

***THE MOUNTAIN GEM***  
**JUNE 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

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Vice President	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Director (2016)	Ray Behr	342-6360
Director (2016)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Director (2017)	Jane Morgan	342-8703

### Museum Managers

Museum Manager	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Museum Ass't. Mgr.	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
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
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
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
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 (7<sup>th</sup>), 1995 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
1996 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1997 (5<sup>th</sup>),  
1998 (5<sup>th</sup>), 1999 (3<sup>rd</sup>),  
2000 (5<sup>th</sup>), 2004 (7<sup>th</sup>),  
2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 2006 (10<sup>th</sup>)  
2008 (5<sup>th</sup>) 2010(3<sup>rd</sup>)  
2014 (3<sup>rd</sup>)



Southeast Federation  
Bulletin Awards  
1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95  
1996-99 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
2003 2<sup>nd</sup> New Editor  
2004 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
2006 (1<sup>st</sup>), 2008 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
2010(1<sup>st</sup>) 2014 (1<sup>st</sup>)

American Federation (AFMS): [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)  
Southeast Federation (SFMS): [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)  
Franklin Gem Museum and Society:  
[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)  
[www.facebook.com/franklingems](https://www.facebook.com/franklingems)

**June Meeting**

Date: June 30, 2016

Day: Thursday

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Robert C Carpenter Community Building  
on 441South

Program: **Sharon Fouts Taylor, Mainspring  
Conservation Trust** (formerly the Land Trust  
for the Little Tennessee) (former scholarship  
recipient) will speak.

**July Birthdays**

- 2 - Fred Plesner
- 7 – Brenda Isaacs
- 10 – Joellyn Reckwerdt
- 14 – Tom Parker
- 15 – Rhoda Haber
- 16 – Sonja Eldridge
- 18 – Jim Huebler
- 18 – Marilyn Kolle
- 26 – Tyler Padgett
- 29 – Barbara Rizzo



**July Anniversaries**

- 12 – Ted & Joellyn Reckwerdt
- 19 – Tom & Winnie Parker



**Al Pribble, President**



As many of you may know, our President has been a bit under the weather lately, and has been give this month off from his writing duties.

He sends his regards and will be back in the saddle soon.

\* Some excerpts from June 2015 *Mountain Gem*:

\*One thing that Ron and I found in reading those back issues (of the *Mountain Gem*) - getting workers for the Museum has been a chore since day one. So, please keep volunteering.

One thing that is mentioned most often in all the reviews we see about the Museum is how great our Volunteers are and how helpful and friendly. So, every one of you who work as guides are recognized by people you do not even know. Keep it up. If you want to see some of the comments from the visitors try this web site:

[http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review\\_g49146-d255222-Reviews-Franklin\\_Gem\\_and\\_Mineral\\_Museum-Franklin\\_North\\_Carolina.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review_g49146-d255222-Reviews-Franklin_Gem_and_Mineral_Museum-Franklin_North_Carolina.html)

I suppose I have mentioned this before but I am also proud of the way our meeting room in the Museum has become a popular gathering place for members. It speaks well of the club when members like to be around other members. \*

So until then, as Al would say  
ROCK-hound ON!!

**Minutes – May 26, 2016 – General Meeting**

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

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Marsha Harmon, on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at 6:35 PM in the Robert C. Carpenter Community Center meeting room.

Minutes – Marsha Harmon asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 2016 General Meeting minutes as printed in *The Mountain Gem*. Paul Thomas moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Diane Aiello seconded the motion. Voted on and passed.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 45 members and 5 guests present. We have one new member this evening: Bobby Bland. Mr. Bland and other visitors were asked to stand to be recognized. Marsha Harmon introduced Lisa Yee and Wayne Eklund of Athens, Georgia, who will be getting married in the museum jail tomorrow, May 27.

Vice President – Marsha Harmon reminded those of us who assisted with the Gemboree to please record those volunteer hours on the clipboard. She reported a field trip is scheduled for Saturday, June 25 to Little Pine Garnet Mine heading out from the museum at 10:00 AM. She spoke about the DMC/SFMS field trip (we are hosts this year) to be held at Cowee Mountain Ruby Mine on Saturday, August 20. The cost will be \$15, which includes lunch.

Treasurer's Report – Lake Holland reported that our account is in good shape. Norman Holbert reported a profit of \$3,000 from the Gemboree.

Museum Manager – Tom Marsh is absent (on vacation).

Curator – Ralph Crawford indicated there were specimens on the front table for sale. He also has specimens that were donated that are not yet ready for display including some beautiful Kentucky agate.

