



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

NOV. 2014

THE PREZ SAYZ

The Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club has just completed its first lapidary workshop at the central campus of CPCC. On the last Saturday morning in October and the first in November our newsletter editor Zachary Blackburn taught a cabochon class (with me as assistant) in the CPCC jewelry lab. This was a trial run for both CPCC and CG&MC to determine if we each have what the other needs in the effort to broaden our programs for students, members and the public in general. An email announcement was sent out to a database of individuals who had previously taken metal-smithing classes and within two days the class was filled with. A few days before the class two responders dropped out and an effort at finding last minute replacements was unsuccessful. This turned out to be a non-issue, however, because it presented us with an opportunity to devote more time to teaching

and supervision. Over a total of eight hours each student made two very nice cabs and a few started a third. Saturday afternoons are open session programs for those who have taken jewelry classes and it was very rewarding to see their positive reactions to what the cabochon students had created. Three of them asked to be put on a list for places in the next class.

This program offers interesting opportunities for the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. It gives us exposure to a broad base of potential future members (two new members have already joined as a result of this introduction to our workshop), it provides a modest income stream for the club (course fees are split three ways between the instructor, CG&MC and CPCC) and in the near future it will offer our members access to instruction in the various lapidary arts.

For the time being, future

classes will focus on cabochon. We have the equipment (we are currently looking to acquire good used faceting equipment), we have experienced instructors and the requests thus far have been to "make cabs". The next class will take place near the end of January. The

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class fee for two successive four hour Saturday mornings will be \$60, which includes all necessary materials and supplies. As you can see from the photos below, classes are held in a spacious, well-equipped laboratory with a very pleasant learning ambiance. If you are interested, contact me at www.msimonnc@gmail.com

Murray Simon

President

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

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 November 20, 2014

Auction will begin at 6:00

Location:

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

Annual Auction

Bring your cash, checkbook, and any rock related items to the CGMC Annual Auction! There will be all kinds of great items up for bid from rough to tools to supplies and tons of stuff in between.

*****There will not be a Jewelry Workshop before the meeting.*****

*****Auction Will Begin At 6:00!*****

Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

Saturday November 22, 2014

Topic: Making Gifts with Rocks and Minerals

10-11:00 – Beginners Class

11-12:00 – Advanced Class

Matthews Community Center

BIRTHSTONES OF THE MONTH

TOPAZ



Topaz is a gemstone available in a rich rainbow of colors. Prized for several thousand years in antiquity, all yellow gems in antiquity were called topaz. Often confused with citrine quartz (yellow) and smoky quartz (brown), quartz and topaz are separate and unrelated mineral species. The most prized color of topaz is called Imperial topaz after the Russian Czars of the 1800s and features a magnificent orange body color with pinkish undertones. Topaz also comes in yellow, pink, purple, orange, and the many popular blue tones.



CITRINE

Citrine, the other birthstone for November is known as the “healing quartz”. This golden gemstone is said to support vitality and health while encouraging and guiding hope, energy and warmth within the wearer. Citrine can be found in a variety of shades ranging from pastel yellow to dark brownish orange. It is one of the most affordable of gemstones and plentiful in nature. Citrine is found most frequently in Brazil, Bolivia, and Spain.

- See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/november-birthstones#sthash.wyc0jDxr.dpuf>



What's in them Quartz Crystals?

by ron gibbs

In the world of gemstones purity is highly sought, and premium prices are paid for stones without any internal inclusions.

There have been maybe two general exceptions to this rule with rutilated quartz, and tourmalated quartz. Rutilated Quartz is a clear quartz crystal with golden, silver or reddish rutile crystals imbedded. And tourmalated is again a clear quartz with small tourmaline crystals running through the Quartz. The most common tourmalated quartz contains black shoal tourma-

line, but the most desired has more colorful lithio-tourmalines in green or pink. (These are far more rare.)

In the past several years the demand for this type of oddity has grown and the market now looks for quartz with all types of internal secondary materials.

