

THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MARCH, 2015

THE PREZ SAYZ

There's a really good gem and mineral show coming our way that I would like to recommend. It's the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club show in Hickory, NC. It will be held at the Hickory Metro Convention Center from Friday March 27th through Sunday March 29th.

This show features a wide variety of dealers specializing in the areas of gems, minerals, beads and fossils. Linda and I will be there selling jewelry and capping rough. The interesting thing about this particu-

lar show is that it is the venue for the annual meeting of the Eastern Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies. This will bring in a large number of rockhounds from all over the east coast to a meeting that will include several presentations and an expanded dealers/exhibitors floor.

The Hickory Gem & Mineral Club has been running this show for many years and they really know how to do it. I sold capping rough at last year's event and was quite impressed with what I saw. They have a large back room set up with club members giving talks and demonstrations on

faceting, capping, geode cutting, flint knapping, etc..

Murray Simon

President

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

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CGMC ANNUAL RAFFLE!

There is still time to buy your raffle tickets for this year's raffle to support our scholarship program. Tickets are \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. The prize is this beautiful Scolectite specimen from India.. Bring you cash or check to the next meeting!



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

Thursday March 19, 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 Speakers will be:

Jimmy & Becky Strickland

Jimmy and Becky Strickland will describe their exciting trip last fall to the historic Kennecott Mine in Alaska. This mine, closed in 1938, produced one of the richest copper deposits ever found (under the most challenging of conditions) in the United States.. A fascinating story you will not want to miss!!!

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

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! Newcomers and first timers are welcome.

Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

Saturday March 28, 2015

Topic: Magnificent Metals

Two classes will be held:

10-11 AM: Beginners Class and 11-12 AM: Advanced Class

Location:

Matthews Community Center

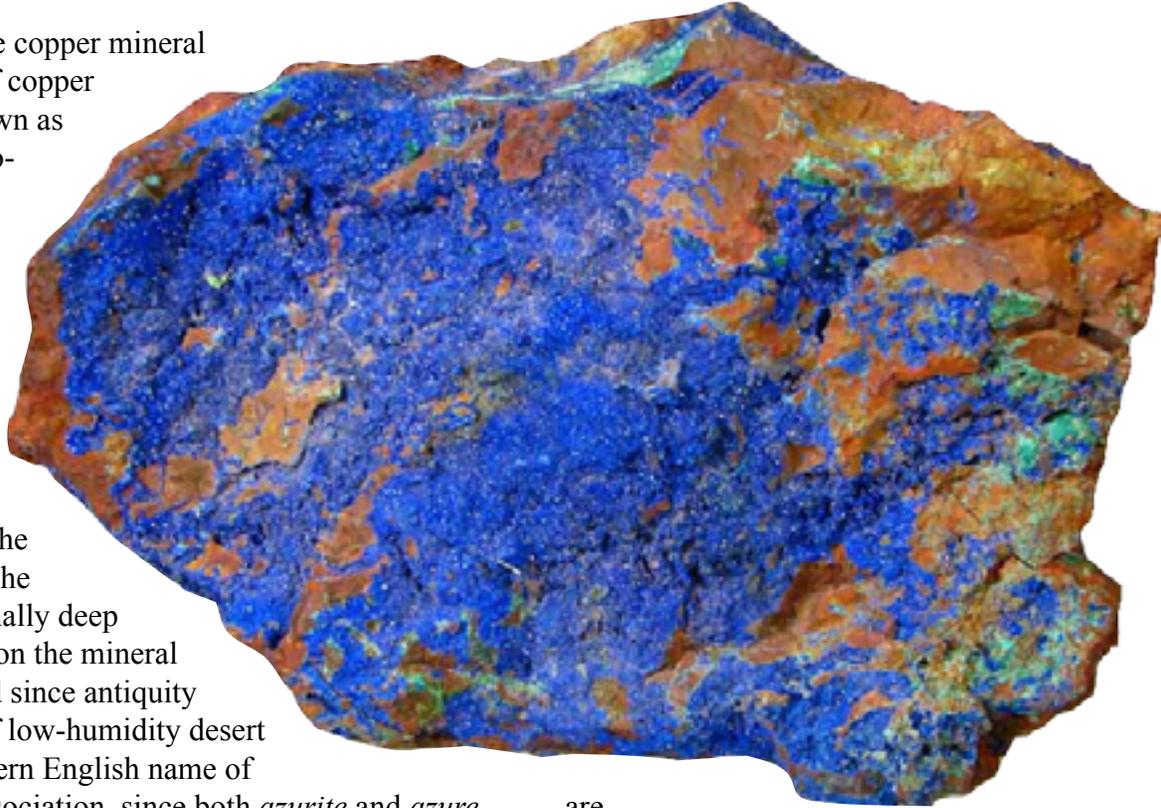
100 McDowell St. Matthews, NC 28105

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

ROCK OF THE MONTH

AZURITE

Azurite is a soft, deep blue copper mineral produced by weathering of copper ore deposits. It is also known as **Chessylite** after the type locality at Chessy-les-Mines near Lyon, France.^[2] The mineral, a carbonate, has been known since ancient times, and was mentioned in Pliny the Elder's Natural History under the Greek name *kuanos* (κυανός: "deep blue," root of English *cyan*) and the Latin name *caeruleum*.^[4] The blue of azurite is exceptionally deep and clear, and for that reason the mineral has tended to be associated since antiquity with the deep blue color of low-humidity desert and winter skies. The modern English name of the mineral reflects this association, since both *azurite* and *azure* are derived via Arabic from the Persian *lazward* (لارواز), an area known for its deposits of another deep blue stone, lapis lazuli ("stone of azure").



Mineralogy

Azurite is one of the two basic copper(II) carbonate minerals, the other being bright green malachite. Simple copper carbonate (CuCO_3) is not known to exist in nature. Azurite has the formula $\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$, with the copper(II) cations linked to two different anions, carbonate and hydroxide. Small crystals of azurite can be produced by rapidly stirring a few drops of copper sulfate solution into a saturated solution of sodium carbonate and allowing the solution to stand overnight.



Azurite crystals are monoclinic, and when large enough to be seen they appear as dark blue prismatic crystals. Azurite specimens are typically massive to nodular, and are often stalactitic in form. Specimens tend to lighten in color over time due to weathering of the specimen surface into malachite. Azurite is soft, with a Mohs hardness of only 3.5 to 4. The specific gravity of azurite is 3.77 to 3.89. Azurite is destroyed by heat, losing carbon dioxide and water to form black, powdery copper(II) oxide. Characteristic of a carbonate, specimens effervesce upon treatment with hydrochloric acid.

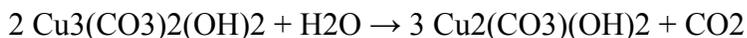
Color

The optical properties (color, intensity) of minerals such as azurite and malachite are explained in the context of conventional electronic spectroscopy of coordination complexes. Relatively detailed descriptions are provided by ligand field theory.

Weathering

Azurite is unstable in open air with respect to mal-

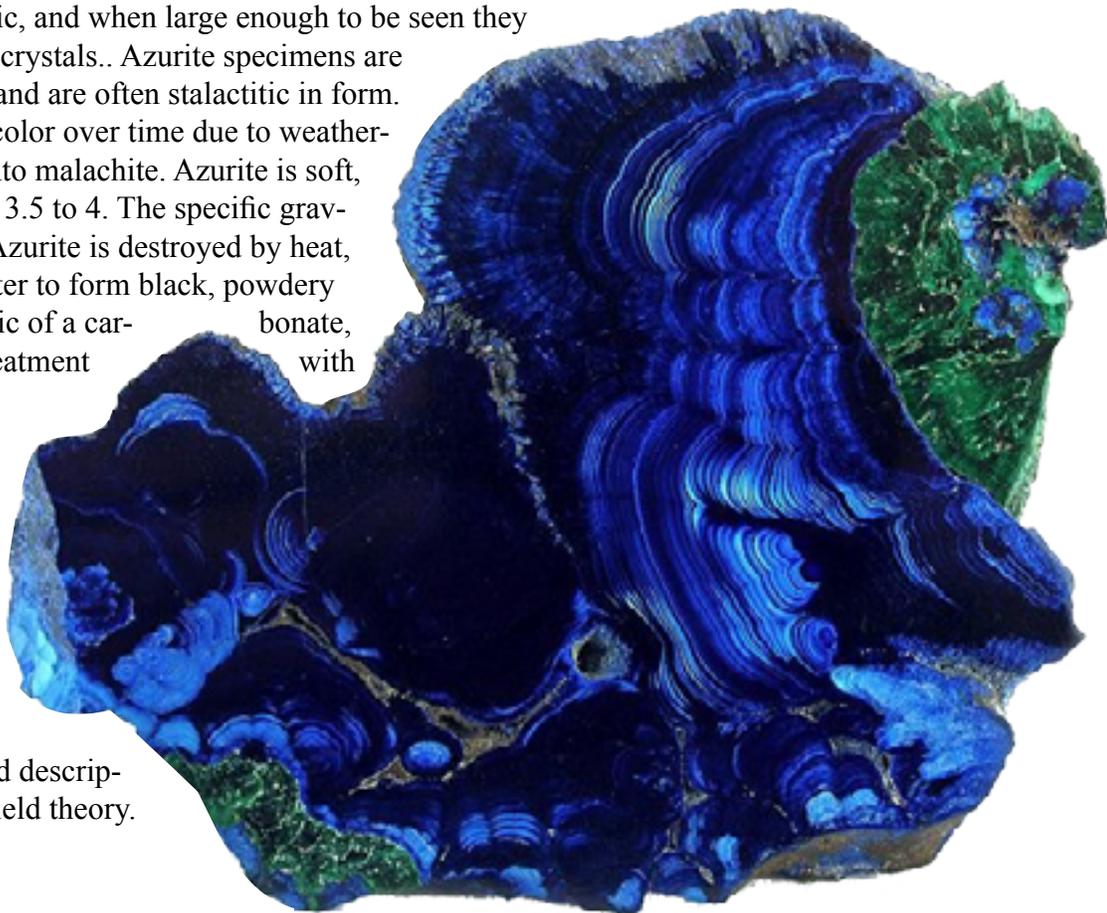
achite, and often is pseudomorphically replaced by malachite. This weathering process involves the replacement of some the carbon dioxide (CO₂) units with water (H₂O), changing the carbonate:hydroxide ratio of azurite from 1:1 to the 1:2 ratio of malachite:



From the above equation, the conversion of azurite into malachite is attributable to the low partial pressure of carbon dioxide in air. Azurite is also incompatible with aquatic media, such as saltwater aquariums.

Uses

Azurite was used as a blue pigment for centuries. Depending on the degree of fineness to which it was ground, and its basic content of copper carbonate, it gave a wide range of blues. It has been known as mountain blue or Armenian stone, in addition it was formerly known as Azurro Della Magna (from Italian). When mixed with oil it turns slightly green. When mixed with egg yolk it turns green-grey. It is also known by the names blue bice and blue verditer, though verditer usually refers to a pigment made by chemical process. Older examples of azurite pigment may show a more greenish tint due to weathering into malachite. Much azurite was mislabeled lapis lazuli, a term applied to many blue pigments. As chemical analysis of paintings from the Middle Ages improves, azurite is being recognized as a major source of the blues used by medieval painters. True lapis lazuli was chiefly supplied from Afghanistan during the Middle Ages while



azurite was a common mineral in Europe at the time. Sizable deposits were found near Lyons, France. It was mined since the 12th century in Saxony, in the silver mines located there.

Heating can be used to distinguish azurite from purified natural ultramarine blue, a similar but much more expensive pigment, as described by Cennino D'Andrea Cennini. Ultramarine withstands heat, but azurite turns to black copper oxide. However, gentle heating of azurite produces a deep blue pigment used in Japanese painting techniques.

