



THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

JANUARY 2014

THE PREZ SAYZ

Happy New Year to one and all. Linda and I spent Xmas and New Years in Los Angeles, Scottsdale and Sedona, AZ (celebrating an important anniversary) and brought back some wonderful memories and a few nice trinkets. But now it's time to get back to the real world of CG&MC business and events for the year 2014.

The annual Xmas party at the Amity Presbyterian Church last month was a roaring success. We had a large crowd that filled the room and the food was so good very little was left. It was unfortunate that the Amazing Dancing Cucaracha Sisters could not get a flight out of Las Vegas but complaints were few and far between regarding the last minute substitution of The Totally Unbelievable Fraud.

As you can see from this newsletter, things are going to look a bit different this year. The passing of Ron Gibbs has left a gaping hole in everything related to communications within the club. Kim Gwyn and Zach Blackburn have come to the rescue in volunteering to take on the responsibility for the website and monthly newsletter, but we have had to find simpler, faster ways to do it. Through the

use of templates purchased by the club and a review of other clubs' newsletters, they have been able to put together a website and newsletter we can all be proud of; one that will serve our communications needs quite well. As mentioned in Zach's introductory editorial, we want to encourage club members to play a more active role in providing content for the newsletters. If you've been on a field trip send Zach a write-up describing where you went and what you brought back. Read any good books lately that had something to do with the lapidary arts? Let club members know about it with a brief book report. Perhaps you've taken a class at William Holland that we would be interested in knowing about. A few pictures from your cell phone along with a few descriptive paragraphs would add a lot to the next newsletter.

I have been getting a number of questions regarding how the club is planning to honor Ron's name and his numerous contributions to CG&MC, as well as the distribution of his collection. Here are the details to date as reviewed at the Xmas party:

- The William. Holland School of Lapidary Arts (where Ron had taught) will name its photography classroom in his honor with an appropriate plaque.

- CG&MC is adding to the donations received in his name and will present Wm. Holland with a check for \$1500 which will go towards refurbishing a guest room at Sparks Lodge. A suitable plaque will be installed.

...continued on page 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1-2	The Prez Says
2	Dues are Due
2	New Workshop
5-6	Field Trips
6	New website
7	Upcoming Shows



2014 CGMC OFFICERS & BOARD

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

Vickie Glover
www.stitchwitt@bellsouth.net

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

Pat Walker

Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

Workshop Chair

Linda Simon
lsimon1@carolina.rr.com

Field Trip Chair

Vacant

Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

Special Events

Kim Gwyn

Children's Program Chair

Mary Fisher

The Prez Sayz continued from page 1

- Several pieces of lapidary equipment have been donated to Wm. Holland as per Ron's instructions. Each will have a "Donated by" nameplate on them.

- Brad Glover will build a high quality display case to be mounted on a wall on the classroom level at Wm. Holland. It will contain slabs from the collection, a photo of Ron, pages from his Agate/Jasper book, etc..

- Discussions are scheduled for early January with dealers relative to a purchase of the contents of his collection.

Murray Simon, President Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

JEWELRY MAKING WORKSHOP

Prior to the Jan. 16 from 5 -7 pm Linda Simon will be teaching a wire wrapping class. On a recent trip to Arizona, Linda discovered a unique wire wrapping technique and pattern. She will be instructing on the exciting new style during the workshop.

The workshop fee will be \$10. For this fee you will receive copper wire, a cabochon, access to tools and brilliant instruction. Silver wire will be available for an additional fee. Students are encouraged to bring their own cabochons or tools if they are so inclined.

Don't miss this wonderful value and opportunity.

DUES ARE DUE

Just like in previous years, your club dues come up for renewal in January. They are good for one year and run \$20 for individuals or \$25 for a full family.

Please pay Vivian with a check at our monthly meeting or put a check in the mail to her address. Include a new copy of our membership form, and update any information which has changed. (Like either your e-mail address or your street address.)

Vivian Philson
5601 McCallum St.
Charlotte, NC 28226

The membership form can be obtained from the WEB site. (www.charlottegem.com) or pick up a copy at the monthly meeting. The dues are used to offset our fixed yearly costs, the meeting location rent (monthly), the WEB site, the newsletter, meeting snacks and food for our annual Christmas. They also aid in costs related to the Jr. program, and maintenance of the club library and tools. There are also classes offered before meetings, and the dues help offset those expenses.

Scholarship monies come from our external club events.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

With the passing of Ron Gibbs there has been a huge void created within our club. Our club will never be the same without him. With this being said, a few individuals have stepped up to the plate to try to fill an enormous pair of shoes. One of those voids is the position of newsletter editor of which I have been appointed.

You may ask yourself “what qualifies this guy to be the club newsletter editor?” I would respond by saying, “I have not a clue, ask Murray.” My background comes from the world of print production. I have been serving in this industry for about fifteen years. I was the editor for another non-profit organization for two years. In my previous position though, I never had to actually write anything.

