

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB
FEBRUARY 2011

the Prez Sez ...

Linda and I recently returned from a wonderful vacation out west that included a stop in Albuquerque, New Mexico for a 2-day course in Argentium Silver. The course was held at a very interesting place that is an important resource for people who are involved in lapidary, silversmithing, metal casting or jewelry making. For those who may not be familiar with Rio Grande, I would like to tell you a little bit about an amazing company.

In 1937 Saul and Olivia Bell moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico from St. Louis. The city, with its strong concentration of Indian craftsmen, was rapidly becoming a center for jewelry making and as a trained goldsmith, Saul found work at a jewelry manufacturing company. In 1944 the Bells purchased the White Eagle Trading Post, a store specializing in sterling silver jewelry. Silver was rationed during world war two and in order to make ends meet they started a second business - Rio Grande Wholesale Jewelers selling finished jewelry from east coast suppliers. Jewelry-making supplies became more available after the war and the Bells decided to close White

Eagle in 1950 to focus on the wholesale portion of the business (Rio Grande Wholesale Jewelers). In 1957 they were able to purchase a 2500 square foot building with a small parking lot a short walk from their home. The proximity to home was important because by this time Saul and Olivia had nine children.

In the 1960s the company employed 7 people and once again found it necessary to adapt to changing economic pressures. Wholesale finished jewelry sales declined so the company stayed afloat by selling supplies to jewelers and watchmakers in the Albuquerque area. In the early 70s, with some of those nine children coming into the business, a decision was made to expand by printing a small catalog and mailing it to potential customers outside of their local region. Which brings us to the Rio Grande of today.

The company currently has 320 employees and occupies a 185,000 square foot (4 acres of space) building in an industrial area on the outskirts of the city. They have gymnasium-sized rooms full

of sophisticated manufacturing equipment with which they make jewelry findings, tools and supplies.

There are dozens of labs with technicians testing and developing new materials and equipment. The entire building is lighted and powered by an extensive array of solar panels mounted on poles adjacent to the huge building. These panels generate a surplus of electricity which is sold to the local light and power company.

Table of Contents

- 1-2 Prez Sez
- 3 Monthly Meeting Notice
- 3 Jr. Rockhound Notice
- 4 Cabochon "Cutting"
- 5 Shows 2011
- 5 Club Fieldtrips
- 6-7 Federation Sponsored Classes 2011
- 7 Club Cabochon Classes
- 8 Field Trip Information



2011 CGMC Officers & Board

President

Murray Simon
drsimon@mindspring.com

Vice President

Denise Trufan
dtrufan@lcsd.k12.sc.us

Secretary

Pat Walker
704/523-5261

Treasurer

Donna Forstner
cinder_ella@bellsouth.net

Directors at Large

Scott Stewart
sstewart5@bellsouth.net

Mary Fisher
mefisher@att.net

Bulletin Editor

Ron Gibbs
theimage1@aol.com

Past President

Jack King
tackyjackie@bellsouth.net

CLUB CHAIRPERSONS

SFMS Contact & Stamp Chair

Pat Walker

Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

Refreshments Chair

open

Workshop Chair

Linda Simon
lsimon1@carolina.rr.com

WebMaster

Ron Gibbs

Librarian

Pat Walker

Field Trip Chair

Jack King
tackyjackie@bellsouth.net

Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

WEB Site
www.charlottegem.com

For \$25 (refundable with your first order) you can get four catalogs that are updated every year – Tools and Equipment (674 pages), Gem Findings & Display Packaging (938 pages), Creative Arts for Jewelers & Artists (210 pages) and Finished Products (186 pages).

There are currently 40,000 individual items for sale and the list is growing. Their customer base is worldwide.

Linda and I were there to take advantage of a new program. For many years Rio Grande had been a prominent presence at the huge Tucson Gem and Mineral show held in February of each year. They would occupy an entire hotel for 2+ weeks and would run continuing education programs, extensive product demonstrations (Rio Grande “Catalog in Motion”) and a sales floor staffed with highly trained technicians who can answer just about any product-related question asked. For the first time in many years the company has decided not to go through the huge expense of setting this program up in Tucson (costs have increased / sales have decreased over the past 2 years). Instead they are doing essentially the same thing in their headquarters in Albuquerque. Linda and I took a 2 day course in Argentium Silver in a beautifully

equipped workroom with 6 other people. The program included free lunches (good Tex/Mex food in the company cafeteria) a tour of the facility and demonstrations of some of the newer products (their \$2500 cabbing machine is amazing).

