

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
MAY 2016
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 \$15.00 per year.

Membership privileges include newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Field Trips.

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 Education Chairman, Diane Aiello at 828-371-2436 or 828-524-3307.

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

Only 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.

2016 - 2017 Officers And

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Curator	Ralph Crawford	404-510-8942
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Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes (Temp)	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Cy Amrich	356-7816

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Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Diane Aiello	371-2436
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Steve Dillon	706-782-2389
Gemboree Ass't.	Fred Plesner	349-4224
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Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Refreshments	Dean Plesner	349-4224
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 26, 2016

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building on 441 South

Program: **Chris Tacker, Curator of Geology at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh** will speak about North Carolina Diamonds.

June Birthdays

- 4 - Marsha Harmon
- 11 - Jeanne Henrickson
- 18 - Doris Smith
- 19 - Joyce Jacques



June Anniversaries

- 10 - Arlon & Sonja Eldridge
- 16 - Fred & Fran Rasmusson



Member News

Congratulations Leslie Montoya! She was one of only four students in the nation to be accepted to attend a summer undergraduate internship and support program in the Earth Sciences based in Boulder, Colorado.

Congratulations Barbara and Pete Rizzo on the opening of Rizzo's Bistro and Bakery!! Stop by for a fabulous experience.



Al Pribble, President



The Mother's Day Show **went very well. Most of the vendors seemed to have had a profitable weekend** and many told us they would be back. That is the good news. As far as bad news, we had a couple of vendors who canceled at the very last minute leaving vacant spaces which did not look good for the vendors who remained in that area. We had some very good demonstrations. All who participated with demos or in hosting in any way are to be congratulated. It cannot be done without you all working to make it a success.

Visitors at the Museum are starting to pick up. So again I want to remind you how important each member is to our success. Sherry Newton has agreed to help on the Calendar Committee and we need one more to step forward to help. Please bring your appointment calendars with you so we can get the Museum calendar covered at the meeting on May 27. This will keep to a minimum the last minute scramble and multiple phone calls to find workers.

I want to remind all of the members that there are materials available to make gem trees and the Gift Shop needs member made goods to sell. Visitors like to get items made locally by members, so if you have the knowledge and ability to make gem trees or to teach the craft please do so. Let Elena know if you would like to help in this area.

There have been a number of instances when items have been left on the table in the meeting room without any indication of what is to be done with them. If they are to be freely taken, then please leave a note to that effect with a name included. In the case of rocks and such perhaps you could bring them to the meeting so all may have equal access or you can leave them in the President's mail slot and someone will see that they are distributed. But please do not assume that when rough material is left that it is free to take without checking to see what it is intended for. In most cases when material for cutting is left it should be used for the benefit of the Museum.

Field trips have slowed down some with all the other activity going on but I am sure things will pick-up soon. One word of caution – many times the places that are good rock hunting areas are also good rattle snake and copperhead habitat, always look before you reach and before you step over that log!

So until I see you at the meeting –

ROCK-hound ON!!

Minutes – April 28, 2016 – General Meeting

Gem & Mineral Society Of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 6:35 PM in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Al said that John Crawford died March 30, 2016 at 97 years old. He will be truly missed.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 2016 General Meeting minutes as printed in *The Mountain Gem*. Norman Holbert moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Lake Holland seconded the motion. Voted on and passed.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported there are 42 members and 4 guests present this evening. Special recognition was given to guest Ella Kliger who wrote the great article about the museum in the Macon County News.

Vice President – Marsha Harmon indicated that nine members recently visited two different mines that were within 30 miles of each other, Grave's Mountain and Jackson's Crossroads, where they found azurite, kyanite and hematite. She said that next month there is no organized field trip by the Society but several independent trips planned. She said she is available if anyone needs assistance.

Treasurer's Report – Lake Holland reported that we are again in a negative situation this month.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh stated all is well. He has been on vacation in New Jersey and Virginia Bennis held down the fort. He and Elena went on a super dig while in Franklin, New Jersey.

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

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner did not have anything new to report.

