

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB
SEPTEMBER 2011

the Prez Sez ...

A famous philosopher (who shall go nameless because I can't remember his name) once said that if you belong to a club or organization you should support and work for that club or organization. We had an outstanding example of the importance of supporting a club through voluntary efforts last week.

On Saturday, August 20 a voluntary crew of our members met at Jack King's lovely lake-side home to fill sluice bags for the Mint Hill Madness event, assemble the new sluice on Jack's back lawn for a trial run and gather a group of kids and adults to take photos of a sluicing event for the soon to be published two newspaper articles about our club. It was a clear, sunny day but boy was it hot. There were two busy crews at work, the sluice bag crew in Jack's driveway and the sluice assembly crew on the back lake-side lawn.

The sluice bag fillers had bags of rock specimens, buckets of sand/sluice media and Ziplock bags spread all over the driveway. The objective was to fill as many bags as possible with 10-12 rock specimens plus sluicing media. Over a period of roughly 4 hours this team

of a dozen or so stalwarts filled and stacked approximately 750 bags, a quota that should go a long way towards filling our maximum goals for the Mint Hill event during the weekend of September 23. While they were all working hard, the hot dogs, chips, sodas, cookies and Jack's curiously good tasting "Pink Pickles" added a festive note to the event and kept everyone from starving or passing out from exhaustion.

The sluice in operation is truly a sight to behold. The look of anticipation on the faces of the kids and the adult smiles said it all. The club can be proud of the results from the tireless efforts of sluice-masters Kim Gwyn, Brad Glover and Hank Trufan. There's already talk among some of those who have been working on this project regarding future events and venues where we might use the sluice. The September 23rd and 24th Mint Hill Madness event will be the big test as to how well the apparatus performs with extended hours of use and what type of responses it generates.

I know I'm starting to sound like a broken record, but Mint Hill Madness needs more volunteers !!!

During the busier hours at Matthews Alive we can make do with 5 or 6 people working the booth but between the sluice plus geode cutting at MHM, we will need 9 or 10 during busier hours. Since this is our first time at MHM we can't be sure what hours will be the busiest. One thing is for sure, the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club has THE premier location at this festival (right next to the event sponsors) and all 25,000 + attendees will see us and (hopefully) want to try their hand

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at sluicing (or buying a geode).

It doesn't speak well for our club if people become impatient or frustrated and walk away. If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer for this event please call our Volunteers co-chair Vivian Philson at (704) 541-6224 and she will set you up with times needed and, if you don't already have one, a designer Kelly green Tee shirt with the CG&MC logo.

To the right are some photos taken at Jack's house during the sluice bag filling / sluice test run. They are meant to wet your appetite for the main event at Mint Hill on that beautiful fall weekend September 23rd and 24th. Y'all call Vivian, y'hear?

Murray Simon - National Accountability Officer - International Paradigm Specialist - Dynamic Communications Orchestrator - AKA President Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club.

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Monthly Meeting

September 15, 2011 Thursday -- 7:00 pm --

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

Denise Trufan

Denise spent three months this summer in Colorado and the 4 state area learning about Puebloan Archeology. She will show you what she has learned about the use of lithics in Puebloan culture, primarily focusing on RockArt.

Mrs. Trufan is a Science Lab teacher at Indian Land Elementary School, National and State Project Learning Tree Outstanding educator. She has been nominated for the Presidential Award for Elementary Science Teaching, received numerous Board of Trustee Awards in Lancaster and has received nominations for Teacher of the Year at least five time and many other awards. She was also Teacher of the Year in Connecticut in Special Education.



Filling the bags - an assembly line process.



Assembling the sluice



Beta-testers hard at work!

Mint Hill Madness Continues May Be Contagious *by Jack King*

Earlier this year, Murray Simon and I went to meet the director of Mint Hill Madness in Mint Hill, NC. My daughter lives there and has told me for years what a vibrant weekend this was. Murray and I soon learned that this was an event attended by over twenty thousand family members during a two day period.

When we told the director of the event who we were and what our club does she told us that she had seen us at Matthews Alive in years past and was very excited that we were interested in participating. Because of the logistics of things like available electricity and having to use a generator, it was decided that our main thrust should be operating a sluice line where families could mine for gemstones just like they do at Hiddenite and at many mountain attractions.

