

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB
APRIL 2010

the Prez Sez ...

Beautiful SPRINGTIME, finally! I am very excited to tell you about a most special opportunity for our club.

Our board of directors have worked very hard in arranging an historical event for our club and our community. We have joined forces with The Charlotte Nature Museum for a whole day rocks, gems, and jewelry event on SATURDAY, JUNE, 5th!

On that day, we will take over the entire museum, inside and out. We will have geode cutting outside on the back deck, much like we do at our fundraiser at Matthews Alive.

We are working on having a gem mine sluice set up beside the building. Inside, we plan on having our club display show cases set up with displays highlighting our member's collections of everything from fossils to gemstones and jewelry.

Mary Fisher will have on-going junior rockhound programs in the theatre room and we plan on having DVD programs running thru the day. We will have live jewelry craft demonstrations as well as cabochon cutting and polishing.

Jimmy Strickland will be demonstrating the process of making a faceted gemstone.

In addition, we will have VENDORS selling their wares, sort of like a mini trade show. Danny Jones has agreed to take several tables for selling his wide selection of mineral specimens.

We have formed committees for several areas of responsibilities that will be needed.

WE NEED YOU!

The Nature Museum will heavily promote this event to their list of over SEVEN THOUSAND members as well as newspaper advertising. We are working on free publicity with the newspaper and hopefully a major TV station.

We have had members in the past who were very good at persuading local media to cover our shows. We need you again. This is a unique opportunity to expose our club to many, many families in Charlotte who have never heard of our club or have any idea of the scope of what we do and of the talents of our artisans.

If we do this right and make this first test day a huge success, the museum has indicated that they would like to see this grow into a spring and fall event. This is why we need the input and creative ideas of any of our members who can help us make this a top notch event.

If you would like to volunteer at the club welcoming table, PLEASE let me know. If you feel comfortable helping in the refreshment

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WEB Site

www.charlottegem.com

area where we will provide snacks for museum staff and volunteers as well as our vendors and members, PLEASE let me know that I can count on your help.

The Nature Museum is providing their staff and volunteers at our disposal to assist in making this special day what it can be. Perhaps you are the one who would like to give a 15 minute talk on petrified wood or gold history in Charlotte.

We would like to have many short presentations thru out the day. We already have Linda Simon working with our artisans who will do jewelry making demonstrations thru out the day and if you want to help in this area, please contact Linda.

The museum tells us to expect lots of families with young children. We need our members greeting, showing and telling and making their days filled with the many good things of what we do. This is a day for us to gain new members as well as fund raise for our club. Let's all work together and make this day GREAT!

Donna Fostner has been busy researching and planning for an exciting field trip schedule. It is her goal to have one trip a month where weather permits.

We are also discussing renting a large van and taking off for Arkansas to dig for those beautiful quartz crystals. This would be an extended weekend trip and we would like to know how many would be interested in such a venture.

This month's regular club meeting

which will be at the Nature Museum at seven p.m.. refreshments first, then a video on the elusive Kentucky agate, will be on Thursday evening, the 15th.

At this meeting we will have the final sales of the raffle tickets for the \$1500.00 pendant donated by Diamonds Direct. This is not only a great fund raiser for our club but a chance for you to win a truly unique piece of rough diamonds of several types and a faceted diamond set in lucite.

This could easily be worn by a man or woman. Tickets can only be purchased by members who are current on their dues. The winning ticket will be drawn at this meeting. GOOD LUCK and do not miss your chance on being our club winner.

As some may not have been able to hold this in their hands, we will pass it around and give you a final chance to buy tickets. Five bucks each or six for \$25.00.

I hope to see you at the meeting and also hear from you with any thoughts about the June 5th event!

