



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

OCTOBER 2014

THE PREZ SAYZ

I hope you guys are as excited about the upcoming months as I am. We have lots of things happening this fall:

- A club dig will take place at the Reel Mine in mid October.
- The 2015 slate of officers will be proposed at the October meeting with a vote taken at the November meeting.
- The annual club auction will take place at the November meeting
- The club will teach its first class (cabochon) at the CPCC Central Campus the last weekend in October/first weekend in November

Let me explain the CPCC classes. The powers that be at CPCC have finally decided to pursue a long overdue outreach program that is intended to establish a stronger community relationship between the college and the citizens of Charlotte. For a number of years there has been a metal smithing "club" that meets in a large laboratory/classroom at the CPCC Central Campus on Saturday afternoons. The membership of this club is made up of students taking a full time curriculum and

non-students with an interest in jewelry making. No doubt many of you remember last year's disappointment when months of discussions and meetings about holding classes at the Harper Campus fell through and the proposed program had to be canceled. Well, it's a new school year and a new administration and an outreach program is underway as we speak. The savvy CPCC instructor who started and runs the metal smithing program has been inundated with requests and suggestions by former students to expand the program i.e., they want "pretty stones" to mount in the metal pendants and bracelets they've been making. In her search for a potential resource she came in contact with our newsletter editor, Zach Blackburn, who is on the faculty at the Harper Campus. In late August a group of CG&MC board members went downtown (or is it uptown?) for a tour of this laboratory/classroom. We were all blown away by what we found!! Room for dozens of students, gas jets for soldering, casting furnaces, approximately 20 jewelry benches, excellent lighting, locked storage space, outdoor parking a few steps away and a large database of former students who have asked to be notified about new jewelry making classes.

We invited the metal smith-

ing instructor and any interested students to visit us at the Matthews Alive Festival in order to meet club members and see some of our jewelry making/teaching capabilities. It was a positive experience for all concerned. A Saturday morning (trial run) cabochon class is sched-

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1-2	The Prez Says
2	Vulcan Day
4	Field Trip Info
5	Oct. Birthstone
7-8	Ryolites
9	Upcoming Shows



**2014 CG&MC
OFFICERS & BOARD**

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

Vickie Glover

Treasurer

Vivian Philson
Philson05@carolina.rr.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 &

StampChair

Pat Walker

Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

Workshop Chair

Linda Simon
lsimon1@carolina.rr.com

Librarian

Pat Walker

Field Trip Chair

Jack King
jackkretired09@gmail.com

Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

Special Events

Kim Gwyn

uled for the last weekend in October extending into the first weekend in November. This class of six students was filled in two days following an email blast to the CPCC database. Future classes (cabochon, faceting, wire wrap, silver smithing, etc.) will be held on Saturday mornings during the school year and CG&MC members will receive early notice and reduced class fees. So keep checking the newsletters and website for notices of future classes and get your reservations in right away.

*Murray "The Magnificent" Simon
President*

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

VULCAN COMMUNITY DAY

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club was represented at the Vulcan Mint Hill Community Appreciation Day on Sat. Oct. 4 by Brad Glover and Terri Harper. The event was a huge success.

Brad had his faceting machine set up. Folks we intrigued to see him polish stones. On another table we displayed and gave away some sluice minerals. We estimate about 75 people visited the tables.

People were interested in the club and asked questions. We handed out club brochures and invited people to come to our meetings. We told kids about the Junior Rockhounds. We directed them to our website for more information. There seemed like a lot of people interested!

Brad printed out extra brochures. At the end of the event, Brad gave a stack to a person from Reed's Goldmine. Denise Hallet, the event organizer, gave us a really neat sign she had made to direct people to our tables. We can use it for future events.

