

THE MOUNTAIN GEM
APRIL 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

Board Of Directors

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Curator	Ralph Crawford	404-510-8942
Gift Shop	Elena Marsh	369-8915
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

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
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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
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
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Membership	Ellen Crawford	404-457-4478
Publications	Ellen Crawford	404-457-4478
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

April Meeting

Date: April 28, 2016
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building on 441 South
Program: **Ken Rush, Director & Curator of Ducktown Basin Museum** will speak about the history of copper & the Burra Burra Mine

May Birthdays

4 - Lon Peden
 5 - Anamay Rossomando
 11 - Sande Lolli
 13 - Jane Morgan
 17 - Mary Anne Zoeckler
 18 - Phillip Wheaton
 19 - Tom Gadsden
 20 - Fred Rasmusson
 22 - Amy Fritz
 23 - Robbie Hayles
 24 - Louise Manley

**May Anniversaries**

5 - Ron & Anamay Rossomando
 13 - Ray & Linda Behr
 16 - Fred & Fran Rasmusson

**Member News**

Ray Behr has been under the weather lately, we hope he's back on top real soon.

Our long time member and friend John Crawford passed March 30, 2016 at the age of 97 years young. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy and the Family..

**Al Pribble, President**

The Museum Crew have done a fantastic job over the winter. They have scrubbed walls, cleaned carpets, painted floors, walls and cases, repaired lighting fixtures, weeded the garden area, and cleaned out boxes of useless "stuff" until the place looks almost new. Now we the members have to step up as the tourist season starts, remember all the hard work that went in to making the Museum look great and do our part to keep it that way.

We have a number of new items in the Gift Shop made by our members. The ladies who graduated from the Wire Wrapping Class have made several pieces from cabs cut by other members. So everything is handmade by our own craftspeople.

Don't forget our own Mother's Day Gem Show will be happening first weekend in May. We need volunteers to host and demonstrate that weekend. We will also have a table along with William Holland at the G&LW show on Sylva Highway that will need hosts. So, to all of our Florida folks who make it back by that time – vacation time in sunny Florida is over. Welcome back to work in beautiful NC. :->)

I am still looking for a person willing to serve on the Calendar Committee to help schedule workers for one or two months this summer. It really is not a burdensome job if we have three people to share the load. Also, if you notice, we now have a new Curator – Ralph Crawford. Fred has moved to the new position of Curator Emeritus. Fred will be using his imagination and expertise to bring greater recognition to all the programs of the Society and Museum.

By the time you all get this, several of our members will be at Graves Mountain and/or Jackson's Cross Road mines looking for great specimen. Maybe they will have some good ones to show at the next meeting. So until I see you at the April meeting –

ROCK-hound ON!!



Minutes – March 31, 2016 – General Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at 6:30 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 February 2016 General Meeting minutes as printed in *The Mountain Gem*. Doug Morgan moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Lake Holland seconded the motion. Voted on and passed.

Membership – Diane Mason and Ellen Crawford reported there are 32 members and 1 guest present who joined tonight. Welcome Donna Tew.

Vice President – Marsha Harmon reminded everyone to record their hours on the sheet located in the break room, the more volunteer hours the greater the chance of getting a grant. Two field trips less than 30 miles apart are scheduled for April. Graves Mountain on April 22 - 24 and Jackson's Crossroads on April 23rd. To make it to both, over night stay is necessary. There is a sign-up sheet at the museum for those who would like to participate. Talk to Marsha about more details.

Treasurer's Report – Lake Holland reported a net loss of \$-2,928.93 for the previous month, which Al Pribble mentioned is due to the \$2,000. scholarship awarded last month, utilities and maintenance.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh said everything is well at the museum. He asked volunteers to sign up and host. He mentioned how hard Virginia has been working painting and cleaning.

Curator – Fred Plesner has been promoted to Curator Emeritus. Ralph Crawford is new Curator. Leslie, our scholarship recipient was in 2 weeks ago to donate 3 flats of minerals to the museum.

