



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

JANUARY 2017

THE PREZ SAYZ

There seems to be a lot of “New” going on this time of the year. With the New Year, we have four new Board Members, in addition to a lot of New Year Resolutions! This snowy Saturday has allowed me to make good on one of my resolutions, which is spending more time faceting. I have missed spending a few hours at a time in my basement workshop and turning out some stones that please me. I get a lot of satisfaction in knowing I can do something that relatively few people can do, and I can do it quite well.

This brings me to the point of that lead in. We have the place, equipment, time, teachers and the knowledge to teach our members how to facet or cab a stone. Once cut, we can teach you how to wrap that stone in wire, polymer, clay or beads. New to us this year is we can now teach you about opals – what they are, what to do with them, and how to cut them.

As you can see, we have some very talented members in our club who are willing to pass their knowledge to those who are willing to learn. So this year make a New Year’s Resolution to sign up for a class or classes at the Dairy and learn how to do something that is satisfying as well as fun. Please take advantage of these classes that are being made available to you. Our website has the classes and dates listed.



As usual, dues are due this time of the year. However, we have a new twist with this year’s renewal. This year, you can enter your name into a drawing for a FREE class at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. This includes a week of your choice with the usual room and board for the week. By the way, the food is excellent!

Our club will be hosting a DMC Field Trip this April and are looking for a large turnout. We are currently gathering information on this and will forward to you as soon as possible.

Kim Gwyn
President
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club



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Special Events

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WORKSHOPS AT THE DAIRY

This is home to our workshops.



Art in The Dairy

7701 Tuckaseegee Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28214

Please Note: For **insurance** purposes, 2017 CGMC dues must be **paid** or be current before taking class. Non-members must join. (\$20/yr single membership, \$25 family membership)

Faceting Classes are available on an “as available” basis. If you are interested in learning to **facet**, contact Kim at gwynkim@gmail.com to **arrange** a time(s).

Currently scheduled classes:

(Classes are from 9:00 am to Approx 4:00 pm)

(Half day equipment use – 3 hours - \$25 fee)

Jan 14 Cabochon Class (**2 openings**) with **Sarah Lee Boyce**
(\$40 Class Fee)
Rescheduled from Jan 7

Jan 21 Beginning Opals (**0 openings**) with **Sarah Lee Boyce**
(\$20 Class Fee with a \$20 materials fee)
Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,
(Bring a sandwich & **Beverage**)
No Cabochon **experience** required for this class

Jan 21 Polymer Clay (**3 openings**) with **Linda Simon**
(\$20 Class Fee)

Jan 28 Beginning Opals (**0 openings**) with **Sarah Lee Boyce**
(\$20 Class Fee with a \$20 materials fee)
Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,
(Bring a sandwich & Beverage)
No Cabochon experience required for this class

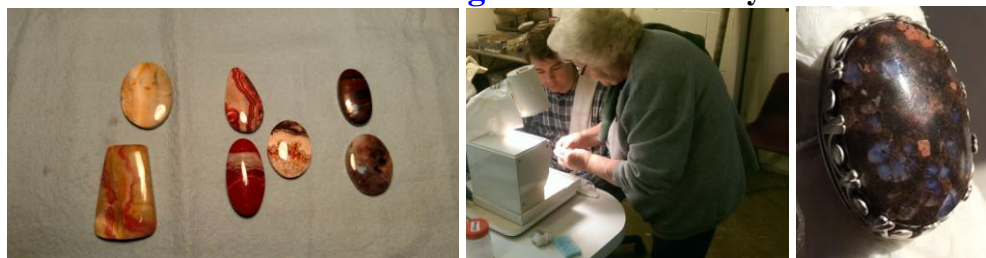
Feb 11 Cabochon Class (4 openings) with Sarah Lee Boyce
(\$40 Class Fee)

Feb 25 Opals 2 - Continue the Opal Experience (4 openings) with Sarah Lee Boyce
(\$30 Class Fee with a \$20 materials fee)

Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,
(Bring a sandwich & Beverage)

