



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

JAN. 2015

THE PREZ SAYZ

Sorry if you couldn't make it to the club Christmas party on December 19th. We had approximately 45 in attendance at the Amity Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall with an ample array of great food and a variety of terrific desserts. One of the highlights for me was the presence of a scholarship recipient with his entire family. They were most appreciative of our contribution to their son's future education and the inclusion of their family in our festivities. In the past we have invited faculty to the event but, personally, I think it's more rewarding to have the students' families present.

There are a few items I would like to put on the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Bucket List for 2015. In past years we

have relied primarily on outside speakers for our club meetings: I would like to put more emphasis on club members as speakers. There are nine meetings each year that call for a speaker – the club picnic, the auction and the Xmas party are special events that require no speakers. We have some members lined up for meetings early in 2015 but I would appreciate hearing from the membership with regard to ideas for additional subjects and speakers.

I'm looking for suggestions regarding snacks for the social hour of our monthly meetings. It's unfortunate that the Senior Center does not have storage space available. It would be nice to have a place on site to keep paper goods, bags of potato chips, drinks, packages of cookies, etc.. Snacks have

TAKE NOTE!
Club Meeting
on Jan.22

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Murray presenting a scholarship to Jaylen.



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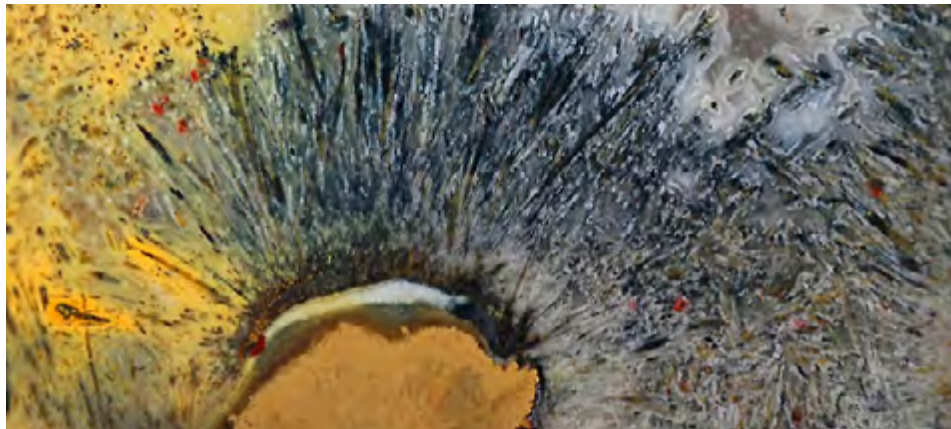
been a long-standing tradition for the club; it represents a unique opportunity for members to socialize and get to know newer members better. I would hate to see this tradition discontinued but I'm running out of ideas for motivating members to volunteer to bring snacks.

Finally, 2015 will be my fifth year as president. Obviously the club means a great deal to me and I want to see it grow and succeed in the years to come. But I'm not getting any younger and lately I've been thinking it's time for a fresh approach to running this organization. When Linda and I joined about ten years ago the club was going through a period of time that I think is best described as "rudderless". Membership numbers were dropping, attendance at many meetings were minimal and at our first meeting experience, no one even came over to say, "Hi, who are you?". Although it is a lot of work, the personal rewards that come from running a club like ours is difficult to find elsewhere. If you think this is a responsibility you would like to take on, let me know.

*Murray Simon, President
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club*

DUES, they do be DUE

It is that time of the year folks. Please be ready to pay your yearly dues at the January meeting. We accept cash and checks. Make your check out to "The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club." Yearly dues are \$25 for a family and \$20 for an individual.



TAKE NOTE!
Club Meeting
on Jan.22

Dues
are Due

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club **Monthly Meeting**

Thursday **Jan. 22, 2015**

Social Hour from 6:00 - 7:00, Meeting to Start at 7:00

Location:

Tyvola Senior Center

2225 Tyvola Rd. Charlotte, NC 28210 (704) 522-6222

Our Guest will be: Missy Eppes PhD.
UNCC Associate Professor of Earth Sciences
“The Influence of the Sun on Cracking Rocks
(Including Mars)”

***Jewelry Making Workshop** **prior to the meeting* 5:00 to 7:00 pm**

Martha Rogers will teach: *Beaded Bezels for Cabochons*
BYOC -Bring your own Cabochon. One can be provided if needed.
Students will finish the class with a beautiful pendant!
Come by and watch us work.

Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

Saturday Jan. 31, 2015 10:00-11:00

Topic: Families of Minerals / Crystal Formations

Location:

Matthews Community Center

100 McDowell St. Matthews, NC 28105

Contact Mary Fisher to sign up for the class:
mefisher@att.net

Jewelry Making Classes



Learn the art of jewelry making from one of your fellow club members. The above works of art were created by members like you during a previous jewelry class. Classes are available to all up to date members.

This month Martha Rogers will teach BEADED BEZELS FOR CABOCHONS. Bring your own cabochon (if you do not have one, one will be provided). Students will finish the class with a beautiful pendant! Come by and watch us work.

****Next Class is Thursday Jan. 22th
from 5 to 7 prior to the club meeting****

PLATINUM JEWELRY

The most popular precious metal for fine jewelry is 18K gold. Since pure gold (24K) is too soft for most jewelry, 18K gold (75% pure) provides the best combination of gold purity and practicality. 18K gold is manufactured in a range of colors, including yellow, white and rose. White gold is created by combining gold with white metal alloys such as silver and palladium and then plating with rhodium. Rose gold is produced by increasing the ratio of copper alloy.

Some gemstones, such as [ruby](#), are thought to look best when set in yellow gold. Others, such as [blue sapphire](#), are often preferred set in white gold. White [diamonds](#) look whitest when set in a white metal. There has been a definite trend towards white metals in recent years for all kinds of gemstones and diamonds.



Star Sapphire Platinum Ring



Alexandrite Platinum Ring

White gold can easily be confused with another white metal, platinum. Platinum is also popular for fine jewelry and is often regarded as the most luxurious of the precious metals. Unlike gold, platinum is strong and hard enough to be used in its pure form, and platinum jewelry is usually stamped "950 Platinum", indicating that it is 95% pure. Platinum is usually alloyed with 5% iridium, palladium or ruthenium.

Platinum is a very dense metal, even denser than gold. And since it is used in an almost pure form, platinum jewelry is noticeably heavier than 18K gold. Platinum is also a much rarer metal than gold, and its price has historically been substantially higher. Only recently has the price of platinum fallen below that of gold. Since the weight of platinum in a piece of jewelry is higher than the weight of 18K gold in a similar piece (because of platinum's higher

density and the purity of the metal used), platinum jewelry is usually much more expensive than 18K gold.

The color of platinum is whiter than unplated white gold. But much platinum jewelry is also rhodium plated to achieve the super high polish typical of rhodium. Some jewelry designers are now using brushed or matte finishes with unplated platinum in their jewelry.

Platinum is valued for its durability and strength. Though platinum can be scratched, it tends not to wear away, and platinum jewelry will usually outlast gold. Platinum is ideal for the prongs that hold a gemstone in a setting, since platinum is strong and stable when set in position.

<http://www.ajsgem.com/articles/platinum-jewelry.html>



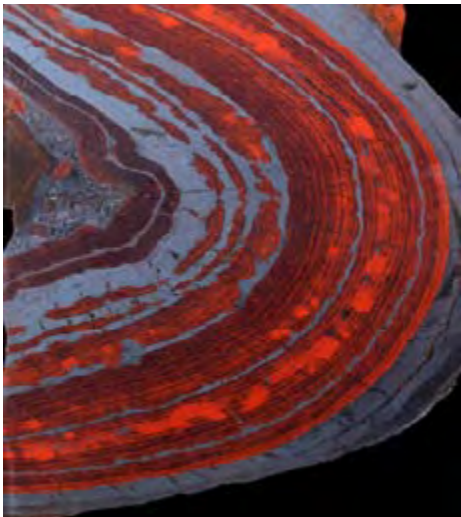
Fossil wood with grain pattern and knot

Fossilized Materials by ron gibbs

Fossilized materials (also known as “petrified” in some circles) are formed when previous living material is replaced molecule for molecule with silica. For this process to be successful the original material must be protected from normal oxidation and destruction by bacteria early in the process.