A wide array of marketing names have also followed. For instance, quartz crystals containing pieces of the cavity wall where they grew were once called "garden quartz". In the last year or two cut stones,

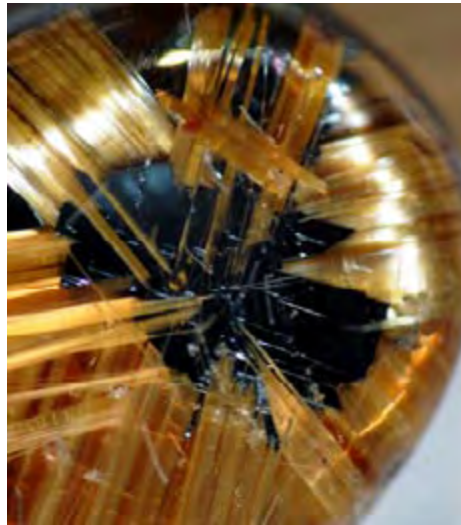
both cabochons and faceted stones made from this material are now sold as "lodalite". The variety of inclusions is amazing.

Miners now segregate these oddities for a select number of dealers and more and more are arriving in the gemstone market. What follows are a number of items I purchased from several dealers in Tucson. I will provide some general descriptions and some microscope images showing some of the wonderful internal structures.

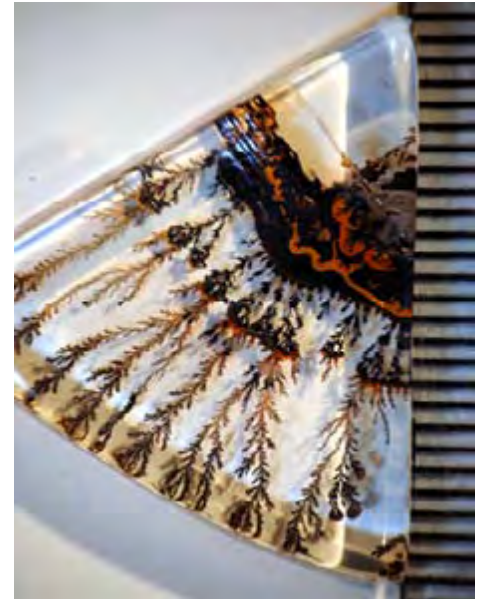
Each year more and more quartz crystals and even other clear minerals are being collected as included stones that bring a new look to the gemstone market.



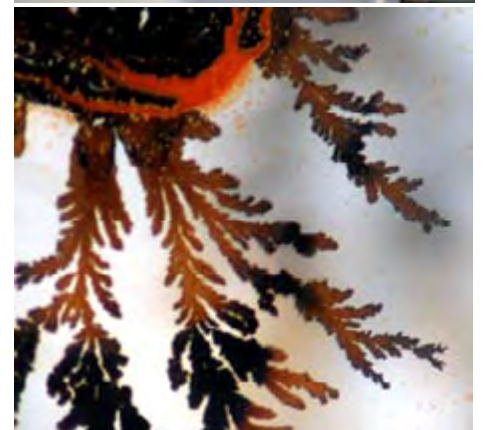
Two Rutilated Quartz cabochons. The rutile was first oriented by the hexagonal Hematite crystal (black in the photos)

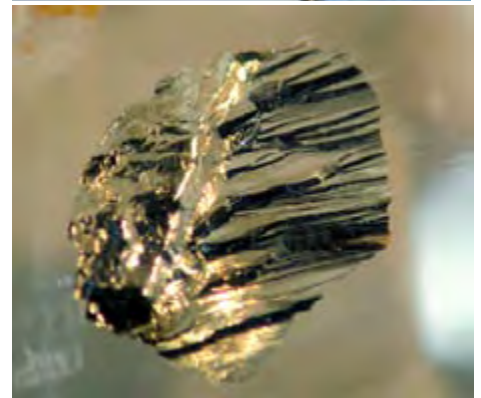
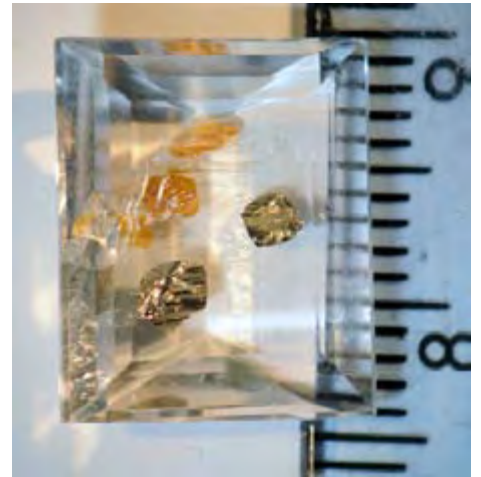
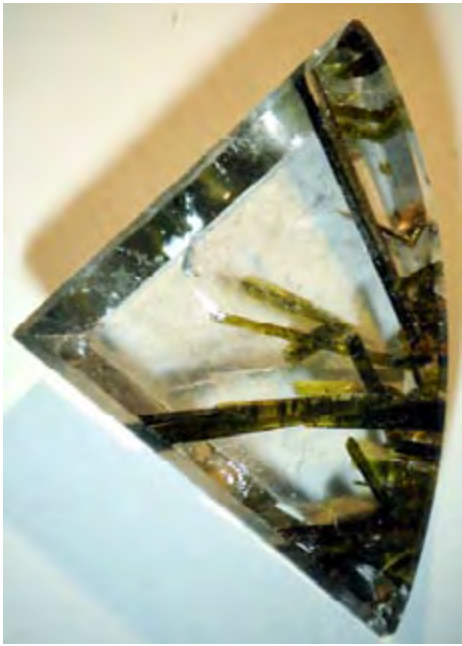


