



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

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

FIRST CLASS



Join us at our
Installation
Banquet at the
Party Zone.
Bring food
to share with others.



Save Stamps

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	24	26
May	23	25	November	14	16
June	27	29	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

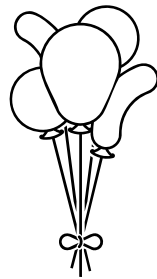
LEAFLOOKERS GEMBOREE

Friday, Saturday and Sunday OCTOBER 20-22

Date: September 28
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Where: The Party Zone
Address: 163 Holly Springs
Park Drive, Franklin
Installation Banquet
Bring covered dishes to share and the club will provide the ham and turkey.

October Birthdays

- 2 – Pat Wolfskeil
- 3 – Joe Pinkous
- 9 – Jacob Sterrett
- 14 – Jan Robles
- 20 – Shirley Baughman
- 20 – Dottie Tari
- 24 – Wally Smith
- 25 – Lonnie Stalcup



October Anniversaries

- 15 – Rick & Shirley Baughman
- 31 – Joe & Ina Muncher

Are you checking the Museum Bulletin Board? We have all kinds of information: items for sale, class schedules, interesting articles, and updates for SFMS classes. Beading group will meet October 12 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome! You can find exchange newsletters in the Museum meeting room in a box by the television.

Scorpio Birthstone –Rhodonite

By Ted Robles for *The Mountain Gem*

Rhodonite is Calcium Manganese Silicate. Mineralogically it is in the triclinic system, hardness 6, rarely found as crystals, mainly in fine-grained very tough massive blocks, with tracings of pyrolusite (Manganese Dioxide). Specific Gravity 3.55±0.15, deep pink becoming brown on oxidation, cleavage perfect, fracture uneven to conchoidal, transparent to translucent (massive opaque), vitreous luster, pink streak. It is a favorite stone in Russia, being found in the Ural mountains in the Sverdlovsk district. Also occurs in Sweden, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, South Africa, Japan, Italy, California and New Jersey. The transparent variety cuts beautiful faceted gemstones, and the translucent and opaque varieties cut excellent cabochons, the tracings of pyrolusite giving interesting patterns. Larger specimens are sometimes carved into handsome figurines. Metaphysically, rhodonite is considered to be a calming and grounding stone, bringing order to feelings that are unbalanced or scattered. It is alleged to clear the mind and allow focus on truth and clarity. It is also claimed that it is beneficial to the pancreas and balancing to the endocrine and lymphatic systems. If true, rhodonite is a useful stone indeed, but whether the mystical properties are correct or not, the faceted gems are beautiful, and the cabochons handsome and interesting. Rhodonite stones are a worthwhile addition to anyone's jewel box, even if one is not born under the sign of the Scorpion.

Sources:

Sinkankas, J. Mineralogy, A First Course, Princeton, NJ, D. van Nostrand, 1967
Prinz et als, Simon and Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals, New York, Simon and Schuster, 1988
Kunz, G.F., The Curious Lore of Precious Stones, New York, Dover, 1941
www.crystalcavern.com

We need a recording secretary!!!! Please help by volunteering for this position. We have a corresponding secretary who can take any minutes when you cannot attend a meeting.



Board Meeting - August 11, 2006

6:30 P.M. in the Museum meeting room.

Present - Fred Plesner, Dean Plesner, Jack Jungles, Linda Smith, Don Smith, Ray Behr, Linda Behr, Debra Siegfried, Ted Robles, Doris Smith, and Wally Smith.

This unscheduled meeting was called to order by President Fred Plesner. Fred explained that the meeting was called solely for the purpose of obtaining a senior aide through a state grant project called the State of Franklin. Fred then proceeded to explain that the aide would be our employee but that the salary and workman's compensation would be paid by the State of Franklin, and that the job would be part time (20 hours per week and pay minimum wage). The purpose of the grant was to allow senior citizens who are unemployed or underemployed to regain entry to the work force. (*Refer to August 2006 issue of The Mountain Gem, page 5*).

The floor was then opened for discussion and after the discussion a motion was made by Ray Behr and seconded by Ted Robles that we proceed with the process of attempting to obtain a senior aide through the State of Franklin. Motion passed. Linda Smith cast the only dissenting vote.

The floor was then opened for discussion on the job qualifications that the employee should have. After obtaining a consensus on job qualifications Fred Plesner stated he would proceed with the necessary letter and other paperwork involved and closed the meeting.

