

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER

## FROM THE PREZ

Devin McCrory



Happy New Year Rockhounds! With a new year comes new things for our club—an online newsletter, and two young guys trying to lead the club as well as Jimmy and Danny have in the past. We know they will keep us straight, and we hope that you will too! Please email me, Devin, [dev@carolina.rr.com](mailto:dev@carolina.rr.com), or VP Warren, at [gemtrips@ctc.net](mailto:gemtrips@ctc.net), and let us know what you would like to do this year at our meetings and on field trips. Warren is always scouting for new dig locations, and Jolene has several great ideas for sharing lapidary school experiences at our club meetings. Don't miss the next club meeting where we'll go over a number of exciting new things that will feed everyone's addiction for rocks!

## Our 49th Year

### Next Meeting

Thursday, January 20  
7:30 p.m.  
Discovery Place

The gem for this month is *aquamarine*. Please bring your samples of *aquamarine* to the meeting.



## Cabochon Machines

Cabochon machines are available at the homes of  
Jimmy Strickland (704-537-6010)  
and Warren Falcone (704-855-9815).

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

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

## Stamp Program

Our club is a participating member of the SFMS Cancelled Stamp program. Our members are asked to save stamps from their mailings by cutting around the stamp, leaving 1/4" so as not to damage the edges of the stamp. Stamps that are of particular interest to collectors include: commemorative, foreign, stamps with plate numbers (small markings on the bottom margins), old stamps, and uncancelled stamps. Foreign stamps should be left on the envelope if possible. Also, most recently, the postal markings from PB machines that show meter numbers have become collectible.

Members should cut the entire upper right portion of the envelope (in a rectangle) which includes the markings, being sure to include any logos that are sometime used. Often the post office also cancels these markings, this makes it quite collectible as it is a USPS mistake. Members should turn their stamps in during meetings, being sure to include their name for proper credit. One point on the self-kept score sheet is allowed per donation.

Our club is credited with these donations based on weight as received by the SFMS chairman. A drawing is held during the annual SFMS meeting to award workshop scholarships. A club's chances are improved based on the volume of these donations. A certificate valid for workshop tuition is given to winning clubs. If the Charlotte club is awarded a scholarship from this drawing, the club will conduct a drawing from the names of donors as recorded by our stamp chairman. When possible, this drawing will be held during our Christmas party. If our members wish to take time to soak collected stamps from the envelopes (off paper), the SFMS chairman gives extra credit, which further enhances our club's chances in these drawings. Instructions for this process are shown on the website

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/stampprogram.html>

**2006 CGMC  
Officers & Board**

**President**

Devin McRorie  
704-641-9106

**Vice President**

Warren Falcone  
704/855-9815

**Secretary**

open

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**Directors-at-Large**

open

open

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Kim Tyler  
704/454-5337

**Past President**

Jimmy Strickland  
704/537-6010

**CLUB CHAIRPERSONS**

**SFMS Contact &  
Stamp Chairman**

Ken Anderson  
803/547-5147

**Points Scholarships Chair**

Ken Anderson

**Field Trip Chairman**

Warren Falcone

**Geode Chairman**

Jimmy Strickland

**Show Chairman**

open

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**Hospitality Chairman**

Barbara Veil  
704/568-3930

**Refreshments Chairman**

open

**Workshop Chairman**

open

**Web Master**

Devin McRorie

**Librarian**

Pat Walker  
704/523-5261

**Picnic Chairman**

Jolene Falcone  
704/855-9815

**Christmas Party Chairman**

Pat Walker

**Workshop Scholarship News 2006**

Names for the SFMS William Holland/Wildacres workshop scholarships will be drawn at the January meeting. These lucky winners will be rewarded for the many hours they devoted to club activities this past year. Other members who reached the necessary point levels and turned in their self-kept score sheets will be given the much-sought-after CGMC coffee mug.

All members are invited to participate in these programs. Ask for your own self-kept score sheet, and save cancelled stamps. You can learn valuable skills and have a great time at these workshops.