This is where Mr. Gibbs excelled. He had such a wealth of knowledge and experience to pull from in his articles for the newsletters. In the scheme of things my experience as a rock hound is still developing and pails to Mr. Gibbs’s. That is going to be where I need help from you! I am asking for your assistance in creating content for the newsletter. If you have a particular area of knowledge related to rock hounding, write an article about it. It really doesn’t need to be long, a page or two. It could be a tutorial,



guide, or just good ole information about a topic. Maybe you consider yourself a poet or jokester, if it is even remotely rock related, I would love to see it.

One idea about possible articles is biographies on club members. The articles could revolve around an individual’s gem and mineral talents, their workshop and possibly their collection. This could be a way to share information about your hobby or business. This club has an amazing level of diversity, yet who is good at what is not common knowledge.

Please bear with me as I feel out this position. If you have any ideas, comments, or magical powers that would help out with this newsletter, send them my way. I look forward to serving this club and seeing what you come up with.

Sincerely,

Zach Blackburn
Zachery.blackburn@hotmail.com

WIN A RON GIBBS ORIGINAL!

Members that are up to date on their dues may purchase raffle tickets to win an original Ron Gibbs “Cabtarsia” design.

This piece is a beautiful Mookaite stone bordered with black Australian Jade. It was wire wrapped in silver by our own Linda Simon.

This is a one of a kind design that you will never see again. Get up to date on your dues and buy some tickets!



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 January 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

The January 16th speaker will be Suzanne Ching, a club member and graduate student at UNCC and a recipient of the 2012 James Strickland CG&MC Scholarship. The title of her talk is "What I Discovered at the Top of the Mountain" and will describe her 2013 two week field trip in the mountains of Costa Rica exploring the mysteries of its rocks, volcanoes and caves. The talk will feature slides of beautiful mountain ranges, local habitats, wildlife, flora/fauna and strange native customs (how to make spears, shrink heads, Peyote recipes, etc.). A good time is guaranteed for all who attend.

*** Dues are due ***

***Wire Wrapping Workshop prior to the meeting*
5 to 7 pm**

Charlotte Junior Rockhounds

Saturday January 25, 2014

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Topic: Fossils

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

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

9:00 AM TO 5:00PM
Saturday, January 18, 2014
Stoney Bluff near Girard, GA
"Savannah River Agate"

Where: Stoney Bluff outside of Girard, GA

Assembly Time: 9:00 am. at the vacant lot just south of the Post Office in Girard, GA

Stoney Bluff is located about 30 miles south of Augusta, Ga and just east of the small town of Girard. We will assemble in Girard at 9 am in the vacant lot just south of the Post Office (do not park in the Post Office parking lot). The collecting site is only a few miles away at the end of Stoney Bluff Rd. Colorful, agatized material can be found on the surface at the site. Bring plenty of water and dress for the weather

Collecting: Beautiful "Savannah River Agate" fossils and micro minerals. This material is actually a conglomeration of agate, jasper, chert, and opalite all mixed together to form a layered specimen that will tumble or cab into beautiful display pieces. This rock occurs as black and brown mottled agate and in a large range of pastel colors from greens to yellows to violets. The fossils you may find are from 30-35 million years old Oligocene age deposits. The micro minerals are located in vugs of the agate/chert rock.

Tools: light digging tools and small pry bars to free larger boulders from the sandy soil. Leather gloves are recommended. If you plan to look for micro-minerals by busting the larger agate/chert specimens, you will also need some chisels and a sledge. More importantly you NEED eye protection (face shield would be best) and long heavy pants as this agate can act like shrapnel when cracked with a rock hammer or sledge!

Directions: from I-20 in Augusta, GA.

From I-20 in Augusta get onto I-520 (Bobby Jones Expressway) and head toward the south end of the expressway. When you reach Exit 9 (Mike Padgett Hwy), exit and head south (most likely Hwy 56 at that point) approx. 15 mi. to McBean, GA. Just beyond McBean turn left onto Hwy 23 and follow it SE about 14 mi. to Girard, Ga.

Directions from I-16 just west of Savannah, GA

Exit I-16 at US301/US25 (Exit #116) and head north approx. 10 mi to Statesboro, GA Continue north on US 301 from Statesboro approx 20 mi to Sylvania, Ga. Continue north on US301 from Sylvania about 5 miles to junction with Hwy 24. Turn left onto Hwy 24 and drive 14 mi to Sardis, GA. In Sardis pick up Hwy 23 and drive 6 miles to Girard, GA.

Field Trip Leader: Contact: Jim Maudsley 706-353-1792 or jamesm24@charter.net.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society
(HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club

9:00 AM CST, Saturday, February 15, 2014

Gravel Pit/Coal Mine, Brookwood, AL.

TO: GRAVEL PIT /COAL MINES, BROOKWOOD, ALABAMA

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2014

MEETING TIME: 9:00 A.M. (Central Time Zone)

MEETING PLACE: AT THE SITE 330 15'31.77" N 87022'10.30" W

DIRECTIONS: From Birmingham, AL. Get onto I-20 / I-59 and go south to the Brookwood Exit (Exit 86) Exit and turn right onto Tuscaloosa County Hwy. 59. Go north until you come to Hwy. 216. Turn left onto Hwy. 216 and go approximately 2 ½ miles. After crossing the railroad tracks (via a concrete bridge), turn onto the first paved road to the right. The site entrance is past the office buildings and through the pipe storage yard. All attendees must sign in, sign a release and sign out.

