



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

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THE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
OF FRANKLIN, NC, INC.
25 Phillips St.
Franklin, NC 28734

FIRST CLASS

**MAY 31ST
Auction Fun
Night**



Save Stamps

**42nd Annual Macon County Gemboree
July 25-28 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Daily
Closed on Sunday**

2007 MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL	MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL
January	23	25	July	17	19
February	20	22	August	28	30
March	27	29	September	28	**22**
April	24	26	October	23	25
May	29	31	November	27	29
June	26	28	December		**8**

Board Meetings: 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum
All Board Meetings are open to the members. If you want to submit something before the Board, contact the President prior to meeting.

General Meetings: 6:30 p.m. in West Room of the Macon County

Community Facilities Building HWY 441 S

Except When Noted In The Newsletter

**Banquet and End of Year Party

May Meeting:

Date: May 31
Day Thursday
Time 6:30 P.M.
Where: Macon County
Community Facilities Bldg.
Program: Auction, Fun,
Fun, Fun

May's Mystical Birthstone – Sapphire

By Ted Robles for *The Mountain Gem*

Sapphire chemically is Aluminum Oxide. (Corundum). Mineralogically it is in the hexagonal system, hardness 9, hexagonal barrel-shaped crystals, transparent, translucent or opaque, depending on traces of other elements. It is heavy, Sp. Gr. 4.0 ± 0.1, no cleavage, adamantine luster. Some specimens exhibit asterism (“Star Sapphire”) owing to bundles of rutile inclusions along the crystallographic “c” axis. Sapphire may be any color but red, which, while also Corundum, is known as Ruby. (Although it is notoriously either blue or colorless, some of the most prized sapphires are “Padparascha,” which is orange.) It is to be found in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, Australia, Thailand, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Madagascar, Turkey, Montana and North Carolina.

In classical times, it was considered to be sacred to Apollo, and supplicants at his shrines were required to wear the gem. Ancient Persians believed the world was supported on a huge sapphire, the reflection from which caused the blue of the sky. A large star sapphire called the “Star of India” weighs over 100 grams, and resides in the American Museum of Natural History, in New York.

Mystically, sapphire was worn by Royalty to keep them from harm, ward off envy and confers the favor of God. (It allegedly was the “Stone Tablets” on which God engraved the Ten Commandments.) It banishes fraud and speculation, and leads to inner peace and enlightenment. Its healing properties are sovereign against insanity, arthritis, and indigestion. It is also considered to be a mood elevating stone and an aid to all the psychic faculties (clairvoyance, clairaudience, astral projection, etc.) Whether or not it possesses all the magical qualities given to it by legend, it is a handsome stone, and has the signal virtue of being well-nigh indestructible. Wear it in good health!

Sources:

Prinz et al, Simon and Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals, New York, 1978
Sinkankas, J., Mineralogy, A First Course, D. van Nostrand, New York, 1967
Verrill, A. H. Minerals, Metals, and Gems, Grossett and Dunlap, New York, 1939
Kunz, G. F., The Curious Lore of Precious Stones, Dover, New York, 1941

June Birthdays

- 2 – Winnie Ketcham
- 6 – Kay Kennedy
- 13 – Sandra Moccia
- 14 – Amy Ramer
- 18 – Vivian Donikowski
- 18 – Doris Smith
- 21 – Georgia-Marie Goldstein
- 28 - Nate Anderson



Anniversaries

- 10 - Arlon & Sonja Eldridge
- 12 – Joe & Judy Pinkous
- 24 – Lee & Shirley Burley



Winnie will be 90 years old on June 2nd. According to her daughter, Winnie would really enjoy getting cards and notes, she loves mail especially from folks in the Gem club. Winnie, as most of you know, was an active member of the gem

club for some years, and was curator too. Winnie was especially knowledgeable regarding the museum specimens.

