



THE MOUNTAIN GEM

Linda Behr, Editor

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website: www.fgmm.org

**THE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
OF FRANKLIN, NC, INC.**

25 Phillips St. Franklin, NC 28734

FIRST CLASS



New Officers will be
Elected at the Meeting



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	Banquet 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

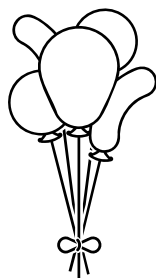
**2006 LEAFLOOKERS GEMBOREE OCTOBER 20-22,
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday**

Date: August 31
Day: Thursday
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Macon County
 Community Bldg.
 Highway 441 South
 in the West Room
Program: John Hayes will demonstrate the use of a preform machine for a faceted stone. He will demonstrate its use on your stone. **Bring your stone on a ¼ inch dop to be preformed.**

September Celebrations

Birthdays

- 2 – Rick Baughman
- 3 – Carol Messina
- 9 – Marie Tsacrios
- 13 – Helen Coe
- 16 – James Granato
- 18 – Henry Donikowski
- 20 – Edgar Wing
- 30 – Denis Bernard



Anniversaries

- Jack & Brenda Jungles
- 2 – Bill & Carol Messina

Membership Correction:
 Diane Adams Aiello
 Telephone: 524-3307
 (I typed the wrong number in last month's bulletin.)

Libra Birthstone(s) - Jade
 By Ted Robles for The Mountain Gem

Properly speaking, “Jade” is one of two different stones. The first, Jadeite, is sodium aluminum silicate, with more or less iron, hardness 6.5 – 7, Sp. Gr. 3.4 ± 0.1, translucent, vitreous luster, color white through green to black (chloromelanite) with shades of nearly

every color. “Imperial” Jade is a rich emerald green, and is highly valued among Jade fanciers, as is the lavender variety. Nephrite is, properly speaking, a rock, since it is a series of mixtures of the two minerals, Tremolite, which is calcium magnesium hydroxy silicate and is predominantly white, and Actinolite, which is calcium magnesium iron hydroxy silicate and is dark green. Hardness is 5 – 6, Sp. Gr. 3.2 ± 0.1, translucent, vitreous to waxy luster, color white through green, the most desirable to the lapidary being the so-called “apple green.” Both nephrite and jadeite are in the monoclinic system, but crystals are rarely found. The intertwined, “felted” nature of the crystalline structure of both types results in the outstanding characteristic of “Jade,” which is toughness. Jade may be sawn, but it is difficult to impossible to break it. Both types take a high polish and make attractive jewelry or ornamental figures; the Chinese jade carving industry is large and flourishing. (Unfortunately a lot of other stones are also carved and represented as “Jade,” so that “Buyer Beware” is the watchword of the industry.) Jadeite is found in China, Myanmar, Tibet, Japan, and California. Nephrite is found in Italy, Austria, Siberia, Central Asia, New Zealand, and Canada, also in Wyoming and California, the “apple green” variety coming mainly from Wyoming and British Columbia.

Jade has been used as both an ornamental stone and for tools (axes, etc.) for at least 7,000 years; the pre-Columbian artifacts in Central America representing gods and animals are well known. In China jade carvings were largely the purview of royalty.

Metaphysically, it allegedly possesses the virtues of compassion, wisdom, justice, and courage, yet it also is symbolic of romantic love. Amulets have been made of the material for millennia, and jade carvings of Kwan-yin, the Chinese goddess of mercy are plentiful, as are figurines of the Buddha. These are alleged to bring good fortune to those who possess them, and are invariably given places of honor in the household of the owner.

But no matter the form or virtue, Jadeite and Nephrite both are handsome stones and are worthy of inclusion in any collection, whether the collector is a Libran or not.