Typically a living material dies and is buried under sufficient sand, soil or even water to protect its structure until it dehydrates. After the drying process the open cells in the material are filled in with chalcedony, sometimes in the form of small agates (see dinosaur bone). Once the cells have been filled in, the remaining non-silica areas define the original cell structure. This is then filled in over time with more silica.

The colors in fossilized material come from the replacement silica solution and secondary metals dissolved within. Reds, oranges, and yellows come mainly from iron, black from iron or manganese, and green from iron, copper or chromium.



BIF - banded iron formation

The best known material is likely fossilized wood, and it comes in a variety of types. The interior of the wood is often preserved showing the ring structures, as well as bark, knots, feathers and other features. Fossilized pine cones are even known.

One of the oldest fossilized materials on earth is known as BIF (Banded Iron Formation) and is found on every continent. Although not a fossil itself, it was caused by ancient bacteria in the early oceans that were responsible for the first free oxygen. The oxygen caused hematite and magnetite to precipitate from the early seas. It was a cyclic process with alternating layers of metal oxides and red jasper being precipitated. Due to its extreme age much of it has seen secondary tectonic processes that folded and contorted the original layers. It is considered to be about 220 - 230 million year old. (myo)



Mary Ellen Jasper - fossilized stromatolite



Mary Ellen Jasper - fossilized stromatolite

Another fossilized material related to bacteria is fossilized stromatolite. Stromatolites are likely the same bacteria that produced the BIF formations. They grew in colonies in ancient oceans, and they still exist today along the shore of parts of Australia. In the United States their fossilized remains are found in Minnesota and are called Mary Ellen Jasper.

Another interesting material is called Gary Green Jasper (aka Larsonite), and is thought to be fossilized swamp bog. In general it's made up of swirling patterns and layers. Although it's often green in color the green is from replacement minerals and not the original bog.

Fossilized dinosaur bone is popular with most lapidary artists. It is found in great abundance in Utah, and Colorado. It's no longer available for collection due to some poorly crafted legislation.

Fossilized ancient fern is also found and much of it comes from Brazil and South America. It often preserves the interior detailed structure of the fern and makes really interesting patterns.

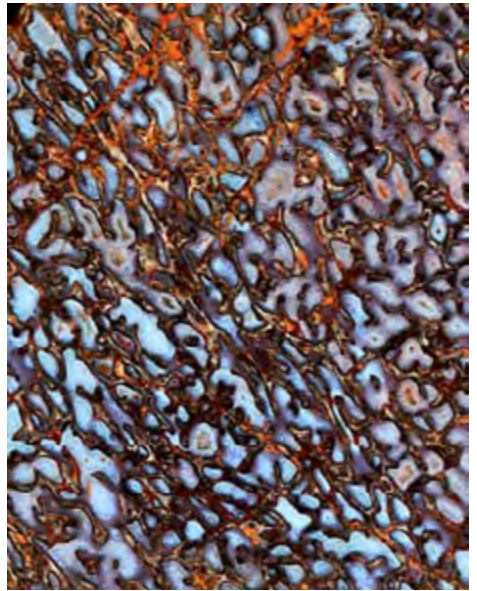
Coral can be fossilized and can be found all over the world. The example shown here is from Indonesia.



Coprolite

We'll finish with fossilized dinosaur excrement, you know what it is, it's called coprolite. If you don't know then it's your homework assignment, look it up on the WEB.

