

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB
AUGUST 2010

the Prez Sez ...

Oh, how I am looking forward to some cooler fall weather. If you missed last month's meeting by Ron Gibbs who wrote the book on agates and jaspers you missed one of the most informative sessions that we have ever had at our club.

Ron explained in great detail how agates and jaspers were formed. Hopefully, Ron will repeat this program and if you missed this one I strongly suggest that you don't miss your next chance.

Murray Simon and I rode over and picked out our picnic spot at Frank Liske park in Concord for our annual club picnic in October. Look for additional blasts but mark your calendar for Sunday, October 10th.

This park offers paddle boats, putt putt golf, horseshoes, volleyball and much more for great family fun. We can even have our mini auction as we have done in the past. We have volunteers who will purchase and prepare the food but we need volunteers for side dishes and to help with the set up and clean up.

Once again, last week, our club participated in the annual home

schoolers event put on by the organization WINGS. We had a booth with Mary Fisher and Linda Simon in attendance. The primary audience is to attract youth into our very well run junior rock hound program and hopefully some moms who are interested in jewelry crafts will come into our club too.

Linda Simon has started an expansion of her jewelry classes. If you are interested all you have to do is come two hours early to our regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at the Charlotte Nature Museum. There you will find Linda and her students busy at making jewelry crafts.

Several of our members continue to volunteer their time to teach at William Holland and Wildacres. If you are new to our club and do not know about these schools, please contact me or any board member or visit the websites of William Holland School of Lapidary of Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies for their link to Wildacres.

For about three hundred dollars you get a place to sleep, good wholesome food and a class from a wide

selection of crafts. I will teach cabochon cutting the last week of October and the first week of November. Cabochon classes here should resume when Sara Boyce returns from school in middle November.

Look for a blast and sign up quickly if you are interested in learning how to cut and polish a gemstone. We have several new individuals and families who have joined our club in recent months. If any of you

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WEB Site

www.charlottegem.com

need help, information or guidance please contact me or any officer, director or club member.

We have some of the most foremost experts in their fields in our club. Danny Jones is a very renowned mineral dealer and can identify anything that you bring to him.

Jimmy Strickland's faceted stones are in the Carnegie Museum. We have jewelry makers whose work is superb.

If you want to go dig for rock treasures, we have members who have been all over the Carolinas.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, Thursday evening, August 19th.

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

Did You Know? ... Amber

By Gerald Losser

Prized by both mineral collectors and scientists, amber is not a definite mineral species. It's classified as a hydrocarbon, with the elements carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen (C,H,O).

Physical properties: Amber can be identified by its resinous luster, irregular mass, and conchoidal fracture. Hardness: 2.0 - 2.5, Specific gravity: 1.096 (floats in seawater). Color: yellowish, reddish, brownish, whitish, clouded, light green, brown black, and sometimes fluorescent.

Amber was created when resins (sap) oozed from ancient trees (conifers) of tropical vegetation. Over eons of time, the surface hardened and eventually was covered with

sediments. The compounds in the amber resins are called turpenes, which were chemically altered over thousands of years producing more than 23, more species lists with names that are based on the rations of (C,H,O), e.g. copal.

Along the Atlantic Coast, 9 varieties of fossil resins have been found. On European beaches, amber and similar resins are cast up upon the beaches by waves after heavy storms. Fossil resins are also found in coal and peat deposits, shale, lignite deposits, blue clay, gypsum and buried tree trunks. The most expensive amber and the ones of greatest interest to scientists is the amber that contains the encased prehistoric fossil life, insets, bees, etc.

From The Virginia Pen, via Northside Gem & Hobby
News 3/00 and taken from GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS 4/00

Regular Monthly Meeting Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

Thursday August 19th, 2010 7:00 pm

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

“THE MINERALS OF MOROCCO”

This beautifully photographed Smithsonian-endorsed video features the search for extravagant red Vanandanite crystals in exotic Morocco. If you appreciate incredible photography, lush music, lavish foreign settings, professional narration and camels - DO NOT MISS THIS VIDEO. And to complement this lush film, we will have the lush snacks of Catherine Peterson (and Margaret Moore ?)!

