

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

## **An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society**

**Saturday, August 4, 2018 - Starting 9 AM until closing 4 PM Eastern Time  
Between Hayesville and Franklin, NC Limit by area-first come first served  
per site Fee: None**

TRIP: Chunky Gal Mountain was named from a Cherokee legend about a chubby maid who fell in love with a young man from another tribe. Her parents attempted to snuff the romance, but the young woman was determined to follow her heart, finding her way across the mountain's slope to be with her beloved. This area offers a world-class deposit of olivine in the Buck Creek area, which accounts for the presence of rubies, garnets, sapphires and other gem stones. Here at Corundum Knob (Chunky Gal) is a public rock-hunting area, which is supervised by the Tusquitee Ranger District and with this trip, all forest service rules will apply.

There will be 3 sites for collecting: Buck Creek, Chunky Gal mine, and Herbert Corundum Mine, with guides/monitors posted at all areas. Each area has safety precautions and will be supervised by the Franklin Club members so please cooperate with them.

Everyone must register at the main tent near the base of Chunky Gal Mountain on Hwy 64, sign a waiver of liability, receive a list of all forest rules, and receive a map for all areas of interest. As parking is limited in some areas, you may be asked to wait or work another area until room is available. If you can't walk unassisted, this will limit the areas where you may safely collect. Your safety is our priority. 3 COLLECTING AREAS: Degrees of difficulty for each area assigned. Moderate - Buck Creek is known for its small gemmy almandine garnets. In and around the creek quartz and chert are available as well as blue corundum dump piles and a ruby area. Hard - Chunky Gal Mine, on the top of the mountain, has smaragdite with ruby confirmed with a long wave UV lite, some bronze sapphire and some blue corundum can be found there as well. Hard-Demanding - Herbert Corundum Mine has hexagonal corundum crystals, mostly white and blue, in the creek. A 2 mile hike, round trip, is required to collect in this area. Tiffany's first mined rubies/sapphires at this location for gem/abrasive quality minerals in the early

1900's. An old vertical mine is there and several horizontal tunnels to see but not to explore! COLLECTING: Smaragdite, Red and blue corundum, almandine garnet chips, quartz, chert. BRING: 1-Buck Creek we suggest: 1/8" sifting screen, hand shovel, and rubber boots/wading shoes. Lunch, water, towel, and UV lite. Caution: water is swift and up to 2-3 ft. deep in places. Snakes have been spotted. 2-Chunky Gal Mine: rock hammer, short rock pick, short handled sledge hammer, hand shovel, and hiking boots. Lunch, water, and a UV lite. Caution: Snakes and wild animals. 150 ft. hill climb required at steep angle to the top. 3- Herbert Corundum Mine we suggest 1/4' sifting screen, hand shovel, rock hammer, short rock pick, hiking and rubber boots. Lunch, water, and UV lite. Caution: Creek water can be swift and 1-2 ft. deep in places. You will need to traverse a muddy area approximately 50 ft. long and a couple creeks to get to the site. Total hike is 2 miles round trip.

**Very Important – Please read carefully: According to National Forest rules, “materials must be removed using small hand tools without mechanical means or motorized equipment. You cannot remove mineral materials with a pick, shovel, sluice box or similar large tools.”**

REQUIREMENTS: The ability to walk unassisted, cross and work in cold streams with swift currents up to 2-3 ft. deep, steep hill climbs, avoid snakes and wild animals, and hike up to 2 miles round trip. No bathrooms. No convenience stores. There is limited to non-existent cell phone coverage throughout the collecting areas. Forest Service rules and restrictions for Gold Panning and Rock Hounding apply - see [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5420144](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5420144). As always the AFMS Code of Ethics applies (<http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>). Your safety is our business. Poison ivy and ticks are especially abundant this year. Sunscreen and rain gear as needed.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: At the bottom of Chunky Gal Mountain there will be a registration tent at the intersection of Hwy 64 and forest road #6236. Registration begins at 9 AM Eastern for all areas. No early reservations accepted. Once an area is full it will be closed until parking spots become available. No exceptions.

CHILDREN: Must be over 12 years of age and under adult supervision at all times. Unsupervised children and their adults will be removed as necessary for your safety

PETS: NO- This is a wild area and interactions with wild animals pose a safety risk for your pet and all participants.

FACILITIES CLOSEST: Hayesville, NC is 9 miles west on Hwy 64, and Franklin, NC is 25 miles east on Hwy 64. You can locate food, drinks, and a toilet there. If you wish to stay overnight, Franklin has several great locations to choose from. The Franklin Chamber of Commerce can help.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin will provide bottled water and a snack until source is exhausted. Club members will be monitoring all activities, in all areas, to help you out. Please ask them if you need assistance. Friday and Saturday our museum will be open: 25 Phillips St, Franklin, NC from 12 PM until 4PM free of charge [www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org) or call them 828-369-7831 if you get lost on August 4 for directional help.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: From the west: 9 miles from Hayesville on Hwy 64 (left turn). GPS coordinates: 35 04' 10.0" N, 83 37' 43.3 W**

CONTACT: Marsha Harmon, [marsha.harmon@frontier.com](mailto:marsha.harmon@frontier.com), 828-369-7262 prior to August 4th and Lake Holland 828-371-2812 on August 4 only. The mountain often has a lack of cell signal in spots. Please work through this problem as best you can or map out ahead for this location.