THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER

CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

JUNE 2017

THE PREZ SAYZ

As some of you may have noticed, we did not have a newsletter in May. Mostly it was due to writers block by yours truly. After conferring with the board members, we decided to change things up in the newsletter. We want to add more tidbits, facts and much less from the current president. If you have any suggestions as to what we should add, please send suggestions to me at gwynkim@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kim Gwyn
President
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

NOW CANNOT WAIT

Now is when good work gets done. Now is when problems are solved and dreams are fulfilled.

Later is where ideas and intentions go to fade away, never to be heard from again. Later is filled with dreams that never came to life, and never will.

Your life deserves your efforts now. Every good possibility is packed into now, and now is your chance to make the possibilities yours.

Now cannot wait, and you must not wait. Now is when you can live, love, think, learn, act and create.

Now is when all of life exists, achieves, enjoys, moves forward. Now is opportunity, and the resources, energy, drive and desire to make something of it.

Every moment you ever have is available only at the times it comes, not before, not after. Now is when you must act, for there is no other choice.-Ralph Marston

JUNE HAPPENINGS

June 10, 1652 – In Massachusetts, Silversmith John Hull opened the first mint in America

June 14, 1951 – Univac 1, the World's first commercial electronic computer was unveiled in Philadelphia

June 18, 1983 – Dr. Sally Ride became the first American woman in space

June 30, 1971 – The 26th Amendment to the US Constitution was enacted, granting the right to vote to all American citizens, 18 years or older.

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2017 CGMC OFFICERS & BOARD

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Mary Fisher

Special Events
Anne Lockwood

WORKSHOPS AT THE DAIRY

This is home to our workshops.

Art in The Dairy

7701 Tuckaseegee Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28214

Currently scheduled classes:

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

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).

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

June 17 Cabochons (0 openings) with Murray Simon
$40 Class Fee
Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,
(Bring a sandwich & Beverage)

July 15 Beginning Wirewrap (0 openings) with Martha Rogers
$30.00 Class Fee
Materials and tools provided
Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,
(Bring a sandwich & Beverage)

Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club
Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 15th

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

Social Hour from 6:00 – 7:00

Meeting to Start at 7:00

We will be showing the movie "Sharing the Rough"
This follows a stone from mining to cutting to jewelry.

Come early and bring a friend!

Junior Rockhounds

Meetings consist of a short talk about the day's topic, then a hands-on activity. Parents are encouraged to attend with students. There are no fees, but families must be members of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club..
Enjoy the Summer!!

We will resume our meetings In September.

To sign up, contact Mary Fisher via email:
CharlotteJuniorRockhounds@mail.com

GEM OF THE MONTH

Gemstone

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Group of precious and semiprecious stones —both uncut and faceted— including (*clockwise from top left*) diamond, uncut synthetic sapphire, ruby, uncut emerald, and amethyst crystal cluster.

A **gemstone** (also called a **gem**, **fine gem**, **jewel**, **precious stone** or **semi-precious stone**) is a piece of mineral crystal which, in cut and polished form, is used to make jewelry or other adornments However, certain rocks (such as lapis lazuli) or organic materials that are not minerals (such as amber, jet, and pearl) are also used for jewelry and are therefore often considered to be gemstones as well. Most gemstones are hard, but some soft minerals are used in jewelry because of their luster or other physical properties that have aesthetic value. Rarity is another characteristic that lends value to a gemstone. Apart from jewelry, from earliest antiquity engraved gems and hardstone carvings, such as cups, were major luxury art forms. A gem maker is called a lapidary or gemcutter; a diamond worker is a diamantaire.

Characteristics and classification

The traditional classification in the West, which goes back to the ancient Greeks, begins with a distinction between *precious* and *semi-precious*; similar distinctions are made in other cultures. In modern usage the precious stones are diamond, ruby, sapphire, and emerald, with all other gemstones being semi-precious. This distinction reflects the rarity of the respective stones in ancient times, as well as their quality: all are translucent with fine color in their purest forms, except for the colorless diamond, and very hard, with hardnesses of 8 to 10 on the Mohs scale. Other stones are classified by their color, translucency and hardness. The traditional distinction does not necessarily reflect modern values, for example, while garnets are relatively inexpensive, a green garnet called tsavorite can be far more valuable than a mid-quality emerald. Another unscientific term for semi-precious gemstones used in art history and archaeology is hardstone. Use of the terms 'precious' and 'semi-precious' in a commercial context is, arguably, misleading in that it deceptively implies certain stones are intrinsically more valuable than others, which is not necessarily the case.

In modern times gemstones are identified by gemologists, who describe gems and their characteristics using technical terminology specific to the field of gemology. The first characteristic a gemologist uses to identify a gemstone is its chemical composition. For example, diamonds are made of carbon (C) and rubies of aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3). Next, many gems are crystals which are classified by their crystal system such as cubic or trigonal or monoclinic. Another term used is habit, the form the gem is usually found in. For example, diamonds, which have a cubic crystal system, are often found as octahedrons.