Workshop schedules have been published in the latest *Lodestar* and will be available during the January club meeting.

**Club activities reward you in many ways!**

**Refreshments**

Uh oh, I have misplaced the sign-up list for refreshments! If you volunteered to help the club in this manner for the January meeting, or if you would be willing to provide refreshments, please contact me immediately (704/454-5337) or [bbck4@yahoo.com](mailto:bbck4@yahoo.com). Expenses up to \$50 are reimbursed by the club (with receipt).

—Kim

**2006 Dues**

Please remember that our new year starts in December and it is past time to pay your annual dues. A signed copy of the membership application is required with your dues. This year, the newsletter will be posted on the club website. Membership application forms may be downloaded from the club web site:

<http://www.charlottegem.com>

**Scholarship Thank-You**

I would like to thank all the members of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club for their generosity in offering me this scholarship. It will be put to good use next semester in helping me pay for my books and for the mineralogy and crystallography class and lab I will be taking. I am looking forward to this course, as it will be my first geology class in a year!

Life out in South Dakota took some getting used to last year; not only is it strange to have to really bundle up just to go to class in the winter, but hearing everybody say “pop” instead of “coke” really threw me for a loop. Other than dealing with those few oddities, college life has been interesting. General geology was a breeze, and while the geology lab sometimes required us to take rock samples from road cuts in the middle of a cold October rain, I enjoyed getting to learn more about identifying minerals, a skill I first learned from members of the Gem and Mineral Club. My favorite class last year, besides choir, was Dinosaurs. Like general geology, I found it rather easy, and my professor and classmates were a lot of fun to be around.

Over the summer, I worked at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis. While there, I gained experience in many aspects of paleontology, such as molding and casting, fossil preparation and conservation, and how to make sure large groups of children did not trample a dig site. I worked on fossils ranging in size from thin fragments of turtle shells to nearly-complete bones from one of the largest dinosaurs, the *Supersaurus*. I also was able to witness the construction of a *Triceratops* skeleton mount from beginning to completion, as well as expand my artistic horizons by making a new picture for an outdated display on dinosaur eggs. But perhaps the most important thing I learned about the geology world is that if you are asked to use acid, it is okay to just say no!

Presently, I am finishing my third semester at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Thank you all again for helping me to continue my education in geology and paleontology. I've still got a few years to go before I graduate, so all help is greatly appreciated.

I hope everyone has a good holiday season!

Sincerely, Brittany Tyler

**2006 SFMS Workshop Dates**

**William Holland** has scheduled two weeks for SFMS in 2006; Sunday, June 11 to Saturday, June 17, and Sunday, October 8 to Saturday, October 14. **Wildacres** workshops are scheduled for the following three weeks for 2006: Thursday, April 13 to Thursday, April 20; Monday, August 21 to Sunday, August 27; and Monday, Sept. 18 to Sunday, Sept. 24

Information about course offerings is posted at the website:

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/wildacres-retreat.html>

**WILDACRES WORKSHOP CHANGES**

Kathy Morris will teach Beginning and Intermediate Wirecraft and **not** Wire Sculpture in August. In September, Marilyn Jobe will be teaching Glass Bead Making. David Lonser will teach Advanced Faceting in August; faceters for this class have to bring their own machines. In addition, the address published for us was incorrect in the Workshop supplement, it is **85504** not 994 Blackmon Road.

*David and Barbara Tuttle, 2006 SFMS Wildacres Directors*

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January 6, 2006

## Update on the Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Make the Dream Come True Challenge

Hi everybody and thank you for all the help you are giving! [Harrison County](#) is now my club! When I read about their losses from Hurricane Katrina it just broke my heart and I knew we had to do something. I want to update you on our progress.

At last report on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, we had collected \$426 in cash and checks and a used Genie from Holli Vanater at the Gillespie Museum in Deland, FL; a six-inch trim saw, casting flasks, hand tools, silver findings, and a scale from Don Dietz and the Florida Gold Coast Club.

