



# Goldrush Ledger

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter

January 2022



## Prez Sez.....

Hello everyone,

I hope you all had a very good holiday season. Even though the pandemic is still raging on, we are hoping to be able to have all of our monthly meetings. To help keep everyone safe, we have reserved the large room at the Tyvola Senior Center to allow for adequate social distancing. To date, masks have not been required, but feel free to wear one if you are more comfortable doing so.

We are currently trying to figure out how to be able to offer some classes for our members. We think it may be possible to utilize the hour prior to the meeting to accomplish this. More to come as we get things worked out.

We are resuming our usual club business, which means we will be collecting dues once again. Also on the agenda is looking for dig sites, of which we have a couple of good possibilities.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

**Kim Gwyn**  
**Club President**  
**Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club**

*You might be a  
rockhound if...*

You actually consider stopping to pick up those perfectly good 5-gallon buckets that you see along the highway!



## 2021 CGMC Officers & Board

### **President**

Kim Gwyn  
gwynkim@gmail.com  
(803) 370-0244

### **Vice President**

Bob Black

### **Secretary**

Vickie Glover

### **Treasurer**

Sam Baker

### **Directors at Large**

Brad Glover  
Martha Rogers

## Club Chairpersons

### **Web Master**

Kim Gwyn  
gwynkim@gmail.com

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mary Fisher

### **Geode Chair**

Jimmy Strickland

### **Contact Info:**

CharlotteGem@yahoo.com

# Carmeltazite

## *An Interesting New Mineral Discovery*

/summarized from a 2019 Forbes.com article/

Recently, the International Mineralogical Association recognized carmeltazite as a new, distinct mineral. The mineral was named after Mount Carmel where it was found and the elements it contains: titanium, aluminum and zirconium.



Curiously, the chemical formula of Carmeltazite resembles allendeite, a mineral identified for the first time in the Allende meteorite, a rocky meteorite that fell February 8, 1969, in the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

Yet it is formed completely differently: Carmeltazite is found in corundum, an aluminum-oxide, embedded in volcanic rocks mined in the Haifa District in northern Israel. The newly named mineral is a complex zirconium-aluminum-titanium-oxide, with traces of scandium, calcium and magnesium to be found in its crystalline structure.

Carmeltazite is found as veins almost black to dark green in color with a metallic luster in the larger blue sapphire-like crystals, embedded in the volcanic rocks. The largest stone discovered so far has 33.3 carats (0.25 oz).

The new mineral will be marketed as "Carmel Sapphire". It is still not clear how much of the new mineral exists. As gemstone prices are usually based on their rarity, this newly-discovered mineral has the potential to be more valuable than diamonds.



## Dues are Due!

Club dues are due by the end of February.

Dues can be paid at the next club meeting or by printing the form in this newsletter and mailing it to the address on the form.

## January 20 Meeting

Topic: Gems and Minerals of NC

Presenter: Martha Rogers

6:30 - Social Time

7:00 - Meeting begins

Tyvola Senior Center  
2225 Tyvola Road in Charlotte





# SFMS Happenings



## SFMS Lodestar - Regional Newsletter

The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the national AFMS American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and its regional organization, the SFMS Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The SFMS publishes a monthly newsletter, the Lodestar, to keep us up to date on regional club happenings. If you are interested in receiving the SFMS Lodestar via email, send a message to our newsletter editor, Mary Fisher, [mefisher2010@gmail.com](mailto:mefisher2010@gmail.com).

## SFMS Rockhound Roundup

The SFMS is holding its 4th Annual Rockhound Roundup:  
**Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

February 18-20, 2022, 9am to 4pm  
Suwanee River Music Park in Live Oak, Florida

Join the fun at this outdoor event!

- Rough Rocks and Slabs
- Polished Stones
- Handmade Jewelry for Sale
- Lapidary & Silversmithing
- Tools & Equipment

## New Website!

SFMS is transitioning to new website!  
Check it out at [SoutheastFed.org](http://SoutheastFed.org)

## SFMS Workshops

William Holland and Wildacres  
are both hosting classes this year!

Registration for William Holland classes  
has already begun.

Stay tuned to the SFMS Website for

## SFMS Regional Field Trips resume for 2022!

The SFMS hosts a group of local clubs, called the Dixie Mineral Council (DMC).  
These clubs take turns hosting regional digs throughout the southeast.

The DMC will resume field trips beginning in February 2022,  
with a trip to Grundy County, TN, for fern fossils.

For more information about this dig, contact Kim Gwyn.

**The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club is a DMC member club,  
and is scheduled to host a dig in April 2022.**

*Details of DMC Field Trips are not published in the newsletter, as these digs are only  
open to club members who are current on dues.*



# Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Membership Application

## Member Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Type (check one): Individual \$20.00/yr (  ) Family \$25.00/yr (  )

Please List Family Members:

*(Include Names and Ages of Children)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Interests: (Please Select ALL that Apply!)

**Lapidary:**       Tumbling                       Cabochon cutting               Faceting  
                          Spheres                               Intarsia                               Slab polishing

**Jewelry:**               Goldsmithing               Silversmithing               Beading  
 Wirewrap               Gem trees                       Stone setting                       Chain making

**Minerals & Rocks:**       Mineral collecting               Rock collecting               Identification  
    Field Trips

**Junior Rockhounds (children's club):**       Saturday Meetings

***/we agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of Membership. (Code: [www.amfed.org/ethics.htm](http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm))***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club  
402 Wonderwood Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28211