Jack King,
*President, Charlotte Gem
and Mineral Club*



Regular Monthly Meeting
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club
Thursday April 18th, 2010

7:00 pm

Location: Charlotte Nature Museum
1658 Sterling Road
Charlotte, NC 28209 (704) 372 - 61261

KENTUCKY AGATE – A Video

Our meeting on Thursday evening April 15 features a video on the hunt for the beautiful but rather elusive Kentucky Agate (with helpful hints and suggestions for how to find it). And if driving to Kentucky to look for Kentucky Agate is not high up on your “must do” list, sit back and enjoy the inherent beauty of the marvelous agates shown on this interesting video – and enjoy the yummy snacks provided by Lillie-Dunn McGuinness.

This meeting is also distinguished by the drawing for the Diamonds in Lucite Pendant so generously donated by Diamonds Direct of Charlotte. Members will be able to make last minute raffle ticket purchases prior to the start of the meeting. Based on the number of raffle tickets sold to date, you have a better than 1 in 100 chance of winning.

ISG Sponsors new WEB site on Gemstone Treatments

by ron gibbs

The International School of Gemology has helped launch a new WEB site to aid in the identification of gemstone treatments. It is called the “Gemstone Treatment Report.”

WEB site:
<http://www.gemstonetreatmentreport.com/Welcome.html>

There are pounds of both synthetic and natural gemstones that are now additionally enhanced in South-eastern Asia, with a hot-bed of treaters in Thailand. The treatment of andesine was first brought to the attention of the jewelry industry by the work of Robert James,

fonder of the ISG. He was one of the earliest to report on the color enhancement of yellow feldspar to create the more highly desired red feldspar, claimed to be andesine.

There is nothing wrong with the idea of treating gemstones to make less desirable materials appear more desirable, but the treatments should be specified at the time of purchase. The treated stones are not worth as much as untreated originals. When the treated stones are sold as “untreated” there is a problem, and stones purchased for investment are often sold at inflated prices.

Although the new WEB site is a subscription service for full access, they do have several articles that are free to read and download.

Reports for the public:
http://www.gemstonetreatmentreport.com/Research_Reports.html

For further information and to find discussion forums on this and other gemstone topics you might also try “yourgemologist.com” and their forum boards.

Forum Address:
<http://www.yourgemologist.com/ISGForumsBoard/index.php?>

Using a Digital Camera to Photograph slabs, cabs, gemstones, minerals and jewelry - Part X *by ron gibbs*



Fig. 1 Light Tent & Lights



Fig. 2 Fluorite



Fig. 3 Galena

The photography of minerals can be quite challenging as they come in wide variety of colors, shapes, and most important reflectivities. Crystal clusters can be difficult to light as they have reflective surfaces pointing in all directions. (About the only material more difficult is faceted stones, think of them as crystals with way to many faces!)

The general rule of thumb for most highly reflective surfaces is to use strongly diffuse light. Any strong direct lighting will be reflected back as specular (pure white reflections). Probably one of the easiest ways of handling highly reflective mineral specimens is to use a light tent. The light tent will likely not give the very best possible image, but it will give a reasonable image with the least amount of work.

In the first two photos (fig 2 and 3) only lights 1 and 2 (Fig. 1) were used to provide the even illumination. Notice the very soft shadows below the minerals, and there are few strong specular highlights. The mineral is illuminated evenly in most shadow spaces. In the third image (fig 4.) all three lights were used to help differentiate the top crystal faces of the quartz. All of the lights were directed through the nylon of the tent. (There was no direct illumination on any of the shots.) The background was changed from white to black to help provide added contrast with the quartz.

Figure 5. shows the galena with the addition of the on-camera flash. Because the mineral is like a mirror, any surfaces that point directly at the camera will become textureless highlights. (See red circles.) Also note the sharper shadow below the mineral.



Fig. 4 Quartz



Fig. 5

Curved background material is used to avoid the horizon line in the final image. The camera should be mounted on a sturdy tripod in aperture priority mode. The f-stop should be between f/5.6 and f/11 to get maximum depth of field. Finally the camera shutter is fired using a remote or the self timer to avoid camera shake.