Since then we have received \$100 from the Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, California; \$250 from the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society; \$25 from Mildred Matlock of Plainview, TX; \$25 from Marjorie Golden of Clearlake Oaks, California; and \$100 from the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild bringing the total to \$926 in cash donations.

Remember that Peter Erdo from the Graves Company (who make faceting machines and Lapidary equipment) has promised to help and we are still waiting to hear from Diamond Pacific (who make the Genies.)

We still need donations. Please ask your club to donate if they have not already. **You are all to be commended!** What a wonderful, loving and generous group we have. I will keep you all updated and thanks again for **making** the dream come true! God Bless and Happy New Year!

Ken Reed. 1113 Cass St., DeLand, Florida  
Home: 386.738.4879, Work: 386.943.4685 Noon to 6pm



### **YOUTH FEDERATION WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIPS**

There are youth scholarships available for the SFMS 2006 workshops at Wildacres or William Holland. The Federation has most generously offered these scholarships to deserving Junior (ages 12-18) Club Members of a Federation Club. The requirements are:

1. The President of the sponsoring adult club should submit the junior's name with an explanation of the youth's qualifications that the club has considered in recommending this youth for a scholarship,
2. The youth should submit a short essay explaining their interest in the hobby and why they would like to go to the workshop,
3. After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship receiver is encouraged to write an article about their experience for the *Lodestar*, and
4. A responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop and permission must be obtained from the workshop directors and the class teacher, which is usually not a problem.

The deadline for applying for a scholarship is February 15, 2006. We hope that these scholarships will be used by enthusiastic hobbyists as they have been in past years. The recommendations should be sent to:

Hugh and Leona Sheffield, SFMS Youth Resource Committee  
2440 Southshore Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33705-3331  
727. 894.2440

*Information from the January, 2006, Lodestar*



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## Upcoming Field Trips

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**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of**  
**The Rome Georgia Mineral Society, Rome, GA (Host)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club**  
**9:30 a.m. EST, Saturday, January 28, 2006**  
**Durham Mines, Walker County, Georgia**  
Pennsylvanian Age Plant Fossils  
Rockcastle Formation

The Durham Mines are Georgia's best locality for beautifully preserved Paleozoic plant fossils. Commonly referred to as 'Fern Fossils,' but more accurately described as "Coal Fossils," the site offers a wide variety of species: Lycopods such as *Lepidodendron*; giant horsetails such as *Calamites* (and its leaves known as Annularia); and seed ferns such as *Pecopteris* and *Alethopteris*. You can occasionally find fossilized seeds. For identification purposes, we will provide a sheet to get you started, but any good fossil book will be useful as well when you get home. The fossils are found by splitting the abundant shale at the site. Most will yield twigs and bark, but with persistence you will find good leaves.

**Date:** January 28, 2006

**Time:** 9:30 AM EST

**Meet:** At the site, on Durham Rd. in Walker Co., Ga. This is in the NW corner of the state of Georgia.

**Directions:** From Lafayette, Ga. follow GA Hwy. 136 West for 20 miles, to GA. Hwy 157. Turn right, going North on GA Hwy. 157 for 6.0 miles. Durham Rd. will be on the left. Turn left on Durham Rd. The mines and the parking area are .50 (1/2) mile on the right. Drive time from the intersection of US27 and GA 136 West In Lafayette, is approximately 30 minutes. If you are getting to Lafayette from I-75 at Exit # 320, Hwy 136, allow 1 hour and 10 minutes to the site from that exit. From Atlanta, at the intersection of I-285 and I-75 North, allow 2.50 hours total, using GA136 Exit #320.

**Tools:** Bring digging tools. A flat chisel and hammer are essential. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material.

