



# Goldrush Ledger

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter

February 2019

## Prez Sez.....

Happy February Everybody! Forget the icy cold: It's perfect rock hunting weather, whether you're at the shows in Tucson and Quartzite, or out in the field digging for your own treasures.

January's meeting was fun—a nearly record crowd with many new faces in attendance for Mary Fisher's presentation on the Gems and Minerals of North Carolina. Lots of great information was shared among our members. This is what our club is hoping to achieve—sharing ideas and learning about our hobby with other local collectors.

Our presentation roster for this year is shaping up nicely, with the February presentation by Lindsey Werden on Fossils.

We will announce the winners of the drawing for the William Holland School for Lapidary Arts at the February Meeting. Hope to see you all there!

Kim Gwyn

President

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

*You might be a rockhound if...*

*-- you seriously think  
Franklin, New Jersey  
would be a cool place  
to go on vacation!*



The Tucson Gem & Mineral Show is held each February. Several of our club members are going. Looking forward to hearing about the treasures they found!

## In This Issue

- Dues R Due
- Digs and Shows
- Kids Club Update



## 2019 CGMC Officers & Board

### **President**

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

### **Vice President**

Martha Rogers

### **Secretary**

Vickie Glover

### **Treasurer**

Sam Baker

### **Directors at Large**

Brad Glover  
Mary Fisher  
Anne Lockwood

### **Past President**

Murray Simon

## Club Chairpersons

### **Web Master**

Kim Gwyn  
gwynkim@gmail.com

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mary Fisher

### **Geode Chair**

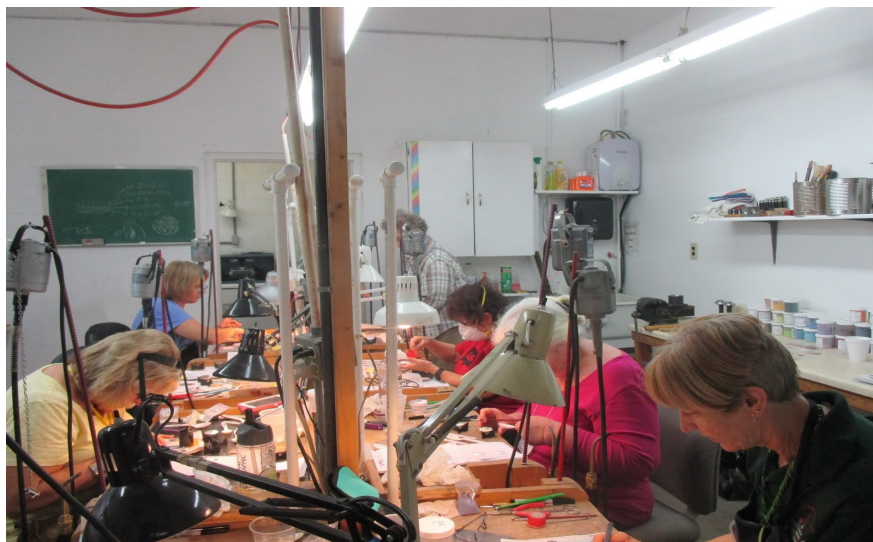
Jimmy Strickland

### **Speakers/Special Events**

Anne Lockwood

### **Contact Info:**

Charlotte@gem@yahoo.com



Enameling Class at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

## What does your workshop look like?

This year we are having a contest for best workshop by a club member. To participate, we will need 3 pictures capturing the best qualities of your work area. This could be a garage, basement, spare room, wherever you do your lapidary work. These pictures will be submitted to Kim Gwyn (email in the sidebar), and then posted anonymously on the website for voting. Once votes are tabulated, a winner will be determined and the winner will win a Prize to be determined.

## William Holland Scholarship Drawing

At the February Meeting, we will announce the three winners of our annual drawing for the Pat Walker Lapidary Arts Scholarship. Mrs. Pat Walker is a longtime member and esteemed contributor to the success of our club, and we are pleased to name the scholarship in her honor this year! The scholarship award is a one-week class including tuition, room and board at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts.

The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in northern Georgia runs classes from April through November. Week-long classes range from cabochoning, faceting, silversmithing and all types of jewelry making. They even have a Junior Rockhounds program!

More information on available classes can be found at their website:

<https://lapidaryschool.org/classesbyweek.aspx>

## Dues are Due - Last Call!

Membership dues provide many benefits including access to drawings and special events such as the summer picnic, club field trips, and Dixie Mineral Council field trips. It will soon be time to draw for the scholarships to William Holland for the coming year, and only current members will be available for the drawing.

Our annual dues are due by end of January. Dues are the same as previous years: \$20 for individuals and \$25 for the family. Membership forms are available at the club meeting, and also on our website at [www.charlottegem.com](http://www.charlottegem.com). Please mail in your payment if you are unable to attend this month's meeting on the 21st. We will update the club roster and email distribution list accordingly in March.

## What are you working on?



Martha Rogers leading a Wire Wrap class for the Junior Rockhounds in November. Photo credit: Anne Lockwood

This month's issue features our Kids Club program. Martha Rogers led the Wire Wrap class for the Kids Club in November with some fantastic finished pieces!