Sources:
 Prinz et als. *Simon and Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals*, New York, 1978
 G. F. Kunz, *The Curious Lore of Precious Stones*, Dover, New York, 1971
 A.H. Verrill, *Minerals, Metals, and Gems*, Grosset & Dunlap, New York, 1939
www.crystalcavern.com



Fred Plesner, President

Again I must thank you for the outstanding effort you put forth at the Gemboree. You can only imagine the relief and pride that I felt whenever I looked around and found both adequate staffing and a room full of demonstrators. We received compliments from dealers on how well the show was run and thank-yous from local business people for the part that we do in filling local motels and restaurants.

If any of you have not entered the time you spent setting up, breaking down, hosting, demonstrating, working at the dealers dinner, cooking for that delicious meal, running errands, etc., please do so or tell someone so that it can be entered into our log book. That time may be all that it takes to earn you that scholarship to William Holland or Wildacres. Our current winner is Bruce Siegfried who recently returned from a cabochon class at William Holland. We anticipate seeing upcoming examples of his work at future meetings.

The Gem and Mineral Society has been recommended for the Governor's Award for Volunteerism by the Volunteer Council of Macon County. The results of that nomination will not be known until late in the year. The nomination is an honor in itself so we may give ourselves a well-earned pat on the back for our efforts.

We have the rest of the year for being involved in Society activities. I personally am looking forward to the kids we will see on future academic outings, the Leaflookers' Gemboree with of course your continued participation and support.



Club members, are you reading our exchange newsletters? They can be found in the museum meeting room next to the television. Please save any stamps and place in stamp can in museum.

Newsletter deadline is September 6th.



Club Member News

LaNea Willison has the shingles and will be out of club activities for the next year. Our prayers and thoughts are with her.

Claire Miller has just returned from a trip to visit her granddaughter. Her daughter accompanied her for this long trip. We're happy that she is now home with us.

Ray and Linda Behr have just adopted a Weimaraner from the Weimaraner Rescue. He's four years old and taller than Linda when he stands.

Alice Pomerantz, a past member, sent the club a 38 pound box of items. Some of these items will be used to make gem trees for the gift shop.

Sharon John has had foot surgery. Hopefully she will be up and around soon.

Do you want your news shared with our club members? If so please let our editor know. Members like to hear about what's happening with other members; it makes our newsletter more personal.



We're each different but can fit together beautifully.



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

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society Board Meeting of July 18, 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 July 18, 2006, in the museum meeting room. Present were: Mary Bedrick, Ted Robles, Don Smith, Linda and Ray Behr, Linda Smith, Debra Siegfried, Jack Jungles, Sharon John, Dean Plesner, and Maggie Vendrell.

Treasurer's Report: Ray Behr reported total income of \$1,852.99. Major items included \$234.59 from donations and \$1,412.95 from gift shop sales. Total expenses were \$4,932.79. Major items included \$2,774.89 for renovations and \$1,257.72 for gift shop purchases. (Detailed report on file.)

Museum: Jack Jungles reported purchase of light bulbs and lights for cabinets. Closet under stairs will be straightened out in the near future. Fred Plesner reported that the fluorescent display has a relay out. A retired electrical engineer has volunteered to make repairs.

Corresponding Secretary: Sharon John sent a sympathy card to Bill Parrish's son.

Librarian: Dean Plesner reported that a video on Silversmithing has been added to the library in Bill Parrish's honor.

Curator: Mary Bedrick is collecting specimens from local mines. Mary has also visited the courthouse and the display cabinet is there but is still missing the glass and glass shelves.

Publicity: Ted Robles reported that the General Meeting was announced in the Macon County News but not in the Franklin Press (reason unknown). The radio station aired a discussion by five members on the Gemboree. Ted will check if radio station is announcing the meetings.

Gemboree: Fred Plesner reported having handouts available for distribution. Fran Rasmusson is working on Dealers' Dinner.

Education: Debra Siegfried reported that two spaces are still available for the stained glass class. (See page 4 for change.) Extra hosts will be needed on Thursday for two groups visiting the museum.

Gift Shop: Debra Siegfried reported the gift shop is doing well. Ray and Linda Behr stayed late on the 4th of July and sold \$170.00 worth of merchandise.

Old Business

Don Smith reported that we have nominees for all positions except for president and recording secretary.

