

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER



## Thank You!

*Kim Tyler*

Thank you to all the club members who helped with the show:

Tom and Gale Blevins  
Mario and Jessica Caceres  
Bennett Cramer  
Nancy Elliot  
Ron Gibbs  
Carl Heil  
Karen Kammer  
Dev McRorie  
Bill Parrish  
Dee Rittenhour  
Murray and Linda Simon  
Jimmy and Becky Strickland  
Harrell Suggs  
Bill and Kim Tyler  
Pat Walker

I know I have omitted some names from this important list; please accept my apologies, and let me know about my oversight. EVERYONE'S help was greatly appreciated!

Planning for next year's show has already begun. The board has grand ideas for next year, but these ideas will need a lot of workers to be fully implemented. We are asking *all* club members to help with some aspect of planning. No job is too small, and the larger ones will work best when shared by at least two members. Please contact me to see where help is still needed.

## Our 50th Year

### May Meeting Program

The May meeting will be presented by our own master craftsman, Ron Gibbs, who will show us how he creates his beautiful cabochons.

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



### **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.

### **Refreshments**

Refreshments for the May meeting will be provided by Becky and Jimmy Strickland.

Thanks to Gale and Tom Blevins for providing the snacks at the April meeting.

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

June, Karen Kammer; July, Wilfredis Nativi; Aug., Bill Parrish; Sept., the Caceres; Oct. the Rittenour's. Thanks for volunteering to help us enjoy our meetings and social time!

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CHICAGO (Reuters) - Scientists have identified the Godzilla of fungi, a giant, prehistoric fossil that has evaded classification for more than a century, U.S. researchers said on Monday.

A chemical analysis has shown that the 20-foot-tall (6-meter) organism with a tree-like trunk was a fungus that became extinct more than 350 million years ago, according to a study appearing in the May issue of the journal *Geology*.

Known as Prototaxites, the giant fungus originally was thought to be a conifer. Then some believed it was a lichen, or various types of algae. Some suspected it was a fungus.

"A 20-foot-fungus doesn't make any sense. Neither does a 20-foot-tall algae make any sense, but here's the fossil," C. Kevin Boyce, a University of Chicago assistant professor of geophysical sciences, said in a statement.

Francis Hueber of the National Museum of Natural History first suggested the fungus possibility based on an analysis of the fossil's internal structure, but had no conclusive proof.

Boyce and colleagues filled in the blanks, comparing the types of carbon found in the giant fossil with plants that lived about the same time, about 400 million years ago.

If Prototaxites were a plant, its carbon structures would resemble similar plants. Instead, Boyce found a much greater diversity in carbon content than would have been expected of a plant.

Fungi, which include yeast, mold and mushrooms, represent their own kingdom, neither plant nor animal. Once classified as plants, they are now considered a closer cousin to animals but they absorb rather than eat their food.

Samples of the giant fungi have been found all over the world from 420 million to 350 million years ago during a period in which millipedes, bugs and worms were among the first creatures to make their home on dry land. No animals with a backbone had left the oceans yet. The tallest trees stood no more than a couple of feet (a meter) high, offering little competition for the towering fungi. Plant-eating dinosaurs had not yet evolved to trample Prototaxites' to the ground. "It's hard to imagine these things surviving in the modern world," Boyce said.

*Article submitted by Danny Jones*

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## **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 white labels printed by the USPS (showing the cost of mailing and the origination and destination zip codes). Members may turn in their collections at regular meetings, being sure to include a piece of paper with their names. A drawing will be held in September to provide at least one name for inclusion in the Federation's annual scholarship drawing.

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## Ancient Rainforest Revealed in Coal Mine

[Jeanna Bryner](#), LiveScience Staff

[LiveScience.com](#) Mon Apr 23, 12:25 PM ET

Scientists exploring a mine have uncovered a natural Sistine chapel showing not religious paintings, but incredibly well preserved images of sprawling tree trunks and fallen leaves that once breathed life into an ancient rainforest. Replete with a diverse mix of extinct plants, the [300-million-year-old fossilized forest](#) is revealing clues about the ecology of Earth's first [rainforests](#). The discovery and details of the forest are published in the May issue of the journal *Geology*. "We're looking at one instance in time over a large area. It's literally a snapshot in time of a multiple square mile area," said study team member Scott Elrick of the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS).

### Forest find

Over millions of years as sediments and plant material pile up, layer upon layer, the resulting bands become time indicators with the newest, youngest layer on the top and the oldest layer at the bottom. Typically geologists peel away a vertical slice of rocky material to look at material, including fossils, over a period of time.

A coal mine offers a unique view of the past. Instead of a time sequence, illuminated in the layer upon layer of sediments, the roof of an underground mine reveals a large area within one of those sediment layers, or time periods.