It was great exposure for the club. Nice steady crowd, plenty of time to talk to people who stopped by. It was a fun day.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

MATT & KRISTA ALLSHOUSE

DIANE EFFORD

DEE DOW

ALLYSON COCHRAN

SAMUEL & ERIN BAKER

GREG VAN HOET

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club
Monthly Meeting

Thursday October 16, 2014

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

Location:

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

**A SPECIAL HALLOWEEN
PRESENTATION
THE BIZARRE GEOLOGY OF GOBLINS,
GREMLINS AND LEPRECHAUNS
PRESENTED BY
THE PHANTOM SPEAKER**

****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.*

Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

Saturday October 25, 2014

Topic: Properties of Minerals

10-11:00 – Beginners Class

11-12:00 – Advanced Class

Location:

*Matthews Community Center
100 McDowell St. Matthews, NC 28105*

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

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Reel Mine Dig

Saturday October 18, 2014

We are hosting a Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club dig at

The Reel Mine in Iron City, NC

Looking for Amethyst ????? DIG HERE !!!!

Reel Mine is located on the premises of:

Mr. Francis Sulphin

375 Timber Road

Iron Station, NC

(704) 736-0506

DIRECTIONS: Ninety minute drive from downtown Charlotte, NC. From I-485 find Exit 16 West, from Charlotte. Proceed on Hwy 16 Brookshire Turnpike, west to Hwy 73. Take a left on Hwy 73 and travel to Timber Road. Take a left on Timber and proceed on the asphalt until it becomes a dirt road. Travel on the dirt road until you reach the mine entrance. If the weather is bad, you can stop at Mr. Sulphin's house and park, and walk a half mile to the mine. GPS coordinates are: Longitude -81.124309, Latitude 35.456221

HISTORY: Specimen types usually found here, include amethyst, beryl, ironized quartz, smokey quartz, and associated gems and minerals. This mine has been intermittently opened and closed for many years. Mr. Sulphin has recently reached an agreement with the County on how field trips will be scheduled and conducted. Since the reopening at two digs have been conducted a month. The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club (CGMC) has scheduled its planned dig for the Southeast Federation for Saturday, April 19, 2014. However, to comply with the County agreement,.

ASSEMBLY: CGMC officials will be at the mine entrance beginning at 8:00 AM, Saturday, October 18, 2014 to collect the fees and to provide water and instructions for the dig. You will be responsible for bringing any food, digging tools or collection containers for you and/or your party. There will be two porta-potties provided and space is available for camping depending on the weather.

COST: \$25 for each digger (children under 13 free when accompanied by a paid digger). Diggers must be current paid members of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club (insurance liability issues). This fee will be collected at the entrance in the form of cash or personal , check by the CGMC official.

EQUIPMENT: Hand digging tools (shovels, spades, picks, post holes diggers, forks, rakes, and other similar digging utensils and equipment are to be used. No large electrical drill hammers, backhoe, ditch digger, or motorized digging or drilling equipment will be allowed.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!

Contact George Libby at onsiteinatlanta@yahoo.com



*Actual Amethyst Cluster From The Reel Mine

BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH

October is another month with two birthstone choices – Tourmaline and Opal.

TOURMALINE

Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These bi-color or tri-color gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as watermelon tourmaline, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake,



the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.

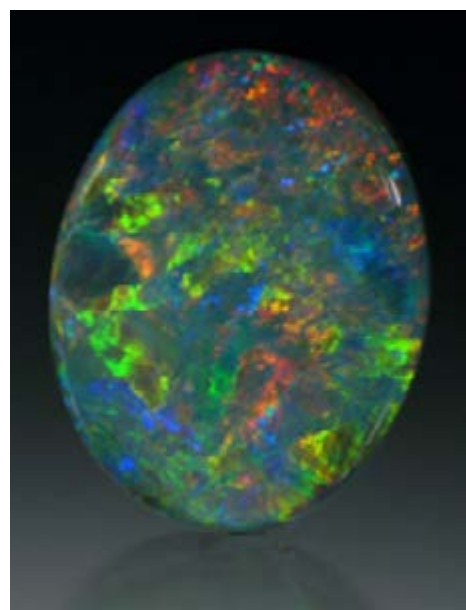
OPAL

The name opal derives from the Greek Opallos, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that



seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance.

- See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/october-birthstones#sthash.FpYvsLON.dpuf>



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/>

Jewelry Making Classes



Learn the art of jewelry creation 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 works of art were created by members like you during her January class. Classes are available to all up to date members.