(Above) The golden rutile forms a star like pattern as it runs out of the face of each of the 6 sides of the hexagonal hematite.



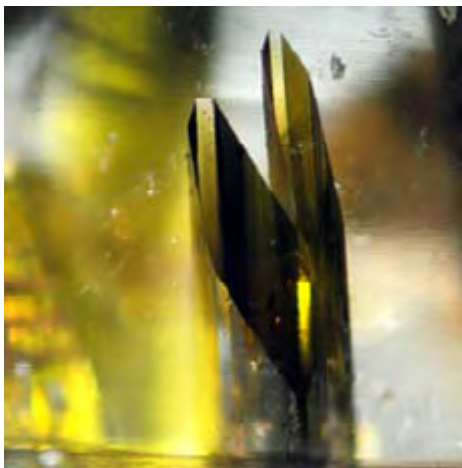
(Right) Manganese and/or iron dendrites formed in a thin crack in a quartz crystal. Dendrites are thought to be formed by Brownian motion as a soluble material precipitates from solution.





(Above) a “Lodalite” cabochon with much of the cavity matrix included (sandy material) and a “negative” quartz crystal. What appears to be a quartz crystal in the top- center of the left image is actually a cavity shaped like a crystal.

(Above) Pyrite crystals floating in a quartz crystal. This usually means that the pyrite actually grew at the same time as the quartz, it formed on an exterior growing crystal face and was encased by the quartz over time.



(Above) Epidote crystals in quartz. The image above shows where the epidote actually comes out of the quartz surface.

(Below) another round “lodolite” cabochon with wall matrix (Sandy material), thin long crystals (rutile?), and many flat plate-like crystals all inter grown.



UPCOMING SHOWS

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 dependents 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

Dec. 6-7—NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Wholesale and retail show; American Bead Shows, Tennessee State Fairground; Smith Ave.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$6 (discount coupon on Web site); antique and vintage jewelry components, beads, freshwater pearls, gemstone beads, Swarovski beads and components, seed beads, beading supplies, carved wood and bone beads, Kumihimo supplies, jewelry and craft tools, finished items; contact Samuel Mbullah, PO Box 490803, Atlanta, GA 30349, (770) 739-0057; e-mail: beadshows@hotmail.com; Web site: <https://americanbeadshows.com>

Dec. 12-14—NORCROSS, GEORGIA: 20th Annual Show; Mammoth Rock Shows LLC, North Atlanta Trade Center; 1700 Jeurgens Ct.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; adults \$4 for 3 days, military and law enforcement personnel, students and children free; 50 dealers, minerals, fossils, rough rock, gold and silver findings, tools and lapidary equipment, beads, jewelry creations, loose and mounted precious stones, on-site jewelry repairs, drawings, grand door prize; contact Richard Hightower, 78 Emerald Hill, Franklin, NC 28734, (800) 720-9624; e-mail: staff@mammothrock.com; Web site: www.mammothrock.com

Dec. 13-14—FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE: Annual show; Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Williamson County AgExpoPark; 4215 Long Ln.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4, students \$1, children free; demonstrations, exhibits, silent auction, hourly door prizes, grand prize, more than 30 dealers, beads, crystals, geodes, minerals, fossils, rough, cabochons, gemstones, finished jewelry, Native American jewelry, tools, supplies; contact John Stanley, 2828 Donna Hill Dr., Nashville, TN 37214, (615) 885-8704; e-mail: show@mtgms.org; Web site: www.MTGMS.org