

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB
MARCH 2010

Prez Sez ...

I was in the Blowing Rock area recently and saw a sign on a church bulletin board: "Whoever is praying for snow, PLEASE STOP." I am one who is ready for some local warming for sure. Spring time is around the corner and soon our club hopes to crank up some local field trips again.

Our member, Donna Forstner has agreed to take on the duties of field trip chairman and with the help of some of our older members familiar with nearby digging sites, Donna should have some opportunities for hunting posted soon.

Our most capable newsletter editor, Ron Gibbs has returned from his annual SIX THOUSAND mile road trip to Quartzite and Tucson and I am sure that he will be sharing some pictures of this journey into rock, mineral and gem paradise.

Our clubhouse has been moved and set up in the basement of Sara Lee Boyce from its old location at Camera World. Many thanks to Scott Stewart who packed up the machines and tables and all the supplies for our gem cutting facility and moved it to Sara's home. Sara worked very hard covering her basement walls with plastic

and getting buckets and towels and everything needed in place to make the workplace enjoyable and fully functional.

We held our first cabochon class there on Saturday, March 6th and will hold another on Saturday, March 27th. April classes will be announced by e-mail blast soon. We had all four machine seats filled with eager students, one being eleven year old junior rockhound member, Nathan. All students produced a beautiful cabochon by the end of the class. Sara surprised Nathan by pulling out a silver bolo mount for his stone and Nathan proudly wore his prized creation home!

Mary Fisher's junior program continues to grow and she is currently looking for a new centrally located meeting place. Many times local churches will offer free meeting rooms for members and if your church has such an opportunity, we really need to find a suitable and hopefully free space for this valuable program.

Our junior rockhound program is the catalyst and seed for our future members and leaders and it is such a viable program to offer our youth

positive influences in our community. Mary always needs rocks and minerals which she uses to teach with and give specimens to the kids. If you have extras, please bring them to a meeting for Mary's programs.

Linda Simon's wire jewelry classes, which are held in her home continue to be in high demand. If you are interested in this beautiful art and craft, please see Linda so that you can get signed up for a

Table of Contents

- 1-3 Prez Sez
- 3 SFMS Workshops
- 4-6 Photography part IX
- 7 Wire Wrapping
- 7 Upcoming Shows
- 7 Field Trip
- 8 Meeting Topics



2009 CGMC Officers & Board

President

Jack King
tackyjackie@bellsouth.net

Vice President

Murray Simon
drsimon@mindspring.com

Secretary

Pat Walker
704/523-5261

Treasurer

Gale Blevins
Blevins.family@mindspring.com

Directors at Large

Scott Stewart
sstewart5@bellsouth.net
Ken Anderson
kanderson@comporium.net

Bulletin Editor

Ron Gibbs
theimage1@aol.com

Past President

Jimmy Strickland
704/537-6010

CLUB CHAIRPERSONS

SFMS Contact & Stamp Chair

Pat Walker

Points Scholarship Chair

open

Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

Hospitality Chair

open

Refreshments Chair

open

Workshop Chair

open

WebMaster

Ron Gibbs

Librarian

Pat Walker

Picnic Chair

open

Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

WEB Site

www.charlottegem.com

session. Linda charges a nominal fee to cover her supply cost and it is most reasonable for the quality of work produced by her students.

Several of our members went to Tucson and I am sure that you can hear some great stories during our social time at our meetings. Our club continues to have a need for folks to step up and volunteer to do the refreshments for club meetings. Expenses for the food provided is paid for by our club and if you have not offered your stewardship in this area in a while, PLEASE STEP UP AND SIGN UP FOR A MONTH.

Just see any officer or director at a meeting or e-mail us and tell us when you will host our refreshments. It is a small thing that you can do for our club members and VERY needed so that the same core group does not have to do this over and over.

Hopefully, in this newsletter our editor will post the upcoming schedule for workshops at two schools, William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Ga and Wildacres in Little Switzerland, NC.