The August program will be the Ammolite video. (Refer to page 1 for change.)

The application for the NC Award for Outstanding Volunteers was turned in.

A copy of objectives must be included with application for new prospective members. Emphasize that we are not a social club; we meet to conduct business. Membership Chairperson to remind existing members and announce at every general meeting what is entailed in becoming a member.

New Business

The copier for member use has a mechanical problem and cannot be repaired. Don Smith made a motion to purchase a new copier. Ted Robles seconded; motion passed. Ray Behr will purchase the copier.

Virginia Phillips, who was an active member for many years, made a donation of a vest and books. The vest will be given away as a door prize.

New keys were made for the front door.

SFMS annual meeting will be held on August 16th in Nashville. No one from our Society will be attending.

There were two applicants for the scholarship. Fred Plesner read each applicant's letter and school records. It was decided to award the scholarship to Katie McDowell of Franklin. A motion was made by Sharon John to award a one time \$1,000 scholarship. Recipient of said award would receive the usual \$500.00 for the fall semester and be eligible to receive the additional \$500.00 for next year contingent on adequate progress. Jack Jungles seconded; motion passed.

A motion was made by Linda Smith to have the September banquet at the Party Zone again on either September 21st or 28th. Ted Robles seconded; motion passed. Linda Behr will make reservation.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Vendrell, Recording Secretary

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting of July 20, 2006

The July General Meeting of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society was held on Thursday, July 20th at the Community Center, at 6:30 p.m., called to order by President Fred Plesner.

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

Membership: Mary Bedrick reported 5 visitors and 31 members present.

Treasurer's Report: Ray Behr reported a total income of \$1,852.99. Major items included \$235.59 from donations and \$1,412.95 from gift shop sales. Total expenses were \$4,932.79. Biggest expense was \$2,774.89 for renovations. We are already seeing lower electric bills even though a/c is left on 24 hours a day to protect specimens from thermal shock.

Museum: Jack Jungles reported fluorescent room is up and running. Anyone who needs keys to museum should see Jack.

Curator: Mary Bedrick reported that the display cabinet in the Court House is almost finished. We are just waiting for their installation of the glass door and shelves. Mary is collecting minerals, starting with local specimens. Any loans are welcome for displaying. Loaned specimens will be displayed with a card indicating name of person providing the loan.

Gift Shop: Doris Smith reported that the gift shop is doing well. The cases are well stocked. Please advise her of any suggestions.

Workshop: Wally Smith reported nothing new. Debra Siegfried reported that the stained glass class would be offered on September 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. with ½ hour lunch break. The cost is \$50.00 and the teacher will supply all materials. (*Class has been cancelled at this time.*)

Historian: Linda Behr reported having worked on 2006 album. Renovation and Baughmans' farewell photos have been added.

Publicity: Ted Robles reported that last Saturday some members held a discussion on the radio regarding the Gemboree. Meeting announcements got into the papers, except The Franklin Press.

Gemboree: Fred Plesner reported that next Tuesday Jack Jungles and he will pick up trailer and should be

at the Community Building by 7:00 a.m. Need volunteers! Need demonstrators and hosts for museum on Saturday between 11:00 a.m. and 3 p.m., then also between 6 and 9 p.m. New members are encouraged to stop by museum to get acquainted.

Food sign up sheet for Dealers' Dinner was circulated. Fran reported that there should be approximately 125 people at the dinner. Food will need to be there by 5:30 p.m. Six volunteers will be needed to serve.

Membership: Mary Bedrick reported on a subject of concern to the board members. It seems that new members at the time of joining are not doing enough to help. Mary read the objectives of the society. Being a volunteer can be the sharing of skills such as plumbing, sewing, etc. -not just hosting.

Fred Plesner pointed out that the President's message in the last newsletter showed that there are benefits to being a member. Remember to keep track of all your volunteer hours to qualify for scholarships.

