



# THE MOUNTAIN GEM

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FIRST CLASS

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

## Save Stamps

### June 29 Rock Swap and Sale



## 2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL	MONTH	BOARD	GENERAL
January	24	26	July	18	20
February	21	23	August	29	31
March	28	30	September	26	28?
April	25	27	October	10	12
May	23	25	November	14	16
<b>June</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	December	TBA	TBA

Board Meetings: 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum  
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

**2006 GEMBOREES:  
JULY THURS-SUN 27-30  
LEAFLOOKERS OCTOBER 20-22**

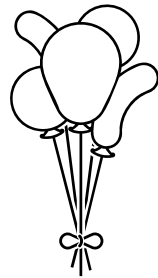
**Date:** June 25  
**Day:** Thursday  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Macon County  
 Community Bldg.  
 Highway 441 South  
 in the West Room

**Program:**  
**Rock Swap and Sale**  
**Now is the time to clean**  
**out that stash of rock items to**  
**sell or to swap**

## July Celebrations

### Birthdays

2 – Bonnie Mills  
 2 – Fred Plesner  
 4 – Ina Raye Muncher  
 5 – Lee Burley  
 15 – Rhoda Haber  
 15 – Eugene King  
 16 - Sonja Eldridge  
 16 – Sharon John  
 16 – Virginia Phillips  
 16 – Albert Moccia  
 29 – Nathan Tartak



### Anniversaries

1 – David & Bonnie Mills  
 5 - Al & Donna Sizemore  
 10 – Bob & Pat Wolfskeil  
 31 – Don & Iris Smith

### Leo's Birthstone – Tiger Eye

By Ted Robles  
*For The Mountain Gem*

Tiger Eye is not a single stone. It exists in three distinct modifications, with some overlap. Starting out as crocidolite asbestos, a high-sodium amphibole, over time the fibers are changed to cryptocrystalline quartz, retaining the structure of the original mineral. The modifications mentioned are blue (hawk's eye), golden (being yellow to brown) and red (light and dark). Some varieties of blue contain streaks of gold, and vice versa. Specific Gravity is 2.5, fracture conchoidal, luster vitreous, with high chatoyancy. All colors are caused by iron which is a part of the stone. The blue form is evidently a "Reduced" form, the iron being in the ferrous state, the golden mixed ferrous-ferrous, while the red is entirely ferric, the highest oxidation state. Red Tiger Eye is formed by heating golden or blue tiger eye to high temperature for a long period of time. All forms take a high polish, and can produce quite attractive gemstones or carved ornaments.

Metaphysically, blue tiger eye is said to confer the ability to see through deception in any situation, and determine the truth without emotional influence. Golden tiger eye brings good fortune and protects from evil influences. It was worn by Roman Legionnaires for protection in battle. It is thought to be influential in promoting prosperity. The red modification is alleged to improve speaking ability, and increases everyday logic and common sense. Also, it is alleged to increase psychic abilities.

Whether or not the various shades of tiger eye have the qualities allegedly associated with them, the play of light caused by the chatoyant effect makes them interesting and desirable stones, no matter whether one is born under the sign of Leo the lion, or elsewhere in the zodiac. It is attractive, which, after all, is the main quality of interest in any gemstone.

*Sources ;*

*Sinkankas, John, Mineralogy, a First Course; D.van Nostrand, Princeton, NJ 1966*  
<http://www.crystalcavern.com>



**A Beautiful Little Blonde Girl**

By Fred Plesner

Have you been busy lately? I have and you could be if you wanted to. There is always the museum. We still need hosts especially for Saturday nights during "Pickin' on the Square." If you haven't tried hosting, this is a good way to get your feet wet. If you are interested call me and I will set you up with someone who knows the ropes. It's your museum, so get acquainted with it.

This month we had a "Rock Swap" and a "Field Trip." If you didn't join us, we missed you. I did not attend the "Seed Beading" class, but some of you did. We had "School Kids" a-plenty and we did get a fair number of you on that one. Maybe it's because you have children or grandchildren and have a special place in your hearts for children.