Winnie Ketcham
C/O Charlotte Gaden
30897 Webb Loop Road
Stover, Mo. 65078



Fred Plesner, President

This month has been hectic and we have entered the month on a high note. There were seven of us present at Macon Middle School's Heritage Day. The school gave us two rooms and the students were well behaved. John Hayes held a drawing for the stone that he faceted from a MacIntosh Computer. To say that John was well received would be putting it mildly. Belinda McGuire stated that she was so busy answering questions that she had no time to pay attention to the other demonstrators in the room with her. A busy but very good day.

Fran Rasmusson was gracious enough to fill in for Jack Jungles as Assistant Gemboree Chairman for our set-up for the Mother's Day Gemboree. Jack is recovering well after his surgery for a heart valve repair. We certainly wish Jack a speedy and complete recovery and we look forward to having him back in action.

I want to thank each of you for hosting at either the Museum or at our booth for the Gemboree. Ted Robles has tallied up our volunteer hours from January through April (the first quarter) and we have a combined 840 hours. Ted has compiled 43 hours in such diverse areas as administration, statistics, newsletter, publicity, refreshments, education and hosting. I say all this just to give an indication of the ways you can be involved. Many of you have accumulated time that has not been entered so you need to be keeping track of when you did what and the amount of time spent so that it can be logged. Remember that scholarship to William Holland or Wildacres; you could be the recipient!

The weekend of May 12th, we participated in the activities surrounding the Civil War Trails Markers and their dedication of the last surrender of Confederate forces east of the Mississippi River. We hosted a gem dig for the children. We can thank Tom Sterrett for arranging the donation of the gem material.

There are several school groups coming to the Museum. May is a busy month! Just keep donating your time and we can make a real impression on our community.

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin,
Board Meeting of April 24, 2007**

The April 2007 Board of Directors Meeting of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Fred Plesner at 6:30 p.m. Members present were, Bruce Siegfried, Ray Behr, Wally Smith, Tom Sterrett, Dean Plesner, Linda Smith, Linda Behr, and Sharon John. Absent were Mary Bedrick and Don Smith.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Siegfried reported that our total inflow was \$46.45 and the outflow was \$848.98 because of renovations and utilities for the month.

Museum Report: Ray Behr reported that the museum is having at least 20 people per day on the weekends with very good sales in the gift shop. The museum will be open on April 30th for the season. There is a set of metal shelves that will be put in the May auction. Bruce Siegfried will be helping with the auction. Also the museum needs more brochures.

Workshops: Wally Smith would like to set up a day once a month to do classes like wire wrapping, beading, etc.

Field Trips: Tom Sterrett reported that he is working on some more field trips.

Library: Dean Plesner had nothing to report.

Old Business:

Letters in support of a scholarship for Elizabeth Siegfried have been submitted.

New Business:

Ted Robles suggested that the membership dues be raised to \$15.00 a year.

Our May General Meeting will be an auction.

Joe Scottie will be with the Museum through May.

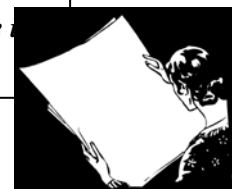
The museum is on a new five-year lease with the rent raised to \$10.00 a year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon John, recording secretary.

*Newsletter deadline
June 8*



**New key and password are needed
for entry to Museum!!!!**

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin
General Meeting of March 29, 2007****Global Warming**By Clayton Welch
For *The Lithnics* 4/2007

The April General Meeting of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Fred Plesner. There were 27 members and 6 guests present.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Siegfried reported that the total inflow was \$46.45 and the total outflow was \$848.98 because of renovations and utilities for the month.

Museum Report: Ray Behr reported that someone will be bringing a specimen. Any specimens brought to the museum must have a form filled out as to whether this will be a loan or a gift to the Museum. Forms are in the Gift Shop. The Museum will be opening April 30th. The new burglar alarm system is operating. The key pad is on the right when you enter the door. The Museum needs new brochures. Ray can get 5000 of them with a set-up fee of \$800.00. A motion was made by Gail Anderson and seconded by Fred Rasmusson that the brochures be purchased. The May General Meeting will be an auction with Bruce Siegfried assisting Mary Bedrick. All are encouraged to bring an item to the Museum and mark it for the auction. The item does not need to be lapidary related.

