

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
APRIL 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 | 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 | 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

April Meeting

Date: April 26, 2018

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: **Robert Carpenter Community Bldg.**

Program: **Gloria Adams** from Alabama will speak on Quartzsite, AZ; Rock Capital of the World. Her presentation is titled “ From the Mine to You.” She is a designer of wire wrapped jewelry.



May Birthdays

- 5 – Anamay Rossomando
- 11 – Sande Lolli
- 12 – Jonathan Seaman
- 13 – Jane Morgan
- 16 – Paige Jones
- 19 – Tom Gadsden
- 20 – Fred Rasmusson
- 22 – Amy Fritz
- 23 – Colette Doyle
- 23 – Robbie Hayles
- 24 – Bruce Billstein



May Anniversaries

- 4 – Duane & Carolyn Haskell
- 5 – Ron & Anamay Rossomando
- 13 – Ray & Linda Behr
- 16 – Fred & Fran Rasmusson
- 25 – Steve & Sharon Fox



**Thursday, May 17, 2018 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**



Al Pribble, President



As some of you know, Rosie and I are on vacation and I am writing from the Texas Hill Country about 30 miles north-west of San Antonio.

Earlier this week we visited with club members, Dr. Tom and Sandy Gadsden at their beautiful home south of Bandera. Tom graciously offered to take me fossil hunting on a friend’s ranch which got me very excited until I had an episode that evening with my hip and knee that reminded me why I had stopped going on field trips. Needless to say, I was disappointed to have to cancel out on Tom’s offer.

I was also disappointed in my intent to find a roadside site near Llano Texas. A few years ago there was a visitor to the Museum that told me about a place about a mile outside Llano where one could find Llanite on the right-of-way. I made sure I took that route but I never saw the place he was talking about. I now have found that the site is about 9 miles north of town and is the only public site where it can be found. If it were not for the 100 mile drive I would go back.

On a better note we (actually Rosie) did find two pretty specimens of pink granite on one of our side trips. North of Fredericksburg is a Gillespie County Road known as ‘Willow City Loop’. Willow City is a crossroad with a stop sign and about 850 population. But the loop is about 15 miles of paved road famous locally for the abundance of wildflowers, particularly Bluebonnets and white Poppies. The wildflowers were not as abundant as in some previous years, but at one stop beside a creek, Rosie found two rocks and asked me what they were. I immediately saw they were pink granite. It is the same as the stone used in construction of the State Capitol Building in Austin.



Presidents Message cont’d on Page 8

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

Minutes – March 29, 2018 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Arlon Eldridge on Thursday, March 29, 2018, 6:35p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building. President, Al Pribble is out of town on vacation.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 37 members present, 3 guests and three new members.

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

Treasurer – Lake Holland is absent this evening.

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge had nothing new to report.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell did not have anything new to report.

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

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported that he and Marsha Harmon recently recorded a radio program to be aired Saturday at 8:25 a.m. on WFSC.

Gift Shop – Ellen Williams stated she will be holding a gem tree class on Saturday, April 7, at 10:00 a.m. at the museum. Gem trees made will be donated and sold in the museum.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, April 12. 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.

Education – Diane Aiello reported she has had no calls for tours.

Publicity – George Fritz did not have anything new to report.

Workshop Manager – John Hayes reported the workshop is on temporary hold. Cy Amrich is on vacation for two weeks and Virginia Bennis has been caring for her mother who suffered a fall. Arlon Eldridge mentioned that former member, Billy Buchanan, has three pieces of new equipment for sale if anyone is interested.

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. Those interested, please be sure to contact Marsha directly. Arlon Eldridge suggested a trip this summer to the old Jones mine (rubies).

OLD BUSINESS:

Wire Wrap Class – Diane Mason is holding a wire wrap class beginning Saturday, June 9. The last day to register for this class will be the last day in May. Cost is \$64. She urged those who have already taken her class to sign up to do demonstrations during our May gem show.

Meeting Minutes cont'd on Page 5



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

NEW BUSINESS:

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 April and May. Please sign up to host!

Librarian – Thank you to Marie Tsacrios who has agreed to be our new Librarian.

A donation from the membership for Abby and Sara Young was presented to Kathy Young.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Marsha Harmon and seconded by Diane Mason. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by Vice-President Arlon Eldridge.

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

This evening's program was a presentation by Dr. Cheryl Waters-Torney, Department Head, Geosciences and Natural Resource Professor, Geology, Western Carolina University.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Photos by George Fritz and Ralph Crawford

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



At last glance, there were 8 members signed up for the Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA trip, scheduled April 27, 28 and 29. There is also rumors to the site being open the 26. Most members are electing to do their own thing due to the wide range of available dates. It is not too late to go but additional information is suggested if you are interested. No fee required; however, suggested donation \$15.



The Dixie Mineral Council schedule is showing an opportunity to collect fossils in Harleyville, SC on May 19. The Old Town Hall has a spot that is tennis court sized, where the LaFarge Quarry dumps material to go through. One of our members found a palm sized megalodon tooth and several smaller shark teeth there about 4 months ago. *(Photo by Susan Martin)*

You will also find bones, brachiopods and other marine fossils. There is no fee or registration required for this trip.

It will be Franklin's turn to sponsor a Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) field trip this August. Ideas will be greatly appreciated and help will be needed for this task to be a success.