Publicity – George Fritz is absent this evening. Program changed for tonight. Marsha offered to fill in.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh thanked hosts and asked members to please sign up. May will be open 6 days a week. People are needed to do the calendar. Sales great, \$700. Saturday, tours and visitors are getting busy. Diane and Marsha are coordinating jewelry in SS and 14/20 GF, these are being carded, identified and priced. Special section for member made jewelry is being set up in the display rounder. Anamay is here to help for 1 week. T shirts are available in larger sizes. Dean, Theresa, Scott and Sherry provided refreshments tonight.

Virginia Bennis is passing around a sign-up sheet for hosting. Elena thanked those who have brought cabochons in for wire wrapping and eventual gift shop sale. She asked anyone who has cabs they would like to donate in this regard to contact Marsha Harmon.

April 14, Al, John and Ralph are doing a presentation at the library from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Plan to attend.

Al mentioned that if 2 or 3 people do the calendar it will be easier and free up Virginia a little. He would like to see more, different people help and volunteer for jobs. Remember we are seen around the world, are well known, please step up and help the club by signing up!

Education – Diane Aiello is absent this evening. Two tours were last week, one a group of Geology students from Morehead State University. A really good group. More tours are scheduled, April 8th at 11:00 AM for 16 girl scouts and another tour on May 27th. Please sign up to Host. It's a lot of fun.

We need a volunteer to attend course at Angle Hospital for our knowledge.

Scholarship – Arlon Eldridge is the new Scholarship Chairman.



March Minutes cont'd from Page 4OLD BUSINESS:NEW BUSINESS:

Garrett Morgan and Arlon Eldridge drew tickets for door prizes. Tonight's door prizes were donated by Arlon and John Hayes. John donated a handmade bloodstone necklace.

President, Al Pribble presented certificates to Jane and Doug Morgan for completing cab class taught by John Hayes. Stones they cut are displayed on back table.

Arlon & Norm mentioned that Brad Hicks, Publisher, Easy Guide for rock show was at Board Meeting. He would like us to help him with referrals to sell ads, deadline April 8. If he sells enough ads ours will be free. Arlon has hand out materials and info. Just pass on the leads to Brad and he will follow up to close the deal.

Diane Mason asked people to sign up and volunteer for Gemboree and G&LW Show to help out.

Norm Holbert asked for volunteers for Gemboree.

Marsha Harmon talked about Kyanite. Several members brought in their specimens and treasures from the field trip to Clarkesville, GA for "show and tell."

There being no further business, Al made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned by President, Al Pribble, at 7:20 PM.

Refreshments were served following adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Crawford and Diane Mason



Photos by Ron Rossomando

Notes From The Classroom - Wire Wrap

Diane Mason - Instructor

Everyone has been working extremely hard and doing a great job with their wire class.

They have really created some beautiful pieces. A couple of them are actually wrapping natural stones at home and selling them. The ladies have also been wrapping for the museum. They have made my trips from Georgia to Franklin worthwhile.

We will be doing our completed display on April 28 at our meeting. Remember this was a beginning WIRE II class. All of the students are now ready to move on to a full scale WIRE II with prongs and complicated projects.

I hope to see some of these ladies doing demos at our Gemborees. Believe me when I say that they will certainly do the club justice.

I am now preparing for the fall WIRE I class. This is the time for those who are interested to contact me and get their required purchase list. This will allow plenty of time to order wire. Remember for this class to become a reality there must be at least 3-4 students and they must sign up and bring their own wire. Please don't wait until the last minute.

Again, I must sincerely thank Marsh and Virginia for all of their help. They have kept the door open for us.

Diane Mason

706-379-1718 jimndee43@gmail.com**Beginning Wire Wrap II Class**

Marsha Harmon - Organizer

Diane Mason's Beginning Wire Wrap II class will be graduating April 28. Certificates are to be handed out at our next general meeting. Sherlene Dillon, Jane Morgan, and Barbara Rizzo our new graduates, will have several advanced wire wrapped pieces for you to admire there. These three women have really shown true talent as Diane repeats during each class. The club has been very lucky to have a talented instructor volunteer her time and expertise. Her husband Jerry has also given his time and efforts in setting up and breaking down all equipment required.

