

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB
JULY 2010

Prez Sez ...

Hot! Hot! HOT! I am ready for some fall weather, which is not in the near future. There are actually two field trip opportunities this month. One is a Dixie Mineral Council trip to Antreville, SC to the Diamond Hill mine.

I have been to this location and it is an easy dig as many varieties of quartz crystals were found by my wife and myself just out on the ground where previous diggers had left them.

We will post information as to the location in a separate place in this newsletter. Be sure to take plenty of water as it will be hot in this remote location.

The second opportunity is the BIG Spruce Pine show at the end of July. The Spruce Pine show spreads out all over town but most of the rocks and minerals are in a big field beside the Grassy Creek fire dept. I plan on being there the last two days of the show which is Saturday, July 31st and Sunday, August 1st.

I invite any member to meet at a lunch table at the Crassy Creek Fire dept. at 1 P.M. each day. This way

we can share what treasures we have found or not found.

Spruce Pine is a charming mountain town that attracts dealers from all over the world. It is close enough so that you can go up and come back in the same day or find a motel and have a weekend of rocks and minerals as I am doing.

Again, I would love to sit and chat with any member at one of the picnic tables at the fire dept. They serve some good BBQ there too.

I checked out a possible field trip site to where I had been before. In Canton, NC there was a famous sapphire mine. At the top of the hill is the Old Pressley Mine and at the bottom of the hill was the Woods Creek mine which was nothing more than a cow pasture.

The Woods Creek is now mostly totally grown over. And the Pressley mine? I would not waste time there again.

We are working on something for August and will send a blast if we get a suitable location.

No cabochon classes until Sara Boyce gets back from teaching. We will send a blast when we know a class date.

Jack King
President
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

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WEB Site

www.charlottegem.com

Regular Monthly Meeting Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

*Thursday July 15th, 2010
7:00 pm*

Location:

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

Agates & Jaspers (formation & differences) by ron gibbs

Hear some of the latest theories in Agate formation with some examples of fortification agates, moss agates, plume agates, and sagenites.

So what defines Jasper, how is it formed, and how are the patterns created in the stone? What are the basic differences between Jaspers and Agates, and how easy are they to cut and polish?

Jasper also has several imposters, what are they and why are they often marketed as jaspers?

MinDat.org - rich visual content WEB site

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

Mindat.org is the largest mineral database and mineralogy reference website on the internet. This site contains worldwide data on minerals, mineral collecting, mineral localities and other mineralogical information.

This site is growing every day, with new mineral information, localities and photographs added by members. There is a rich forum with posts by members throughout the world who update the site daily. One of the best repositories for mineral photographs anywhere.

The Mindat Directory is your online source for mineral dealers, gem, lapidary, fossil products, clubs, shows and personal websites. Browse our comprehensive list of 2103 companies, dealers and websites, or add your business/website.

**An Official Field Trip of the LOW COUNTRY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
(Charleston, SC)**

An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

**Dig: 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST
Saturday – July 17, 2010
Diamond Hill Mine, Anderson County, SC**

WHERE: Diamond Hill Quartz Mine (near Antreville, SC)

WHEN: Saturday – July 17, 2010

COLLECTING: Quartz crystals in numerous forms such as amethyst, smokey quartz, clear crystals, milky quartz, skeletal quartz, and quartz coated with hematite or manganese. Also some microminerals such as cacoxenite are found there. In recent years new veins of amethyst and smokey quartz were uncovered by machines.

TIME: Dig is from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm ET. You will be required to sign a waiver of liability & you must have a ticket before you can enter the mine site.

FEE: Adult fee is \$15.00, \$6.00 for children under 16 and for non-digging spouses and elderly. A filled out release of liability form will be necessary for each person attending. Some forms will be available, but you can avoid delays by going to www.gamineral.org/commercial-diamondhill.htm and printing off the form found under permission procedure for private individuals. Bring the completed form and fee with you.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-85 to exit 21 (US 178/ Anderson, SC). Go south on 178 for one mile and bear right onto SC 28. Stay on SR 28 all the way to Antreville. It is 21 miles from Exit 21 to Antreville. Drive past Crawford's store on the left and turn right on SR 284 just before Emmanuel Baptist Church. Drive 2.3 miles and turn right on Suber road (S-01-508). Go 7/10 of a mile and turn right on Diamond Mine Road (gravel road). Go for 1/2 mile to the mine entrance on the right. The gamineral web site has a map.

WHAT TO BRING: Buckets, picks, shovels, rock hammers, sledge hammers, chisels, scratching tools, sun screen, drinks, and a picnic lunch. No power equipment is allowed.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Due to the heat and humidity, the dig will start at 7:00 AM for those who are heat sensitive.