Education: Debra Siegfried reported that there will be about 67 grade school kids coming to the Museum at the end of the month. On May 10th there will be two groups of 1st grade students coming to the Museum from Haysville and on May 29th there will be a 4th grade class coming from Franklin.

Workshops: **Wally Smith would like to have a "craft night": workshop for any member who would like to come and learn something new or just "hang-out."** Or just have individual lapidary time such as faceting, cabochon, wire wrapping or beading. There will be a wire wrapping class in May.

New Business:

There are SFMS forms for lapidary workshops at William Holland and Wildacres for any one that is interested in attending.

There is a Fluorite field trip to Marion, Kentucky on May 5th and 6th; more information on Museum Meeting Room board.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Roy Ramsey gave a good talk and demonstration of tools to take when rock hunting. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his presentation.

Refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon John, recording secretary

The latest news is that the oceans are warming up a mile deep, and global warming will continue for a few more centuries even if we correct the cause now. The cause is, of course, man's proliferated burning of fossil fuels, according to all the experts. About 1,200 years ago Norse settlers were raising food crops in Greenland. Was man burning so much wood that Earth was smothering in clouds of carbon dioxide causing a period of global warming then?

Have you read articles or seen TV programs about Earth's magnetic field, its mobility and fluctuations? A program I saw recently showed a lot of past history of giant eddies in the field related to the molten iron core of Earth as recorded in the magnetic orientation of minerals in the crust. That looked very much to me like the field coils in a dynamo that produce strong magnetic fields within which an iron rotor spins producing electric currents, which we use for every thing electrical.

Earth rotates within its magnetic field and has an enormous liquid iron core. The core is influenced by the field and spins at a slightly higher speed than the crust. Perhaps the crust being solid and floating on the core is slightly retarded by being less influenced by the field since it is relatively non-magnetic rock. Enormously powerful electric currents are claimed to be generated within the core by its rotation within the field. Electric current creates heat. Hold your hand next to an incandescent light bulb when it is lit.

Earth's field is constantly supplied with electromagnetic energy from the Sun. Energy applied to a magnetic field increases its strength. The stronger the field, the greater the production of electrical energy, and the higher the temperature goes. What keeps the iron core in a liquid state?

What happens if energy from the Sun increases even slightly? In an electromagnetic entity the size of Earth, the slight increase could have an awesome effect. A few degrees warmer and a lot of water gets warmer, warms the air and melts sea ice, permafrost, ice caps and glaciers. Magma within the crust could become more liquid and increase in volume. Volcanic activity could increase. Haven't we experienced some rather spectacular eruptions in the last thirty years or so? Lately there was a program aired on past gigantic eruptions and what would happen if Yellowstone went active and blew. That could set global warming back a century or so by blocking sunlight with vast upper atmosphere clouds of dust, it has happened before in historical times. There were summerless years and viciously cold winters. (cont'd)

Global Warming (cont'd)

Perhaps that was eventually corrected by man burning so much fuel to keep warm. Clouds of greenhouse gasses were created, causing global warming. Man has to be the cause of all Earth's ills, not Mother Nature.

At present, global warming and greenhouse gases are a growth industry. Scientists get nice grants to study and solve the problem. Doomsayers write authoritative books to publish and sell, plus lucrative speaking tours. Politicians get a lot of mileage out of the catastrophe du'jour. Now they say global warming will continue for centuries. That will keep them and their descendents profitably occupied. The rest of us will have to quit using fossil fuel, or any fuel, and return to the lifestyle of our distant ancestors and become hunter/gathers without horses or livestock of any kind. They produce an awful lot of that greenhouse gas, methane.

Perhaps Earth is like a giant microwave oven of electromagnetic energy, and the heat control has gain just been turned up a notch.

Note: a week and a half after I typed this, a column in the paper about Canadian climatologist, Timothy Ball, corroborated by belief about global warming, but he says from 1680.