**Other:** Also, bring lunch and fluids. This is a good site for children. Any pets MUST be on a leash at all times.

**Special:** This field trip is being offered during one of the "open gate" Saturdays of The Lula Lake Land Trust. The Lula Lake Land Trust is a non profit organization protecting the Rock Creek watershed on Lookout Mountain. There are two beautiful and spectacular waterfalls located on a portion of the Trust site, which is 4.5 miles north of Durham Rd. on Hwy 157, and on the right. This is an ideal spot for lunch, and further site seeing after working the mines.

**Weather:** This site is located on a section of Lookout Mountain within Georgia. Conditions on the mountain can some times be different than the surrounding valleys. The field trip will be cancelled if there are any winter weather advisories (watches or warnings) issued for Walker Co., Ga. by the National Weather Service 12 hours in advance of the meeting time, or for the date of the trip. The make up date would be the following Saturday, 2/4/06.

**Lodging:** There are many hotels located in Chattanooga, TN, or off many of the exits on I-75 in Georgia. The following are names and numbers for a few, located in Dalton, GA.

Hampton Inn - (706) 226-4333      Jameson Inn - (706) 281-1880      Courtyard Marriott - (706) 275-7215

**Contact:** Jeff Deere Rome Ga. Mineral Society Field Chair - (770) 386-5447, jdeere@adelphia.net

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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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**Fort Drum Crystal Mine  
Rock Swap / Field Trip  
Ft. Drum, Florida  
Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12, 2006  
8:00a.m. to sundown  
FEE**

**Items Collected:** There is an abundance of well-fossilized and calcified marine shells. The sand and shell matrix rock is in the Nashua Formation (Pleistocene) and is composed of well-calcified shells. Any cavities within these fossils may contain calcite crystals. Honey colored calcite crystals up to 1" in length can be found within large fossilized clamshells. Small calcite crystals within shells are very common. Fossilized bone and teeth, although rare, can also be found at this location.

**Fee:** \$20.00/day/person \$8.00/day/child (15 and under)  
All minors must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Swap tables will be set up, so bring your items to trade or sell.

Port-O-Lets will be provided.

**Directions:** Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeehaw Junction). Go south of Ft. Drum General Store about 0.5 mile and turn east on 304th St. Go about 2.75 miles to the quarry entrance (north side of the road). There should be someone at the gate around 8:00 a.m. to collect money and liability waivers.

**What to Bring:** Pants, sturdy shoes / boots, gloves and protective eyewear are recommended. Bring tools, buckets/cloth bag, and newspaper to collect, carry and wrap fragile specimens. The collecting area can be extremely wet and muddy. Bring a change of clothing along with plenty of water and a towel.

**Special Conditions:** It is recommended that you wear sturdy shoes or boots and gloves. Daytime temperatures can vary as much as 40F, so layered clothing is appropriate. This is an active quarry and the sand/rock along the quarry walls can collapse without notice. Be extremely careful working next to steep walls. Some areas may be marked off, so do not go into these areas for your safety.

**Where to Stay:** Okeechobee is the nearest town! I now know that it is very difficult to negotiate rates of stay due to fishing tournaments that often occur. Below is a list of motels in Okeechobee; however, January, February, and March are peak times for south Florida motels. There are also many inexpensive motels in the Kissimmee area and on I-95 south of Melbourne down to Ft. Pierce. Check ahead, some businesses are still closed due to hurricanes.

Okeechobee Motels	Phone Number
Budget Inn	863-763-3185
Holiday Inn Exp.	863-357-3529
Flamingo Motel	863-763-4894
Travelers Inn	863-763-3146
Economy Inn	863-763-1148
Scottish Inn	863-763-3293

For more information contact: Eddie Rucks  
[fortdrumcrystalline@yahoo.com](mailto:fortdrumcrystalline@yahoo.com)  
863-634-4579

**Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig" for 2006**  
**8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, Friday, April 28—Sunday, April 30, 2006**

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**8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, Friday, October 6—Sunday, October 8, 2006**

