

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MAY 2012

## the Prez Sez ...

Linda and I got back from Hawaii (Maui) a couple of weeks ago. A beautiful place, nice people, fascinating whales, great Mai Tais. One day while walking the grounds of our hotel and admiring the exotic flowers, we took a closer look at the flowerbeds – particularly the white “stones” in among the lava rock. Turns out they weren’t stones at all, they were brain coral. This led to an investigation of where to find local brain coral sources with recommendations that we stop at some of the roadside parks and look among the shoreline rocks. Within an hour of doing so we had a nice collection of coral specimens (you can take up to a gallon bucket-full per person per day as long as it’s not in the water).

A few days later we were at a local craft fair and came upon a vendor who was using very nice feather coral specimens as a backdrop for his jewelry. I think he

was a bit disappointed that we were not interested in the jewelry but he had enough coral to be convinced to part with some at a reasonable price.

One of the best tools for rock/specimen collecting when you’re on vacation and have no room in the suitcase for your newly acquired lapidary treasures is the United States Postal Service Flat Rate Box. There are 3 sizes – small, medium and large and the cost is \$5.15, \$10.85 and \$14.65. The Post Office flat rate slogan is “If it fits, it ships”.

What they don’t mention is the 70 pound limit on any individual box but that shouldn’t be a problem - we’ve been using this means of shipping for several years and the heaviest we’ve ever gotten to was 48 pounds. The boxes are free and available at all post offices and if you haven’t brought tape with you, buy a role at the post office.

Make sure you use plenty of tape and if there’s space in the box fill the gaps with newspaper. We’ve sent well over a dozen boxes and all have arrived safe and sound.

A great thing about buying or collecting specimens on a vacation is the pleasure it brings in having them around to serve as a continuous reminder of a

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

great trip. We have a specimen cabinet in our dining room that prompts a lot of conversations when we have company over for a meal. Regardless of where you sit in our patio you will see mementos of interesting places and fun times (just ask and I'll bore you for hours with the details). We are personally into this process of living with past travel experiences to the extent that when we recently had our bathrooms renovated, we added recesses in the walls to hold specimens that have special meaning for us.

### **Linda Simon-March Jewelry Class Meeting**

*by ron gibbs*

Ran out of room in the last newsletter so had to hold these images over to this one. These are from Linda Simon's home based club jewelry classes, the one carried out in March.

A necklace made from polymer clay canes, the group at work, and someone sent to the "closet" for bad behavior. Well maybe the closet is where the shoe polisher resides and it's

used to bring up the shine on finished polymer clay.

Classes have temporarily been suspended as Linda is about to have her foot, knee, hip, elbow, wrist, hand, or head replaced. I forget which, but we wish her a speedy recover!



**Yulia with polymer clay produced cane necklace.**

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

**May 17, 2011 Thursday -- 7:00 pm --**

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

Club member **Brad Glover** and his son will talk about their adventure to Brazil and their gem buying experiences. They visited gem markets and even a mine or two to get the full experience. Can you really get a good deal "direct from the mine"?



***Yulia, Pat and Linda around work table ...  
photograph(s) by Murray Simon***



***Nathan in the closet with the "polishing" (shoe-shinner) machine. - rumor has it that when the flash went off, Nathan actually jumped up and touched the ceiling with both hands, and even more impressively with both feet at the same time.***

# THE KALEIDOSCOPE JASPER MINE IN OREGON

Carl Talbott, SFMS Lodestar Editor (From the March 2012 edition)



Photo # 1  
'Common' Tapestry Kaleidoscope



Photo # 2  
"Owl Eye" Tapestry  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 3  
Candy Stripe  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 4  
Gold Stripe Kaleidoscope Jasper

For the past three years, a new multi-patterned, multi-colored jasper stone has been available via e-bay from the privately owned Kaleidoscope Jasper Mine located in central Oregon in an area not noted for jaspers, agates, opal, or any other lapidary rock.

The mine site was discovered during the winter of 2008/2009 by Dale Rhode and his sons Brian and Derek. Dale is a 4th generation Oregon rockhound, and, before his Kaleidoscope discovery, he prospected locally for plume agates, petrified wood, feldspar, and picture jaspers that he would sell on the internet's e-bay site and out of his rock shop.

When the national (and local) economy took a turn for the worse (along with his health) during the winter of 2008, Dale had to sell most of his lapidary machinery to make ends meet. He believes that divine providence had a hand in leading him and his sons to this jasper deposit just as they were hitting rock bottom. After establishing an exclusive mining claim, he began listing Kaleidoscope Jasper on e-bay in mid-February 2009.