Publicity – George Fritz said he will be working with Jane Morgan to ensure there are plenty of brochures available for the tables at the G&LW show.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh Elena Marsh reported that she will be buying items at the upcoming wholesale shows. She and Tom Marsh brought back specimens from their recent super dig in New Jersey. These will be reviewed by the Curator, then Elena and Tom will be donating some to the museum.

Education – Diane Aiello reported on a tour tomorrow at 9:30 AM and another tour is scheduled for the morning of Friday, May 27.

Scholarship – Arlon Eldridge

OLD BUSINESS:

Hosting: Al Pribble announced that we *will* have three people this summer to schedule hosts. Sherry Newton will be assisting with the scheduling of hosts along with Virginia Bennis; however, he stated we still need one more person to help so that the burden can become lighter for those that are scheduling. Clipboards with sign-up sheets were passed around and Al urged people to please sign up to host as we will now be open for the season and will need hosts six days per week as of May 1.

Gemboree (May 6, 7 & 8) – Diane Mason said that we still need volunteers for the 2-hour stints at the G&LW show, or whatever time you can give, as well as at our own Gemboree that will be going on during same time. Steve Dillon said we do need more hosts for the Gemboree. Fred Plesner mentioned the downtown Airing of the Quilts that same weekend and reminded us that we definitely need the museum to be covered by hosts during that time.

Norman Holbert asked that members please sign up for Gemboree set-up on Thursday, security (before and after show hours until the security man can arrive), hosting at the actual Gemboree, doing demonstrations, and for take-down on Sunday afternoon. He said he will not have the Boy Scouts this year to help with take-down.

Continued on Page 5

April General Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

NEW BUSINESS:

Diane Mason presented certificates of completion for the Wire Wrap II class to Sherlene Dillon, Jane Morgan and Barbara Rizzo. Examples of their work are on display in the back of the room.

Diane Mason announced she will have a Wire Wrap I class starting in September. The class can hold eight students, so contact Diane if you are interested in getting signed up and to purchase your supplies.

Al Pribble mentioned the Rock Fest to be held in Cartersville, Georgia on June 11 & 12. Al has tickets good for \$6 off the price of admission to Tellus Science Museum, Cartersville. Contact Al if interested.

Arlon Eldridge talked about Brad Hicks, E-Z Guide, coming to visit and requesting our assistance for local advertising. We had a short time to accomplish a goal but many area business owners bought ads and Brad was very pleased. Arlon mentioned several businesses that purchased ads.

Arlon Eldridge mentioned that he has rutilated quartz and if anyone wants a piece, to contact John Hayes.

Garrett Morgan drew the tickets for door prizes and one of those door prizes is a diamond pin tie tack (cut by John Hayes) and won by Ralph Crawford.

There being no further business, Marsha Harmon made a motion to adjourn and Lake Holland seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by President, Al Pribble.

Refreshments were served following adjournment and prior to our program presentation.

The guest speaker for the evening was Ken Rush, Director of the Ducktown Basin Museum, who gave a very informative and interesting presentation on the history of copper mining and the Burra Burra mine in that region, the impact on the land and reclamation efforts as well as ongoing remediation efforts of the industrial footprint.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Photos by George Fritz

Notes From The Classroom - Wire Wrap

Diane Mason - Instructor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my former WIRE I & II students for stepping up to bat and doing demos at the Mother's Day Gemboree. I received numerous flattering comments about you and your wire work. Students like you make me look good. It is an honor and I am very proud to say that you are/were my student.

THANK YOU!! Diane Mason

I would like to thank everyone for the nice compliments at the last meeting about our WIRE wrap display. This would not have been possible without some excellent students. There are also some people behind the scenes who deserve many thanks such as Marsha Harmon, Virginia Bennis, John Hayes, and my husband Jerry who is my go-to for everything. Since I do not live in Franklin this class would have been impossible without their help. I also appreciate the club allowing us to use the classroom.

I have heard from several who are interested in the fall class. Remember you must be a club member to enroll. You also must have all of your wire in hand before your name will be put on the class list. Due to a conflict I will be absent from the May meeting but Marsha Harmon will have the information and can answer any questions.