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

Publicity – George Fritz said he will be making a video of the wedding on Friday as a gift for the couple and that he will be submitting photos of same to the local papers.

Gift Shop – Elena Marsh is absent (on vacation). Assistant gift shop manager Anamay Rossomando reported that sales are going well and she has been busy placing new merchandise and member-made jewelry in the gift shop as well as making jewelry from items that were recently purchased at the G&LW show.

Education – Diane Aiello reported the next tour is June 7 with a total of four tours scheduled so far for the month of June. She passed around sign-up sheets for people to sign up to help as tour guides.

Calendar - Sherry Newton asked that members please take four hours one day a month and volunteer to host at the museum. We have been very busy since opening all week for the season. She will be making phone calls to fill empty slots. Clipboards were sent around for sign up. She reminded everyone that Taste of Scotland will be June 16, June 17 and June 18, downtown Franklin, and we could use extra help during those days.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Diane Mason reminded everyone of the Wire Wrap I class to begin in September. She has three people signed up already. If interested, please contact Diane Mason. There is also a sign up sheet with instructions at the museum on the bulletin board.

**Meeting Minutes** cont'd on Page 5



**Meeting Minutes** cont'd from Page 4

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Arlon Eldridge said that elections are coming up and he is trying to get a jump start on things this year. He has nominated the following positions: Secretary – Susan Fritz; Treasurer – Lake Holland; Assistant Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios; Museum Manager – Tom Marsh. There are two positions on the Board of Directors positions to be filled as well as needing nominations for President and Vice President. If anyone would like to nominate someone he suggested asking them first if they would be willing to serve and if so, then to contact Arlon so he can add them to the list of nominations.

President Al Pribble arrived and told the group that the museum has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence by Travelocity (Travel Advisor).

Al Pribble also told the group that two of our members have opened a new business in Franklin called Rizzo's Bakery and Bistro.

Al Pribble reported this is the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the museum.

Marsha Harmon spoke about the wedding that will take place in the museum jail on Friday, May 27.

Ellen Crawford stated that the deadline for *The Mountain Gem* is June 9.

Garrett Morgan was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his great job helping out with our door prizes over the past many months.



John Hayes presented Steve Fox with a Certificate of Completion of his faceting class. Steve's stones are on display in the back of the room. John Hayes reminded us please to not to pick up or touch the stones.

Garrett Morgan drew tickets for door prizes. One of the door prizes was an "Emerald Isle emerald" cut and faceted by John Hayes that was won by Diane Mason.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Al Pribble at 7:00 PM.

Refreshments were served following adjournment and prior to the evening's program.

The guest speaker was Chris Tacker, Research Curator, Geology, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, who gave a very interesting presentation on diamonds in North Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan L. Fritz, Secretary*



**Notes From The Classroom - Wire Wrap**

Diane Mason - Instructor

There are now four (4) students with wire in hand and registered for the fall BEGINING WIRE class. This makes the class a GO!

If you are still considering taking this class and need information, please contact me at 706-379-1718 or jimndee43@gmail.com or copy the notes I left on the bulletin board in the Museum. Marsha Harmon also has a copy and will be glad to share it with you.

Registration for this class will close on September 1, 2016.



## The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

Steve Dillon

I have just returned from my club sponsored scholarship course at The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, GA. The school offers a wide range of lapidary, earth science, and jewelry design courses including mineral identification, gem identification, cabochons, carving, casting, enameling, faceting, glass fusing, intarsia, opals, stained glass, silver, wire wrapping, and scrimshaw to name a few. I chose Mineral Identification as my course. The instructors were Jerry Mason and Marsha Harmon, both members of our own Franklin Gem & Mineral Society. There were two other students in our class were ladies from Florida with interests in minerals and crystals (with two instructors and three students our teacher to student ratio was very good!).

During the week I was there the school had students from throughout the South, as well as folks from Delaware, St. Louis, and New York.

This was very much a "hands on" class, with four full days in the field in locations in North Carolina and Tennessee. The school packed lunches for us because we were usually gone all day, returning just in time for dinner in the evenings. We also spent classroom time learning to use hardness picks corresponding to the Mohs' Hardness Scale and the process for determining the Specific Gravity of various minerals we collected. Some of our field collecting was conducted on Chunky Gal Mountain, Buck Creek, Copper Hill, TN, and private property locations arranged for by Jerry Mason. Our focus specimens included rubies, garnets, sapphires, staurolites, and smaragdite in their native settings; however any interesting rocks and minerals we found were also collected for identification.