Jr. Rockhounds

Jr. Rockhounds continue their summer vacation in August, but will be reappearing in September. In September, look for a section on Fluorescent Minerals.

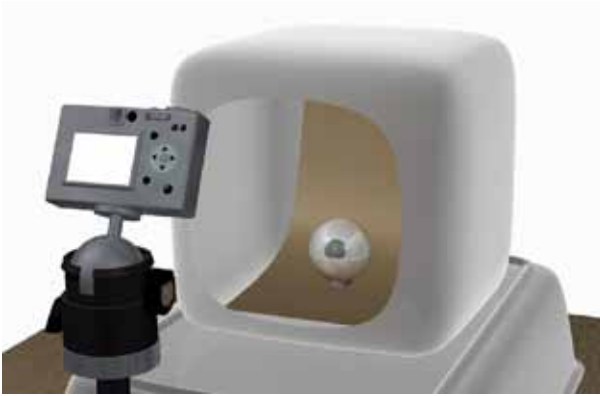
Early October Heads Up!

The club picnic will be on Sunday October 10th from noon till 5 pm. The picnic will be at Frank Liske Park. The hotdogs and hamburgers will be supplied by the club as well as the paper-ware and drinks. Please bring a dish to pass, either a side dish or a dessert. More information will follow next month.

September Geode Event

The Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club will participate once again in the Matthews Alive Event in September. It runs Saturday, Sunday and Monday Sept 4th - 6th. Volunteers are needed to help cut geodes, wrap geodes, take money, interact with the crowd. Sign-up sheets will be available at the August meeting. The club raises money to fund it's scholarships at this event.

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



So how do you take a photograph of a perfect silver sphere? Well it's just about impossible to get a "clean" photo, without any awkward reflections. Since a polished sphere will effect everything in it's vicinity, the entire vicinity must contain nothing to reflect. (Now that is a bit awkward.)



About the best one can do is to encapsulate there in a light tent and use small opening in the front to position the camera and take the image. Ideally a circular light tent without seams would be best, basically a large white sphere with a single hole. The diagrams to the left show a possible set up with a light tent. I placed a continuous background in the tent and positioned a couple of lights outside and to the sides of the tent.



I then used a piece of white foamcore board with a hole in it to shot the final image. The computer generated version in the third image down. The two images at the bottom of the page are actual photos taken of a steel (a bit rusty) ball bearings taken in the real world equivalent.

With the tent wide open it is easy to see the camera and the photographer reflected back in the sphere. When I covered the front with a white card with a hole and shot through the hole the reduced size hid most of those reflections, The image does look a bit like an eye.

With a little photoshop work the "eye's iris" can be entirely removed. Now this is a mental exercise and not really an example of how to create a good photograph. I just wanted you to think a bit about the considerations that must be taken based



on the properties of the object being photographed.

Now let's look at a small set-up to "float objects" for photography. This will provide a means to hold an object in the air, unseen by the camera and works well for cabochons or small pieces of jewelry. The idea of doing this provides a means to separate the background from the object and throw it completely out of focus while maintaining sharp focus on the object.

It provides separation from the backgrounds without using any transparent glass or plastic in between, This illuminates the possibility of unwanted reflections. We'll use perspective to hide the stone or jewelry holder.

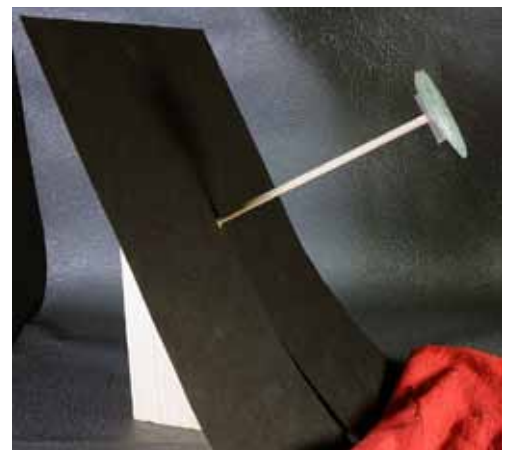
I use a 4x6 piece of wood cut into a 30-60 degree right triangle. This provides two possible viewing angles for the camera. I drill a hole the same size as a short wooden dowel in to the hypotenuse and the longer of the two sides of the triangle. At the end of dowel I use a small piece of plastic also drilled for the dowel. This piece of plastic becomes the support for the item being photographed. I use a small dab of clay or liquid thumb-tack to hold the item and completely cover the plastic holder.