Gemstones are classified into different *groups*, *species*, and *varieties*. For example, ruby is the red variety of the species corundum, while any other color of corundum is considered sapphire. Other examples are the Emerald (green), aquamarine (blue), red beryl (red), goshenite (colorless), heliodor (yellow), and morganite (pink), which are all varieties of the mineral species beryl.

Gems are characterized in terms of refractive index, dispersion, specific gravity, hardness, cleavage, fracture, and luster. They may exhibit pleochroism or double refraction. They may have luminescence and a distinctive absorption spectrum.

Material or flaws within a stone may be present as inclusions.

Gemstones may also be classified in terms of their "water". This is a recognized grading of the gem's luster, transparency, or "brilliance".[5] Very transparent gems are considered "first water", while "second" or "third water" gems are those of a lesser transparency

Value

There is no universally accepted grading system for gemstones. Diamonds are graded using a system developed by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) in the early 1950s. Historically, all gemstones were graded using the naked eye. The GIA system included a major innovation: the introduction of 10x magnification as the standard for grading clarity. Other gemstones are still graded using the naked eye (assuming 20/20 vision).

A mnemonic device, the "four Cs" (color, cut, clarity and carats), has been introduced to help the consumer understand the factors used to grade a diamond.[8] With modification, these categories can be useful in understanding the grading of all gemstones. The four criteria carry different weight depending upon whether they are applied to colored gemstones or to colorless diamonds. In diamonds, cut is the primary determinant of value, followed by clarity and color. Diamonds are meant to sparkle, to break down light into its constituent rainbow colors (dispersion), chop it up into bright little pieces (scintillation), and deliver it to the eye (brilliance). In its rough crystalline form, a diamond will do none of these things; it requires proper fashioning and this is called "cut". In gemstones that have color, including colored diamonds, it is the purity and beauty of that color that is the primary determinant of quality.

Spanish emerald and gold pendant at Victoria and Albert Museum

Enamelled gold, amethyst and pearl pendant, about 1880, Victoria and Albert Museum

Physical characteristics that make a colored stone valuable are color, clarity to a lesser extent (emeralds will always have a number of inclusions), cut, unusual optical phenomena within the stone such as color zoning (the uneven distribution of coloring within a gem) and asteria (star effects). The Greeks, for example, greatly valued asteria gemstones, which were regarded as powerful love charms, and Helen of Troy was known to have worn star-corundum.

Aside from the diamond, the ruby, sapphire, emerald, pearl (not, strictly speaking, a gemstone), and opal have also been considered to be precious. Up to the discoveries of bulk amethyst in Brazil in the 19th century, amethyst was considered a *precious stone* as well, going back to ancient Greece. Even in the last century certain stones such as aquamarine, peridot and cat's eye (cymophane) have been popular and hence been regarded as precious.

Today such a distinction is no longer made by the gemstone trade. Many gemstones are used in even the most expensive jewelry, depending on the brand name of the designer, fashion trends, market supply, treatments, etc. Nevertheless, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and emeralds still have a reputation that exceeds those of other gemstones.

Rare or unusual gemstones, generally meant to include those gemstones which occur so infrequently in gem quality that they are scarcely known except to connoisseurs, include andalusite, axinite, cassiterite, clinohumite and red beryl

Gem prices can fluctuate heavily (such as those of tanzanite over the years) or can be quite stable (such as those of diamonds). In general per carat prices of larger stones are higher than those of smaller stones, but popularity of certain sizes of stone can affect prices. Typically prices can range from US$1/carat for a normal amethyst to US$20,000–50,000 for a collector's three carat pigeon-blood almost "perfect" ruby.

Cutting and polishing

A few gemstones are used as gems in the crystal or other form in which they are found. Most however, are cut and polished for usage as jewelry. The picture to the left is of a rural, commercial cutting operation in Thailand. This small factory cuts thousands of carats of sapphire annually. The two main classifications are stones cut as smooth, dome shaped stones called cabochons, and stones which are cut with a faceting machine by polishing small flat windows called facets at regular intervals at exact angles.

Stones which are opaque or semi-opaque such as opal, turquoise, variscite, etc. are commonly cut as cabochons. These gems are designed to show the stone's color or surface properties as in opal and star sapphires. Grinding wheels and polishing agents are used to grind, shape and polish the smooth dome shape of the stones.[14]

Gems which are transparent are normally faceted, a method which shows the optical properties of the stone's interior to its best advantage by maximizing reflected light which is perceived by the viewer as sparkle. There are many commonly used shapes for faceted stones. The facets must be cut at the proper angles, which varies depending on the optical properties of the gem. If the angles are too steep or too shallow, the light will pass through and not be reflected back toward the viewer. The faceting machine is used to hold the stone onto a flat lap for cutting and polishing the flat facets. Rarely, some cutters use special curved laps to cut and polish curved facets.