We had a board meeting and Mary Fisher and Scott Stewart immediately stepped up to the plate and donated money for the materials needed to build a working water fed sluice line. Murray then assembled the incredible

Mint Hill Madness
continued from page 3 ...

design and build team of Hank, Brad and Kim. These guys were like beavers by the pond driven to cut the materials and assemble the very best looking and best working sluice line.

We purchased stones from several sources and had material donated as well. A few weekends back a dedicated team of Charlotte Gem and Mineral club volunteers gathered at my house for a sluice bag filling party and to fire up the sluice line and test it.

We had hot dogs and filled about 750 bogs with gemstones, gravel and sand. A local quarry donated the gravel. Members showed their passion to this by driving lots of miles to gather materials and hauling thousands of lbs. to my driveway. For our test run, we solicited junior rockhound families and neighbors to bring their kids to use in a photo shoot which you will see in this newsletter. (Page 3.)

In addition, we were able to get these pictures in a story that the Charlotte Observer did about our club in their southeast edition. (<http://www.lapidaryschool.org/csnarticle.pdf>) .

The dates for MINT HILL MADNESS are Friday Sept. 23 from 5 in the evening till 10 at night. On Saturday it is a LONG day. From 8 A.M until 10 at night. There is a parade on Saturday morning and we will have folks with our green shirt on carrying the banner for our club and handing out tumbled

stones along the way.

WE NEED LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS FOR MINT HILL MADNESS. This can be a major fund raiser for our club. Please step up and work a few hours. All who agree to volunteer a minimum of four hours will be given a green club shirt with our club logo patch on it. Vivian Philson at (704) 541-6224 to schedule times.)



Nutritious(?) Food could be found everywhere at the event!



The fine art of wrapping a cut geode - No more than 3 people required!



Club members relax during a "lu" in the activity.

Contrary to Some Weather Reports - Matthews was Alive and Hopping.

by ron gibbs

The club and volunteers participated in the Matthews Alive festival over the Labor Day weekend. Who said that some degree of planning never pays off? The Rock & Gem club successfully set up it's booth on Friday night (and yes, just *before* the dreaded rain storm.)



Our booth a Matthews Alive Event.

Saturday dawned clear and we had a hot, but busy day selling our geological wonders to an eager crowd of on-lookers. Although the Matthews Alive officials decide to forego the Monday part of the event, (too worried about the rain that failed to materialize) the club had a good weekend with sales over \$1400 each of the open days.

Cutters managed to keep cool by splashing themselves liberally with the water and saw oil. We nearly sold out of the geodes in the \$4 to \$10 range, and actually sold a



Cutters kept busy and wet most of the day(s)



Customers often ganged-up on the booth

few of the “big-ones” at \$60 each. We were slowed a bit by a broken saw belt on Sunday, but eventually through perseverance we recovered and continued. One geode took well over an hour to cut through because of saw problems, but in the end it gave up and fell in-two.

One of the cutters kept exclaiming that he would use his teeth if necessary to get them opened. Club members were encouraging him, but other customers simply wanted him to use the saw, and get on with it.

The volunteers scrambled well late on Sunday and managed to pack-up the whole booth in record time as we were told that there was to be NO Monday art-fair. 90% chance of rain was predicted. I, on the other hand, was predicting 10% chance of clear ... I was right like most of those in the weather predicting business. It always rains at a 10% chance, so I assumed it would be sunny at the same 10% chance.

Class before the Meeting

Once again Linda Simon will be hosting a Jewelry Making Class just before the general meeting in September.

The class will start at about 5 pm at the Nature Center and finish just prior to the normal start of the club meeting at 7 pm.

Everyone is Welcome!

September 15th, 2011

The Week-Long Getaway ***William Holland School of Lapidary Arts***

by ron gibbs

William Holland is located in north-central GA, only about 5 miles from the North Carolina border. William Holland is a school dedicated to the Lapidary Arts, including, but not limited to, silver-smithing, gold-smithing, beading, fused glass, faceting, cabochon cutting, wire wrapping, chain making, jewelry design, mineral and gemstone identification, carving, enameling, stone setting, lampwork bead making, silver casting, and a few other skill sets.

I have taught Jewelry & Lapidary Photography and Composite Cabochons at the school for a few years. Classes are typically 5 - 8 students with their own room and equipment, and run from 9 am till about 5 pm on most week days while the school is in session.

