

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



FROM THE PREZ

Dee Rittenhour

I would like to thank all of the club members who worked extremely hard to set up and run the club, ticket, and demonstration booths at the annual show, and the people who stayed to close the show.

We have a lot of exceptional members who work hard to make the club work, but we still need some positions filled to make CGMC a better club. At the next board meeting, I would like to hear some ideas from the club members on how to

improve our club. Please attend this meeting, and be ready to share possible solutions or answers to any problems or questions you have about the club. Nobody is out of place; if you're a paid member, your input is important! The board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 18, at Kim Tyler's home, 5437 Somerset Lane, Harrisburg. Please come and present your ideas for the future of the club. See a map to Kim's house on page 5.

Our 50th Year

June Meeting Picnic

The mineral for the month is *iolite*. Please bring your samples of *iolite* to the meeting on June 24.



Special Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Sunday, June 24

We will have a special club meeting this month on Sunday, June 24. Instead of having our regular Thursday evening meeting at Discovery Place, Danny Jones has graciously offered his home as our meeting location for the June gathering. The afternoon will begin with a tour of his wonderful specimen collection, and rock talk, followed by a covered-dish dinner. We look forward to seeing everyone there! *Please bring a dish and drink to share and a lawn chair to sit!* See a map to Danny's on page 5.

Meet at 2:00 p.m., eat about 5:00 p.m.

**2007 CGMC
Officers & Board**

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Dee Rittenhour
704/845-5627

Vice President

open

Secretary

Pat Walker
704/523-5261

Treasurer

Gale Blevins
704/442-0530

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704/846-7102
Murray Simon
704-543-6651

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Kim Tyler
704/454-5337

Past President

Jimmy Strickland
704/537-6010

CLUB CHAIRPERSONS

**SFMS Contact &
Stamp Chairman**

Pat Walker

Points Scholarships Chair

open

Field Trip Chairman

open

Geode Chairman

Jimmy Strickland

Show Chairman

Jimmy Strickland

Dealer Chairman

Becky Strickland
704/537-6010

Hospitality Chairman

open

Refreshments Chairman

open

Workshop Chairman

open

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Picnic Chairman

open

Christmas Party Chairman

Pat Walker

May, 2007

BRISBANE, Australia - Scientists unveiled bones from two 82-foot behemoths they said were the largest dinosaurs ever found in Australia. Fossilized bones from the two titanosaurs were found in 2005 and 2006 by ranchers near the town of Eromanga, 600 miles west of the Queensland state capital, Brisbane.

They were put on display for the first time at the Queensland Museum on Thursday after a long period of excavation and scientific identification.

"These are the largest bones ever discovered in Australia," museum curator Scott Hocknull told reporters. The biggest of the bones — a humerus, from a foreleg — measures 5 feet long and weighs 220 pounds. "They would have been about two buses in length," Hocknull said of the animals.

Titanosaurs are among the largest of the prehistoric animals known as sauropods — long-necked, long-tailed plant-eating dinosaurs that existed during the Jurassic and Early Cretaceous periods between 100 million and 200 million years ago. Their bones are found all over the world.

Hocknull said the two recent finds — nicknamed Cooper and George — indicated the animals were about 23 feet longer than the previous biggest reported titanosaur whose remains were found in Australia, also in Queensland in 1999.

Rancher Stuart Mackenzie said he stumbled across the first bone while mustering cattle on a motorbike on his property two years ago.

"The very first bone we found was the most exciting because until you actually have it verified by the museum you don't actually know you've got a bone, you just think it's a rock," Mackenzie said.

"From then on it's just ballooned. ... We've found more sites and then we've stumbled across this one, and it was the daddy of them all," he said, referring to the humerus find.

Article submitted by Danny Jones

Stamp Program

Our club is a participating member in the SFMS cancelled-stamp program. Our members are asked to save stamps from their mail by cutting around the stamp, leaving 1/4" so as not to damage the edges of the stamp. The stamps can be soaked off of envelopes, and our club will receive twice as many credits for stamps delivered in this condition than it will for those still stuck on the paper. Please check the SFMS website at

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/stamp-program.html>

for specific information and instructions for the stamp program. Members are also asked to collect the "PB Meter" (Pitney Bowes) imprinted on the envelope. Members may turn in their collections to Pat Walker at regular meetings, being sure to include a piece of paper with their names. At the SFMS annual meeting, clubs contributing stamps will be included in a drawing. If a club's name is drawn, it in turn will have a drawing from the names of contributing members for a workshop scholarship. Last year four workshop scholarship were awarded!