We have been trying; the activities are there, the participation is up to you. If the above activities are not your thing then try something else. You could write something for *The Mountain Gem*, attend a class at William Holland or Wildacres, maybe teach a class or just bring your latest creation to a meeting and show it off, you could make a new friend or bring a friend with you.

There is plenty to do and if it's not to your liking then place your name in nomination for an Office (it is nomination time). You will certainly be heard that way and the nomination committee will be glad to hear from you.

If you have never run for Office then give it some serious thought. It is one way to either use or develop a skill and none of us knows where life is taking us. If the above isn't busy enough then try next month. July is Gemboree time and I will be making an all out appeal for help. If you are not a people person then try some of the behind the scenes jobs. I want to hear from you. If there is not something for everyone then help us find it.

*Fred Plesner, President*

Our rock swap and cookout with the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society was scheduled for Sunday, May 28th and I was looking forward to it. Saturday evening I went through my rocks and made a good attempt to find something of interest for a variety of tastes, loaded them into the car and waited with anticipation.

Sunday afternoon we were greeted with a big wave and some finger pointing by Tom Sterrett at the Rose Creek Mine. The parking area around the tent that had been set up appeared to be full so Dean and I drove around and parked behind the flume line and got out. I looked across the flume at the tented area to both get my bearings and to check things out in general. As my gaze swept back to the flume I spotted a beautiful little blonde girl, maybe 4 years old, carrying a small aluminum pail. No doubt, I thought, here mining with her parents.

I opened the trunk of the car, removed my rocks and hurried over to the area that had been set aside for the rock swap, set them down on an open table and quickly set about checking everything out. It wasn't long before I had traded a wirewrapped lizard for several nice pieces of Michigan hematite, a beautiful slab of green calcite for a fossil and sold a large Calcite crystal.

As I started over to a unvisited table I spotted that pretty little girl. She was filling her pail with an assortment of gravel (road rock). Upon reaching the table I spoke with a man who stated that he was merely visiting and staying in one of the cottages at the Rose Creek Mine and Campground and having seen the activity at the rock swap came over to see what was going on. Yes, the little girl was with him.

Before I had time to think about it, it was time to eat. I got in line and filled my plate with a hamburger and all the trimmings and sat down near my rocks. Somewhere between bites I turned around and there was that little blonde girl. I reached into my rocks and brought out a small but very pretty geode that I had cut open. I showed that little girl my geode and asked her if she would like to have it. She looked it over and stated that it was very pretty and most unusual. She then reached into her pail and pulled out a pebble, handed it to me, and said, "Thank you sir, Thank you very much. I will trade you this for it."

Did she get a bargain? Yes. Did I get the short end of the bargain? I don't think so, for you see, when she handed me that pebble I also got an angelic smile that would have melted a glacier. Did I get a bargain? You betcha!

Don Smith is nominating chairman; please say "yes" when he approaches you to be an Officer. Or contact him if you are interested in a position on the Board!

**Our Field Trip to the Henderson County Museum**

*By Linda Behr, editor*

On Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, Fred Plesner, Bruce Siegfried, Ray and Linda Behr visited the Mineral & Lapidary Museum of Henderson County. We spent two hours being shown the small but highly respectable museum by Alan Borg, their President and Landen Gailey, Executive Director. After the tour they showed us their workshop and their well-appointed office, which impressed us and made us envious.

The Museum and Society are separate entities by soliciting volunteers from the Society this helps in the management of the Museum.

We enjoyed the hospitality and appreciate their opening the Museum on a day that they are usually closed. Although the Museum is small, we encourage our members to visit it. It is well worth the effort.

Even though, our field trip chairman, Tom Sterrett, couldn't make it, we would like to thank him for setting up this very enjoying visit.



For the latest in news from the SFMS go to [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms). You will find all kinds of information on Shows and the information on the American Federation and Southeast

Federation Convention in Nashville, Tenn. in August of 2006.

