



# THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MARCH 2014

## THE PREZ SAYZ

**F**ebruary's general meeting was a big success. Lots of new faces were present and everyone had the opportunity to hear a fascinating presentation by Michael Mohr (UNCC graduate student) with terrific slides. The video of a volcanic ash eruption was exciting and different; it looked like a huge avalanche of dirty snow. His stories of Indians and mining in the Superstition Mountains had the full attention of adults and kids in the audience. A good time was had by all.

Speaking of a good time, we had a guest at the meeting – Francis Sutphin, owner of the Reel (Amethyst) Mine, where we will be holding our April DMC dig. I noticed him holding discussions before and after the meeting with various members about what to expect from this field trip and how best to get ready for it. We will be issuing email blasts about this dig in the coming weeks so keep your eyes peeled for this information.

Next month's presentation on rhodochrosite by Dr. William Logan should be interesting, informative and full of beautiful slides. Linda and I had an opportunity to visit with Bill at his Charlotte home a few years ago and were shown his amazing rhodochrosite collection. He has recently published a book on that subject and will have copies available for purchase (with his signature?).

Apparently when Bill was putting the book together he was not satisfied with the quality of the photographic reproductions and not sure what to do about it. His friend Jack King knew what to do – he took him to see Ron Gibbs whose book “Agates and Jaspers” is noted for its magnificent specimen photos, all of them taken by Ron. As always, Ron was always willing and happy to share his remarkable knowledge and experience with others and I understand this new book represents a “must have” for anyone with a serious interest in fine geological specimens.

I mentioned “new faces” at the beginning of this dissertation and I would like to close with that subject. I get two or three calls a month from people new to the Charlotte area who want to know more about our club. They have taken the time to Google search us where they find my phone number and email address prominently displayed on the website homepage. I routinely respond to these calls with an invitation to join us at our next meeting. The CG&MC is a very social organization, not a surprise given the common interests shared by our members. When a stranger comes into the room at one of our meetings please make an effort (right away) to welcome them, introduce yourself and find out where their (geology/earth sciences) interests lie. The next step is to introduce them to others in the club who might share the same interests. We have

expanded our membership roster significantly over the past few years and congeniality at meetings and public events (i.e., Mathews Alive) is a major reason for that growth. Let's continue that effort on an even broader scale.

*Murray Simon, President  
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club*

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## 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@gmail.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

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### Workshop Chair

Linda Simon  
lsimon1@carolina.rr.com

### Field Trip Chair

Vacant

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# BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH

The two birthstones for March are aquamarine and bloodstone.

## AQUAMARINE

The name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.



thebutterflyjungle.blogspot.com



gemstonebuzz.com

## BLOODSTONE

The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers — especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called the martyr's stone as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

From: [www.americangemsociety.org](http://www.americangemsociety.org)



wire-sculpture.com

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

"The Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club will be hosting a dig on Saturday April 19 at the Reel (amethyst) Mine in Iron City, NC. This will be an official Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) dig which means that all clubs within the SFMS will be invited.

Seats for this trip are filling up fast! Make sure to reserve a spot as soon as possible. Contact Neil Hohmann at gisusainc@aol.com, or Chuck Borawa at chuckborawa@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

