



The Mountain Gem

January 2025

**Franklin Gem and Mineral Society, inc.
Franklin, North Carolina**



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About the Cover

Quartz is the combination of two of the most abundant elements in the Earth's crust: Oxygen and Silicon. Crystals are not rare; and often form hexagonal prisms ending in a pyramid.

Ice Quartz is the result of heating and cooling that causes thermal cracks. Quartz has a conchoidal fracture, (seashell shaped) like glass. Ice Quartz has many internal fractures. When light hits them at just the proper angle, you can see RAINBOWS! Sunlight coming through the crystal face refracts when it passes through the curved internal fracture. Rainbows in crystal clear Ice Quartz!

Photo courtesy Pamela Martin of Casablanca Photography



From the President



Happy New Year to all our members, guests and readers! I hope you find joy and contentment in all you do. The New Year reminds us to examine our resolutions, so I encourage you to look at your FGMS commitment and how, this year, you can do more for the Society.

We have our Spring Gem Show scheduled for May 9-11, and I'm hoping you will join us to host either the front entry table or our FGMS booth. We have 35 slots for volunteers. Won't you help us fill them?

Our organization is driven by and thrives on your help. We have more classes scheduled than ever before. In this newsletter we have listed those classes scheduled for January, February and March. Signing up for a class or two not only hones your lapidary skills, but the class fee also helps support the museum. As a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, we rely 100% on donations and fundraising. No one in our Society is paid.

Speaking of classes, IF we have a postponement or cancellation, we post it on our website (fgmm.org) or our Facebook page. If we can't post (such as an internet outage), you can always TEXT me at (727) 798-7207. (I prefer text because of the prolific spam calls!)

Our next general meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30th at the Franklin Christian Church on Belleview Park Road at 6:30 p.m. Guests and members are invited to our brief business meeting, followed by light snacks, then a short video on rocks.

Stay well and warm! 'See you January 30th at the next general meeting. Meanwhile, Keep rockin'.

Susan

General Meeting Minutes of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society

Minutes of the General Meeting

December 2024

1. Call to Order: general meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by FGMS President Susan Ray. There were 24 in attendance, including 2 guests.
2. Motion to Accept Nov. Minutes: Motion made by Earl Mc., seconded by Stacy W. Voted yes by membership.
3. President's Message: Susan welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting /dinner/games. She wished them a safe, healthy Merry Christmas.
4. Committee/Chairs' Reports:
 - a. Secretary: Charli absent, no report.
 - b. Museum: Susan's Museum report: roof repaired (after wind blew off 10' wall metal cap). Roofer repaired/ replaced crumbling concrete around bricks under cap, replaced cap, and reinforced the entire area with a steel frame/cage.
 - c. Treasurer: Connie Nelson / Michele Brower: announced they are using the Quickens Program and have reviewed past year's accounting and expenses. They recommended we open the Gift Shop more days each week.
 - d. Gift Shop: Anamay and Ron Rossomando have returned to Florida and Vicki Knisley is acting as gift



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shop manager. New member Olive Davis is joining Susan Ray in setting up an online store to sell gift shop items. It should go "live" in late Jan/early February. Meanwhile, Vicki is restocking and keeping the shop maintained.

- e. Scholarships: Susan repeated last month's message that because the Society is not making more than spending, we will suspend all scholarships and grants this year. We will, however, be selecting 10 members to win a certificate for a free class offered by the museum staff. These certificates will be presented at the January general meeting.
- f. Library: Mary A. noted that she has been cleaning all parts of the lending library due to mold and mildew. She also has removed and restacked all the volumes. She asked for someone to digitize from a card catalogue on a thumb drive all the book listing. However, since that request, Mary has found the card catalogue is not updated and is missing several listings.
- g. Field Trips: Joe W. reported we have no scheduled trips during the winter months, Susan interjected that if members are interested in getting out on nice weather days, perhaps a few very local trips could be planned.
- h. Newsletter: Mary Beth Stager noted the next newsletter will be due Jan 20th.
- i. Education/Tours: The Junior Rockhounds will meet again Feb. 1st at the museum.
- j. Spring Gem Show: Varshana D. reported the Spring Gem Show has invited 60+ vendors, waiting to hear from them. The show, which the Society runs singularly, will need several volunteers to help administer the show which runs for 3 days over Mother's Day weekend, May 9-11.
- k. Streets of Franklin: Earl McGaughey reported the group has suspended street fairs for the winter.