Class updates for William Holland Lapidary School:  
<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/william-holland-update.html>  
 Class updates for Wildacres Lapidary School:  
<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/wildacres-retreat-update.html>  
 Club Members are encouraged to attend the SFMS classes for the SFMS to continue offering workshops.

**Club member, Marie Tsacrios is willing to introduce you to polymer clay. If interested in finding out more about this craft, contact Wally Smith at 36-7695 or Marie at 369-5791.**



**News from Jim Robinson, AFMS President**

Pat LaRue has assumed the position of Treasurer for the organization due to Toby Cozens suffering a stroke in April while on vacation in Florida. She is doing well and but will not return as treasurer.

**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC has their website,**

[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org).

By clicking on the Society's lil' miner, you will be able to access the monthly newsletter and also information about the Society. Share this information with others and especially anyone interested in our organization.



**Safety Tip:**

Remember to always wear eye covering while working with machinery. The eyes you save, may be your own. Wearing an apron during cabochon cutting can save your clothing from unnecessary damage. Never pull an electrical plug by the cord and not the plug itself; they just might come apart and you along with them.

**Southeast Federation (Phase 1)/AFMS Convention**  
 Hosts: Middle Tennessee Gem Society  
 Nashville, Tennessee  
 Show: August 18-20, 2006  
 Convention: August 15-20, 2006  
**Southeast Federation (Phase 2)**  
 Hosts: Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society  
 Montgomery, Alabama  
 December 1-3, 2006



**You** know you've had too much coffee when...

- You** can type 60 words a minute...with your feet.
- Instant** coffee takes too long.
- You** chew other people's fingernails.
- You** answer the door...before people knock.
- You** sleep with your eyes open.
- You're** so wired you pick up FM radio.
- You** don't even wait for the water to boil anymore.

## The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society Board Meeting of May 22, 2006

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Fred Plesner at 6:30 p.m. on April 25, 2006, in the museum meeting room. Present were: Dean Plesner, Linda and Ray Behr, Sharon John, Mary Bedrick, Jack Jungles, Ted Robles, Don Smith, and Maggie Vendrell;

**Treasurer's Report:** Ray Behr reported a total income of \$17.60 after payment of the quarterly sales tax. Total expenses were \$346.30 with an overall total deficit of \$328.70.

**Museum:** Jack Jungles reported purchasing a cigarette butt container for the front entrance.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Sharon John had nothing to report.

**Librarian:** Dean Plesner reported receiving two copies of the *Lapidary Journal*. Dean contacted the publishers and it seems to have either been a mistaken renewal or a complimentary subscription, which has been canceled. We also received an offer for a book on agates which will be put into a list of possible future purchases for memorials.

**Publicity:** Ted Robles sent announcements of next meetings to the local press and radio stations. The paper printed a nice article on the ammolites®.

**Editor:** Linda Behr reported that the commemorative stamps that were purchased for the newsletters need to be saved; will try to remind members at General Meeting. The deadline for the newsletter is June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Workshop:** Linda Smith reported that workshops will be scheduled in June after the museum is back in order.

**Gemboree:** Fred Plesner reported receiving the payment from the Chamber of Commerce for the May Gemboree. There has been no response from Mr. Parrish regarding moving the trailer. Fred will try to contact him later in the week. The future of the May Shows is unsure mainly because the Tourist Development Commission who funds the event is not profiting and there seems to be mixed reviews from the dealers.

**Education:** Mary Bedrick reported that two groups of 9<sup>th</sup> graders from the high school would be visiting the museum on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed.

### Old Business

The jail key is now on display upstairs at the museum.

Courthouse display will be available soon. Mary Bedrick is looking for local Macon County specimens to include, even if on loan.

Fred Plesner will check with Debra Siegfried to verify if arrangements have been made for the rental of the two booths previously agreed upon for the Mistletoe Magic Show.