BRING: Sack lunch, plenty of drinks, buckets, hammer, appropriate dress, and good gloves.

NOTES: We will be looking for petrified wood, jasper, agate, crazy blue lace, and oolite. This site has an abundance of water smoothed quartz pebbles shaped like a double sided cabochon. Small amounts of many other types of rock are found including petrified wood, jasper, agate, marine fossils, Indian paint pots and any number of other unknown materials. This is an old alluvial deposit containing rocks eroded from the Appalachian Mountains since their formation 400 million years ago. This site is an old gravel quarry that is now producing natural gas field. All equipment, materials and ponds are strictly off limits. The SFMS code of ethics should be strictly observed. The property owner has been generous to let us collect here for many years and we would not want anything to jeopardize that.

CONTACT: REGGIE and BUNNY BOLTON reggie@newenvirons.net
205-870-7721 or 205-410-9455

Please let us know if you are planning on attending. This is a large site but we can not manage more than about 75 visitors.

330 15'31.77" N 87022'10.30" W elevation 483 ft.

NEW CG&M CLUB WEBSITE

The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club has a new website.

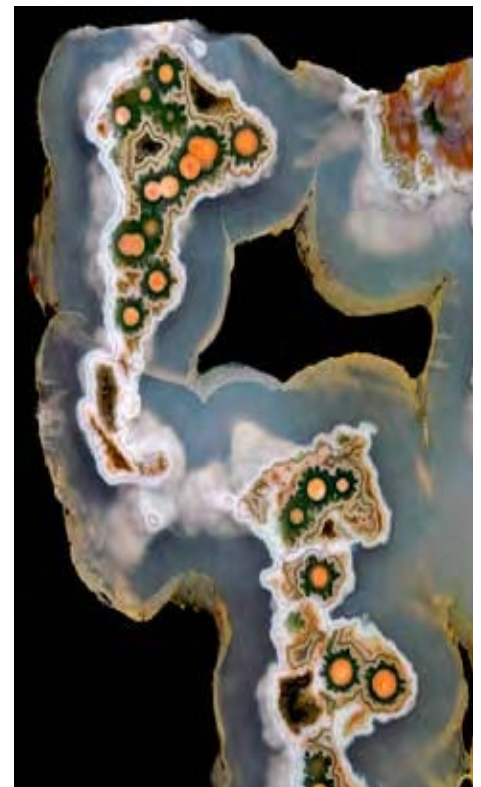
www.charlottegem.org

The new website has a clean and beautiful new look to it. Navigation through the website also has been improved.

We can thank Kim Gwyn for his hard work and dedication on this venture.

Be on the lookout for new features to the website. Kim is working on a "classifieds" part of the website where information about items the club has for sale.

The site has all the content from the previous website and we are working on adding more. Give us a click sometime soon.



UPCOMING SHOWS

February 2nd & 3rd 2013 Panama City FL 22nd Annual Panama City Gem & Mineral Show

American Legion Bldg at the Bay County Fairgrounds
2230 East 15th St and Sherman Ave
Panama City FL 32404

Sat 2 Feb 9AM to 5PM, Sun 3 Feb 9AM to 4PM

Exhibits, Minerals, Fossils, Cabochons, Wire Wrapping, Gems, Crystals, Lapidary, Jewelry,
Beads, Faceting Demonstration
Free Parking and Free Admission
Chairman Joe Schings 1-850-871-1846

Feb. 8,9 2014 Merritt Island, Florida 37th Annual Symphony of Gemstones show and sale

Sponsored by Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club
Kiwanis Island Recreation Center

951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd. off SR 520 Exit on I95 going East, entrance is just east of the Merritt Island Mall, turn at the sign

Sat./Sun 10AM - 5 PM adults \$5 (\$1 discount coupon on Website) children under 12 are free
when accompanied by adult

Hand-crafted and fine jewelry, rough and cut gems, fossils, minerals, beads, slabs, cabs, equipment and tools.

Demonstrations, hourly prizes, grand prize, children's activities and silent auction.

Contact: Roz Mestre, (321) 431-0159/ (321) 632=8281

email: roz.mestre@att.net

club website: www.centralbrevardgems.org

FEBRUARY 22, 2014 Lakeland, Florida Annual Show and Sale

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society
Saturday 9:00am - 4:30pm

175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland, Fl. 33801

Hourly door prizes, Spin & Win Mineral Wheel, Kids Treasure Dig, demonstrations and educational displays, Silent and Chinese auctions and over 30 dealers of rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gifts and hobby supplies.

Contact Kim Price, Show chair, at (863) 412-9156, or email ibvgmfs@gmail.com. Facebook: Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society. Website: www.bonevalley.net