Old Business

Linda Behr announced the nominations for officers for 2007. Positions for President and recording secretary are still open. Nominees are: Mary Bedrick for Vice President, Bruce Siegfried for Treasurer, Ray Behr for Assistant Treasurer, Sharon John for Corresponding Secretary, and Tom Sterrett, Linda Smith, Dean Plesner, and Don Smith as Board of Director Members. Next month we will be voting for new officers.

Fred Plesner presented Katie McDowell, a local Franklin resident and WCU student with the scholarship for \$1,000.00.

An ice-cream social followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Vendrell
Recording Secretary

Stained Glass Class has been cancelled at this time. Look for future notices for classes.

September Banquet is scheduled for September 28th at the Party Zone.

**Comments from the Gemboree Chairman,
Fred Plesner**

Was the Gemboree a success? Absolutely! You have again achieved both success and great results. I thank you! You made the job of Gemboree Chairman just that, a Chairman and not a workhorse. I want to thank Jack Jungles, Fran Rasmusson and Mary Bedrick in particular for the way they embraced their tasks. Jack as the Co-Chairman, Fran for chairing the dealers dinner and Mary for all the behind the scenes support. I thank each of you for the way you pitched in and volunteered your individual skills, abilities, and time. I felt a particular pride each day as I watched the stream of people flock to the demonstration room. Demonstrations are one of the things that make our Gemboree different and a matter of concern to me as the Chairman. This year we had someone volunteer to demonstrate who was not a member of our society. This is proof positive that we are making an impression in the community. Keep up the great work.

The financial report has not been prepared yet, but I know that the gate was up on the 1st, 2nd and 4th days and down on the 3rd and 5th days. We also had a record number of dealers (28) present. I don't think it is possible to squeeze another dealer in unless the county steps in and upgrades the electrical system in the building. Most of the dealers I spoke to indicated that it was a good Show, which tells me that they had good sales. Put it all together with the increase in visitors to the museum and I can only conclude that the tourists are here, and while not being overly generous they are spending their hard earned dollars.

Each of you is to be commended for your efforts and I look forward to working with you during the Leaflookers' Gemboree in October.

**Comments from the
Dealers' Dinner Chairman,
Fran Rasmusson**

I feel the Dealers' Dinner on July 25th was a great success, due to the efforts of so many of our members and friends! I would like to thank you all for your friendly help, and willingness to do whatever needed doing! Our President, Fred Plesner, kept me informed all along the way, which was greatly appreciated. Della Samuel was my graceful teacher and mentor. Linda and Ray Behr did a master-list shopping at Sam's® club. The Chamber of Commerce delivered ice and meat on time! It all went very

smoothly. The food was delicious and plentiful, thanks to members and friends, and Della's many phone calls!

A lady dealer came to me after the Dinner to thank us for the delicious dinner, and "smooth event" as she called it. She would like to have the recipe for the "broccoli casserole in the wicker basket." I told her I would try, so if the cook who brought this dish would call me at 349-1649, we can begin our recipe exchange!

This is an intensive special event, but I enjoyed it, and will be glad to Chair it again next year, if the Board desires.

Fred Plesner, as President called the Board to a special meeting on August 11, 2006 to discuss the possibility of securing the help of Senior Aide for a part-timer in the Museum. The paid position is for 20 hours per week, year round. You must be 55 or older to apply to the State of Franklin.

If you want more information contact:

Betty Seay
State of Franklin
4 Everett Street
Bryson City, NC 28713
488-3047 or 488-6714

**Found at the Gemboree on July 27th at the
Community Building:**

1 diamond engagement ring ¼ to ½ carat set with several smaller stones on side, white gold or platinum. (Inscription)

Found by Richard A Kohler
25 Shadow Drive
Asheville, NC 28804

Currently in possession of
Frederick H. Plesner, Co-Chairman
565 Riverview Hts. Street
Franklin, NC 28734
828-349-422

