



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

JULY 2014

THE PREZ SAYZ

Summer is upon us and that means the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club annual picnic is just around the corner – Saturday, August 2 to be exact. Once again it will be held at our lake house at v. For those who couldn't make it last year, you missed good food, congenial fellowship, swimming, canoeing and fishing. This year it gets even better with our new pontoon boat providing sightseeing rides on the lake. Reservations are essential: last year we had 8 people show up unexpectedly and we came close to running out of food. A blast will go out with directions and instructions in mid-July so watch for it and . . . y'all come!

A few weeks ago a group of CG&MC stalwarts (Kim Gwyn, Brad Glover, Lindsay Werden, Jimmy Strickland, Pat Walker and I) spent half a day cleaning up and organizing the trailer. For those who have never been to "the trailer", let me describe what you've been missing. There is a large field on Independence Boulevard that contains a significant number of permanently parked eighteen-wheeler truck beds in various stages of rust and disrepair. Most are used as locked storage facilities by the various companies and organizations that own or

lease them. The Charlotte Gem and Mineral club has owned its trailer for well over twenty years and we pay an annual rental fee to Stegall Trucking for the right to park it on their land. It's not much to look at but I can't imagine what life would be like if we didn't have it. Let me give you a walking tour.

The first thing you see after opening the doors are stacked old metal milk bottle crates full of geodes of various sizes. These are the geodes we cut and sell at the Labor Day weekend Matthews Alive Festival to raise money for UNCC and ASU geology/earth sciences scholarships. Next to the crates sit the saws used to cut the geodes. Across the aisle are wooden racks containing saw blades, extension chords, various paraphernalia and paper goods used at the festival. Midway along in the trailer is a series of sturdy deep shelves recently built and installed by Kim and Brad. They house cabbing and faceting equipment, donated tools and materials to be sold at the annual November club auction and the tents for Matthews Alive. Across from the shelves are barrels and boxes full of sluicing materials and mineral specimens. There is also a file cabinet with club-related papers dating back to the 1960s. The nose (far end) of the trailer houses the club sluice, sluice tables, generator,

pumps, sifting screens and plastic barrels needed in setting up a sluicing operation.

There's probably half a ton of stuff in there and we have to access its

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contents six or eight times a year. While it is definitely not in any condition to be hauled anywhere, there is a fascinating true story about a late night round trip journey in the 1990s that we will have to have Jimmy and Pat tell the club someday. Our next trip to the trailer will be the Friday of the Labor Day weekend to load up for the Matthews Alive Festival. We'll be looking for volunteers to help out and I hope this article has roused enough curiosity to prompt some new faces at "the trailer".

*Murray Simon, President
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club*

MATTHEW'S ALIVE

It is coming up next month.

August 29 – September 1

The club really needs your support with this event. This year our booth will have sluicing and geode cutting. We are going to need volunteers to fill positions during the event as well as set up and break down. The proceeds from the event go to scholarships and to fund events like the annual picnic and Christmas party. Please come show your support for the club by volunteering for this event. More information will be available at the July meeting.



BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH

Ruby

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire.

- See more at: <http://www.americangemso-ciety.org/july-birthstone#sthash.hXwhau-QW.dpuf>



Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club
Monthly Meeting

Thursday July 17, 2014

Gathering at 6:30, Meeting to Start at 7:00

Location:

Tyvola Senior Center

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

Kim Gwyn and Zach Blackburn will speak about their experiences at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. They will speak about the classes, instructors, facilities, and all around good time. Attendees are encouraged to bring in any items that they have created while at William Holland.



BRING IN YOUR WH CREATIONS!

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

Linda will conduct a jewelry making class in the club meeting room. This class make a wire wrap and bead necklace designed to display a pendant. Class/materials fee is \$10.

Gem Profile August 30: Maw Sit Sit

August 30th, 2013

by Layna Palmer, Wire-Sculpture.com

Gem Profile

Maw Sit Sit

[Gemstones](#)

In my pursuit of unusual gems to bring to your attention, I came across one that is unusually pretty and the name is just incredible! Maw Sit Sit, pronounced mah-sitsit, is a rare gem found only in one place in the world; Northern Myanmar (Burma).

A little about Maw Sit Sit?

Maw Sit Sit is a temperamental stone. It's about a 6 to 7 on the Mohs' hardness scale, but can vary from 5 to 7, depending on the mineral makeup of the stone. It is usually cut en cabochon or round beads as it is difficult to facet given the tendency to have soft spots within the material when cutting and polishing.



