

THE MOUNTAIN GEM

DECEMBER 2017

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	Tom Marsh	369-8915
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706- 379-1718
Director (2018)	Mike Gillen	678-772-6375
Director (2018)	Tom Parker	342-3619

Museum

Museum Ass't. Mgr.	OPEN	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Gift Shop	Ellen Williams	349-9416
Ass't. Gift Shop	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Museum Workshop	John Hayes	524-8062
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Cy Amrich	356-7816

Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	OPEN	
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Patty Nichols	678-243-8036
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Kathy Young	941-387-4397
Historian	Ron Rossomando	727-367-9196 or 349-2807
Librarian	OPEN	
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	631-1911
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)

<p>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</p>

December Meeting

Date: December 16, 2017

Day: Saturday

Time: 12 Noon

Place: **Robert Carpenter Community Bldg.**

Program: **Year End Party and Rock Bingo.**
Bring a side dish and gift to exchange.



January Birthdays

- 4 – Jack Jungles
- 13 – Penny-Lynn Goldstein
- 17 – Scott Newton
- 20 – Ralph Crawford
- 21 – Roberta Pipitone
- 23 – Ellen Crawford
- 24 – Jim Mahar
- 25 – Mark W Laing
- 28 – Cy Amrich
- 29 – James Mason



January Anniversaries

- 10 – Al & Rosie Pribble
- 27 – Quinton & Mittie King
- 28 – John & Dianna Jurss



We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Ellen Williams and family on the death of her Mother.

Claire M. Miller, Life Member, passed away November 6, 2017 at 92 in PA. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

***Thursday, January 11, 2018 is
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



Al Pribble, President

I trust by now everyone is over Thanksgiving turkey and ready for another. The Holiday Season is upon us in case any of you were asleep under a rock and missed BLACK FRIDAY or CYBER MONDAY. All joking aside, I am thankful for the club we have and the great members we have. I am looking forward to a great time at our End-of-Year Party. From looking at the sign-up list we should be able to add at least a couple of pounds to what was added on Thanksgiving. Along that line I want to thank Marie Tsacrios and Rhonda Blanton for stepping up to plan the party.

As of last Saturday (November 25) we started taking credit cards at the Museum. I realize there will be a learning curve, but I am sure that all will be able to master the process shortly. Interestingly, I read in a past newsletter that exactly 9 years ago this month the sales sheets were introduced and there was also a learning curve for that system as well. The Board believes that the use of credit cards will increase our sales as well as net income. We are now for the first time charging tax on the gross sales. This alone will increase our profit by some 4% - 6.75% depending on whether it is credit or cash. The amount will be calculated for us and the amount of change will be shown on the screen – just like McDonald's.

I want to thank Mike Gillen for getting the equipment for the Museum and Ralph Crawford for all the hours he put in to get the system set up and operating.

John Hayes has sent one of the faceting machines to the factory for repair and upgrade. There will be some classes announced soon.

Hope to see you all on December 16 for some food and Rock Bingo. Don't forget to bring something for prizes in Rock Bingo (\$5 or less).



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

Minutes – November 16, 2017 – General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2017, at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Membership – Ellen Crawford reported 33 members and one guest present. We have one new member tonight: Paige Jones.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October minutes and there were none. Norman Holbert moved that the minutes be accepted as printed and Fred Plesner seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported the month of October as being another profitable month.

Museum Manager - Tom Marsh did not have anything new to report.

Curator - Ralph Crawford is absent this evening.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner reported the Board accepted the mineral rights for donated property. The deed will need to be transferred. Marsha Harmon will be organizing a field trip there this spring.

Gift Shop – Ellen Williams stated that she is working on a project to have souvenir post cards available. Al Pribble reported that Ralph Crawford is working on getting the credit card system set up; hopefully to be ready by this Saturday.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Tuesday, November 28.