Submitted by Fred Plesner

2007 dues are now due; membership is \$10 per person, junior membership is \$3. Non-member subscription to *The Mountain Gem* is \$15 per year. Mail to the museum with "attention: membership chairman," or bring to any meeting.

**SEAGUL STUDENTS WILL BE HERE
OCTOBER 3, 4, AND 5, PLEASE HELP
OUT BY HOSTING AT THE MUSEUM. IF
YOU WISH TO DEMONSTRATE, PLEASE
CONTACT FRED PLESNER.**



Fred Plesner, President

Labor Day has come and gone and summer is well on its way to being history. I am looking forward to Fall with its cooler weather and a new round of activities. A good deal of this Fall's activities is still being planned and some that we are not even aware of. I am of course referring to all the school field trips to the museum and for programs to be presented at the schools. Help will be needed so don't let a little thing like being a new member deter you. Just jump right in and have fun. You don't need to be an expert, just a willing partner.

There are other activities, such as Pumpkin Fest, Mistletoe Magic, Christmas Parade and Window Wonderland. There is something here for all of us and for all ages. Pitch in, have fun and make our town just what it is, a great place to work, play and raise a family. This Fall is going to be busy and it is your club so it is about you.

Newsletter deadline is
October 5th



Fred Rasmusson and Linda Sterrett have agreed to conduct our **annual audit**. Fred helped with the audit last year and has some experience at this task and Linda will be getting her feet wet this year. I am sure that Ray Behr (our treasurer) has the books in order and all will go smoothly.

Our September Installation Banquet will again be held at the Party Zone on Thursday, September the 28th. Bring a vegetable, salad or dessert, the rest will be provided. If you can't remember the food at least bring yourself and we will share what we do have. Your fellowship is what we really want. Be there.

If you have any rocks or lapidary related items (this can be any jewelry) that you can spare, please bring them to one of our meetings or drop them off at the museum (please mark for Mistletoe Magic). We would like to sell them at the **Mistletoe Magic** so if you have a project or specimen you can donate please do so. If you are looking for a way to renew your interests then make something. These sales will go towards our museum.

(The item/s must be made by a club member. Refer to page 7 for more information).

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin Board Meeting of August 29, 2006

President Fred Plesner called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin to order at 6:35 p.m. on August 29, 2006, in the museum meeting room. Present were: Ted Robles, Debra Siegfried, Linda and Ray Behr, Jack Jungles, Linda Smith, Sharon John, Doris and Wally Smith, Tom Sterrett, Dean Plesner, and Maggie Vendrell. Don Smith was present by phone during parts of the meeting. Absent was Mary Bedrick.

Education: Debra Siegfried reported that Elizabeth Siegfried had information on the badge program at Wild Acres for youths if anyone is interested.

Treasurer's Report: Ray Behr reported total income of \$2,298.15. Major items included donations of 307.43 and gift shop sales of \$1,607.74. Total expenditures were \$2,183.26. Major items included gift shop purchases of \$298.62, utilities \$202.75, scholarship \$1,000.00, and Dealer's Dinner \$237.31. All expenses for the Dealer's Dinner will be reimbursed by the Chamber of Commerce. (Detailed report on file.)

Museum: Jack Jungles had nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary: Sharon John sent a condolence card for Jack Jungles' brother-in-law.

Librarian: Dean Plesner had nothing to report.

Publicity: Ted Robles reported that the General Meeting was announced in the Macon County News. Statistics from January through August show a better representation on the volunteer time sheet. Fred reported that Mary Bedrick had been interviewed by a radio station.

Editor: Linda Behr had nothing to report.

Workshop: Wally Smith reported that the Gem Tree class needs another session. Need to remind members at General Meeting that there is no charge for beading, wire wrapping and similar classes. Only cab and faceting classes will be charged.

Gift Shop: Debra Siegfried reported the gift shop continues to do well. Hosts need to remember to show raffle necklace and pendant.

Nominating Committee: Don Smith reported that there are still no candidates for president or recording secretary. Linda Behr suggested a "co-president" (2

presidents). Since this is not in the Constitution, the process could take up to three months.

Old Business

Fred Plesner reported that the State of Franklin may provide a potential new employee. We will have the opportunity to interview the person. We will need to set up a reporting structure for this new employee. The interview committee will consist of the curator, president, and museum manager. The committee will make the recommendation to the Board.

