



# THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

OCTOBER 2015

## THE PREZ SAYZ

I want to tell you about one of the biggest and best secrets in the world of geology and lapidary arts. I do so in an effort to bring it out of the shadow of secrecy and to encourage CG&MC membership to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Linda and I took classes the end of September at Wild acres in the mountains of North Carolina, approximately 45 minutes north of Asheville. She took a course in chain mail making and I took intarsia. These were SFMS programs: they sponsor two one week programs at Wild acres - one in August and one in September. It was the third time over the past few years that we have taken programs at this beautiful venue. If you have not had an opportunity to spend a week at this retreat,



make every effort to do so at next years schedule. William Holland represents a unique opportunity to take lapidary classes at a very reasonable price, but Wild acres also offers a beautiful setting and the feeling that you are on vacation.

The facility sits at the top of a very high mountain range (the drive up can be somewhat exciting) with incredible mountain vistas in sight everywhere you look. The architecture is rustic, but we're

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talking first class rustic. The reception/registration building features windows everywhere, a large stone fireplace and balconies with majestic views to be enjoyed from rocking chairs. The dining hall is a huge stone/log two-story structure with amazing views through big windows (good food is served family style three times a day at big round tables). There is a beautiful auditorium where evening programs are held; it features a large lighted display of rock specimens in the lobby. There is a big outdoor stone patio area with a line of rocking chairs overlooking the surrounding mountains – we attended a wonderful (free) outdoor nighttime concert there last year (with liquid moonshine made available by one of the SFMS members). The guest rooms aren't exactly the Hilton, but for an all-inclusive \$350, who's going to complain?

Classrooms are very well equipped and located in three buildings an easy walk from the guest rooms and dining hall. Most of the teachers also teach at William Holland. The lapidary crafts are just one of many types of programs offered throughout the spring, summer and fall. There are writing, poetry and story telling groups that meet annually. Pottery classes are popular. Last year a group of mushroom fanatics were up there running around on field trips and one year we had been preceded by a group of Scandinavian stove builders who were creating prototypes of a cheap but effective cooking/heating stove to be used in poor countries.

As the 2016 Wild acres SFMS programs approach I will be sure to have notices posted on the website and in the newsletter. Meanwhile, here are a few photos to whet your appetite:

*Murray Simon: President  
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club*





# **Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday October 15, 2015**

**Orchard Collection Sale: 6:00 - 7:00**

**- A variety of collectibles will be available for purchase.**

**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 Monthly Presentation:**

# **Gold Mining in the West!**

**Dr. Andy R. Bobbyarchick**

**Dr. Bobbyarchick is a geologist from UNCC's Geology department. He will be speaking about gold mining and adventures in the West.**

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

We will be making red and green earrings for the upcoming holiday. Class is open to any club member from beginner to experienced.

## **Charlotte Junior Rockhounds**

*Saturday Oct. 31 2015*

*Topic: Halloween Special: Glow in the Dark Minerals!*

*Location: Matthews Community Center*

*100 McDowell St. Matthews, NC 28105*

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

## 2016 CG&MC

### PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS:

President:	<i>Murray Simon</i>
Vice President:	<i>Kim Gwyn</i>
Secretary:	<i>Vickie Glover</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Vivian Philson</i>
Newsletter Editor:	<i>Zachery Blackburn</i>
Web Master:	<i>Kim Gwyn</i>
Special Events Chairman:	<i>Carl Lockwood</i>
Member at Large:	<i>Brad Glover</i>
Member at Large	<i>Martha Rodgers</i>

***Elections will be held  
during the November  
general meeting.***



## Jewelry Making Classes

Martha & Linda will be teaching how to make holiday themed earrings. Just in time for the season.



Class is open to all members regardless of your skill level. As is our custom, there is no charge to members for the class. If you have supplies you would like to donate or use, please bring them.)

**\*Next Class is Thursday  
October 15  
from 5 to 7 prior to the club  
meeting\***



# ROCK OF THE MONTH AQUAMARINE

From the light blue of the sky to the deep blue of the sea, aquamarines shine over an extraordinarily beautiful range of mainly light blue colors. Aquamarine is a fascinatingly beautiful gemstone. Women the world over love it for its fine blue shades which can complement almost any skin or eye color, and creative gemstone designers are inspired by it as they are by hardly any other gem, which enables them to create new artistic cuts again and again.



