

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MAY 2013

## Prez Sez ...

Spring has sprung and summer is not too far away. If you haven't yet made plans for that summer vacation or trip, here's a "hot tip" suggestion – the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris Georgia. William Holland was founded in 1983 by Harold And Mary Lou Sparks as a non-profit organization committed to providing quality lapidary, earth science and jewelry making classes to the widest range of students possible.

At that time Harold was president of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) and was concerned that there was no comprehensive school dedicated to teaching and preserving the skills inherent in the lapidary arts.

He and his wife found and bought a property in the Georgia Mountains near the apex of the Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina state lines. The first classes

were held in the Sparks' basement but with the help of rock and gem club members, there was soon a newly completed Sparks Lodge with most classes held in the extended basement along with a cafeteria capable of feeding over 100 people.

The William Holland School, named after the third president of the SFMS, is a "hobbyist's school" devoted to preserving the lapidary arts and serving the lapidary community. Classes are run from the third week in April, extending through 29 weeks until the first week of November. They run for a full week starting Sunday evening with the post-dinner introduction of faculty, a brief description of courses to be taught and introduction of the students taking those courses.

Just before lunch on Friday there is a "Show and Tell" in the cafeteria during which the various classes display

the items they have crafted throughout the week. Students depart Friday afternoon or Saturday morning (some stay on for a second week in a different class). All of the instructors donate their time, free of charge, in the interest of fulfilling the school's mission of service and volunteerism. Ron Gibbs, Sarah Lee Boyce and Jack King proudly represent our club on the faculty.

### Table of Contents

- 1-2 Prez Sez
- 3 Fluorescent Rocks
- 4-6 William Holland
- 7 Home Made Concave Faceter
- 8 Field Trip - Saurolite



## 2012 CGMC Officers & Board

### **President**

Murray Simon  
msimonnc@gmail.com  
(704) 668-5658

### **Vice President**

Lindsay Werden  
lwerden@carolina.rr.com  
(704) 542-6270

### **Secretary**

Pat Walker  
704/523-5261

### **Treasurer**

Vivian Philson  
Philson05@carolina.rr.com

### **Directors at Large**

Mary Fisher  
mefisher@att.net  
Brad Glover

glov4305@bellsouth.net

### **Bulletin & WEB Editor**

Ron Gibbs  
theimage1@aol.com

### **Past President**

Jack King  
jackkretired09@gmail.com

### **CLUB CHAIRPERSONS**

#### **SFMS Contact &**

#### **StampChair**

Pat Walker

#### **Geode Chair**

Jimmy Strickland

#### **Workshop Chair**

Linda Simon  
lsimon1@carolina.rr.com

#### **Librarian**

Pat Walker

#### **Field Trip Chair**

Jack King  
jackkretired09@gmail.com

#### **Christmas Party Chair**

Pat Walker

#### **Special Events**

Kim Gwyn  
gwynk@flashlink.net

#### **WEB Site**

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

At the present time there are 32 categories of classes from Beading to Wire Wrap. Over the years Linda and I have taken classes in wire wrap, cabochon, cold connections, silversmithing, jade engraving and mineral/gem ID.

Being there is a lot like going to a summer camp for adults. For a very reasonable \$350 (plus materials and supplies) you get three meals a day, a simple but adequate room with private bath plus classroom instruction. Fellow students are from all parts of the US with an occasional foreign student or two.

It's a very social atmosphere with students sharing their experiences and ideas both in the classroom and over meals in the cafeteria. Most classes include 6-8 students and the overall level of teaching and training is quite high. In areas such as cabochon, wire wrap, faceting and silversmithing there are beginner,

intermediate and advanced levels of training.

When I reflect back on our days at William Holland I realize how much of my life in the wonderful world of rocks and gems has been enhanced and enlightened by my experiences there. Going back for another class puts us in contact with some of the special friends we have made on previous visits. Up in that mountain air the concerns and tensions you left at home are on a far distant "back burner".

If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask any of the various club members who are "graduates" of or "teachers" at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. Among other things, it's the best vacation bargain out there!

