



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

JUNE 2014

THE PREZ SAYZ

Something has recently happened that I have not previously experienced in all the years that I have been a member of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club – we have no snack volunteer for a future (June) meeting! At a board meeting earlier this year I had commented on the often poor responses to my requests for snack volunteers combined with the fact that those who do volunteer often tend to be those who have done it before. The board decided that no volunteer(s) equals no snacks, and so it is for the next meeting.

Among the other SFMS club meetings I have attended, there has always been a snack spread. Sometimes it's little more than potato chips, nuts and cookies; sometimes it's crudites, fruit, baked goods, etc.. Snacks at gem and mineral club meetings have been a tradition since way back when. It's not just a matter of "grabbing a bite to eat" before the meeting starts; they serve a much broader purpose than that. Refreshments provide an opportunity for socializing and exchanging ideas. They serve as a positive reinforcement for the stranger who has attended a meeting to "check us out". Instead of losing that individual in a sea of chairs, the invitation to grab a bite

can often lead to a "How are you?" and a new member application. I have to believe that this has contributed, perhaps in a subliminal way, to our club's strong growth over the past few years.

It's understandable that the idea of getting to a grocery store prior to the meeting followed by lugging in food, drinks, ice and paper goods is not the most pleasant prospect for the end of a day of work. While we are most fortunate to have a meeting venue as great as the Senior Center, there is the problem of a serious lack of on-site storage (for both us and the staff of the senior center). On the other hand, we do not have snacks in September (no general meeting because of Mathews Alive) or at the November auction (no room or time to set it up) nor at the Xmas party. So we only need 9 volunteers in order to ensure that we have snacks year round. As a reminder, the club reimburses \$50 per event for snacks and we often have potential member car unloaders at the center early.

Summer is here and that means, among other things, it's time to start planning and preparing for the club picnic (Saturday, August 2nd) and the Mathews Alive Festival (August 29 – September 1). Once again I'm going to be standing in

front of you asking for volunteers to help put these important events together. How about winning the competition to see who has the fastest raised hand in the club!!!

*Murray Simon, President
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 1 | The Prez Says |
| 2 | June Birthstone |
| 4-5 | Jasper Classification |
| 8 | Opal Care |
| 9 | Upcoming Shows |



2014 CGMC OFFICERS & BOARD

President

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

Vice President

Lindsay Werden
Lwerden@mindspring.com
(704) 542-6270

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

Past President

Jack King
jackkretired09@gmail.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

Kim Gwyn

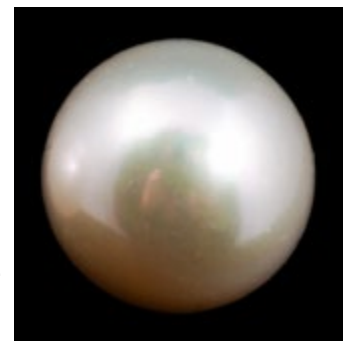
Children's Program Chair

Mary Fisher

BIRTHSTONES OF THE MONTH

Pearl

Historically, pearls have been used as an adornment for centuries. They were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire; later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as the pearl age. Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.



Alexandrite

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light. Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.)



Moonstone

The third birthstone for June is the Moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multirayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.



-from: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/june-birthstones>

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

Monthly Meeting

Thursday June 19, 2014

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

Location:

Tyvola Senior Center

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

Mary Fisher, head of our Junior Rockhounds program, will speak on "Fluorescent Minerals" – where to find them, how they fluoresce and the various ultraviolet lamps available to activate them. She will also exhibit radioactive minerals and a Geiger counter. If you would like to bring fluorescent mineral samples for "Show & Tell" (or if you want to test something that might be fluorescent), please bring your rocks and join the fun!!!

