

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

March 2008

The Prez Sez ...

With 75 degree weather as I am writing this it sure makes me want to go rock digging again. And speaking of that I learned that the famous REEL amethyst mine was recently opened up after many years of being closed evidently caused by some rock hounds gone astray. Club member Wayne Abercrombie went digging there and he reported that he found some nice crystals and that some folks found bigger clusters. This mine is located near Iron Station, NC which is not far from Charlotte. I have heard that this mine may be opened to groups about four times a year and when I hear of another date, I will try to post it to our web site.

I just got an e-mail from Ken Anderson who learned that due to extensive efforts by our Southeastern Federation, they have been successful in getting the world famous Glendon PYRITE site open for a one day dig on MAY 2nd. The information is in *this issue* of the newsletter, you must follow the instructions VERY carefully as slots will be assigned. I have only visited this location one and will tell you what I know.

First of all, this is a talc mine. Beautiful museum quality clusters of stunning pyrite crystals have

come from this pit. Now imagine being on your hands and knees looking and digging and crawling around in WET talcum powder. I strongly suggest coveralls that you can strip off and a change of shoes. You can get paper coveralls from places like Lowe's and Home Depot in the paint dept.

As I have told many of you before, we use rocks and minerals in our home as decorations and rock art. Yesterday, before hearing from Ken, I was sitting on our porch and beside me on the table was a collection of Glendon pyrite crystals. I picked up the crystals and memories flooded back when I dug them from the ground. Some of the most famous pyrite crystals comes from Spain, Peru and China. I would put some of the specimens that I have seen from Glendon right up there with the best. If you are able to carry it out, you might get lucky and find a 50 lb. boulder loaded with the shiny pyrite crystals. THE DATE IS SATURDAY, MAY 2nd.

It is important to read ALL of the rules that the property owners have put up to let collectors back into this site. I also know that Mary Fisher who is in charge of our juniors program has been working on the owner to let us back in.

Both these two sites that I have mentioned were closed because some got greedy, did not respect the property and as a result got the sites shut down for years.

Years ago, my wife and I and my grandson were driving around Oregon with a rock hunter's guide to rocks and minerals. We spotted one listed as one of the most famous petrified wood locations in the world. We drove about 200 miles one way and finally located

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tackyjackie@bellsouth.net

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drsimon@mindspring.com

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704/523-5261

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Blevins.family@mindspring.com

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lsimon1@carolina.rr.com
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27K.DA66@rjsonline.net

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theimage1@aol.com

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the farm. I went to the farm house door and told the man that my wife and grandson had come all the way from North Carolina and could we just walk his land. He said that as long as he was living no D--- Rockhound would step a foot on his property. I asked him why and he said that folks came, dug holes, his cows broke their legs, folks came in at night, built campfires when he was gone and littered his fields with everything.

I begged that we were in a rental car and did not even have a shovel or rock pick and he stood firm. At another agate bed, owned by the small town and used as a tourist attraction we saw giant trees fallen from rockhounds who had dug under the roots. The Southeastern Federation has a list of rules for rock hounds. If you have not done so, please do so. When collecting, always remember to leave some for the next collector. DO NOT GET GREEDY. We went to one apache tear location and there was not even a pebble to be found. Another collector drove up and told us of another location but this one had been stripped of every single piece by one guy who came there on a weekend with a truck and a rake and took EVERY piece.

On another note, Mary Fisher is making great strides with her juniors program. The group is growing tremendously and parents are joining. We all owe here a big round of applause. It seems that our new meeting place at The Nature Museum is working out well. Easy to get to, a comfortable space and I think that this move, long term will get us back to the numbers of

members that we used to have. We still need volunteers.

And back to our youth. There is a scholarship available and we need for one of our folks to win this. I am glad to report that Ken Anderson is recovering nicely but not as fast as he would have like due to breaking his neck. We look forward to Ken being able to drive again and come to our meetings.

Our Feb. speaker was a member of the Winston Salem club who has put together a data base on a CD of all the listed old mines and current one in the state. This is well done and our club has a copy which you can check out. One neat thing about the way that it searches is that if for example, you had a weekend trip planned down HWY 49 to a certain town. You could search by road and see what mines might be a short distance from where you were driving. If, for example, you were spending the weekend in Asheville and were looking for some side trips, it is all there. Want some tourmaline for your collection? Just type in tourmaline and all of the locations where it is found in the state will pop up.

Our March program will be from folks who visited Tucson, the Mecca of rocks, gems and minerals. They will give us a "First Timers Report about what they experienced. Do not miss this.

