

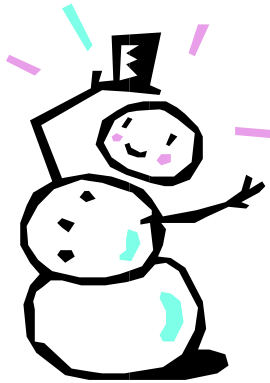


THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor
themountaingem@fastmail.fm
website: www.fgmm.org

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

Wishing You a Happy *and*
Blessed New Year



FIRST CLASS



Save Stamps

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

January Meeting:

Date: January 25th
Day Thursday
Time 6:30 P.M.
Where: MACON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FACILITIES
BLDG.
Program: Learn What Others Have
Experienced At Local Lapidary
Schools

January's Mystical Birthstone - Emerald

By Ted Robles, amanuensis, for THE MOUNTAIN GEM

(For the next year, we are going to feature the "Mystical Birthstones" as promulgated by Tibetan monks well over a millennium ago. While we will, as usual, describe their chemical, physical, and mineralogical properties, the emphasis this year will be more on the alleged Metaphysical properties of the stones, commensurate with their ancient origin. We hope you will enjoy the trip into legend and lore.)

Emerald is Beryllium aluminum silicate, with a trace of chromium, iron, or vanadium. It is a cyclosilicate, which means that the silicon – oxygen tetrahedra are arranged in rings. Its crystal structure is hexagonal, mainly small and elongated, frequently striated, Specific Gravity 2.67 – 2.78, hardness 7.5 – 8, deep green with bluish or yellowish tones. Luster is vitreous, and it is mainly translucent to opaque, rarely transparent, although these are sought as gemstones. The cleavage and basal is poor, and fracture conchoidal is brittle. Frequently contains inclusions of other minerals, and is fragile. During the occupation of Peru, the Conquistadors frequently 'found' specimens so large that they believed them to be fakes. These unlucky individuals were advised by the priests that a sure way to know if a stone was genuine was to try to break it. A 'real' emerald could not be fractured. So the ignorant soldier would try to break it; of course it always broke, and the priests gathered the fragments for a handsome profit. Who

knows how many priceless emeralds were ruined by this game?

The term "Emerald" probably came from the old Greek word *smaragdus*, which simply means "green stone." It is one of the oldest gemstones known, having been mined for over 6000 years. Most emerald comes from Colombia, but good material also is found in Brazil, Russia, Africa, Australia, Norway, Italy, and North Carolina.

Allegedly it has the properties of protecting against sickness and hazards, and promotes honesty, courage, and prosperity. It is also supposed to build strong and resolute character. It will strengthen the mind, increase confidence, and benefit the wearer with harmony and intellectual prowess. It will also protect against dishonesty in business and personal relationships. It cures a number of diseases, particularly those of the heart and kidneys, nerves and eyes, and is in general a wholly beneficial stone. In fact, given the manifold properties allegedly associated with the wearing of emerald, it would appear to be the most useful possible stone for multiple purposes. Obviously if all this is true, no one should ever be without one.

Since it is quite a handsome stone, anyone can wear emeralds; it is not essential that you be born in January to reap the mystical benefits of emerald, and even if they have been overblown, it is still handsome and worthy of anyone's collection. Since it is fragile, it should be cared for, and not subjected to rough handling. Wear it in good health!

Sources:

Kunz, G.F., The Curious Lore of Precious Stones; New York, Dover, 1941 Verrill, A. H., Minerals, Metals, and Gems, New York, Grossett and Dunlap. 1939 www.mineralminers.com

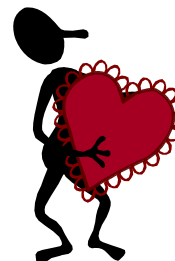
February Celebrations

Birthdays

- 4 – Jack Jungles
- 21 – Don Smith
- 22 – Tom Sterrett

Anniversaries

- 6 – Wally & Doris Smith
- 19 – Hank & Vivian Donikowski





Fred Plesner, President

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society Board Meeting of December 2006

President **Fred Plesner** called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society to order at 6:30 p.m. on December 12, 2006. Present were **Linda Smith, Don Smith, Ray Behr, Linda Behr, Tom Sterrett, Sharon John and Dean Plesner**. Absent were **Mary Bedrick and Bruce Siegfried**.