Source: The Lithnics 4/2007

Follow-up Comment On Global Warming

by Ted Robles for
The Mountain Gem

An argument on the other side is that Mars is also warming up, giving rise to the question, "Who is burning what on Mars?" actually, carbon dioxide is a very poor "greenhouse gas." The two "greenhouse gases" of actual importance are methane and water vapor; the former is produced by anaerobic decomposition (as in waste lagoons from confined animal farming operations) and water vapor which IS, indeed, produced by combustion of all sorts, but is naturally increased by—"Global Warming!"

Gold-Mineral of the Month

By Dave Jacobson for the
Canaveral Moonstone January 2006

This month we will take a look at one of the native elements, gold: Au. Gold is used in jewelry as well as in industry. Gold is often used to coat electrical contacts due to its ability to resist corrosion. In the semiconductor industry the tiny wires, which connect the integrated circuit chip to the package lead frame, are often as small as 1 mil (.001 in) in diameter. Since gold is very malleable it can be pounded into very thin sheets called gold leaf. Gold is

also prized as a mineral specimen. One of the reasons besides its color that it is a great medium for jewelry is that it never tarnishes.

Placer gold is often found in streambeds where it concentrates in the gravels behind rocks and other low points due to its density. This placer gold has most likely weathered out of the host rock due to erosion and other natural forces. Gold is often found with quartz, pyrite and arsenopyrite. Gold is often found with tellurides (subclass of sulfides). The gold ores mined in Cripple Creek, Colorado occurred as sylvanite, which is a gold and silver telluride. Some current gold mining areas are in: California and South Dakota in the USA, Canada, Russia and South Africa.

Gold is in the isometric crystal system. It is found as nuggets, grains, wires, dendrites and arborescent (tree-like) crystal clusters. Color can be from a rich yellow to a pale yellow. Gold is usually alloyed with silver. The higher the silver content the paler the color. Gold with a high silver content (electrum) is typically paler yellow.

It has metallic luster. It is opaque. No cleavage. It is very malleable. Streak is yellow. Hardness is 2.5 to 3. Specific Gravity is 19.3+. It will dissolve in aqua regia, which is a mixture of hydrochloric and nitric acids. It will form an amalgam with mercury. Since mercury will form an amalgam with gold it was used in the gold recovery process early on in mining. The gold bearing ore would be crushed and amalgamated with the mercury. This amalgam would be cooked in a retort, with the mercury coming off as a vapor, leaving behind the gold.

The name of Gold is thought to be Anglo-Saxon, but is of uncertain origin.

Sources:

A Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals by Frederick H. Pough.
Mineralogy For Amateurs by John Sinkankus.
Simon & Shuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals
Gemstones Of The World by Walter Schumann
The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals by Charles W. Chesterman
Gems, Crystals, & Minerals by Anna S. Sofianides, George E. Harlow and George W. Robinson, Ph. D.
Amethyst Galleries Mineral Gallery
on the Internet at <http://mineral.galleries.com>
Rocks and Minerals by Chris Pellent
Gold and Silver in the West by T.H. Watkins
Mineral Industry in Early America by Hillary W. St. Clair, Bureau of Mine, US Dept of Interior.

Thank you, **Joe Muncher** for the improved front cover and inside page of the newsletter!
Also, thank you, **Ted Robles** and **Elizabeth Siegfried** for all of your help and support!
We will miss you, **Joe Scotti**!!!!

Linda Behr, editor

April Program Report

By Fran Rasmusson

Roy Ramsey presented an interesting program following our April General Meeting. It was a fun time as Roy brought in some of his favorite tools for mining in creeks and other sites.

His wire basket sled should be patented, as it moves rocks in creeks by being pulled along—no more back-breaking effort!

Roy demonstrated his screen box, made to be shifted from one end to the other as an option of lifting five gallon buckets.

His ingenious use of a rubber inner tube draped over his head and one shoulder, with a hole cut on one side, forming a pocket that could hold many stones from any site!

Roy’s long handled shovel with drilled holes allows water to drain quickly. His rock hammer and rubber boots completed his collection of handy tools to satisfy any rockhound on a mission of adventure in nature!

His genuine sense of humor and funny stories was enjoyed by all.

Member News:

Dean Plesner had toe surgery and is already back to “work” at the Museum.