Old Business: None

New Business: Vicki K. noted that she spoke with Diane Mason who will teach wire-wrapping in Feb., reminded students who are signed up to get their wire purchased and report "done" to Diane. 5 pre-registered and room for 3 more.

Make It/Donate It: weather allowing, group scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at the museum on Saturday, Jan.11.

Adjournment: With the business of the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society completed, motions to adjourn made by Earl Mc. and Stacy W. Meeting adjourned by President Susan Ray at 7: 15 p.m.

Signed: Dr Susan Ray **Date** 01/15/2025

President, FGMS

Signed Varshana Dholakia **Date** Jan 15, 2025

Acting Secretary, FGMS



Education

Upcoming Calendar of Classes for Members

Sign up at the monthly meetings and at the museum or TEXT Susan Ray at (7270 798-7207). Please know there is a fee for each class and payment can be made by cash, Credit card or check at the first class.

Registration is REQUIRED BEFORE the class starting date.

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Cabochon 1 Susan Ray 1:00 - 4:00 \$50.00	6	7	8 Wire Wrap I Diane Mason 8:00 - 5:00
9	10	11 Cabochon 1 Stacy Walbridge 1:00 - 4:00 \$50.00	12 Cabochon 1 Susan Ray 1:00 - 4:00	13 Stretch Bracelets Kathy Walbridge 10:00 - 1:00 \$40.00	14	15 Wire Wrap I Diane Mason 8:00 - 5:00
16	17	18 Cabochon 1 Stacy Walbridge 1:00 - 4:00	19 Cabochon 1 Susan Ray 1:00 - 4:00	20	21 Intro to Cabochons 1:00 - 4:00 \$10.00	22 Wire Wrap I Diane Mason 8:00 - 5:00
23	24	25 Cabochon 1 Stacy Walbridge 1:00 - 4:00	26 Cabochon 1 Susan Ray 1:00 - 4:00	27 Rock Shadowboxes 4-5 Students \$40.00	28	

Sign-up at the monthly meetings and at the museum or TEXT Susan Ray at (7270 798-7207). Please know there is a fee for each class and payment can be made by cash, Credit card or check at the first class. Registration is REQUIRED BEFORE the class starting date.



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Wire Wrap I Diane Mason 8:00 - 5:00
2	3	4 Cabochon 1 Stacy Walbridge 1:00 - 4:00 \$50.00	5	6 Rock Shadowboxes 4-5 Students \$40.00	7	8 Wire Wrap I Diane Mason 8:00 - 5:00
9	10	11 Cabochon 1 Stacy Walbridge 1:00 - 4:00 \$50.00	12	13 Rock Shadowboxes 4-5 Students \$40.00	14	15
16	17	18 Cabochon 1 Stacy Walbridge 1:00 - 4:00 \$50.00	19	20 Rock Shadowboxes 4-5 Students \$40.00	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Sign-up at the monthly meetings and at the museum or TEXT Susan Ray at (727) 798-7207. Please know there is a fee for each class and payment can be made by cash, Credit card or check at the first class. Registration is REQUIRED BEFORE the class starting date.				



Junior Rockhounds Planning a New Year of Activities

Juniors Can Earn Badges from AFMS

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (comprised of seven regional groups) offers free badges to Junior Rockhounds. Juniors can earn more than 20 badges, each requiring a youth to complete or exhibit knowledge of at least 3 of the required criteria to earn a badge.

Pictured are the (larger) introductory Rockhound badge and the badge for Rock Identification. Our club will also sell/provide a vest for each junior to wear and display their earned badges.