Jane Morgan and Marsha Harmon will be my assistants for the fall class.



Many thanks again!!

Jane, Barbara, Diane Mason & Sherlene (L to R)

Photo by George Fritz

Mother's Day weekend was fast and furious. Between the Gemboree and the G&LW booth many people did not know where they were. The booth at the big tent (G&LW) was greatly noticed. Vendors from the inside booths came out and often said that they did not know there was a museum in town. Several made comments about bringing their children back as a short side trip. There were two middle school teachers who were interested in field trips for their students at which point we gave them the appropriate contact numbers. There were also visits from two other museums in town.

We would like to recognize the members who gave so freely of their time to make this a success: Ralph Crawford, Ellen Crawford, Marsha Harmon, Al Pribble, Jane Morgan, Doug Morgan, Marie Tsacrios, Lake Holland, Theresa Holland, Christine Hubinger, Susan Fritz, Deb Wright, Jerry Mason, and Diane Mason.

Just remember that this club is only as strong as it's members and they make it great in every way. THANK YOU!

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager

By the time you read this column, the museum and gift shop will have been open a few weeks!



Hard to believe the winter is behind us and we are in high gear for a new season of visitors!

Special THANKS to Sherry Newton who helped me shop during the Mother's Day show! We managed to find some outstanding jewelry pieces that will soon be available for sale in the shop. Small specimens have also been replenished and available. Anamay will be back shortly and will finish carding, pricing and arranging items so make sure you come often to see what's new and available.

In the near future, some amazing specimens will be available to members at our meeting with special 'member only' prices (this will not include the extra 10% off \$10 or more) and then will be available for sale in the gift shop. Some of the specimens will include fluorescent rocks from Sterling Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ – Tom and I were lucky enough to participate in the 'Super Digg' sponsored by the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society. We donated several of our local specimens (sapphire, corundum, mica and a few cabochons created by our members) to their Society. We also provided them with some of our brochures.

Thanks again for all donations to the gift shop. Thanks to members who have helped me clean, organize, sort thru specimens for sale and any other projects that need to be done in the gift shop – it is great to have an extra set of hands to make any task go quickly and efficiently.

Although I say it a lot but I never want this to be taken for granted – THANKS FOR HOSTING – you are representing the club in the finest way.

See you in the museum soon! Elena



Mothers' Day Gemboree

Norm Holbert

Our third annual Mothers Day show is now history, and once again was a success for the club. The club profited enough to cover our scholarship budget. This could not have happened without the strong showing of volunteerism during set-up, tear-down and during the show from you our members. There were times when the demo area was empty or had only one person working, and the hosting at the entrance was a bit thin at times.

Most of our vendors did fairly well even if they often complain that the show isn't what it used to be. What is?

Although I am not the Gemboree Chairman, I want to thank all the members that went over and above to make our show a success. I dare not start mentioning names with my thanks because I'm sure I would forget one, two or more that truly helped.

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



April 22, 23, 24 presented a double header for our club rock hounds this month. Graves Mountain offered 3 free days of various minerals and Jackson's Crossroads, a SFMS hunt for amethyst at an easy \$20 on the 23rd. These two sites are within 30 minutes of each other in SE Georgia.

Four club members elected to hit both locations with a camp over close by. Found at Graves Mountain was plenty of green Kyanite, Lazurite, small amounts of Rutile, Pyrite in Quartz and Iridescent Hematite. Gary Galbrecht was spotted with a crowd rewarding a huge bolder that could only be lifted after breaking into pieces. Deb Wright found a huge nest of dark blue Lazurite.

On Saturday five additional club hounds arrived at Jackson's Crossroads. We all spread out along with other SFMS members in search of Amethyst crystals and clusters. No huge finds were made but most people thought it was worth the \$20 fee. Of the finds there, Ellen and Ralph Crawford did find a small cluster with good color and red flash. This trip was a good study in what to do when setting up a federation trip!

As a reminder to all club members, your **responsibility to volunteer** with in the club is an agreement you made when joining. Please sign up or ask what you might do to help out.