Education – Diane Aiello is absent this evening.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon reported on two upcoming field trips: this coming Saturday to South Carolina, meeting at the museum at 7 a.m. and a trip on December 9 to Diamond Hill.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Museum Manager – Al Pribble announced that Tom Marsh has tendered his resignation as Museum Manager. If anyone is interested in this position, please see Al Pribble.

Christmas Dinner – Scheduled for Saturday, December 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jane Morgan is the food coordinator but has had to step down due to a family emergency. There is a food list circulating but if anyone is willing to coordinate the food for our party please see Al Pribble. Marie Tsacrios has agreed to be the new food chairperson for the event.

Winter Wonderland – There are two weekends for this downtown event – November 25 and December 2. The museum will be open those evenings from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. We need hosts. There are sign-up sheets circulating.

December – There are still three Saturdays open for hosting for December. Please consider hosting for one of these days. A sign-up sheet is at the membership table. If you would like to host but need training, new members can contact Ellen Williams or Al Pribble for assistance.



Meeting Minutes cont'd from Page 4

Gem Show – Mother's Day Weekend – Norman Holbert asked anyone who may be a vendor themselves to come and join us. Contact Norm directly for details.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Sean Price and seconded by Tom Parker. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. by president, Al Pribble.

Refreshments were served. Everyone received a door prize, graciously provided by Arlon Eldridge. We then had a presentation by Arlon Eldridge and Tom Sterrett on Brazilian quartz.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Fritz, Secretary



Welcome Paige Jones, new member



Congratulations Sean Price, Scholarship recipient
L to R—Arlon Eldridge, Sean Price and Al Pribble



Field Trip News - Lets go dig holes!

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator
Lake Holland - Assistant



4 Mines in 2 days November 11 & 12

The gang as we were looking for more great spots near Spruce Pine, NC area. Evaluating possible Field Trip locations. This is the Hoot Owl Mine location. We also visited Brushy Creek, Crabtree and Wray Mines; all in two days.

Thank you, gang, one and all!

L to R – Club Members and William Holland students:
Stephen, Sean Price, Susan Martin, Nancy McShane, Marsha Harmon, (back row) Dennis and Mark

November 18, Due West, SC - Amos Cunningham Farm - I had visited this location before but had not dug/searched here at that time. This is a Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) location and there were 8 Franklin Gem and Mineral Society members in attendance with 6 being new members. Always great having new members along! Great weather for late November as we went south. A couple of members found small beryl crystals but most members found fractured smoky quartz and some found crystals laying on the ground. Amos gave out small quartz crystals (some pink in color) as we registered. As material was cleaned a couple with purple points were revealed.

December 9, Antreville, SC - Diamond Hill Mine - This is a well known and well established mine, 2 hours away. We will be looking for quartz (milky, skeletal and smoky) and occasional beryl and amethyst crystals. This is another DMC trip provided to you as members of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society. Good reports by recent visitors to this mine and it is always warmer there than in Franklin, this time of year.

*Please call Marsha 828-369-7262 or email marsha.harmon@frontier.com if you would like to come along on any trip. The board in the back room of the Museum also has information and a sign-up list but requires a Saturday Museum visit, this time of year. That is not a bad thing!



The Year End Party and Rock Bingo is almost here.

Saturday, December 16th

Set Up & Bring Food 11 AM

Dinner from 12 Noon to 4 PM

Bring an Exchange Gift for Rock Bingo



Gift Shop News

Ellen Williams - Gift Shop Manager



Has It Been a Month Already?

I have had some good feedback on the changes being made to our gift shop. Nothing would be possible without the help of Ellen Crawford and many Society members who frequent the museum.

My goal is to have a gift shop which reflects the products displayed, with a strong representation of the Franklin area. We have a product in the production stage to answer our visitors frequent request for a souvenir of Franklin.

Any assistance from our talented members will always be appreciated.

Thanks, Ellen W.

Franklin and General Electric

Fred Plesner - Emeritus Curator

In 1915 the General Electric Company was having a problem. Their growing telephone business was outstripping the available supply of mica. At that time nearly all their mica came from India and their search for domestic sources had failed because of the exacting standards required by the industry.

