



# THE GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

OCTOBER 2017

## THE PREZ SAYZ

Though the temperature doesn't reflect it, we are entering the autumn months, which means more indoor activities. To help out in this endeavor, we (the Club) are looking at expanding the classes we offer at "the Hill". We have just started evening classes and are looking at possibly adding 1) Introduction to Silver, 2) Faceted Cabochons, 3) Pearl Stringing and 4) Gem ID. To aide in our decision process, we welcome any comments and/or input from our members. Do you have a class that you would be willing to teach other members? Please let us know.

We have an Open House planned at our Workshop at "The Hill" on Sunday, October 22 from 1 to 4. Please come and see what we have set up and discuss any classes you want to take or teach. Refreshments will be available. The address is 1346 Hill Rd, which is beside Sabatas Ford on South Blvd. in Charlotte. The entrance is the 4th drive on the right, the only white gravel parking lot.

We look forward to see you there.

Kim Gwyn  
President  
Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

## IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH:

Oct 1, 1971 - Walt Disney World Resort opens in Orlando

Oct 4, 1957 - The Space Age begins as the Russians launch the first satellite into orbit

Oct 8, 1871- The Great Fire of Chicago begins, blamed on Mrs. O'Leary's cow

Oct 13, 1884 - Greenwich was established as the universal time for the world

Oct 21, 1879 - Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp

Oct 24, 1945 – The United Nations was founded.

Oct 26, 1825 - The Erie Canal opened as the first waterway in America.

Oct 27, 1904 - The New York City subway begins operations.

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Kim Gwyn  
[gwynkim@gmail.com](mailto:gwynkim@gmail.com)  
(803) 370-0244

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[Charlottegemclub@gmail.com](mailto:Charlottegemclub@gmail.com)

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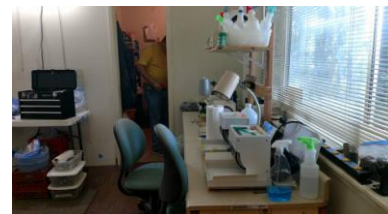
Mary Fisher

**Special Events**

Anne Lockwood

## WORKSHOPS AT THE HILL

This is our new home to our workshops.



**1346 Hill Road.  
Charlotte, NC**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:charlottegemclub@gmail.com)**

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### Currently scheduled classes:

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

**October 24 Wire Wrap (4 openings) with Linda Simon**

**\$20.00 Class Fee**

**+ Materials Fee**

**Class is from 5:30 – 9:00**

**October 28 Wire Wrap (1 opening) with Martha Rogers**

**\$35.00 Class Fee**

**Materials & tools provided**

**Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,**

**(Bring a sandwich & Beverage)**

**November 11 Wire Wrap (2 openings) with Martha Rogers**

**\$40.00 Class Fee**

**Materials & tools provided**

**Class starts at 9 am, breaks for lunch around noon,**

**(Bring a sandwich & Beverage)**

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

***Thursday, October 19th***

***Snack/Social Hour 6:00-7:00***

***Meeting to Start at 7:00***

## ***Location:***

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

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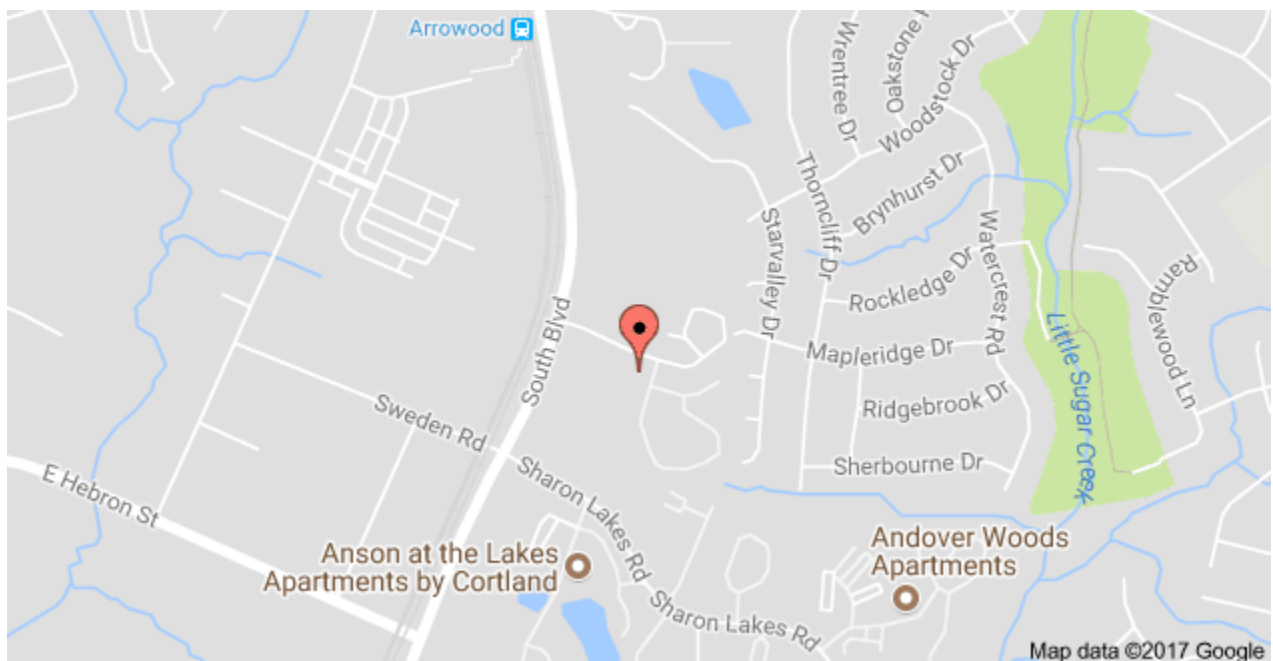




At "The Hill"  
Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
1 pm - 4 pm

Please join us as we show off our new location that we have set up, and discuss any classes you want to take or teach. Refreshments will be available.

1346 Hill Road, Charlotte, NC (besides Sabatas Ford on South Boulevard. Entrance is the 4<sup>th</sup> drive on the right, the only white gravel parking lot.



# **Graff Acquires World's Largest Rough Diamond For \$53 Million**

**Anthony DeMarco. Contributing Editor**

Laurence Graff has acquired the 1,109-carat Lesedi La Rona, from Canadian mining company Lucara Diamond Corp. in a deal valued at \$53 million. It is the world's largest gem-quality rough diamond to be discovered in more than a century and the largest rough diamond in existence today.

It also may be one of Laurence Graff's greatest deals in a long career of exceptional negotiations for some of the world's most valuable and important diamonds. According to a statement from Graff Diamonds, this deal ended in a handshake with William Lamb, CEO, president and director of Lucara Diamond Corp., which unearthed the gem at its Karowe mine in Botswana in November 2015.

Lamb originally tried to sell the diamond in a standalone public auction at Sotheby's London on June 2016, an unusual way to sell a rough diamond, which is normally sold privately to dealers who then cut and polished it into a finished gem. It had an estimate of more than \$70 million. However, it failed to meet its reserve price. The bidding stalled at \$61 million.



This was followed by a number of unsubstantiated reports that the diamond was “too big to sell” and may have to be cut.

In the end there are very few people in the world able to buy such a gem and even fewer with the capability to cut it. The top name on both lists is Graff. By being patient Laurence Graff may have shaved at least \$17 million from the asking price of the diamond.



*Lesedi La Rona diamond at Sotheby's on May 3, 2016, in New York City.*

The Lesedi La Rona was discovered at the Lucara Karowe mine in north-central Botswana. Its size is exceeded only by the legendary Cullinan Diamond, mined in South Africa in 1905. The 3,016.75-carat diamond produced nine major diamonds that are part of the historic Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom, including the Great Star of Africa—considered to be the largest top-quality polished diamond in existence, weighing 530.20 carats.



In addition to its size, the Gemological Institute of America reports that the Lesedi La Rona, which means “our light” in Botswana's Tswana language, possesses exceptional quality and transparency, according to Graff Diamonds statement.

The acquisition follows Graff’s purchase earlier this year of a 373-carat rough diamond that was originally part of the Lesedi La Rona rough, marking a reunion of the two stones.

“ We are thrilled and honored to become the new custodians of this incredible diamond,” Laurence Graff said in a statement. “The stone will tell us its story, it will dictate how it wants to be cut, and we will take the utmost care to respect its exceptional properties. This is a momentous day in my career, and I am privileged to be given the opportunity to honor the magnificent natural beauty of the Lesedi La Rona.”

Anthony DeMarco is a freelance writer and founder of [Jewelry News](#)