

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

MARCH 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	Ellen Williams	349-9416
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	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
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	Joyce Jacques	342-2543
Scholarships	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



American Federation

Bulletin Awards

1994 (7th), 1995 (2nd),

1996 (2nd), 1997 (5th),

1998 (5th), 1999 (3rd),

2000 (5th), 2004 (7th),

2005 (2nd) 2006 (10th)

2008 (5th) 2010(3rd)

2014 (3rd)



Southeast Federation

Bulletin Awards

1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95

1996-99 (1st)

2003 2nd New Editor

2004 (2nd), 2005 (2nd)

2006 (1st), 2008 (2nd),

2010(1st) 2014 (1st)

American Federation (AFMS): www.amfed.org

Southeast Federation (SFMS): www.amfed.org/sfms

Franklin Gem Museum and Society:

www.fgmm.org

www.facebook.com/franklingems

March Meeting

Date: March 29, 2018

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Robert Carpenter Community Bldg.**

Program: **Cheryl Waters-Tormey**, Geology Professor and Department Head at Western Carolina University, will speak on the tectonic history of the western NC region and related mineral & hydrocarbon resources.



Happy Belated March Birthday

6 – Patty Nichols



April Birthdays

- 9 – Richard Bachman
- 10 – Stephen Dillon
- 10 – Nancy McShane
- 12 – Dean Plesner
- 13 – Jack Jungles
- 20 – Lee Perry Bender
- 24 – Dorothy Crawford
- 25 – Sean Price
- 25 – Ted Reckwerdt
- 28 – Lake Holland
- 30 – Fran Rasmussen



April Anniversaries

- 8 – Lake & Teresa Holland
- 26 – George & Susan Fritz



***Thursday, April 12, 2018 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



Al Pribble, President



I am going to need to start off this time with an admonition. When I was in the Museum this past weekend Cy Amrich showed me a saw blade from the trim saw that had been severely damaged. He wanted me to mention that the blade on the small trim saw is delicate and should only be used for cutting cabochon blanks from slabs, not for cutting large stones. The blades for any of the saws are expensive and there is no reason to be abusing the equipment in this manner. This type of abuse of our equipment can be grounds for denying the guilty party use of the equipment. So, If you are the guilty party please refrain from this behavior.

Now, on a more positive note I'll talk about some of the good things that are happening with our club. Norm Holbert obtained a grant from the Franklin/Nantahala Tourism Development Board to advertise the Mother's Day Show for which our club is solely responsible as well as the other two shows here in Franklin that we participate in. It will appear for three months in *Rock & Gem* magazine with other ads to follow in other publications. This means that hopefully we will have a good number of vendors and large numbers of customers. All of which brings me to my central point: our club is an all volunteer organization. We will soon be needing to think about the things that enable us to carry out our mission. The shows and the Gift Shop are the means by which we are able to give scholarships to deserving college students and to maintain the Museum. Yeah, we all joined for the benefits of a workshop and the fun things like classes, field trips and friendship, but our mission is education and that sometime involves that four letter word - WORK. So, while it is a little over a month away, please start planning to make our

Presidents Message cont'd on Page 8

The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

Minutes – February 22, 2018 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble on Thursday, February 22, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 41 members present, 8 guests and 4 new members joining tonight: Cari Behan, Robert Harris, Lara Jackson and Jay Mooney.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January minutes and there were none. Vicki Knisley moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Diane Mason seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Lake Holland gave the report for the month of January. He stated that most of income reported was from a grant we received, the bulk of which will be utilized for gem show advertising.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge had nothing new to report.

Museum Manager – For those who did not already know, Al Pribble introduced Duane Haskell to the membership as our new Museum Manager.

Curator – Ralph Crawford had nothing new to report.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner had nothing new to report.

Gift Shop – Ellen Williams had nothing new to report.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, March 15.

Education – Patty Nichols had nothing new to report.

Publicity – George Fritz had nothing new to report.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes and Cy Amrich have been busy with cabochon classes and Tom Parker and Virginia Bennis with faceting classes. John Hayes presented cabochon class diplomas to the following: Mike Gillen, Nancy McShane, Gary Galbrecht and Sue Sarver. Their stones are on display on the table in the back room. John Hayes said that if anyone is interested in signing up to do so at the museum and leave a phone number. Cy Amrich is willing to do an evening class. John Hayes also brought in some rocks from his personal collection, which he is offering to the members for free. These are also on a table in the back of the room.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported on two upcoming trips in March: Clarkesville (kyanite) on March 10 and Crabtree/Little Switzerland (emeralds) on March 24. Those interested, please be sure to contact Marsha directly.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gem Show – Norm Holbert reported he will bring a sign-up to the next meeting. Assistance is needed with set-up, hosting, security, demonstrations and tear-down. He told us we will have a half page ad running in Rock & Gem magazine for the next three months.