I have heard from Ron Gibbs that his new book is in transit and I cannot wait to see the final version. Hopefully Ron will show up with a stack for us to buy at a meeting in the future.

On a personal note, the last few months have been pretty stressful and painful with the closing of Camera World of NC which I have worked at for the last 40 years. Hopefully, that will all be behind us soon and we can spend more time with rocks, minerals and gems.

Jack King, President

Junior Rockhound of the Year!

Kids! The SFMS holds a contest for Junior Rockhound of the Year. Points are accumulated for activities such as attending meetings, field trips, and writing articles for this newsletter!

Download your application, see all the ways that you can earn points, and start keeping track of your points now!

Applications are due Oct 31, 2009.

http://www.amfed.org/sfms/junior_of_the_year.html

A Plateau is the highest form of Flattery !

Wire wrappers enjoy another successful meeting

The Wire Wrappers met at the home of Marta Culp on Feb. 14th and everyone made a beaded stretch watch. Marta provided some tasty pastries and coffee. We all got to see her well equipped workroom and it gave us ideas for our own workrooms.

Several members volunteered to have future classes in their homes. In the future we will try to have a class on a weekday and another one on the weekend. This should allow our wire wrapper club to grow in members. Linda will not be able to lead a class in March and April. We'll plan to have two classes in May.

Till then.... practice up and make plans to join us. *(by Linda Simon)*



Charlotte Junior Rockhounds!

Saturday, March 28

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

CGAM Clubhouse at Camera World

Show & Tell

Bring a favorite Gem or Mineral
to show the group!

Topic for March:

Fluorescent Minerals

(Minerals that glow, or emit light
under different types of lighting)

IMPORTANT: Class size is limited to 8 students.

If the 10AM class fills up, I'll open another class for 12-1PM.

Parents are encouraged to attend with students.

In order for materials to be ready, you must sign up ahead of time. If you have questions or want to sign up, contact Mary Fisher at mefisher@att.net, 704-786-6621.

Field Trip Alert: Jr's & rest of club

Tentative Field Trip for:

Saturday, March 21

Porter, NC

Limonite

This trip is not confirmed yet.

Once I get the date confirmed with the landowner, I will send a note to the Kids Club email list with directions/instructions, etc.

If anyone else in the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club is interested in attending, please let Mary Fisher know, and I'll keep you on the update list for the trip.

Mary Fisher: mefisher@att.net

**The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc
The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.
SFMS Field Trip Committee**

GLENDON QUARRY

**Standard Minerals/R.T. Vanderbilt Co.
Saturday, MAY 2, 2009
8AM till 3PM sharp!**

Special Requirements for this trip (See Below!)

Pre-registration is required, so register early as space is limited to the first 120 people!

The SFMS Field Trip Committee has been invited by Standard Minerals of Robbins, North Carolina to conduct one of the best and most interesting field trip opportunities in the Southeast. If you have not collected here in the past, you should not miss an opportunity to go to this quarry for quality specimen/cabinet grade pyrite.

The Glendon pyrophyllite mine is an open pit quarry that has produced many perfect pyrite crystals up to 4 inches on a side and 6 inches long!! Generally, you can find a cube approaching 2 inches or so and a bunch of others in all shapes and sizes up to one inch or more.

The pyrite cubes are located loose on the surface or in seams down a foot or less in the bottom of the quarry floor. If it hasn't rained for some time, the light gray pyro-

phyllite soil seems to coat everything with a gray goop that makes it difficult to identify the pyrite crystals on the surface.

Using a VERY GOOD metal detector makes the hunt almost a "no brainer"! A basic metal detector may offer some help in finding those cubes containing the most iron but just digging anywhere in the quarry floor will probably yield much quicker results. You may also find small greenish blue fluorite crystals in crevices on some of the larger boulders strewn about the middle of the quarry floor.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

Member of an SFMS club which pays SFMS/EFMLS liability insurance. 12 years of age or older. Email registration only.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE: After you have supplied all of the required information in an email to the SFMS Field Trip Committee [email address below], the Com-

mittee will assign a registration number(s) and resend this email back to you to use as your admission ticket to this field trip.

ONCE THE 120th REGISTRATION IS ASSIGNED, THE FIELD TRIP WILL BE CLOSED. There will NOT be a Wait list!

YOU MUST BRING YOUR ACCEPTED REGISTRATION FORM TO BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE QUARRY.

All Registration emails received after the May registration has been closed will be given a first preference position in the Sept/Oct field trip to the Glendon Quarry.

SFMS Field Trip Committee

Registration Form Requirements: (ONLY list related family members, couples, and significant others, all non-related individuals must submit a separate form.)