Murray Simon, *President of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club, Mover and Shaker, Leader of the Rock Club World, Guiding Light and Top Candidate for ...*



### ***Sagenitic Agate from Turkey***

The term sagenite refers to an agate that formed in a cavity or crack that was previously filled with a crystalline material. The agate grows around the crystals and may incorporate them into the structure or over time may chemi-

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

May 16, 2013 Thursday -- 7:00 pm --

**Location:** Tyvola Senior Center  
2225 Tyvola Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28210  
(704) 522-6222

## ***FLUORESCING STONES AND MINERALS WHY THEY FLUORESCCE / HOW THEY FLUORESCCE / WHERE TO FIND THEM !!!***

***by Jimmy Strickland***

Fluorescence is the emission of light by a substance that has absorbed light or other electromagnetic radiation. It is a form of luminescence. The most striking examples of fluorescence occur when the absorbed radiation is in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum, and thus invisible to the human eye, and the emitted light is in the visible region.

## **Charlotte Jr. Rockhounds**

***Jr. Rockhounds have started their summer vacation  
and will begin meeting again in the fall.***

For information about Jr. Rockhounds please contact ...

**Contact:** Mary Fisher  
**at:** mefisher@att.net

cally replace them with silica while maintaining their original shape. This produces a pseudomorph. This opening apparently contained aragonite

(a variety of calcium carbonate) crystals before the agate formed around them, freezing their shape in the silica.

# **William Holland Week**

*by ron gibbs*

They say one should write about things that one has experience with, and so I will this month. I traveled to northern Georgia in April to spend a week at William Holland Lapidary School.

I wanted to try out something new so I took the copper/silver enameling class from Christiana Tagliapietra (say that three times fast!) Christiana is a wonderful instructor and imparts high spirits to all who attend.

I brought a number of questions this year to try and stump the master. No luck, she had the answers. I felt it was my job to be class the trouble maker and keep her on her toes. Little did I know she was much too crafty for it!

I enjoyed the class thoroughly and got to meet some famous personalities. Sitting across from me were Tom and Kay Benham (who write the monthly column for the Lapidary Journal entitled, "Ask the Experts.") They are contributing editors for the magazine.

I was a student this month but Sarah Lee Boyce and Jack King were busy teaching their classes, opals and cabochons respectfully.

After dinner on Sunday night, the class has a short meeting learning about the location of the class room and there is a chance to meet the instructor and get an idea of what's coming for the week.

Starting Monday the schedule begins with breakfast from 8-9 AM, class from 9-12:30 PM, a break for lunch, back to class from 1:30 - 5:00 PM, then dinner from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. Some classes go back and meet in the evenings, some do not, it's up to the instructor. The same schedule is followed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

On Wednesday classes stop at 12 noon and some people take the afternoon off to explore the area. Located within about 20-30 minutes of William Holland School is the John Campbell Folk art school and they have a great gift shop and small book store with all kinds of craft related books. Another popular destination is the Goldhagen glass studio which often has an open-house on Wednesday afternoons. There, David Goldhagen gives demonstration of the glass blowing technique, and produces single pieces weighing several pounds.

In a different direction is the Murphy (the town Murphy, NC) Flea market. It's an interesting place with... well, whatever happens to be there that week! A number of the instructors buy old tools at the market and convert them to jewelry use.

Franklin, NC is about an hour drive north, and may on some weekends, be hosting Rock and Gem shows, but on all weekends there are several commercial sluicing areas where you can try your luck at collecting.

Some classes meet on Wednesday afternoon and continue as usual, it's a free choice day. Friday, the classes meet as usual till about 11:30 and then everyone brings out all of the things that were made during the week and there is a large "show and tell" in the cafeteria.

After lunch of Friday, the students return to the classes to clean up and pack up. Some students depart on Friday afternoon and others hang around and depart on Saturday morning. The last meal of the week is the Friday night dinner, but it is often attended by only a few as many have departed.