Please direct any questions about field trips to Marsha 828-369-7262 or Lake 828-369-5421.

Notes From The Classroom

Diane Mason - Wire Wrap Instructor



O.K. Florida ladies it's time to step up! The beginning or WIRE I class for June/July now has six (6) members registered. The maximum number I can carry is 8. Nine (9) if someone just can't live without their best friend being there and if I can find an assistant.

I rearranged my routine teaching schedule for the summer to do a class at this time of year, since you made a special request last fall. As of April 1, not a single person from Florida has registered. Just remember that the deadline is May 1, 2018 and this is the only wire class this year.

If you are still interested, please e-mail me at ladydeeswireworks@gmail.com or you may call at [706-379-1718](tel:706-379-1718). Hope to see some of you there.....Diane Mason

May Gem Show

Several of our members are excellent wire wrappers. I hope you ladies and gentlemen will help the club by doing wire demonstrations at the upcoming May Gem Show.

I will be absent from the show in May but will do my time in July and October.

Come on, now folks, and help us out.

Thanks for all that you do and have done.....Diane Mason

Gift Shop News

Ellen Williams - Gift Shop Manager



Are we ready for May? Has everyone signed up for time at the museum?

I have put out a few more attractions in the gift shop. One, thanks to Elena's work, is a small tray of emeralds which is on the counter. There are now more crystal specimens for sale at \$3 to \$5, which I hope will attract the buyers. I realize there is still a lot to do and will always be, so any volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

The Museum and Gift Shop will soon be open 6 days a week which means increased dedication to your club. A reminder to our new members - before hosting remember to get training. Simply contact myself (Ellen Williams) to get this scheduled. Refresher training can also be arranged.

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

See you in the museum...

Make It Day #2

Diane Mason - Coordinator

March 31 was the second "make it" day for the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society to benefit the gift shop. We completed 14 wrapped cabochons. Those who attended were: Lake Holland, Tom Parker, Sherlene Dillon, Jane Morgan, Diane Mason, and , of course Ellen Williams was there to price and ready the items for sale. George Fritz was present to take pictures for us. Unfortunately not everyone was present for picture time.

Some came and stayed all day and some worked the hours that they could and left. All efforts are greatly appreciated.

The wrappers are now at the point that we need GOOD cabochons to wrap. That means cabs with the correct bezel, good dome, and a great polish. They may be freeform or calibrated. Also, any nice faceted stones will be gladly accepted. This group can wrap anything!

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Thanks to all for their efforts!



Left Photo: L to R: Ellen Williams, Diane Mason & Lake Holland and
Right Photo: L to R: Ellen Williams, Diane Mason & Jane Morgan

Photos by George Fritz

President's Message cont'd from Page 3

Further on in the drive I saw large outcroppings of the stone, even though this is not where most of the quarries are located.

The park where we are staying claims to have wifi, but it is slower than some dial-up connections I have had so in most cases I have given up on getting email and I have been unwilling to drive the 25 miles to McD's to get it. I suppose that is a blessing after all, but I dread having to clean out my inbox when I get home. Overall, we have enjoyed this time visiting San Antonio and the Hill Country, even though the scenery is not as spectacular as in some years.

I will be home for the meeting. In the meantime:

ROCK ON!



Secrets from the Hills of Macon County
The Legend of the Appalachian Star Ruby

Rosser Reeves Ruby, with its rich color and well-defined star.

A photo of the Appalachian Star Ruby could not be located but features similar asterism.

Photo by Chip Clark. 2013 Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Fred Plesner – Curator Emeritus

Rubies of gem quality are rare and only approximately 1 in 100 will possess asterism or “star quality”. This makes a true star ruby of gem quality a truly rare treasure. Western North Carolina produces such treasures.

In 1990, Jarvis Wayne Messer made a major discovery, the Appalachian Star Ruby. Mr. Messer's find weighed in at 377 carats and was cut to 139.43 carats. This magnificent find was documented by the Gemological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain in London, England. It was then declared to be both larger and of better quality than the Rosser Reeves Star Ruby, which was at that time the world's largest and finest, weighing in at 138.70 carats, and thus .73 carats smaller than the Appalachian Star.

The Appalachian Star was to be displayed at both the Natural History Museum of London and the Smithsonian Institute and was later at public auction at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina. I have no idea what it sold for, but I do remember talking with Ted Robles about the stone and he assured me that he had seen it and that it was everything that it was purported to be.

I have been asked many times what the Appalachian Star Ruby is worth, and each time the answer has been “I don't know.” Today I have an answer. I started looking around the internet and I found the following posted by Robert Goldstein on July 14, 2011. He wrote:

“I represent the estate sale of a collection of museum quality, very large star rubies. The largest in the collection is the Appalachian Star Ruby, which is larger (139.43 Carats) and of finer quality than the Rosser Reeves Ruby. It was valued at \$3000,000 per carat in 2007. The four rubies in the collection contain over 342 carats and are all very fine museum quality gems.”

That's right, it said \$3000,000 per carat. That translates to $139.43 \times \$300,000 = \$41,829,000$. That is a lot of money and would make the Appalachian Star North Carolina's most valuable gem.



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

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

Other Events:

May 12, Downtown Franklin, NC

Airing of the Quilts; Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM; sponsored by 30+ Downtown Franklin, NC Merchants

June 9 & 10, Cartersville, GA

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

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



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 6:30 pm | 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