Approximately 25 separate jewelry pieces were finished by Diane, Sherlene, Jane, and Barbara, which are now in our gift shop for sale. There were addition efforts by our cabochon makers, our material slabbers, and mineral donors.

Thank you all! Get by the museum and take a look at all the hard work, now displayed on our Club Artist Area.

Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



Whew, the winter has flown by, even though some of the snow and cold weather seems to be lingering a bit longer than we want it to –

Sure hope everyone has had a restful few months off from hosting in the museum. Now that May is fast approaching and our museum will be open 6 days a week, we all need to keep our calendars with us so when the sign up sheet for hosting is passed around at the next meeting (April 28th), you can fill your name in one or more of the dates that need to be filled.

Although we seem to mention hosting so many times, it is very important that we all contribute in some way to this effort. Our museum has a set schedule of hours that visitors and tourists expect to be able to tour our facility. The museum cannot stay open if we don't all help. Some go above and beyond the call of duty and host many, many times each month and that is wonderful and it is greatly appreciated. But some of us need to be able to take 4 hours of our time in a month to at least host once. If everyone did that, the club would not have to keep asking for hosts and would not have to keep asking those that do so much to do more. Making it difficult for the calendar chair to find people to host is not a fun job – let's make it easier for that person and fill those slots quickly.

Anamay and I worked in the gift shop while she was here, rearranged many areas, and managed to card, price and display all the wire wrapped cabochons that were made by our members. The May gem show is approaching quickly and I have my list of items that need to be purchased. These will be inventoried, priced and out for sale as soon as possible.

TEE SHIRTS!!!!!! Club members asked for larger sizes and now they are available – L, XL, 2X and 3X - CLUB MEMBER PRICES ONLY Large \$12, other larger sizes \$15. I will bring some tee shirts to the next meeting if members would like to purchase them at that time. Guests will be offered them also for sale at regular gift shop prices. The shirts are also for sale in the museum's gift shop.

Remember spring is just around the corner – at least that is what the weatherman says -

Stay warm, stay safe, Elena

Ghosts

Fred Plesner - Emeritus Curator



I have been told that the people who run the ghost tours here in Franklin include our "Old Jail" in their tour. They take their group to the back parking lot and point out the second floor window behind "The Slammer" that has been bricked up from inside and with the flat iron bars welded over the round bars and explain that the building is haunted. In the dark it makes a very good story.

I have been associated with the Gem and Mineral Society for at least 18 years and I have delved into and written about the "Old Jail's" history for many years now. I know that there have been deaths among prisoners but I have never heard about any of them being ghosts. By ghosts, I am referring to those ephemeral apparitions for which we have no explanation.

Maurice Philippi was a retired marine biology professor and a well respected member of our society who died under some very tragic circumstances. Maurice was our faceting instructor and included myself as one of his many pupils. On a wet and dreary afternoon shortly after his death Jan Robles was hosting at the museum and claimed that the museum door swung open and that "Maurice" walked in. I know how heavy that door is and I also know that with the latch closed it would take some very powerful winds to blow it open.

I, personally do not believe in ghosts but I was not there so I cannot disclaim her story. I say all this not to disclaim what I don't know but to put my vote behind "Maurice." If we are going to have a ghost then let it be someone who was a friendly and all around nice guy and not some unknown and obscure prisoner.

Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

Lake Holland - Assistant



April 22, 23, 24 field trip took place a bit too late to make this news letter. Hopefully the finds at Graves Mountain and Jackson's Crossroads will have been big enough to keep? More to come...

Any available opportunities for rock hounding will be placed on the museum board, for independent hunting along side group trips. Several listed on the board are:

May 20 - Vulcan Quarry and Mineral and Lapidary Museum Henderson, NC.

May 21 - Treasure Valley the former Lookadoo Gold Mine near Nebo, NC.

June 4 - Thermal City Gold Mine Union Mills, NC.

Please check the board and call Marsha 828 369-7262 or Lake 828 369-5421 with questions. All suggestions are appreciated.

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin will be hosting the Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip for August 2016. Several sites and ideas are being scouted/tested at this time. This is a responsibility of all members of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society, Inc. of which we are members.

**April 22, 23 & 24 Graves Mountain &/or****Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Mine April 23rd**

There are two trips being offered with in 28 miles of each other in South Eastern Georgia.