WHERE TO STAY: Anyone is welcome to camp at Diamond Hill Site on Friday evening. There is no charge for that. However, if someone arrives on Friday, and spends any time walking the property and/or picking up specimens, then that person must pay the daily collecting fee of \$15.

It is also possible that someone will want to camp at DH on Sat evening. If someone does that, then he needs to include Sunday on his liability release form. And if such person also does any collecting on Sunday, then he must pay the daily fee. For all campers there is flat space at Diamond Hill site to park a camper or erect a tent. There is an outhouse. There is no running water or electricity. Full service camping is nearby at Lakes Hartwell and Russell.

CONTACTS:

Field Trip Chair: Lawrence Moss, (843) 819-0726 or email: jorel611@yahoo.com

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



This month we'll begin to look at jewelry photography, second in line to faceted gemstones for the toughest thing to photograph. Silver can be one of the most reflective surfaces around, it can be on par with mirrors in its ability to reflect things. Let's first look at the whole idea of reflection so let's look at a mirror, something which is actually not that hard to photograph. Mirrors come close to 100% reflection and thus will show anything in their line. The trick with photographing a mirror is to simply stay out of it's line of reflection. Mirror can be photographed by placing them at an angle to the camera.



1. Full Front Reflector 2. Partial Reflector

Notice in the first photo, three mirrors, two are angled away from the camera and photographer, while one is facing the camera. Obviously any angle that keeps the photographer (and camera) out of the line of site of the mirror can be used to successfully get an image. Some consideration should be given to what "is" in the mirrors line of reflection. I used a white card, hand held, above the left mirror and hence it reflects back only the nondescript card. The mirror on the right was positioned to reflect the smaller mirror and a white card behind it. When shooting a piece of flat polished jewelry, place it at an angle to avoid the camera reflection, but also pay attention to whatever else it is reflecting.



3. At Camera 4. White Reflector Left

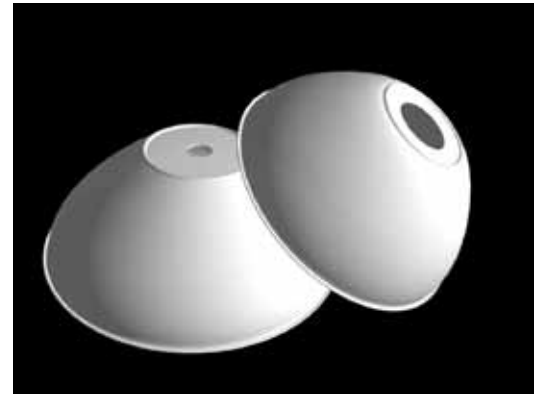
In the series of four photos to the left, the first photo had the jewelry positioned so that it totally reflected the diffuser on the right light. In the second image, the jewelry was positioned to reflect only a part of the diffuser. Notice in the first, the surface appears evenly lighted and shows almost no imperfections. When the reflector is only partially reflected (picture two), many of the scratches, polish marks, and hammer marks appear in the photo. When the image is facing square-on to the camera (3.), you can see the reflection of my hand on the camera. In this photo there are also scratches and polish marks apparent, but the uneven surface is harder to differentiate. The last photo was taken with one light on the left side, and a white card positioned near the jewelry (on the right) to get a total reflection (similar to the first) and lighting comes out even and makes the piece once again appear nearly flawless. (Same lighting set up as Article X, Fig. 9.)



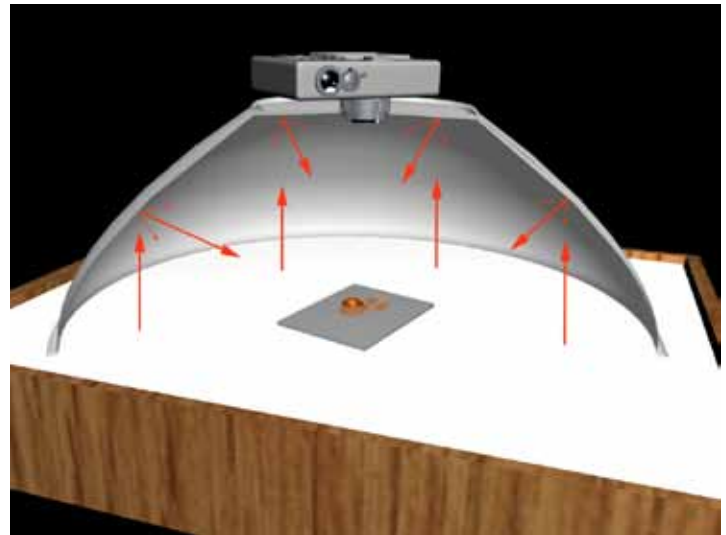
Side light Dome light

When a reflector or reflected diffuser totally fills the front surface, the light fills in all of the blemishes and the surface can be made to look nearly perfect. When light strikes the surface at an angle, it can produce small shadows and even very tiny scratches or imperfections can easily be differentiated.