Mary Bedrick had surgery and will be in and out of the picture for awhile.

Jack Jungles surgery went well for sometime yet. He would appreciate a call or note.



The Geese Story

(Editor’s comment: The story on geese has been around for some time and in many sources. I hope that when you see geese flying by, you will remember this.

There is a lesson for all of us in our treatment of others in our family, friends and our club members.)

Lesson 1

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird following. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Lesson 2

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go and we’ll be willing to accept their help as well as give ours to the others.

Lesson 3

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. With people, as with geese, we are interdependent on each other.

Lesson 4

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging.

Lesson 5

When a goose gets sick or wounded or is shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies, then they launch out on their own with another formation or catch up with their flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we too will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as when we are strong.

(Submitted by Connie King, *Cabber Gabbe* Mobile Rock & Gem Society Oct. 1994)

Have you seen our beautiful citrine raffle ring? It was donated by **Fred and Fran Rasmusson**. Stewart’s Jewelers cleaned it up and it is now on display in our Gift Shop.

Do you ever check the bulletin board in the Museum Meeting Room? There you will find items for sale and wanted items besides important notices...too many to put in our newsletter.



We have just received a note that

Helen Coe has passed away peacefully on May 7, 2007 in Ridgepoint, Penn. “She had Alzheimer’s but was very kind, gentle and had gracious manners during her final years.”

Helen was 96 years old. She was very active in our club for many years.

An old Swedish proverb says, “A shared joy is a double joy, a shared sorrow is half a sorrow.”

How Did We Survive?

Author unknown

Many of us had our childhood years in the 60s or the 70s (some of us in the 40s or 50s or earlier). Looking back, it's hard to believe that we lived as long as we have.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. Our baby cribs were covered in bright, lead-based paint. We had no child-proof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and we rode our bikes without helmets (not to mention hitchhiking to town as a young kid). We drank water from the garden hose if you had running water or from a stream, not a bottle. Horrors!

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps then ride down the nearest hill, only to find out that we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem. We made "sidewalk scooters" from a few boards and one pair of Union Hardware skates.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when it got dark. No one was able to reach us all day. No cell phones...unthinkable nowadays. We played dodge ball and sometimes those bouncy red balls would really hurt! We got cut and broke bones and broke teeth and there no lawsuits from these accidents. They were accidents. No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?

We occasionally got in fights, punched each other, and turned interesting shades of black and blue. And we got over it. We ate cupcakes, bread and butter and drank sugar soda but we were never overweight...we were always outside playing and burned it off, I suppose. We shared grape soda with four friends, from the same bottle and no one died from this.

We did not have Play Stations, XBoxes, no video games and all 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones, computers, Internet chat rooms...we had friends. We went outside and found them. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home, knocked on the door, or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them. Imagine such a thing, without asking a parent! By ourselves! Out there in the cold cruel world! Without a guardian or attorney! How did we do it?

We made up games with sticks and tennis ball – we even ate worms and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes nor did the worms wriggle inside us forever. Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who did not make it had to learn to live with

disappointment. Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. How traumatizing! Tests were not adjusted for any reason and we had to have our own school supplies. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected; there was no one to hide behind.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law, imagine that! This generation has produced some of the best risk takers and problem solvers and inventors ever. The past 50 years has seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to accept, cope with ignore and handle the situation.

And you're one of them. Congratulations on being a *real* survivor!

Via Snoopy Gems 11/2003

Any mistakes you find in hear are made on perpose so that you would have something to due.

**Blue, Blue, My Gems Are Blue...
But What Are They?**

Author unknown

Tourmaline has a refractive index (RI) OF 1.62-1.64, birefringence of 0.020, and strong dichroism, distinguishing it from all other transparent blue gems. Sapphire, spinel and tanzanite, which might all be confused with violet-blue Paraiba tourmaline, have higher RIs. Both beryl and iolite have RIs below 1.60. Although the RI of topaz (1.61-1.62) overlaps that of tourmaline, the optical character of topaz is biaxial. Topaz of a natural medium to dark blue is rare; the color of virtually all material on the market results from irradiation followed by heating. This treatment, which produces many shades of blue, is not detectable. Topaz can resemble aquamarine, but topaz has a much higher RI than that of aquamarine (1.57-1.58). Topaz can also resemble light blue synthetic spinel, but synthetic spinel is slightly refractive and has a higher RI (1.78). Darker treated topaz might also resemble blue zircon. However, zircon can easily be identified by its over-the-limits (OTL) RI reading and eye-visible doubling.