Meeting Minutes cont'd on Page 5



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Hosting at the Museum – Al Pribble said there are five Saturdays in March to be covered. He is sending a sign-up sheet around. Mike Gillen added that someone will be at the museum to assist/train with the credit card machine. He indicated that they are working on an instruction manual. Please sign up to host!

Scholarship Winner – Sean Price asked that the photo of Leslie Montoya be replaced with his photo indicating that he was this year's scholarship winner. George Fritz will take care of this.

Diane Mason is holding two sessions for members to come together to create jewelry to donate and be sold in the museum. The club will provide wire and stones. These dates are: Monday, March 5 from 9 to 5 and Saturday, March 31, from 9 to 5.

Al Pribble stated that respect needs to be given to our program presenters each month. As well, in order to ensure that everyone can hear, he requested that members please refrain from having side conversations during the actual meetings and presentations.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Norman Holbert and seconded by Mike Gillen. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. by President, Al Pribble.

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

This evening's program was a presentation by Diane Mason and Jerry Mason. Diane spoke to us about active shooter response and Jerry gave a presentation on how to build a stone cooler and stone stabilization.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Photos by George Fritz and Ralph Crawford

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



The **Clarkesville, GA trip** on March 10th was a great way to finally get out and play in the dirt. Rain although threatening never came until we were on our way home. Kyanite blades were abundant, cobbles few but one found that weighed 50-75 pounds, small mica books were found but no graphite uncovered, that I am aware of. Vicki Knisley won a door prize, a piece of petrified wood, that had been donated by Nancy McShane, both from our club. Kathi and Stacy Walbridge rounded out our group and are very welcomed to our club.

Mineral Rights on our new property are registered, committee formed, insurance guideline procured and Macon school group tours in work through the Macon County Department of Education. A lot of cross the T's and dot the I's is still needed to complete this project. Committee members: Sean Price, Fred Plesner, Ellen and Ralph Crawford and Marsha Harmon are working with the board of directors towards a timely and through completion.

Crabtree Emerald Mine trip is planned for March 24th. This mine is one of the most famous emerald mines in North America which is near Little Switzerland, NC. It is currently managed by Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association. Specific instructions will be needed to participate. Besides emerald: schorl, beryl, garnet, mica, feldspar, quartz, and fluorite have been found here. Trip leaves 7 am from the Museum, reservations required.

Call Marsha Harmon 828-369- 7262 or marsha.harmon@frountier.com.

Graves Mountain April 27, 28, and 29th will be the next planned field trip, after Crabtree. This location offers 12 different rocks and minerals in 3 huge pit mines. The mining is free with donations appreciated. Many have planed to stay over so make your own plans for transportation, tools, and where to stay if you are. Great opportunity and it can be done in one day, if you like.

Please provide input as to locations desired, materials sought or just activities wanted. This is your club and the Field Trip program is set up for you!



*Top: Stacy Walbridge getting down & dirty looking for kyanite
L to R: Nancy McShane, Marsha Harmon, Vicki Knisley & Kathi Walbridge
Photos by A Nice Lady from the Greenville club, Thank you*

Having Fun

Fred Plesner - Emeritus Curator



Since we now have access to a place we can dig do you want to get some dirt under your fingernails? Just don't be surprised if you can't identify what you find since there are over 400 known minerals and most of them can or have been found in western North Carolina. You may even dig up some gold and not even be aware of it since most gold is microscopic in size and there is plenty of it here in Macon County.

The visitors guide to the state exposition in 1884 listed 11 operating gold mines in Macon County and 4 operating mica mines. Since we have the rights to a mica mine that was in operation until 1952 and worked down to at least 3 levels lets just be content with finding a good piece of mica, feldspar, quartz or some of the other more common minerals. Of course, if you are a micro- mounter you may just luck up if you know what you are looking for. After all, 400+ minerals is a lot to look for. I am just looking forward to a great time once the weather settles into a warmer pattern.