Newsletter deadline is
February 5th



Treasurer's Report: In the absence of **Bruce Siegfried, Ray Behr** gave the treasurer's report. Inflows were \$271.04 and outflows \$1,661.47; \$738 was incurred for renovations as a down payment on new carpeting. The overall total was a deficit of \$1,390.43. (Detailed report on file.)

Museum Report: **Ray Behr** said the Fossil Room is now finished and that the World Room has been started.

The museum is looking into upgrading our alarm system. After we obtain three bids, improvements will be submitted to the general membership for approval.

Editor: Linda Behr: The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. SFMS awarded certificates to **Fred Plesner, Ted Robles, Mary Bedrick and Gloria Durfey**. **Linda Behr** won 1st place as editor. (Details on page 5.) The deadline for the newsletter has been changed to January 3, 2007.

Workshop: **Linda Smith** said that there would be a Beading workshop on Jan 27, 2007 starting at 10 a.m.

Field Trips: **Tom Sterrett** reported that he has three field trips lined up--one in January, February and March.

New Business:

Ray Behr suggested that we open the museum on weekends starting in March for students who will be on vacation at that time.

We have two applicants applying for the scholarship this year. **Ray Behr** made a motion that

we give the scholarship to **Katie McDowell** again. **Don Smith** seconded the motion.

The library has on file available for members the DVD copy of "Birth of a Gem" on ammolite. A specimen can be found in the States Room.

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

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon John, Recording Secretary

A Report on the End of the Year Party By Linda Behr, editor

As usual the members of our club had a great time at the End of the Year Party. **Debbie Siegfried** did an outstanding job of selecting prizes for winners in the bingo games. **Ray** and I sat with **Mike Streeter** and his wife **Chrissie**. Mike is a real game player. It's always a joy to have them attend any of our functions. I cannot leave out Bruce Siegfried for calling out the "bingo rock names"; a challenge in itself.

I will guess that the turkey and ham was a hit since there were no leftovers. We had a nice variety of covered dishes. We did miss some of our favorite dishes since some members were out of town.

It was great having members setting up the tables. The owner of the Party Zone had hurt her back and was unable to have things setup for us. As more and more members arrived, we needed more tables and chairs. We underestimated the count. It helps when we hear from members who plan on attending our covered dishes.

At the party, Mike presented club members with their certificates from the SFMS for their articles. (Refer to page 5 for details.)



Workshop Registration Form Revised For 2007*Julia Larson, Incoming Education Chair*

5297 Huntington Street NE
 St. Petersburg, FL 33710
 727.522.1254
 juliamlarson@earthlink.net

The registration form for Wildacres and William Holland workshops has been revised for the coming year. Instead of separate forms for each location, there will be a single form with spaces to check which workshops you want. Also, we want to emphasize communication via e-mail, so there is also a space for your e-mail address. We are offering some new classes and new instructors, and we look forward to having both previous students and new ones in both places. Remember, the June session at William Holland is designated as Family Week, so sign up to bring your favorite juniors (ages 10 and up) with you. We hope you will review the new format carefully and note the changes when you select your workshop choices.

Family Week At William Holland**June 10-16, 2007***Julia Larson, Incoming Education Chair*

Tired of your kids spending the summer playing video games? Are theme parks out of the budget this year? Maybe you want to do something special with your grandchildren, nieces or nephews without spending a fortune? Look no further than the June 2007 workshop at William Holland.