Cabochons of Maw Sit Sit

Maw sit sit was originally thought to be a form of jadeite, which is mined in the same area of the Jade mines, but in 1963 a Swiss gemologist Dr. Edward Gubelin found that it is not imperial jadeite, but an entirely new material with a high chromium content. It is however still a cousin of jade and is an aggregate of numerous minerals.



Maw Sit Sit rough rock

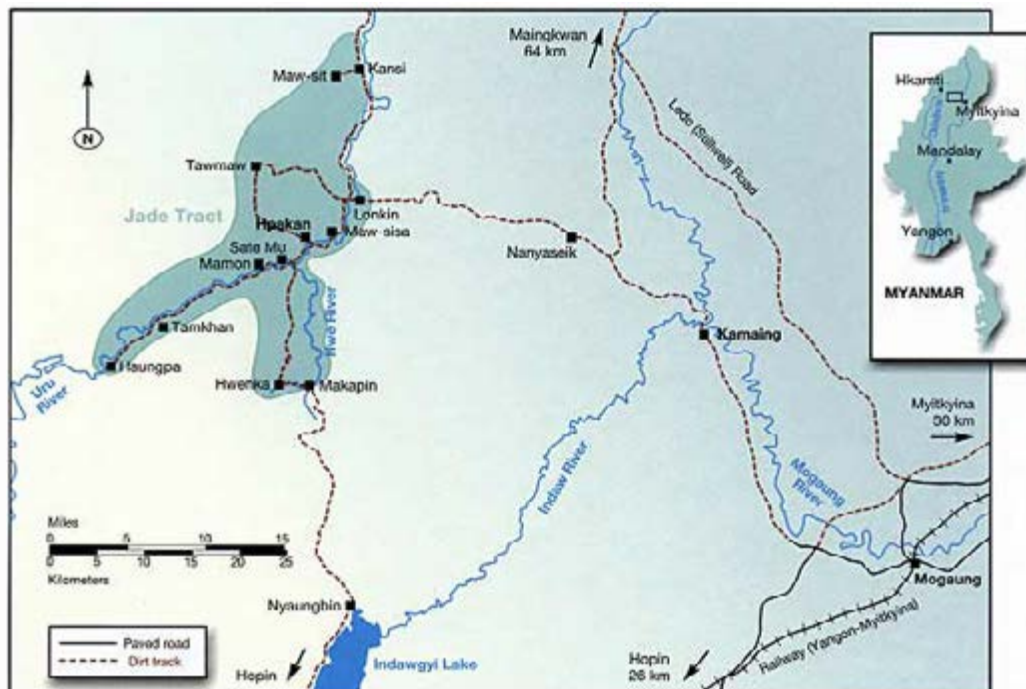
The stone is a deep emerald green to bright neon or apple green color and can be mottled, veined or striped with black or darker green. Maw Sit Sit has no real crystal structure and is formed by regional metamorphosis of igneous rocks, probably from the pressure of the Indian plate colliding with the Eurasian plate which formed the Himalaya's.



Rough and cut maw-sit-sit Photo: Harold & Erica Van Pelt

Where is it found?

Myanmar (Burma) is nestled between Thailand/Laos to the east, India and China which borders the North and Bangladesh to the West. Maw Sit Sit is found in the Tawmaw mining district of Myanmar in the Himalayan foothills and the stone is named for the village of the same name, which is located nearby. The mine sits on a plateau within the Uru River drainage basin and is nearly inaccessible during the rainy season; March through October.



Jade Mines

How is Maw Sit Sit mined?

Mining Maw Sit Sit is still mined in the same manner as Imperial Jadeite has been mined for centuries; by hand, in the mud. The only modernization has been the addition of power tools and dynamite. Due to the fact that the mining area is very remote, and that trucks don't travel well to the site, miners have to continually dodge the automobile graveyards of those less-fortunate vehicles mired in the muck. Miners have resorted to using teams of elephants to un-stick the vehicles from mud holes during the rainy season.



Elephants shriek and strain to pull a stranded truck from the mire of the Hopin-Hpakan road. Photo: R.W. Hughes

The rock is generally pulled from the mine, inspected by miners and “experts” on site and then shipped to a larger village to be graded and sold for cutting. The raw stone really doesn't look any different on the outside than the ordinary stones sitting next to it; gray/brown and caked with mud.