See the third photo for a cabochon on the end of the holder. Not completely trusting the removable adhesive I often place a soft surface below the object to catch it in case of an unintended release. The selected background material is cut with a single slit to the point where the dowel will protrude. I enlarge the area at the dowel slightly to make it fit better, and attach as in the photo. (Sliding it down from the top.)

The camera will be placed in a direct line with the jewelry of cab and focused on the object. Since the camera can be adjust to nearly a perfect perpendicular with the object, there is a minimal depth of field needed, and the entire object can easily be brought into focus. By using which ever side of the wooded triangle desired you can help adjust the angle of the camera and the tripod set-up. The two images at the bottom of the page demonstrate the proper set-up for the camera and the wooden block.

The camera is adjusted so that it looks directly down the length of the wooden dowel. The background paper or clothe is not shown in these illustrations.

Typical results are show in the next set of photos. The first image is the one taken





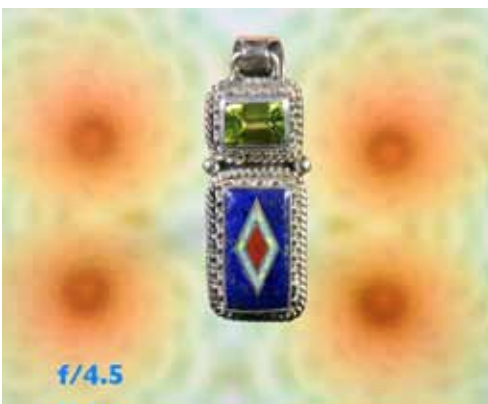
from the precise set up illustrated on the previous page. The cabochon is floating above the black paper background. If you look closely you can just make out the two shadows cast by the lights used to illuminate the cab.

In the next image I used a small pendant and floated it above a slightly graduated blue background. I did use photoshop to cover over the slit in the paper that was apparent below the pendant. Again you can see the slight shadows that were created by the two lights used to illuminate the pendant.



This technique will allow the use of strongly patterned backgrounds if desired. Normally a strongly patterned background will make the image much too busy and make it hard to focus on the main subject. In the next photo I used a very strongly patterned background image and set the camera aperture to $f/4.5$ which is sufficient to keep the pendant in focus, but is not high enough to keep the background in good focus. It makes the background appear more like a soft pattern.

In the last image, the same set up was used but the f-stop was set of $f/16$. Here the pendant is obviously in focus, but the background is also coming into sharper focus and beginning to compete with the foreground topic, the pendant. In the first one of the two images, the pendant does appear to be floating above the background.



Without using something to separate the subject from the background, even a relatively low f-stop will still make the background fairly sharp.

For very small items, thin metal tube or stiff wire can be used to “levitate” the items. The thinner the support, the less shadow it will cast on the background. Multiple thin wires can be used to support larger pieces and any wire showing in the final image can be removed with photoshop.

Next month I’ll demonstrate the results from adapting some of the cabochon lighting techniques to jewelry items, and well look at roughing up the background and making it less reflective for jewelry objects.



Why penguins are short lived

Before Meeting Class!

Linda Simon is now conducting a “mini-class” before the actual monthly meeting at the Charlotte Nature Museum. Those interested in jewelry making using wire wrap and beading techniques can show up at 5 pm before the normal monthly meeting of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club.

Tools can be borrowed and used during the class. Pre designed projects with hands-on help is available. An easy beginning project has been designed to show first time students how to make sterling silver and bead ear rings.

Gather in front of the meeting regular meeting room.



9 Online Boolets on Agates and Jaspers are Free!

The American Agate -Jasper Index is a proposed multi-volume database that will become a reference source for the quartz gemstone materials from across the United States. The idea is to have several images showing what typical specimens from each locality look like so we can compare our unknown specimens with examples of famous and not-so-well known locations.

