

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB
SEPTEMBER 2010

THE VEEP SPEAKS ...

– The Mathews Alive Festival

Once again The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club geode-cutting booth was one of the most heavily attended venues at the Mathews Alive Festival. Our club has consistently participated in this event for over 30 years and a large percentage of customers come back every year to add to their geode collection.

The look of anticipation on the faces of kids (many of whom are spending their allowances) as they bring their carefully chosen geode up to the table to be cut open is almost as rewarding as the look on their faces when you tell them their geode is millions of years old and they are about to be the first to ever see what's inside.

The excitement in and around the booth is reason enough for members to volunteer their time to help in the process, but there are a number of other reasons for doing so:

✓ The money raised (we had over \$3000 in sales the first 2 days) goes to our scholarship fund for UNC students and CG&MC member/William Holland scholarships.

✓ It represents a great opportunity for newer members to meet and interact with longer term members.

✓ Members share ideas and some show off their latest creations during the occasional sales lulls.

✓ Members who choose to do so can improve their lapidary sawing skills.

✓ It represents a wonderful opportunity to hear funny jokes and humorous stories from the likes of the Webmaster, the Veep and Box of Chocolates Clarence.

Volunteers were plentiful this year and our thanks go out to each and every one. In particular we need to especially mention:

Scott Stewart who donated the Moroccan geodes that were a significant part of our sales.

Kim and Ellen Gwynn who were there every day and worked very hard to make this event a success.

Pat Walker and sister **June** who collected the money and wrapped the geodes

Webmaster **Ron Gibbs** who was there every day cutting geodes and motivating volunteers to give their all (or leave early).

Mary Fisher standing in the hot sun showing each and every passerby the mysteries to be discovered when they purchase a geode.

Gale and Tom Blevins who always manage to show up just when you need them. *continued next page*

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WEB Site

www.charlottegem.com

Danny Jones who served as our personal Wikipedia resource for answering geode questions.

Clarence Johnson, the P.T. Barnum of geode sales

Kim & Brittany Tyler provided “customer support” as needed.

Neil Hohmann, a new member who jumped right in and made himself useful in so many ways, particularly at the end of festival teardown.

Harrell Suggs who always shows up when there’s heavy lifting to be done.

Linda Simon who made sure that **Murray Simon** didn’t take naps.

But most of all we have to recognize the huge task that **Jimmy and Becky Strickland** so willingly take on each year in setting up, managing and tearing down this major event. Our scholarship fund is appropriately named “The James Strickland Scholarship Fund”. Thanks Jimmy and Becky!

For those who couldn’t attend this year’s event, make sure you do it next year – you won’t regret it.

Murray Simon
President of Vice
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club



The Pre-Meeting ... Meeting!

Thursday, September 16th, at 5:00 pm

The Nature Museum is allowing us to get together on meeting nights from 5:00 - 7:00PM for classes and demonstrations of wire wrapping, beading and other jewelry making skills.

Plan to come to watch or participate. Linda will bring copper wire and a few sets of tools for the newbies who want to learn to make a bracelet or a ring. If you have a project that you want to work on, bring your own tools and materials.

It’s also fun to take apart old jewelry and remake it into something more fashionable. Let’s share ideas and skills and make this a successful club effort.

Regular Monthly Meeting Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

Thursday, September 16th, at 7:00 pm

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

A very unusual program has been arranged for this meeting.
The subject matter will be:

“METEORITES - AMAZING AMBASSADORS FROM OUTER SPACE”

Our speaker is an intergalactic traveler whose distinctive appearance and manner of presentation will undoubtedly be talked about for months and years among those who attend. We will also have actual meteorites on hand for those who have never examined one before.

Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

Summer Vacation is Over!

So it's time to get back to having some fun!

Next Meeting:

Saturday September 25, 2010

Topic:

Fluorescent Minerals

Class locations and times to be sent by e-mail to the Jr. Rockhounds

Contact *Mary Fisher* for more information: mefisher@att.net

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Annual Picnic

The Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club will hold its annual picnic