Jerry and Marsha are both excellent instructors and we felt very fortunate to be able to tap into their combined years of experience and knowledge. We finished the week feeling that we had learned a great deal in a short period of time, but also knowing we have much, much more to learn.

As far as personal experience goes, I will own up to taking a swim in Buck Creek while wading across the creek carrying a large specimen rock. Those river rocks are slippery, especially when your rubber boots are already full of water from going after another intriguing specimen, almost always located on the opposite side of the creek across fast (and deep) cold water. The Mineral Identification class must be regarded as somewhat exotic to some students at the school who saw us dragging in each evening sweaty, dirty, and apparently looking exhausted because we were frequently asked where in the world had we been, and what had we found. It was easy enough to answer where we had been, but as to what we found, my answer was usually "treasures...lots of treasures".

I want to thank the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin for providing this unique and exceptional experience. I would also like to thank Elena Marsh whose name was drawn first for the scholarship at William Holland but declined to go so the opportunity fell to me. It was a wonderful week.



## Gift Shop

Elena Marsh - Gift Shop Manager



The midnight oil is burning at a home on the Franklin Golf Course – no need to be alarmed – it is just Anamay working into the early morning hours to make jewelry items for the gift shop. Many of our members do not realize the extent that she volunteers after regular museum hours.

The gift shop does not magically appear with amazing displays featuring jewelry or specimens. It takes many, many hours to buy, sort thru, card, price, sometimes make specific pieces with purchases we have made at the gem shows or at other stores where we shop. With the amount of sales in the past years, one person cannot get it all done. I always say Anamay is my right hand and left hand gal. And I mean it. Recently we have asked Sherry Newton to help us as we anticipate another busy season. With Sherry's knowledge of retail and gift shop presentation, we hope to be able to continue having an awesome gift shop.

For the month of June, Entegra bank's back lobby now features the museum, our society and all that we do. This is an opportunity to display our brochures and club information, specimens, and 'MEMBER MADE' jewelry items - giving the general public the chance to see what we are all about. Stop by the bank and see what the display looks like. This is FREE advertisement - the bank does not charge to allow us to showcase our society and museum.

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

## A Brief History of The Gem and Mineral Museum of Franklin, N.C.\*

Ron Rossomando, Historian

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum was born on June 2, 1973 when the Macon County Board of Commissioners granted The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin permission to use the abandoned old Macon County Jail building, in which to establish the Museum, which would be open FREE to the citizens of this community and the general Public. We are most fortunate to have copies of all editions of *The Mountain Gem* from 1973 as well as photos of events and activities of the Society since 1973.

We need to continue on with this long-time tradition of adding to our Photo-gallery pictures of member, events and activities. So if any of you have any pictures and/or newspaper or magazine articles about the Society or the Old Jail, and you would like to donate them, or a copy, please bring them to the Museum. There is a HISTORIAN folder in the Library slot in the meeting room. Please identify your items with the name, date and description of the event.



\*Excerpts from:

*The Mountain Gem*, April, 1976, Helen Coe, "A Brief History...."

Shirley Baughman, Historian, Feb.24, 2000, (28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), "Summary of the Beginning...."

## Field Trip News for June

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator

Lake Holland - Assistant



The club is offering a trip to Little Pine Garnet Mine on Saturday June 25, 2016. A fee of \$12.50, for a 1/2 day of hunting, Almandine Garnet Crystals that are 450 million years old.

These garnets are not suitable for gem material but sure are fun to collect, due to size and form. We will be required to check into Sandy Bottom Trail Ride located at 1459 Caney Fork Road, Madison County, NC which is near Marshall. It will take 2 hours to get there.

Bring: Mining creek and banks (outside mine):

- 1) Shovel and bucket
- 2) 1/2 inch sifting screen
- 3) Hand rake

Mining inside mine: (Hazards due to very slippery surface, no lighting and holes/rocks)

- 1) Heavy boots with good tread
- 2) Headlamp/light source
- 3) Handheld sledge hammer, 3-6 lbs.
- 4) Eye and head protection and assorted cold chisels

To get to the site you will have to climb with your gear, a moderately inclined dirt road less than 1/8 mile long. You will have 4 hours to dig/mine where ever you are safe! There is a Port-O-Let, a picnic table for lunch and you will want to bring lots of water.

[sandybottomtrailrides.net](http://sandybottomtrailrides.net) available for pictures, history, material limits, maps and directions. If you want to meet us there you must stop at the office to sign waver and pay \$12.50 for 1/2 day. They will give you a ticket. We plan to collect from 12:00 until 4:00 PM that day.