The Party Zone has been reserved for the installation banquet. There will be a sign up sheet at the General Meeting.

New Business

Historical Museum has requested to borrow the display case found in the meeting room. Ted Robles made a motion to loan the display and Sharon John seconded; motion passed. Mary Bedrick will check the items in display case before loaning it to the Historical Museum.

Historical Museum has asked us to sell tickets for their raffle. It was determined that it is not feasible to sell tickets or post other raffles.

Scholarships – Discussed possibility of future considerations to include 2nd year students at community colleges offering associates in lapidary arts. However, students at universities have a greater financial need. May need to open to other areas outside of Western North Carolina but first choice would be to WNC students. We will ask Nancy Stalcup to attend next Board meeting to discuss further.

Pumpkin Fest will take place October 27th and 28th. Phillip St. will be closed. Outdoor activities for children will be held in the back parking lot if our members can park at the Macon Bank. We will open early and close late. At least 6 hosts will be needed. An announcement will be made at the Installation Banquet for candy donations

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Vendrell, Recording Secretary

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin General Meeting of August 31, 2006

The August General Meeting of the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin was held on Thursday, August 31, 2006 at the community Center at 6:30 p.m., called to order by President Fred Plesner.

The minutes were accepted as printed in *The Mountain Gem*.

Treasurer’s Report: Ray Behr reported total income of \$2,298.15. Major items included donations of 307.43 and gift shop sales of \$1,607.74. Total expenditures were \$2,183.26. Major items included gift shop purchases of \$298.62, utilities \$202.75, scholarship \$1,000.00, and Dealer’s Dinner \$237.31. (Detailed report on file.)

Membership: In Mary Bedrick’s absence, Belinda McGuire reported 5 visitors and 20 members present.

Museum: Jack Jungles had nothing to report.

Gift Shop: Doris Smith reported good sales and to encourage hosts to sell raffle tickets.

Workshop: Wally Smith announced that another gem tree class will be held Thursday, September 7th from 6-9 p.m. in the museum.

Publicity: Ted Robles reported that all newspapers carried our meeting announcements.

Ted Robles said that it is important for all volunteers to enter their hours on the sheet in the Museum. These records will be used for when we apply for a grant...in the sometime future.

Education: Debra Siegfried announced that the Seagull group will be at Rose Creek Conference Center on October 3, 4, and 5 and will visit the museum on October 4, 5, and 6. Hosts will be needed each morning at 9 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the museum.

Gemboree: Fred Plesner reported that the July Gemboree was a great success. We had 29 dealers. Income report is incomplete at this time. The Dealers’ Dinner went smoothly and the food was delicious.

Library: Dean Plesner is working on library re-organization.

Old Business

The members’ copier will be replaced soon.

New Business

The East Franklin Merchants Association is sponsoring children’s games associated with “Pumpkin Fest” on October 27 and 28. The Museum’s parking lot could be used as a safe place for the children’s games.

North Carolina Made Arts & Crafts (corner of Highway 441 and Highlands Road) is sponsoring “Mistletoe Magic Holiday” on November 24 and 25 in the Community Building with 60 artists participating. Our gem society has two booths/tables. (*Refer to page 7 for more information*).

Our museum may soon have a part-time employee paid by “State of Franklin,” an agency in Bryson city that administers Grants for employment to workers over 55 years of age. Club members may apply. (*Refer to August 2006 newsletter*).

The following is the slate of officers and Board members for 2007.

President	Fred Plesner
Vice President	Mary Bedrick
Treasurer	Bruce Siegfried
Assistant Treas.	Ray Behr
Corresponding Sec.	Sharon John
Recording Sec.	OPEN
2008 Director	Tom Sterrett
2008 Director	Linda Smith
2007 Returning Board Members:	Dean Plesner
	Don Smith

There were no added nominations. Ted Robles made a motion to elect the slate of officers as presented, seconded by Jack Jungles. Election proceeded.

The Installation Banquet will be held September 28, 2006 at the Party Zone at 6:30 p.m. Members were asked to bring covered dishes. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting.

Door prices went to Denis Bernard, Marie Tsacrios, Jack Jungles and John Hayes.

A donuts and coffee social followed. John Hayes gave a demonstration on his machine for performing a faceted stone.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Rasmusson for Maggie Vendrell

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society.