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

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)

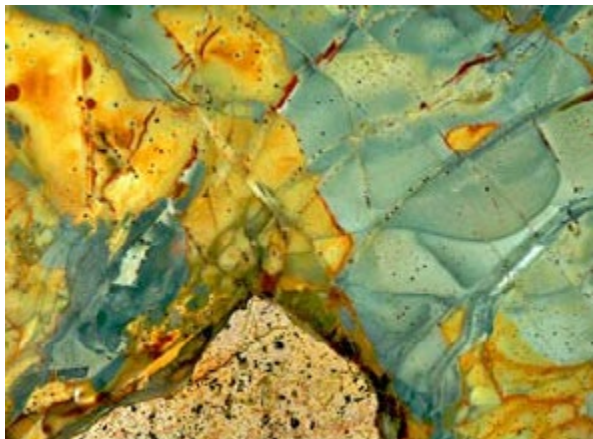
FACETING POWOW

From 5:30-6:30

Do you facet? Have an interest in faceting? Are you experiencing issues with your facets? Come and discuss with your fellow faceters.

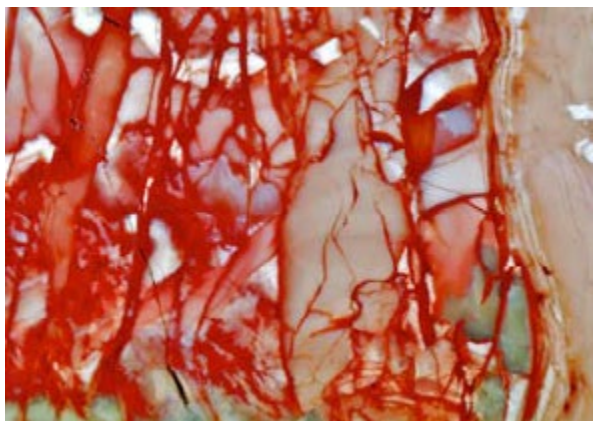
Jasper Classification - Part V

Some Other Jaspers by ron gibbs



Morrisonite

There are a wide variety of jasper's that don't seem to fit in one of the previous categories. As mentioned before, jaspers are silicified sedimentary rock, with many of their patterns established by the original sediment, and the colors maybe from the source sediment or may be added later by the cementing agent.



Morrisonite

The finer in size the sedimentary starting material and higher the more dense the content of the cementing silica the harder the jasper. Five jaspers have been called the "fine jaspers", and they include Willow Creek, Bruneau, Blue Mountain, Imperial, and Morrisonite. The common trait in the fine jaspers is that they all can produce the desired orb or egg-like patterns. They are also all "porcelain jaspers," which has come to mean that they all take extremely high polish similar to fine porcelain china after firing.

Morrisonite come from the Owyhee area of Oregon and has been mined on 5 different claims at different times. There are currently still 2 or 3 claims that mine the material but some claims have now been closed behind "the Wild Rivers Act." Morrisonite has been called the King of Jaspers by some because of it's wild colors and wonderful patterns.

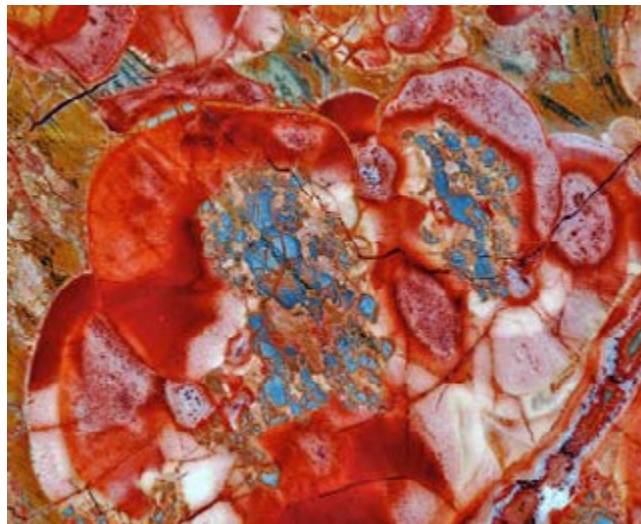


Carrasite

Carrasite comes from a location not far from the Morrisonite Claims. It is found in similar surrounding and is likely a first cousin of its more famous neighbor. It does not often have the orb patterns nor the color range of Morrisonite, but is a true porcelain jasper with great colors.