Leaving Museum 9:30 AM. Car pooling if needed. Returning approximately 6:30 PM.

If you have any questions, please call Marsha 828-369-7262 or Lake 828-369-5421 and sign up in the Museum ASAP.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO VOLUNTEER IN SOME WAY TO THE MUSEUM. WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

## Club To Sponsor DMC Federation Field Trip for August

Our club will be sponsoring The Dixie Mineral Council field trip for August. They are a part of The Southeastern Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc, of which we are members. Arlon Eldridge the owner of Cowee Mountain Ruby Mine and a club member has agreed to loan his mine for this event on August 20 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

We will provide mining (one natural bucket), food (hamburgers & hot dogs with sides) and water, for \$15 per person. Children under 12 will be for free. Members only.

Usually for DMC trips 50 - 75 persons attend so yes we would love your assistance. A list of what we need help with will be out in early August.

**Thank you Arlon.** You have once again saved our buns (hamburger and dog that is)!



## Geodes - Theories (Guesses)

Fred Plesner - Curator Emeritus



Most of you know that I love geodes and that I frequently state that they are like people, you can't judge them by their exterior appearance. It's the inside that counts and some of them are just plain beautiful.

I am frequently asked how are they formed. Well, to be honest about it, we just don't know how it's done. There are many theories as to how they are formed and I know there are at least 5 of them. There is at least one thing generally agreed upon and that is, we have no idea how long it takes for a geode to form.

Many of the theories begin with the assumption that they form as a result of a lava flow. When the molten lava is released onto the earth's surface there is a sudden release of pressure and as a consequence gas bubbles form. These gas bubbles contain various volatile compositions including up to 90% water vapor. The gas bubbles then form vesicles (holes) within the lava.

One theory holds that dilute solutions of silica then enter the cavities through a point in the cavity wall. This silica over time crystallizes as chalcedony. If the solution becomes depleted of silica quartz crystals begin lining the interior. Trace amounts of iron within the silica solution would produce amethyst and a trace amount of aluminum would produce smoky quartz.

A second theory is that the silica gel can neither enter or leave the cavity once it is formed. Those who accept this theory believe that the silica gel is both formed and later simply leaches out as some form of crystals.

A third theory begins as an empty gas cavity which becomes lined with a mineral skin of some kind of silicate material. The vesicle (hole) then fills with a rich silica solution possibly ground water which leaches in from the host rock and separates out into layers such as chalcedony, quartz, amethyst, etc. We do have some of nature's water bottles or "Enhydros." These are geodes that have a water filled cavity. There is an example of an enhydro at the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum upstairs in the International Hall.

A fourth theory is that some geodes are formed in sedimentary rock formations forming concretions in cavities left by marine life such as sponges, blastoids and sea urchins. In time the interior of the concretion dissolved and was replaced by silica and/or calcite, which commonly left a cavity.

A fifth theory is simply that in the process of forming fossils there were invariably cavities formed and crystals grew there.

If the rock that contains an enhydro is ancient then the water within it must be ancient. Could we not, then, call it "fossilized water."

Another curiosity is how did oil get into geodes? They are not found near oil fields. Other curiosities are geodes that smell (stink) when opened because pyrite within them has decomposed and formed sulphurous gases. The bad apple of the lot would be the one that contains a poisonous liquid called mercury. How these things happen we don't know.

Just try to remember that a theory is an educated guess. Some are good guesses, some aren't and some just sound good, either way theories are disproved every day and new ones are formulated or reformulated. Feel free to challenge a theory, you may be right.

## What's the Birthstone for June?

June has three traditional birthstones – pearl, moonstone, and Alexandrite.

### Pearl

Unlike most gemstones that are found within the Earth, pearls have an organic origin. They are created inside the shells of certain species of oysters and clams. Some pearls are found naturally in mollusks that inhabit the sea or freshwater settings such as rivers. However, many pearls today are cultured-raised in oyster farms that sustain a thriving pearl industry. Pearls are made mostly of aragonite, a relatively soft carbonate mineral (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) that also makes up the shells of mollusks.

A pearl is created when a very small fragment of rock, a sand grain, or a parasite enters the mollusk's shell. It irritates the oyster or clam, who responds by coating the foreign material with layer upon layer of shell material. Pearls formed on the inside of the shell are usually irregular in shape and have little commercial value. However, those formed within the tissue of the mollusk are either spherical or pear-shaped, and are highly sought out for jewelry.