### New Business

Future programs are scheduled as follows: Rock swap and sale in June, ice-cream social in July, video presentation on ammolites® in August.

Museum hosts are needed for Saturday nights during "Pickin' on the Square."

An announcement will be made during the next General Meeting requesting a volunteer to cover for Belinda McGuire during the next couple of months to schedule hosts for museum.

Raffle tickets are not being sold – need to sell more.

Need to schedule a day to clean up and re-organize non-public areas of the museum, such as the workshop and library.

Thank you letter from the Baughmans was read and will also be read at the General Meeting.

There will be another drawing for William Holland scholarship because both the winner and alternate cannot attend. A motion was made by Linda Behr stating that with this drawing and all future drawings, the recipient must make a commitment to accept or reject the scholarship (within a two-month period of being the raffle winner) and inform the Executive Board of said decision. Sharon John seconded; motion passed.

Fred Plesner read a letter received from the Volunteer Council of Franklin Inc. regarding the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for Students between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Elizabeth Siegfried was deemed a good candidate but will check with her parents first.

**(cont'd)**

(cont'd)

The Resurrection Lutheran Church will be sponsoring a fundraiser on June 17<sup>th</sup> and have offered us a booth for \$10.00 to sell or demonstrate. It will be during the same weekend as the "Taste of Scotland" event.

We will consider donating a specimen to the Whitten Center Parents Club located in Clinton, SC, for their July auction. Their facility is for persons with disabilities

A motion was made by Linda Behr to pay the Franklin Press \$40.00 for advertising in the "Information Please" directory. Jack Jungles seconded; motion passed.

An invoice for \$200.00 was received for "Smokey Mountain Host" annual membership dues along with a request for more brochures. Discussion was made and decided that we will not pay the \$200. Fred Plesner will inquire if they will still distribute our brochures without paying the membership.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Vendrell, Recording Secretary

### **The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting of May 25, 2006**

The May General Meeting of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society was held on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center, at 6:35 p.m., called to order by President Fred Plesner.

There were no corrections to the minutes as published in the April issue of *The Mountain Gem*.

**Membership:** Mary Bedrick reported 13 visitors and 28 members present.

**Museum:** Jack Jungles reported new A/C and heating system not functioning yet, but Technical Representatives from the company should have system running soon. A cigarette butt container was ordered for the front entrance.

**Curator:** Mary Bedrick reported finding "odd" things in her mail slot at the museum. Please state the purposes of items left (donations, gift, etc.) and leave your name in case she has questions.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ray Behr reported a total income of \$17.60 which included \$20.00 dues. Total expenses were \$346.30 with an overall total deficit of

\$328.70. He explained that it is not uncommon to have a deficit now that the museum is open. Next month a larger deficit can be expected because of payment of renovation work.

**Gift Shop:** Debra Siegfried reported new sales sheets for the shop –when the sheet is filled leave in Ray Behr's box. No need to count donations just put in correct envelope.

**Education:** Debra Siegfried reported that two groups of high school students (25 each) would be visiting the museum on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>. Also two other groups of 20 each will be visiting on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Volunteers for hosting are welcome.

**Workshop:** Linda Smith announced that Linda Behr will teach a seed beading class. If interested, let her know when you can attend so she may set a date for the class.

**Publicity:** Ted Robles stated that the announcements he submitted to the media must have all gotten in since the result could be seen in the good size crowd that attended the meeting.

**Field Trips:** Tom Sterrett reported a field trip scheduled on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> to the Mineral and Lapidary Museum in Hendersonville County. Meet at the Museum at 12 noon.

This Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Rose Creek Mine, the Society will have a rock swap and cook out. Bring a picnic item to share.

**Editor:** Linda Behr has announced offices needed for election. Members are asked to consider being nominated for any officer. Also notice the stamps on the newsletters and bring them to the museum so they can be forwarded to SFMS; we have benefited for the past 6 years.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Sharon John had nothing to report.

**Gemboree:** Fred Plesner said that we did not run the May Show; the Chamber of Commerce ran it. Therefore, we don't know yet how well that show went.