Date: Sunday, October 10, 2010

Location: Frank Liske Park

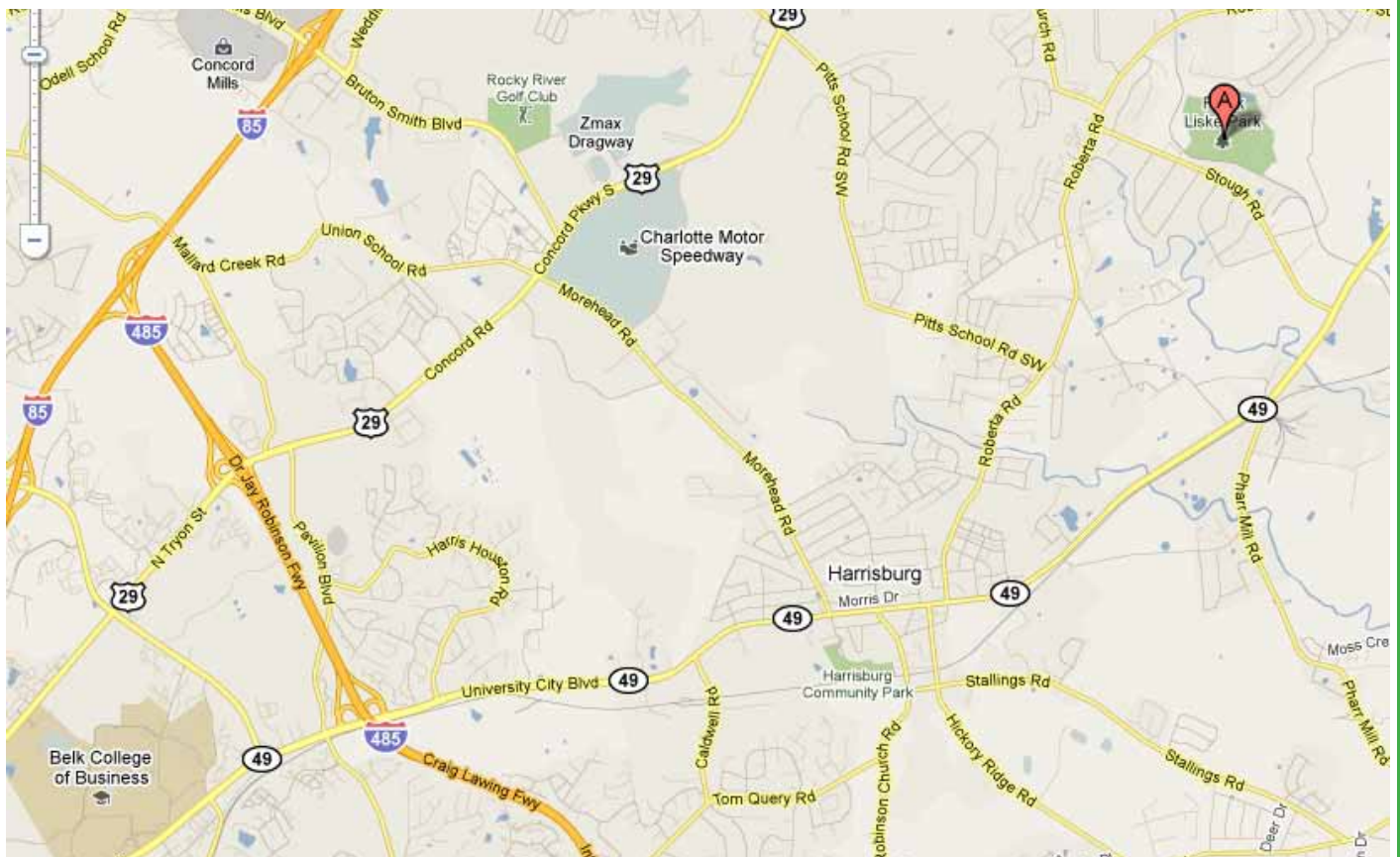
Time: Noon to 5PM.

The park is located at 4001 Stough Road, Concord, NC 28027. It is a beautiful state-owned park with paddle boats, putt-putt golf, volleyball and horseshoes available.

We will be at the **Hartsell Shelter** (if you follow the signs for the administration building you will see Hartsell signs on the left just before you get to the admin building).



The club will provide hot dogs, burgers and beverages with members bringing salads and desserts. A good time for all is guaranteed.



Stamp Program Reminder

from Pat Walker

Just a reminder, the Liberty Bell stamps are no longer acceptable.



SFMS Stamp Program rules: all stamps must be trimmed with no more than 1/4" of paper around the stamp. Stamps torn from envelopes must be trimmed before Pat can turn them in.

If stamps are damaged or the envelope has been torn away under the stamp they will not accept them and they are discarded. Please trim before turning them in.

Thank You - Pat Walker

Digital Camera - article series

Due to timing constraints the next portion of the Photo Series is on hold until I finish teaching the class at William Holland School. (See last age for more information.)