An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

8:30 AM EST Saturday, October 14, 2006
Kingston, TN

We will be collecting the cephalon (head) and pygidium (tail) of the Cambrian trilobite *Blountia* sp. from the Conasauga Shale formation. They will range in size from 1mm to 25 mm. On rare occasions a complete specimen will be found. For the trilobite collector this will be an opportunity to add a rare specimen to your collection.

Tools: At a minimum bring a rock hammer, newspaper (to wrap specimens), and a beer flat or similar item (to hold specimens) Hazards: Some climbing on loose slippery shale may be involved. This will not be a good trip for small children, but teenagers will probably do OK. Directions: Take exit 350 off of I-40 east or west bound (approximately 40 mile west of Knoxville, TN).

You will be able to see a Lowes and Krogers as soon as you exit. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Lowes / Krogers Shopping Center on Highway 70. Park near the SFMS sign. We will convoy to the site at 8:30 am. If you arrive late wait for someone to return for another group at 30-45 minute intervals until approximately 10:00 am.

Essentials / Accommodations: There are several eateries and motels one exit before 350 and one exit after 350. All are within 6 mile of the collecting site. If you have any questions or would like to see photos of specimens, please contact: Danny Griffin, (865) 406-8802, or GCJINC@comcast.net

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance.

Email: sfms@amfed.org

website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>

**Wire Wrapping**

By Don Shore

Ancient Phoenicians are credited with the creation of Wire Wrap Jewelry, but the art form goes back nearly 1000 years earlier. In the Bible detailed instructions were given to Moses to construct the tabernacle and priestly garments and attire. The design for the breastplate of Aaron, the High Priest, is found in Exodus 28, beginning at verse 15. It was to have 12 gems, all set in gold filigree. Filigree was Gold or Silver hammered into thin sheets, then cut into thin strips, and the edges filed smooth, thus making *wire*.

The wire was woven into a basket of filigree and set into the breastplate. Biblical scholars have placed this event near 1446 BC, nearly 1000 years before the Phoenicians.

In Egypt, a Sarcophagus was layered with fine sheets of Gold. About 1900 to 1800 BC, the Sarcophagus changed to include woven strands of Gold and Silver, hinting that the Hebrew artists bought this art form to their new homeland.

The earliest reference to drawn wire was in the 8th century of France and the first commercial wire operation was in 1270 AD in France. During the Medieval period, knights brought back wire to England to make chains and mail for their armor. The earliest mention of wire production in England was in 1465. Wire wrapping was limited to fastening Crucifix and other religious symbols to lanyards.

During the late 1800s the Bohemian culture used wire to string chips of polished glass and stone beads to make necklaces and bracelets. This was popular among the European aristocracies for nearly 50 years. Wire arts from the Victorian Age, 1837 to 1901, combine Wire Sculpture and Cameos to produce some of the most popular pieces of the period.

Only recently have we seen the truest form of Wire Art Sculpting. Hundreds of artists create all forms of wearable art and jewelry such as rings, pendants, pins, hair barrettes, brooches, bracelets, and stick pins by combining gemstones, beads, antiques, family heirlooms, mineral specimens, and even fossils with gold, silver, gold filled, copper, and brass wire.

Wires come in many shapes and sizes, such as round, square, half round, triangular, flat or patterned. Although square wire is used for many items, half round is used for wrapping ring shanks. Round wire is used for earring findings and bead rings.

Some of the basic techniques include twisting the wire, wrapping a wire bundle, crimping or flattening the wrap, scrolling, and shaping.

Simple tools, such as various styles of pliers, pin vises, files, wire cutters, ring mandrel, and a scale are used to bind and twist wires together. It does not involve the use of solder, fire, chemicals, or complicated tools.

Advantages of this technique are unlimited design possibilities, a fast turn around from the design inception to jewelry completion, and the ability to incorporate any shape or finish from any material.

Besides using the Bible, the following web sites were used in preparing this article:

<http://www.pelebeads.com/faqs.htm>

<http://members.aol.com/cutstones/history/history.htm>

<http://www.costumes.org/pages/jewelink.htm>

Source *Osage Hills Gems April 2003 via SCRIBE CD 2005*

Do You Know That...

Author unknown

KARAT is a measure of fineness-24 karat is fine gold. 1 karat equals 1/24 (0.0417). Thus 14 karat gold is 14/24 fine gold and the balance (10/24) alloy. The usual alloy metals are silver, copper and zinc. Nickel is used in white gold.

COLORS OF GOLD—Yellow, green, red and white—are produced by variations in the alloy. Silver and zinc tend to give a green color; copper—red and nickel—white.