If you have any questions, please call Marsha [828 369-7262](tel:8283697262) or Lake [828 369-5421](tel:8283695421).

Club To Sponsor August Federation Trip

This August, The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin will be sponsoring a Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip. Currently we are looking for a quality location that will show the southeast participants why we are the "Gem Capital of the World". Location needs will be based on quality and volume of material available, room to accommodate 75 - 100 people, bathroom facilities, drinking water/ lunch availability, and safety to all participants. Good suggestions greatly appreciated! Your help definitely will be needed!

Thank you in advance! Marsha and Lake



Ralph, Al, Kristina, Arlon and John at Library Presentation



Winner of Jade" Kristina and John

Photos by Ellen Crawford

Testing Minerals

Fred Plesner - Curator Emeritus

A few days ago while at the Museum, Virginia Bennis brought out 3 faceted stones which she wanted tested. They were to be used in a display of birthstones and were labeled as Aquamarine. A simple visual inspection would have agreed with the label since the color was a clear light blue in two of the stones and a pale blue in the third stone. Just to be absolutely certain, we brought out the refractometer.



All three stones turned out to be zircons. I am sure you have heard someone say, "They look like ---". Well, our senses can certainly help identify things but are rarely definitive and there is nothing wrong with that because it points us in the right direction. I have said all this because it set me to thinking about simple tests and how they help us identify minerals. Lets take a look at some simple tests.

Taste: This is not something you usually associate with the testing of minerals but it is a key indicator in some cases. The most common mineral that comes to mind is "Halite " or Rock Salt. Borax will have a sweet alkaline taste, Chalcantite will have a sweet metallic taste. Why, I know you have seen some of us lick a rock however, it is not recommended! Some rocks are poisonous and may harbor bacterial contamination. Chancanthite is slightly poisonous and Arsenic is a definite no no.

Smell: Yes, some minerals do have a distinctive odor under certain conditions. Sulfur will smell like a lighted match, Arsenic will have a mild garlic odor and Kaolinite will smell like fresh clay.

Touch: Touch is very subjective, so "Hands On" experience is the only way to learn how a mineral feels. Talc (Soap Stone) has a very smooth or silky feel and graphite and serpentine will have a greasy or oily feel and copper a rough or jagged feel.

Magnetism: Magnetism is an unreliable but useful indicator. Iron-nickel mixtures are generally strongly attracted to magnets and Platinum, Chromite and Tantalite are generally weakly magnetic. The easiest way to test for magnetism is to place a compass in close proximity and see if the needle swings even slightly in the direction of the specimen in question.

We are all familiar with color, hardness, weight or density. All these things are useful and necessary in mineral identification, but no one test should be used as an absolute when you have to know positively.



What's the birthstone for May?



May's birthstone, the emerald, is a type of beryl colored green by chromium. Perfect emeralds are among the rarest of gemstones.

The emerald belongs to the beryl family of minerals that include aquamarine (one of March's birthstones), heliodor, and morganite. Beryl, or beryllium aluminum silicate in chemical jargon, is a six-sided symmetrical crystal. Beryl contains beryllium, aluminum, silicon, and oxygen.

Emeralds vary in color from light to deep green. It's commonly thought that an emerald's color derives from the presence of chromium and/or vanadium replacing some of the aluminum in the mineral's structure. The stone can, however, lose its color when heated strongly.

Several famous historical artifacts were made of emeralds. Among them is the Crown of the Andes, said to be made from emeralds worn by Atahualpa, the last Inca (king) of Peru. The crown is set with about 450 emeralds, collectively weighing 10 ounces (1523 carats).

Emeralds are most frequently found inside a form of shale – a fine-grained sedimentary rock. Emerald-bearing shale has undergone recrystallization caused by changes in the physical environment such as pressure and temperature. Colombia produces the largest and highest quality emeralds. They were also discovered, and subsequently mined, in the Ural Mountains of Russia around 1830. In the United States, emeralds can be found in North Carolina. Around the world, they also occur in Zambia, Brazil, Pakistan, Norway, Austria, India, Madagascar, and Australia.