One requirement for the Junior Rockhound Badge Program is that each junior becomes a member of the club. For kids under 18, that's only an annual fee of \$5.00!

The next scheduled meeting of the FGMS Juniors is Saturday, Feb 1st at 4:00 in the museum.



Diane Mason – Wire I Class starts on February 8th

The total cost of this class, taught by a nationally recognized instructor who teaches regularly at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, is only \$120.00. This cost is broken into 5 payments: week 1- \$30, 2-\$24, 3-\$36, 4-\$18, and 5- \$12. Students will be required to buy their own wire, and Diane includes the exact details for that purchase when students register for the class. Diane will provide all practice wire, equipment, tools, lights, optivisors, wire wrap tape, pens, sharpies, notebooks, and handouts.

During the 6 Saturdays, students will wrap 11 projects, including a 30x40mm stone, 22x30mm stone, 13x18 pair of earring stones, an uncalibrated cabbed stone and earrings, a cage pendant stone and earrings, and a pair of simple circle earring beads, a plain wire bracelet, and a walk over ring.

HURRY! This class will fill quickly. Sign up will be at each of our meetings and /or at the museum. 3 minimum, 7 maximum.

A Note from Diane Mason:

Starting on February 8, 2025, I am teaching a WIRE I (beginning) Wire Class at the Museum. Vickie Knisley will be my assistant. Each class will be held on 5 consecutive Saturdays for 8 hours each day for a total 40-hour class. This is the same class that I teach at William Holland, however, I have added some exciting new projects for this year. There are 11 projects total. Class hours are from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M. each day with an hour for lunch. So far there are 5 registered students with two more spaces available. If you are interested, I suggest that you register promptly since you must order and bring your own wire.

Contrary to the published acclaim that was in the newsletter, I am not the "whiz kid" of wire. I am only a professional wire wrapper with 25 years of teaching experience. The last class I taught for FGMS was in February 2020. In fact, my husband and I were both teaching the very day that the Museum was closed due to Covid-19. My coming back to teach is Larry Ellert's idea, so, if it doesn't work out, guess what? It's all his fault!

I happy that the "make-it" days are back to the club to help with supplies for the gift shop. (The first one is



January 11th.) This includes all areas and not just wire.

If you need any questions answered you may contact me by phone or e-mail. You may also contact Susan Ray or Vickie Knisley. Now.....you raw beginners (or anyone else), build up your courage and come on in.

Seriously, I am looking forward to a challenging but great class. Looking forward to seeing you in February.

Diane Mason

706-379-1718

jimndee43@gmail.com

Member News

Pam Martin Wins the Grand Prize



In late October 2024, Swannanoa NC was set to host the M.A.G.M.A./Land of the Sky Rock and Mineral show. Instead, Hurricane Helene flooded the town of Swannanoa to the rooftops, and the swollen river swept away the campgrounds. Since then, local members of the M.A.G.M.A. Gem Club worked hard to clean up the Land of the Sky Shrine Club and prepare for a December show. A showcase was put together from donations of many vendors, from both the would-be show in October and very generous vendors at this

show. Raffle tickets were sold to win the showcase, with proceeds going to further help local hurricane relief. The ticket that was drawn was one of our own Club, a very LUCKY Pam Martin. The centerpiece of the showcase was a 14lb hand carved Rose Quartz heart, which she will keep for herself. Many other items were given away at the holidays, to spread the Joy of Rocks!

Where to Look for Alerts and Cancellations/Postponements



The Franklin Gem and Mineral Society attempts to post as soon as possible any changes to our scheduled activities and museum opening. Interested individuals can find postings on our website: <http://fgmm.org> OR our Facebook site: franklingemandmineralmuseum. If nothing has been posted (possibly due to internet outages), contact Susan Ray (FGMS President) BY TEXT at (727) 798-7207. She will get right back to you with an answer. We attempt to post closings ASAP prior to a weather event, always factoring in possible driving conditions and predicted weather. "Better safe than sorry".