1) Graves Mountain Rock Swap & Dig which is held near Lincolnton, GA for 3 days and is free except donations requested. There are some 12 advertised rocks and minerals to be found there with 3 separate level mines to explore. This area is only opened 2 times a year to the public and more detailed information will be on the back board of the Museum. Open 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM all three days and 2 1/2 hours from Franklin.

2) Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Mine near Tignall, GA. A spot our club has not yet visited. On April 23rd at a cost of \$20 for each adult. Some really high grade, dark purple red flash amethyst clusters have come from this mine as well as clear quartz. 8:00 AM showtime and 2 hours 45 minutes from Franklin. This is a DMC trip so we will provide insurance coverage information to you as needed.

Survey from our last trip is mixed as to where to go next but if you express your personal interest and sign up in time, Lake and I can probably find you a couple people of like interest. There are a few planning to go down to Graves on Friday and hit Jackson's Crossroads on Saturday. Not sure but looks like required stay over in Lincolnton or Tignall? There are camping and motels available but filling up quickly. *Please pay close attention as to dates, and times you need to show up by, cost and suggested equipment to bring to each dig.

Sign up as soon as possible and read hand outs available.

Your Field Trip Coordinators: Contact Marsha 828 369-7262 marsha.harmon@frontier.com or Lake 828 369-5421 iluvnascar@frontier.com with any questions.

Gemboree

Steve Dillon - Show Chairman



Happy Spring time everyone! Our annual Mother's Day Weekend Gemboree is now less than a month away. Unlike the Summer and Fall show, this show is completely ours; we are not partnered with the Chamber of Commerce for this show, so the entire enterprise is up to us. For the dates of May 5, 6, 7 and 8 we need volunteers for help in the following areas:

SET UP Set up will begin at 8:30 AM on Thursday May 5th. We have to run power cords and tape them to the floor, and set up tables and chairs for each booth. Fred knows how many power cords can be run from which outlets without tripping the electric breakers, so he will direct the electrical set up. Norm will have a diagram showing where each dealer's booth will be and the number of tables they have rented, so he will direct the table / booth set up. It is essential that we get these jobs done as soon as possible because some dealers will probably arrive early, and it takes them most of the day to unpack and set up their booths. We also have outdoor signs that we need to put out.

HOSTING We need members to simply be at the show to greet people and answer questions from the public about the show, our gem and mineral society, and our museum. A friendly greeting as people come in helps set the tone for their show experience. Also, your presence as you circulate around the show acts as a passive security service; shoplifters are less likely to attempt to steal from our dealers when there are many pairs of eyes wandering around the room. Hosts are ambassadors of the Franklin Gem & Mineral Society.

DEMONSTRATORS No, not the political kind! We need some of our member crafts-people to volunteer to demonstrate the arts and skills of cabochon making, faceting, wire wrapping, beading, etc. We purchased a special set of high tech lights to illuminate our club demonstration booth, and hope to make this a central feature of the show. Education is one of our society's purposes, so please consider sharing some of your skills and talents with the people who attend our show. Let the public know that we offer classes in these areas and you may bring in new members.

TAKE DOWN The show closes at 4:00 PM on Sunday, May 8. We need volunteers to help undo what we did during set up. Some tables belong to the community building, and those will have to be placed back in the store room. Some of the tables belong to the club, and those will need to be reloaded in our trailer along with the electrical equipment. As soon as the show closes the dealers begin packing out and as we begin to take down tables as soon as the dealers are out of the way. Most of the dealers are eager to get packed up and on the road, so they pack out as quickly as they can.

We have expanded our advertising this year to the LAUREL magazine which is published in Rabun County, but covers events throughout north Georgia and western North Carolina. It is our hope that this will draw people from the Lake Rabun, Lake Burton, Heaven's Landing, Kingwood Country Club, and other communities in Rabun County to Franklin for our show. We have numerous copies available at the museum, free for the taking, so stop by the museum and get a copy or two to share with friends and neighbors. This issue of the LAUREL has a nice feature on the Airing of the Quilts Festival in Franklin which takes place the same weekend as our show.

Sign up, volunteer.....