Individual lights, with their own diffusers, make it possible to adjust the light placements over a wider range of positions. This also provides more space to use additional reflectors to highlight specific crystal faces. This process takes more time but offers the opportunity to create superior photographs.

Figure 6 shows one light with a diffuser (1) pointed at the main sample, a second light (2) without diffusion pointed only at the background to provide some depth, and a reflector (3) to open the shadow areas in the mineral. The result for both the galena and the fluorite are show in figures 7 and 8.

In both cases there is more distinction in the crystal faces, and slightly sharper shadows at the bases. The overall contrast is increased providing more depth in the image. The backgrounds differ in figures 7 and 8 because the light on the background was pointed more downward (still behind the mineral) in figure 7 making it somewhat lighter. This was to prevent the darker galena from “melting” into the background.

In both of these cases the curved background provided a seamless field to view the mineral. It is possible to get a similar result by using a flat background and setting the camera position at a higher angle up on the tripod. By doing this, only the base material (used to support the mineral) will be seen in the background.

In the final set of images I used a set up similar to the cabochon set up. I used a white card behind a black acrylic base to lighten the background. The acrylic also provided a reflective surface to show the mineral reflection. Instead of a shadow the reflection “anchors” the mineral to the ground and provides a visual plane of reference.

In figure 9. the set up is shown. It is very similar to that in figure 6., but has the additional white card (2) for background reflection, and the black acrylic plate (4) used to hold the mineral sample and provide the reflection. The

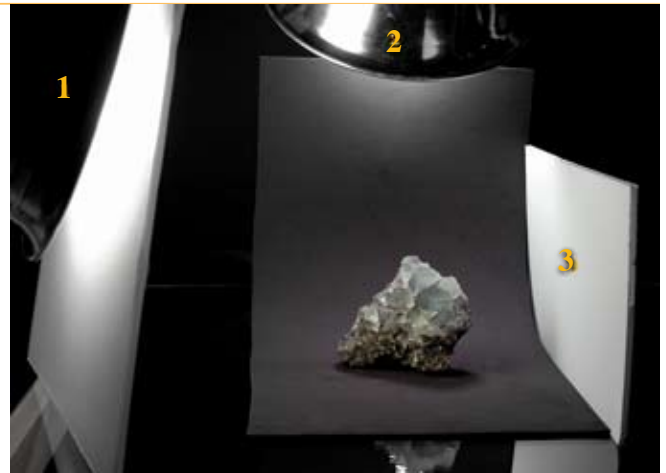


Fig. 6 Free lighting setup



Fig. 7 Free lighting Galena



Fig. 8 Free lighting Fluorite

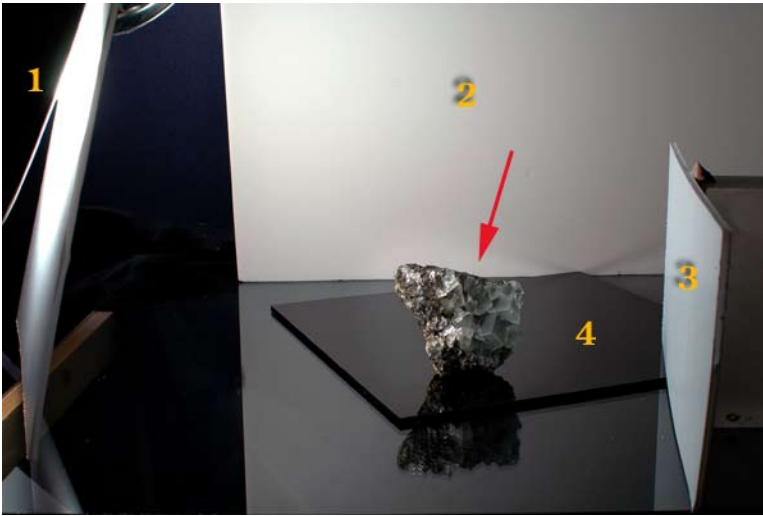


Fig. 9 Reflective setup



Fig. 10 Galena reflective setup



Fig. 10 Fluorite reflective setup



Fig. 11 Fluorite Color Reflector

same single light and reflector are used as in the previous example (1 and 3).