Classes for juniors as well as adult are being offered in June 2007. Parents, grandparents, and others are encouraged to sign up their juniors for this exciting week.

Juniors will take two classes while their accompanying adults choose from a variety of regular classes. A special field trip for juniors is being planned, along with an evening program at the Young Harris College planetarium. Other after-class events and activities are also in the works.

Look for details in the *LODESTAR* and in your club newsletters. Plan to take advantage of this fun and economical learning vacation with your juniors.

*Via the LODESTAR December 2006***Wildacres Directors**

David and Barbara Tuttle

85504 Blackmon Road

Yulee, FL 32097

904.225.0689 dtt@net-magic.net

Wanna Get Youngsters Interested In Rocks?*By David Tuttle**Jacksonville (Florida) Gem & Mineral Society*

At every Federation meeting the same topic comes up: How to get youngsters interested in our hobby? I suppose some psychologist might call it "repetitive reinforcement" or something along those lines, but if youngsters are given many opportunities to see what can be done with "ordinary rocks" in the way of faceted stones, cabochons, crystal and mineral specimens, I think a spark will be ignited.

Recently my wife and I were invited to attend a meeting of educators and business leaders on the subject of the possibilities of creating a Space and Earth Science Center within our community. After the meeting, we were approached by a representative of the county PTA and asked if we couldn't do something in our rock club for the school students. Our county has a resource center for teachers to gather free items as supplies for the classrooms. Donated items are put to good use.

I suggested that our club put together identified mineral specimens in egg cartons for teachers at all levels to use. Everyone involved worked hard and a local egg company provided the egg cartons and club members donated specimens for the project.

I asked for large specimens and was able to break them into the sizes I needed to fit in the egg cartons. Small quartz crystals were provided in abundance, as were some other specimens and we had a great time putting this together.

While in North Carolina, we went to the Vulcan mine near Spruce Pine and they donated specimens of the micaceous black granite (beautiful material) to our cause. We had enough Ruck's Pit calcite specimens to fill each carton. It took three months for me to patiently sit with a chisel in hand and breakup some of the specimens, pyrophyllite, for example and olivine; but we ended up with enough material to fill 550 egg cartons. Each spot in the cartons held a different identified mineral.

I mounted each specimen on a one inch square piece of 60-pound card stock and labeled each one. Using a hot-glue gun worked fine for gluing the specimens to the card stock. However, I did find out that the operative word is "hot" in hot-glue. Sometimes getting glue on the fingers was unavoidable because of small specimens such as tiny turquoise bits and such.

The group assembled over 6,000 egg carton ready specimens into the egg cartons in just over an hour and the ladies from the teachers supply were (cont'd)

Wanna Get Youngsters...(cont'd)

happy to get these to share with over 800 teachers in our school system.

Find out how you can do similar projects in your county and it will bring together the club in a worthwhile project. With an average of 25 students in a class, the impact will affect 13,750 students. Now there's an outreach program!!!

Via the LODESTAR December 2006



Department Of Interior Announces The New "America The Beautiful Pass"

Jon Spunaugle Director of the ALAA

This pass will be needed to use certain facilities and access certain areas on public land. The new program replaces the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and the Golden Access Passports as well as the National Parks Pass. Existing passes will remain valid until expired, lost or stolen.

This means the lifetime passes will be valid unless lost or stolen at which time they will need to be replaced. Costs of the four different passes in the new interagency program are:

1. A new annual interagency pass costing \$80— For visitors to multiple federal sites, the pass offers unlimited coverage of entrance and standard amenity recreation fees for a specific period of time, typically a year, beginning from the date of first use.
2. A \$10 lifetime senior pass for U.S. citizens 62 or over;
3. A free lifetime access pass for citizens with permanent disabilities; and
4. A new, free annual volunteer pass for volunteers acquiring 500 hours of service on a cumulative basis.