Often the miners will inspect a stone for several minutes and then toss it aside because they can't figure out whether it is a valuable piece of Maw sit sit or just a rock. The dike being mined is estimated to hold years worth of material so even though the stone is rare, it's not likely to run out in the near future.



Mining jade at Maw-sisa, near Lonkin, Burma. Photo: Richard W. Hughes.

How to care for your Maw Sit Sit:

If you are fortunate enough to purchase a piece of rare Maw Sit Sit, treat your Maw Sit Sit as you would turquoise; never put it in a steam, ionic or sonic cleaner; use only soap and water to clean it. Don't expose your stone to extreme temperature changes and be careful to store it away from harder stones that could scratch the surface.



A beautiful Maw Sit Sit wire wrapped necklace by Mint Schlieff. The lower pendant a carved triangle, and the upper, an emerald cut stone, both set in gold filled wire. Photo provided courtesy of Mint Schlieff

Wrapping it all up:

Maw Sit Sit is a beautiful stone, rare and unusual in both look and name. If you find yourself answering the question, “Oh, how beautiful, what stone is that?” make sure you have a camera handy to capture the look when you answer, “Thanks, it’s Maw Sit Sit.”

Resources:

- [Gems](#)
- [Maw-sit-sit](#)
- [Visit the Jade Mines](#)

Gem Profile by **Layna Palmer**

Jewelry Making Classes



Learn the art of wire wrapping from our own Linda Simon. Linda is an accomplished artisan and instructor. She and her husband have been creating and selling handmade jewelry for many years. Their work has been exhibited and sold in shows around the country. The above work of art is an example of what you will learn in class. Classes are available to all up to date members.

Linda will conduct a Jewelry Class from 5-7PM, prior to the meeting. The class will learn a simple, quick wire wrap technique suitable for rough, non-cabbed stones as well as cabochons. No charge for this class (but we need you to help us make items to sell at Mathews Alive)

***Next Class is Thursday July 17th
from 5 to 7 prior to the club meeting***

CHARLOTTE GEM AND MINERAL CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday Aug. 2nd

12:00 - 5:00

251 Lineberger Drive Mooresville, NC

- Make reservations at the July Meeting or by contacting Murray at: msimonnc@gmail.com
- Hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages will be provided.
- This is a lake side location, so bring your swim suit and towels!
- Kids, spouses, and significant others are welcome.
- Look for an email with more information and directions.



UPCOMING SHOWS

July 19-20—CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Annual show; Intergalactic Bead Shows; Metrolina Tradshow Expo-Bldg. B; 7100 Statesville Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 Sat., \$4 Sun., children (12 and under) free; contact Chris Murray, 3865 Lawrenceville Hwy., Ste. 107, Lawrenceville, GA 30044, (888) 729-6904; e-mail: contact.beadshows@gmail.com; Web site: www.beadshows.com

July 21-27—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Wholesale and retail show; T 7 D Gem Shows; outdoor show; junction of Rte. 441 and Lake Emory Rd.; Daily 9-7; free admission; contact Henry Stelline, 212 Mi Mountain Rd., Franklin, NC 28734, (828) 371-2954; e-mail: gemshowman@outlook.com

23-27—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Annual show; Damian Belghali; Echo Valley Show Place; 6456 Sylva Rd. (across from GLW); Wed. 9-5, Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5; 0; Wholesale and retail dealers, open to the public, mineral, fossil, gem and rough rock dealers from around the world.; contact Damian Belghali, (678) 852-8273; e-mail: Mandybelghali@yahoo.com

July 24-26—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA

**Annual show; USFG-Franklin Faceters Frolic; The Factory; 1024 Georgia Rd.; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5; free admission; faceting equipment and supplies, faceting rough, Gem-Cad classes, speakers, demonstrations; contact Tom Maxwell, 1741 Kennerly Rd., Irmo, SC 29063, (803) 600-9450; e-mail: tmm5111@gmail.com;
Web site: www.franklinfacetersfrolic.com**

July 24-27—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA

**Show and sale; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin; Macon County Community Bldg.; 1288 Georgia Rd.; Thu. 10-5, Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; adults \$2, children (12 and under) free; dealers, demonstrations, door prizes, gems, minerals, equipment, jewelry, repairs, rough and cut gemstones; contact Linda Harbuck, 425 Porter St., Franklin, NC 28734, (828) 524-3161; e-mail: lindah@franklin-chamber.com;
Web site: www.visitfranklinnc.com**