Jewelry

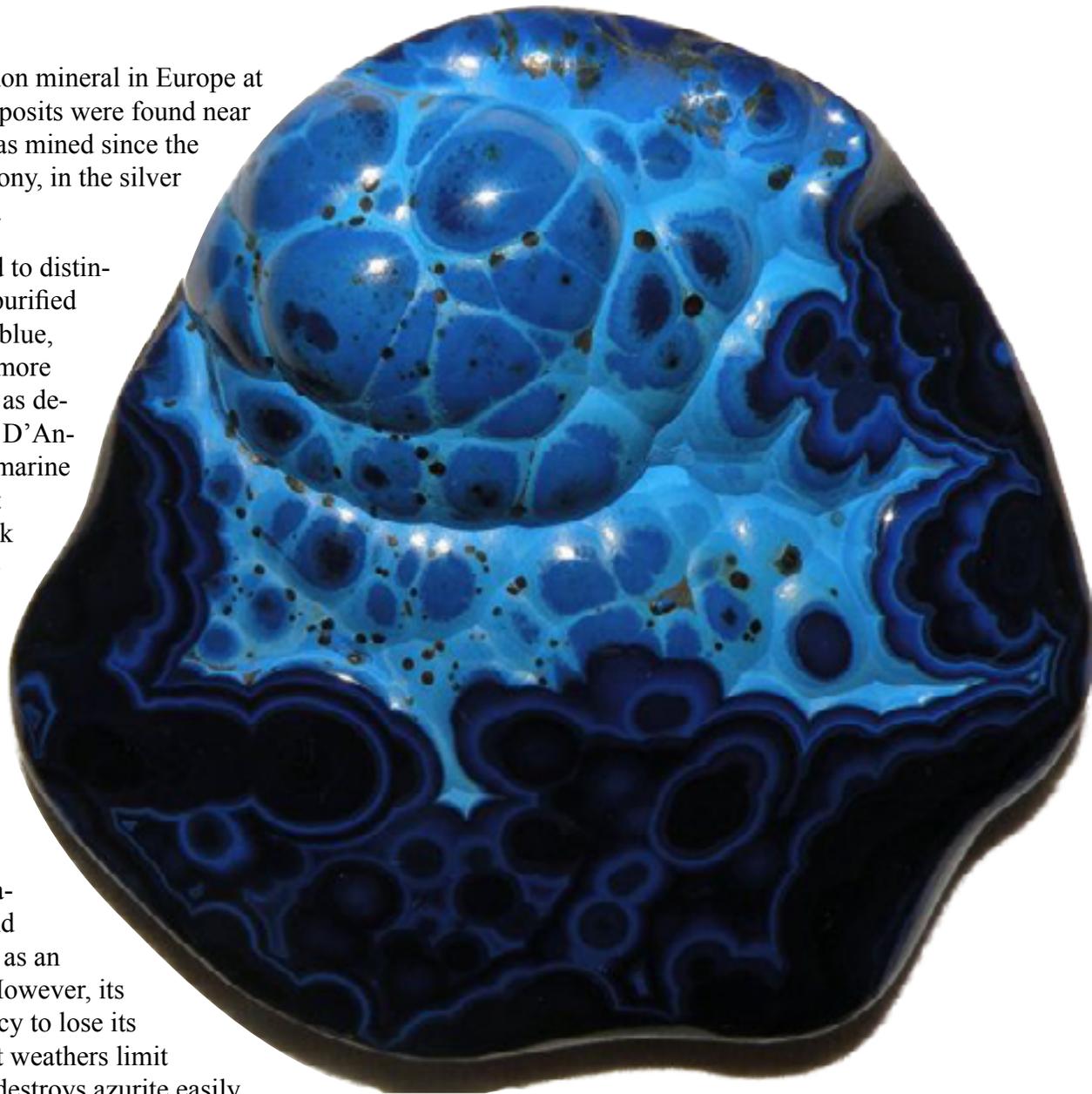
Azurite is used occasionally as beads and as jewelry, and also as an ornamental stone. However, its softness and tendency to lose its deep blue color as it weathers limit such uses. Heating destroys azurite easily, so all mounting of azurite specimens must be done at room temperature.

Collecting

The intense color of azurite makes it a popular collector's stone. However, bright light, heat, and open air all tend to reduce the intensity of its color over time. To help preserve the deep blue color of a pristine azurite specimen, collectors should use a cool, dark, sealed storage environment similar to that of its original natural setting.

Prospecting

While not a major ore of copper itself, the presence of azurite is a good surface indicator of the presence of weathered copper sulfide ores. It is usually found in association with the chemically very similar malachite, producing a striking color combination of deep blue and bright green that is strongly indicative of the presence of copper ores.



From Wikipedia.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 20-22—ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association, Camp Stephens; Clayton Road; Fri. 9:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat. 9:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Admission Free; Numerous vendors offering gems, minerals and fossils from North Carolina and around the world. ; contact Richard Jacques, POB 542, Leicester, NC 28748, (828) 779-4501; e-mail: rick@wncrocks.com; Web site: www.americanrockhound.com

March 27-29—HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA: 45th Annual Unifour Show and 2015 Eastern Federation Convention; Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Hickory Metro Convention Center; 1960 13th Ave. Dr. SE, I-40, Exit 125; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students and children free; dealers, exhibits, hourly door prizes, hands-on children's activities, cabbing, faceting and wire wrapping demonstrations, "Somewhere in the Rainbow" exhibit; contact Baxter Leonard, 2510 Rolling Ridge Dr., Hickory, NC 28602, (828) 320-4028; e-mail: gailandbaxter@aol.com; Web site: cvgmc.org/

April 24-26—VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA: Retail show; Treasures of the Earth, Inc., Virginia Beach Convention Center; 1000 19th St; Fri. 12 noon-6 pm, Sat. 10 am-5 pm, Sun. 10 am-4 pm; Adults \$5.00, military free with ID, Children 16 and under free; Vendors from across the US bring their merchandise to you. You will find • 14K and sterling silver, classic, estate, fashion and handmade jewelry • Loose stones, beads and findings, pearls • Mineral specimens, crystals, lapidary supplies • Books, carvings and gift items Displays and demonstrations by the two Gem & Mineral Societies in the area Appraisals available on site; contact Jane Westbrook, PO Bo 59, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, (804) 285-4281; e-mail: jane@treasuresoftheearth.com; Web site: www.treasuresoftheearth.com

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). This is a continuation from last month's class. If you were not there, come on by and see what they are doing. We will get you started on a piece too!

****Next Class is Thursday March. 19th
from 5 to 7 prior to the club meeting****