



Goldrush Ledger

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter

May 2019

Prez Sez.....

The Club is actively looking for members to volunteer for various roles within the club. Club officers are needed, as well as helpers to organize and assist with the club picnic, Matthews Alive event, field trips and newsletter. Groups like ours can only run when members chip in to make it work. Please consider volunteering!

In April we had an awesome presentation by Wayne Abercrombie, local archaeologist and artifact collector, on the Stone Age period in North Carolina.

For our May 16 meeting, Jimmy and Becky Strickland will talk about their adventures at the Tucson show this year!

The Charlotte Junior Rockhounds has completed their activities for the schoolyear with an end-of-year picnic and gem mining at Dan Nicholas Park on April 27. The Juniors program will resume in September. Thanks to Mary Fisher for another outstanding year with our kids!

There are lots of interesting gem shows within day-trip distance that are coming up soon, see page 3 for details....

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

You might be a rockhound if...

-- In the spring, you plant flowers in your rock garden!



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2019 CGMC Officers & Board

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Secretary

Vickie Glover

Treasurer

Sam Baker

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Anne Lockwood

Past President

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Geode Chair

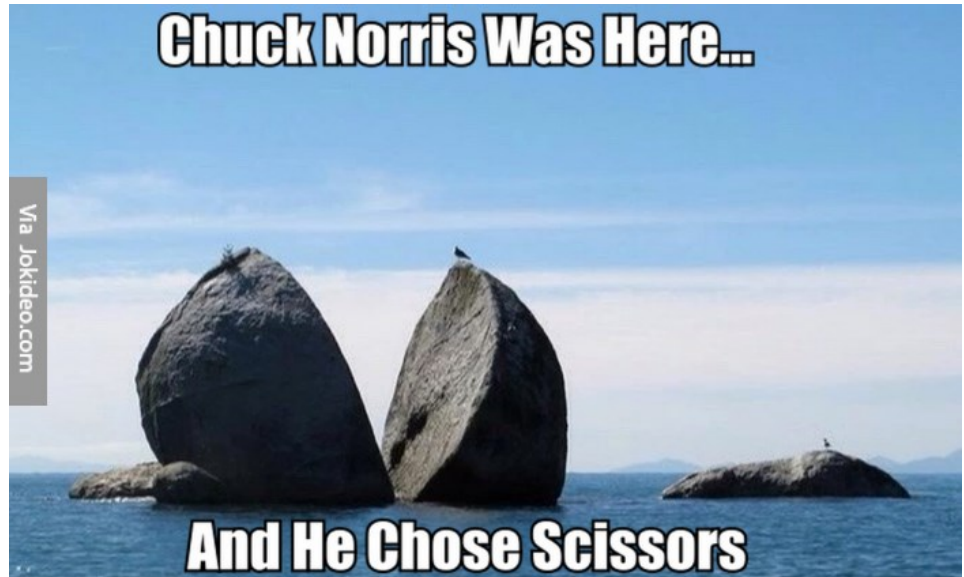
Jimmy Strickland

Speakers/Special Events

Anne Lockwood

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Be Safe, Be Well

(This article is an excerpt from the April, 2009, SEFED, Lode-star newsletter.)

This article is a portion of an e-mail received by a dear friend of mine and forwarded to me. Neither of us know who is the author because I would love to give that person credit. However this article is so good and so timely that I am including it for your education and enjoyment.

Tool Descriptions

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted part which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, "What the...??"

ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

SKILL SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

Next Club Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Social Time at 6:30 PM

Meeting begins 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.

Saturday, May 23

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

Chunky Gal mine in Clay County, NC

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

Upcoming Gem Shows

Franklin Gem Shows

(Several shows occurring in Franklin, NC on the same weekend—look online for details)

Thursday, May 9 – Sunday, May 12

Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club Show

June 1—COLFAX, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club; Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, 2914 Sandy Ridge Road; Sat. 9-5; free; Over 20 vendors of minerals and gemstones, hand crafted jewelry, beads, crystals, books, geodes, demonstrations, and activities for children.

Raleigh Show -Treasures of the Earth

June 7-9—RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA: 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.