"Your society is invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The SFMS Field Trip Committee has been in contact with the caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., in regard to his plans to hold two separate three-day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during April 28, 29, & 30, 2006 and during October 6, 7, & 8, 2006. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf-cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 p.m. each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

**Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:** Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be set up for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to set up a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks, and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

**THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL SFMS CLUBS.**  
**Mark your calendar and tell all your members about these great events!**

**Contact Information:** Clarence Norman, Jr. - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)

**Directions:** From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up the hill to the parking area(s). Proceeded from your parked vehicle to the Registration/Hospitality tent to sign your liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

SFMS Field Trip Committee: Please reply by e-mail to: [dmc@gaminerall.org](mailto:dmc@gaminerall.org)  
Jim Flora - SFMS Field Trip Committee Chair

**Graves Mountain code of conduct!**

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

- **CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Dig" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION!**
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The Graves Mountain caretaker, Clarence Norman, Jr., has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!
- NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking Area!  
EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Please protect our ability to field collect at Graves Mountain!

Report Violations to: Clarence Norman, Jr.  
706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)

*All reported violations will be held in strict confidence.*

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of**  
**The Carroll County Gem & Mineral Society, Carrollton, GA (Host)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club**  
**9:00 AM EST**  
**Saturday, February 11, 2006**

**Where:** The Famous Hogg Mine outside LaGrange, in Troup County, GA

**When:** Sat., Feb. 11, 2006

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST

**Collecting:** Rose quartz, tourmaline, beryl, moonstone, mica books, garnet & quartz crystal

**Directions:** From Atlanta, take I-85 south to LaGrange. Get off on Hwy. 219 and go south. Go past the intersection at Bartley Rd. and past an old chimney on the right. Just past the power lines, turn right at a gravel entrance and go thru the gate to the parking area. From Carrollton, take Hwy 27 S. (past Wal-Mart). Go thru Franklin to LaGrange. Just stay straight and Hwy 27 dumps into Hwy 219. Take Hwy 219 south and cross I-85. Go past the intersection at Bartley Rd., past the old chimney on the right. Turn right into Hogg Mine on a gravel entry with a gate. Parking is to the left. Allow 1 hour & 15 min.

**Fee:** Adults-\$17 & children under 18 are free. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

**What to Bring:** Pick, shovel, rock hammer, chisels, scratching tools, screen, buckets and of course plenty of water. Bring your lunch although we will be within 20 min. of a couple of fast food places and there are two convenience stores close.

We have been lucky and had beautiful, clear and even warm weather in Feb. but extra clothes and boots might be useful if it's muddy or the weather turns.

There are roads and paths. Cliffs, ditches and new pits have been dug. There is loose material under the leaves that take little effort to recover. Using a rake to push back the leaves might be useful and a crack hammer will help to find tourmaline imbedded in quartz.

**Where to Stay:** Days Inn has agreed to a group rate of \$55.00 + tax per room if you mention the DMC field trip. The address is 2606 Whitesville Rd., LaGrange, GA 30240 (also Hwy 219). It's exit 13 off of I-85. Phone 706-882-8881 for reservations.

The Hogg Mine was purchased by a man who planned to build homes on it. Fortunately for us, Rodney Moore was able to show this man how important the site is to mineral collectors and acquired permission to manage the site for our enjoyment. Please follow the Code of Ethics to preserve our relationship with our host. For more directions and info on other collecting sites in the area, check out [www.dixieuhedrals.net](http://www.dixieuhedrals.net).

Trip Chairman: Tim Billingsly ph 770-836-8832. If no answer, leave a message or you can e-mail: [mistyhollow@bellsouth.net](mailto:mistyhollow@bellsouth.net).