I have been to both locations and teach at William Holland as do several of our members. I can tell you from personal experience that there is no better value for a week in America that I know of. Where else can you have good food, a comfortable place to lay your head at night and wonderful bonding with like folks with wide choices of classes for about three hundred bucks a week? The schedules for

both schools can be seen on-line showing the classes available and the names of the teachers.

Many of these classes fill up as soon as they are announced so, if you are interested, NOW is the time to start planning and choosing a class. There are classes in all levels of wire work, silver classes, gem I.D., gem cutting and even a junior rockhound program. I will be teaching cabochon classes again the last week in October and the first week in November. Sara Lee Boyce is there just about the entire season teaching opal cutting.

I have not read which members will be teaching, but long time member Dan Haga is a great learning resource in silver as are Jerry and Diane Mason with their classes. As I said before, many of our members have been loyal teachers there in all sorts of courses for years, so just look at the schedule and find a class that you think that you would like and sign up early.

Ron Gibbs digital photography class sold out quickly last year and if you see it available and want to learn from one of the top experts in the world, do not miss that opportunity. If you have questions about the schools please e-mail me. I always hear feedback from folks who went and had most rewarding weeks and many made life long friends in our rock, mineral, gem and jewelry world.

Our club has signed up again for a booth at The Art of Craft at Historic Rosedale on Saturday, May 8th. If you would like to come and help support our club, we welcome

participants. We set up a gem cutting demonstration, and our members sell their crafts with a small percentage of sales going back to our club. This type event gives our community more awareness of the things that The Charlotte Gem and Mineral club and its members do.

Murray Simon is working on a big event hopefully to be held at The Nature Museum in June. We invite all members to bring a friend to our next meetings. This helps our club grow, so if you have folks in your circle who may be interested, please invite them.

Be sure to buy plenty of raffle tickets for the beautiful and unique diamond pendant donated to our club by Diamonds Direct. Tickets are \$5.00 each or six for \$25.00. This item had a \$1500.00 price tag on it in their store and your purchase of tickets not only gives you an opportunity to hopefully be the lucky winner but will help our club too.

This raffle ticket purchase is for PAID MEMBERS ONLY. As always, our officers and directors value your input on how to make our club more viable and fun. If you have ideas and suggestions or needs, please let us know.

I look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon!

Jack King, President, Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

2010 SFMS Workshops at William Holland & Wild Acres

Rather than talk about an individual class in this issue I would like to discuss a group of classes offered at William Holland this year. Those are the Silver group of classes (Silver 1, 2 & 3).

This is the first time, in quite a while, that a bank of silver classes has been offered at the same location. The silversmithing classes were popular last year and have always been part of our core classes. If you have taken a silver class before I encourage you to try it again. Taking a "same level" class from a different instructor will give you a whole new perspective on a lot of techniques.

I took silver 1 several times and picked up a huge amount of new information from each instructor. I now use a combination of techniques that works best for me. If you feel comfortable enough to move up to another level, have a look at the schedule.

There are two highly qualified instructor choices for Silver 2. As far as the Silver 3 class goes, I know for a fact that you will be pleased with what you learn in her class.

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. Please do not exclude yourself, if you're interested in one of these classes, without contacting the instructor first.

William Holland - June 13-19, 2010	
Silver 1	Allen Jewell
Silver 1	Barbara Fields
*Silver 2	Nancy English
Cabochons	Gene Tipton
Chain Making	Case Leaser
Wire Wrap & Weaving	TBD
Opal Cutting	Joe DiPietro
Fused Glass	Addy DiPietro
Faceting	TBD
Lampworking	TBD
Polymer Clay	TBD

William Holland - October 10-16, 2010	
*Silver 2	Allen Jewell
*Silver 3	Nancy English
Cabochons	Betty James
Chain Making	Roy Deere
Wire Wrap / Weaving	TBD
Opal Cutting	Sara Lee Boyce
Faceting	TBD
Polymer Clay	Barbara McGuire
Cold Connections	Kim St Jean
Soapstone Carving	TBD