These images would be divided up by specimen type (nodular, moss, fossil, etc) and not by site (except as to originating state) to allow a quicker access to the data. The goal of this project is not to create an online museum, so you won't see multiple pictures of similar stones unless it is to show variations of the material, nor is it a field guide with directions to where these specimens can be found. Its sole intention is to provide the collector a method of identifying material.

Here's how this project works: Our database will be produced from images provided by the rockhounds who want this project to succeed. Images will be sent to the editors (Mel Hixson and myself - lowellfos@yahoo.com) or posted on websites with the intention of being placed in the ongoing document. Because every image used will be in the public domain, it costs no money to produce and thus, it should be open to sharing freely to anyone who wants it. Because it's rockhounds putting it together, it will be strong in the local collecting sites not often mentioned in national publications. The Index will also be updatable as new locations come in and better images are offered.

The project is currently ongoing on the Rock Tumbling Hobby site. We are moving slowly state by state to avoid costly mistakes and have been receiving submissions from across the United States. Mel and Lowell are members of the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society.

(This article was taken from the February 2010 - Ventura Gem & Mineral Society - Rockhound Ramblings)



*More info can be found at the Rock Tumbling WEB site: [HTTP://www.rocktumblinghobby.com/](http://www.rocktumblinghobby.com/)
Here are the download links to the current 9 volumes.*

Volume 1: Utah and Colorado (16 MB) - http://www.4shared.com/document/mNXTQALM/Agate_Index_Vol_1__2nd_ed_.html.
Volume 2: Wyoming and Montana - http://www.4shared.com/file/224404408/51585e57/Agate_Index_Vol_2.html.
Volume 3: Idaho and Washington - http://www.4shared.com/file/229956030/cc07189f/Agate_Index_Vol_3.html.
Volume 4: South Dakota, Nebraska, and Oklahoma - http://www.4shared.com/file/242786005/91b2476f/Agate_Index_Vol_4.html.
Volume 5: Texas - http://www.4shared.com/document/oCLei3tU/Agate_Index_Vol_5.html.
Volume 6: The South-Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Missouri - http://www.4shared.com/document/nXCjumab/Agate_Index_Vol_6.html.
Volume 7: Arizona (warning-16 MB) - http://www.4shared.com/document/XplaNpW1/Agate_Index_Vol_7.html
Volume 8: New Mexico, Nevada (warning-16 MB) - <http://search.4shared.com/q/1/agate%20index%208>
Volume 9: Oregon (warning-16 MB) - http://www.4shared.com/document/-CARc_SR/Agate_Index_Vol_9.html
editor: lowellfos@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Shows

July 22-25, 2010: Franklin, NC - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. 44th Annual Gemboree, Macon County Community Building US 441S. Hours: Thur— Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4. Adults \$3, Children 12 and under free. Contact 888-337-7529.

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@cableone.net

September 4-6, 2010: Brunswick, GA - Golden Isles Gem & Mineral Society. 2010 Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Glynn Place Mall, I-95 exit 38, GA Spur 25 to Golden Isles Parkway, 2 miles. Hours: Sat 10-7, Sun 12-6, & Mon 10-5. Admission \$3. Contact Patricia Cox 912-265- 4259 or hepacox@comcast.net

September 4-7, 2010: Hendersonville, NC—Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society. 28th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show & Sale, Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Rd. Hours: Sat & Mon 10-6, Tue 10-5. See www.hcgms.org

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

September 23-26, 2010: Jacksonville, FL-Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. 22nd Annual Show, Morocco Temple, 3800 St Johns Bluff Rd. Hours: Fri 1-6, Sat 10-6, & Sun 10-5. Adults \$3/day or \$5/weekend
September 26-27, 2010: Hiddenite, NC-Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society. 21st Annual Hiddenite Gem & Mineral Show, Hiddenite Center at Sulpher Springs Road. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 12:30-6. Adults \$2 & children under 13 with adult free.

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

October 15-17, 2010: Knoxville, TN - Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society. 19th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Kerbela Temple, Mimosa Ave. Show is \$4/per day per adult.