I’m telling you all of this to acquaint you with a resource that can serve your equipment and material needs for all types of jewelry making products, probably better than any other available resources. For a virtual tour of the building you can go to www.riograndeblog.com and to learn more about their products and services go to www.riogrande.com or 1-505-839-3156.

P.S. Both Linda and I came away from our educational experience convinced that you get a lot more for less money with a William Holland program.

See article on page 6 of this newsletter for information on both William Holland School and the Wild Acres weekends.

Murray Simon
President (*and current “Big Cheese”*) of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club - (*editorial comment the editor ...*)



Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

Monthly Meeting - February 17, 2011 Thursday -- 7:00 pm --

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

YOU MIGHT BE A GEOLOGIST IF

1. You consider a “recent event” to be anything that has happened in the last hundred thousand years.
2. You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.
3. You’re planning on using a pick and shovel while you’re on vacation.
4. You come to **Lindsay Werden’s** talk About st. Clair, Pennsylvania Fossils
At the charlotte nature museum
On sterling drive in charlotte

*He will bring samples to “ooh” and “ahh” over.
To be followed by related short film*

Linda Simon will precede the meeting (5:00 -7:00) with her jewelry class. A small fee is required.
Social time and snacks begin at 7:00.

See you there!

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

Junior Rockhounds Meeting

Saturday, February 26th, 2011

Minerals and their Identification

***Morning meeting in Concord
Afternoon meeting in Matthews***

***Contact Mary Fisher for further information
mefisher@att.net***

Cabochon “cutting”

by ron gibbs

Cabochon “cutting” is actually a misnomer, it should be called cabochon grinding or maybe cabochon shaping.

First what are Cabochons?

The word cabochon comes from the French word *caboché* (meaning head.) Typically it is a gemstone with a convex (domed top) and flat bottom, but actually some people cut two sided cabochons with two domed “heads”. In general it is any gemstone with a domed feature.

Cabochons usually start their existence from a slab of rock, but they may be shaped directly from a small nodule. The typical process is to mark a rock slab with the desired shape, rough trim it with a small trim saw, and then finish by a series of grinding steps.

The process first removes excess material to form a shape using rough grinding wheels (80 - 220 grit), then using a series of wheels with much finer grits (280 - 600) the shape is refined and the surface is prepared for a polish.

Finally, after all visible scratches are removed, the stone is then polished using one or more polishing wheels with ultra fine powders on a rotating cylindrical pad.

Traditional cabs (short name for cabochon) are round or oval in shape. Beginners usually cut their first cab as an oval. There is a range of “standard sizes” for oval cabochons, and there is a variety of pre-made catalog jewelry that may

be purchased within these ranges. Hence cutting a standard size insures access to a wide variety of pre-fabricated jewelry designs for cabochon setting.

As ones skill with metal setting techniques increases, then it is often more fun to cut what are called “freeform” cabochons. When creating a freeform cab it is automatically understood that a custom fitting must be created. And it provides far more freedom in the final design.

Cabochons are nearly always the appropriate cut for most “phenomenal” stones. These are stones that display a catseye or star type of luster, like star-sapphire.



Slab & OutLine



Typical catalog 30 x 40 pendant



Finished 40 x 30 cab



Catseye Apatite



Freeform Cab



Custom Jewelry for freeform cab



Typical Grinder Set Up for Cab Creation

2011 Upcoming Shows

March 11 - 13, 2011

23rd Annual Aiken - Augusta Gem and Mineral Show Augusta, Georgia. Sponsoring Clubs: Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society And Augusta Gem and Mineral Society Show days and times: Friday and Saturday 10 AM - 7 PM Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM Address of Show: Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street Augusta, GA

March 19-21, 2010

32nd. Annual Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show Rome Georgia Mineral Society Rome, Georgia Fri-Sat March 19-21, 10-6, Sun March 21, 11-5 Free Admission and Free Parking, Minerals, Fossils, Gems and Jewelry, Door Prizes, Exhibits, Lectures, and Demonstrations Location: The Forum, 2 Government Plz. One block from Broad St at the end of 3rd Ave in Downtown Rome Tim Biggart, Show Chairman 706.232.7143 tbiggart@berry.edu Bob Madden, Dealer Chair 706.295.3912, rjmcanoe@aol.com

2011 Club Field Trip Information

by Jack King (Field Trip Chairman)

As your new field trip chairman, it is my goal to do my best to offer a field trip EVERY month for our members who like to dig.