Source: (edited excerpts from GIA INSIDER NEWSLETTER 12/4/04 Reprinted for educational purposes under the "fair use" provision of the US Copyright Act 107) via THE PEGMATITE 1/2005

Coming events:

June 2-3--Birmingham, Alabama: 34th annual show; Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society; Tannehill Historical State Park; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5; gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry; contact Rick Kittinger, 1612 Colesburg Circle, Hoover, AL 35226, (205) 823-2970; e-mail: rick.kittinger@bellsouth.com

June 15-17--Asheville, North Carolina: Show, "Asheville Gem Fest"; Colburn Earth Science Museum; Pack Place, 2 S. Pack Square; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; free admission; speakers Sat. and Sun.; kids' activities, free earth science museum admission, silent auction; contact Felicity Green, Colburn Earth Science Museum, P.O. Box 1617, Asheville, NC 28802, (828) 254-7162; e-mail: museum.colburn@gmail.com; Web site: www.colburnmuseum.org

June 20-22--Boone, North Carolina: 13th annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, National Guard Family Support Group; National Guard Armory, 274 Hunting Hills Ln., near the hospital, behind Fire Station No. 2; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$2, ticket good all 3 days, children under 16 free; jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths reconstruct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer-selected gems, stones, opals and crystals, gem trees, wire wrap, wire sculpture, pearls, stone beads, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral and fossil dealers, door prizes, gold ring grand prize, wire wrapping classes; contact Van Wimmer, 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com.

June 15-17, Raleigh, NC - Frank Cox Productions. Gem, Jewelry, and Bead Show. North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Blue Ridge at Hillsborough St. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 941-954-0202, frankcox@comcast.net, www.frankcoxproductions.com

For Upcoming Bead Shows:
info@beadshow.com, www.beadshow.com.
www.rings-things.com

July 25-29--Franklin, North Carolina: 42nd annual show, "Macon County Gemboree"; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, Franklin Chamber of Commerce; Macon County Community Bldg., U.S. 441S; Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6. Sat. 10-6, adults \$2, children under 12 free; contact Tony Angel, Franklin Chamber of Commerce, (800) 336-7829.

Southeast Federation
Convention
November 9-11,
Pascagoula, Miss.



BE SAFE - BE WELL
Searching for Mental Health

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair
Via AFMS May newsletter 2007

All of us are searching for something, usually rocks or minerals. We want to find things to extend our hobby or add to our collections. Many of us are also looking for ways to improve our health and extend our useful life. But, I ask you, how many of us have concerns about our memory or mental sharpness. My doctor tells me that it is absolutely normal to have these concerns as we mature (read that as "age"). We have little questions such as:

- Why do I have trouble remembering names of people that I know very well and even see often?
- Why do I enter a room and cannot remember what I came in there for or why I am there?
- Why do I select a novel or a piece of clothing and then realize that the reason I like it is that I already have one just like it?
- Where did I park my car?

I have been assured that this does not indicate Alzheimer's disease or even an onset of some form of dementia. I have been told that this is perfectly normal but frankly this answer does not warm my heart or even satisfy my curiosity. I have concluded that there must be something I can do to help. I have read a lot about this situation and have determined that it is not unusual but there are some proactive steps to consider.