### Moonstone

June's second birthstone is the moonstone. Moonstones are believed to be named for the bluish white spots within them, that when held up to light project a silvery play of color very much like moonlight. When the stone is moved back and forth, the brilliant silvery rays appear to move about, like moonbeams playing over water.

This gemstone belongs to the family of minerals called feldspars, an important group of silicate minerals commonly formed in rocks. About half the Earth's crust is composed of feldspar. This mineral occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks, and also constitutes a large percentage of soils and marine clays.

### Alexandrite

June's third birthstone is the alexandrite. Alexandrite possesses an enchanting chameleon-like personality. In daylight, it appears as a beautiful green, sometimes with a bluish cast or a brownish tint. However, under artificial lighting, the stone turns reddish-violet or violet.

Alexandrite belongs to the chrysoberyl family, a mineral called beryllium aluminum oxide in chemistry jargon, that contains the elements beryllium, aluminum and oxygen (BeAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>). It is a hard mineral, only surpassed in hardness by diamonds and corundum (sapphires and rubies). The unusual colors in alexandrite are attributed to the presence of chromium in the mineral. Chrysoberyl is found to crystallize in pegmatites (very coarse-grained igneous rock, crystallized from magma) rich in beryllium. They are also found in alluvial deposits – weathered pegmatites, containing the gemstones, that are carried by rivers and streams.



[earthsky.org/earth/june-birthstone](http://earthsky.org/earth/june-birthstone)



[moonstones.com](http://moonstones.com)



[etsy.com](http://etsy.com)

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

**July 28, 29, 30 & 31, FRANKLIN, NC**

Macon County Gemboree; Robert C Carpenter Community Bldg; Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM & Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; \$3 Adults; \$1 Senior Citizen Day Thursday & \$1 Macon Co Residents Day Sunday



**Other Events**

**May 28 to October 15, Saturdays, FRANKLIN, NC**

Pickin' on the Square; fun, free, weekly entertainment on just about every Saturday night throughout the summer; bring family, friends and a chair; 6:30 PM open mike; around 7:30 PM entertainment

**July 4, 2016, FRANKLIN, NC**

Historic Downtown; 4th of July Parade and Celebration

**July 21 to 31, 2016, WAYNESVILLE, NC**

Folkmoor (Meeting of the People) USA, North Carolina's Official International Folklore Festival, is a two-week celebration of the world's cultural heritage through folk music and dance

**July 28, 29 & 30, 2016, FRANKLIN, NC**

Franklin Faceters Frolic (FFF9); 9th annual Frolic; FunFactory at 1024 Georgia Rd; FREE; Thursday, Friday & Saturday dealers open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Equipment & Supplies, Classes, Discussions, Pretty Stone Contest; contact Norm Holbert; franklinfacetersfrolic.com

**July 31 to August 7, 2016, SPRUCE PINE, NC**

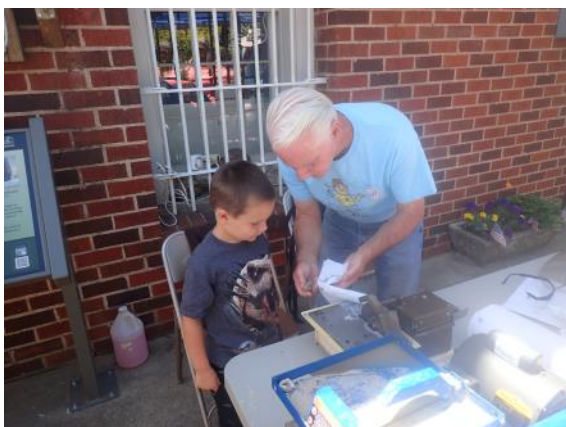
32nd Annual Spruce Pine Grassy Creek Gem & Mineral Show; Parkway Fire and Rescue at 12966 Hwy 226 South; Fundraiser for new equipment; Daily 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM; FREE

**August 4, 5, 6 & 7, SPRUCE PINE, NC**

Spruce Pine, NC Gem & Mineral Festival; 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Final Day 12:30 PM to 5:00 PM; 12183 S. 226 Hwy; \$3 Adults; \$1 Senior Citizen Day Thursday

**August 20, 2016, FRANKLIN, NC**

12th Annual Franklin Folk Festival; "A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage"; Cowee School, Arts & Heritage Center, 51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin, NC; (800) 932-5294; 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM



*THE MOUNTAIN GEM*

*Ellen Crawford, Editor*

25 Phillips Street  
Franklin, NC 28734



**First Class Mail**



Month	Board Meeting	General
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
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.*

**THURSDAY JULY 7th is  
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**