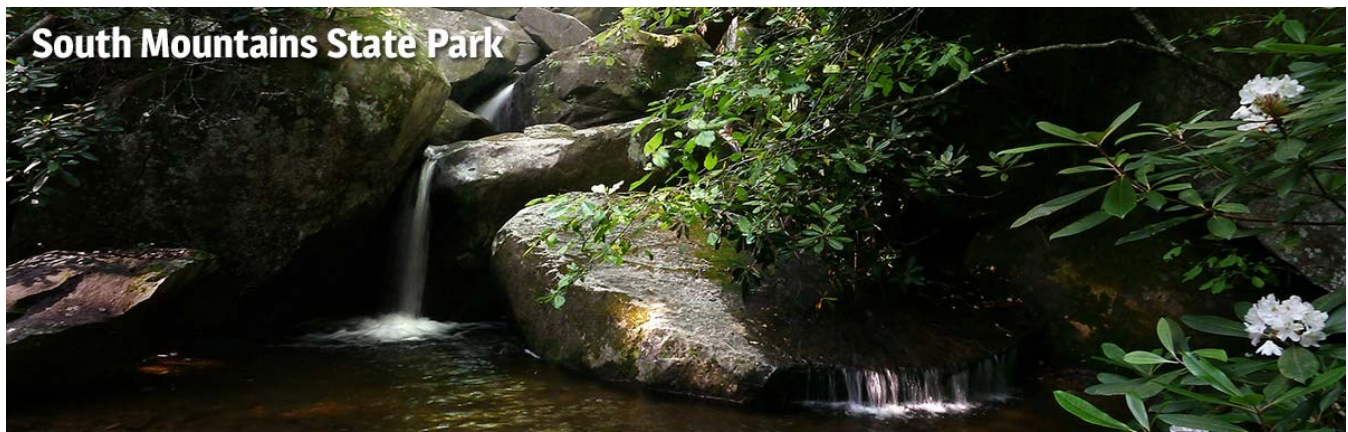
Gaston Club - Summer Gemboree

June 21-23—GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA: Show; Gaston Gem, Mineral and Faceters Club; Absher Flowers VFW Post 9337, 3250 W. Franklin Blvd (HWY 74); Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; free admission; Premiere Edition of our Summer Gemboree is taking place with indoor and outdoor experiences in crystals, gem and mineral specimens, fossils, geodes and jewelry, and a sluice on site.

A large measure of the enjoyment of our hobby consists of collecting in the field. For that reason, members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies are proud to endorse the following:

AFMS Code of Ethics

- ◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- ◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- ◆ I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- ◆ I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- ◆ I will leave all gates as found.
- ◆ I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- ◆ I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- ◆ I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- ◆ I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- ◆ I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- ◆ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- ◆ I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- ◆ I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- ◆ I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- ◆ I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.



Day Trip Ideas - South Mountains State Park

Located 1.5 hours from Charlotte in Connelly Springs NC, South Mountains State Park is 18,000 acre park with steep, rugged mountains. The park features elevations to 3,000 feet, an 80-foot waterfall, mountain streams and more than 40 miles of trails for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers.

The Catawba Valley and the gaps across the mountain ranges to the west were once major travel routes. The South Mountains served as a buffer zone between the Cherokee and the Catawba Indians, and the first European settlers in the area farmed the fertile land along the Catawba River.

In 1828, gold was discovered at Brindle Creek. Legend holds that gold flakes and grains were first discovered in the mud used to seal a log cabin. The ensuing gold rush attracted immigrants, mining companies and slave owners. Gold was mined into the early 20th century, but activity in the gold mines eventually declined.

While most of the high points average approximately 2,000 feet in elevation, Buzzard's Roost towers some 3,000 feet above the surrounding landscape. Elevations within the park itself range from less than 1,200 feet at points along Jacob's Fork River to 3,000 feet on Buzzard's Roost along the park's western boundary.

Water winding through the park to the Catawba River cuts deep into the terrain, forming rugged and steep slopes. The most spectacular feature in the park is High Shoals Falls on Jacob's Fork River. Here, a torrent of water drops 80 feet over a cliff face of bare rock. In addition, Chestnut Knob offers tranquility and a magnificent view of surrounding peaks and ridges.

Photo and description from South Mountains State Park website: www.ncparks.gov/south-mountains-state-park