Obviously it is possible to light jewelry to minimize or remove scratches or poor finish workmanship. This is not recommended if the piece is being photographed “for sale!” You will likely end up with an unhappy customer. At the same time, some imperfections that are not easily seen with the naked-eye, will show up when you do close-up photography, as the camera is enlarging the jewelry to much larger than life-size. A balance must be reached, and that point is left to the reader.



The last two photos on the previous page show the same pendant, one with even (blemish reducing) lighting, and the other with strong side-lighting, showing off every scratch. The piece is small enough that the blemishes go unnoticed when viewed at normal distance, but look pretty bad when photographed close-up. My wife wore it quite happily for many years, until I showed her a blown up version of the close-up image on the left. The photo on the right (same exact pendant) was taken using a “bowl-diffuser” which will be discussed next.



If you look at the internet and search for automated jewelry photography you can find several gadgets that are designed to make jewelry photography fast and easy. (<http://www.mkdigitaldirect.com/> , <http://www.photostudiobox.com/> , <http://www.tabletopstudio.com/> , and <http://www.cloud dome.com/>)

Functionally they all function about the same although they may have different shapes, and some have built-in lighting while others do not. Several are rectangular boxes with color corrected interior lighting and white sides. The camera is often mounted on the top or front of the box and the image is captured through a small whole in the wall. You can think of this variety as a metal light-tent with built-in lighting. Most use fluorescent (color corrected lights) and some have now added banks of LED lights (again color corrected) to provide more “sparkle” in gemstones and especially dazzle with diamonds. Another variety uses a plastic dome and the lighting is supplied by the photographer from the exterior.

My own WEB site has had a tutorial on using a salad bowl to take jewelry photos for several years. I will summarize here. There are more photos of the set up on the site (www.theimage.com) Basically you need to acquire a large white or translucent salad bowl and cut a whole in the bottom. This can be used to photograph small pieces of jewelry quickly and very consistently. The lighting can be directed from the outside, or you can use a light box and light the whole thing from the bottom. At the top of this page are two typical salad bowls, each has a hole cut in the bottom. In the first case the hole is roughly the same diameter as the camera lens, and in this case the camera is placed on top of the bowl when in use. See the second image.

Lighting can be done from a light box below the bowl or it can be done with external lights outside the bowl in the manner used for a light tent. When the lighting is done from below (light box), a small opaque card is placed under the jewelry items to provide a solid background for the image. The lights are evenly bounced all around from below and provide almost perfectly balanced illumination. (The lights in the light box should be color balanced as would be any lights used externally.)



The second bowl with the larger hole can be positioned over a slanted background which is solid and not transparent or translucent. The jewelry is affixed to the background (modeling clay, two sided tape, thin string, etc. etc.), and the bowl is place over and centered on the piece to be photographed. In the case the normal external lights are used, typically one on each side of the bowl.

The camera is placed on it's usual tripod and the image is photographed through the hole. In the diagram to the left, the background is a piece of gray acrylic plastic, the gold pendant was fixed to it using a small dab of modeling clay, the camera photo was taken with the camera on the tripod and pointed through the larger hole. This is the

same general way the following image was captured, only black acrylic was used as the backing material.



Some care needs to be taken with this method to avoid lighting the camera itself with the external light sources. If the camera is well lighted, then it will show up in reflective backgrounds or as a parts of the jewelry itself. Look closely at the left image and you can see the reflection of the cut-out in two spots on the gold. (outlined with a red circle.) Care in placement and positioning the camera slightly off axis can be used to eliminate some of this.

Three more examples below with different backgrounds. All using the bowl and two external lights. The first one once again shows the hole reflected near the top.

White Styrene Plastic



White Acrylic



Black Acrylic



I tend to reserve this method for use when I have to shot a large number of similar items for placement on a WEB page. The method is fast, the images require minimal post processing, and it produces an acceptable image without much work.

As with any close-up photography this set up aids in placing the items almost perpendicular to the camera lens to get maximum depth of field. It does not provide for much “art-sy” work or fancy compositions. It may not provide the best lighting for faceted gems, but it is adequate for most commercial products.

Next month we’ll continue with jewelry and begin to cover a more challenging topic. Think about it ... how would you photograph a mirrored sphere? How do you position a mirrored sphere to place yourself out of the reflection?

By the way if anyone comes up with a sure fire way to do it, let me know and I’ll include it in next months write-up!