Information on the new pass can be found on the INTERNET at: http://www.doi.gov/news/06_News_Releases/061205.html
Here is another site comparing the different passes and what they replace:
<http://www.recreation.gov/recpass.jsp>

(Also see the Internet at [http://store.usgs.gov/pass/.](http://store.usgs.gov/pass/))
email forwarded by Jim Flora, SFMS Field Trip Chairman, via the 12-06 LODESTAR

William Holland Directors
Dana & Ray Gonzalez
6226 Seaton Drive
Columbus, GA 31909
706.327.4474 drg@mchsi.com

Be Safe – Be Well The LODESTAR 12-06

Safety Committee – Don Monroe, Chairman
HO, HO, OH? Is the house on fire???

I want to wish all of you a most happy holiday season. I also want to point out that this is a most dangerous time of the year. Many experience accidents and injuries, all of which could be avoided. I want to spotlight a few situations.

We must all be unusually careful about fire and the possibility of a fire at this time of year. Isn't this about the time you will be turning on the heating system and maybe starting a fire in the fireplace? We must really take a look at our fireplace and see if it is ready for use. Is the flue clear? Have you checked for bird's nests, leaves or other debris? How long has it been since you employed a certified chimney sweep? Do you throw a bunch of wrapping paper in the fireplace?

Have you ever set the creosote in the chimney on fire? Bad, bad, bad. Do you use any type of space heater and, if so, how long since it has been checked?

If you will have small children or grandchildren around the house, have you talked with them about fire safety? Do you have a family evacuation plan?

During the holidays, we often use extension cords for our lights on our Christmas trees and other decorations. These cords can really be hazardous. We often overload our circuits and put wires on the floor in areas where they can be damaged by furniture or foot traffic. If you must use auxiliary wiring, buy the good, heavy-duty items, not the cheap, light duty cords. In the best of circumstances, we must always recognize that trees, particularly natural greenery that has begun to dry out, will flame up in a flash and create a raging fire in an instant.

Do you use candles to decorate the house? Can you imagine what it was like when people used lighted candles on their trees and wreaths? Makes me shiver to think about it since I can (unfortunately) remember when we did not have electricity in our farmhouse and kerosene lamps and candles were used extensively.

Ladders: You may be tempted to get out your ladder (or borrow your neighbors) to hang decorations. After experiencing the loss or injury of several good friends, I have been forbidden to climb ladders unless it is a serious situation and I have a special dispensation from Ann who will stand right there until I am back on the ground. I wish I could say she is overreacting, but I fear she is right.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you during the coming year so please do what it takes to be with us and be healthy, wealthy and wise.

Congratulations to our 2006 SFMS BULLETIN CONTEST WINNERS



The following are the results of the SFMS Bulletin Contest as announced at the December 2, 2006 SFMS Annual Banquet in Montgomery, Alabama:

Adult Articles

First Place - W. C. McDaniel - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (Honorable Mention in AFMS Contest)

Second Place - Allen Helt - Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (Honorable Mention in AFMS Contest)

Third Place - Gloria Durfey - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Fourth Place - Tim Barton - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society

Fifth Place - Mary Bedrick - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Sixth Place - Richard Jacquot - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society

Seventh Place - Fred Plesner - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Eighth Place - Dale Engler - Playland Gem & Mineral Society

Ninth Place - Dee Tinsley - Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg

Tenth Place - Bill Farrell - Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society

Eleventh Place - Ted Robles - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. will be celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. The AFMS meeting will be held in Roswell, New Mexico with the Rocky Mountain Federation from June 5-10th.



For complete information go to www.amfed.org/show2007.htm



Yellowstone's Petrified Forest

Author unknown

The story behind the Yellowstone forest is that an old volcano began to erupt and continued for some twenty years. Mineral-bearing waters had begun to petrify the once-living forest. In the span of a couple of hundred years, a new forest began to appear and grew for the next five hundred years. Then, the old volcano erupted again. This process reoccurred twenty-seven times, as twenty-seven distinct layers of buried forest have been exposed in the fossil forest on the south side of Lamar River Valley. The trees were left standing in the upright position where they grew many millions of years ago. The Yellowstone Petrified Forest covers 40 square miles, and many thousands of fossilized leaves; needles, cones and seeds of over 100 different kinds of trees and shrubs have been found there.