(List the ages of all individuals 12 to 18)

NAME: First, Last
Address/City/State:
Phone:
Email Address:
SFMS affiliated club:

Email your completed form in the required format above to the following address:

[only email registrations will be accepted - NO phone calls or postal mailings will be accepted!!]

Please reply by e-mail to:

sfms@amfed.org

Subject:

Jim Flora - SFMS Field Trip Chair

Internet website:

<http://amfed.org/sfms>

Collecting: pyrite cubes, pyrite cubes in matrix, green fluorite, and micro-minerals.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-85 North to Charlotte, North Carolina. On I-85 North of Charlotte, either exit the interstate at Lexington on to US 64 and travel through Asheboro to SR 42. Turn right and follow SR 42 past Coleridge and Bennett and SSR 902. Then SR 42 makes a left towards Carbonton and Sanford. Before Carbonton there is a flashing yellow light @ SSR 1006. Turn right onto SSR 1006/ Glendon-Carthage road and go south to the mine which will be on your left. If you spend the night at Sanford you will be traveling West on SR 42 and have to make a left on SSR 1006. Sanford, which is 12 miles to the East of Glendon, is probably the best bet for finding a good motel room and nearby restaurants.

Glendon Quarry code of conduct!

Park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.

NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed in the quarry because of all the dangers involved. CHILDREN 12 and older WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THIS EVENT IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION!

ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.

ALL Standard Minerals employees have final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.

HAND TOOLS ONLY!
STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS and do not cross any taped boundary markers!!

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OUT OF THE QUARRY BY 3pm sharp.
SFMS Field Trip Committee

WHY IS THE SFMS ONLY ALLOWED TO RUN GLENDON FIELD TRIPS:

There has not been any field collecting at the Glendon Quarry in a year and a half because Standard Minerals was concerned with safety and liability issues.

Each of their last two 2007 OPEN HOUSE field trips to this quarry were attended by well over 200 adults along with many small unsupervised children. This event was just getting too big to manage in a safe way. Standard Minerals wants to provide the mineral collecting community with an opportunity to

collect at their Glendon Quarry but under a more controlled way.

They also wanted to find a way to guarantee that all participants were covered under third-party liability insurance because, in the past, this field trip was open to the public at large. This is why the SFMS was given the opportunity to run these field trips. We know which of our clubs are insured and that our members are all bound under our AFMS/SFMS Code of Ethics.

Southeast Federation Stamp Program

HISTORY: The SFMS stamp program, founded in 1999, is a volunteer action of member clubs of the Southeast Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies.

The purpose of the program is to offer free scholarships to participating clubs. At present, approximately 50% of the clubs in the Federation participate in the stamp program. The only requirement to participate is: The club must be a member in good standing in the SFMS and contribute stamps to the program on a regular bases.

The drawing is held at the annual meeting of the SFMS. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the amount of money earned from the sale of the stamps. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the stamps goes toward scholarships to attend Federation Workshops at William Holland or Wildacres.

Winners of scholarships have a choice of which school or workshop they wish to attend at no cost, however student must pay their own travel expenses to and from the school. The number of scholarships awarded have steadily grown since this program began, if we continue to receive enough good quality stamps to sell.

Most used postage stamps have some resale value to collectors. Commemorative stamps and foreign bring in the most money, however other good clean definitive stamps only have a marginal value if they are off paper. One thing to consider when saving stamps is, are they desirable as a collectors item.

The stamp collector is looking for the cleanest well center stamp he can find for his collection. Stamps that are torn, have heavy cancellations so as to make the stamp unsuitable, are discarded and no credit will be given to the club.

Our club representative (known as: "she who collects" is **Pat Walker**.) We have turned in almost no stamps this year so Pat is asking everyone to take a little time and turn in at least a few.



*So what's this?
More in the next newsletter.*

2009 SFMS Workshop Class Schedule has been announced.

There are four sessions this year sponsored by the Southeast Federation at William Holland Lapidary School and Wildacres. The sponsored sessions are listed below. For more detailed information on the classes and instructors go to the William Holland or Wildacres WEB sites.

William Holland:
<http://www.lapidaryschool.org>
Wildacres Retreat:
<http://www.wildacres.org/>

Both of these school are fantastic values with the class, room and board costing between \$300-\$400 for the entire week.