Its light blue arouses feelings of sympathy, trust, harmony and friendship. Good feelings. Feelings which are based on mutuality and which prove their worth in lasting relationships. The blue of aquamarine is a divine, eternal color, because it is the color of the sky. However, aquamarine blue is also the color of water with its life-giving force. And aquamarine really does seem to have captured the lucid blue of the oceans. No wonder, when you consider that according to the saga it originated in the treasure chest of fabulous mermaids, and has, since ancient times, been regarded as the sailors' lucky stone. Its name is derived from the Latin 'aqua' (water) and 'mare' (sea). It is said that its strengths are developed to their best advantage when it is placed in water which is bathed in sunlight. However, it is surely better still to wear aquamarine, since according to the old traditions this promises a happy marriage and is said to bring the woman who wears it joy and wealth into the bargain. An ideal gem, not only for loving and married couples.

## **A gemstone with many good qualities**

Aquamarine is one of our most popular and best-known gemstones, and distinguishes itself by many good qualities. It is almost as popular as the classics: ruby, sapphire and emerald. In fact it is related to the emerald, both belonging to the beryl family. The color of aquamarine, however, is usually more even than that of the emerald. Much more often than its famous green cousin, aquamarine is almost entirely free of inclusions. Aquamarine has good hardness (7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale) and a wonderful shine. That hardness makes it very tough and protects it to a large extent from scratches. Iron is the substance which gives aquamarine its color, a color which ranges from an almost indiscernible pale blue to a strong sea-blue. The more intense the color of an aquamarine, the more value is put on it. Some aquamarines have a light, greenish shimmer; that too is a typical feature. However, it is a pure, clear blue that continues to epitomize the aquamarine,



because it brings out so well the immaculate transparency and magnificent shine of this gemstone.

### **‘Santa Maria’ sets pulses racing**

The bright blue of this noble beryl is making more and more friends. The various color nuances of aquamarine have melodious names: the rare, intense blue aquamarines from the Santa Maria de Itabira mine in Brazil, which make every gemstone lover’s heart beat

faster, are called ‘Santa Maria’. Similar nuances come from a few gemstone mines in Africa, particularly Mozambique.

To help distinguish them from the Brazilian ones, these aquamarines have been given the name ‘Santa Maria Africana’. The ‘Espirito Santo’ color of aquamarines from the Brazilian state of that name is of a blue that is not quite so intense. Yet other qualities are embodied in the stones from Fortaleza and Marambaia. One beautiful aquamarine color was named after the Brazilian beauty queen of 1954, and has the name ‘Martha Rocha’.

It can be seen from the names of aquamarine colors just how important Brazil is among the countries where aquamarine is found. Most of the raw crystals for the world market come

from the gemstone mines of that large South American country. Every now and then, large aquamarine crystals of immaculate transparency are also found with a magnificent color, a combination which is very unusual in gemstones. And very occasionally, sensationally large aquamarine crystals come to light in Brazil, such as the crystal of 110.5 Kg found in 1910 in Marambaia/Minas Gerais, or for example the ‘Dom







Pedro', weighing 26 Kg and cut in Idar-Oberstein in 1992 by the gemstone designer Bernd Munsteiner, the largest aquamarine ever to have been cut. However, aquamarines are also found in other countries, for example Nigeria, Zambia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## **Favorite stone of modern designers**

There is hardly any other gemstone in modern jewelry design which is refined in such a variety of ways as aquamarine. Whether it is fashioned as a clear, transparent gem in the classical step cut, or creatively cut in a more modern design, it is always fascinatingly beautiful. Uncut too, or with many inclusions which can be brought into play by the designer in the way in which the stone is cut, it can be refined to produce the most beautiful creations.

Designers call it their favorite gemstone. Again and again they take the world by surprise with a new, modern artistic cut, and when they are breaking new ground, aquamarine is a gem that they particularly like to work with.

Without doubt, these creative designer cuts have contributed to the great popularity of this gem. The lucid color of aquamarine makes it easy to see inclusions. For this reason, aquamarine should always be of the greatest possible transparency. On the other hand, particularly charming effects can sometimes be achieved in the way the gemstone is cut by bringing the inclusions into play. The light color of aquamarine leaves the gemstone designer free to bring out the brilliance of the gem with fine grooves, notches, curves and edges. In this way, each aquamarine becomes a unique specimen, whose magical attraction no woman can resist.