(Excerpted From Article in *THE GLACIAL DRIFTER* 3/03; Via *THE PEGMATITE* 11/2003)



From your editor:

Club members, Have you noticed how many winners are club members? We need articles from club members! One of the editorial staff or I will work with you.

We will not enter THE MOUNTAIN GEM for a couple of years because of our winning First Place, but we can enter articles.

First Grade Proverbs:

A miss is as good as...Mr.

Children should be seen and not...spanked or grounded.



Before Becoming A Member Of The Franklin Gem & Mineral Society, One Must Learn What It Means To Become A Member.

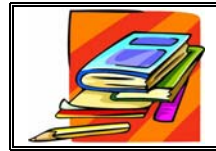
We are a WORKING organization. Membership means a commitment to share in the responsibilities of the Society, the maintenance and operation of the Gem and Mineral Museum of Franklin, Inc. and all other Society functions and projects, such as the annual Gemborees.

OBJECTIVES OF THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF FRANKLIN, NC. INC.

1. To effect a close association of those persons interested in the study of rocks, gems and minerals, and the sciences relating to them; and to secure, compile, and disseminate information of interest to the members of this organization.
2. To promote widespread interest in rock and mineral collecting and the lapidary arts, and reveal the unique appeal that these hobbies have to all age groups.
3. To support legislation directed towards the conservation of natural resources, particularly mineral resources, and to support and promote all desirable legislation (Federal, state, or local) pertaining to ecology and conservation in general.
4. To exhibit at all times sincere measures of hospitality to visiting rockhounds and especially to youth, to the end that a sincere and honest endeavor is exercised to make Franklin and the surround area truly a rockhound's paradise.
5. To plan and execute such programs of education, adventure, entertainment, and recreation as the members of this organization may desire, which will tend to increase the interest and participation of its members and attract new members.
6. To operate a Gem and Mineral Museum for members of the Society, residents of the community, and all others who may come to see, enjoy, and benefit from the displays.

(Editor's comment: Each member must agree and sign an agreement to the above. We take our society and museum seriously while having fun.)

If you have a request for a class or workshop class contact
Linda Smith, at 369-8383.
The Beading Group will meet
at 10 a.m. on January 27th, Saturday.
All are welcome.
For information contact Linda.



The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC is in need of someone to write Grants to attain a full-time Director. If you would like to consider doing this research, please contact one of the Board Members. All help is appreciated!!!!



Mike presenting Linda with First Place SFMS bulletin award



Ted presented with certificate



Fred being presented a certificate from Mike.

Fire Agate

Author unknown

Fire Agate is a relatively new stone on the gem market, having been discovered about sixty years ago. It is found in the Sonoran Desert area of Arizona, California, and Northern Mexico. Most aficionados of this beautiful gemstone will agree that the best specimens come from the Deer Creek and Slaughter Mountain region of Arizona.

The basic elements of fire agate are colloidal silica and iron oxide. These settle in cavities in country rock and during cooling, chalcedony begins to form. The iron oxide precipitates, creating thin layers of tiny crystals interspersed with layers of chalcedony. These regularly layered sediments of iron oxide are known as Schiller layers and are the source of color in the fire agate. They are also the source of constant challenge to the fire agate cutter.

The stone does not lend itself to nice uniform calibrated cuts. The first problem is to find a piece of rough that has good color. Examination in strong sunlight is necessary and if the cutter is lucky, he will be able to see color under the chalcedony layers. Once he removes the layers without color, the cutter must follow the contours of the piece and be careful not to destroy the color layers. Most stones have only one good color layer and if the cutter goes through this, he ends up with junk, the fire having been lost forever.