No Cabochon experience required for this class

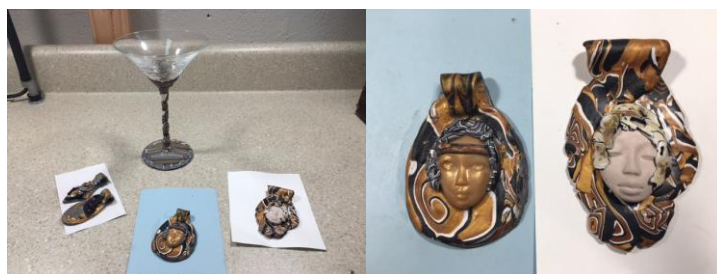
Cabochon Making with Sarah Lee Boyce



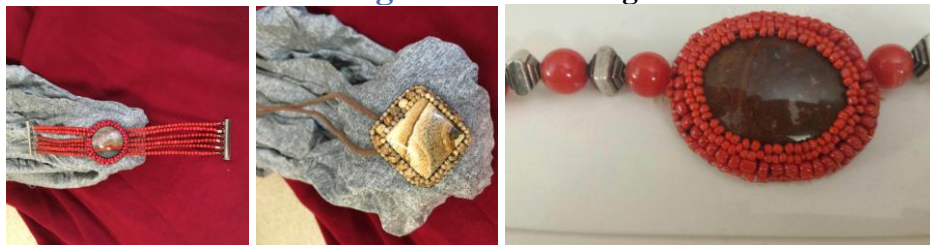
Wire Wrap with Linda Simon



Polymer Clay with Linda Simon



Beading with Martha Rogers



Anyone who wishes to [sign up](#) for any of our classes should contact

Martha Rogers at :

charlottegemclub@gmail.com

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Meeting

Thursday January 19, 2017

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 AND USE FOR GOLD

Our guest will be Ken Gillon, a Geologist, from Halle Gold Mine. He will talk about gold mining, places to mine for gold, and uses for gold. He will also address what a geologist does.

Junior Rockhounds

Next meeting January 28

We will be studying minerals and gemstones. Learn something new about the properties of minerals and precious and semi precious stones! Feel free to bring a rock/mineral from your collection for show and tell.



ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE



RENEW AND WIN!!!!

\$25.00 for your entire family

or

\$20.00 for an individual membership to:

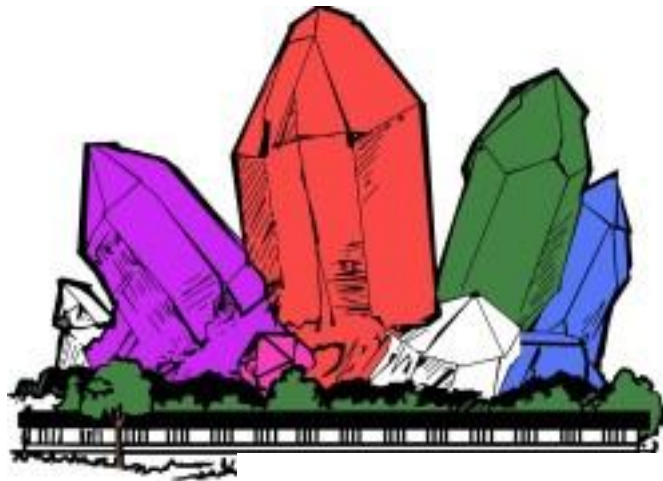
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

c/o Ellen Gwyn

1293 India Hook Rd

Rock Hill, S C 29732

When you renew your dues, you can enter to win a class of your choice at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. This includes a class of your choice with the usual room and board for the week



GEM OF THE MONTH

Opal

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Opal is a [hydrated amorphous](#) form of [silica](#)-its water content may range from 3 to 21% by weight, but is usually between 6 and 10%. Because of its amorphous character, it is classed as a [mineraloid](#), unlike crystalline forms of silica, which are classed as minerals. It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of [rock](#), being most commonly found with [limonite](#), [sandstone](#), [rhyolite](#), [marl](#), and [basalt](#). Opal is the national gemstone of Australia.

The internal structure of precious opal makes it [diffract](#) light. Depending on the conditions in which it formed, it can take on many colors. Precious opal ranges from clear through white, gray, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, magenta, rose, pink, slate, olive, brown, and black. Of these hues, the black opals are the most rare, whereas white and greens are the most common. Opals vary in optical density from opaque to semitransparent.

Common opal

Besides the [gemstone](#) varieties that show a play of color, the other kinds of common opal include the milk opal, milky bluish to greenish (which can sometimes be of gemstone quality); [resin](#) opal, which is honey-yellow with a resinous luster; [wood opal](#), which is caused by the replacement of the organic material in wood with opal;^[9] [menilite](#), which is brown or grey; [hyalite](#), a colorless glass-clear opal sometimes called Muller's glass; [geyserite](#), also called [siliceous sinter](#), deposited around [hot springs](#) or [geysers](#); and [diatomite](#) or [diatomaceous earth](#), the accumulations of [diatom](#) shells or tests.