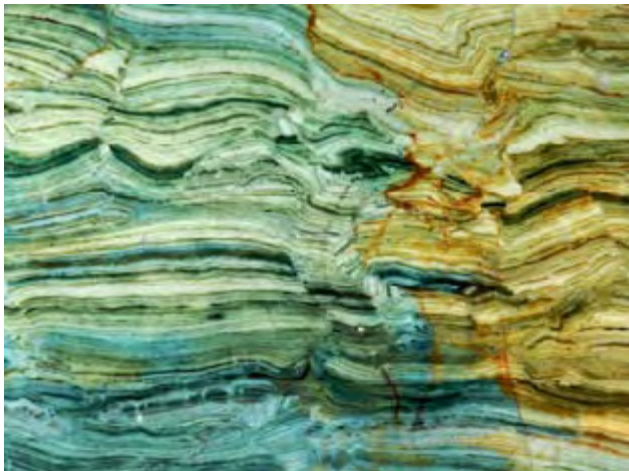
Fossils provide a wide variety of patterns for lapidary work.



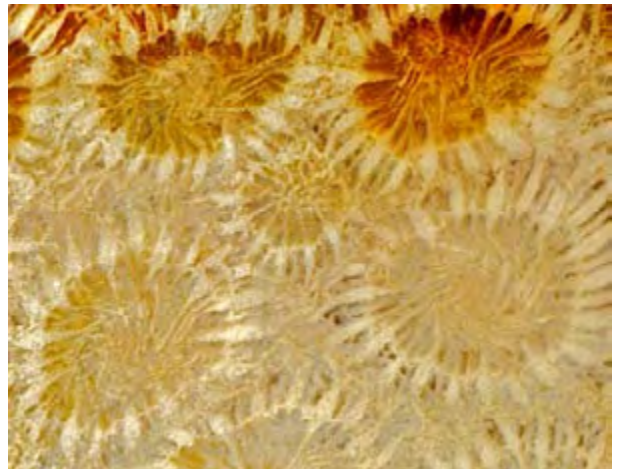
Fossil dinosaur bone



Fossil fern stalk



*Gary Green Jasper -
fossilized swamp bog*



Fossilized Coral

TUSCON SHOW INFORMATION

There are not any gem shows in our area in the near future. Arizona is the place to be.

29-15—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Eons Expos, 22nd Street Mega-Tent; 600 W. 22nd St.; Daily 9-6; free admission; meet the cast of the TV show “Prospectors”, who will be at the show selling their finds; contact Heather Grana, 235 First St., Keyport, NJ 07735; e-mail: Heather@EonsExpos.com; Web site: www.EonsExpos.com

29-15—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Annual show; Eons Expos, LLLP, 22nd Street Show Tent; 600 W 22nd Street; Daily 9-6; Admission Free, Children Free; An 18-day show inside a huge 60,000 square foot climate controlled tent. Free parking. 200 booths. A Top Five show in Tucson based on table count. Wholesale and retail. We curate an even mix of fossil, mineral, gemstone, and jewelry dealers.; contact Lowell Carhart, 80 Roslyn Forest Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22901, (804) 291-6357; e-mail: LowellCarhart@yahoo.com; Web site: www.22ndStreetShow.com

30-15—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Annual show; Marana Miner’s Co-op, The Rock Show; 6107 N. Travel Center Dr.; Daily 9-6; free admission; www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-Miners-Co-op-The-Rock-Show/313811585410623?ref=hl; contact Rachel Ford-Dingfield, (720) 495-8362; e-mail: kaipuravida@gmail.com; Web site: <http://tucsonrockgemmineralshow.com/>

31-14—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Martin Zinn Expositions, Hotel Tucson City Center/InnSuites; 475 N. Granada Ave; Daily 10:00 am-6:00 pm; Admission Free; Gallery of Artists, Fossil Hall, Dinosaur replicas in the courtyard. Over 300 vendors in one location.; contact Regina Aumente, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: mzexpos@gmail.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

31-14—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Martin Zinn Expositions, LLC, Ramada Ltd; 665 N Freeway; Daily 10 am-6 pm; Admission Free; Final Saturday show closes at 5 pm.; contact Regina Aumente, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: mzexpos@gmail.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

31-14—TUCSON, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show; Martin Zinn Expositions, LLC, Mineral & Fossil Marketplace; 1333 N Oracle; Daily 10 am-6 pm; Admission Free; Show closes at 5 pm on final Saturday; contact Regina Aumente, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: mzexpos@gmail.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

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.