Wild Acres - August 23-29, 2010	
Prec Metal Clay Level 1	Mary Ann Devos
Pop Polymer Clay Projs	Barbara McGuire
Beginning Fused Glass	Barb & Herrick
Jeffers	
Beginning Silversmithing	Nancy English
Scrimshaw	Bill Wetzel
Cabochon Making	Pat Davis
Intro to Wire Wrapping	Rowan Rose
Bead Stringing	Vivian Heath
*Metal Help & Spec Projs	Jeff Shears
Jewel Bench & Tool Making	Danny Griffin

Wild Acres - September 13-19, 2010	
*PMC Adv. Tech	Mary Ann & Ken Devos
Bronze Clay	Gail DeLuca
Chain Maille Jewelry	Warren Collins
Beginning Silversmithing	Jim Richardson
Wire Wrapping	Rowan Rose
Opal Cutting	TBD
*Advanced Fused Glass	Rich Dillon
Bead Stringing	Vivian Heath
Southwest Silver	Dan Haga

Look at the following WEB sites for more informaton and other classes:

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

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

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>

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



Figure 1.

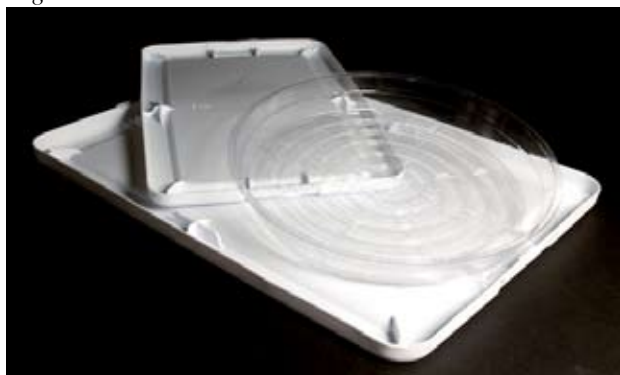
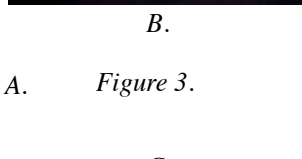
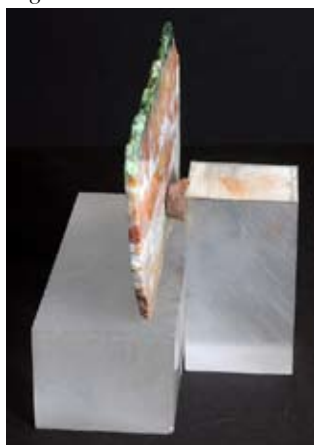


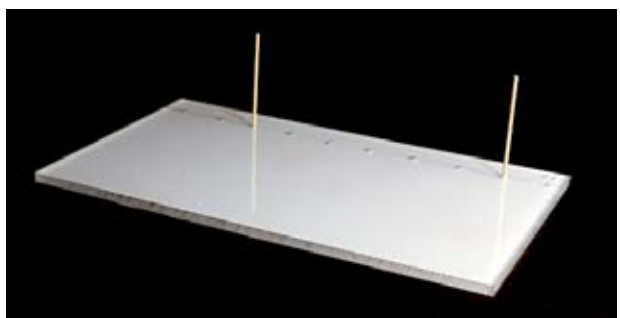
Figure 2.



A. Figure 3.

B.

C.

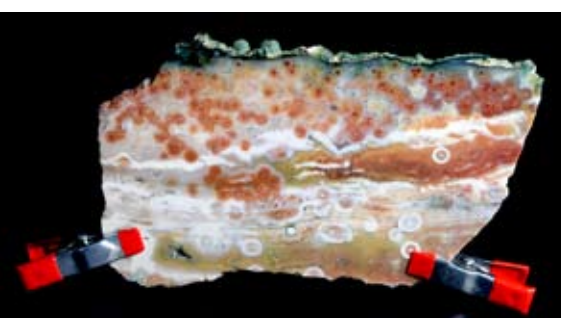


The camera should be set up on a solid tripod, the ASA needs to set to the lowest value possible, aperture priority mode is selected, and the f-stop is set to between 8 and 11. The camera self-timer or a remote shutter release will be used to take the image. The focus should be set to macro and manual mode if available, and the object (slab or flat object) needs to fill as much of the frame as is feasible for good composition. This is the typical camera set up for virtually all of the future set-ups. The tripod is not shown in the following diagrams.