Fred Plesner announced that Belinda McGuire would not be here next month to coordinate hosting at the museum. So a volunteer is needed to fill in as Host Chair during this time. (cont'd)

(cont'd)

It is extremely important to have volunteers for hosting during regular operating hours and now also on Saturday evenings during "Pickin' on the Square".

**Old Business**

Anyone who made arrangements to pick up a heater or a/c unit, please do so.

**New Business**

Fred Plesner read a "Thank you" letter from the Baughman's for their farewell dinner.

Next month a rock swap and sale is scheduled.

The Lutheran Church next to the Library is hosting a fundraiser on June 17<sup>th</sup> and has offered booths at \$10.00 to the Society or individual members.

During June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> there are activities scheduled up and down Main Street. Members may set up booths at museum parking lot. We will need extra hosts on that day.

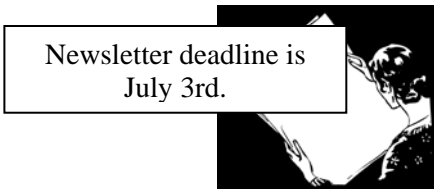
**Museum Hosts are encouraged to remember to sell raffle tickets for the garnet pendant.**

A re-drawing was held for the scholarship to William Holland or Wild Acres because the previous winner and alternate winner were not able to attend. To qualify for drawing, a ticket is issued for every 4 hours of volunteer work. A change to the rule was made that the winner must notify the Board within a two-month period (after being selected) if he/she plans to attend. The winner was Bruce Siegfried and alternate winner was Bill Kennedy.

Refreshments were served and auction was held.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Vendrell  
Recording Secretary



**Club Members' News:**

Note from Nat Tartak:  
*I don't know if I'll ever get up there again, my wife has Alzheimer's and emphysema and more, but I really loved Franklin and the club and museum. If an acquaintance goes that way, I tell them to make sure they visit the museum.*  
*My regards to anyone who remembers me*

New address:  
Rick & Shirley Baughman  
838 Grandview Road  
Oil City, Pa 16301  
814-677-3523



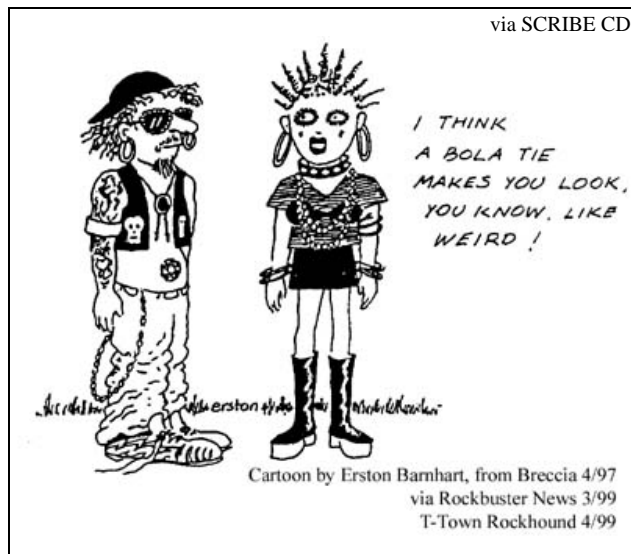
**May Auction**

*By Linda Behr, editor*

If you missed our May Auction, you missed another night of fun with lots of great deals. The silent auction was more fun than you can imagine, watching one person trying to outbid another just before the closing. I hope that the visitors had as much fun as the club members. We had some beautiful larger items such as rings and smaller items such as a toaster oven that was purchased by Dean for a future in making polymer clay. Trent bought Belinda a display case for all of her fossils to stay in one place. Ray bought me a pendant to match his bola. Very few items were left over from the evening.