Gift Shop News

Ellen Williams - Gift Shop Manager



Getting Ready... Many thanks to Diane Mason, Barbara Rizzo & Nancy McShane who wire wrapped cabs which had been donated by our generous members. These pieces of jewelry are being carded, labeled and placed in the rounder for sale. More cabs have been made and are ready for the next Make It Wire Wrap Day adventure. Thanks again to everyone who participated.

We had a small gem tree making class taught by Lee Bender and Ellen Crawford. Yea. Much appreciation is felt for that knowledge. It has brought out the arborist in me and I would like to continue to explore the possibilities. More of these group sessions will be scheduled soon. Gather your ideas and materials and come join in the comradery. Please let me know when it is a convenient time for you.

Thank you to all of those who continue to volunteer their time to keep our Museum and Gift shop staffed. A reminder that April is near, then May is just around the corner and the Museum will need you 6 days a week. So please plan a day or two to give back while getting even more in return.

See you in the museum...



*L to R: Ellen Williams, Nancy McShane, Diane Mason & Barbara Rizzo
Photo by Vicki Knisley*

President's Message cont'd from Page 3

Show a success by volunteering when asked to help in setting-up or daily working or demonstrating at the Show and along with that effort remember that the Gift Shop will be open six days a week starting May 1st.

On a more serious topic, please remember Ross and Kathy Young and their girls in your prayers, as they go through a difficult time.

Rock On!

Notes From The Classroom

Diane Mason - Wire Wrap Instructor



Remember that the WIRE I class will start on June 9, 2018. As of yet there has not been any interest. Where are the Florida Ladies? This is the class at the time of year that you wanted and is the ONLY wire class in 2018.

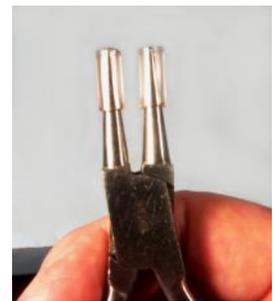
The last date to sign up is May 1, 2108. This gives you time to order your wire and have it on hand. Don't forget that there is a minimum number of students (4).

Waiting to hear from you.....Diane ladydeeswireworks@gmail.com or 706-379-1718

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

NO - MAR PLIERS

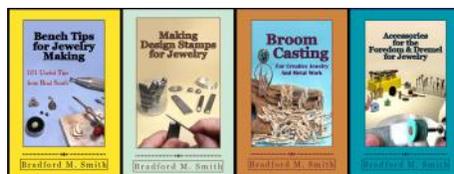
Pliers can often leave nicks and scratches on your work. If this is giving you a problem, first take a close look at the plier jaws. New tools can be a little rough. I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks, and give working areas a quick polish.



If that doesn't solve the problem, you probably need to cover the jaws. Plastic electrical tape provides a quick fix but can leave messy adhesive on the jaws, and dips don't seem to last very long.

A quick and easy solution is to slip a length of 1/8 dia vinyl tubing over each jaw. It works well and leaves no sticky residue. The tubing can be found in a store that sells aquarium supplies. Note that this will increase the size of the plier jaws a bit, but I haven't found that to be a problem.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are available at <facebook.com/Bench Tips/> or on Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>





**From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies
Gem and Mineral Shows**

March 23, 24 & 25, 2018, Hickory, NC

48th Annual Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club show; Hickory Metro Convention Center; 1960 13th Ave Drive SE; Fri 9 am to 6 pm, Saturday 9am to 5 pm, and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm; Admission \$5, Children 12 and under FREE; www.cvgmc.com; Dean Russell, show chair, cvgmcsecretary@aol

April 21, Marietta, GA

Rock Swap & Auction; Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM; sponsored by Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society (CCGMS); held at CCGMS clubhouse 516 West Atlanta St Marietta, GA 30060; www.ccgms.org/ccgms-annual-rock-swap/

April 27, 28 & 29, Lincolnton, GA

Graves Mountain Spring Dig & Rock Swap; 8 AM to 6 PM; FREE - donation suggested; Family fun; All Welcome

May 11, 12 & 13, Franklin, NC

Mothers Day Gemboree; sponsored by The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM; Carpenter Community Center 1288 Georgia Rd (US441), Franklin, NC; FREE; indoor climate controlled; jewelry, gems & minerals, fossils & demonstrations; contact Norman Holbert 828-634-0350; normholbert@comcast.net

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

Franklin Faceters Frolic

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

Macon County Gemboree



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 4:00 pm	22
March	27 6:30 pm	29
April	24	26
May	29	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