The results are displayed in figures 10 and 11. In both cases the acrylic provides a texture free rear surface that reflects the white card, and the white card is beyond the depth of field of the set up, hence the rear surface looks polished. The background level of gray is controlled by the angle of the white card as it was in the cabochon set up. It is a little lighter in the galena image to better contrast with the darker edges of the mineral.

While the reflection appears very sharp, the acrylic also reflects light back up on the bottom surface of both mineral images making them very slightly lighter and opening up what would otherwise be dark shadows. If another light is placed above and in front of the mineral specimen, it can be directed down into the acrylic and used to open up even more of the lower shadows without adding specular highlights to the sample.

Colored paper can also be for the reflective rear card (2), and will provide subtle colors in the background. Halo effects can be achieved by putting a spot light higher up on the rear card and letting it bleed a bit from the center. If positioned correctly, it produces a nice orbicular gradient around the sample. (Figure 11)

Talc - The Mineral That Won the War

by Walt Margerum
from the Mineralogical Society of So.
California 7/2002,
via Gem Cutters News 6/2009

If your only contact with talc is the powder that comes from cans, the above statement may seem absurd, but it is not far from the truth. Ben M. Page in California Division of Mines Special Report 8 "Talc Deposits of Steatite Grade, Inyo County California," states Steatite is exceptionally pure talc suitable for the manufacture of high-frequency radio insulators and for other exacting uses.

It was a critical mineral during World War II. At the beginning of the war there was a single major domestic source, the Talc City mine, Inyo County California. During WWII the government decreed that all the steatite was to be used in high-frequency radios.

There are two definitions of steatite, the mineralogical definition of massive talc, and the commercial one. The commercial definition of steatite is that it is talc having less than 1.5% lime (CaO), 1.5% ferric oxide (Fe₂O₃), and 4% alumina (Al₂O₃) as impurities.

It was used in two forms. Blocks of "Lava" talc were machined into the desired shape and then fired to make ceramic insulators. The second and more common method was to grind the talc, and mix it with a binder. This mixture was then molded into the desired shape and fired. During and after WWII, the Southern Inyo Mountains were

extensively prospected, and 18 talc mines were put into operation. All have since closed, and most have been abandoned. The most extensive deposits were at the Talc City Hills located north of Darwin.

The talc is a dull gray, and makes for uninteresting specimens at best. But if you do not have any in your

SFMS Field Trips

April 17, 2010: Hogg Mine, 1231 Bartley Rd, LaGrange, GA. Hosted by Montgomery G&M Society. Rock swap & dig. Fee is \$17/adult. Sign-in 8-9 (no late entry).

April 24, 2010: Vulcan Bartow Quarry, Cartersville, GA. Hosted by the Georgia Mineral Society. Start at 10 am looking for Porphyroblastic granite gneiss with blue quartz found within the granite. Contact George Libby, cell phone 678-910-7476.

May 8, 2010: Thermal City Gold Mine, Union Mills, NC. Hosted by the Columbia Gem & Mineral Society. Fee is \$5 to pan all day starting at 9 am. Info on camping at www.thermalcitygoldmine.com. Contact Allen Gibbs at allenis-gibbs@pbtcomm.net or 803-894-5680

May 15th, 2010: Glendon Quarry - You must request a place on this trip as it has a limited number of spaces open. (120 total)
REGISTRATION INFORMATION: This field trip is open to members of SFMS affiliated clubs which have paid third party liability insurance through the SFMS/EFMLS or

collection, you do not have the mineral that won the war. If you still wonder why I call it that, the most important high-frequency radio it was used in was called RADAR!



other insurers. A link to the current list of paid clubs can be found on the SFMS website on the "What's New" webpage. (Only list related family members, couples, and significant others - all non-related individuals must submit a separate form. NO children under the age of 12! Please list the ages of all individuals who are under the age of 18.

