

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER

## August Meeting Program

The program for this month focuses on a video about geodes from Gem Center and about the geode mining in Mexico.

We purchase our geodes here for sale throughout the year to support our scholarship program.

The mineral for the month is *jasper*. Please bring your samples of *jasper* to the meeting on August 17.



Our 49th Year



## **!!! Meeting Location and Date Change !!!**

We have returned to our regular schedule of meeting at Discovery Place on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. See you there August 17!

Thanks to Clarence Johnson for his very informative presentation about his and Gloria's trip out west and all the collecting they did while there. Clarence brought wonderful specimens to show, and gave lots of advice for making such a trip. Thanks for sharing with us!

## **Annual Club Picnic**

Mark your calendar now for  
Sunday, September 16, 2006, from 10 a.m.—8 p.m.  
for the Annual Club Picnic  
at  
Dan Nichols Park, Building 14,  
in  
Salisbury, NC

*More information to come!!*

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open

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**Picnic Chairman**

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**Christmas Party Chairman**

Pat Walker

**How to Spend a Hot Week in September**

**Leave town!!!** Wildacres Workshop, near Little Switzerland, North Carolina, is the perfect place to go during the hot days of September. Located at 3300 feet above sea level and perched on a knob just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, Wildacres Retreat has all the comforts of home, except TVs, but you'll find out that you can live without them for a week. The dates are **September 18-24, 2006.**

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies hosts three workshops a year at Wildacres—April, August and September, for a week each. It's too late to get into the August workshops but we have openings left for September. Some instructors will take more than they normally do to accommodate students.

We have classes in Gem Appreciation, Glass Bead Making, Intarsia, Mineral Identification, Opal Cutting, Precious Metal Clay 2 (must have taken PMC 1), Scrimshaw (a new offering), Stained Glass, Wirecraft (Beginning) and the popular Southwest Silver class has only 3 openings (it was full but a family had to cancel due to personal problems).

You can get applications in the Lodestar that your club president, vice president, and editor receive. You can call the Registrars, Robert and Flora Lee Walker, at 1-423-369-3077 for up-to-date class information.

**SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!!!**



**Member's News**

Brittany Tyler was named to the Dean's List this past semester at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where she is majoring in Geology with a Paleontology emphasis. She has spent the summer in Rapid City, SD, working at the Museum of Geology on the SDSM&T campus. Brittany will begin her junior year this semester.

Chelsey Tyler, a homeschool graduate, heads to Rochester Institute of Technology in late August. She plans to study Illustration, Metalsmithing/Jewelry, and Sign Language. If you would like to view some of her artwork, please go to the website:

[www.freewebs.com/theorangewolf](http://www.freewebs.com/theorangewolf)



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**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society,**  
**Hendersonville, NC (Host)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club**  
**8:30 a.m. EST, Saturday, August 19, 2006**  
**Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville**  
**Abbeville County, SC**

The Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society would like to extend an invitation to rockhound one of the premier quartz collecting localities in the southeast. The Diamond Hill Mine has been producing skeletal, amethyst and smoky quartz crystals as well as quartz scepters and an assortment of pegmatite minerals for many years. This year saw a lot of digging with a power shovel. Come join us.

**Assembly Point:** Diamond Hill Mine

**Directions:** The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville in northeastern South Carolina.

*From the north:* Exit I-85 at US 178 at Anderson, SC (exit #21). Drive south on US 178 for approx. 1 mile and then bear right onto SR 28. Follow SR 28 south approx. 20 miles to Antreville. Upon entering Antreville you will see Crawford's Store on the left. Drive past the store and then watch on the right for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn right at the church onto SR 284. Drive west on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

*From the south:* Exit I-20 at US 221 (exit #183) just east of Augusta, Georgia. Drive north on US 221 to McCormick, SC. In McCormick turn north onto SR 28. Continue north on SR 28 toward Antreville (approx. 50 miles). About 2 miles south of Antreville, SR 184 enters SR 28 from the left (west). When you pass SR 184, start watching carefully on the left for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn left at the church onto SR 284. Drive west on SR 284 for 2.3 miles, watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

**Fees:** Adults = \$15/day      Children under 16 year of age = \$5/day

Also, upon arrival, each participant will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

**Other Essentials:** Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, hat, sunscreen, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of cloths if it is going to be a rainy or wet day. Please be prepared for hot and humid conditions at the mine during this time of year.

**Trip Chairman:**

Steve Kiser

HCGMS

[johnkiser@citcom.net](mailto:johnkiser@citcom.net)    828-885-2952

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"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

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**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society,**  
**Jackson, MS (Host)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club**  
**8:30 a.m. EST, Saturday, September 9, 2006**  
**Bayou Pierre River near Utica, MS**

The trip will be to the Bayou Pierre River near Utica, MS. You will find beautiful agates, some petrified wood, jasper and chert fossils. At one time, palm wood was plentiful at this site, and some is still found by a few people on almost every trip. We will provide a picnic lunch at the site! One of our members has a summer place on this river, and this will be where we park and have the picnic. We will also have an assortment of beautiful slabs and other lapidary material we are selling to raise money for our new building.