Museum News

Lending Library Open



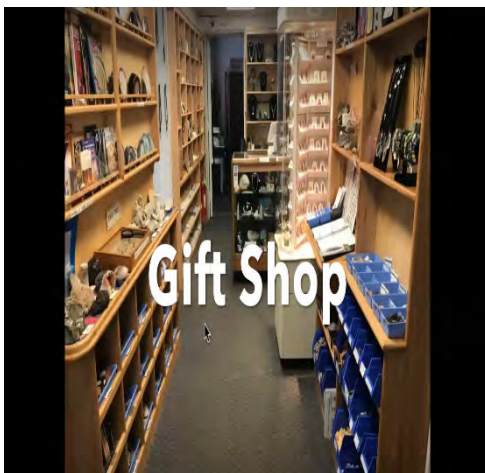
Many members don't know we house a lending library in the rear room of the museum. It is stacked with over 500 volumes that have been donated over the years. Most of the volumes were printed prior to 1990, so our collection is filled with "classic". In fact, many of the titles are no longer published. Many thanks go to Mary Aubuchon who recently joined the society and jumped right in to revamp the library which had sat unused for a few years. Mary discovered that during that time, mold and mildew had formed on some of the shelves and around the bookcases. She diligently tackled the problem, completed mold mitigation throughout, and prepped the books and area for renewed use. Just today, Mary

was working on a system to digitize all the books so members could view the selections online and on our website. That portion of her ongoing project will be completed soon.

Meanwhile, Mary is reviewing each of our upcoming scheduled classes and will pull related books so class students can sign out books offered at their fingertips! Thanks to Mary for her devotion and hard work.

Members- Feel free to browse through the library anytime the museum is open.

Gift Shop News



Most of us do some shopping online and we appreciate the convenience, speed, and selection. With those benefits in mind, FGMS plans to soon open an online shop with the items from our museum gift shop. Nathan Ciarleglio, Olive Davis, and Becky Haas, will help Susan Ray set up the new format due to their combined skills. We will continue to sell to foot traffic while hoping the online store increasingly complements our gift shop sales.

The online shop is planning a grand opening sometime during February. We'll send out a notice so each of our members (and the public) can go shopping!



Make It / Donate It Day to Rescheduled to February 1



The snow and ice forced us to cancel our mid-January Make It event. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 1st (if the weather cooperates) at 10:00 a.m.

Bring your skills and talents and we'll supply the materials for your projects that will be donated to the museum Gift Shop. We'll need cabs, faceted minerals, shadowbox rock art, wire wrapping on cabbed pieces, gluing bails (necklace hooks) on cabs, simple wiring cabs to colorful cardboard with pricing, and helping Vicki place items in the Gift Shop. Plan to be together with fellow rock lovers on Saturday, Feb 1st from 10:00 a.m. until about Noon or 1:00. Check our website (<http://fgmm.org> or our Facebook page (fraklingemandmineralmuseum} for any/all weather alerts that may affect anyone planning to attend the museum.

Minerals of the Museum - KYANITE



Kyanite is an aluminosilicate usually found in metamorphic rocks. It commonly forms in bladed crystals, although sometimes forms in radiating masses of crystals. It most often results from the high-pressure alteration of clay minerals. The blades of kyanite are unique: their Mohs hardness of long crystals is 4.5-5.0, but has a hardness of 6.5-7.0 when tested across the short dimension. Additionally, it has a pearly sheen, making it a prized, affordable gemstone. Kyanite industrial uses include refractory products such as bricks, mortars, and kiln furniture (think large pottery stand) used in high-temperature furnaces. This common mineral is also used in making brake shoes and clutch facings.

Most recently, kyanite is used in a polymer mix on the space shuttle and space orbiter (to Mars) heat shield tiles. Kyanite was selected due to its extremely high refractory ability (+/- 2000 degrees F.). This is most important since the Mars orbiter will be returning with a heavy payload of rocks and turning towards the sun (both of which will increase temperatures to which the heat tiles will be exposed).