Another element to consider is the number of colors in a stone and the contrast of these colors. "Peacock" stones, or ones with all the colors of the spectrum, are very highly rated, even more so if the colors stand out from one another. For example, blue is seen next to red or yellow, rather than next to purple. Color intensity is very important. Can the color be seen from a distance? Does the color incorporate the entire stone? Are there "dead" spots where color is either non-existent or can only be seen from a certain angle? Is the polish high, with no dull spots? Finally, the last and most important question – do you, the buyer, like the stone? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Fire agate is one of the very few stones that cannot be duplicated synthetically and each stone is different. Whether the buyer desires the stone for a jewelry piece or for a specimen, fire agate has heirloom potential and will certainly attract attention. And to fire agate lovers, there is no equal.

*Source: ORE-BIT 8/01, others;
via THE ROADRUNNER 4/05*

Mineral Storage Tip

When storing gem material outdoors, be careful.

Many colorful pink and purple minerals are faded by intense sunlight. These include rose quartz, amethyst, lepidolite, and fluorite. Fossil specimens may be destroyed outdoors by wetting, freezing and thawing. Many fossil specimens are clay based, although there are some specimens that are in sandstone sediment. Common opal, if left in the elements, will craze, crack and fall apart.

*--from Vi Jones, SKAGIT GEMS 12/01
via HOUNDS HOWL 12-06*

Shop Tips

Shining Cabs: To make cabochons really shine, wipe them with eyeglasses cleaner and polish until dry. from GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS 6/00

Soldering: Saw a piece of pumice to size and shape with a hacksaw. Use the pumice block instead of charcoal for a working "block." It will not reduce or burn metal being heated. from GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS 5/00

Display: Silver jewelry displayed in a case will not tarnish if the display cloth is sprayed with chlorophyll. from GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS 6/00

Tool Protection: Your tools won't rust if you spray them with Pam® or WD-40®, and then wipe them with a clean, dry cloth.

Above from HOUNDS HOWL 12-06



Every wonder why a rounded and domed polished stone is called a cabochon? One rock book states that the word "cabochon" is derived from a French word meaning bald-headed. The more highly polished, the more beautiful. Is that why BALD IS BEAUTIFUL?

*Source: ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS 12/2002;
via QUARRY QUIPS 4/2003*

Coming Events

February 24-25, 2007. Jackson, MS - Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Trade Mart Building, State Fairgrounds, I-55 and High Street. Hours: 24th, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. and 25th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Betty James at 601.914.6747 or mineralid@jam.rr.com.

March 9-11, 2007, Augusta, GA - Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society and the Augusta Gem and Mineral Society. 19th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street. Contact: Shellie T. Newell at 305 Fairway Drive, Graniteville, SC 29829; aa.gmfs@earthlink.net.; or www.homestead.com/aikengms.

Feb. 17-18, Nashville, TN - The Bead Mercantile Show. Tennessee Expo & Banquet Center, 1412 Hazelwood Dr. 423-639-7942, www.beadmercantile.com.

**Museum Information
for The Franklin Gem & Museum Members**

By Mary Bedrick, Curator

The museum is undergoing renovations to the upstairs rooms. Walls, ceilings and cabinets are being painted white. New carpet is being installed after each room is painted. The painted cabinets are returned and specimens re-arranged. The fossil room has already been finished. What a difference the white paint has made!!

The specimens in the "Fossil Room" have been re-arranged according to whether they are plants or animals. The animals are further subdivided on the basis of having backbones (vertebrates) or no backbones (invertebrates). Most of the specimens are invertebrates. One cabinet is filled with vertebrates; two cabinets contain plants, petrified wood and fern fossils. The rest of the cabinets contain invertebrates, further divided up.

