



Goldrush Ledger

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter

August 2019

Prez Sez.....

It was great to see so many people at the picnic this year! For those of you who made it to the shows in Franklin and Spruce Pine, I hope you found some pretty rocks!

Matthews Alive is almost here! We will have our usual booth at the festival, with geode cutting and gem sluicing. As always, **We need volunteers!** This will be the last year that Brad and Kim can devote 100% of their time to the festival. We need new people who can step into these roles to coordinate, set up and tear down the booth, as well as maintain and run the rock cutting saws.

Matthews Alive is our club's main fundraiser! Your time helps to generate funds that run our club all year, including meeting costs, workshops, funding for scholarships to William Holland, and other activities. It helps the club tremendously, and it's also a lot of fun and a great way to get involved and build friendships!

In July we had our annual Club Picnic. Thanks to the Lockwoods for procuring the Barbeque feast! And many thanks to all who brought delicious homemade treats for us to enjoy! It was nice to visit with friends, and fun to see what everyone got for door prizes!

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Kim Gwyn
Club President
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

You might be a rockhound if...

*-- You spend hours and hours
in the ugliest room
in your house!*



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2019 CGMC Officers & Board

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Mary Fisher

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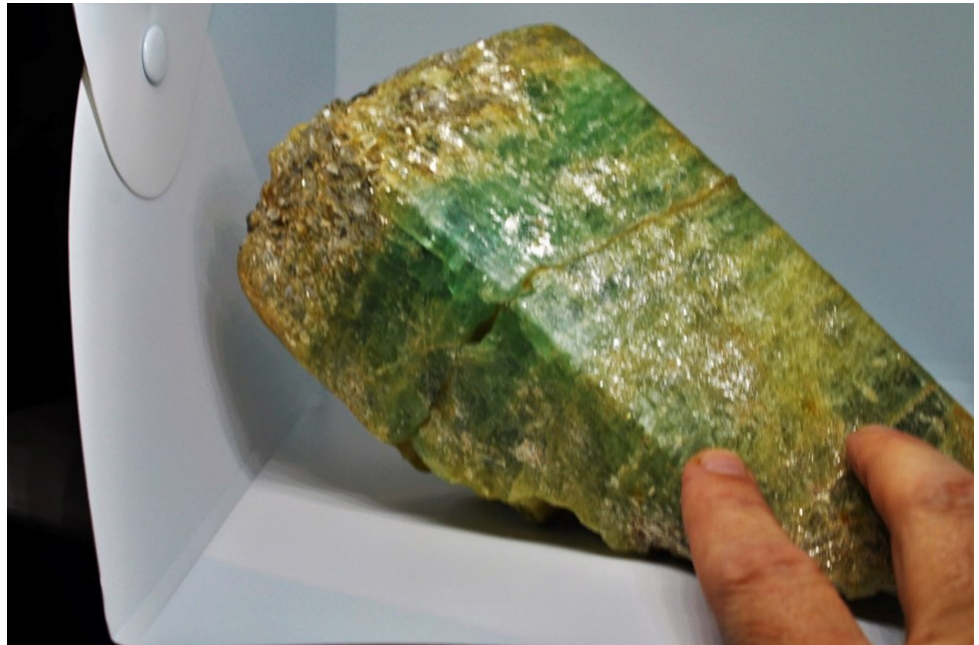
Jimmy Strickland

Speakers/Special Events

Anne Lockwood

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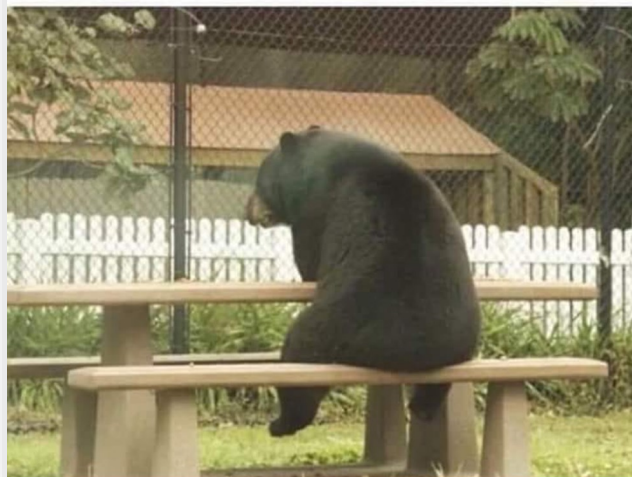


Nice Local Find

So many of the places where nice specimens are found are no longer available to collectors. A little investigating can sometimes lead you to a unique gem. For instance, this find is from Jeffrey Bailey, area geologist: "Always thought of this as an Emerald/Beryl mix. I found this in the early 1970's from a pile of rocks that had come from the Tarper Mine near Shelby Cleveland Co., N.C. (Davo Community to be more exact) I was trying to find the old Plantation or Turner prospect at the time. I stopped and asked a guy who told me his dad had worked there around the 1910's and the mine was "gone and growed over". But he said I could look and the pile. Been in my collection ever since."