*From: <http://www.gemstone.org>*



Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club (Gastonia, NC) (Host)

**Saturday November 7, 2015**

**8:30AM – 4PM**

**Propst Farm, Lincoln County, N.C.**

(Euhedral corundum crystals in various colors)

**FEE \$20pp**

Description: Property has and still is yielding corundum, since the 1960's. Owner has recently plowed a "new" small area and is holding it open for the DMC before he replants it. This a brand new area that he has opened for one other small group and us, plus the historical dig area is still opened and will certainly be used by DMC collectors.

**Fee: Adult collectors - \$ 20.00 pp, Children 12 years or younger - \$5.00.**

Children: Under adult supervision.

Pets: On a leash!

Rain or Shine: This field trip is rain or shine.

Tools needed: Shovel, screen if you have one, maybe small rock pick/hammer (ground/-clays very hard and compact), small bucket to collect in. Extra change of clothes and shoes - can be muddy depending on rain amount in the season.

Address: Propst Farm - 3668 Startown Road, Maiden NC 28650

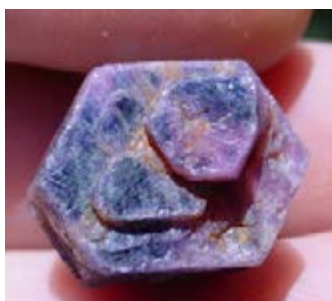
Directions: About 13 miles south of I-40 via US321 and Startown Road or about 26 miles north of I-85 via US321 and Startown Road (Startown road intersects 321 and the Propst Farm is approximately 3 miles south of NC highway US 321). - Dig is on residential land, pull in between 2 brick houses - We will try to have a sign on road where to turn in.

Exxon Service Station w/restrooms and refreshments back at the intersection of Startown Rd. and US 321.

Lodging: Rooms are available in nearby Lincolnton NC or Hickory NC.

Contact: Randy Davis - Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club

704.915.5646 [randybdavis62@yahoo.com](mailto:randybdavis62@yahoo.com)





## UPCOMING SHOWS

**Oct. 16-18—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA:** Retail show; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC, Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Road; Fri. 10 am-5 pm, Sat. 10 am-5 pm, Sun. 11 am-4 pm; Adults \$2.00, Children under 12 free!; 25th Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree featuring rough and cut gemstones, minerals, beads, supplies and demonstrations. Dealers from across the United States. Creating, repairing and setting done during the show. ; contact Linda Harbuck, 425 Porter Street, Franklin, NC 28734, (800) 336-7829; e-mail: [lindah@franklin-chamber.com](mailto:lindah@franklin-chamber.com); Web site: [www.visitfranklinnc.com](http://www.visitfranklinnc.com)

**Oct. 16-18—VIRGINIA BEACH , VIRGINIA:** Retail show; Treasures of the Earth, Inc., Virginia Beach Convention Center; 1000 19th Street; 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 Box 59, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, (804) 285-4281; e-mail: [jane@treasuresoftheearth.com](mailto:jane@treasuresoftheearth.com); Web site: [www.treasuresoftheearth.com](http://www.treasuresoftheearth.com)

**Oct. 23-25—HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA:** Annual show; Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows, Rockingham County Fairgrounds; 4808 S. Valley Pike, I-81, between exits 240 and 243; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$4 (3-day pass), children (under 16) free; beads, pearls, gemstones, gem trees, Herkimers, opals, wire wrapping, wire sculpture, silversmiths and goldsmiths, custom work and repairs while you wait, door prizes; contact Van Wimmer, Show Director, 5273 Bradshaw Rd., Salem, VA 24153, (540) 384-6047; e-mail: [van@toteshow.com](mailto:van@toteshow.com); Web site: [www.toteshow.com](http://www.toteshow.com)

**Nov. 20-22—COLUMBIA 29210, SOUTH CAROLINA:** Annual show; The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society , Jamil Temple; 206 Jamil Rd; Fri. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 12:00 Noon-5:00 pm; Admission is \$5.00, Children 16 & under Free; Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale Geodes sold & cut Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. Lots of fun for the whole family. South Carolina amethyst on display. All military & their dependents are free. ; contact Sue Shrader, PO Box 6333, Columbia, SC 29260, (803) 736-9317; e-mail: [ashrader@mindspring.com](mailto:ashrader@mindspring.com); Web site: [www.cgams.org](http://www.cgams.org)