**To claim, contact Frederick Plesner or
Franklin Chamber of Commerce
Co-Chairman Linda Harbuck
(828-524-3161)**

Safety in the Heat and Sun

SAFETY FIRST

by Bill Klose EFMLS Safety Chairman

Submitted for the June 2000 EFMLS News

Now that the warmer weather is with us, so are the dangers associated with sunlight and hot temperatures. Exposure to the sun for excessive periods of time can cause sunburn, premature aging of the skin (leathery, rough and wrinkled), and the long term risk of developing skin cancer. Eye exposure to Ultraviolet (UV) rays can also cause cumulative destructive changes in the structure of the cornea and lens of the eye. Visible light, if too intense, can cause eyestrain, headache, and destroy eye retina tissue. Infrared radiation transmits heat to the eye, causing discomfort, and if prolonged, can contribute to the development of cataracts. Sunlight reflected from sand, snow (leftover from winter), and water can also increase damage to the eyes and skin. To avoid exposure to the sun, wear long sleeves and pants (not shorts!) of dense cloth, hats, sunglasses with UV protection, and a non-allergenic, waterproof, sunscreen with a Skin Protection Factor (SPF) of 15 or more on the remaining uncovered skin. Reapply the sunscreen every two hours. Protect your skin and eyes even on cloudy days which can be when you will receive your worst exposure. UV damage can be more severe at higher elevations where the air is thinner and filters out less of the sunlight. In exceptionally hot parts of the country, such as the Desert Southwest, avoid exposure to the sun between 10 AM and 3 PM when the sun's rays are the most intense. Some newspapers and TV stations forecast a Sun Intensity Index with the weather, which tells how many minutes it takes for fair unprotected skin to redden. This time is then multiplied by the SPF of your sunscreen to give you an estimate of how long you can delay becoming sunburned. If the Index is not available and you usually sunburn in 20 minutes, than multiply the SPF (15) and you should be protected for 300 minutes or 5 hours before you sunburn. Recent studies have shown that sunscreen does not protect against skin melanomas, a serious form of skin cancer, and that serious sunburns can lead to skin cancer 10 to 30 years later. Do not believe the myth that a sun tan will protect your skin from sunburn.

Effects of heat and humidity on the body. The core of the human body works on an optimum temperature of 98.6F + or - 1.8F (Internal organs, cavities, not skin). Heat cramps, heat exhaustion (or prostration) and heat stroke may occur if the core temperature rises above this optimum temperature. A person's ability to think and reason may also be impaired. The body has its

own internal mechanisms to maintain the optimum core temperature described by the equation:

$$H_s = H_m \pm H_c \pm H_r - H_e$$

Hs = Stored Heat

Hm = Heat gained due to Muscular Work (Metabolic activity)

Hc = Heat gained or lost by convection from the surroundings

Hr = Heat gained or lost by radiation from the surroundings

He = Heat lost by the evaporation of sweat

From the equation you can see that decreasing activity, temperature, the amount of radiated heat and increasing evaporation rate all will contribute to the decrease of core body temperature. This means that staying out of direct sunlight and heat or taking frequent breaks in a shady, cool, or air conditioned place, will decrease the chances of developing heat disorders. The intake of fluids containing salt (at least a pint an hour), such as sport drinks, or water and salt pills, will also help the body control core temperature. In hot humid weather, especially above 97° F, it is best to stay indoors and avoid all strenuous activity, as the body cannot sweat enough to properly control core temperature.

Heat cramps can be caused by muscle exertion during hot weather and are characterized by sudden severe cramps of the skeletal and abdominal muscles, excessive sweating and thirst. If you should suffer these symptoms, rest in a cool spot, take a salty drink, and massage the cramped muscles. Heat exhaustion or prostration is caused by the body running out of salt and/or water. The symptoms may include profuse sweating, with pale, moist, cool skin, headache, weakness, dizziness, loss of appetite, heat cramps, nausea (with or without vomiting), urge to defecate, chills ("goose flesh"), rapid breathing, tingling of the hands and/or feet, dehydration, a low grade fever (99° f to 102° F) and confusion. Heat stroke is caused by profound disturbance of the body's heat regulating mechanism due to prolonged exposure to the sun, high temperatures, high or low humidity, and lack of air circulation. Symptoms include red (flushed) dry skin, headache, dizziness, nausea (Stomach pains), confusion, weakness, loss of consciousness, convulsions, weak and rapid pulse and breathing, a high fever (104° f to 106° F) and low blood pressure due to shock. (cont'd)