REGISTRATON: NAME(s):

Last Name, First Name

Address/City/State:

Phone:

Email Address:

SFMS affiliated club:

(Please answer ALL of the above items or your registration will be returned!)

Send to: sfms@amfed.org

Field trips are open to all members of clubs associated with the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS clubs/societies who provide their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the general public are NOT invited to these or any DMC program field trips.



UPCOMING SHOWS

April 17—18, 2010: Dothan, Alabama - Dothan Gem & Mineral Club. 3rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Westgate Park (James Grant Rec center, 501 Recreation Road. Free parking & admission. Hours: Sat 9-5 & Sun 10-4. Contact Arnie Lambert (334) 792-7116 or arlambert@comcast.net

April 24-25, 2010: Memphis, Tennessee - Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show, Memphis International Agricenter, Expo Center, West Pavilion & A-wing 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00. Scouts free. Contact W.C. McDaniel (901) 274-7706.

May 1-2, 2010: Charleston, SC - The Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society. The Lowcountry Gem and Mineral Society Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Charleston Convention Center Complex, Exhibit Hall A. Free parking and admission. Hours: Sat & Sun 10 - 5. Contact Mark Easterbrook at 843-276-4016 for more information.

May 7-9, 2010: Marietta, GA - The Georgia Mineral Society. 42nd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, & Fossil Show, The Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Parkway & Fairground Street. Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6, Sun 12 - 5, Auctions Sat 1pm. Contact Kim Cochran (770) 979-8331 or mayshow@gamineral.org

June 5 & 6, 2010: Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 37th Annual Tannehill

Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show, Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park. Hours: Sat & Sun 9 - 5. Show is free with paid admission to state park. For info call Gene Blackerby (205) 807-6777 or gene@lapidaryclub.com

June 5-6, 2010: Marion, KY— Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum. 5th Annual Ben E. Clement Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, Fohs Hall, 201 North Walker St. Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 11-5. Day & night digs available. Contact 270-965-4263 or www.clementmineral-museum.org

June 18-20 2010: Whittier, California - AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention hosted by North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society. Hours: 10-5 daily. Contact Mike Beaumont (714) 510-6037 or www.nocgms.com

August 13-15, 2010: Gulfport, MS - Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society. 35th Annual Harrison County Gem & Mineral Show, West Harrison Community Center, 4470 Espy Ave, Pass Christian, MS. Hours: Fri 12-7, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Admission: Adults \$3 & children under 12 free with paid adult. Contact: Tomsey Westermeyer Show/Dealer chairman at: 228-586-5279 or e-mail at: tomsey@cablone.net

September 10-12, 2010: Winston-Salem, NC - Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club. 39th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Educational Bldg, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds (free parking through Gate #9 from 27th St only). Hours: Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 12-5. Contact W.A. Marion at marional@yadtel.net

October 1-3, 2010: Dallas, NC— Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club. Biggerstaff Park, Hwy 279(Cherryville Hwy), Dallas NC. Free admission, hourly raffles, gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry. Hours: Fri, Sat & Sun 9-6. Contact Jackay McDaniel 704-865-6748 or jackaythegrizz@aol.com or Connie Cole 704-864-4387.

October 2-3, 2010: Lexington, KY - Rockhounds of Central Kentucky. 20th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show and Sale, Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Road Hours: Sat. 10 to 6 and Sun. 12 to 5. Mineral, jewelry, and equipment dealers; club sales and exhibits; hourly door prizes for adults and children; blacklight display; kids quarry; and silent auctions. Grand door prize drawing at 5 PM Sunday. Admission Adults \$1, children 6-12 50 cents, max \$3 per family. Scouts in uniform get in free. Contact: Mona Ferrell monaferrell@yahoo.com or Trish Henson birdgal@att.net

November 6-7, 2010: Melbourne, FL - Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society. Parade of Gems, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Ave. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-5. Contact Don McLamb 321-723-2592 or fdjmc@aol.com