So, what are You working on? Send us your pictures to share with our members, or bring it to the meeting to share and discuss with other members.

## How can you help our club this year?

Like every great group, this club relies upon participation from our members to support the club's activities. Join in on the fun, and build friendships along the way!

1. Sign up to bring snacks for one of our meetings.
2. Make a presentation on a vacation, dig, trip, class.
3. Volunteer for a committee (Matthews Alive).



# Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

The Charlotte Junior Rockhounds is the kids' program for the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club. It is part of the larger AFMS "Future Rockhounds of America" program, and has been active in Charlotte for almost 20 years. We typically hold six or seven Saturday meetings during the school year. Kids from ages 4 to 16 enjoy learning about new gem, mineral, and geology topics while sharing their hobby with new friends. Each meeting is focused on a particular topic, with hands-on activities and opportunities to learn and have fun! Mary Fisher runs the group with help from other parents and club members. Topics for 2018 and 2019 include:

- Open House / Mineral ID
- Geology 101
- How to Display Your Collection
- Jewelry Making
- Properties of Minerals
- Fossils
- Gems and Minerals of North Carolina
- Fluorescent Minerals

Our older Junior Rockhounds also help at Matthews Alive. The group has been doing some great work this year - here are a few pictures from recent meetings:



Junior Rockhounds having fun! Photo credit: Anne Lockwood

# 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, Feb 16

#### An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club

The Athens Rock and Gem Club is hosting a DMC dig to Girard, GA to search for Savannah River Agate.

For more information about this dig, please contact [charlottegem@yahoo.com](mailto:charlottegem@yahoo.com).

### Saturday, March 23

#### An Official Field Trip of the Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Club (Chattanooga, TN)

The **Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Club** is hosting a DMC dig for Fossils. Details to be Announced.

For more information about this dig, please contact [charlottegem@yahoo.com](mailto:charlottegem@yahoo.com).

# Upcoming Gem Shows

**49th Annual Catawba Valley  
Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show  
Hickory Metro Convention Center  
Hickory, NC  
(Come and visit our club booth at the show!!)**

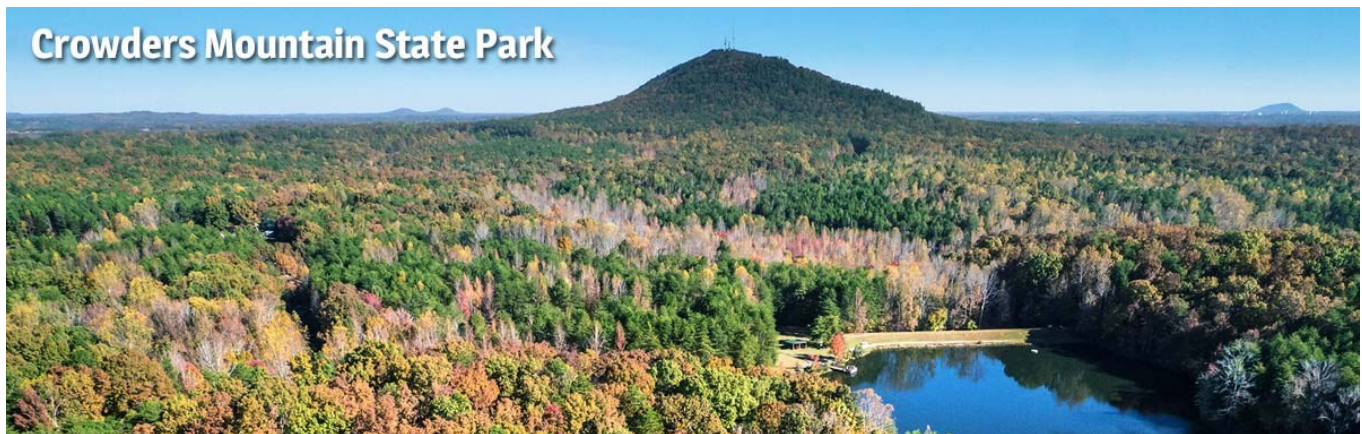
**March 22-24**

**Hours:**

**9am-6pm – Fri & Sat**

**10am-5pm – Sunday**





## Day Trip Ideas - Crowders Mountain

Companion peaks at Crowders Mountain State Park—The Pinnacle and Crowders Mountain—offer challenging hikes, towering cliffs and 25-mile views of the surrounding piedmont. Eleven trails range from pastoral to strenuous, including the Ridgeline Trail, which links to Kings Mountain State Park and Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. The visitor center with museum-quality exhibits complements regular interpretive programs.

Once the core of mountains that rose thousands of feet above sea level, these surviving peaks are part of the Appalachian chain that formed in the region 450 to 500 million years ago. Geologically classified as kyanite-quartzite monadnocks, the strength of quartzite has allowed these pinnacles to withstand the wind, water and other forces that eroded less resistant peaks. Many interesting minerals were once mined in the area.

Because the site is now designated as a State Park, specimen collection is no longer allowed. Nonetheless, interesting rock and mineral formations are visible along the trail, and change with elevation as you hike to the pinnacle.

The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club recently donated a spectacular specimen of Turgite to the Crowders Mountain State Park. Look for more about this topic in a future issue of the Goldrush Ledger!