(cont'd) To treat heat stroke and heat exhaustion, move the victim to a cool spot (air conditioned and with a fan if possible), lie on the back with legs elevated, loosen tight clothing, and place cool compresses on the forehead, neck, and underarms. Water can be sprinkled on the victim, and if conscious and not vomiting, 1 teaspoon of salt dissolved in a quart of water can be administered by mouth at the rate of 4 ounces every 15 minutes. If the symptoms persist or the victim is unconscious, seek medical attention or transport to a hospital immediately while continuing treatment.

For additional information refer to the AFMS Safety Manual or log on the AFMS Web site at http://www.amfed.org/a_safetyAFMS1.htm. This AFMS web site contains AFMS, RMFMS, and EFMLS safety articles.



Local Student Awarded Gem Society Scholarship

Every year, the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin awards a scholarship to a deserving student at an institute of higher learning who is majoring in Earth Sciences (Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, etc.). In order to be eligible for the award, a student must be a resident of one of the five western North Carolina Counties, be at least a rising Junior in the major subject, maintaining a 3.0 GPA or better, and demonstrate financial need.

Miss Katie McDowell, a student in Geology at Western Carolina University, won this year's award.

Miss McDowell is a graduate of Franklin High School, and has met or exceeded all the qualifications for the award. Her academic record is excellent, to say the least. Fred Plesner gave the award to Miss McDowell at the July General Meeting, and said, when presenting the scholarship, "Seldom if ever has the Society been honored by being able to present the award to such a deserving candidate. Miss McDowell's academic record is truly outstanding, and we believe she will go far in her chosen profession. We wish her continued success in her academic career, and are pleased that the Society is able to assist in her pursuit of achievement in a demanding major subject."

October Meeting is now changed to the 26th.

Installation Banquet is September 28th.

MARS

The Red Planet is about to be Spectacular!

In August and September, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10 p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are the closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30 a.m. Imagine seeing something that no human being has seen in recorded history.

Starting the beginning of August, Mars will grow progressively brighter throughout the month.

No one alive today will ever see this again.



TOUCHING IMMORTALITY

BY Terry Biegler

6th place, 1997 AFMS poetry contest

I'm but a mortal on this green earth,
 I'm only here by chance of birth.
 Passing through this life of mine
 So many rocks, so little time!
 A humble thought occurs to me
 'Bout all the rocks I'll ever see.
 Every rock in every stream,
 Every vein and every seam,
 Every rock on mountainside,
 Every rock in desert wide,
 Every fossil ancient and old,
 Every gemstone bright and bold,
 And all the rocks within my head,
 They'll all still be here when I'm dead,
 Rocks are eternal, immortal forever.
 To touch them all is my endeavor.

**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 Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Hendersonville, NC) (HOST) An Official Field Trip of the Franklin Gem & Mineral Society

8:30 AM EST
Saturday, August 19, 2006
Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, Abbeville County,
South Carolina

The Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society would like to extend an invitation to rockhound one of the premier quartz collecting localities in the southeast. The Diamond Hill Mine has been producing skeletal, amethyst and smoky quartz crystals as well as quartz scepters and an assortment of pegmatite minerals for many years. This year saw a lot of digging with a power shovel. Come join us!

Assembly Point: Diamond Hill Mine

Directions: The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville in northeastern South Carolina.

From the north: Exit I-85 at US 178 at Anderson, SC (exit # 21). Drive south on US 178 for approx. 1 mile and then bear right onto SR 28. Follow SR 28 south approx. 20 miles to Antreville. Upon entering Antreville you will see Crawford's Store on the left. Drive past the store and then watch on the right for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn right at the church onto SR 284. Drive west on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

From the south: Exit I-20 at US 221 (exit # 183) just east of Augusta, Georgia. Drive north on US 221 to McCormick, SC. In McCormick turn north onto SR 28. Continue north on SR 28 toward Antreville (approx. 50 miles). About 2 miles south of Antreville, SR 184 enters SR 28 from the left (west). When you pass SR 184 start watching carefully on the left for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn left at the church onto SR 284. Drive west on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill

Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

Fees: Adults = \$15/day
Children under 16 years of age = \$5/day
Also, upon arrival, each participant will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

Other Essentials: Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, hat, sunscreen, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of clothes if it is going to be a rainy or wet day. Please be prepared for hot and humid conditions at the mine during this time of year.