Mineral of the Month



iolite

Uses: As a gemstones

Color: Different shades of blue

Hardness: 7.5

Specific gravity: 2.57-2.66

Iolite is also known as cordierite or 'water sapphire'. It is a silicate of aluminium, iron and magnesium. Good specimens have a very pleasing colour showing very marked pleochroism from blue to grey when turned through the right angle.

Because of the scarcity of good gem material, there is a constant demand for specimens and cutting quality stones. Although the stone has the right colour for a sapphire it lacks the brilliance and sparkle of a true sapphire.

The crystal system is orthorhombic or massive, often scaly or granular.

Used by permission, Gerdus Brönn website, www.mineralgallery.co.za

Refreshments

Thanks to Becky and Jimmy Strickland for providing refreshments at the May meeting.

Refreshments in upcoming months will be provided by the following members:

July, Wilfredis Nativi; Aug., Bill Parrish; Sept., the Caceres; Oct., the Rittenhour's.

Thanks for volunteering to help us enjoy our meetings and social time!

Cabochon Machine

A cabochon machine is available at the home of Jimmy Strickland (704/537-6010), and he can teach you how to use it.

Please call to plan a visit.

The machine belongs to the club;
you **MUST** be a club member to use it.

The June CGMC Board Meeting will be held at Kim Tyler's home on Monday, June 18, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is open to ALL club members. If you are interested in serving your club as an officer or club chairman, please contact one of the board members listed on page 2 of the bulletin. Several positions are still open.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of The Middle Tennessee
Gem & Mineral Society (Host)
An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club
Saturday, July 14, 2007
Columbia Mines, Marion, Kentucky
FEE SITE

Where: The Columbia Mines of Marion, Kentucky but meet at the Clement Mineral Museum

When: Saturday, July 14, 2007

Time: Day dig 9:00 a.m. CDT and night digs 8:15 p.m. CDT

Collecting: Fluorite, smithsonite, sphalerite, cerussite, galena, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, quartz, and pyromorphite. Calcite is by far the most common mineral found, and all other minerals require some digging in the dump to locate.

Fee: The day time digs will cost \$20 and is limited to 30 persons. The night time digs will be \$30 and is limited to 20 persons. The fee entitles you to one five gallon bucket of specimens additional buckets may be purchased.

Admission to the Ben Clement Fluorite Museum is \$5. You will be required to sign a waiver for this hunt. You may download the reservation, waiver and information at the following link:

<http://www.marionkentucky.us/clementmineralmuseum/index.htm>

All reservations for the digs will be handled through the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum at www.MarionKentucky.us. Or call 270-965-9257, or write Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum, 205 North Walker Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064. Information on campgrounds, lodging, and bed and breakfasts can also be obtained from Clement Mineral Museum.

While the primary purpose of this trip is to accommodate SFMS members, the secondary purpose is to help the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum fund its efforts in maintaining a world class fluorite collection and making it available to the public.

What to Bring: Other than standard collecting equipment, bring plenty of water, snacks, camera, and you will need a portable ultraviolet light. Daytime collectors will need a way to check fluorescence too! Black light boxes or whatever suits you. Nighttime collectors will need a standard flashlight to travel to and from their cars. The time of the month was chosen because it is the dark of the moon! Short wave and broad spectrum ultraviolet lights are best. Most collectors will share their lights, but do not count on it, after all someone will need to bring a light.

Mine History: The mines where the dig is to be conducted are located on the Commodore fault system and date back to 1901. Mine shafts on the property have produced fluorite, smithsonite and sphalerite. Other minerals that have been found in the mine dumps include; cerussite, galena, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, quartz, and pyromorphite. Calcite is by far the most common mineral found, and all other minerals require some digging in the dump to locate.

The most common fluorescent mineral is calcite which glows a soft to bright pearly white. There are other colors other than white, but they are fewer in number. Of particular note are specimens of sandstone which glow a coral pink to a bright red in either short wave or broad spectrum ultraviolet light. There are also specimens which glow various shades of pale yellow and bright blue. Please note: that included in the spoil are fragments of mortar and concrete which will also fluoresce. The concrete and mortar was made from rock from the mine.

MTGMS Contacts:

Marty Hart webmaster@gemizo.com

Phil Herren pwherren@comcast.net

"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!"

Colburn Earth Science Museum 10th Annual 2007 Asheville Gem Fest Friday-Sunday, June 15, 16 & 17, 2007

The Colburn Earth Science Museum is pleased to announce the 10th annual Asheville Gem Fest, happening Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 15, 16 and 17, at Pack Place. Asheville Gem Fest is a great event: a gem and mineral show featuring quality dealers from across the nation, fun activities for the entire family, informative speakers and more!