(Photo and excerpt from Jeffrey Bailey on the facebook site, Minerals of the Southeastern United States)

When you're at the family cookout
and no one wants to talk
about your rock collection.



Next Club Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2019

Social Time at 6:30 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Tyvola Senior Center
2225 Tyvola Road, Charlotte

Upcoming Field Trips

Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

Note: DMC Field Trips are for club members of DMC-affiliated clubs and their families only. Liability issues mean that these trips cannot be attended by the general public unless otherwise noted. Because this dig is not open to the public, full details are not published in our newsletter. As a benefit of membership, our club is a DMC-affiliated club and CGMC members who are current on their 2019 dues may attend.

September 22, 2019

An Official Field Trip of the Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA)

Lace Agate dig, Details To Be Announced

October 2019

An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society (Memphis, TN)

Details To Be Announced

For more information about these digs, please contact charlottegem@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Gem Shows and Activities

Matthews Alive!

Aug 31-Sept 2 —Matthews, NC—Handmade crafts : The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club will have a booth with Geode Cutting and Gem Sluice. Located near the entrance to the Matthews Community Center.

Raleigh Show -Treasures of the Earth

Aug 30-Sept 2—Raleigh, NC: Annual show; Treasures of the Earth, Inc.; North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (tickets are good for the weekend), free admission for youth 16 and under; Vendors offering custom faceted gemstones, loose stones, mineral specimens, rocks, fossils, demonstrations, displays, and jewelry repair work.

Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club

Sept 6-8 —Winston Salem, NC: Jewelry, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show—This year's theme: Gems, Minerals, and Fossils of Mexico. Fri-Sat 10-6PM, Sunday 1-5PM. Winston Salem Fairgrounds, Education Building, 414 Deacon Blvd.

History of Faceting

Many gem and mineral enthusiasts enjoy faceting, and learn the art through connections and workshops available through clubs, combined with many hours of study and practice. Faceting is both art and geometry, a mechanical process of cutting surfaces on a stone. This introduction provides a history of decorative stone and faceting. In the coming months, this series will provide additional information on faceting.

This series is a collection of information from Ron Gibbs, a longtime Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club member who passed away in 2013. His contributions internationally to the world of gem and mineral collecting, and to our club in particular, will not soon be forgotten.

Source: Ron's website, www.theimage.com

25,000 - 12,000 B.C.	Early humans decorate themselves with shells, bone, teeth and pebbles by at least the Upper Palaeolithic period.
6000 B.C.	Carnelian and rock crystal beads have been found in what is now Iraq.
4000 B.C.	Carved quartz seals were being made.
2500 B.C.	Rome, Egypt, Greece and China all had thriving trades in gem materials (Lapis, carnelian, turquoise, quartz, and others.)
800 B.C.	Diamonds are known in India from at least this date and treasured as talisman.
800 BC - 1000 AD	Several technologies needed to polish, drill, and work stones are undergoing discovery and refinement. Use of corundum as an abrasive (India), bamboo drills with corundum (India), diamonds are mined in India and it becomes the center of the gem trade. There may have been faceted stone in and around Venice as early as 800 A.D., but the process was like many others of the day, and kept as a closely guarded secret in a guild or family.
1000 A.D.	Sometime around this date it is believed that the first faceted (stones with polished flat sides that were designed to give back light) gems may have appeared.
1458 A.D.	An early variation of a round brilliant cut diamond was credited to Louis de Brugge of Belgium. (Probably the "Old Single Cut")
1650 A.D.	Addition of the "Mazarin" cut with a full 33 facets, another mile stone along the way to the True Round Brilliant.
~1700 A.D.	A venetian cutter named Vicenzio Peruzzi cut the first 58 facet stone + table (diamond), although the facets were irregular.
1910 A.D.	Around this time the modern "Brilliant Cut" was developed from many old diagrams and some experimentation, It contained 24 facets on the pavilion (bottom) and 32 facets on the crown (top) with one table facet. A total of 57 facets.
1971 A.D.	The Barion Cuts were designed by Basil Watermeyer, a diamond cutter in Johannesburg, South Africa. The concept was to find a cut that would return more "fire" in square, rectangular, and oval stones. Something more like a round brilliant.