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**MAGMA field trips we are invited to join in on**  
**Lake Chatuge, Clay Co., N.C., Towns Co. Ga.—January 14th, 2006**  
**Official Fieldtrip: Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association**

Hello members. This will be our first official fieldtrip for 2006. I have several lined up already and I hope I can see all of you at some time on a trip throughout the year. We will be visiting Lake Chatuge. This is prime time for collecting at the lake. We will be visiting several spots to collect a variety of specimens: ruby, sapphire, limonite, rutile, and much more. For those coming from Asheville, we will meet at the Silver Armadillo parking lot in the Westgate Shopping Center, West Asheville, at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning and proceed to the lake, approximately 1.5 hour drive. Those coming from a different direction can meet us at 10:30 a.m. at the Jackrabbit State Park parking lot next to the boat ramp at the campground (site 28 in my book).

Tools: shovel, screen, rockhammer, hand rake

See you there!

**Graves Mountain  
Lincolnton, Georgia  
January 20-22nd, 2006**

Hello all. I have been in touch with Junior Norman of Graves Mountain and arranged a three day weekend for our club. We will have Friday through Sunday at the mine to collect. NOTE: You must fill out a waiver form either Friday or Saturday if you plan to be at the mine on Sunday. Junior will not be there Sunday and needs all the paperwork completed by Saturday. There is a hotel, the Cullars Inn, in Lincolnton and a campground at the Elijah Clark State Park about 10 miles away. I will be heading down Friday morning. I take I-26 from Asheville to 221 South in S.C. to Hwy. 378 in S.C. and follow into Georgia to the mine. From Atlanta take I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln County line sign. Motel: Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, GA. Phone 706-359-6161

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**Due West, S.C.  
March 25th, 2006**

I have been in contact with the owner of the new mine in Due West, South Carolina. Thanks to our M.A.G.M.A. member Dennis for setting this up. The owner has 30 acres of land that is producing a variety of minerals to include: amethyst, beryl, emerald, aquamarine, smoky quartz, garnet and more! He has never allowed club trips to his site and is now ready to turn the site into an area that clubs can visit. The owner has two backhoes which he will use to open up areas for the members to collect. He may open these areas prior to the trip or the same day as the dig. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. There is no limit on the amount you can collect. I plan to visit this site on my way to Graves Mountain, Friday the 20th of January, to get a better idea of the layout of the area, and will report more then. We will meet at the Dollar General Store parking lot in Due West at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, March 25th, and proceed to the site.

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**The 3rd Annual Western North Carolina Rockhound Roundup  
August 2nd through the 6th, 2006**  
Hosted by "M.A.G.M.A." Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association

visit our website at: <http://www.wncrocks.com/>

Sponsored by "DirtyRockhounds"

Visit the DirtyRockhounds website at: <http://www.dirtyrockhounds.com/>

Our club will again be hosting the third annual "Western North Carolina Rockhound Roundup"

**Dates:** August 2nd thru the 6th, 2006

**Location:** 3897 Leicester Hwy., Leicester, North Carolina 28748 (just outside the Asheville N.C. city limits)

Our first two Roundups were a huge success and we plan to make this year even better with an extra day added to the events (5 days total) and many exciting mines to visit and collect at! Rockhounds from all over the south-east and the country will spend five days of mineral collecting, camping, rockswaping and rockhound fellowship here in the wild mountains of Western North Carolina. This event will again be based at the property of M.A.G.M.A. member Richard Jacquot, we had over 65 attendees and campers last year and room for many more. This property is located just outside the city of Asheville, N.C., just 15 minutes drive from the famous Little Pine Garnet Mine in Madison County, N.C. and 20 minutes drive from the famous Pressley Sapphire Mine in Haywood County. We have room for up to 5 RV's to camp for free on the property, numerous places for tent camping. We have added an electric hookup for the campers (20 amp) to be able to run fans, frig, etc., portable toilets will be on site; there is a large campfire pit for use by campers, water will be supplied to refill water tanks for campers. Agenda: We have again coordinated this event to coincide with the Grassy Creek Gem and Mineral Show in Spruce Pine N.C., this is the best annual show in the area. Each day, trips will be planned to various mines in the area.

Click here for a link to last years Roundup Report!