Mary Bedrick did a great job with her first year of coordinating the auction and deserves a hand of applause. Sam is always in the background as Mary's right-hand man. Of course we cannot forget our auctioneer, Ted Robles, without whom we would not have had as much fun!

via SCRIBE CD



## A Book Worthy Of Your Time

By Bruce Siegfried

For the Gem & Mineral Museum of Franklin, NC

I see a glorious profusion of beauty, like a garden with all its flowers in bloom at the same moment, and these blooms are copious while retaining the air of excitement, being at once both incredible and inspiring.

What could make a person carry on with such praise and prose? Are we touring world famous gardens? No. Such is the description of a book that inundates us with pictures, pictures of petrified wood that excel and exceed the imagination. A book that surpasses the norm, and this book is: Ancient Forests - A Closer Look at Fossil Wood.

I am going to extol its many virtues through its extravagant features. Yes, I have been smitten by the 1,600 pictures of petrified wood found in this publication. This is a new book about fossil wood that creates in you the desire to collect nothing else but wood as long as you live. It is a rock hound, fossil fan, and mineral collectors "must have." It's a treasure. And the visual feast is only the tip of the iceberg, for the text delights the reader as well.

Yes, we have a new book about petrified wood in our club library. Are you impressed by appearance? Then this book is for you. It is by Frank Daniels and Richard Dayvault. You are in for a visual treat! The inside covers are worth an hour of contemplation alone. The text and photos reveal that the author and photographer have outdone themselves. Incomparable photos matched with sensible text pull you in and hold your attention for many hours.

This book focuses in on the beauty of petrified wood. Only beautiful specimens are allowed. All others keep out! There are marvelous photo essays done in macro and micro imaging.

You can study and identify various fossil woods and their species origins, through rays, fibers, and pores. (Yes, the book explains all these and more!) One chapter even recounts the journey from wood to stone. It includes the latest definition of how this occurs through "permineralization." Another chapter discusses many of the 58 minerals that occur in fossilized wood, and reveals the color sources that tinge wood. All the conditions needed for fossil wood to form are laid out nicely.

Yes, we have a new book about petrified wood in our club library. Are you impressed by appearance? Then this book is for you.

Then there is location, location, and location. Most Americans know about fossil wood, at the very least, through the Arizona Petrified Forest National Park. For them this is their introduction to, and the conclusion of their brief acquaintance with fossil wood. While knowledge may stop there for the non-rock collecting citizen, this book treats us to a multitude of sites well known to collectors. Washington and Oregon are there of course. Also well

represented are various revered sites in Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada, with attention drawn to

its opalized wood. Great wood locations such as Madagascar, Australia, Brazil, and Zimbabwe are all treated with respect. And the petrified pinecones of Argentina are described and pictured as well.

Is all this ranting and raving about a book necessary? Am I getting carried away, awash in gushing emotions? Yes. For this new book is worth many hours of consideration by the connoisseur and novice alike. See it for yourselves ladies and gentlemen. Check it out!

**Club members: if you would like to donate a book to our library, please contact Dean Plesner, our librarian. We would love to enhance the resources for our members.**



## Separation Anxiety

By Nancy Cottrell for the Macon Users Group (MUGS)

A California company says there should be no such thing as a lonely pet, so they've set up an internet radio station just for cats and dogs. One DJ even does personalized "shout out's" to the animals from their busy owners.

Worried about separation anxiety? Check it out and give it a try. It's free.

It has had scores of upbeat mainstream media reviews and has even won a national PETA award. (I read about it in Better Homes and Gardens of all places.) It even has a "Spanish Hour" at 5 p.m., presumably for Chihuahuas; even our Dobs seem to love it!  
<http://www.dogcatradio.com/>

**COMING EVENTS**

**June 16-18, Raleigh, NC - Frank Cox Productions.** Gem, Jewelry, and Bead Show. State Fairgrounds, Blue Ridge at Hillsborough St. 10-5 daily. Frank Cox, 941-954-0202, [frankcox@comcast.net](mailto:frankcox@comcast.net), [www.frankcoxproductions.com](http://www.frankcoxproductions.com).