List of extremely rare gemstones

- Painite was discovered in 1956 in Ohngaing in Myanmar. The mineral was named in honor of the British gemologist Arthur Charles Davy Pain. In 2005 painite was described by the Guinness Book of World Records as the rarest gem mineral on earth.
- Hibonite was discovered in 1956 in Madagascar. It was named after the discoverer the French geologist Paul Hibon. Gem quality Hibonite has only been found in Myanmar.

- Red beryl or bixbite was discovered in an area near Beaver, Utah in 1904 and named after the American mineralogist Maynard Bixby.
- Jeremejevite was discovered in 1883 in Russia and named after its discoverer, Pawel Wladimirowich Jeremejew (1830–1899).
- Chambersite was discovered in 1957 in Chambers County, Texas, USA, and named after the deposit's location.
- Taaffeite was discovered in 1945. It was named after the discoverer, the Irish gemologist Count Edward Charles Richard Taaffe.
- Musgravite was discovered in 1967 in the Musgrave Mountains in South Australia and named for the location.
- Grandidierite was discovered by Antoine François Alfred Lacroix (1863–1948) in 1902 in Tuléar province, Madagascar. It was named in honor of the French naturalist and explorer Alfred Grandidier (1836–1912).
- Poudretteite was discovered in 1965 at the Poudrette Quarry in Canada and named after the quarry's owners and operators, the Poudrette family.
- Serendibite was discovered in Sri Lanka by Dunil Palitha Gunasekera in 1902 and named after Serendib, the old Arabic name for Sri Lanka.
- Zektzerite was discovered by Bart Cannon in 1968 on Kangaroo Ridge near Washington Pass in Okanogan County, Washington, USA. The mineral was named in honor of mathematician and geologist Jack Zektzer, who presented the material for study in 1976.

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10 Gemstone Fun Facts!

Gemstones are fascinating creations. They are (usually) naturally occurring and are beautiful works of art in nature. Here are 10 gemstone fun facts:

One of the largest sapphires is known as the Star of Asia, which is currently housed at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

The Heart of the Ocean, from James Cameron's "Titanic" was not completely fictitious - it is believed that a rather large sapphire went down with Titanic on that fateful nigh

Peridot was Cleopatra's favorite gemstone.

After millions upon millions of years, it is assumed that the sun will become one large diamond

It takes anywhere from one to three years to grow a cultured pearl.

In the Middle Ages, women would wear Opals to protect the color of their blonde hair.

The Queen of England's jewelry collection is worth an estimated $57 million dollars

Garnet was named after the seeds of a pomegranate

The largest diamond found in the United States, to date, is known as the Uncle Sam Diamond.

Amber is the softest gemstone; diamond is the hardest

REGIONAL DIGS & SHOWS

Below are some digs or shows that may be of interest

An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club (Winston-Salem, NC) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the The Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club

Saturday, June 17, 2017
9:00 a.m. Eastern
Earthen Paradise
Prospect, VA
Fee: $20

TRIP: Earthen Paradise is located in the very Heart of Virginia between the Historic towns of Appomattox and Farmville only a short distance from the famous High Bridge Trail. COLLECTING: Gemmy blue kyanite, garnet, and black tourmaline.

BRING: Picks, shovels, rock hammers and scratching tools. Screens could also be helpful. Bring plenty of drinks and lunch unless you want to drive a few miles for food.

Fee: $20per person/$10 for children 10 and younger

REGISTRATION: No need to register

CHILDREN (Yes): Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult who is at least 18 years old.

PETS (NO): No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: A port-a-potty will be available onsite. Several fast food restaurants are located approximately 10 minutes away in Farmville, VA.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:
Address of Earthen Paradise is 599 Browntown Rd. Prospect, VA 23960From Eastern VA:
Get to Hwy. 460 west and stay on it until the turn off to Rt. 608 (Prospect, Rd.) on your left in the town of Prospect, VA Turn left again at Rt. 677 (Browntown Rd.) on your left and go to the very end of the road.
From Western VA:
Get to Hwy. 460 east and stay on it until the turn off to Rt. 627 (Prospect, Rd.) on your right in the town of Prospect, VA Turn right again at Rt. 677 (Browntown Rd.) on your right and go to the very end of the road

CONTACT:
Contact Stephanie Myers (witchmyers@yahoo.com) or Jessica Callan (Earthenparadiseinc@gmail.com) with questions.

CHARLOTTE GEM AND MINERAL CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, July 22 (Rain or Shine!) 11:00-2:00
Location: Art in The Dairy 7701 Tuckaseegee Rd. Charlotte, NC 28214 •
Make reservations by contacting Martha Rogers at: - martha4854@gmail.com

Bring your own chairs • Children and spouses are welcome • Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided. Anyone wanting to bring deserts or sides are encouraged to do so. Come out and play a round of corn hole, eat some good food and talk about our favorite subject, ROCKS.