Collecting Micro-Meteorites

taken from: knol.google.com

It's estimated that roughly 100 tons of micrometeorites enter the earth's atmosphere every day.

Check your local forecast and when the weatherman says your in for a

good shower, get your collecting items ready.

Line a large plastic pan with your plastic drop-cloth. A plastic oil pan will work well, but generally the larger pan you can find, the better. Make sure your plastic is new, and not dirty. You should use new plastic each time you go micrometeorite collecting. You want to minimize the amount of terrestrial metal you collect. Find a wide open area to place your plastic collecting pan. Try to stay away from building and trees. It's also best if you can keep the pan off the ground. An old stool will work well.

While you are waiting for the rain, you can put together your magnetic collecting mechanism. (Please note: The instructions herein have been painstakingly adapted from the text and instructions of major rocket-scientists. These instructions are not for the faint-of-heart. Please follow them closely and don't deviate from them whatsoever as your micrometeorite collecting efforts are greatly at stake!). Put your magnet in a double-lock (zip-lock) sandwich bag and be certain the double-locking mechanism is tightly secure! ;) The stronger magnet you can find the better, and don't opt for the 'cheapy' zip-lock bags. Go name-brand here!

Once the storm is over, start your collecting your samples. Take some heavy-duty aluminum foil, and make a makeshift bowl about the size of a cereal bowl. Slowly sweep your magnet inside the collection pan which is full of rain-water. Spend about two minutes

moving the magnet over the entire surface of the collection pan. Your micrometeorites are very very small, and it's doubtful that you will see them with the naked eye! Now the tricky part. Hold your magnet collector over the aluminum foil bowl, and carefully remove the magnet from the zip-lock bag. Take some distilled water and sprinkle a small amount over both sides of the zip-lock back. This will remove any micrometeorites that are still clinging to the outside of the bag. Don't be too generous with your water, as you are going to need to boil the water off.

With adult supervision, place your aluminum foil bowl over the stove top. Keep it on the stove until all the water has boiled off. Now what's left should be your new micrometeorite collection.

Magnetize a needle by moving it across your magnet several times in the same direction. Collect some of the samples from your bowl with the needle and put them onto a microscope slide for viewing. A magnifying glass should be fine for the larger ones. A microscope will work best for the smaller ones, and give you a little more detail.

Keep your best samples and they can be saved for later viewing by gluing them to the slide with some clear glue.

You undoubtedly will find different ways to collect micrometeorites. Keep trying different things and use what works best for you. Enjoy!

Matthews Live 2010 - in Photos



Pat Walker (cub secretary) and her visiting sister, June, take the money and wrap the product!



Muarry Simon preparing his victory salute for his intended run for Club Presidnet next year



Muarry Simon sets **ALL TIME** record for cutting a single geode. The customer (shown in background) actually attained legal voting age while waiting.



Some members were a bit camera shy



Neil, Jimmy, Kim and your editor kept the saws humming all day.



Clarence often drew strange looks from the passers-by ... something about the geode being ... *heirlooms?*



Kim and her daughter were there to offer advice and counselling in choosing the proper geode to fit particular personality traits!



Gale and Tom discuss the finer points of geode wrapping and proper transportation after purchase.



composite cabs



cSouthwest Silver



Opals



Student Photos

William Holland - Lapidary School Some Teachers from Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club - as well as some students

In August several of our club members converged on the William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris, GA.

Sarah Lee Boyce now famous for her theme song "Nobody doesn't like Sarah Lee", taught opal cutting and identification. Her class turned out a number of cut stones from a variety of localities.

Dan Haga taught a class in Southwestern Silver and the class produced a whole case of fine work. Mostly with Southwestern themes and stones, including turquoise, jet, malachite, shell, and azurite. With many fashioned silver leaves and feathers.

Ron Gibbs (yours truly) taught two classes, one in composite cabochons where the class produced a variety of shapes with black jade accents and frames. Then in week two a second class on Digital Photography for Jewelry, and the class produced a nice portfolio of images ranging from cut stones, cabochons, finished gold and silver, and a few slabs and minerals.

Fellow Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club members, Kim and her daughter Brittany Tyler were students during one of the weeks as were Ron and Phyllis Chapman.

Check out William Holland School on the WEB at

[http:// www.lapidaryschool.org](http://www.lapidaryschool.org)

Still one of the great true-values in lapidary training. Only \$310 for a week of training, room and board.