Slabs are not always polished, so it is necessary to prepare a photographic area where the slab can be wetted and maintained wet throughout the photo taking process. I like to use a “catch basin” under the slide to keep the photo surface dry. Use any relatively flat container with a small lip to contain the water. In art stores I have found the paint boxes used to keep paint moist work great. (See Fig 1.) I have also used the tops from a variety of plastic containers or plant saucers. (Fig 2.)

I keep two spray bottles ready for use. One bottle contains Windex (or equivalent) and the other has distilled water. Many purchased slides (or self cut slabs) still have oil on their surface and this prevents water from coating it completely. I use the Windex to remove the oil (if needed) and then use the distilled water to wet the surface. (Fig 1.)

I like to support a slab (Figure 3.) using a rigid back or two or more small pegs in a piece of Plexiglas. I often use modeling clay (normally oil based so it does not dry out) for additional support and to keep the slab from tipping. For opaque slabs I use a couple of pieces of thick plastic with a small dab of clay (A). For transparent slabs I tent to use the small dowels as far apart as I can get them (B or C). Remember translucent to transparent slabs will show any backing material, the dowels can be removed by cropping the image later.. If I am using only a portion of the slab, then anything can be used to sup-



port it. (Figure 4.)

Figure 4.

Because the slabs are either wet or polished when photographed (this produces much better color saturation), they are highly reflective. The good news is that flat objects can easily be lit by angle light from the side, and they will not produce specular (blown-out) highlights. I tend to use two 5000K fluorescent lamps to get proper focus, and often employ a flash unit away from the camera. The angled flash produces no specular highlights on the flat surface, and it's high speed provides additional stability for the shot, and the color balance is right on target. (Figure 5.)

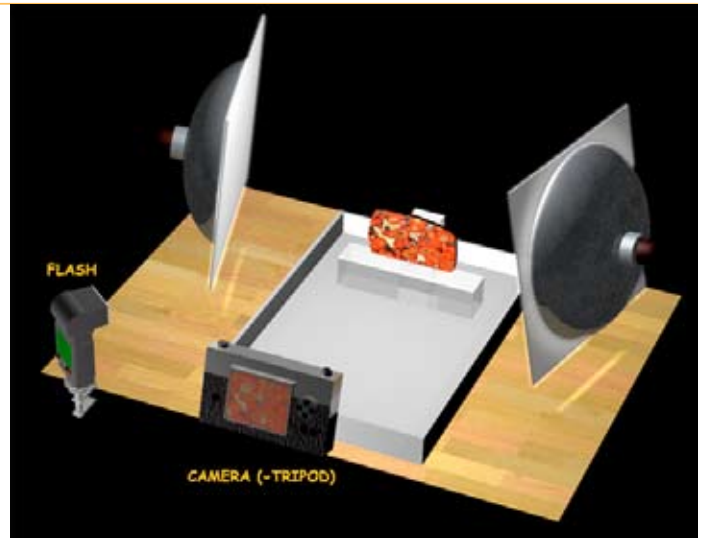


Figure 5.

Figure 6 shows the entire slab shot with a zoom lens set to 75mm, and the second image (Figure 7) shows a portion of the slab shot with a 135mm macro lens (after recalculating the 35mm equivalent it is roughly a 200mm equivalent.) The camera exposure was set to auto TTL letting the camera decide the final flash duration and intensity. Both images were shot at f/11. In the first image (Figure 6.) a piece of black cloth was hanging about 18 inches behind the slab.

