



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MAY 2016

THE PREZ SAYZ

A very good time was had by all!!! This past Saturday was Open House at The Dairy. The potters were demonstrating whatever it is potters do; our glass sculptor displayed the beautiful pieces she made during her recent two month sabbatical in Czechoslovakia; Dan the silversmith had a studio full of people admiring the creative activities of two of his students; CG&MC's two workrooms (and loading dock area) had a constant stream of people observing and discussing cabochon, faceting, seed beading, wire wrap and polymer clay techniques. A number of

the families present enjoyed the free food, petting and feeding the donkey, goats and chickens and taking pictures in this very unique, pleasantly funky setting.

The live entertainment arrived shortly after 1PM – The Charlotte Juvenile Drum and Piper Corps. This is a group of kids in kilts playing authentic Scottish music on bagpipes and drums in the fields surrounding The Dairy; a most unusual (and charming) sight and sound that prompted a lot of photo and video taking. If you ever see notice of a future appearance in the Charlotte Observer, grab the kids and don't miss it.



The day's activities resulted in three new members for the club (not counting the number of people who took home membership applications) and four new

students for workshop classes (thanks in large part to Dottie Carrano's very generous donation of a Dairy Classes Scholarship Raffle).

CG&MC's workshops at The Dairy have helped to significantly expand the geographic reach of our organization. We are now able to offer lapidary programs

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that are not readily available within the states of North and South Carolina. Newer members are joining from Tega Cay, Hickory, Kannapolis, Concord, Lake Norman, Mount Pleasant, Fort Mill and Rock Hill. In addition to full day classroom/workshop activities, our hard working, dedicated “faculty” is in the process of initiating an ongoing series of group “Chat & Create” half-day jewelry making sessions (motivated by conversations with potential students). Go to the website (charlottegem.com) and click on “Workshops at The Dairy” for details and a current schedule.

You do not have to be a potential Tiffany to benefit from spending time at The Dairy. We have a coffee machine, a refrigerator and microwave for drinks and sandwiches and there are a number of fast food places within a half mile. We invite you to drop by, relax and have a [lapidary] chat.

*Murray Simon: President
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club*



Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Meeting

Thursday May 19, 2016

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

We will have a silent auction previous to the meeting. Bring your piggy banks.

Our Monthly Presentation:

“An Exciting Video”

This will be a curated selection from our video library.

There will not be a jewelry making class before the meeting. Sign up for a jewelry class at the Dairy workshop.

WORKSHOPS AT THE DAIRY

Location:

Art in The Dairy

7701 Tuckaseegee Rd.

Charlotte, NC 28214

Currently scheduled classes:

May 21 – Chat & Create Wire/Clay/Beads (5 openings)

- 1/2 day sessions – Reservations preferred
- \$20 + Materials fee if provided by instructor

May 28 – Cabochon Making (0 openings)

- \$40 class fee

May 28 – Grooving & Drilling Stones (0 openings)

- \$20 + Materials fee if provided by instructor

June 4 – Cabochon Making (4 openings)

- \$40 class fee

June 4 – Chat & Create Wire/Clay/Beads (5 openings)

- 1/2 day sessions – Reservations preferred
- \$20 + Materials fee if provided by instructor

June 11 – Cabochon Making (4 openings)

- \$40 class fee

June 11 – Chat & Create Wire/Clay/Beads (5 openings)

- 1/2 day sessions – Reservations preferred
- \$20 + Materials fee if provided by instructor



Contact Linda Simon to register for a class.

Email: lindadairy@yahoo.com

Call: 704-543-6651.



FIELD TRIP TO DIAMOND HILL MINE



Roughly fifteen to twenty Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club members made the three hour trek from the Charlotte area to Abbeville, South Carolina for the club's April 16th field trip to the Diamond Hill Mine. The day got off to a rocky start when the mine didn't honor our group discount because we didn't all arrive together, but thankfully many of us were still eligible for senior/children discounts. Next time we will plan on all arriving at a set time.

However, any figurative (and literal) bumps in the road were soon forgotten. Digging conditions were perfect, with crystal clear skies, and just the right amount of moisture in the soil to make digging easy without any mud. First time visitors to Diamond Hill like myself

were pleasantly surprised with the ease of digging and the amount of good specimens uncovered in short order. The mine itself is spread out across three acres with several large pits where one can dig for various types of quartz and amethyst. I positioned myself with a bucket of water on the side of the main pit looking for skeletal quartz, and just started filling it with any piece of rock I uncovered. Later on when I cleaned the dirt off the rocks, I was very surprised to find that many were actually small quartz crystal plates hidden within chunks of clay.