Trip Chairman:
Steve Kiser, HCGMS
johnkiser@citcom.net
828-885-2952

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. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!

The Beading Group will meet on Thursday, August 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the museum meeting room.
We will work on bead earrings.

Fire Obsidian

Author unknown

Did you know a chunk of black obsidian you have, just might have gold sheen, fire, or moon glow in it if you just orient it correctly? Take it out into the sunshine and try to locate a spot that shows something more than just black. If yours has a rind or film on it, take a small chip off here and there. Then wet the piece and turn it slowly in all directions so the sun will reflect any unusual coloring. If you are fortunate enough to find color, orient it by using a single light bulb over your head so the light just grazes your forehead. Mark your piece and saw it. Check before sawing each time to make sure you are keeping the color on top. Fire obsidian can be so colorful that you will think you are looking at black opal.

*Via THE CORAL GEODE December 2001
Via Chert Chatter December 2002*

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 Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Jackson, MS.) (HOST) An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Inc.

8:30 AM EST Saturday, September 9, 2006 Bayou Pierre River near Utica, Mississippi

The trip will be to the Bayou Pierre River near Utica, MS. You will find beautiful agates, some petrified wood, jasper and chert fossils. At one time, palm wood was plentiful at this site, and some is still found by a few people on almost every trip. We will provide a picnic lunch at the site! One of our members has a summer place on this river, and this will be where we park and have the picnic. We will also have an assortment of beautiful slabs and other lapidary material we are selling to raise money for our new building.

Directions: We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Hubbard's Truck Stop on Highway slightly south of Utica. You can take Highway 18 from I20 in Jackson, going toward Raymond. You will pass the turnoff for Raymond, and the turnoff for Utica, shortly thereafter; you will see Hubbard Truck Stop on your left, at the intersection of Hwy 18 and MS 27. There is a nice restaurant at the Truck Stop for those who would like to eat breakfast.

Other Essentials: We will provide a picnic lunch at the site, but bring plenty to drink and snacks for the gravel bars. You can use a beaver stick, and you will need sturdy shoes you can wade in, and bags or buckets you can put your rocks in. Bring sunscreen and dress according to weather reports; just remember it will probably heat up as the morning progresses.

Accommodations: I would suggest a motel in Clinton, MS, which is very near the exit for Hwy 18. West Jackson is a high crime area, so be leery of motels in that area.

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact Janie Hand, 601-825-3989, or fossilfinder2@aol.com

"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. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

DMC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose: To collect field trip information from it's member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.



**How To Spend A Hot Week In September.
Leave town!!!**

Wildacres Workshop, near Little Switzerland North Carolina, is the perfect place to go during the hot days of September. Located at 3300 feet above sea level and perched on a knob just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, Wildacres Retreat has all the comforts of home, except TVs, but you'll find out that you can live without them for a week. The dates are September 18-24, 2006.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies host three workshops a year at Wildacres, April, August and September for a week each. It's too late to get into the August workshops but we have openings left for September. Some instructors will take more than they normally do to accommodate students. We have classes in Gem Appreciation, Glass Bead Making, Intarsia, Mineral Identification, Opal Cutting, Precious Metal Clay 2 (must have PMC 1), Scrimshaw (a new offering), Stained Glass, Wirecraft (Beginning) and the popular Southwest Silver class has only 3 openings (was full but a family had to cancel due to personal problems).

You can get applications in the **Lodestar** that your club president, vice president and editor receive. You can call the Registrars, Robert and Flora Lee Walker, at 1-423-369-3077 for up to date class information.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!!!

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.