This month Linda will conduct a jewelry making class in the club meeting room. This class will make a black beaded necklace to go with the pendants made last month (as well as any other pendants you may have). If you could not attend last month's class, Linda will also teach the incredible (easy) pendant wire wrap again. Class/materials fee is \$10.

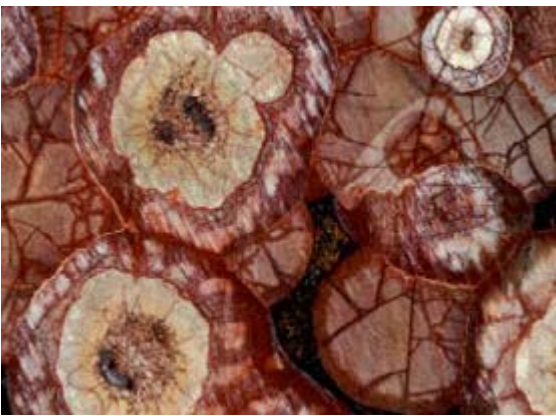
***Next Class is Thursday Oct. 16th
from 5 to 7 prior to the club meeting***



Mushroom Jasper



Mexican Poppy Jasper



Bird's Eye Rhyolite



Lily Pad Jasper

Rhyolites - Wanna-be Jaspers?

by ron gibbs

So what is rhyolite? Rhyolite is a type of igneous magma with about a 70% silica content. Rhyolites and Andesites are two of the most explosive magmas, and typically don't flow well like basalts. They have high water content and often form ash flows or pyroclastic clouds. Interestingly enough the chemical content of rhyolite is the same as the volcanic glass, obsidian. Obsidian is formed when a rhyolite magma cools very quickly.

When rhyolite cools at a slower rate it forms porous materials often with pockets. Since it has a very high in silica content there is a high percentage of crystallized silica (somewhere between that of cryptocrystalline quartz (chalcedony) and macro crystalline quartz.) Many times the void spaces are filled in with later solution silica similar to agate or jasper formations. Unlike jasper, they are not made up of cemented sediment, they form from high temperature crystallization.

The material sold as mushroom jasper, from Arizona, shows large crystal growth in the open void spaces like a rhyolite. The mushroom shapes show hemispherical crystal growth with larger quartz crystals at many centers. This material cooled from a melt.

Lily Pad Jasper and Rain Forest Jasper are green colored rhyolites with patchy areas filled in by secondary materials in the void spaces. Rain Forest Jasper shows small agate pockets growing in most of the open chambers. These tiny agates even show fortification patterns with standard chalcedony growth.



Mexican Poppy Jasper

Another similar material is rhyolite with opal where the pockets are filled with opal rather than chalcedony. This had to be filled much later after the rhyolite cooled.

Thunder eggs are a standard rhyolite structure that are often filled with agate. Butterfly Jasper, is actually a thunder egg where the colors and structures of the surrounding rhyolite are more pleasing than the egg filling.

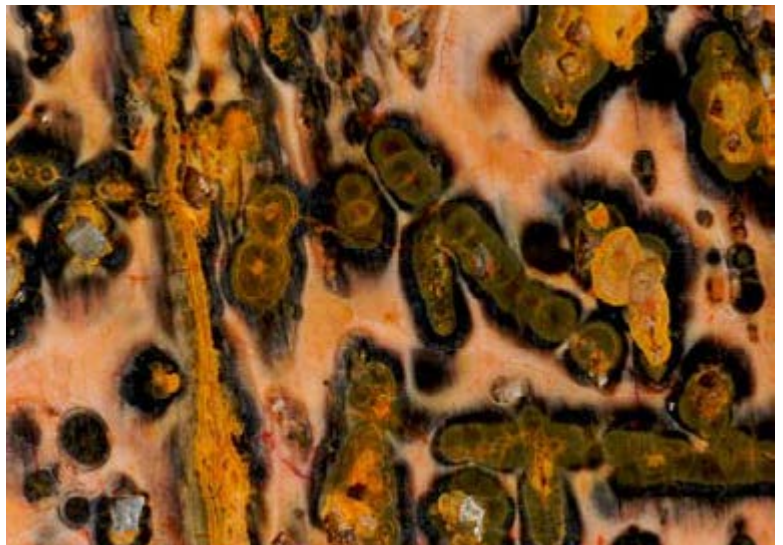
Leopardskin Jasper is another rhyolite with small circular structures filled by radiating crystals. Leopardskin, Butterfly, Mushroom, Lily Pad, and Rain Forest are all sold as jaspers, but they are all rhyolites and not true jaspers.