Some of my best finds from the day didn't even require any digging. Several large "yard rocks" with impressive crystal formations found their way into the trunk of my car after I found them just lying on the side of the path. Compared to some of the other digs I have been to, specimens were practically littering the ground and I doubt anyone left empty handed.

This shouldn't have been surprising to me considering the





long history of finding quality quartz specimens at Diamond Hill. The site has been mined and prospected for over half a century, and has produced some of the finest quartz specimens from South Carolina and the Southeast. Specimens of skeletal quartz from the mine are particularly notable. This type of quartz was formed hundreds of millions of years ago when the Appalachian Mountains were being formed by the collision of continental plates. The force of this collision shattered rocks and opened voids within the earth. Superheated water rich with minerals filled these voids and over time created plates of beautiful crystals. Sometimes this process occurred in stages and created the stepped pattern evident in many crystals from Diamond Hill.

Specimens of amethyst and smoky quartz can also be found at Diamond Hill, but I wasn't able to spend much time in those areas of the mine this visit. Maybe next time, because this will certainly not be the last club field trip to the site.



UPCOMING SHOWS

May 27-29—SALEM, VIRGINIA: Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Salem Civic Center; 1001 Boulevard; Fri. 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$5 (Good all 3 days), Free under age 16; Jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths from all over the U.S. who can reconstruct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer-selected gems, stones, opals and crystals. Wire wrap, wire sculpture, stone beads, pearls, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral and fossil dealers. Hourly door prizes including a Ring with a precious stone that will be given as a Grand Prize.; contact Van Wimmer - Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Road, Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: vawimmer@verizon.net; Web site: www.toteshows.net

June 11-12—DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Intergalactic Bead Show, Durham Convention Center; 301 W. Morgan St; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$4-\$5; Do you love great quality and prices? Then shop The Intergalactic Bead Show! Our shows provide attendees with the world's finest and rarest beads, precious stones, gems, freshwater pearls and an exquisite collection of finished jewelry. Shop quality. Shop Intergalactic Bead Shows. Visit www.beadshows.com for more information. ; contact Shawwna Whitson; e-mail: Info@beadshows.com; Web site: www.beadshows.com

June 17-19—BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Boone National Guard Armory; 274 Hunting Hills Lane; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$3 Admission, Free Admission for children under 16; Annual show. Jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths from all over the U.S. who can reconstruct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer-selected gems, stones, opals and crystals. Wire wrap, wire sculpture, stone beads, pearls, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral and fossil dealers. Hourly door prizes including a Ring with a precious stone that will be given as a Grand Prize. ; contact Van Wimmer - Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Road, Salem, VA 24153, 540-384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com

June 18-19—NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Annual show; Intergalactic Bead Show, TN State Fairgrounds; 500 Wedgewood Ave; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$4-\$5; Do you love great quality and prices? Then shop The Intergalactic Bead Show! Our shows provide attendees with the world's finest and rarest beads, precious stones, gems, freshwater pearls and an exquisite collection of finished jewelry. Shop quality. Shop Intergalactic Bead Shows. ; contact Shawwna Whitson; e-mail: Info@beadshows.com; Web site: www.beadshows.com

June 24-26—FISHERSVILLE, VIRGINIA: Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Augusta Expo; 277 Expo Road; Fri. 10 -6 , Sat. 10 -6 , Sun. 11 -5 ; \$4 Admission, Children under 16 free; Ticket is good all 3 days. Beads, pearls, gemstones, wire wrapping, wire sculpture, silver and goldsmiths, custom work and repairs while you wait.; contact Van Wimmer - Show Directr, 5273 Bradshaw Road, Salem, VA 24153, 540-384-6047; e-mail: van@toteshows.com; Web site: www.toteshows.com

AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL FIELD TRIP

October 16th to the 29th 2016

Capricorn Gems is proud to partner with Outback AussieTours and Peter Lloyd Geotours Australia to create a tour program that visits the many Central Queensland Gem, Mineral and Fossil destinations.

The field trip which is the first of its kind, is aimed at introducing international guests to the richness and diversity of the Central Queensland gem, mineral and fossil features.

The field trip will be visiting many of the locations listed in the Queensland Tourism Dig the Tropic geo-tourism trail.

The 16 day tour will commence in Brisbane and travel to Rockhampton , Carnarvon Gorge National Park, Central Queensland Gemfields, Winton and Opal fields, Lark Quarry and Australian Age of Dinosaur Museum and the famous outback town of Longreach.

We will spend several days in the major gem, mineral and fossil centres, meeting with miners and other experts.

You will have the opportunity to see and visits mines, as well as fossick for gems and minerals such as Boulder Opal, Sapphires, Chrysoprase and other semi-precious minerals.

This tour is an all inclusive land program from arrival in Brisbane to departure Sydney- all to need to add and book, is your international airline ticket!

<http://www.capricorngems.com.au/>

