

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2013

Prez Sez ...



Let the good times roll!



As it's supposed to be!

and then came the first rain!

and the wind!

**it was ...
exciting!**



A good time was had by all and then came Monday!!! More on that to follow.

The Mathews Alive/Labor Day Weekend Festival has just ended and I want to get down some thoughts while they are still fresh in my mind. Our club has been participating in this event for over 30 years, back to the time when it was called The Stumptown Festival. It is our one major fundraising event of the year with the bulk of the money go-

ing towards scholarships for geology students at UNCC and Appalachian State. This year was a bit different - we combined geode cutting and sluicing. We also asked for volunteers among the UNCC geology students and spent a great Saturday afternoon with 4 of them. They were eager to learn and eager to help and it turned out to be a win/win situation for all concerned.

Table of Contents

- 1-3 Prez Sez
- 4 Meetings Notice
- 4 Jr. Rockhound Update
- 5 Collection Labeling
- 6 Hints and Tips
- 7-8 Free Tutorials



2013 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



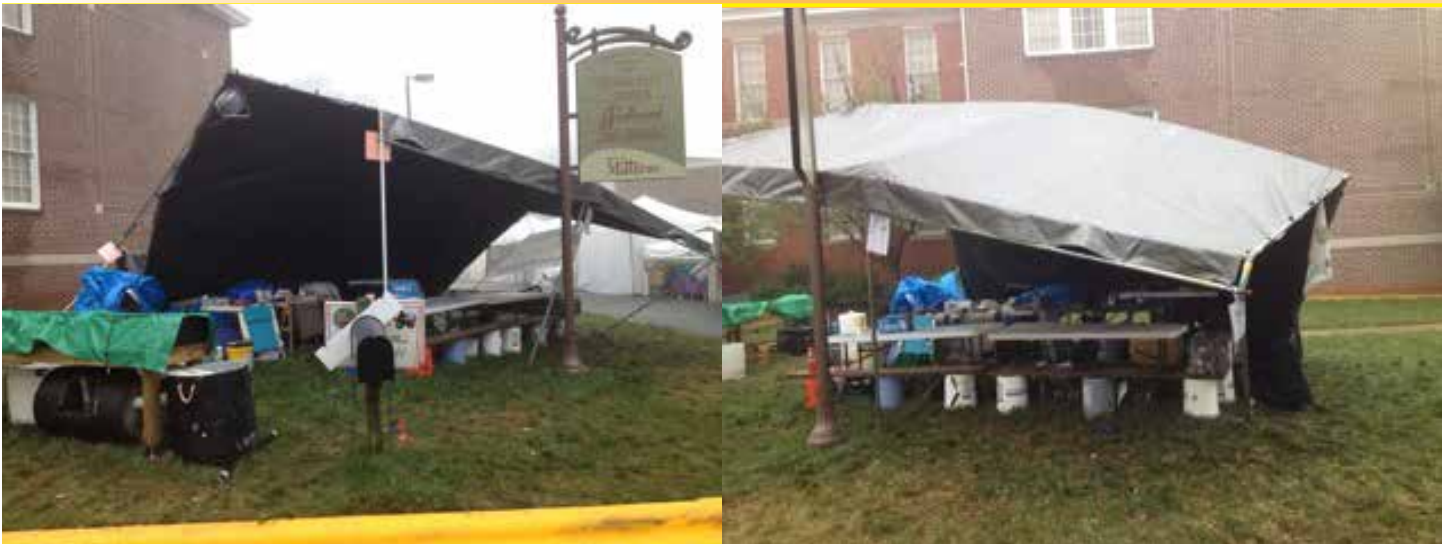
*There was water and wind enough for everyone.
Plenty to go around, no one had to go without!
Even Brad and Harrel had enough.*

I've said this before - this event goes way beyond just raising money for scholarships! The look on those little kid's faces when you tell them they are about to be the first to ever see inside this very old, mysterious-looking sphere is priceless. People come up to the booth all day long with rock collecting stories from years gone by. Parents proudly tell us that their pre-teen has been saving all year long to buy one of the geodes they previously saw at our booth.