Charlotte Jr. Rockounds

*Still enjoying summer
vacation until September.*

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

An Official Field Trip of the Carroll County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (Carrollton, GA)

An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

**Patty Construction Quarry
Summerville Lace Agate
Chattooga County, GA
August 15, 2010**

8:30 AM EST

MEET: At the site, on US 27 in Chattooga Co. Ga.

This is in the NW corner of the state of Georgia.

WHEN: August 15, 2010

TIME: : 8:30 AM EST

Directions: From Summerville, Ga. follow US 27 South for 2.20 miles. The site will be on the right between the county owned waste dumpsters and the US Forestry office. Coming north from the Rome area, the site will be on the left side of US 27, and approximately 3.0 miles beyond the intersection of Gore Subligna Rd.

Tools: Eye protection is a must for anyone wishing to break apart material with a rock hammer, or sledge. Chisels would be valuable, as would small ground shovels and rakes. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pale of water is sometimes handy for dipping and identifying the better material.

Other: Bring plenty of fluids. This is a good site for children. Any pets **MUST** be on a leash at all times.

Facilities: In town about 2 miles away.

Special: THIS IS AN ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR ANY OF THE MACHINERY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY JEOPARDIZES FUTURE FIELD TRIPS TO THIS SITE.

DMC CONTACT: Lori Griggs, Carroll County GMS President
Home: (404) 538-7442
E mail: serenitygirl37@yahoo.com

SFMS - 2010 workshops

This year we are offering classes in the following topics: *Addictive Seed Beading, Bronze Clay, Cabochon Making, Chain-Maille' Jewelry (Beg./Adv.), Cold Connections, Designers' Rehab (Polymer Clay), Faceting (Beg./AD.), Fused Glass (Beg./Adv.), Jewelry Bench & Tool Making, Metal Connections & Finishing, Metalwork Help & Special Projects, Opal Cutting, Precious Metal Clay (Level 1 Certification/Advanced Techniques), Scrimshaw, Silversmithing (Beg./Adv.), Southwest Silver, and Wire Wrapping (Beg./Adv.)*

Our classes are taught at the Wildacres Retreat in Little Switzerland, NC and the William Holland School of Lapidary Sciences at Young Harris, GA. Each of these settings offer beautiful views of the mountains, double rooms with bath, great food, and an enjoyable week. Each session lasts 7 days commencing with afternoon check in on the first day, 5 days of instruction, and morning departure after breakfast on the final day.

The most exciting part of the workshops is the low cost. Each session includes instruction, double occupancy lodging and 3 meals per day. The only additional cost is any materials that the student may buy from the instructor. Where else can you take a weeklong vacation in the mountains, learn new jewelry making skills, eat great food, make new friends, and bring home new jewelry for less than the cost of a few days in a hotel?

We are currently accepting registrations for each of the remaining 3 one week sessions. More information and registration:

<http://www.sfmsworkshops.com/>

Local Shows in 2010

club and non-club sponsored shows

July 16-18--BOONE, NC: 16th annual show, "High Country Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show"; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, National Guard Family Support Group; Boone National Guard Armory, 274 Hunting Hills Ln.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$2 (3 days), children free; jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths from all over the US, gem trees, wire wrap, wire sculpture, pearls, stone beads, stone setting, dealers, amber, opal, minerals, fossils, hourly door prizes, grand prize; contact Van Wimmer Sr., 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com

July 24--FRANKLIN, NC: 3rd annual show, "Franklin Faceter's Frolic"; U.S. Faceters Guild; The Fun Factory, 1024 Georgia Rd.; Sat. 9-5; admission \$5; dealers, rough, equipment, equipment demonstrations, faceting programs, faceting instruction, door prizes; contact Roy Kersey, 637 Mize Circle, Seymour, TN 37865, (865) 368-6081; e-mail: rkersey@tds.net

July 29-1--SPRUCE PINE, NC: Show, "North Carolina Mineral and Gem Festival"; Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce; Spruce Pine Commons, Hwy. 226; Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12:30-5; adults \$3, seniors \$1 Thu., children under 12 free; special exhibits, demonstrations, kids' events and activities; contact Patti Jensen, P.O. Box 858, Spruce Pine, NC 28777, (828) 765-9033; e-mail: pjensen@mitchell-county.com; Web site: www.ncgemfest.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@cableone.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. Biggest 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, Kerbel Temple, Mimosa Ave. Show is \$4/per day per adult.

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

Nov 20-21, 2010: West Palm Beach, FL. 44th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead, and Fossil Show, Americraft Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Over 60 dealers, door prizes, fossil dig. Free parking. Adults \$7, children under 12 free. Contact Barbara Ringhiser at bar5678@aol.com.