On Saturday, June 16, there will be two featured speakers. At 1:30 p.m., Dr. Steve Neely will speak on *Treasures from the Elmwood Zinc Mine*, and at 3:00 p.m., Tom Wilson will present *The Tucson Experience 2007*. Both lectures are free of admission. The Colburn Earth Science Museum, located on the lower level of Pack Place, will also be open admission-free all weekend, and their legendary silent auction will be back, bigger and better than ever.

With two floors and over 20 dealers, the 2007 Asheville Gem Fest is a great show in the center of downtown Asheville, conveniently near all that a fun and vibrant city has to offer. Plan now to attend!

The Mission of the Colburn Earth Science Museum is to foster an appreciation for the earth and its resources and environments through exhibits, educational programming and the care of its collection.

Colburn Earth Science Museum, 2 S. Pack Square at Pack Place, Asheville, NC 28801
Telephone: 828.254.7162 phone Fax: 828.257.4505 <http://www.colburnmuseum.org>

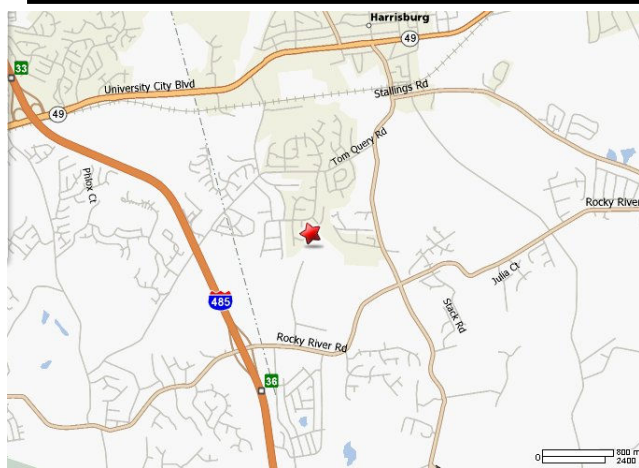
Email from the Colburn Earth Science Museum

Upcoming Shows

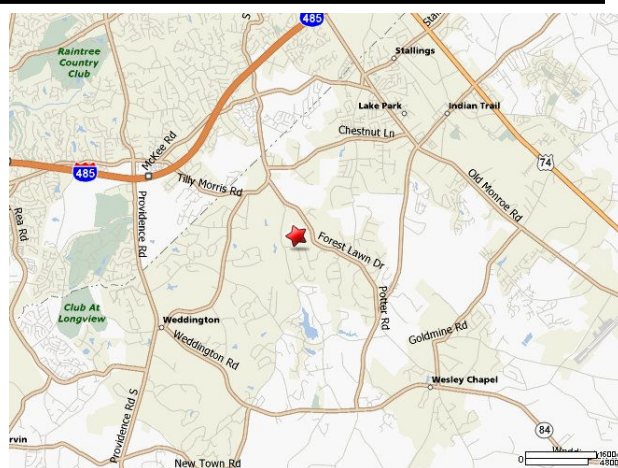
July 25-28, 2007, Franklin, NC—Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. Community Facilities Building, Hwy. 441S (Georgia Rd.). Hours: 25th—28th, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. Contacts: Fred Plesner (Show Chair) at 888.348.4224 or Franklin Chamber of Commerce at 828.524.3161 or www.franklin-chamber.com.

August 31—September 3, 2007, Hendersonville, NC.—Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society. Witmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Rd. Hours: August 31st—September 2nd, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. and September 3rd, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Contact: Margaret L. Johnson (Show Chair) at 828.692.1249 or mgt.j.ed@brinet.com.

September 7—9, 2007, Winston-Salem, NC—Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. 36th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show and Sale, Educational Building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. Hours: 7th & 8th, 10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.; 9th, 12:00 Noon—5:00 p.m. Contact: W.A. Marion, Show Chairman at www.forsythgemclub.com.



Kim Tyler, 5437 Somerset Lane, Harrisburg
704-454-5337



Danny Jones, 3100 Greywood Lane,
Matthews 704-844-6036

Hope to see you all at the board meeting and the June club meeting!

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

Next Meeting
Sunday, June 24
Danny Jones' Home

June
2007



GOLDRUSH LEDGER

First Class Mail

«First Name» «Last Name»
«Address»
«Address 1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»

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>