Carrasite



Fantasy Jasper

A relatively new comer to the jasper market comes from Mexico and is named Fantasy Jasper. It shows interesting fan-like patterns in reds, maroons, and pinks. It may also have blue or even yellow accent minerals scattered as fine grains throughout the structure. It takes an excellent polish. (It maybe more of a rhyolite than a jasper.)

Porcelain jasper (aka SciFi jasper, Exotica Jasper, etc.) is another fine grained jasper with interesting pastel patterns. It comes from Sonora Mexico. It's a fine grained jasper and has variable hardness, hence some polishes really well and other pieces not so well.

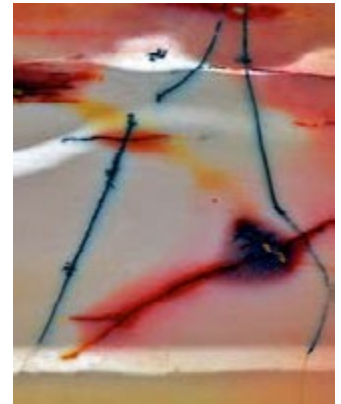
Mookaite Jasper from a stream bed near Mooka Station, Australia. It generally occurs as nodules, large & small, lying in decomposed radiolarian clay beneath the floor of the creek. It sometimes has a clay liner, but the jasper is top notch and takes a great polish. Wonderful range of bright colors.

Belvade Jasper (aka belvidere jasper) was originally found in the Burns, Oregon area. It's an older jasper and not seen much today. It comes in great contrasting colors of green and blue with fire like red and yellow often in the same piece. It takes a really good polish and is very fine grained.

Although there are many more jaspers I will end with these last few. We've covered a good deal of ground describing both agates and jaspers over the last several issues. I will end the series next month with some cutable rhyolites that are often sold as jaspers.



Mookaite



Mookaite



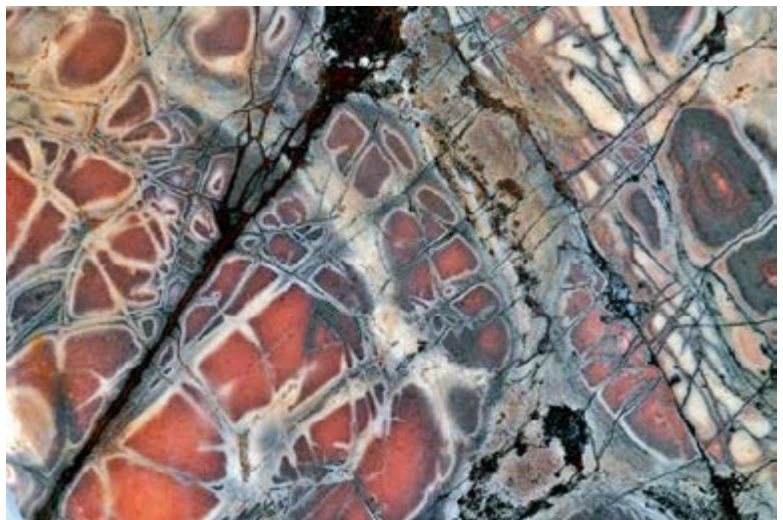
Belvade Jasper



Porcelain Jasper



Fantasy Jasper



Porcelain Jasper

ASK NOT WHAT THE CLUB CAN DO FOR YOU.....

.....But what you can do for the club. Our club is made possible by members just like you. We need your assistance to continue to offer and improve the services and activities we provide.