I am aware that some folks have joined MAGMA because our club has been lacking in an active field trip program. I am working very hard on seeing that our members who want to go on field trips find trips within our club so that we can share this type of activities.

I think that we will soon be able to announce the next several months of trips which all will find enjoyable. I have asked for the help of Wayne Abercrombie who is very serious digger and is very helpful in helping new folks in what to look for. I ask for the help of any of you who know of locations which are accessible to contact me in regard to good locations.

Our club pays for insurance thru the Southeastern Federation and it

is a shame to pay this cost without us being actively involved in trips. Some field trips will not be available to our juniors but most will.

I am actively working on a fossil trip to TN and Mary Fisher is working on a quarry trip in the Charlotte area with Vulcan quarries. We will host the Dixie Mineral council trip to the Cotton Patch gold mine in May and I hope that many members will be there to welcome our fellow rock hounds from clubs from across the southeast.

Please look for following e-mail blasts and let me know if you have any questions. We just sent a blast about the upcoming trip to a quarry in Gastonia and although I have not been there, I have been told that some interesting and rare minerals can be found there.

2011 - First one this year ...

Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig

April 29, 30 & May 1: Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig. The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, ClarenceNormanJr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during 2011 (one in April & the other in Oct).

He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain. Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events.

2011 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

Workshop Staff

Wildacres Director,

Julia Larson

204 37th Ave North, #250 St. Petersburg, FL 33704 727-522-1254

Email: wadir2011@yahoo.com

William Holland Directors,

Denise & Carl Talbott

216 Spring View Drive Murphy, NC 28906 828-494-7213

Email: dtalbott@bellsouth.net

Wildacres Registrars,

David and Leslie Wayment

8802 N US Hwy 1 Suite 10 Sebastian, FL 32958 Phone 772-532-6432 772-539-2409

Email: astainedglass@bellsouth.net

William Holland Registrar,

Lisa Roberts

996 Indian River Boat Dock Rd Jacksboro, TN 37757 Phone 423-562-9555

Email: whregistrar10@yahoo.com

Education Chairman,

Kathy Morris

557 Grayce Lane Hiawassee, GA 30546 706-896-3256 252-571-5050

Email: klmorris45@hotmail.com

The intermediate and advanced classes listed with an asterisk (*) require some prior experience by the student. Experience in a class provided by your local club, Workshop class, or self study may be enough. If you're interested in one of these classes, please do not exclude yourself without contacting the instructor first.

SESSION ONE - WILLIAM HOLLAND

SUNDAY, June 12-18, 2011

Beading, Seed	Barbara Green
Cabochons	Richard Shackleton
Chain Making	Dee & Bill Conybear
Enameling	Bob Mattingly
Faceting	Bill Roberts
Lampwork	Ann Royer
Mineral ID	Scott Forward
Opals	Sarah Lee Boyce
Silver I	Don Roberts
Silver II	Vicky Prillaman
*Silver Filigree	Stafford/Warrick
Wire I	Velima Lawson

SESSION TWO - WILDACRES

MONDAY, August 22 - 28, 2011

Cabochons	Pat Davis
Enameling/Cold Conn	Renee Kelly
Faceting	Steve Hillenbrand
Fused Glass	Rich Dillon
Gem ID	Mary Lou Kick
*Metalsmithing - Advanced	Jeff Shears
*Silver, Filigree	Shannon Stafford & Annette Gibney
*Stone Setting	Don Roberts
Wire, Beginning	Velima Lawson

SESSION THREE - WILDACRES

MONDAY, September 12 - 18, 2011

Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Casting	John Iacullo
Chain, Beginning	Kathy Morris
Lampwork	Linda White
Mineral ID	Scott Forward
Raku Beads	Jim Cullen
Silver Cold Connection	Charlotte Caughman
*Silver, Filigree	Shannon Stafford & Annette Gibney

Cabochon Classes February 12th through April 9th

Announcing cabochon classes Every saturday starting feb 12th thru april 9th. That's right! Because of popular demand, classes will be held every saturday.

Classes will be limited to four students, first to call sara will get a seat.

However, sara has changed the format. She would like the same four students who sign up for a particular saturday be prepared to come back the next saturday so that all will have two weeks back to back for more consistent teaching and learning. When one set of four students have completed two weeks then another group of different four students will have two weeks

back to back. Should one of more students not be able to attend a session, sara will call alternates from past students.