GOLD FILLED is made by joining a layer (or layers) of gold alloy to a base metal alloy and then rolling or drawing to the thickness required.

GOLD ELECTROPLATE is usually made by electrolytic deposition of fine gold on a base metal.

GOLD SOLDERS are usually 2 to 4 karats less than gold on which they are used.

STERLING SILVER is 925/1000 (92.5%) fine silver and 75/1000 (7.5%) copper.

COIN SILVER is 900/1000 (90%) fine silver and the balance copper.

FOREIGN SILVERWARE contains varying percentages of silver. In some cases it is as low as 700/1000 (70%).

SILVER PLATED WARE is made by electroplating fine silver on a base metal alloy—usually nickel silver or Britannia metal, sometimes brass or copper.

SHEFFIELD PLATE (original) was made by soldering sheet silver onto copper, rolling and manufacturing into hollow-ware. Imitations are made by electroplating silver or copper.

NICKEL SILVER—so called—is a composition of nickel, copper and zinc. (It contains no silver.)

GERMAN SILVER—a misleading name—the same as nickel silver (It contains no silver.)

BRITANNIA METAL is a composition of tin, copper and antimony.

PEWTER (original) was primarily a lead alloy. It is now made in a tin, copper antimony composition similar to Britannia metal.

GRAIN originally meant the weight of a grain of wheat. It was later standardized for trading purposes but is little used now, most weighing being done in ounces and decimal parts, or in pennyweights and decimal parts.

*Source: Outcroppings 1/01;
via Canaveral Moonstone 5/06*

Southeast Federation (Phase 2)

Hosts: Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society

Montgomery, Alabama

December 1-3, 2006

Details can be found in the Lodestar via

www.amfed.org/sfms or on the museum bulletin board.

Stroll with me...close your eyes...and go back before the internet...before bombings, aids, herpes, before semiautomatics and crack...before SEGA or Super Nintendo...way back!

I'm talking about sitting on the curb, sitting on the steps...about malt shops, hide-and-go-seek, Simon says and red-light-green-light. Lunch boxes with a thermos...chocolate milk, going home for lunch, penny candy from the store, hopscotch, butterscotch, skates with keys, jacks and Cracker Jacks®, hula hoops and sunflower seeds, wax lips and mustaches, Mary Jane's®, saddle shoes and Coke bottles with the names of cities on the bottom. Remember when it took five minutes for the TV to warm up.

When nearly everyone's Mom was at home when the kids arrived home from school. When nobody owned a purebred dog. When a quarter was a decent allowance. When you'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny. When your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces.

When all of your teachers wore neckties and female teachers had their hair done every day and wore high heels. Remember running through the sprinkler, circle pins, bobby pins, Mickey Mouse Club, Rocky and Bullwinkle, Kookla, Fran and Ollie, Dick Clark's American Bandstand...all in black and white and your Mom made you turn it off when a storm came. When around the corner seemed far away and going downtown seemed like going somewhere.

Climbing trees, making forts, lemonade stands, cops and robbers, cowboys and Indians, staring at clouds, jumping on the bed, pillow fights, ribbon candy, angel hair on the Christmas tree, white gloves, walking to the movie theater, running till you were out of breath, your first haircut, laughing so hard that your stomach hurt...remember that? Not stepping on a crack or you'd break your mother's back, paper chains at Christmas, silhouettes of Lincoln and Washington, the smells of school, of past and "Evening in Paris"® perfume.

When you got your windshield cleaned, oil checked and gas pumped without asking all for free- every time. You didn't pay for air and you got trading stamps to boot. When laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box.

(More in future newsletters. Source: Internet)

Several club members have been busy entertaining students visiting our museum and also visiting schools (i.e. Grace Christina Academy and Smokey Mountain Elementary School).

