

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



FROM THE PREZ

Warren Falcone

Some of you members have already heard—as of the February meeting I am now the President of the club. I will be taking on this responsibility with the hope that all members may guide me in the direction I need to go. Although Jimmy Strickland is currently filling in, we are now looking for someone to serve as Vice President to take my place. We have a new treasurer (Ron Gibbs) as well, but still need a secretary. Congratulations to HP & Dev on their new jobs!

I hope everyone had a good winter! Now its almost time to put up the coats and gloves, and pull out the buckets, picks, and shovels and head to a dig site. We have several upcoming field trips scheduled and we are

looking forward to seeing our members at them. Just a reminder: SAFETY-SAFETY-SAFETY!!! While on a rock dig, please use the *Rockhounds Code of Ethics*: dig safe, fill in your holes, leave the area clean, but most of all, please respect the property owners' rules.

Our meetings over the next few months are going to be informative and we will be going over recent issues that our club and officers have faced. Our meeting site and day has changed due to the huge exhibit at Discovery Place. Please call one of your officers if you have questions or if you would like to do something to help out. Remember we are all VOL-UNTEERS working hard for the club.

Our 49th Year

March Meeting Friday, March 17

The mineral for the month is *chrysoberyl*.

Please bring your samples of *chrysolberyl* to the meeting to share with the club.



!!! Meeting Location and Date Changes !!!

We have, unexpectedly, had to relinquish our meeting room at Discovery Place for the events associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit.

This month's meeting has been rescheduled for

Friday, March 17, at Amity Presbyterian Church.

Amity Presbyterian is located between Albemarle Road and Independence Blvd., on the corner of Sharon Amity Rd. and Peirson Rd. Turn on Pierson Rd. and go to the back of the church to park. The Fellowship Hall is in the long wing of the church bordering the north side of the parking lot.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ **Next Meeting** ★
★ **Friday,** ★
★ **March 17,** ★
★ **7:30 p.m.** ★
★ **Amity** ★
★ **Presbyterian** ★
★ **Church** ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**2006 CGMC
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704/855-9815

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open

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open

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704/523-5261

Picnic Chairman

Jolene Falcone

Christmas Party Chairman

Pat Walker

Refreshments

Thanks to the Falcones for the refreshments
after the February meeting.

If you would be interested in providing refreshments for the March
meeting, please contact Kim Tyler at bbck4@yahoo.com.

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 uncanceled 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>

In Remembrance

Tommy C. Capps, a long-time member of our club, passed away this past month. He had been a member of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club since the eighties, and worked the mines around Hiddenite, NC, and was a gem rough and mineral dealer for a number of years at various shows in the area. He was a good source of information about digging locations, and served as field trip chairperson for the club for several years. He will be missed.

Due to changes in jobs, the CGMC officer roster has changed. Warren Falcone has stepped up to the office of President, with Jimmy Strickland temporarily assuming the office of Vice President. Ron Gibbs has agreed to take over the job of Treasurer after the club show. Harrell Suggs has offered to serve as Geode Chairman. Congratulations to Devin and HP on their new positions. We will miss seeing them every month and appreciate all the work they have done for the club. Warren, Jimmy, Ron, and Harrell have volunteered to serve in these positions, but are willing to go through an elective process if anyone else would like to serve. The club still needs a Secretary; please let any officer know if you would like to help in this position.

Upcoming Field Trips

"SFMS FIELD TRIP"
Standard Mineral Company
Glendon, North Carolina
Saturday, April 22, 2006
8:00 a.m. till Noon

The SOUTHEAST FEDERATION has again been invited to participate in 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 pyrophyllite 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.

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 Carbondon and Sanford. Before Carbondon 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.

Jim Flora
SFMS Field Trip Chair

Upcoming Field Trips (cont.)

**An Official Field Trip of
The Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club, Gastonia, NC (Host)
An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club
8:00 AM (EST) SHARP!
Saturday, March 18, 2006
Martin-Marietta Aggregates Quarry
Statesville, NC**

This is a working quarry and safety requirements are strict! All participants will be required to wear hard hats, safety glasses, and steel-toed shoes. Upon arrival, you will be required to sign a waiver of liability. There is a safety orientation and, if you miss it, you may not be allowed into the quarry. Everyone will need to sign a release and receive information on boundaries and safety in the collecting area. Stay away from high walls and be cautious as to footing at all times! Watch for moving equipment—you will be much smaller than it is!