Synthetic manufacture of emeralds was achieved by German chemists shortly before World War II. But growing synthetic stones of fine quality began in the United States in 1946. There are also excellent imitation emeralds on the market made of colored cut glass.

The emerald's name is indirectly derived from the Greek word "smaragdus," a term applied to several kinds of green stones. The history of emeralds can be traced back to antiquity. They were worn by royalty in Babylon and Egypt. Tools dating back to 1300 B.C., during the reign of Rameses II, have been found in emerald mines in Egypt. Queen Cleopatra's emeralds were believed to originate from mines in Southern Egypt, near the Red Sea.

When the Conquistadors first arrived in South America from Spain, they saw indigenous rulers wearing emeralds. They took large quantities of emeralds from the Peruvians during the invasion, but the source of the emeralds was not discovered. Then in 1537, the Spaniards found Chivor in Colombia, now the location of an important emerald mine. They also took over the Muzo mine following the defeat of the Muzo Indians. Mining operations at Muzo have continued almost uninterrupted since the Spanish invasion. It is perhaps the most famous emerald mine in Colombia and is said to produce the world's best emeralds.

There are many myths associated with the emerald. The stone was once believed to prevent epilepsy, stop bleeding, cure dysentery and fever, and protect the wearer from panic. Its magnificent green color was said to rest and relieve the eye. To the ancient Romans, emeralds were dedicated to the goddess Venus because the green emerald symbolized the reproductive forces of nature. Early Christians saw it as a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. In the Middle Ages, emeralds were believed to hold the power to foretell the future.

earthsky.org/earth/may-birthstone-emerald



From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

Gem and Mineral Shows



May 17, 18 & 19, 2016, BOONE, NC

Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Boone National Guard Armory; 274 Hunting Hills Lane; Friday & Saturday 10:00 to 6:00 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM; \$3 Admission Adults, Free Admission for children under 16; Jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths from all over the U.S. who can reconstruct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer-selected gems, stones, opals and crystals.

Wire wrap, wire sculpture, stone beads, pearls, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral and fossil dealers. Hourly door prizes including a Ring with a precious stone that will be given as a Grand Prize; contact Van Wimmer, Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Road, Salem, VA 24153, 540-384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com

May 28 & 29, 2016, (Memorial Day Weekend) BILOXI, MS

37th Annual Harrison County Mississippi Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show; Memorial Day Weekend; Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; adults \$5, children (10 and under) free with adult; demonstrations, displays, Stump the Expert, hourly door prizes; JOPPA Shrine Temple; 13280 Shriners Blvd, Biloxi, MS. Booths (10.5' x 13') are still available; William Smith, Show Chair 251-937-3529; www.gulfportgems.org; GulfportGems@gmail.com

June 4 & 5, 2016, MCCALLA, AL

Tannehill Historical Ironworks State Park, Alabama; 43rd Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show; Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society; Saturday June 4 and Sunday June 5, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; 12632 Confederate Pkwy, McCalla, AL 35111; show is free with paid admission to the park; door prizes, children's games & demonstration classes; I-59/20 to exit #100 or I-459 to exit #1 & follow the signs to Tannehill; Show chairman: Cathy Kellogg tannehillgemshow@gmail.com; www.lapidaryclub.com

June 11 & 12, 2016, CARTERSVILLE, GA

Tellus Science Museum; 26th Annual Rock Fest; Saturday & Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other Events

June 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2016, FRANKLIN, NC

Taste of Scotland Weekend; Free; 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; all things Scottish

July 4, 2016, FRANKLIN, NC

Historic Downtown; 4th of July Parade and Celebration



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General
January		
February		
March		
April		
May	24 *	26
June	28	30
July	19	21 Ice Cream Social
August	23	25 Elections
September	27	29 Banquet
October	25	27
November	15	17
December	13	17 End of Year Party

Monthly General Meetings: 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month in the West Large Meeting Room of 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

If you wish to submit something before the Board, contact the President prior to meeting.

***May Board Meeting Only: located at the First Christian Church at 156 Bellview Park Road**

THURSDAY JUNE 9th is NEWSLETTER DEADLINE