Useful, beautiful, and unique- kyanite is plentiful throughout North Carolina. See several different displays of kyanite in the museum.



Famous Stones of the World – A Continuing Series Part III Judaculla Rock



Written By Jonathan Martin

Within the Nantahala National Forest in [Jackson County](#), an interesting petroglyph (a prehistoric carving) rests in an open pasture. Known as the Judaculla Rock, many tourists and archeologists have visited the mystic rock to admire the markings and develop theories on the origin of the large landmark. The Judaculla Rock is a soapstone rock with numerous Native American symbols etched throughout. It is a deeply associated with the Tsu'kalu or Judaculla (meaning “he has them slanting” or “slant-eyed giant”) legend of the Cherokee. Like most Native American tribes, the Cherokee believed the spirit world

influenced the things of the physical world and that every man and piece of nature (animals, weather, plants, etc.) exhibited a spirit. The gods of the spiritual world controlled the spirits, and often times the Cherokee relied on a mediation between the physical world and the spiritual world; Judaculla Rock served as a landmark for the hunting god.

According to the tale, Judaculla was a giant who had slanted eyes along with superhuman-like powers. He selected a bride from the Cherokee tribe, but the bride's mother and brother wanted their sister back after Judaculla had taken her into the spirit world. To see the bride, both the mother and brother had fasted for seven days outside a cave in which their sister lived with the other god spirits. However, the brother was famished after six days, and he ate a piece of meat before the end of the seventh day. Judaculla came back into the physical world to punish the bride's brother, and he entered through the Judaculla Rock, believed by the Cherokee as “the spirit's stepping-stone into the physical world of mortal beings” (p. 52).

In his fit of anger, Judaculla killed the bride's brother with a thrash of lightning, grieving the bride to the point that she wished to return to her earthly tribe. Yet, Judaculla refused to give up his wife and he compromised with the Cherokee to keep her in the spirit world. Judaculla allowed all brave and faithful tribesmen and women to enter into an eternal life in the spirit world after their deaths. After his deal with the Cherokee, the tribe discovered the markings on the Judaculla Rock, and they have since been believed to tell of how one can enter into the spiritual world.

The Cherokee declared Judaculla Master of all Game Animals and the sustainer spirit of the tribe. Tribesmen and women started several rituals that focused on honoring the giant. Other Cherokee traditions hold the Judaculla Rock to be a remnant of Judaculla's great leap from his high mountaintop.

For those who doubt the ancient Judaculla tradition, theories have been proposed in regard to the rock's possible practical origins. Some historians believe the etchings to be a map of the Battle of Taliwa where the Cherokee defeated the Creek tribe in 1755. Yet, archeologists and geologists refute this theory because the Cherokee were not known for etching their history on stone or rock. Subsequent archeologists have theorized that the Judaculla Rock was a remnant of a pre-historic tribe who lived at the end of the Ice Age.

Despite the mystery of the Judaculla Rock, the place remains a historic landmark to the Eastern Band of Cherokee. Some adamant Cherokee tribesmen continue to fast at the site of the rock to understand the ancient message left by Judaculla. Recent restoration efforts have been made to preserve what is left of the sacred rock.



Annual Spring Gemboree set for Mother's Day Weekend



The Carpenter Community Center on South Georgia Road will be busy with vendors, shoppers, and rock enthusiasts May 9, 10, & 11th. This year we are inviting rock and mineral vendors as well as artisan craftsmen.

This show is sponsored **ONLY** by the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society (unlike the July and October shows which we co-host with the Franklin Chamber of Commerce). Therefore, this show requires our volunteers to step up and help in any way they can. We will need front-entry greeters to work 2–3-hour

shifts selling tickets and welcoming guests. We will also need volunteers to assist at our own booth where we sell items from the museum and introduce visitors to the Gem Society and how we contribute to the area.