The company sent P. M. Marshall on a trip through the mica-producing areas of the south. After visiting numerous areas in the southern states, Mr. Marshall decided that Franklin, North Carolina would be the best location for General Electric's southern operations. The process would include both the purchase of mica direct from the mines and then "putting it into shape" for General Electric's use.

The company hired J. W. Roper to take charge of their Franklin operations. Mr. Roper was familiar with mica mining operations but not the industrial processes that met GE's standards, so the first step was to get Mr. Roper trained. Mr. Roper was sent to Chicago for training and returned to Franklin in April of 1916 and deposited \$1,500 of GE's money in a local bank.

Local operations began in a cabin with three employees. By the end of the year, they had outgrown their cabin and moved into a larger and more substantial frame building. Seven years later they moved to the upper floor of the building that faces the public square and sits directly across from the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum that Mr. Drake now uses for his computer tax operations.

From 1916 to 1919, General Electric spent more than \$20,000 through their Franklin office. By the mid '20's they were spending \$30,000 a year for labor and materials, not counting the cost of the mica that was purchased.



Domestic mica sources were proving inadequate to meet the company's needs so the Franklin processing plant began receiving shipments of raw material from India, Africa and South America.

I'm not sure when the plant closed, but it did continue to operate through the Depression years and thus provided good jobs for a number of local families during what must have been some very trying times.

Macon County Honors Our VETERANS

On the 11th month, the 11 day, at 11:00 AM Macon County honored it many Veterans. The parade down Main Street included veterans from WWII to the present day. The Franklin High Marching band provided just the right note as our veterans were applauded as they marched by. Mayor Bob Scott presided over a moving ceremony to pay tribute to our local veterans. The event was concluded with a wreath laying honoring those who did not come home.



Photos by Mary Bermke and Louis Vitale

www.mcd.org

Thank You

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



December 9 & 10, Franklin, TN

“Earth Treasures” 37th Annual Show by Mid –Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society ; Ag Expo Park; 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN 37064; Saturday 9 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM; Adult Admission \$5; Students, 18 and under \$1; FREE parking; MTGMS.org

Other Events

Thru December 16, Franklin, NC

SEBA 3rd Saturday; Bluegrass Jam Session; Historic Cowee School; Noon to 3 PM; FREE

Franklin, NC, Cowee Community

T. M. Rickman General Store; 259 Cowee Creek Road; Saturdays; 10 AM to 4 PM

December 6 to December 31, Bryson City, NC

The Polar Express; multiple departures; Great Smoky Mountains Railroad; special steam excursion December 31; 800-872-4681

December 8, 9 & 10, Lawrenceville, GA

22nd Annual Mammoth Rock Show; Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show; Gwinnett County Fairgrounds; 2405 Sugarloaf Pkwy; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM; Admission \$5 adult (good for all 3 days); FREE parking

December 31, Downtown Franklin, NC

4th Annual Ruby Drop; 8 PM to midnight; bring in the new year with music, games, activities, and before midnight countdown and lowering of the ruby

February 8 to February 11, 2018, Tucson, AZ

64th Annual Tucson Gem & Mineral Show; Tucson Convention Center; www.tgms.org



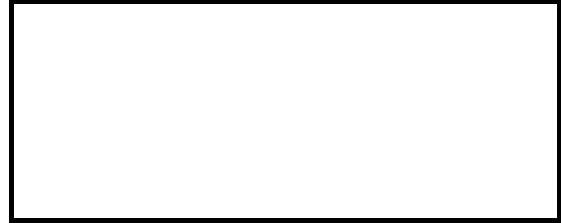
THE MOUNTAIN GEM

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	22
March	27	29
April	24	26
May	29	31
June	26	28
July	24	26 Ice Cream Social
August	28	30
September	25	27 Banquet
October	23	25
November	27	29
December	12 4:00	16 End of Year Party Saturday

December General Meeting/Year End Party will be held at Noon, December 16, at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building

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