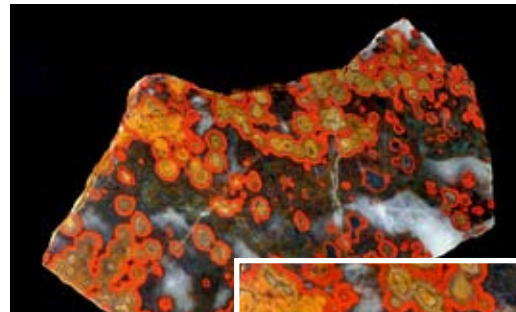
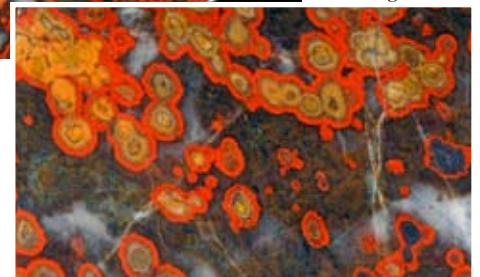


Figure 6.

Figure 7.



When shooting translucent slabs it is sometimes useful to light them from behind instead of from the front, or a combination of both front and back lighting. If the shooting surface is opaque then the rear light can be placed above and behind the slab. (Figure 8.) My own table is made of glass so one light can be placed below and behind the slab. In this case the slab holder should be transparent too. (Figure 9.)

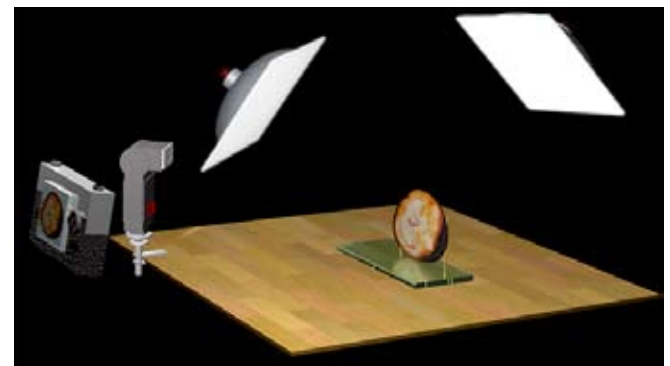


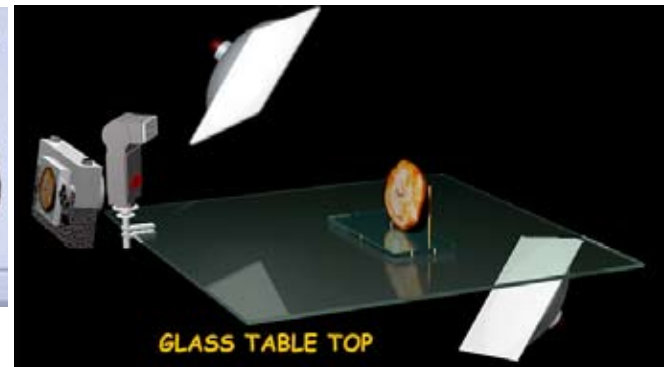
Figure 8.

Figure 9.

In the first pair of examples the lighting from the front compared with that from the back shows only a marginal difference on the resultant photos. (Figure 10.) In other cases the difference is often very strong. Many agates tend to shift toward warm yellow-orange colors when lighted from the rear, but may show a broader variety of color with reflected light from the front. (Figure 11.)



Figure 10.



The same general set up can be used to photograph flat Intarsia too. Unlike domed stones, side lighting of the flats will not force a specular highlight on the surface. (Figure 12.) The general method of holding up the stones is the same as any of the domed cabochons covered in an earlier article. The lighting can be done using a single flash from an angle.



Figure 11.

Below are a few of the resultant images exposed using this combination of lighting and camera settings.

Next month we will explore the photography of mineral specimens.



Figure 12.