Thank you all for your help and support of the Gemboree!

April's birthstone is the diamond.

Diamonds are the rich cousins of graphite. Both are crystalline forms of pure carbon. The enormous differences in their properties are a result of the way the carbon atoms are bonded together. In graphite, carbon atoms are arranged in sheets that easily slide past each other, which makes graphite ideal as a lubricant and, of course, pencil lead. Diamond crystals, on the other hand, are a tight-fisted network of carbon atoms securely held in four directions, making it the hardest naturally-occurring substance in the world.

In order to achieve such a compact and strongly-held network of carbon atoms, it is believed that diamonds must have crystallized deep under the Earth's surface. At these depths the proper conditions for the formation of diamonds exist; at 90 to 120 miles deep, pressures are more than 65,000 times that of the atmosphere at the Earth's surface, with temperatures exceeding 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit. Such pressures and temperatures reproduced in laboratories have successfully yielded synthetic diamonds.

There are many kinds of diamonds: transparent, translucent, or opaque; ranging from colorless to sooty black, with many colors in between. Mostly transparent diamonds, colorless or tinted, are used as jewelry. Others are used widely in industry. The color of a diamond depends on the kind of impurities embedded inside it. Yellow diamonds, for example, betray minute quantities of nitrogen, while boron imparts a bluish hue. There are other inclusions in diamonds that have great scientific value. Such samples are time capsules that yield valuable information about conditions deep in the Earth's upper mantle where diamonds formed, as well as clues to the formation and age of the diamond.

Diamonds are found in alluvial deposits – gravel swept by streams, rivers, glaciers, and ocean currents. They are also found in sedimentary rock where gravel deposits and organic material have been compressed into rock. Diamonds can be found in some samples of kimberlite – a type of volcanic rock first identified in Kimberley, South Africa. Diamonds found in kimberlite are thought to be very old, perhaps as much as three billion years old. Tiny flecks of diamond have even been found inside meteorites – bits of rocky space debris that land on Earth.

Diamonds are crystals. Crystals are the ultimate form of symmetry in nature. Their shape reflects the internal orderly arrangement of atoms within the crystal. In diamonds, atoms of carbon are held tightly by covalent bonding, where two neighboring atoms share an electron, endowing the diamond crystal with great strength. But despite that hardness, diamonds can be cut with saws and polished with grinding wheels coated with tiny industrial diamond fragments. In their natural form, diamonds can appear quite unimpressive. They are cut and polished by skilled craftsmen in a pattern that reflects and refracts the light among its facets to reveal the hidden beauty of the stone.

Diamonds' cold, sparkling fire has held us spell-bound for centuries, inspiring rich, passionate myths of romance, intrigue, power, greed, and magic. Ancient Hindus, finding diamonds washed out of the ground after thunderstorms, believed they were created by bolts of lightning. In our place and time, the diamond is a symbol of enduring love, and often graces engagement rings.

earthsky.org/earth/april-birthstone-diamond



From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies**Gem and Mineral Shows****May 6, 7 & 8, 2016, FRANKLIN, NC**

Annual show; Franklin Gem & Mineral Society; Carpenter Building; 1288 Georgia Rd (US 441); Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Free Admission; door prizes hourly; Finished gold and silver jewelry, silver & gold findings, minerals, fossils, cab & facet rough, demonstrations and much more; contact Norman Holbert, 180 Camelot Estates Road, Franklin, NC 28734, 828 634-0350; e-mail: normholbert@comcast.net; Web site: www.fgmm.org

May 6, 7 & 8, 2016, MARIETTA, GA

The Georgia Mineral Society's 48th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Show; Cobb County Civic Center; 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE; Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sunday 12 Noon to 5:00 PM; Free Admission; Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show; Door Prizes! Special door prize for students!; contact Shelley Stubbs (678)-612-7293; e-mail: mayshow@gamineral.org; Web site: www.gamineral.org

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



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Ellen Crawford, Editor

25 Phillips Street
Franklin, NC 28734



First Class Mail



Month	Board Meeting	General
January	26	28
February	23	25
March	29	31
April	26 *	28
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

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

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.

***THURSDAY MAY 5th is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***