<http://www.wncrocks.com/magma/roundup2005.htm>

# Mineral of the Month



## aquamarine



**Chemistry:** Be<sub>3</sub> Al<sub>2</sub> Si<sub>6</sub> O<sub>18</sub>

**Uses:** As mineral specimen and gemstone

**Color:** Blue

**Hardness:** 7.5-8

**Specific gravity:** 2.67-2.71

**Streak:** White

**Crystals:** (Hexagonal) Short or long prismatic; usually hexagonal, pyramidal, vertically striped, seldom tabular; intergrowth and surface growth; only occasional twinning

**Accompanied by:** quartz, feldspar, calcite, chrysoberyl, topaz, apatite, phenakite, fluorite, wolframite and cassiterite

**Similar to:** chrysoberyl, apatite, spinel, brazilianite and tourmaline

**Aquamarine** belongs to the beryl group, with its other cousins being the **emerald** (green), **golden beryl** (deep yellow to golden brown), **morganite** (pale rose to rose pink), **heliodor** (yellow to greenish yellow) and **goshenite** (colorless). Large crystals have been found in Zimbabwe. Some of these have pools of good quality gem material. Namibia has also been a good source of perfect crystals with intense color. These are oftentimes found with black tourmaline.

**Aquamarines** are often heat treated to improve the color. When heat treated, the undesirable yellow color changes to a more appealing blue. Deep blue or Double blue is rarely found in large clean pieces anywhere in the world. Continuous production of such color is un-heard of, which keeps Zambian production in great demand. Lighter shades of this gem can be found in other countries (Nigeria, India) but popularity is growing for the deep blue green variety presently found in the Katete/Petauke area for its beautiful natural sea blue/green hue. Zambian double blue is still readily sold overseas as 'Santa Maria L'Afrique' conjuring a mystique over its source. Prices for such gems have been known to reach over EUR 800 per carat.

Uncut aquamarines are plentiful but relatively expensive, as would be expected of crystalline gemstone specimens. Large crystals of aquamarine are available on the open market and represent perhaps the largest raw gemstone specimens.

Most beryl is found in pegmatite dikes, where large crystals are intergrown with quartz and feldspar, but the emerald variety also occurs in altered limestone and in various metamorphic rocks. Crystal size ranges from tiny to enormous. A crystal weighing 200 tons was mined in Minas Gerais, Brazil, and crystals about 6 m (20 ft) long and 2 m (7 ft) across have been found in the Black Hills of South Dakota and in Albany, Maine. Common beryl has been mined for beryllium since 1925, notably in Brazil, where the largest deposits occur.

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## Upcoming Shows

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**January 20-22, 2006, Largo, FL**—Pinellas Geological Society, Inc. and The Tumblers (youth club). 30th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale. Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive. Hours 20th & 21st, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., 22nd, 12:00 Noon -5:00 P.M. Contact: Hugh Sheffield at 727.894.2440.

**February 4-5, 2005, Panama City, FL**—Panama City Gem and Mineral Society. 15th Annual Show. 15th Street and Sherman Avenue, Bay County Fairgrounds, American Legion Building. Hours: 4th, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.; 5th, 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Contact: Al Zar @ 850.763.0109. Email: Aquezpie@aol.com.

**February 25-26, Jackson, MS**—Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. 47th Annual Show. Trade Mart Bldg., Fairgrounds at I-55 and High Street. 25th - 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.; 26th -10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Contact Sharon McClanahan, 601.956.9997 or Betty James, 601.914.6747, mineralid@jam.rr.com.

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### SFMS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Saturday March 25, 2006

Location: Franklin, North Carolina

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 25, 2006

Hotel and Meeting Room

#### Hampton Inn

244 Cunningham Road, Franklin, North Carolina

**For participants to receive the special group rate of \$59 + tax, you must reserve under the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies**

Telephone: 828.369.0600; Fax: 828-369-0700; e-mail: FKNNC\_Hampton@hilton.com  
website: <http://www.franklin-chamber.com/hamptoninn/>

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

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