Within four months, Dale was receiving 250 to 300 e-bay visits during a seven-day auction period with Kaleidoscope rocks selling for an average of \$50 to \$75 per pound depending on pattern and color variety. One month, his on-line Kaleidoscope Jasper store had more than 5,000 views. That first year, he gave away at least 500 pounds of Kaleidoscope Jasper rock as gifts to his rock shop customers. Since then, Dale has slowed down in order to manage his health and balance his family's mining versus selling activity and now moves an average of 50 pounds per week on e-bay in a small number of auction listings.

It's the pattern and color variations that make Kaleidoscope Jasper so interesting. So far, the Rhode family has identified and named over 15 such varieties. The rarest of these is Tapestry Kaleidoscope Jasper of the "common" sub-type shown in Photo #1.

These varieties (which Dale calls "types") sometimes have variations or "sub-types", and for Tapestry Kaleidoscope, Dale has named four sub-types so far: (a) common, (b) green, (c) owl eye, shown in Photo #2, and (d) endeavor.

Occasionally, Kaleidoscope Jasper rocks, much like other Oregon Jasper/Agates, will have multiple internal fractures that cause slab break-up and loss of usable material. Dale often opens his more valuable Kaleidoscope rough with a saw cut to confirm rock color and pattern as well as internal surface integrity. He calls this a "cut-n-proven" stone. Dale guarantees his e-bay sales such that "if you cut it and it's junk, send it back right away" along with some e-mail feedback, and he'll do right by you.

Dale's other named Kaleidoscope Jaspers types are: Candy Stripe Kaleidoscope Jasper [see Photo # 3], one of the rarest of Kaleidoscope with a Schiller effect if cut at the proper angle which requires you to experiment with the rock. Candy Stripe has multiple colors often in parallel but not linear layers.

Gold Stripe Kaleidoscope Jasper is similar to Candy Stripe except for its single-color or double-color (gold & burgundy) stripes. Gold Stripe Kaleidoscope, like Candy Stripe Kaleidoscope, can have a Schiller effect similar to Schiller aspects of sunstone & moon-stone. Photo #4 depicts the double-color (gold & burgundy) Gold Stripe

### ***Kaleidoscope.***

**Picture Kaleidoscope Jasper** has four named sub-types so far: (a) Purple, (b) Agate Vein, (c) Red Cherry, and (d) Mexican Cherry. Purple Picture Kaleidoscope will have some distinctively purple coloration be it slight or large as shown in Photo #5 and Photo #6. **Picture Agate Vein Kaleidoscope**, shown in Photo #7, comes from veins where patterns often appear to represent colors of a leopard's coat. **Red Cherry Picture Kaleidoscope**, in Photo #8, has distinctive red cherry coloration. **Mexican Cherry Kaleidoscope**, on the other hand, is usually found attached to **Picture Agate Vein** material and presents spots of unique red-jelly, opal-like translucence as depicted in Photo #9.

**Endeavor Kaleidoscope Jasper**, shown in Photo #10, was so named by Dale as a reminder to never ever give up his pursuit of beauty in rocks.

**Blazing Flame Kaleidoscope Jasper** comes in two sub-types: (a) Red and (b) Purple. **Red Blazing Flame Kaleidoscope** (see Photo #11) will sometimes have a green base-color perhaps because the deposit is about 50 yards from the **Coat-Of- Many-Colors** deposit which typically has a green base-color. This name comes from the intensi-



Photo # 5  
Purple Picture  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 6  
Purple Picture  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 7  
Picture Agate Vein  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 8  
Red Cherry Picture  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 9  
Mexican Cherry Picture  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 10  
Endeavor Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 11  
Red Blazing Flame  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 12  
Purple Blazing Flame  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 13  
Christmas Tree  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 14  
Coat-of-Many-Colors  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 15  
Dragon Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 16  
Gem Blue Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 17  
Kaleido-Blue Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 18  
As-Yat Un-named  
Kaleidoscope Jasper



Photo # 19  
As-Yat Un-named  
Kaleidoscope Jasper

ty of the red and orange color rather than the pattern. On the other hand, **Purple Blazing Flame** (Photo #12) has a purplish hue base-color, and in the wild mix of colors, there are fiery gold colored specks and lines that give it a neon- like, fiery effect.

**Christmas Tree Kaleidoscope Jasper** (Photo # 13) is a rich green-base color with spots of bright red like a Christmas Tree with red lights. The patterns of reds and yellows on green are much more random in direction/orientation than the Blazing Flame types of Kaleidoscope.

**Gypsy Kaleidoscope Jasper** (no photos available due to a prior-year computer crash) is named after Dale's faithful companion dog that died of cancer. At the mine site, Gypsy had her favorite resting spot where Dale dug her grave and subsequently found this type of Kaleidoscope Jasper in close proximity to Gypsy's final resting place.

