



Goldrush Ledger

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter

April 2019

Prez Sez.....

I hope you all made it out to the Gem and Mineral Show in Hickory last month — it was awesome!

At the February meeting, Geologist Jason Smith provided a fascinating presentation about the unique geology and micro-minerals found at the Foote Mine in Gaston county. Thank you Jason!

Our April Meeting, Wayne Abercrombie, local archaeologist and artifact collector will present information on the Stone Age in North Carolina.

Many Thanks to our volunteers who helped at the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Show in Hickory, NC from March 22 to 24. We sold some great specimens from the Orchard Collection, which continues to build long-term funding stability for our club.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Kim Gwyn
President
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club



We had a great turnout at our club's booth at the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Show in Hickory, NC from March 22 to 24!

You might be a rockhound if...

*-- you still think Pet Rocks
are a pretty neat idea!*



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The U.S. Gold Bullion Depository at Fort Knox, Kentucky

Gold Galore!

- Worldwide, about 186,700 metric tons of gold exist above ground!
- The world consumption of new gold produced is about 50% in jewelry, 40% in investments, and 10% in industry.
- The U.S. Gold Reserve is stored primarily at Fort Knox. There are 4600 tons of gold, mostly gold bars, in Fort Knox as of 2018, with total book value of over \$6 Billion.
- Additionally, the New York Federal Reserve Bank stores a huge amount gold under New York City. Most of that gold is owned by the central banks of 36 foreign nations.
- As of 2015, the New York vault housed approximately 508,000 gold bars, with a combined weight of approximately 6,350 tons. The vault is able to support this weight because it rests on the bedrock of Manhattan Island, 80 feet below street level and 50 feet below sea level.

Diamond Fun Facts

- Approximately 57,000 pounds of natural diamonds are mined each year, with a total value of nearly \$9 Billion.
- Roughly 220,000 pounds of diamonds are manufactured synthetically each year.
- About 80% of mined diamonds are unsuitable for use as gemstones, and are used industrially.
- Most natural diamonds have ages between 1 billion and 3.5 billion years. Most were formed at depths between 90 and 150 miles in the Earth's mantle, although a few have come from as deep as 500 miles.

Upcoming Field Trips

Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

Note: DMC Field Trips are for club members of DMC-affiliated clubs and their families only. Liability issues mean that these trips cannot be attended by the general public unless otherwise noted. Because this dig is not open to the public, full details are not published in our newsletter. As a benefit of membership, our club is a DMC-affiliated club and CGMC members who are current on their 2019 dues may attend.

Saturday and Sunday, April 6/7

An Official Field Trip of the Georgia Mineral Society (Atlanta, GA)

The Georgia Mineral Society is hosting the DMC dig for April.

On Saturday, the group will travel to a site in Bartow County, GA to search for granite gneiss with blue quartz.

On Sunday the group will travel to a site in Summerville, GA known for its colorful lace banded chert/agate.

Participants must sign up by March 30 because the owners need a headcount.

Saturday, May 23

An Official Field Trip of the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Cornelia, GA)

Details to be Announced.

For more information about these digs, please contact charlottegem@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Gem Shows

Highlands Road Gem Show

Franklin, NC

Thursday, May 9 – Sunday, May 12

Morrow Mountain State Park



Day Trip Ideas - Morrow Mountain State Park

Located west of Albemarle, NC, Morrow Mountain offers interesting hiking, boating, and fishing opportunities.

Morrow Mountain State Park is located in the ancient Uwharrie Mountains. Now worn down to rounded ridges that average less than 1,000 feet in elevation, these pinnacles are the remains of one of the oldest mountain ranges in the eastern United States.

This beautiful landscape is the result of powerful geological forces that began millions of years ago. Over time, wind and water eroded the lofty peaks to their more subdued profile of today. Of the four major peaks in the park - Morrow, Sugarloaf, Hattaway and Fall - Morrow Mountain is the highest at an elevation of 936 feet.

The summit of Morrow Mountain is one of the largest pre-historic quarries in North Carolina. It was mined by Native Americans for metamorphosed rhyodacite, which was used for stone tools.

Photo and description from Morrow Mountain State Park website: www.ncparks.gov/morrow-mountain-state-park