## 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!



## WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

TAMARA MILLER AND FAMILY

TERRI HARPER

JOHN, JANET BAKER AND FAMILY

SHANNON LAVERY, STEVE ROTH AND FAMILY

KEN TWARDZIK

CARISSA DAVIDSON AND FAMILY

SHARI, JOHN MUDD AND FAMILY

CECIL & RENEE KRIMMINGER

CHARLES PILKEY AND FAMILY

CARL & ANNE LOCKWOOD

DONNA & DAN BANCROFT

TOM CORNELL

LOGAN ARNOLD & FAMILY

CARSON ORNER & FAMILY

## William Hollan D 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.

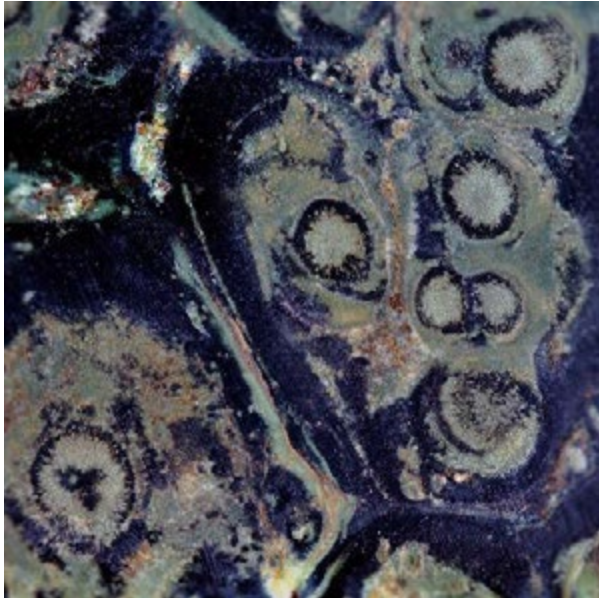
Learn about silver smithing, faceting, cabochons, opals, and tons of other interesting and exciting topics. Spend one week immersed in rockhounding pursuits in the beautiful Georgia countryside.

Learn more at:

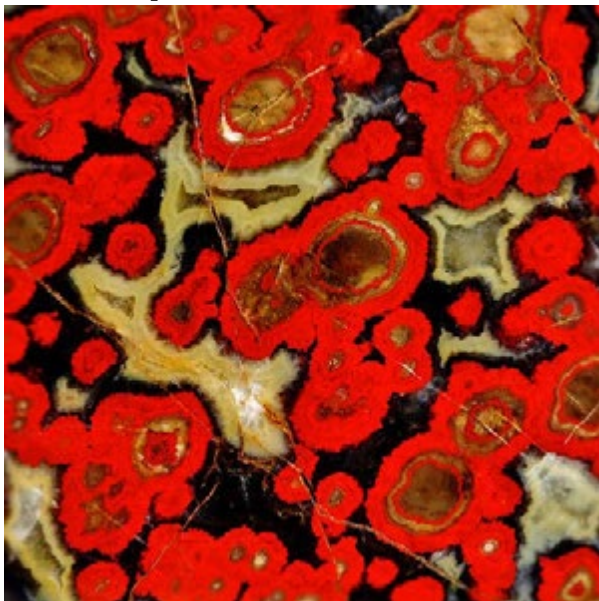
<http://www.lapidaryschool.org/>



*Leopardskin Jasper*



*Kambaba Jasper*



*Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper*



*Guadalupe Poppy Jasper*

## *Jasper Classification - Part II*

### *Orbicular Jaspers by ron gibbs*

Orbicular is the term that used to describe jaspers that contain circular “orbs.” Some of the orbicular jaspers contain elongated ellipses and egg shaped figures. In general you can think of many of these jaspers as the “polka-dot” jaspers.

The first one is leopard jasper from Mexico and it has been my experience that it is not as well silicified as many of the others. While it does have beautiful patterns in golden yellows, greens and even some nice reds, it does not take a super high polish.

Kambaba jasper comes from a locale not far from the famous ocean jaspers in Madagascar. It is predominantly a green jasper with darker green to somewhat bluish eyes and ring patterns. It is a very hard jasper but does not come in the translucent qualities of its cousin ocean jasper.

The next two jaspers are known as poppy jasper and both come from central California. Much of the collecting area for Morgan Hill jasper has been closed to collecting as it has been converted into a state park.. Other areas are on private land. It still shows up from time to time in local riverbeds and streams. The Guadalupe poppy jasper also comes from the same general area but a bit further south. It has much smaller orbs often with white centers. This jasper too resides pretty much on private property or state owned lands. Both of these jaspers often con-

tain healed crack structures. They were likely formed from iron rich, sun dried clay and mud. They also were formed in a very active tectonic area.