We get asked to identify (potentially priceless) rocks that people have lugged great distances from their parked cars (Leaverite is often the identification du jour). On average we pick up a number of new members from people who get

excited when they see what we do, how we do it and the satisfaction we get from doing it. But to me the one factor above all that makes it worthwhile is the camaraderie and interaction among new members and old. It presents a wonderful opportunity to share experiences with people of mutual likes and interests. I invariably come away from working this event with new friendships with people I've known in the club but never had a chance to "get to know".

And then came Monday!!! Sunday we started closing down our booth about 45 minutes before the official closing time due to the ominous dark clouds approaching our area. Heavy rain started falling before we finished and there were



*"Oh Monday mornin', Monday mornin'
 couldn't guarantee
 That Monday evenin' you would still be here
 with me"*

7 or 8 of us trying to keep dry (rather unsuccessfully) under our very large tarp/ tent. The storm seemed to be letting up around 7:30: our smartphones indicated the front had moved on, the contents of our booth were covered so we left. I arrived 7:30AM Monday morning to discover our tent was obviously a prime candidate for the "Most Damaged Booth" award. Apparently another storm hit at about 4AM and proceeded to wipe us out. With my always-eager

co-workers Kim Gwyn and Brad Glover, we managed to clear off the torn tarp, take down the bent steel poles and put saws and tables back in their original positions. Ninety minutes past the 9AM Monday start time we were up and running in our new open-air booth. All went well until about noon when the sun came out and treated us like muffins ready to be baked.

So . . . Mathews Alive was the best of times – we set

a new record for money raised . . . and the worst of times – those members who are always there when you need them worked too darn hard to make it happen.

My profuse thanks to Kim, Brad, Jimmy/Becky, Pat/ June, Linda, Mary, Martha/ Dottie, Gale/Tom, Suzanne, Chuck, Lindsey, Clarence, Harrell, Neil and Ron/ Marylu!!!! Let's see more of you out there next year working and enjoying yourselves under our new, non-destructible tent.

Murray Simon, President Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club, Captain Murray who went down with the ship!, Early (but not quite early enough) Prognosticator of the Coming Rain, and Part of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Salvage Team.



sheepcreek plume agate

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Monthly Meeting

September 19, 2013 Thursday -- 7:00 pm --

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

Lapidary Lunacy Making Composite Cabs by ron gibbs

My own interpretation of making Intarsia (composite cabochons). Intarsia is the "art" of taking multiple pieces of rock and fitting them together to create a single polished stone. Most Intarsia-smiths (a made-up word for someone who makes intarsia) use a faceting machine to insure precise alignment and symmetric pattern. I do it all freehand, thus not so much symmetry, but OK alignment.

Charlotte Jr. Rockhound Group Monthly Meetings are Beginning Again this Fall

**When: Saturday, September 28
10:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Where: Matthews Community Center
100 McDowell St
Matthews, NC**

Topic: Displaying Your Collection!

- **Techniques for displaying your collection**
- **Labeling your specimens**
- **Identification**

*Bring something for Show & Tell!
If you have specimens that you want to have identified,
bring them to the meeting!*

You must sign up by September 26 for this meeting!

**Mineral display kits will only be provided for the kids who sign up with Mary.
There is a class size limit of 20 students.**

To sign up for the class, contact Mary Fisher at: mefisher@att.net

Labeling Minerals - For Collections

by ron gibbs

There is no "standard" for labeling format or technique when it comes to our collections. Fundamentally we should think of ourselves as "care takers" for our collection, we are really just the temporary custodians of all we collect. The minerals (specimens) will live on long after us. They may end up with our children or be passed on to a museum or school.

With this thought in mind a label should contain all the information we know to be true and accurate in describing the particular specimen. Since labels **will** become separated from the specimens there must be some way to identify which label belongs to a particular sample even when the label becomes separated.