**Below are a few of the
Thank you letters:**

Dear Mrs. Bedrick and Mr. Plesner,
It was fun to find out that the jail was made in the 1850s and was turned into a gem museum. I loved the rocks. It was great. Thank you for visiting our class. It was awesome. I want to go back to the museum. It was a blast.
Your friend,
Grant

Dear Mrs. Bedrick and Mr. Plesner,
Thank-you for visiting our classroom. It was so cool. And the museum was cool. It was so special for you to come to our class and help us sort our rocks. Oh thank-you for telling us about the geod.
Love,
Gavin

Dear Elizabeth and Debra Siegfried and friends,
Thank you for coming to our school & giving us a demonstration on gem & mineral/gem cutting. We would like you to comeback & visit.
Sincerely,
Hez Crowe

Dear Elizibith & debra Segfriend,
Thanks for coming and talking to us about gem/minerals. It was really cool and fun. I hope you hade as much fun as I did. I liked the emerald the most and the bone the lest, but it was still prity cool. I think the worst part of it was leving.
Your friend,
Zachary

Thank you for coming to our school and presenting your skills about peoples heritage on heritage day.
The sixth grade guidance class:

Dear Fred Plesner and friends,
I would like to thank you for attending Heritage Day here at Smokey Mountain Elementary School. The students enjoyed the gem cutting and we would love for you to come back soon!!! Thanks once again!
Sincerely,
Corey York

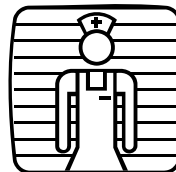
(No corrections or additions were made to the students' letters.)

Mistletoe Magic Holiday Art & Craft Show

The first annual Mistletoe Magic Holiday Art & Craft Show will be held on November 24-25 at the Community Building on US 441 S, in Franklin. Sixty artists and crafter involved with NC Mountain Made will be attending, representing an array of talent and products. The two largest rooms in the Community Building will be used for this event.

Our club has reserved two 10' X 10' booths, and will include two six-foot tables. The cost for a member is \$30 for a table, \$15 for a half table or less if more share a table. The club is picking up the rest of the cost as publicity.

If this interests you, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Museum meeting room or call Fred Plesner.



Nurse's Revenge

When you're hospitalized, it pays to be nice to your nurse, even when you're feeling miserable. A bossy businessman learned the hard way after ordering his nurses around as if they were his employees. But the head nurse stood up to him.

One morning she entered his room and announced, "I have to take your temperature." After complaining for several minutes, he finally settled down, crossed his arms and opened his mouth. "No, I'm sorry, the nurse stated, "but for this reading, I can't use an oral thermometer."

This started another round of complaining, but eventually he rolled over and bared his bottom. After feeling the nurse insert the thermometer, he heard her announce, "I have to get something. Now you stay just like that until I get back!" She left the door to his room open on her way out, and he cursed under his breath as he heard people walking past his door laughing.

After almost an hour, the man's doctor came into the room. "What's going on here?" asked the doctor. Angrily, the man answers, "What's the matter, Doc? Haven't you ever seen someone having their temperature taken?"

"Yes," said the doctor. "But never with a daffodil."

*THE FLINT GEMSTONES Aug. 2000.
Via GRAVEL GAZETTE 10/01
via SCRIBE CD 2005 jokes/poems*

**2007 Dues are now due. Please mail to the museum,
"Attention: Membership Chairman."**

Safety First - Safety Rules For Field Trips

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chair

Field trip season is upon us and we need to pause and review appropriate safety rules. Field trip leaders need to review these rules before every field trip.



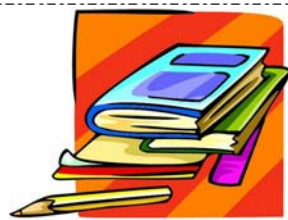
1. Never go on a field trip alone. Have someone along who can help or summon help if necessary. Make sure someone knows where you have gone and when you will return. Carry a cell phone with spare battery to expedite your communications. Call someone if you are going to change your routine or are going to be late. Should you leave a field trip early, notify the person in charge.
2. Should there be children on the field trip, have them within sight or talking distance at all times. A child could not only become lost, but could encounter a snake, scorpion, etc., or have an accident of some sort.
3. Do not collect directly above or below other people or below unstable rock piles, cliff walls or over-hangs where there may be danger of falling rock.
4. Park so that all cars can get out. Do not block the roadway. Do not drive cars, SUVs, or RVs, such as "4 wheelers", across fields to avoid damaging property, setting grass fires with catalytic converters or damaging the vehicle. Do not drive across or walk on newly planted or cultivated fields without special permission.
5. Have your vehicle in proper working order with appropriate emergency equipment and supplies as outlined in last month's Safety First article.
6. Make sure that all fires are completely out and wet down the ashes with water, stir to make sure there are not any buried embers and then smother completely with dirt. Adhere to local fire regulations and warnings.
7. Break all matches and shred all cigarettes before discarding and be careful where they are disposed of. Take them with you rather than leaving them as litter.
8. Do not throw rocks or engage in "horse play" and do not allow children to do so.
9. Do not over exert or stay in the direct sunlight or heat too long. Take a rest in the shade from time to time and drink plenty of electrolyte replacing fluids, such as sports drinks. Properly wear appropriate safety equipment, sunscreen, and clothing.
10. Avoid old mine tunnels. Never go into a mine alone. Carry a flashlight and a candle with you. Carbon dioxide or other gases, such as methane, may be present. There may even be a lack of Oxygen. Mines are also havens for snakes, scorpions, spiders, rodents and their feces, which can carry disease. Mines also may contain uncovered shafts and pits. Also be extremely cautious around abandoned buildings. You may stumble into old deep wells or cesspools not properly covered.
11. Respect property rights and signs. Obtain permission to enter property if owned by private individuals or corporations. Attend Company safety briefings required by MOSHA and sign releases. Pay attention to and practice the Companies' safety policies. Adhere to government regulations and restrictions if collecting on public lands or parks. Pay