During the week, on Tuesday night is the "Auction" and all class are suspended



**Part of Friday Show & Tell**





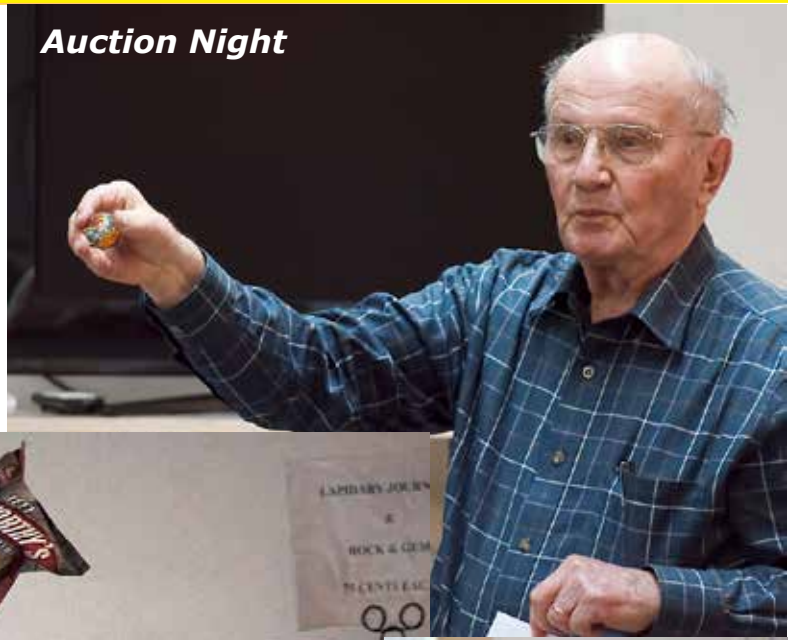
on Tuesday night. It runs from about 7 to 9 PM. Instructors and students donate items for the auction and all of the monies go to buying supplies and tools for the classes. Lapidary and beading magazines, books, tools, jewelry, cabochons, enameling, chains, gemstones, slabs, etc. are offered.

There is often fine chocolate and other eatables, an occasional piece of clothing, a bird house or two, art work, once even a crossbow. You never know what's going to come up for sale. You can checkout the donated items for most of Monday and Tuesday afternoon as they appear on the auction table.

Thursday is "tail-gate" night and both the instructors and students can claim a space in the cafeteria and offer their wares for sale. This sale is somewhat governed by the particular teachers or students present during the week and may include slabs, jewelry, tools, books, etc. It also runs from about 7-9 PM.

There are two movie theaters within about 10 miles of the campus, but most people just hang out in the cafeteria and talk and catch up on what's been happening. You will develop many new friends during the week as well as pick up a few new skills.

## Auction Night



**You want to try out concave faceting and not break the bank?**

**THERE'S A RAYTECH IN THERE SOMEWHERE!**

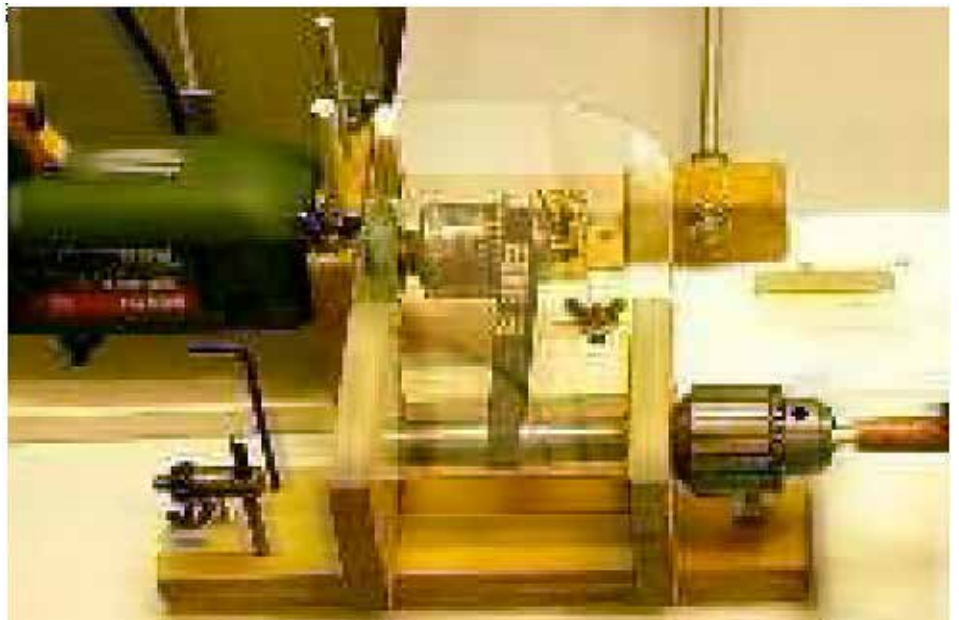
by Peter Hurst

Recently John Hamer decided he would like to have a crack at concave faceting. He did not want to spend a lot of money so he made some modifications to his Raytech. John used his usual pragmatic approach and slowly developed his ideas to end up with the first picture.