One of the standard practices is to put a small dab of white pigment (paint/glue) on the actual specimen with a number. The number should be repeated on the label belonging to the item. Keep in mind that there are only 0-9 digits (10 in total), but there are 26 letters in the alphabet. Hence a 4 character number can catalog 10,000 minerals, but a single letter followed by 3 numbers (still 4 total characters) can catalog 25,974 individual

specimens. Use the letter to aid in referencing something about unique about the specimen. For example the cabinet number, the box, the drawer, or maybe the crystal system, color or class.

In general the label should also display the name of the mineral or minerals, the locale from which it was collected. The locale should contain at the least the country, state (or province), and if possible more specific information like the county or specific mine. Some collectors also include the level in the mine if available.

Additional information like the date (year) collected are also important for true reference work. Other data can be placed on the specimen label, but is often times separated and placed on a master list or in a computer database of all specimens.

The label that goes with the specimen should contain all of the data necessary to



Back of specimen

Galena (*metallic*) **G-023**
Marcasite (*brassy*)

Reynolds Co. Mo, USA



Front of specimen

clearly identify it by someone who is not familiar with the sample. You should assume that this may be the only information available to someone who eventually ends up with the specimen.

Information which also may be important to you might include, the price you paid for the specimen and the date you purchased it. This aids in determining a future value for the item or the whole collection.

New Source for Jewelry-Making Tips

by Brad Smith

The understanding is that the material is for non-profit use, to be given away, and not to be sold.

A little bit about Brad Smith:

I've enjoyed making jewelry in gold and silver for about 15 years and have been teaching classes for the Los Angeles and Santa Monica adult school systems since 2002. It's important in class to highlight shortcuts that improve quality and save time, so I've accumulated quite a few bench tips that people seem to like.

I've been active over the years in my local rock club. I thought it would be good to share these tips with other clubs. A few initial tips are given below as examples.

Some that I send may have a small photo with them for clarity. Feel free to use them whenever you need to fill some space.

Stiffening Earring Posts:

Soldering an earring post will always soften the wire a bit. The easiest way to harden it is to grip the end of the post with your flat-jaw pliers and twist it a couple half turns. This work-hardens the wire and at the same time tests your soldered joint.

Use a Spray Bottle: Those little spray bottles you can find at the drug store are great for firescale preventers and debubbling solutions. A quick firescale preventer is liquid flux, and a homemade debubbling solution is a little Dawn liquid in rubbing alcohol.

Broken Drills: Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, you can usually dissolve the steel in a solution of alum. Alum is typically available from a food store or a drug store. Use about a teaspoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up so that bubbles can float free.

Pickle Problems: Dropping a hot item into the pickle after soldering causes a hiss that sends small droplets of the acid pickle into the air. This will rust your nearby tools and can't be all that good to breathe either. My solution is to use a coffee cup of water next to my solder block to quench the piece and then decide if I want to drop it in the pickle. Also, a hot pickle pot gives off fumes that bother me in my home workshop.

I get around that by using my pickle cold. I mix it a little stronger than with a hot pot so that it works just as quickly. I keep it in a large-mouth peanut butter bottle and cap it off whenever I'm done using it.

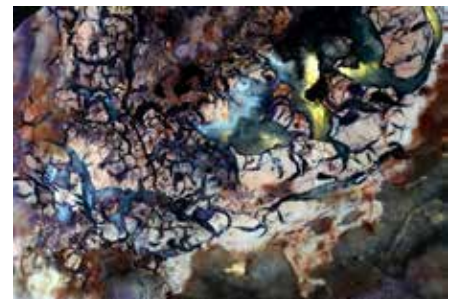
Protecting Finished Surfaces:

I figure that any accidental scratch I make on a piece means about 15 minutes of extra sanding and polishing. So after finishing major surfaces, I typically cover them with some masking tape to avoid any scratches when doing final work like cleanups and setting of stones. The blue masking tape used by painters is best because it doesn't leave a sticky residue when removed.

brad@greenheart.com
More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips.

Editors note: There are numerous additional bench tips on the facebook site with some nice photos illustrating some of the tips. This is a good resource for jewelry makers of all types.