Where: Martin-Marietta Aggregates quarry in Statesville, NC. Meet at the quarry office at 8:00 a.m. SHARP!

When: Saturday, March 18, 2006

Time: 8:00 a.m. SHARP! to Noon (EST). We will need to leave by NOON!

Collecting: Garnets in mica schist. Occasionally you may find kyanite, hornblendes, quartz types, pyrite and, rarely, chalcopyrite.

Directions: from Charlotte/Gastonia: Take I-85 North to I-77 North. Upon arrival in Statesville take I-40 west 2 miles to exit #150, which is Hwy 115. The quarry entrance is on the left. BEWARE OF TRUCKS! Severe conditions may cancel the trip, but our weather is usually quite mild this time of the year. Meet at the quarry office at 8:00 a.m. SHARP!

What to Bring: You will need to bring your own food and drink to the quarry, but it is only a few minutes from the interstate and town. Also bring your rock hammer, chisels, pry bar, scratching tools, buckets, and newspaper to wrap your finds.

Contact: Doug Dover at 704/825-9580 for further questions. If no answer, leave a message, or you can e-mail: ddover@carolina.rr.com.

"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!"

DMC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose:

To collect field trip information from it's member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

Upcoming Field Trips (cont.)

**Due West, SC
Diamond Hill Mine
March 25-26, 2006
Beryl and Amethyst
Official Fieldtrip: Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association**

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, including amethyst, beryl, emerald, aquamarine, smoky quartz, garnet and more! 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, with no limit on the amount you can collect. The dig will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. John D., Lee Fleming, Steve Barr, and I met with the owner on January 20th to discuss the upcoming dig. He plans to have a large parking area graded for the club members. There are two areas to work, one area produces smoky, amethyst, and clear quartz, the other area produces beryl and aquamarine. We found float material at both locations surface collecting for just under an hour. The site looks very promising for those who like to dig! We will meet at the Dollar General Store parking lot in Due West, SC at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, March 25th. We will be at the parking lot from 8:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. while everyone fills out a release form and pays their \$25.00 entry fee. At 8:45 a.m., we will depart for the mine. **MAKE SURE YOU ARE AT THE PARKING LOT AT THE DOLLAR STORE BETWEEN 8 AND 8:45 OR YOU WILL MISS THE CARAVAN TO THE MINE!** The directions to this mine will not be posted at the mine owners' request. If this trip goes well and he later decides to let other groups in to collect, we will then post a webpage on my website for people to get the contact information. For those who are traveling a long way, or who would like to make it a two-day dig for the weekend, I have reserved the Diamond Hill Mine for the next day (Sunday). Some of us plan to camp at the mine after leaving Due West on Saturday. For those who want to stay in a motel, there is a cheap (\$35.00) motel in Abbeville about 12 miles up the road from Diamond Hill. This should be a fun two days of digging for the group. Hopefully everything will go well at Due West and we can plan on future trips to the site. It is always good to have a new location to collect, especially with so many other sites being shut down. See you in March!

**Tweedy Garnet Mine,
Burke County, NC
April 1st, 2006
(Rain date, April 8th)
Official Fieldtrip: Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association
The Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society
and affiliated clubs**

Hello members. I have been in contact with the owner of the Tweedy Garnet Mine in Burke County, NC, and have arranged a trip to visit the site. The Tweedy Mine is famous for its large 24-sided almandine garnets, some as big as softballs. This site has been closed off and on since the owner, Mr. Tweedy, died several years ago. The current owner has agreed to allow our clubs to visit. She said that the site has not been touched in many years and may be a bit overgrown, so be prepared to do some earth moving to get to the good stuff! There will be a small donation of \$5.00 per person to collect at the site. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning at the Silver Armadillo parking lot in the Westgate Shopping Center in West Asheville and caravan to Exit 105 (Hwy. 18) off of I-40 East. We will meet members coming from other directions at the Holiday Inn parking lot just off Exit 105 at 9:15 a.m. and then proceed to the site. Bring digging tools, shovels, rockpicks, prybars, hammers, chisels, food, drink, and something to put specimens in.

See you there!

Upcoming Field Trips (cont.)