In general one of the definitions of jasper is a nontransparent variety of cryptocrystalline quartz. Thus many materials that are not transparent and do not fit the definition for agate, end up being called jasper. Another major difference between jaspers and rhyolites are their bulk structure. Rhyolites show separate mineralization and crystal structure throughout the mass. Jaspers are fundamentally just a cemented sediment with microscopic grain patterns.

And thus ends about 12 months of discussion on agates and jaspers as lapidary materials. So what's next? Hummm maybe



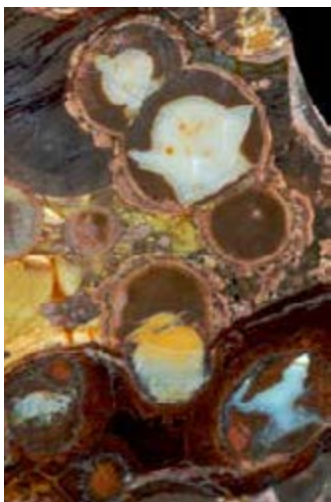
Butterfly Jasper



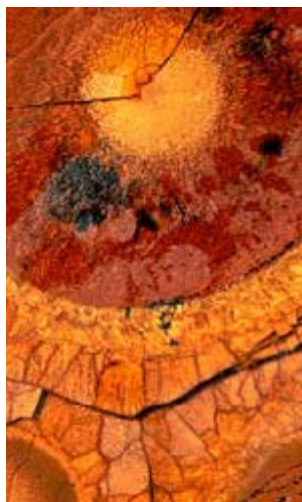
Leopardskin Jasper



Rain Forest Jasper



Rhyolite with Opal



Rhyolite

UPCOMING SHOWS

Oct. 17-19—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA: Show and sale; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin; Macon County Community Bldg.; 1288 Georgia Rd.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; adults \$2, children (12 and under) free; demonstrations, door prizes, repairs, stone setting, gold and silver jewelry, rough and cut gemstones, minerals, equipment; contact Linda Harbuck, 425 Porter St., Franklin, NC 28734, (828) 524-3161; e-mail: llindah@franklin-chamber.com; Web site: www.visitfranklinnc.com

Oct. 17-19—KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE: Annual show; Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society; Kerbela Temple; 315 Mimosa Ave.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5 per day or \$8 show pass, children (under 12) free; contact Beth Willis, 3305 Fairway Rd., Knoxville, TN 37917, (865) 306-8542; e-mail: beth.willis2@gmail.com

Oct. 17-19—VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA: Retail show; Treasures of the Earth Inc.; Virginia Beach Convention Center; 1000 19th St.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$5, students (16 and under) free with adult; 14K and sterling silver, classic, contemporary and handmade jewelry, loose stones, beads, findings, pearls, minerals, crystals, lapidary supplies, jewelers, wire wrappers, jewelry design and repairs, mineral specimens, crystals, lapidary supplies, jewelers, wire wrappers, jewelry design and repairs, rock and mineral display, lapidary demonstrations, on-site appraisals available ; contact Jane Westbrook, PO Box 59, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, (804) 285-4281; e-mail: jane@treasuresoftheearth.com; Web site: www.treasuresoftheearth.com

Nov. 21-23—COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Columbia Gem & Mineral Society; Jamil Temple; 206 Jamil Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adults \$5, children (16 and under) and all military and their dependants free; 24 retail dealers, jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, tools, geodes sold and cut, member rock collection exhibits, lapidary demonstrations; contact Sue Shrader, PO Box 6333, Columbia, SC, Canada 29260, (803) 736-9317; e-mail: ashrader@mindspring.com; Web site: www.cgams.org

org