—◆◆◆◆◆—
Bertrandite - aka Tiffany Stone



More Information on Most Parts of Jewelry Making and Stone Setting

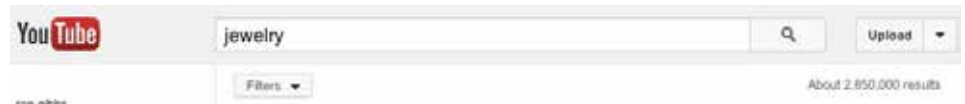
by ron gibbs

Over the years youtube.com has grown in size until there are now literally a million videos on topics from A-Z. The number of videos about jewelry has multiplied and the quality has continued to grow. I use it on a regular basis to get short demonstrations of jewelry techniques that are new to me, or that might demonstrate variations.

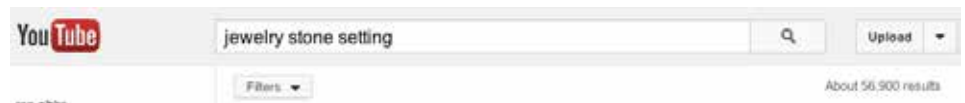
The trick to using youtube.com to find the videos is using the search at the top of the page. In the "bad old days" it was sufficient to just put in a term like jewelry and you could find the few dozen videos on the topic. Today you must use a better strategy or you'll be hopelessly lost in the thousands of videos available.

Over time you will find certain authors who have produced a wide number of videos that have excellent quality and content. Once you find a video you like, try clicking on the authors name to get to his channel where all of his/her videos are listed in succession.

Let's look at a specific example that I recently did for "flush stone setting technique".



Notice that just putting in the word "jewelry" will bring up a selection of 2,850,000 possible videos. It could take a while to find the topic of your interest with this level of search.



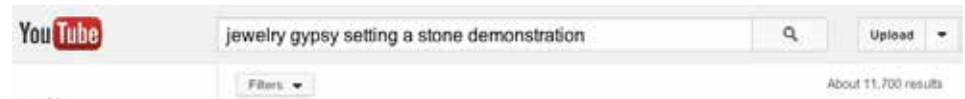
Here I have added the additional parameter of "stone setting" to the search term. Notice there are now only about 57,000 possible videos now. I am interested in flush setting stones so I will try that to be even more specific.



Turns out that this only drops the number to 38,000 possible videos, so I needed to be even more specific. Flush setting although descriptive is not the jewelry term for mounting stones flat with the surface of the metal. The correct term is "gypsy setting".



Now were down to only 19,000 videos, as you can see the amount of information now available is amazing on many topics relate to our hobby. I am specifically interested in seeing a demo of the method and have no interest in just seeing examples or results. So let's try adding the word demo or demonstration.



Look at that now were down to a more manageable 12,000 or so demonstrations. In reality this is probably good enough, the single frame images now showing up in the response stream indicate that many of the videos are related directly with my particular interest. I would start scanning some now and looking for those with good quality.

Turns out there are several, and one of the best (in my opinion) is done by a gentleman named Soham Harrison. I like the idea that he has a part I and part II which indi-

cates to me that he is likely thorough if nothing else. After watching the first one I found him easy to understand, and the video quality was excellent. (What more could I expect for a short "how to" video that is free?)

When you find a good quality presentation, check out some of the authors other work by clicking on his/her name below the video. This will take you to their specific set of videos. As you can see from the illustration (to the right) he has posted a total of 155 videos.

Once on his specific page you can then select the "video" button just below his name (again illustrated on the right) and you will get a list of his videos condensed into titles with opening images for each. I have him bookmark now in my browser and over time I have watched several of his silversmithing videos and learned many new tricks and techniques.

The biggest problem with the wealth of information available on youtube is not finding something of interest, but rather excluding the mass of information that is "not quite just what I had in mind".

Learn to fully use the search field and get really specific about the topics that interest you. Try out more words not less, and even try them in different orders, the results will vary somewhat.

While searching for some terms you may be thrown a curve. For instance searching for "meet point faceting" will bring up some of the desired topic information, but also a good deal of information on meeting in night-clubs, bars, and other *colorful* locales. If you add the word "gemstone" to the search you loose the bar hook-up points. (And I might add you learn a good deal less! See bottom illustrations on right.)