**Coat-of-Many-Colors Kaleidoscope Jasper**, shown in Photo #14, with all the areas of various colors reminded Dale of a quilt coat of many colors and so he named it in honor of his mother who proudly wore one as a child growing up.

**Dragon Kaleidoscope Jasper** is named for the small splotches of color that, according to Dale, look like ink blots closely resembling Japanese dragons (see the upper right side of Photo #15).

**Gem Blue Kaleidoscope Jasper** is very different from other Kaleidoscope types as it has a gemmy appearance and yields a porcelain-like finish. Any window in rock rough will clearly show a very high-grade jasper with beautiful blues as a base color shown in Photo #16.

**Kaleido-Blue Kaleidoscope Jasper** is blue-base Kaleidoscope (see example in Photo #17) with many possible hues of blue but without the gemmy appearance or porcelain-like finish.

A New, As-yet, Un-named Kaleidoscope type, just discovered during Dale's winter 2012 mining activity, is shown in Photos #18 and #19. Some of this material, when slabbed, resembles "cave drawings" while others have a sunset appearance. Dale expects to continue to find more color & pattern variations as they excavate to depth the various proven veins with heavier equipment.

# **William Holland School of Lapidary Arts - Summer Camp for Grown Ups**

*-by ron gibbs*

So where can you go for a week, practice a new skill or polish up an old one, have the opportunity to bid on a working crossbow or a 2 lb chunk of Belgian Chocolate, be able to negotiate for baskets, slabs, beads, or a variety of jewelry, get fed 3 times a day, have a roof over your head, and be out only a little over \$300?

You might think you've fallen down a rabbit hole, and be in Wonderland. William Holland is a school dedicated to the lapidary and jewelry arts with classes offered from April to early November. The school is located in Northern most Georgia, right on the North Carolina border.

It is made of a group of buildings that both house and feed the student population, and provide a variety of classroom spaces for most aspects of the lapidary and jewelry craft.

You newsletter author has been there for 3 out of the last four weeks either teaching jewelry, gemstone and mineral photography or taking a class in copper enameling.

While there I overlapped with other famous club

members who were either teaching or taking classes. The both renowned and infamous Sarah Lee Boyce was teaching a class in opal cutting, past president Jack King taught a class in cabochon creation, sometime member Dan Haga taught silversmithing classes, and ex-member (she moved out of town) Kim St. James taught her Cold Connections Class.

Linda Simon (club board member at large) was present (having escaped from her current husband -Murray) who was at home shackled down being our ever diligent Club President.

So what happens at the school? You arrive Sunday afternoon, and get your room assignment, then attend dinner at 6 pm. After

dinner the teachers introduce their classes, and there is an orientation session in the classroom Sunday night.

Monday through Friday of the next week, it's breakfast at 8am, classes are in session from 9 till about 12:30 when there is a break for lunch. Everyday (except Wednesday and Friday) classes resume at about 1:30 and run until 5:30 or 6. Then it's time for dinner. On Wednesday afternoon classes **may** have the opportunity to take the afternoon off and visit local places. **Most** classes go back and meet on Wednes-

**Main building - Sparks Lodge at William Holland.**



day afternoon but it's not required.

Tuesday night is auction night (remember that cross-bow and Belgian chocolate) and there is a fun session that runs from after dinner (7pm till about 9pm) with donated items being sold at auction. The items are donated by the instructors and students, and many view this as an opportunity to buy some early Christmas presents. (No classes on Tuesday night.)

Thursday night is "Tail-gate" night and both students and instructors may set up a table and sale their wares. cabochons, gemstones, tools, slabs, carvings, books and videos, chains, finished jewelry and other things are normally there. Some classes meet after tail-gating.

Many classes meet on Monday and Wednesday night. (This is normally optional and left up to the instructor and students.

At 11:30 am on Friday is the "Show and Tell" where everyone displays their accomplishments for the week. After lunch, students return to the classrooms to help in cleaning them up, and some depart of home. Other stay over till Saturday morning and leave on that day.

Many, you might be surprised how many, simply talk the weekend to visit

the area and sight see, and begin a second (or even third) class on the following Sunday.

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



**Fused Class instructor Rich Dillon acting as co-auctioneer**



**Audience waits for the next item to go up for bid.**



**Chain Making instructor Case Leiser acting as co-auctioneer**



**Intarsia instructor Bill Boggs cornered the market on snack-foods in this particular auction!**



**At the auction, Silver instructor Nancy English and our own Sarah Lee Boyce (Opals) preparing to fight over the dark chocolate snacks!**