You really can't tell that it is a Raytech except for the give-away handpiece. The variable speed electric drill on the left of the picture drives the mandrel which cuts the concave facets.

The Mark I version used the drill as a direct drive but this proved unsatisfactory, as there was too much play in the chuck. The Mark II version still uses the drill as the power source but it drives a separate spindle upon which the mandrel chuck is mounted and this has largely eliminated the problem.

This set-up can be seen better in the enlarged section image. The faceting head is mounted on a board which is able to slide both from left to right and laterally, so that he can align it with the mandrel to cut the concave facets. The man-



drels are also home-made from copper tubes that have had a metal shank glued into them.

They are then turned in the lathe to ensure they run true. They are charged with diamond, as a paste and work quite well. There is no direct water supply to wash away swarf at present. John

simply sprays water on occasionally as he works.

He runs the mandrels quite slowly so heat build up is not an issue. I feel sure that if John continues down this road he will develop a

article copied from "Facets", the monthly newsletter of the North West Lapidary and Mineral Society, Vol 26 No. 3.



# **An Official Field Trip of Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society (Hendersonville, NC) (HOST)**

**9:00 AM EDT til Dusk**

**Saturday, June 8, 2013**

**Mason Farm Staurolite Prospect  
Brasstown, North Carolina**



## **Collecting:**

**Staurolite crystals** (Maltese and St. Andrew's crosses)---these are also known as Fairy Crosses (brown/gray to red-tinged well-formed crystals)

**Gold** (pan for it in small stream)

You will be digging in red clay, then sifting for the Staurolite crystals. This appears to be an alluvial wash with lots of loose crystals, mostly whole, as well as some crystals in matrix. Many of these are found within the first foot of soil, but they can be found as deep as three feet (especially the bigger ones). Crystals range in size from 1/4" up to over 2". Digging is allowed on the hillside and in the field. The boundaries are marked with flagging tape. There is a lot of room for digging.

The St. Andrew's crosses form an X and are plentiful. The Maltese crosses look like a large plus (+) or perfectly equal-sided cross. Single Blades are also found. Clusters of crystals are uncommon. Crystals on matrix can be found, but are much less common than loose crystals. Black sands are found in the small stream. Gold has also been found within the quartz. (I have NOT personally found any GOLD yet---too busy digging for Staurolite, but have seen some BLACK SANDS while washing the Staurolite crystals. The owner HAS found some GOLD, but I have not personally seen it). For a site report, visit <http://wncrocks.com/magma/masonfarmstaurolite-1.html>

**Cost:** \$20 per person; children 12 and under are free. Everyone will be required to sign a liability release form when you pay your fee OR you can print and fill-in your own release form from this link --->>> [LIABILITY RELEASE FORM](#) - *Field trip will go on RAIN or SHINE!!*

**Tools:** screens and gold pan to collect gold and/or black sands; 1/4" screen and shovel (minimum essential tools needed to collect staurolite), bags, buckets, mattock, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray

**Facilities:** Port-o-lets on site. Clay's Country Store 2 1/2 miles away for snacks, drinks, lunch (or bring your own)

**Parking:** in a grassy field; the lower area gets slick in a hurry when it rains (think slick red clay)

**Site:** open hardwood forest on hillside (not a lot of understory when visited this fall/winter), grassy field, small stream

**Directions:** From Franklin, North Carolina, head west on Hwy. 64 and go past Hayesville. Turn left on Hwy 141 South (at redlight), heading toward downtown Brasstown, following for 1.7miles. Turn left at Clay's Country Store onto Brasstown Road, following for .6 miles, then left onto Folk School Road, following for .4 miles. The road forks and is named Mason Road (the one on your left). Follow Mason Road for 1 mile, then turn left onto Cedar Lane (gravel road). Follow Cedar Lane for .4 miles to the digging site, parking in the grassy field.

CONTACT for more information: Tim Barton (828) 885-8248 home, (828) 577-4505 cell  
(PLEASE NO CALLS AFTER 10:30 P.M.)