The school opens each year about mid-April and closes the first week in November. Each week a selection of roughly 10-12 classes is offered. Classes begin Sunday evening, and finish the following Friday afternoon.

The tuition for the 2011 season has been \$310 each for the week. (Double occupancy) That includes the basic price of the classroom, 3 meals a day and your room. Additional charges vary from instructor to instructor and class to class based on material costs in the various classes. Typically they run from about \$25 to \$100 with a few classes in silver and gold running

more. (Have you seen the price of silver and gold lately?)

Introductions and first class meetings are usually held after dinner on Sunday night, and people see their class facilities and have brief meetings. First full day class begins after breakfast on Monday morning at 9 am. There is a break for lunch, then afternoon class until about 5 pm. Dinner is served at 6 pm.

The same schedule is maintained for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Classes also meet as usual on Wednesday morning, but some classes opt to take Wednesday afternoon off, others continue to meet - it's up to each individual.

Tuesday night is Auction night, and donated materials are put up to bid for about 2 hours after dinner. Auctions are fun affairs with a good deal of joking and some nice materials are often available.

Thursday night is “tail-gate” night and anyone attending the school or teaching can bring in samples of their work, tools, or rough material and offer it for sale or trade. Local neighbors often show up to purchase products. The “tail-gate” typically only lasts an hour or two after Thursday dinner.

Friday morning there is a bit of rush in the classrooms as the students and instructors prepare of the mid-day “show-n-tell” where each class presents the work they have

created during the remainder of the week. This lasts for only about 20 minutes just before lunch on Friday.

Some of the show-n-tell items are displayed in the photos to the right, each photo shows only the work from a single student in each class. Most students complete several pieces of work by the end of the week. The school has between 50 and about 120 students each week so the volume of material produced is quite impressive.



lampwork beads

Lampwork beads are made in the classroom from glass rods and a controlled torch flame. Each bead is hand made and designed.

Cabochons are typically domed stones cut from flat rock slabs or small cobbles of stone. They are



cabochon cutting



wirewrap 1



faceting 1



Southwest Silver II



chain making 1



silver 1



beading 1

individually shaped and polished on a series of grinding wheels.

Wirewrap jewelry is formed by bending wire over and around itself or a center-piece stone and jewels. There is no soldering or hot work involved.

Chain making is accomplished by individually linking a series of metal rings in a nearly infinite number of available patterns.

Silver-smithing involves the creation of jewelry from silver metal which starts as sheets, wire, strips, or tubes. In these classes you will learn how to handle and use a torch and do silver soldering.

Faceting begins with a crystal or crystal fragment and ends when you create a stone with a specific and precision design. The process is somewhat similar to cabochon creation in that the material is removed with diamond grinding laps.

Beading is mainly the technique learned to design and string beads into necklaces, bracelets, or earrings, using pre-manufactured beads. In lampwork beads you learn to make the beads, in beading you learn to put them into jewelry.

These short descriptions only cover about 1/2 the classes in session during the week that I taught Photography for Jewelry. There are many more classes available and you must go to the William Holland web site to get their descriptions and dates.

Many students take the same general classes more than once from different teachers in order to learn new and different technique.

Some repeat the same classes with the same teacher to get personalized training on specific advanced topics.

Some students just come to share a week of fun with other like-minded and similar interest individuals. Finding a group of lapidary enthusiast is not always easy.

Several past and present members of our local club have taught at William Holland, including, Sarah Lee Boyce (*"Nobody doesn't like Sarah Lee!"*), Jack King, Dan Haga, Kim St. Jean, and yours truly.

It's one of the least expensive week long vacations you will ever take and fully enjoy! And when you are ready to head home you'll take some nice stuff with you.

For more information on William Holland their complete class listing go to their WEB site:

<http://www.lapidaryschool.org>

Our club is also a member of the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and they team-up twice a year with William Holland to offer some exclusive classes to other Society members. This years last round will be held in October from the 9-16th.

Check out the July issue of our newsletter for more information on these classes or check the Southeastern Federation WEB site:

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

for up to date info on the SFMS special weeks at both William Holland and Wildacres.



Dan Haga and me - in the midst of a camera dual!

Sarah Lee Boyce and Carl Talbott (editor of the SFMS Lodestar) planning their strategy for bidding in the Tuesday night auction.