Session One - William Holland June 14 - 20 2009

| Class | Instructor |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Wire Braiding | Don Coulson |
| Wire Weaving | Louise Coulson |
| Dig Photo | Ken Kipnis |
| Fused Glass | Renee Wright |
| Seed Beading | Vivian Heath |
| Faceting | TBA |
| Silver/Inter* | Allen Jewel |
| Lampwork | Cindy Reed |
| Cabochons | Pat Davis |
| Mixed Media | Marilyn Jobe |
| Cold Connections | Kim St. Jean |
| Opals | Sarah Lee Boyce |

Session Two - Wildacres August 17-23 2009

| Class | Instructor |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Advanced Metal* | Jeff Sheer |
| Silver Beginning | Gene Tipton |
| Art Clay Silver | Barbara McGuire |
| Gem ID / Apprec | Ben Smith |
| Raku Beads/Pendants | Jim Cullen |
| Wire/Beginning | Rowan Rose |
| Cabochons/Begin | Pat Davis |
| Fused Glass | Julia Larson |
| Casting | Fred Sias |
| Dig Photo | Ken Kipnis |

Session Three - Wildacres September 14-20 2009

| Class | Instructor |
|---|-----------------------|
| Cold Connections Intermediate/Adv* | Kim St. Jean |
| Silver/Int/Adv* | Nancy English |
| Faceting | Will Smith |
| Polymer Clay | Barbara McGuire |
| Opal Cutting | Sarah Lee Boyce |
| Mineral ID | Betty James |
| Beading/Int/Adv* | Vivian Heath |
| Chainmaking/Int/Adv* | Roy Deere |
| Wire/Int/Adv* | Rowan Rose |
| Precious Metal Clay Level 3 certification | Marry Ann & Ken Devos |

Session Four - William Holland October 11-17 2009

| Class | Instructor |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Opals | Joe DiPietro |
| Cabochons | Anita Westlake |
| Chainmaking/Beg | Ann Metz |
| Fused Glass | Addy DiPietro |
| Faceting 1 | Randy Walker |
| Channeling | Don & Ann Monroe |
| Silver/Inter* | Nancy English |
| Cold Connections | Kim St. Jean |
| Dig Photo | Ken Kipnis |
| Soapstone Carving | Diane Walker |

March Meeting Topic

Tucson 2009 final thoughts
by Scott, Gigi, and Eric
Quartzsite 2009 there and back
by ron gibbs

Meeting Place: Charlotte Nature Museum
3rd Thursday. March 19th
7:00 pm

The Biggest Diamond Ever Found

modified from an article by Stephen Cauchi, (submitted by Danny Jones)

Astronomers have actually found a diamond in the sky - directly above Australia. It is the biggest known diamond in the universe, in fact. According to American astronomers at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, a white dwarf star in the constellation of Centaurus, next to the Southern Cross, has been found to have a 3000-kilometer-wide core of crystallized carbon, or diamond.

It weighs 2.27 thousand trillion trillion tonnes - that's 10 billion trillion trillion carats, or a 1 followed by 34 zeroes. The biggest earthly jewel is one of the British crown jewels, the 530-carat Star of Africa.

"Some people refer to it as Lucy, in a tribute to the Beatles song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds." Known officially as BPM 37093, the star confirms a theory, first raised in the early 1960s, that cool white dwarfs should have a diamond core. When a star about the size of our sun burns out and dies, it often leaves behind a white dwarf.

The intense pressures at the heart of such dead stars compress the carbon into diamond. Lucy "pulsates", which means its light fluctuates at regular intervals. "By measuring these pulsation's, we were able to study the hidden interior of the white dwarf, just like seismograph measurements of earthquakes allow geologists to study the interior of the Earth," Dr Metcalfe said. "We figured that the carbon interior of this white dwarf has solidified to form the galaxy's largest diamond."

Our own sun will become a white dwarf when it dies in 5 billion years. Two billion years after that, its ember core will crystallize as well, leaving a giant diamond in the center of our solar system. Just maybe the DeBeers corporation was correct ... "Diamonds are Forever" - at least in the cosmic time frame.

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/>

Wayward Newsletter Editor Finally Returns

by ron gibbs

After about 6 weeks on the road I have returned from my trip to Quartzsite and Tucson, I managed to put about 6,640 miles on the car.

I met loads of people on my trip this year, and put the faces to the names I had met on-line, both with my E-Bay purchases, and my Lapidary and Gemology forum participations.

Crowds were down about 20% from last year, but the number of dealers were about the same in Quartzsite and only slightly less in Tucson. Several other club members attended the Tucson show this year, although we never crossed paths.

Those dealers with high quality materials and regular customer bases did well this year. Those who had marginal material and showed up for the first time did less well. I did my part trying to keep the economy moving, I bought a fair amount of material.

I spent a good of my time talking with potential customers about my upcoming book. It looks like it will fit-in nicely carving out a currently empty niche. There are no current books now with information on a variety of Jaspers. I hope to have the finally copies in April.