Usually, we request volunteers to help unload and set up display tables to configure booths for the vendors as well as lay electric cables for each booth. However, this year we plan to contract those more physically

demanding tasks to a local high school sports team. As Dr. Susan Ray, FGMS President explained: “We typically need 100+ tables unloaded and set up, and then there’s the crawling around to lay cables. Our club members are well past the age to do either of those. Let’s get some young, flexible athletes to help us!”



Volunteer signup sheets are at each of the monthly meetings and in between, can be found on the table in the Meeting Room of the museum. We’ll need 35 volunteers to host the entry and our club tables. If you can’t make it to any of those, TEXT Susan Ray at (727) 798-7207 and tell her when you can volunteer.

From the Editor

Please submit all entries, comments and corrections to fgmseditor@gmail.com, as this is the best way for me to keep track.

Newsletter Deadline is February 15th, 2025



Proposed Field Trips for FGMS – March - June 2025

(dates subject to change due to weather, club conflicts, etc)

DATE	DAY	LOCATION	DISTANCE	FEES	FACILITIES	INFO
March 15th	Saturday	Ducktown Basin Museum Burra/Burra Mine, Ducktown, TN	1.5 hours	\$5.00	YES	Museum
April 7th	Monday	Sarah's Creek, North GA	1 hour	FREE	Forest service toilets	Collecting at the creek
May 2nd	Friday	Lake Tugaloo, North GA	1.5 hours	FREE	Forest Service toilets	Tour, light walking
June 10th	Tuesday	Chatooga River area, North GA	1 hour	FREE	None	Collecting, some walking

DMC 2025

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

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Please contact Joe Whitenton for more information. 828-347-6555 whitecloudjoe@yahoo.com



Club Meetings & Events

Meeting Snack Signup

We need members to sign up for a monthly meeting to provide snacks and drinks. You will provide light snacks and drinks. NOT a meal. The club reimburses up to \$60. Please eat prior to the monthly general meeting and save room for dessert at the meeting.

Month	Member(s)
January	Mary Beth Stager
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	Ice Cream Social
August	
September	
October	Potluck – Installation Dinner
November	Potluck – Thanksgiving
December	December – Christmas Party

Sign up at meetings or let Susan know. drsusanray@gmail.com.

Date	Event	Time	Program	Snacks
January 28	Board Meeting	6:30		
January 30	General Meeting	6:30		Mary Beth Stager
February 25				
February 27				
March 25				
March 27				

*** Please Note:** Board Meetings are held at the Museum. All members welcome

General Meetings First Christian Church of Franklin 156 Belleview Park Road Franklin, NC	Board Meetings Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum 25 Phillips St Franklin, NC 28734
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January 2025

Officers, Board of Directors, and Committees

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President Susan Ray, (727-798-7207)
 Past President: : Varshana Dholakia, (828-342-3135)
 Vice President: Varshana Dholakia, (828-342-3135)
 Secretary: Charlie Gray
 Treasurer: Connie Nelson
 Assistant Treasurer: Michele Brower
 Museum Manager: Karl Williams
 Board of Directors
 Earl McCaughey (23-24)
 Carl Seaman (23-24)
 Director: Barbara James
 Director: Rodney Gray

Committees

Museum Curator: Vacant
 Curator Emeritus: Fred Plesner, (828-349-4224)
 Museum Gift Shop: Anamay Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Gift Shop Assistant: Vicki Knisley (828-371-4954)
 Museum Workshop: Vacant
 Membership: Charli & Rodney Gray (602-380-8024)
 Karl Williams
 Publicity & Program Coordinator: Kit Terry (423-367-6070)
 Field Trips: Joe Whitenton (828-347-6555)
 Refreshments: Charlene Galbrecht (954-263-8157)
 Constitution and By-Laws: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)
 Future Vision: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Museum Calendar: Charlene Galbrecht (954-592-1377)
 Gemboree: Varshana Dholakia, (828-342-3135)
 Scholarships: Al Pribble (828-342-3119)
 Education/Tours: Susan Ray (727-798-7207)
 Asst Education/Historian: Ron Rossomando (828-349-2807)
 Newsletter Editor: Mary Beth Stager (404-314-2469)
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