- First have a positive attitude! Be happy because nobody likes a grouch. Associate with pleasant people of all age groups.
- Be concerned about your physical condition. A little moderate exercise can do wonders, walking is among the best.
- Diet. I hate that word but we are not talking about weight control. We are talking about healthy eating. I have heard it said that we are what we eat. We must worry about blood pressure and blood sugar levels. Much can be accomplished if we eat what we know to be healthy.
- Mental exercise. Use your brain! Write something such as a journal or stories for children and grandchildren. Write a family history or do genealogical research. Do articles for clubs or federation publications. (cont'd)

Be Safe...(cont'd)

Match wits with Jeopardy contestants or do crossword puzzles. Attend workshops or, even better, teach, share knowledge with others. I was not a great student in college but I needed money so I tutored other students. It was hard work but I really learned a subject in depth by teaching it.

- Consider doing something for others. There are so many opportunities for service to the handicapped, the elderly, and the poor. I enjoy hunting but really enjoy hunting with a group that is affiliated with a rehabilitation hospital. Our hunters have many, many physical limitations but it will make you totally humble to be with these people who are determined to overcome what appear to be totally debilitating physical conditions.

I suppose I can sum up much of this article with the words: "stay active."

Do you want to receive newsletters from other clubs that come to me via email? Then please let me know via email: themountaingem@fastmail.fm

Some emails have changed and I have not been able to reach these members.

Linda Behr, editor

AFMS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Dr. Robert Carlson
May AFMS Newsletter

I recently received a letter from one of our members who was extremely incensed over the fossil bill, and the fact that it is backed by many paleontologists. This individual felt that the bill indirectly insinuated that only qualified personnel should be allowed to do science. Quite correctly, this individual pointed out that science is for every one, not just an elite few. This individual went on to vent against paleontologists for supporting the fossil bill, and suggested that rock-hounds boycott the activities supported by paleontologists to reduce their funding, when (not if) the fossil bill passes.

While I don't believe that a boycott would be effective (it would be too late, and we are too small an organization to materially affect funding levels), it got me to thinking.

Some kind of fossil bill will eventually pass, maybe not this session of Congress, but it will pass. We can fight it, we can modify it, but we cannot stop it. Too many paleontologists and their allies are behind it. So, what do we do?

What if all of the fossil collectors in clubs affiliated with the AFMS became "Professional Collectors"? There are all kinds of schools that offer degrees in a wide variety of subjects. Why couldn't the AFMS find a school or university that would offer an Associate Degree in Paleontology for the purpose of collecting specimens? Since the vast majority of new fossil finds have been made by rockhounds, a school or university that is interested in fossils would be happy to have an army of collectors sending them specimens for evaluation. The proviso would be that common fossils could be kept by the collector.

When some form of the bill passes, we need to carefully read the wording about what constitutes a "professional" collector. I don't think a Ph.D. in Paleontology would be required; I suggest that some lesser degree (and some lesser course of on-line studies) might do the trick.

It is a thought. If you can't lick them, join them.

Obsidian Tells Time

Author unknown



Time (in age) can be measured with obsidian. It is emerging as a promising tool for dating and tracing prehistoric culture. What makes it useful for dating is that it continually absorbs moisture from the air. The moisture penetrates the stone at a constant rate and leaves a tell-tale mark on the Obsidian which is visible under a microscope. By examining the water marks, the age of a piece of Obsidian can be calculated with extreme accuracy. This is valuable because measurements can be extended half a million years into the past, well beyond the 40,000 year limit of carbon dating.

A most important use of Obsidian is in dating glacial periods in the United States. Stones that have been carried along by advancing ice have confirmed that major ice age began 180,000 years ago and the final retreat came around 12,000 years ago.

Via the *Palomar Gem* and others via *Fulton Co. Rockhounder* 6/99; via *The Chiseler* 2-2004

"My great concern is not whether God is on my side; my concern is to be on God's side."

-- Abraham Lincoln

**The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
Inc
The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.**

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of
The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, Virginia
(HOST)
An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of
Franklin, NC

WHEN: Saturday, May 26, 2007

TIME: 7:30 am to 5:30 pm (EDT). Assembly 7:30 to 8:30 am, Orientation 8:45 am, Enter quarry 9:00 am. We must clear the quarry by 6:00 pm

WHERE: Boxley Materials Company, Mount Athos quarry near Lynchburg, Virginia. Meet at the quarry office parking lot between 7:30 and 8:30 am (do not be late) Club members will show you where to park and have the forms to sign.