The fisheye jasper is a relatively new material found in Mexico and has made its way to the Quartzsite and Tucson shows this year. It is a more highly silicified jasper with small geode like spheres often containing quartz crystals. There are rudimentary fortification patterns between some spheres. This material may be more agate than jasper.

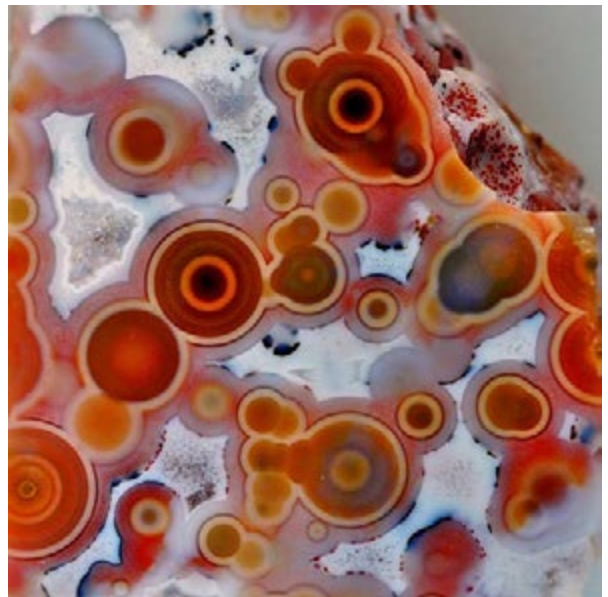
Finally the current king of the small orbs ... Madagascar Ocean Jasper. This material has a very wide array of qualities from truly jasper like material to the best almost pure agate material. In much of this material with nearly perfect round spheres contain small hematite particle cores with radiating rings of color. The outer edges of the spheres are not well attached to the bulk material and can chip-out on thin slabs or near edges.

Sometimes the central spheres seem to act as crystallization centers for radiating crystal growth. This in turn may be surrounded by more agate like ring structures. (See lower photo on the left)

The name Ocean Jasper comes from the locale on the coast of Madagascar where the material was collected. The source is not longer easily accessible as it was originally collected at low tide. The "low tide" material is now gone and further collection will require under water operations.



*Fisheyes Jasper*



*Ocean Jasper*



*Ocean Jasper*



*Ocean Jasper*

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

*Thursday March 20, 2014*

*Gathering at 6:30, Meeting to Start at 7:00*

**Location:**

*Tyvola Senior Center*

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

*Our speaker for the March 20 meeting will be Dr. William Logan of Charlotte. Bill is a former gem and mineral dealer who owns an amazing Rhodochrosite collection and has just written a book full of incredible Rhodochrosite photos (photos taken with the technical assistance of Ron Gibbs). He will be talking about the history and mining of this beautiful mineral and will undoubtedly have some amazing specimens to show us.*

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

*Linda will conduct a jewelry making class in the club meeting room. This class make a wire wrap and bead necklace designed to display a pendant.  
Class/materials fee is \$10.*

**Charlotte Junior Rockhounds**

*Saturday March 29, 2014*

*10:00 - 11:00 a.m.*

**Location:**

*Matthews Community Center*

*100 McDowell St. Matthews, NC 28105*

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

# Jewelry Making Classes



Learn the art of wire wrapping from our own Linda Simon. Linda is an accomplished artisan and instructor. She and her husband have been creating and selling handmade jewelry for many years. Their work has been exhibited and sold in shows around the country. The above work of art is an example of what you will learn in class. Classes are available to all up to date members.

This month Linda will conduct a jewelry making class in the club meeting room. This class make a wire wrap and bead necklace designed to display a pendant. Class/materials fee is \$10.

