



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

DEC. 2014

THE PREZ SAYZ

Another year is about to come to a close. Seems like just a few weeks ago we were saying goodbye to 2013. This has been a year of continuing growth for the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. We started the year with 68 paid memberships. Now we have ended with 102. Our Junior Rockhounds are now meeting twice on the third Saturday of the month – one class for adolescents and one for pre-teen and teens. We have initiated Saturday morning classes once a month at

the uptown campus of CPCC, which brings us into contact with potential future members who have previously never heard of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. We had record-breaking sales at the Matthews Alive Festival in September and our treasury has been fortified with proceeds from the silent auctions that began earlier this year.

It is particularly encouraging to see how diverse our membership has become. At last month's annual auction we had participants/ bidders ranging from pre-teens to seniors. At Matthews Alive we had an 11-year-old member working the sluice line and doing a terrific job of it! We also had non-members who had made inquiries about taking our CPCC workshops come to Matthews Alive to check us out; they wound up staying several hours.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the CG&MC board of directors for all their contributions in



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1-2	The Prez Says
4-5	Dec. Birthstone
6	Fluorite Mineral
7	Cabbing Classes



**2014 CGMC
OFFICERS & BOARD**

President

Murray Simon
msimonnc@gmail.com
(704) 668-5658

Vice President

Kim Gwyn
gwynk@flashlink.net

Secretary

Vickie Glover
www.stitchwitt@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Vivian Philson
Philson05@gmail.com

Directors at Large

Mary Fisher
mefisher@att.net
Brad Glover
glov4305@bellsouth.net

Web Master

Kim Gwyn
gwynk@flashlink.net

Bulletin Editor:

Zach Blackburn
zachery.blackburn@hotmail.com

CLUB CHAIRPERSONS

SFMS Contact

Pat Walker

Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

Workshop Chair

Linda Simon
lsimon1@carolina.rr.com

Field Trip Chair

Vacant

Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

Special Events

Carl Lockwood

Children's Program Chair

Mary Fisher

making 2014 such a successful year. The board is made up of members who put in many hours of thought and effort on behalf of the club, often without being asked to do so. In addition, I want to single out certain individuals who have gone well beyond the call of duty in working for the club. Thank you Jack King, Kristie and Xavier Bulla, Chuck Borawa, Dottie Carrano, Martha Rogers, Gale and Tom Blevins, Kristi Harbage, Neil Hohmann, George Libby, Lindsay Worden, Pat Walker, Jimmy and Becky Strickland and, although she always insists that I not single her out, our great jewelry teacher (and my lovely wife) Linda.

**To one and all, may you have a wonderful
Christmas and a great New Year!**

Murray Simon

President

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

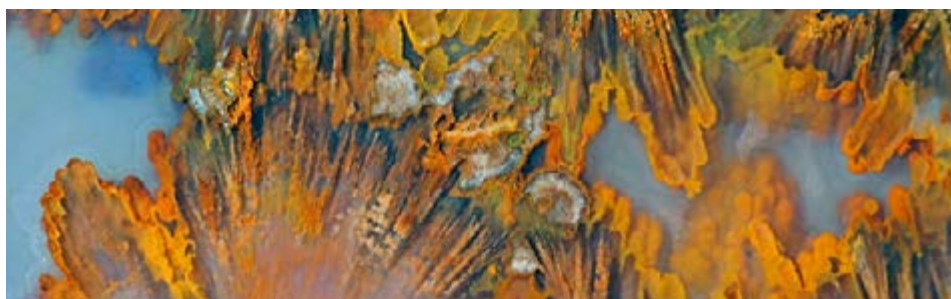
William HollanD
School of Lapidary Arts

Are you interested in taking your gem and mineral hobby or business to the next level? Then William Holland School of Lapidary Arts is the place for you! Registration for the 2014 season is open now.

Learn about silver smithing, faceting, cabochons, opals, and tons of other interesting and exciting topics. Spend one week immersed in rockhounding pursuits in the beautiful Georgia countryside.

Learn more at:

<http://www.lapidaryschool.org/>



Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Meeting

** We will not have our normal monthly meeting; but join us for...*

Our Annual Christmas Party

Friday Evening December 19, 2014

In The Fellowship Hall (behind the Church)
Amity Presbyterian Church
2831 N. Sharon Amity Road
Charlotte, N.C.

