



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina

July 2020 Newsletter



Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

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Committees

Membership: Tom Parker and Diane Mason
 Museum Curator: Mark Laing, (864-910-1580)
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
 Museum Gift Shop: Nancy Hopp (828-508-0637), Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Museum Workshop: Virginia Bennis (631-830-5403)
 Publicity: George Fritz, (828-524-4936)
 Field Trip Coordinator: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Program Coordinator: Kathi Walbridge
 Museum Calendar: Jay Mooney, (678-488-0620)
 Gemborees: Norm Holbert (828-634-0350)
 Education/Tours: Marsha Harmon, (828 369-7262)
 Asst Education/Tours: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Web Master: Melissa Barfield (803-724-8312)
 Newsletter Editor: Stacy Walbridge [fgmseditor@gmail.com]

The Club is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Southeast Federation of the Mineralogical Societies.



The 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.

GREETINGS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

I hope everyone is staying healthy and happy. There have been a lot of questions of uncertainty about the Museum and our meetings. The Museum will still be there when it is safe for the members to return to working, cutting stones, having classes and just in general stopping by to say hello. We will let everyone know. I miss seeing everyone as well.



Our dues are coming up for renewal. With that being said I hope you can pay them but if you are having a problem with finances special considerations can be made. We still have to pay the minimum bills at the Museum. We lost the revenue this year from the 2 Gem shows, sales, and donations at the Museum. Some also have asked about if there is a Gem show? Yes there is a wholesale show going to take place the 1st week of August although it has been dialed back on size. Everyone has heard and seen news footage about mass gatherings and the rise in numbers. So please remember that when out and about during that week.

So please bear with me during this time. I like so many of you are having to learn what the new normal is like and how to navigate through it. Please stay safe, wash your hands, and wear your mask.

Take care,
 Jane Morgan
 President, Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

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Club Website: <http://www.fgmm.org> Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/franklingems>
 Club Newsletter: fgmseditor@gmail.com, Club Contact E-mail: franklingsociety@gmail.com

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ROCK CYCLES

Marsha Harmon

What is a rock cycle?

It is an explanation of how the 3 types of rocks are formed. The name for these three types are: Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic rocks. In the third and fourth grades of public school in North Carolina under Physical Science this subject is covered. So if you guessed that a rock cycle is a bicycle made of rock, you may need to read on.

The use of the term cycle is a great way to explain how one type may change to another through weather, or a river or other event that may slowly break down a rock into small pieces (1). These small pieces will get covered by other rocks and end up deep in the earth's crust. When the pressure and heat get high enough, the rock will metamorphose into a different rock (2). A volcano may then send that rock back up to the surface, it cools and now becomes another type of rock (3). and so it goes on in a cyclic pattern.

- 1) Sedimentary Rock
examples: shale, sandstone, limestone and conglomerate
- 2) Metamorphic Rock
examples: slate which comes from shale, marble which comes from limestone, schist and gneiss
- 3) Igneous Rock
examples: basalt, granite, pumice and obsidian

You can start anywhere in this cycle and billions of years will pass to complete a cycle. So Fred Flintstone does NOT drive a rock cycle!

So how are minerals identified?

They are identified by using tests to establish their physical properties. The most common tests used without fancy equipment are: hardness, color, luster,

cleavage and streak. All of these tests can be done in the field and save you the trouble of carrying home pounds of miss identified material or too many PR's (pretty rocks).

Hardness is the resistance of a mineral to scratching and abrasion. The Mohs scale (1-10) is often used as a relative measure of hardness.

Mohs Scale

1 talc	6 orthoclase feldspar
2 gypsum	7 quartz
3 calcite	8 topaz
4 fluorite	9 corundum
5 apatite	10 diamond

Compare your unknown rock to a known rock and figure out which hardness value is closest on the Mohs scale. Beryl the group name for emerald, aquamarine, morganite and heliodor is considered very hard (7.5-8) on Mohs scale.

Color is the visual hue of a mineral as observed by your own reference. I find this test to be the least dependable as my reference to green may not be the same as yours. Corundum the group name for rubies and sapphire can come in many colors but rubies are always red.

Luster is a reflective property of mineral surfaces. It is usually referred to as metallic, non-metallic or submetallic if in between. Vitreous (glassy), adamantine (brilliant or gem like) and resinous (resin like) lusters are common. Greasy, oily, pearly, waxy and silky can also be found. Muscovite found in the mica group and is considered to have a silky luster.

Cleavage is the tendency of some minerals to split or break along characteristic planes corresponding to directions of minimum cohesion. If it breaks along one or more smooth edges it is said to have cleavage. Kyanite is said to have perfect cleavage and also has 2 hardnesses; across the cleavage plane (6-7) and (4-5) along the cleavage plan

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Streak of a mineral is the color when it is ground into fine powder. A streak plate (unglazed white porcelain) will be the most convenient to use. Some minerals will streak differently in color than they appear. Amethyst from the quartz family visually light to dark purple will leave a white or clear streak.