**Directions:** We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Hubbards Truck Stop on Highway slightly south of Utica. You can take Highway 18 from I20 in Jackson, going toward Raymond. You will pass the turnoff for Raymond, and the turnoff for Utica, shortly thereafter, you will see Hubbard Truckstop on your left, at the intersection of Hwy 18 and MS 27. There is a nice restaurant at the truckstop for those who would like to eat breakfast.

**Other Essentials:** We will provide a picnic lunch at the site, but bring plenty to drink and snacks for the gravel bars. You can use a beaver stick, and you will need sturdy shoes you can wade in, and bags or buckets you can put your rocks in. Bring sunscreen and dress according to weather reports, just remember it will probably heat up as the morning progresses.

**Accommodations:** I would suggest a motel in Clinton, MS, which is very near the exit for Hwy. 18. West Jackson is a high crime area, so be leery of motels in that area.

**Contact:** If you have any questions, please contact Janie Hand, 601-825-3989, or [fossilfinder2@aol.com](mailto:fossilfinder2@aol.com)

### **Cabochon Machines**

Cabochon machines are available at the homes of Jimmy Strickland  
(704/537-6010) and Kim Tyler (704/454-5337).

Jimmy can teach you how to use the machine;  
the machine at Kim's is for use by folks who already know how to use it!

*Please call to plan a visit to use a machine.*

These machines belong to the club; you **MUST** be a club member to use them.

# Mineral of the Month



## jasper



**Name:** Jasper

**Chemistry:** SiO<sub>2</sub>

**Uses:** As an ornamental stone

**Color:** Red brown or brown and even green

**Hardness:** 7

**Specific gravity:** 2.5-2.8

**Jasper** is an opaque and fine-grained quartz. Colored red, yellow, brown, or off-white to gray by impurities, jasper has long been used as an ornamental stone because it takes a fine polish. The color of a streak made on a black jasper touchstone can determine with good accuracy the gold content of gold ores.

It is the red variety of the cryptocrystalline group. The green variety which is flecked with red is known heliotrope or bloodstone and is fairly popular as a gemstone. The colouring is due to ferric oxide. Jasper is usually found in association with agate and chalcedony.

*Used by permission, Gerdus Brönn website, [www.mineralgallery.co.za](http://www.mineralgallery.co.za)*

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### Help Needed for Geode Sales

The Reed Gold Mine geode sale will be August 12th, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Jimmy Strickland will probably go up on Friday and set up the tent and tables, then bring the geodes in on Saturday morning. This will be the gold panning competition for the state clubs, so there should be a large number of people there. Jimmy needs at least 4-5 people to help at this event. Please contact him at 704/537-6010 to sign up.

The Matthews weekend will start on Friday, Sept. 1 after 6:00 p.m., when we set up. We will be in our usual place next to the front of the community center just to the left of the doors. The event will open the next morning at 9:00 a.m. and go until 7:30 p.m. Sunday hours will be 12 Noon until 7:30 p.m., and Monday times will be from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., with teardown that afternoon. The festival is staying open longer on Saturday and Sunday this year than in previous years, but opening and closing differently on Monday. There will be a sign-up list for workers at the August meeting. *We need lots of help with this event!*



### Refreshments

Thanks to Tom and Gale Blevins for the wonderful refreshments following the July meeting. If you would be interested in providing refreshments for this month's meeting, please contact the Bulletin Editor. Expenses up to \$30 will be reimbursed by the club, with receipt. Please consider helping the club with this job. Our social time is much more fun with something to munch on!

Kim Tyler, Bulletin Editor  
5437 Somerset Lane  
Harrisburg, NC 28075  
Email: bbck4@yahoo.com

**Next Meeting**  
**Friday, August 17**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Discovery Place**

**August**  
**2006**



## **GOLDRUSH LEDGER**

### **First Class Mail**

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The Goldrush Ledger is published monthly in Charlotte, North Carolina. Articles may be reproduced provided proper credit is given to the author and to this publication. Deadline for publication is the first Thursday of each month. Material may be submitted at club or executive board meetings, or mailed directly to the Editor, and will be in the next issue if still timely. All articles must be signed and, where applicable, references must be provided. The Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, an affiliate member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and an affiliate of the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte, North Carolina. Annual dues of \$20.00 (family) and \$15.00 (individual) are payable in December for the following year. The purpose of this Club is to foster interest in, and promote knowledge of, minerals, gems, fossils, and all earth sciences. We also disseminate information and instruction in the lapidary arts and the utilization of precious metals in our crafts. These purposes are accomplished through regular meetings (usually the third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm, at Discovery Place, 301 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte) with informative programs, study groups, workshops and field trips. Visitors are most welcome to our club meetings. For more information, write our club at: P.O. Box 10233, Charlotte, NC 28212-5667.

**WEB SITE: <http://www.charlottegem.com>**