Assemble at 6:00, Dinner at 7:00

Mystery Gift Swap (optional)

Bring one, Take one

bring a club/rock/hobby related wrapped present to leave
on the table for someone, and take one that was left.

Are you coming?

Please contact Murray Simon
msimonnc@gmail.com or 704-543-6651
with the number of those attending
as well as what type of food
you will be bringing (optional)

**There will not be a Junior Rockhound meeting this month.
Meetings will resume in January.**

BIRTHSTONES OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONES

The three birthstones associated with December are *Tanzanite*, *Zircon*, and *Turquoise*.

TANZANITE



Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, *tanzanite* exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices. As tanzanite can be less expensive than sapphire, it often was purchased as an alternative. However, it has increased in popularity and now is valued more for its own beauty and brilliance than as a sapphire substitute.



ZIRCON



Derived from the Arabic words *zar* and *gun*, meaning *gold* and *color*, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep. Major sources of zircon are the Chanthaburi area of Thailand, the Palin area of Cambodia, and the southern part of Vietnam.



TURQUOISE



The name *turquoise*, from the French expression *Pierre tourques* or *Turkish stone*, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque. Turquoise is plentiful and is available in a wide range of sizes. It is most often used for beads, cabochons, carvings, and inlays. Although its popularity fluctuates in fashion, it is a perennial favorite in the American Southwest.

From: <http://www.americangemsociety.org>



FLUORITE GEMSTONES AND MINERALS

Fluorite is one of the most fascinating minerals in the world, with many intriguing properties. It is a material with important industrial applications, as well as a great favorite of mineral collectors. It is also popular as a gemstone, though it has to be cut, set and worn with care.

In fact fluorite is such a special mineral that it was the official theme of the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society at the Tucson gem show in 2013.

By chemical composition, fluorite is calcium fluoride. It is an isometric mineral that usually forms in cubic crystals, though octahedral and more complex isometric forms are seen as well.

Because fluorite produces well-formed crystals in several different habits, interesting specimens are very popular with collectors. Cubic crystals are the most recognized, followed by the octahedral. Fluorite has perfect octahedral cleavage with 4 identical directions of cleavage, and cleaved fluorite octahedrons can be found in many mineral shops.



Color Change Fluorite



Another distinctive characteristic of fluorite is the fluorescence that it displays under ultraviolet light. In fact fluorite was one of the first fluorescent minerals studied, and the very term *fluorescence* comes from “fluorite.” The visible light emitted is most commonly blue, but red, purple, yellow, green and white also occur. The fluorescence of fluorite is thought to be due to mineral impurities in the crystal lattice.

Fluorite has generated interest as a gemstone because of its wide range of colors and its attractive luster. Fluorite is found in nearly every color, ranging from purple and blue to green, yellow, orange, red, pink and brown. Banded multicolored specimens are common, and a **color-change variety** is rare but known. The **color-change** can be well-defined, typically showing a change from blue under natural light to purple under incandescent light.

Because fluorite is a relatively soft material -- rating on 4 on the Mohs scale -- it is suitable mainly for earring and pendants. It can be challenging to cut because of its perfect cleavage and it has to be handled carefully when set in jewelry.

<http://www.ajsgem.com/articles/fluorite-gemstones-and-minerals.html>

CHARLOTTE GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

CABOCHON CUTTING CLASSES

Saturday January 17 and 24 from 8:00 - 12:00

Location: CPCC Central Campus, 1201 Elizabeth Ave, Charlotte, NC 28204 in the Visual Center for Art Technology Building

Class fee: \$60.00, Checks and cash are accepted

An ideal class for the absolute beginner. Classes will teach everything you need to know to get started in cab cutting. During the class, most students complete two cabochons. All materials are included in the cost of the class. Money raised from the class go to pay for materials, upkeep on the machines, and a portion will go to the CPCC Jewelry Club for hosting the event. Course will be taught by CGMC's own Zach Blackburn.

For more information contact Murray Simon or Zach Blackburn.

To reserve a space in the class contact Terry McMicking at Terry.McMicking@cpcc.edu.

Space is limited to six students. Do not delay in registering for the class.