The above examples are all found in North Carolina. Know what is normally found in the area you are hunting in and get a good book. Take huge amounts of unidentified rocks to the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum and ask them. JUST KIDDING.

The above subjects are taught in North Carolina on the 3rd and 4th grade levels under Physical Science. So you could always ask your grandchildren.

DIAMOND HILL MINE

Stacy Walbridge

A couple of weeks ago Kathi and I were experiencing field trip withdrawal symptoms and decided to take a drive down to Diamond Hill Mine in Abbeville, SC. After a 2 plus hour drive south we arrived at the mine. There were 5 cars in the parking lot and just a couple of diggers visible. Masks are required in the parking lot so we put on our masks and paid our fee, \$20 for adults and \$10 for seniors over 65.

It had rained the night before so the recommendation was to look in the little gullies and washes to see what had been uncovered. Kathi and I split up, Kathi surface skimming for Amethyst and I was looking for some large yard rocks with visible quartz points. We had moderate success when we met back at the car for lunch. The temperature was climbing close to 90F so we decided to make one more run through the spoil piles when Kathi noticed some purple color in the parking lot. Kneeling down she scraped around the color and pulled out the best Amethyst find of the day.

With over 5 acres to explore, social distancing was not a challenge. The website suggests visiting on a weekday for less crowded conditions. When we left around mid-afternoon there were 12 vehicles in the

parking lot and maybe 25 collectors roaming the site. Just getting out for the day made it a worthwhile and the Amethyst find just added to it.



Diamond Hill Amethyst (7 x 5 cm)

Photograph by Stacy Walbridge

JULY BIRTHSTONE: Ruby

From: <https://geology.com/gemstones/birthstones>



The most desired variety of corundum is the ruby. The red color is produced by trace amounts of chromium in the mineral. These two beautiful rubies were mined in Madagascar. The one on the left is a 7 x 5 millimeter octagon that weighs about 1.32 carats. The one on the right is an 8 x 6 millimeter oval that weighs about 1.34 carats. Although Asia has been the traditional source of gem corundum for over one thousand years, Africa is poised to become a new primary source

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Amber

Fred Plesner, Curator Emeritus

As a youth I had heard of Amber and simply dismissed any thoughts about it as some valuable substance that I had nothing to do with. Years later as a married man with two teenaged boys we were on vacation in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada and doing a little souvenir shopping. I had found a pair of gold cuff-links set with scrimshawed walrus ivory that I wanted when something else caught my eye. I had to ask the clerk to make sure about what I was looking at. Yes, a necklace of small amber beads was laying there in front of me.

I had never seen amber before but I was drawn to its soft warm glow. It seemed to me to be a color that would go with all the fall colors, the reds, yellows and browns. Dean said yes and the price was very reasonable. Yes, after all these years she still has that necklace.

Every year when the wholesale show rolls into town I like to purchase some small pieces of raw amber. It's inexpensive and I usually have a few pieces of it in my vest pocket when I am hosting at the museum. Many of the women who come into the museum have no idea about how light it is in weight and when I find some young girl named Amber I take delight in giving her a small piece of the stone from whence her name comes from.

Amber is usually classified in one of two ways, its source, such as Baltic Amber or its appearance, such as brown, clear or cloudy. It is heat sensitive so it should be treated with care and protected from bumps and scratches. Ultrasonic or steam cleaning may cause it shatter so it should be cleaned with warm (not hot) water and a soft cloth.

Amber is affordable and can add a dressy look to a casual outfit so if fits your taste go for it.

JEWELRY BENCH TIPS

Little Balls

I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Cut the scrap into little pieces, put them on a solder pad and melt them with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire. But



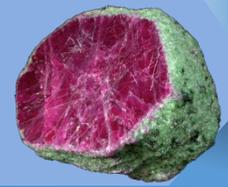
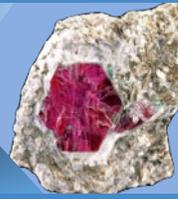
there's an easier way to get a good supply of balls. Some casting grain comes in near perfect ball form. Just grab your tweezers and pick out the ones you need. When you need larger quantities of balls, pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit, and let all the round pieces roll to the bottom. Bag the good ones, and pour the rest back into your bag for casting. Balls can be sorted into different sizes using multiple screens.



Work Smarter With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books, [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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MEMBERS TRADING POST



In last month's newsletter we provided information on a new feature called the, "Members Trading Post" where the club would facilitate the sale of unwanted hardware, equipment, or rocks. This is an attempt to help raise funds for the Museum and the club with a portion or all of the proceeds donated to the club.

In this month's issue there are 4 items for sale that are shown below. If you have an interest in one of the items contact the seller and work out the details. For these 4 items all the proceeds will go to the Museum. We will try this for a couple of months to see if there is interest, so members, look through your collections and equipment and follow the directions below to help the Museum.