Here is the format of the classes. Students should arrive at 9:30 a.M. And be ready to start class. Lunch break will be from 12:30 to 1 and students should bring their own lunch and drink. Classes resume at 1 and go till at least 4. Students should be able to produce one of more cabochons in this period of time.

Classes are held at the home of sara lee boyce and students wanting a seat should call sara at 704-827-1431.

To review, this new two week back to back schedule means that the four who get a seat on feb 12th will be expected to come on feb. 19Th. Then four different students would sign up for feb 26 and march fifth with the cycle rotating every other two weeks. This new schedule will end on april 9th.

To those four students who just completed two weeks with sara, do not call to sign up again for feb. 12 And 19 but you can go ahead and sign up for the two weeks starting feb 26. Sara will call any of you if there are cancellations.

Due to increased cost and longer hours on the machines the new class fee per session is now: \$ 5.00 Per hour for the classes.

**SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND
SUNDAY, October 9-16, 2011**

Bead Weaving	Ron Midkiff
Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Chain Making	Dee & Bill Conybear
Enameling	Lynda Williams
Faceting	Mary Lou Kick
Fused Glass	Addy DePietro
Jadeite Bas-Relief Carving	Bill Smith
Lampworking	Cindy Reed
Opals	Joe DePietro
*Silver Filigree	Stafford/Warrick
*Southwest Silver	Dan Haga
*Silver II	Vicki Prillaman
Wire I	Judy Peppers

These are the SFMS sponsored classes this year at both William Holland and Wild Acres. These are federation weeks and you must be a member of a federation club to attend these classes.

There are other classes throughout much of the year at William Holland School and federation membership is not required to attend them.

Check the William Holland web site for further information and scheduling.

<http://www.lapidaryschool.org/>

***An Official Field Trip of Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club
(Gastonia, NC) (HOST)***

An Official Field Trip of the (Charlotte gem & Mineral Club)

8:30AM until 12:00PM EDT

Saturday – March 12, 2011

Martin Marietta Quarry, Kings Mountain, NC

WHERE: The Martin Marietta Quarry in Kings Mountain NC. The entrance is on Holiday Inn Drive, which is an access road at the I-85/Rt 161 interchange (exit 8) on I-85. The quarry entrance is at the plant office which is the assembly area.

WHEN: Saturday – March 12, 2011 Rain or Shine.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-85 South, take exit 8, turn right onto 161. Take the first left (not the return to I-85), you will see the Waffle House; this road takes you right in front of the Waffle House. Pass the Waffle House and the motel (both on your right) and continue app. 1/4 miles. You will see the gate on your right.

From I-85 North, take exit 8, take a left. Go over bridge, pass the return road to I-85 then turn left onto the next road, you will see the Waffle House; this road takes you right in front of the Waffle House. Pass the waffle house and the motel (both on your right) and continue app. ¼ miles. You will see the gate on the right.

ASSEMBLY TIME: 8:00 TO 8:30AM EDT at the plant office parking lot. We will have a safety briefing starting at 8:30. We will then load up and convoy a short distance to the collecting area at the southern end of the property. This area is composed of overburden and mine dumps from the Foote Mine, which is located next door (west of the collecting area).

COLLECTING: The minerals found in this area include most of the species found in the Foote mine including the usual assemblage for a lithium pegmatite: spodumene, quartz, and feldspar. The area is known for the large number of unusual lithium, tin and beryllium minerals, especially phosphate minerals, which are found in fractures in the pegmatite. The Foote Mine has been shut down since 1992 and the mine dumps have been closed to collectors for approximately 20 years. These dump areas on the Martin Marietta property are the only material from the Foote Mine that have been “turned over” since the mines closure.

AGE LIMIT: No children (must be age 14 or older)

EQUIPMENT: Hard Hat, safety glasses, steel toe or good strong leather boots. No sneakers or sandals will be allowed. You should wear long pants and have gloves. A rock pick or mason’s hammer, a 3 to 4 pound crack hammer, chisels and a really large sledge if you are serious about busting rocks. Buckets or bags, newspaper with which to wrap your finds and, of course, plenty of water, Dress according to the weather this day and prepare for a rain shower.

SAFETY: Martin Marietta is very safety conscious and has an excellent record. If you are in an unsafe area you will be asked to move. We will not in an active mining area but there are still many potential hazards. Please respect the safety berms and marked unsafe areas. Be aware of your location at all times.

CONTACT:

Tom Taylor

Gaston CGM&FC - Vice Pres.

704-735-9271 tom.taylor@chemetall.com