It does take a ton of time. Maybe a few extra hours a year. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer. You could provide snacks for a meeting (funds will be reimbursed, so there would be no cost to you), you could help work the booth at Matthews Alive, you could help plan a field trip, write an article for the newsletter, help with the holiday party at the end of the year, or even be a speaker at one of our meetings. Do you have particular skills or knowledge that could lend to the club? Then let us know.

We appreciate everyone's contributions to the club. If it were not for our volunteers, we would not have been around for as long as we have. If you are interested in becoming more involved, contact any of the board members, put your name on the sign-up, or just raise your hand when a topic is suggested.

William Hollan D 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/>

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR
NEW MEMBERS!**

IMBERLEE A. RETTBERG

KEVIN KIENHOLE & DARCY VARONA

DOUG OLSON, ROBERT & CASSONDRA

TOMMY HATLEY & GAVIN RAY



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 June 19th
from 5 to 7 prior to the club meeting***

How to Care for Your Opal Gemstones

There are two main reasons why opals require special care. First, opals are relatively soft, with a hardness rating of 5.5 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale. This means that opal can be easily scratched, even by common dust (which typically contains particles of silicon dioxide with a hardness of 7). Second, most opals contain significant water content, usually in the range of 5-10%. This means that opal can dry out and crack or craze in a low humidity environment. Sudden changes in temperature can also cause opal to crack.

The best way to preserve your opal is preventive care. You can avoid scratching your opal by making a wise decision when you have it set in jewelry. Opals are best suited for pendants and earrings, where they are less likely to come in contact with hard objects. You can set an opal in a ring or bracelet, but a protective setting such as a bezel is strongly recommended. An opal ring is really not suitable for everyday wear, but occasional wear rings are fine if you exercise care. Opal rings that are worn frequently will probably require repolishing after some years.



Ethiopian Opal



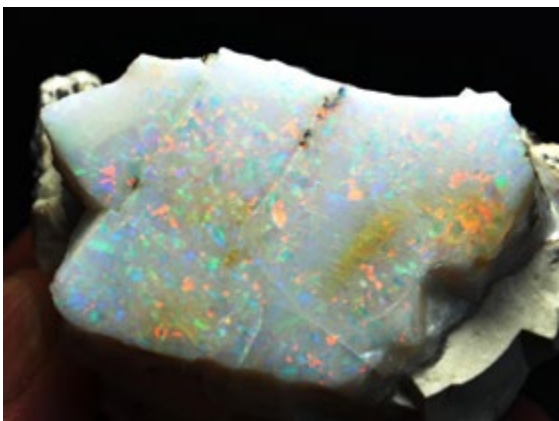
**Lightning Ridge
Black Opal**

Your opal should be cleaned on a regular basis. Use a mild detergent in warm water with a soft cloth. Avoid the use of bleach and chemicals, and never try to clean an opal in an ultrasonic cleaner, since the vibrations can cause cracking. If you live in a very dry climate or store your opal for long periods, you can keep it sealed in a plastic bag with a moisture source such as a damp piece of cotton. This will prevent dehydration.

Because opals are porous you should avoid contact with chemicals, cosmetics and household cleaners while wearing your opal. Opals should not be worn during physical activity such as sports or gardening.

Opals which have been damaged are difficult to repair, and current repair methods should be regarded as experimental. Most of these methods involve impregnating the opal with polymers. Usually it is better to buy a new opal than try to repair a damaged stone, but it is worth trying to have a cracked opal repaired if it has special sentimental value.

From: <http://www.ajsgem.com/articles/how-care-your-opal-gemstones.html>



Spencer Opal



Yowah Boulder Opal

UPCOMING SHOWS

June 20-22—BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

20th Annual Show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; National Guard Armory; 274 Hunting Hills Ln.; Sun. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Fri. 11-5; adults \$3 (good all 3 days), children (under 16) free; beads, pearls, gemstones, wire wrapping, wire sculpture, silver-smiths, goldsmiths, custom work and repairs while you wait, door prizes; contact Van Wimmer, 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshow.com; Web site: www.toteshow.com

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 Stelling, 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