What is needed from the Seller; send an email to fgmsnewsletter@gmail.com by the Newsletter deadline or earlier and include:

- Seller Name
- Seller Contact Information
- Picture of Item for Sale
- Price OBO

For the Buyer:

If you see an item that you would like to purchase then you will contact the seller directly and work out the price and logistics for completing the sale.

Upon Sale Completion:

Once the sale takes place then the donated funds should be placed in an envelope along with the seller's name and placed in the lockbox (*Donations Box*) at the Museum. A receipt for the donation will be provided to the seller at a later date (*if desired*).



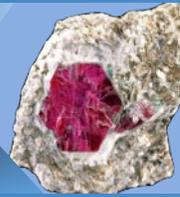
Item 1 - \$10

Tool holder and bucket. Good for field trips and what-have-you. \$10
All proceeds to the Museum.

Contact: Al Pribble, 828-369-2548
828-342-3119 (cell).

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Item 2 - \$30



Motor and Mandrel – Both in good shape. ¼ hp motor runs good, old and very heavy. Mandrel is cast aluminum with 1/2” shaft and good bearings. All you need to make a polishing station is a belt and the wheels. \$30

All proceeds to the Museum.

Contact: Al Pribble, 828-369-2548
828-342-3119 (cell).

Item 4 - \$15



Mitutoyo 6 inch vernier caliper with case, .001 inch resolution. Good condition, eyes needed to go to a digital caliper. \$15

All proceeds go to the museum

Contact: Stacy Walbridge, 802-318-6624 (cell)

Item 3 - \$15



Buffing mandrel, 1/2” shaft, bearings in good shape. Good for polisher or making your own cabber. \$15

All proceeds to the Museum

Contact: Al Pribble, 828-369-2548
828-342-3119 (cell).



From the Culver City (CA) Rock & Mineral Club

In the last couple months, I've shared the news about my Culver City, CA club starting to hold our monthly meetings online to try and keep the club active and together. We have done three already, and the presentations are going over well with our members. The neat thing is that the speaker does not have to be from our local area. As a result we have a far greater variety of presentations to choose from. Here's our June presentation - a field trip to Davis Creek, CA for obsidian, presented by Terry Wilson from the Ventura, CA club. Good explanations of what to look for in the field and how to cut the material for best color

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https://zoom.us/rec/play/vp0kfuqorT43GICds_wSDA_YqW9W0fa6shiMarKcMzEi3AnlWYFv3ZeARNDWgwM-CFwwbJm1BT6bCAks

Password: #1meeting

My club is now looking for additional speakers for August through November. Honorarium is \$120 for around 40 minutes. If you know any rockhounds who have an interesting talk and can do it via Zoom, please ask them to get in touch with me.

Brad Smith
President
brad@greenheart.com

4-7 September: Hendersonville, NC

Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society
“Gems and Minerals of Brazil”

Show Hours: Friday 10am-7pm, Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sunday 12am-5pm

Whitmore Center
310 Lily Pond Drive
Hendersonville, NC.

Exhibits, demonstrations, vendors, hourly door prizes, and refreshments

Admission: \$4 adults, free for children under 12 accompanied by a paid adult

11-13 September: Winston-Salem, NC

Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club
“Gems and Minerals of Brazil”

Show Hours: Friday 10am-7pm, Saturday 10am - 7pm, Sunday 12am-5pm

Winston-Salem Fairgrounds-Educational Bldg
Gate 9 – off 27th Street.

28 dealers, educational exhibits, demonstrations, and special presentations on the minerals of Brazil.

Admission: \$3 adults, free for children through 12th grade accompanied by a paid adult

UPCOMING SHOWS

6-9 August: Franklin, NC

G&LW Wholesale Trade Show

Show Hours: Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am - 6pm, Sunday 9am-3pm

6295 Sylva Road

Franklin, NC

North Carolina's requirements for occupancy, social distancing, and face coverings will apply.

www.glwshows.com

5-9 August: Franklin, NC (unconfirmed)

Echo Valley Gem Show

6456 Sylva Road

Franklin, NC

www.bellpointpromotions.com

**August Newsletter Deadline is
Friday, August 14, 2020**

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Gem Hunting in Quarantine

By Kathi Walbridge

Even though we are wearing masks, social distancing, and quarantining ourselves you can still search for gems. For this month's puzzle see if you can find the mineral names listed below. They may be in any direction.

AMAZONITE
AMETHYST
APATITE
AQUAMARINE
CARNELIAN
CHALCEDONY
CHRYSOPRASE
CITRINE

EMERALD
GARNET
IOLITE
JADE
KYANITE
LAPIS
MOONSTONE
OPAL

PEARL
PERIDOT
QUARTZ
RUBY
SAPPHIRE
TOPAZ
TOURMALINE
TURQUOISE