**June 17-18, Mebane, NC - Intergalactic Bead & Jewelry Shows.** Mebane Arts & Community Center, 622 Corridor St. 10-5 daily. 888-729-6904, [ibs@beadshows.com](mailto:ibs@beadshows.com), [www.beadshows.com](http://www.beadshows.com)

**July 26-30 - 41st Annual Macon County Gemboree.** Macon County Community Building US 441S. Contact 800-336-7829. One of the largest and oldest gem and mineral shows in the southeast. Sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Hours 10am to 6pm Wednesday-Saturday, 12 noon to 5pm Sunday. Admission \$2 adults, children under 12 are free.

**July 27-30 - G&LW Wholesale Gem Show.** Watauga Festival Center, U.S. Highway 441 North of Franklin. Wholesale gems & jewelry. Open 10am to 6pm Daily - 10am to 3pm Sunday. Contact 601-879-8832 for additional information.

**October 20-22 - 16th Annual Leaf Looker's Gemboree -** The hills are alive with more than fall color as gem & mineral dealers from across the United States converge on Franklin to sell their wares. Sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Hours 10am to 6pm Friday & Saturday, 12 noon to 5pm Sunday. Call 800-336-7829 for information. Admission \$2 adults, children under 12 are free.

Do you know how to write Grants? Would you like to research for Grants, to obtain a full-time Director for our Museum? If you feel led to help the Museum, please call our president.



Our seed beading group has started and we are currently learning peyote stitching. If you are interested in joining us, call Linda Behr, 349-0827. Our next meeting will be June 22 at 6:30 p.m.

**Tips & Hints**

*Author unknown*

Glass Specimen Cover – wouldn't it be nice to get a cheap clear glass cover for your valuable crystals, minerals, etc., without having a custom made glass cover? Try this out. At a flea market or yard sale, pick up a few odd wine glasses, large or small, with no patterns etched on them. With your trim saw, cut the stem as close to the base of the globe as possible. Polish the goblet end to a glass finish, place over your specimen and there you are. No more dust on your specimens. Also, looking down through the cut end magnifies whatever you have under it. The stem can be polished flat to mount anything else you fancy. A word of advice, though, don't get caught in your wife's china cabinet. She might get a little upset.

*Source: Rockpile 1998; via The Pick and Dop Stick 1-2006*

**Hints & Tips on Geodes**

*Author unknown*

Cleaning Geodes: save all your remnants of bars of soap. Put them into a plastic container. When you are lapping or facing a slap or geode that has a vug of crystal, soak the soap to a thick paste and fill the vug. When you have completed the lapping process, use a brush to wash out the soap. This will eliminate grit or slurry from filling the crystals.

*Source: GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS; via ROCKET CITY ROCKS AND GEMS 3/2004*

*Author unknown*

Cutting Geodes in the right place can be tricky. Try rolling the geode on a flat floor several times and mark the "up" side each time. Then cut on a plane parallel with the floor. Crystal growth inside the geode is probably most developed at the top and bottom of its resting place.

*Source: TOLEDO BEND GEMS 1/2003; Via ROCKET CITY ROCKS AND GEMS 3/2004*

*Author unknown*

Geode Cleaning: for a bright sparkle, mix denture powder as directed and soak your geodes with crystal centers and/or your crystal specimens.

*Source: GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS 2/2003; Via ROCKET CITY ROCKS AND GEMS 3/2004*

*Author unknown*

To open Geodes, soak a string in kerosene, tie it around a geode, burn the string, then plunge the geode in cold water. In many cases, this will crack the geode and a light tap with a hammer will finish the job.

*Source: THE PTERODACTYL 5/2000; Via ROCKET CITY ROCKS AND GEMS 3/2004*

**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 Northeast Georgia Mineral Society, Cornelia, GA (HOST) An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC  
**9:30 am, Saturday, July 8, 2006**  
Corundum Knob (also known as Chunky Gal Knob) Clay County, NC.

