklin Faceters Frolic; 10 AM to 5 PM daily; 10 AM to 4 PM final day; contact Norm Holbert; 828-634-0350; normholbert@comcast.net; www.franklinfacetersfrolic.com; Free

July 26, 27, 28 & 29, Franklin, NC

52nd Annual Macon County Gemboree; Robert C Carpenter Community Building; Thursday thru Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM; Sponsored by Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Other Events:

June 9 & 10, Cartersville, GA

Tellus Science Museum; RockFest 28; Saturday & Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM; tellusmuseum.org

June 14, 15, 16 & 17, Downtown Franklin, NC

Taste of Scotland Festival; 15 to 17 Events are Free; Clan Buchanan 2018 Honored Clan; Family fun

July 4, Downtown Franklin, NC

Full day of food, games, cornhole tournament, etc.; 10 AM Parade; 7 PM entertainment on stage; 9:30 pm Fireworks; Franklin Chamber

July 14, Downtown Franklin, NC

Appalachian Heritage Festival; 9 AM to 4 PM; sponsored by Merchants of Downtown Franklin

July 28 to August 5, Spruce Pine, NC

34th Annual Grassy Creek Mineral & Gem Show; Sponsored by the Parkway Fire & Rescue to raise money for new equipment; Free parking & admission; 10 AM to 6 PM daily; 136 Majestic View, Spruce Pine, NC 28777; contact Donna Collins collinsdonna@yahoo.com; 828-765-5519



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

Editor.themountaingem@gmail.com

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734

First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2018	23	25
February	20	22
March	27	29
April	24	26
May	29 6:30 pm	31
June	26	28
July	17	19 Ice Cream Social
August	28	30
September	25	27 Banquet
October	23	25
November	27	29
December	11 4:00	15 End of Year Party 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month at 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