**\*Next Class is Thursday March 20th  
from 5 to 7 prior to the club meeting\***

# FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

## Reel Mine Dig

Saturday April 19, 2014

We are hosting a Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) dig at

The Reel Mine in Iron City, NC

Looking for Amethyst ????? DIG HERE !!!!

Reel Mine is located on the premises of:

Mr. Francis Sulphin

375 Timber Road

Iron Station, NC

(704) 736-0506

**DIRECTIONS:** Ninety minute drive from downtown Charlotte, NC. From I-485 find Exit 16 West, from Charlotte. Proceed on Hwy 16 Brookshire Turnpike, west to Hwy 73. Take a left on Hwy 73 and travel to Timber Road. Take a left on Timber and proceed on the asphalt until it becomes a dirt road. Travel on the dirt road until you reach the mine entrance. If the weather is bad, you can stop at Mr. Sulphin's house and park, and walk a half mile to the mine. GPS coordinates are: Longitude -81.124309, Latitude 35.456221

**HISTORY:** Specimen types usually found here, include amethyst, beryl, ironized quartz, smokey quartz, and associated gems and minerals. This mine has been intermittently opened and closed for many years. Mr. Sulphin has recently reached an agreement with the County on how field trips will be scheduled and conducted. Since the reopening at two digs have been conducted a month. The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club (CGMC) has scheduled its planned dig for the Southeast Federation for Saturday, April 19, 2014. However, to comply with the County agreement,.

**ASSEMBLY:** CGMC officials will be at the mine entrance beginning at 8:00 AM, Saturday, April 19, 2014, to collect the fees and to provide water and instructions for the dig. You will be responsible for bringing any food, digging tools or collection containers for you and/or your party. There will be two porta-potties provided and space is available for camping depending on the weather.

**COST:** \$25 for each digger (children under 13 free when accompanied by a paid digger). Diggers must be current paid members of an SFMS club (insurance liability issues). This fee will be collected at the entrance in the form of cash or personal , check by the CGMC official.

**RESERVATIONS:** REQUIRED!!! Contact Neil Hohmann at gisusainc@aol.com, or Chuck Borawa at chuckborawa@gmail.com.

**EQUIPMENT:** Hand digging tools (shovels, spades, picks, post holes diggers, forks, rakes, and other similar digging utensils and equipment are to be used. No large electrical drill hammers, backhoe, ditch digger, or motorized digging or drilling equipment will be allowed.

**COMMENTS:** There are many members of our club, including Chuck, Jack King, and others who have been to this mine, and your attendance at the February 2014 Charlotte Gem and Mineral meeting will avail you ample information and a chance to talk about the dig. Phone contact for Neil Hohmann (704) 752-2889 or Chuck Borawa at (704) 545-6126



\*Actual Amethyst Cluster From The Reel Mine

# **UPCOMING SHOWS**

**April 26-27, 2014**

**Memphis, TN.**

**Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show  
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society  
“The Earth Wide Open”**

Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN  
Saturday, April 26, 9-6:00 and Sunday, April 27 10-5

Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Kids Area with Rockzone featuring Gem Dig, Geode Bowling, Rocks Around the Clock. Adults \$5.00, 2-day pass \$8.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00.

web: [www.TheEarthWideOpen.com](http://www.TheEarthWideOpen.com)  
email [info@theearthwideopen.com](mailto:info@theearthwideopen.com).

Show Chair James Butchko 901 743-0058  
Dealer Chair WC McDaniel 901-274-7706

**April 27-28, 2013, Dothan, AL**

**Dothan Gem and Mineral Club 6th Annual Show and Sale.**

James Grant Recreation Center at Westgate Park, 501 Recreation Road, Dothan, AL.  
Hours: Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 10-4.

Free admission, exhibits, demonstrations, hourly door prizes, silent auction, kids' activities, etc.

Contact Arnie Lambert 334-792-7116  
e-mail [alambert@comcast.net](mailto:alambert@comcast.net).  
See [www.wiregrassrockhounds.com](http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com)