any collecting fees required and do not exceed collecting limits where established.

12. Inquire if there are any dangerous animals on the property. Close all gates you open.
 13. Refill any holes you dig so people or animals will not fall in. Do not dump dirt or other debris into streams.
 14. Respect another's diggings. If a person left for lunch or for any other reason with the intent of returning, and has left a pick, coat, or definite marker, find another spot.
 15. Leave any place in good condition. Don't leave paper, cans, and other litter lying around to mar beauty of the place, and to tell others that you have been there. Take your litter with you, do not bury it.
 16. Never eat wild berries or anything else unless you are absolutely sure they are safe. Carry bottled water or other drinks and do not drink from streams or wells that have not been recently tested.
 17. Be able to recognize poison ivy, poison oak etc. Should there be any doubt, don't touch.
 18. Always be alert for snakes, scorpions, ticks, spiders, rodent infestations, etc. Be very careful where you place your hands and feet.
 19. Bring and properly use the appropriate maintained and inspected tools. Don't expect others to provide tools for you.
 20. Use proper lifting and carrying techniques to bring home your finds. Do not overload your vehicle.
- Many of these safety rules are covered in greater detail in the AFMS Safety Manual and on the AFMS web site.

Via AFMS Newsletter - June- July - August, 2005

(Editor's comment: if you are NOT allergic to Benadryl® carry it with you for when you are stung by a yellow jacket or bee. Also, I make a paste of meat tenderizer and place it on the stung area, covering it with a band aid to ease inflammation.)



The Society is in need of someone to write Grants for our attaining a full-time Director. If you would like to consider doing this research, please contact one of the Board Members. All help is appreciated!!!!



Vi Hicks 1923-2006

Mabel Vivian Hand "Vi" Hicks, of Chattanooga, died on Monday, August 28, 2006 at her home. Born on May 6, 1923 she was a native of Laurence County, Ten. Mrs. Hicks lived in Hixson for many years. She was a charter member and past president of the Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Club and the 1995 SFMS President

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
Inc

"Your society is invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The SFMS Field Trip Committee has been in contact with the caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day, October 6-8, 2006.

All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up the hill to the parking area(s). Proceeded from your parked vehicle to the Registration/Hospitality tent to sign your liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

SFMS Field Trip Committee:
Please reply by e-mail to: dmc@gaminal.org Jim Flora - SFMS Field Trip Committee Chair

Graves Mountain code of conduct!
Park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.

CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Dig" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION!

ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash. The Graves Mountain caretaker, Clarence Norman Jr., has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.

Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)

STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!

NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!

NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE HIS OR HER VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Please protect our ability to field collect at Graves Mountain! Report Violations to: Clarence Norman Jr. 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home). All reported violations will be held in strict confidence.



Grandmother was visiting the family when little Becky asked, "Grandma, how old are you?" The grandmother replied, "Why I'm 39 and holding, Becky." Thinking a moment the child then asked, "How old would you be if you let go?"

While opening his birthday presents, the little boy was excited to see he had gotten a water pistol from his grandmother. He then ran to the kitchen faucet to fill it with water. "I'm surprised you gave Danny a water pistol," the woman said to her mother. "Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with those things when we were kids?" "I remember," the grandmother said coyly. "I remember"

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked his employee. "Yes, I do," the employee replied. "That makes sense then," the boss affirmed. "When you took time to attend your aunt's funeral last week, she stopped by to see you."