PCS Phosphate Fossil Hunting April 2, 2006

PCS Phosphate is pleased to announce the 2006 Spring Fossil Hunting Season

We would like for everyone to arrive at the Contractors Parking Lot, Highway 306, about 5 miles out of Aurora headed towards the Bayview Ferry, at 7:30 a.m. the date of your scheduled hunt. We will have to go over the safety rules and regulations before anyone is allowed into the mine. I know most of you have heard and gone over these rules several times, but it is required each and every time you visit our site that we cover the rules again. Thanks for your patience and understanding. You must have steel toed protection, you cannot wear shorts or tanks tops. You will want to bring something to drink and maybe a snack as you will be in the mine until late that afternoon. We do continue the hunts in the rain; the only time we stop is during a severe electrical storm. Hope you enjoy your visit and time at PCS Phosphate, Aurora, and have a safe trip while you are here and during your travels to and from Aurora.

We are scheduled for 10 slots on 2 April, 2006 we still have 6 spots open.. Please call Warren or Jolene Falcone @ 704/855-9815 or email them @ gemtrips@ctc.net by the weekend of March 26th to be able to secure a spot. If we have more than enough we can add you to a waiting list just in case someone backs out. We have to call in 2 days before the dig with our total attending, so please, if you plan to go or have to cancel, let us know before then.



Electronic Newsletter

The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club is now publishing its monthly newsletter,
Goldrush Ledger,
on-line at the club's website,
<http://www.charlottegem.com>

*If you need a **hard copy** of the newsletter, **YOU MUST CALL** Kim Tyler
at 704/454-5337 and let her know, if you have not already done so.
Otherwise, she will assume you will look for the Goldrush Ledger on the website.*

The cost of sending a hard copy of the newsletter to club members
now exceeds \$1.00 per copy.

If you have a computer at home, please help your club
with its limited financial resources
by reading the electronic version instead of a mailed hard copy.

Mineral of the Month



chrysoberyl



Chemistry: BeAl₂O₄

Uses: As a gemstone faceted for the jewelry trade.

Color: Yellow, orange-yellow, yellow-green, green, bluish green and brown. The variety alexanderite becomes reddish in artificial light.

Hardness: 8.5

Specific gravity: 3.5-3.8

Crystals: It forms tabular crystals in the orthorhombic crystal system.

Accompanied by: Mica

Fracture: Uneven to conchoidal

Luster: Vitreous

Cleavage: Prismatic, poor

Streak: White

Similar to: Very similar to beryl but is slightly harder

Chrysoberyl, a rare mineral, a beryllium aluminum oxide, produces the gemstones alexandrite and cat's-eye.

Common chrysoberyl occurs as crystals or loose, rounded grains in granitic pegmatites, and in metamorphic rocks such as schist and gneiss. Its tabular crystals (orthorhombic system) are transparent to translucent, yellowish green to green or brown, and have a vitreous luster. It is a vitreous, hard and tough gem. Specimens are always valuable. They are usually yellow or brown.

* The variety called [Alexanderite](#) exhibits different colors in natural or artificial light. If viewed in sunlight, its color is dark yellow-green to greenish-blue. If viewed in artificial light, its color is red.

* The other expensive variety of Chrysoberyl is called [cat's eye](#). The exhibit a narrow band of light along the width of the gem when polished as a cabochon. The crystal has slender parallel fibers which causes the light to be concentrated along the width. The cymophane variety of cat's eye exhibits a billowy, floating light reflection on its polished surface.

Chrysotile is the yellow, transparent variety of chrysoberyl.

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Upcoming Shows

March 17-19, 2006, Hickory, NC—[Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.](#) Thirty-Sixth Annual Unifour Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show. Hickory Metro Convention Center, Exit 125, I-40 next to Interstate (just off I-40 with entrances from Lenoir Rhyne Blvd. and Hwy. 70). Hours: 17th & 18, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; 19th, 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.

March 17-19, 2006, Rome, GA—[Rome Georgia Mineral Society.](#) The Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show. New locality: Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Kingston Road (GA Hwy 293). Hours: 17th & 18th, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; 19th, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Contact: Jose Santamaria, 706/233-9828.

April 22-23, 2006, Memphis, TN—[Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society.](#) 27th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show. Pipkin Building Midsouth Fairgrounds (corner of East Parkway and Central Avenue. Hours: 22nd, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; 23rd, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Contact: James Butcko, 901/743-0058 or email at rockclub@earthlink.net. Website: www.memphisgeology.org.

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

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 17
7:30 pm
Amity
Presbyterian Church

March 17
2006



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>