Other varieties of opal

Fire opal is a transparent to translucent opal, with warm body colors of yellow to orange to red. Although it does not usually show any play of color, occasionally a stone will exhibit bright green flashes. The most famous source of fire opals is the state of [Querétaro](#) in Mexico; these opals are commonly called Mexican fire opals. Fire opals that do not show play of color are sometimes referred to as jelly opals. Mexican opals are sometimes cut in their rhyolitic host material if it is hard enough to allow cutting and polishing. This type of Mexican opal is referred to as a Cantera opal. Also, a type of opal from Mexico, referred to as Mexican water opal, is a colorless opal which exhibits either a bluish or golden internal sheen.

Girasol opal is a term sometimes mistakenly and improperly used to refer to fire opals, as well as a type of transparent to semitransparent type milky quartz from Madagascar which displays an asterism, or star effect, when cut properly. However, the true girasol opal^[11] is a type of [hyalite](#) opal that exhibits a bluish glow or sheen that follows the light source around. It is not a play of color as seen in precious opal, but rather an effect from microscopic inclusions. It is also sometimes referred to as water opal, too, when it is from Mexico. The two most notable locations of this type of opal are [Oregon](#) and Mexico.¹

Peruvian opal (also called blue opal) is a semiopaque to opaque blue-green stone found in Peru, which is often cut to include the matrix in the more opaque stones. It does not display play of color. Blue opal also comes from [Oregon](#) in the [Owyhee](#) region, as well as from [Nevada](#) around the [Virgin Valley](#).¹

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club at the Dairy

Art in The Dairy

7701 Tuckaseegee Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28214

GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE



In Linda's December wire wrap class each student created 4 beautiful jewelry pieces, two pendants, a bracelet and a ring. Take a look at their masterpieces! On January 21st Linda will have a class using polymer clay and stones to create finished pieces. Sign up soon to reserve a seat.



Anyone who wishes to sign up for any of our classes should contact **Martha Rogers** at charlottegemclub@gmail.com



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
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An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society (Columbia, SC)

Saturday, January 28, 2017

Diamond Hill Mine

100 Diamond Hill Road, Antreville, SC

8:00 AM to Dusk

COLLECTING: You can find smoky quartz, amethyst, skeletal quartz, milky quartz, clear quartz, aquamarine, drusy quartz, mica, & epimorphs.

FEE: \$15 per person regardless of age

BRING: Clothing appropriate to the weather (note: if there have been recent rains, the area will be very muddy, so boots will be very helpful), a potato rake, a bucket, safety glasses, a rock hammer and chisel, gloves, small bags for delicate specimens like mica, and paper for wrapping your finds.

FACILITIES: There are 2 porta potties on site. No food or drink is sold on site, so bring plenty of water, lunch, and snacks. The nearest towns with restaurants are Iva, SC (10 miles away) and Abbeville, SC (16 miles away). If you are interested in camping onsite, you can make arrangements by calling 864-934-3744

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

We will be meeting at 8:00 am Eastern time
Diamond Hill Mine
100 Diamond Mine Road
Antreville, SC

DIRECTIONS FROM I-85

1. Get off I-85 on Us-76(Clemson Blvd) toward Anderson
2. Turn right off Us- 76 onto SC 28
3. Follow SC 28 around Anderson
4. Stay on it until you get to Emanuel Baptist Church (on right)
5. Turn right onto Hwy 284.
6. Travel 2.3 miles to "old house" on the right.
7. Turn right here on to Suber Road.
8. Travel 0.7 miles to Diamond Mine Road.
9. Turn right on to Diamond Mine Road; you will see the mine entrance on your right.

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 17-19—ARDEN, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; M.A.G.M.A., Camp Stephens; 263 Clayton Rd. ; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun.10-4; Free Admission; 6th Bi-Annual Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show! Numerous indoor outdoor vendors specializing in gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and artifacts from North Carolina and around the world. The kitchen will be serving a variety of great food. Rain or shine. ; contact Richard Jacquot, PO Box 542, Leicester, NC 28748, (828)-779-4501; e-mail: rick@wncrocks.com; Web site: www.americanrockhound.com

March 24-26—HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Hickory Metro Convention Center; 1960 13th Ave Dr SE; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Children free; Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club Show. Hourly and grand door prizes, 20+ vendors with gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry; Theme- "Meteorites + Dinosaurs=Extinction?"; Programs for school groups, children, and adults; Displays of meteorites, dinosaur bones, Guinness Record sapphire, 112 lb. ruby corundum, educational displays, mini-mine, faceting, cabochoning, specimen identification by geologists. ; contact Warren Hollar, 781 River Hills Court, Taylorsville, NC 28681, (828)-446-5400; e-mail: whollar@charter.net; Web site: www.cvgmc.com/



**DUES WILL BE DUE STARTING IN
JANUARY, 2017. PLEASE HAVE
THEM AT THE MEETING**