Ocean Jasper

Teeter Ranch Plume Agate



Prudentman Plume Agate



Hog Crk Jasper/Agate



Bone Jasper

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club Wire Wrapping - Linda Simon

Our club wire wrappers met at Linda Simon's home and we made copper wire with bead snowflakes. They double as Christmas ornaments during the holiday season. Members who are interested in attending classes should contact Linda by e-mail. LSimon1@carolina.rr.com . Our next class will be on Saturday, March 20th at Linda's home beginning at 10:00 a.m. We provide copper practice wire and tools during the class but you are welcome to bring your own silver wire and tools. Students usually bring a sandwich so that we can work until about 1:30. Cost per class is \$15.00. Linda can seat seven around the dining room table and a few more in the next room. Beginners and advanced wire wrappers help each other during the projects.



Upcoming Shows - SEFED

March 12-14, 2010: Augusta, GA - Aiken Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Society and Augusta Gem & Mineral Society. 22nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-7, Sun 10-4. Admission \$3 for adults; children under 16 free with an adult. For info see www.aikengmfs.org or www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org

March 19-21, 2010: Rome, Georgia—Rome Georgia Mineral Society. 32nd. Annual Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show, The Forum, 2 Government Plaza (one block from Broad St at the end of 3rd Ave in downtown Rome). Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6 and Sun 11-5). Fee parking & admission. Contact Tim Biggart at (706) 232-7143 or tbiggart@berry.edu

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: North Charleston, SC—The Lowcountry Gem and Mineral Society. The Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Annual Gemshow, North Charleston Convention Center Complex, Exhibit Hall A. Free parking & admission. Hours: Sat & Sun 10 - 5.

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@gaminal.org

Field Trip - SEFED

March 13, 2010: Diamond Hill Mine, Anderson County, South Carolina hosted by the Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society and the Aiken Gem Mineral, and Fossil Society. Collecting quartz crystals including amethyst, smokey quartz, milky quartz, and skeletal quartz. Also some micro-minerals (e.g. cacozenite) are found there. Fees are \$15.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under 16 and non-digging spouses and elderly. No power equipment will be allowed. Contact Bill Wetzel (864) 306-6749, williampkerri@bellsouth.net, or on the day of the dig by cell phone (864) 569-5404.

SPRING SFMS BOARD MEETING

Hosted By The Lowcountry Gem and Mineral Society
Charleston, South Carolina
Friday, April 30, 2010 – Roundtable Discussion
Saturday, May 1, 2010 – General Meeting

***Regular Monthly Meeting
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club***

Thursday March 18th, 2010

7:00 pm

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

***HOW I SPENT MY WINTER VACATION (in Quartzite and Tucson)
by Ron Gibbs (with minor input from a couple of trolls named Simon)***

This program is becoming an annual event. Attendees will derive the following exciting benefits:

- Learn the best route for driving from Charlotte to Quartzite and Quartzite to Tucson (should you ever feel the strange urge to do that sort of thing)
- Learn how to take professional photographs while driving a car at 75+mph.
- Access a list of “hidden gem” motels with low prices, designer (???) bedspreads and free Wi-Fi (sometimes only available in the bathroom)
- Access a list of “hidden gem” dining establishments such as Burger King, Taco Bell and the hot dog stand that serves Hebrew “International” hotdogs
- Hear exciting folktales about dealers named “Zippy”, J2B and “the guy with the blue plume agate”.
- Learn how to spend money you didn’t even know you had at every gem and mineral booth you stop at (and learn why “too vast to see everything” is actually a good thing)
- See photos of gorgeous and unusual rocks, slabs, minerals and huge specimens - including the geodes the Simons purchased as chairs for their dining room (or pendants for very large women)
- Get your FREE Tucson Gem and Mineral Show souvenir
- IF YOU’RE INTERESTED IN THE LATEST AND GREATEST IN THE LAPIDARY ARTS (or other obliquely related subjects), THIS IS THE CG&MC PROGRAM FOR YOU.
DON’T MISS IT!!!

***Charlotte Gem & Mineral
Jr. Rockhond Group***

This months meeting topic and information is not yet available at the time of the newsletter publishing so please check the WEB site next week for the updated information.

[http:// www.charlottegem.com](http://www.charlottegem.com)