All participants, regardless of age, will be required to wear hard hats, safety glasses, steel toe or good strong boots and long pants. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability and receive Hazard Training. There is a safety orientation at 8:45 and if you miss it, you may not be allowed into the quarry. Everyone will need to sign a release and receive information on boundaries and safety in the collecting area. Stay 50 feet away from high walls and be cautious as to footing at all times.

COLLECTING: Some of the minerals we have collected in the past are white and pink Calcite, pink Marble, Feldspar, Quartz, Ilmenite, Epidote, Pyrite, Actinolite, Chlorite, Muscovite, Magnetite, Hematite, Limonite, Rutile, Manganite, Cuprite, Chalcopyrite, Bornite, Malachite, Sphene, Apatite and Stilbite. Also reported to occur are Byssolite, Tremolite, Chrysocolla, Heulandite and Azurite.

Remember that the availability of these minerals depends on where they are working in the quarry at the time of the field trip and that some of the occurrences are very small. We will have a large supply of material on the quarry floor from a recent shot, away from the high walls in a safe area.

LOCATION: Lynchburg, Virginia is centrally located in the State. We are not served directly by any Interstate but US Routes 29, 460 and 501 all connect here. I-81 traffic from the South and North can connect with US 460 at exit 150 (Cloverdale) and use Alternate SR 220 to connect with US 460 East to Bedford and Lynchburg. Stay on the US 460 East bypass around the two cities. Stay on US 460 East several miles past Lynchburg toward Appomattox to the Mt Athos Rd. (Rt. 726) exit. Follow Mt. Athos Rd. about .5 miles and turn right on Stage Rd. Follow Stage Rd. about 1.3 miles to the quarry on the right and the meeting place in the quarry parking lot. I-64 traffic can connect with US 29 South near Charlottesville, VA. Continue south on US 29 to

Amherst and follow the new US 29 bypass to Lynchburg. After crossing the new James River Bridge, take the US 460 East exit to Appomattox. Continue on US 460 East a short distance to the Mt. Athos exit and continue as above to the quarry. Those approaching from other routes should be directed by a good Virginia road map. The US 460, Mt. Athos Rd (726) exit is in Campbell County several miles east of Lynchburg.

EQUIPMENT: The Boxley Quarries are very safety conscious. Standard quarry gear is required. Hard hats, steel toe boots or other substantial boots and safety glasses. Good protective clothing and gloves should be worn (no shorts). It may be very hot in the quarry so be sure to bring plenty of water and sunscreen. Dress according to the weather in Lynchburg that day. Bring your own collecting equipment such as hammers, chisels and buckets. We will be allowed to drive into the quarry.

AGE LIMIT: Children of all ages will be allowed but it will be the parent's responsibility to keep them under control at all times and see that they obey all the safety requirements. The same dress and safety equipment requirements apply. Pets will be allowed only if they are under total control and will not be allowed to roam free. Pet owners must clean up after their pets.

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS: The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg will provide hot food such as chicken BBQ, snacks and cold drinks for a small fee around noon. If you have any special food concerns please bring your own food. There are no fast food places close to the quarry. We will have at least one geologist on hand all day to assist in mineral identification. Boxley will provide a couple of Porta-Potties in the quarry for our use.

ROCK SWAP AND SELL: We encourage everyone to bring rocks, minerals or other related items to sell or swap. This will not be a Flea Market! Just bring some rocks to swap and or sell if you have some really good stuff. Show off and sell some of those cabs, crafts and wire wrappings that you've been working on. You can work out of your car or a small table behind your car.

LODGING: Many motels are available in Lynchburg. The following are at the Candler's Mountain Exit with easy access to US 460

Days Inn	434-847-8655
Comfort Inn	434-847-9041
Best Western	434-237-2986

CONTACT: David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman.

e-mail: DBCALL1@aol.com

Phone: 540-297-1853

www.lynchburgrockclub.org

NOTE: Severe weather or other crisis beyond our control may result in canceling or rescheduling this trip

Motivation is when you put on work clothes.