**Collecting:** Ruby corundum (pink to red), Spinel (black to brown "galaxite" and magnesio-chromite), Sapphirine, Talc, Serpentine, Brucite (white to blueish chalky chunks), Tremolite, Actinolite, Smaragdite (chrome-emerald green amphibole), Pyroxine (chrome diopside/sparse green micro-crystals of weathered amphibolite matrix), Fuchsite and Dunite.

**Directions:** At the intersection of US-64 and US-441 (southwest of Franklin, Macon County, NC), interested parties/individuals will take US-64 west (toward Murphy, NC) to the Buck Creek Road turnoff (north).

All field trip/DMC members will meet here, because the entrance to Chunky Gal is unmarked. The Buck Creek Road turnoff is 17.5 miles west of Franklin, NC. In accordance with SFMS/DMC rules, all participants must meet at the meeting site, and then we will proceed to Chunky Gal, which is one mile further west on the road. This is a "free site" for collecting in the Nantahala National Forest, BUT DO NOT DIG ANY DEEPER THAN 18 INCHES, under Nantahala National Forest Rules (Chunky Gal has been designated as a "rockhound collecting site"). Please fill any and all holes that you dig! It will be July, but it may be cool at this altitude, so bring a light jacket or long-sleeved shirt.

**Tools:** If you wish to screen sediments (this is "blind mining") for home washing/tumbler cleaning, you will need shovels, 3-5 gallon buckets or 2-3 gallon plastic bags (like those from the market), 1/4 inch (6mm) screens, hand shovels, gloves, and goggles. Most of the above minerals will be found this way. If you wish to collect smaragdite with ruby, sledge hammers, chisels, 3-5 gallon buckets, gloves and goggles (eye protection) will be needed. Please make sure your "tetanus" shots are up to date. Please wear boots/hiking shoes. This is tick country so check yourself especially if you dress lightly. Sprays with "DEET" are recommended. Watch out for snakes,

because this is rattlesnake country. DO NOT STEP OR PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE YOU CANNOT SEE! ACCOMMODATIONS: Franklin, NC is the best bet for lodging and restaurants, especially on US-441, US-64, NC-28.

**CONTACTS:** Richard Walter at 770-532-8874  
e-mail: rfw912@yahoo.com  
or Kim Cochran at 770-979-8331.

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**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC has been invited to join with SAMS for the following:**

An Official Field Trip of Southern Appalachian Mineral Society  
Chunky Gal – Corundum Knob – Buck Creek Area  
Clay, North Carolina

**WHAT MAY BE FOUND:** facet-grade almandine garnet fragments, corundum (ruby & sapphire), olivine, edenite, zoisite, smaragdite, dunite, amphibolite, feldspar, and serpentine

**WHEN: July 22, 2006**                      **TIME: 9:30 AM**

**FEE:** Free of charge!

**WHAT TO BRING:** Buckets and containers, rock and crack hammer, pick, mattock, sledgehammer, and shovel. You will need a 1/8" screen to collect garnets in Buck creek and a 1/4" screen for corundum (1/8" screen could suffice for both). You may need tall boots or sport sandals for wading in the creek to screen. Also, bring a lunch and water, as there are no facilities. You might get a little wet or sweaty, so bring some extra clothes!

**WHERE TO MEET** We will meet at the intersection of Buck Creek Road and US-64 in Clay County at 09:30 AM.

**DIRECTIONS: From the East** – From the traffic light on US-64 at the entrance to the Wal-Mart shopping center in Franklin, NC - drive approximately 18.5 miles west on US-64 to Buck Creek Road on the right. Important note: You will pass a road that also leads to Buck Creek. We will meet at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Buck Creek road located about 1/2-mile west of the first road.

**From the West** – From the intersection of NC-69 and US-64 in Hayesville, NC - drive approximately 17.5 miles east on US-64 to Buck Creek Road on the left.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Mike Streeter  
(SAMS Field Trip Leader)  
Email: mcstreeter@charter.net      Phone: (828) 667-8290

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