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Editor's observances: If you stop by the museum, you're most likely to see Mary Bedrick, Ray Behr, Fred Plesner and Joe Scotti working in the museum. The outside parking spaces are now painted as well as the walkway in front of the museum entrance...what a great difference!!! The inside steps' edges are also painted yellow. It has been a blessing to have our part-time employee helping the museum manager and curator.

MEMBER NEWS

Many different members had out of town family visit during the holidays. The weather was quite accommodating.

Belinda McGuire has been sick with the "Franklin illness." We don't see much of her. Fred survived his surgery and is back at being our President. Mary Bedrick went north to be with her children...she took Sam with her. Dean has made another trip to help her mother. Linda Behr has plans to make another Florida trip to help with her aunt...this is what happens when our family needs us!

Note from Gloria Durfey: Just to let y'all know that I'm back!!!! I had a great stay in Ft. Pierce (didn't win on the gambling boat) and then to Ocala! The month just flew by!!!! The old Subaru did fine (187,000 miles--just broke in!)-keeps on ticking! Just like me!

Let me know what's happening in your life. The other club members would love to hear about it.



Mike presenting Mary with her certificate.

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 Mid-Ga. Gem & Mineral Society, Macon, GA
(HOST)

An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.

FEE SITE

WHERE: The Famous Hogg Mine outside LaGrange, in Troup County, Ga.

WHEN: Sat., February 24, 2007

TIME: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm EST

COLLECTING: Rose quartz, tourmaline, beryl, mica books, & quartz crystal. The Rose Quartz will star if cut correctly, and some of the beryl can be gemmy Aquamarine.

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta, take I-85 south to LaGrange. Get off on Hwy. 219 also Whitesville Road (Exit 13) and go south (left) about 2.2 miles from I-85. We will meet at Smith's Corner Store (the Citgo on the left) at the intersection at Whitesville Rd. and Bartley Rd.

From Carrollton, take Hwy 27 S. (past Wal-Mart). Go thru Franklin to LaGrange. Just stay straight and Hwy 27 dumps into Hwy 219. Take Hwy 219 south and cross I-85.

Allow 1 hour & 15 min from Atlanta at I-285 and I-85 connection on the South side.

FEE: Adults-\$15 & children under 17 are free. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

WHAT TO BRING: Pick, shovel, rock hammer, chisels, scratching tools, screen, buckets and of course plenty of water. Big'Uns Barbecue will smoke a pig on-site and barbecue plates and drinks will be available for a nominal charge.

There is a Port-a- Potty on site.

JXR T-shirts, field trip guidebooks, and specimens will also be available for sale.

We have been lucky and had beautiful, clear and even warm weather in February but extra clothes and boots might be useful if it's muddy or the weather turns.

There are roads and paths. Cliffs, ditches and new pits have been dug.

There is loose material under the leaves that take little effort to recover. Using a rake to push back the leaves might be useful and a crack hammer will help to find tourmaline imbedded in quartz.

WHERE TO STAY: Days Inn, the address is 2606 Whitesville Rd., LaGrange, Ga. 30240 (also Hwy 219). It's exit 13 off of I-85. Phone 706-882-8881 for reservations. Also at exit 18 (Hwy 109) on I-85 there are many hotels and restaurants. Hotels: Holiday Inn Express, Americahost, Jameson Inn, and Comfort Inn.

Restaurants: Applebees, Cracker Barrel, Wafflehouse, and more.

The Hogg Mine was purchased by a man who planned to build homes on it. Fortunately for us, Rodney Moore was able to show this man how important the site is to mineral collectors and acquired permission to manage the site for our enjoyment. Please follow the Code of Ethics to preserve our relationship with our host. For more directions and info on other collecting sites in the area, check out www.dixieuhedrals.net and www.dixieuhedrals.com/page8.html

Trip Chairman: Jay Batcha ph 478-784-1965. If no answer, leave a message or you can e-mail: rocky1s@cox.net or Tom Batcha ph 678-407-4224. or Cell # 770-757-6510 for the day of the dig if needed.