Miners in Illinois are used to seeing a few plant fossils strewn along a mine's ceiling, but as they burrowed farther into this one, the sheer density and area covered by such fossils struck them as phenomenal, Elrick said. That's when they called paleobotanist Howard Falcon-Lang from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom and William DiMichele, a curator of fossil plants at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

"It was an amazing experience. We drove down the mine in an armored vehicle, until we were a hundred meters below the surface," Falcon-Lang said. "The fossil forest was rooted on top of the coal seam, so where the coal had been mined away the fossilized forest was visible in the ceiling of the mine."

### Forest snapshot

Here's what the miners and other scientists saw underground: Relatively narrow passageways wind through the "cave," marked off with stout 100-foot-wide pillars to ensure the roof doesn't collapse. "It's like in some bizarre Roman temple with tons of Corinthian pillars that are 100 feet across and only six feet tall," Elrick told LiveScience. "As you're walking down these passageways you see these pillars of coal on either side of you and above you—imagine an artist's canvas painted a flat grey and that is sort of what the grey shale above the coal looks like."

The largest ever found, the fossil forest covers an area of about 40 square miles, or nearly the size of San Francisco. This ancient assemblage of flora is thought to be one of the first rainforests on Earth, emerging during the Upper Carboniferous, or Pennsylvanian, time period that extended from about 310 million to 290 million years ago.

A reconstruction of the ancient forest showed that like today's rainforests, it had a layered structure with a mix of plants now extinct: Abundant club mosses stood more than 130-feet high, towering over a sub-canopy of [tree ferns](#) and an assortment of shrubs and tree-sized horsetails that looked like giant asparagus.

### Flash freeze

The scientists think a major earthquake about 300 million years ago caused the region to drop below sea level where it was buried in mud. They estimate that within a period of months the forest was buried, preserving it "forever." "Some of these tree stumps have been covered geologically speaking in a flash," Elrick said.

Because the spatial layout of the forest has been maintained, the scientists can learn about entire plant communities, not just individual plants. "This spectacular discovery allows us to track how the species make-up of the forest changed across the landscape, and how that species make-up is affected by subtle differences in the local environment," Falcon-Lang said. The fossil forest extends along the ceiling of two adjacent mines, the Riola mine and the Vermillion Grove mine, which are located in Vermillion County, just south of Danville, Ill.

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*Article submitted by Danny Jones*

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## Scientists unearth Superman's "kryptonite"

Mon Apr 23, 7:08 PM ET

LONDON (Reuters) - Kryptonite, which robbed Superman of his powers, is no longer the stuff of comic books and films.

A mineral found by geologists in Serbia shares virtually the same chemical composition as the fictional kryptonite from outer space, used by the superhero's nemesis Lex Luther to weaken him in the film "Superman Returns."

"We will have to be careful with it -- we wouldn't want to deprive Earth of its most famous superhero!," said Dr Chris Stanley, a mineralogist at London's Natural History Museum.

Stanley, who revealed the identity of the mysterious new mineral, discovered the match after searching the Internet for its chemical formula - sodium lithium boron silicate hydroxide. "I was amazed to discover that same scientific name written on a case of rock containing kryptonite stolen by Lex Luther from a museum in the film Superman Returns," he said.

The substance has been confirmed as a new mineral after tests by scientists at the Natural History Museum in London and the [National Research Council](#) in Canada. But instead of the large green crystals in Superman comics, the real thing is a white, powdery substance which contains no fluorine and is non-radioactive.

The mineral, to be named Jadarite, will go on show at the London's Natural History Museum at certain times of the day on Wednesday, April 25, and Sunday, May 13.

*Article submitted by Danny Jones*

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## Young Members in the News



Alexis Giger "rocks" at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City!

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Chesley Tyler has received a Merit Award for her collage, "Calling for Glory," in the International Student Art Contest sponsored by the Rotary Club of Otorohanga, New Zealand. The collage was displayed in April at the Royal Easter Show in Auckland, NZ, and was on exhibit in Otorohanga, NZ, at the beginning of May. Chelsey is currently a student at Rochester Institute of Technology, where she is studying Illustration, Jewelry/Metalsmithing, and American Sign Language. Some of her collages may be viewed at

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

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## Upcoming Field Trips

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club (Host)  
9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 20, 2006  
Limonite at the Bower's Farm  
Stanley County, Norwood, North Carolina  
(Fee site)**

The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club will be hosting the DMC May field trip to the Bowers' Farm outside of Porter/Norwood, North Carolina for limonite pseudomorphs after pyrite. The limonite crystals at this location have ranged in size from 1/2" to over 4". You can surface collect and find smaller cubes up to an inch or more. You can also dig down 3-5 feet and find the larger cubes and some bigger clusters.

**Fee:** THERE IS A \$10.00/per person FEE TO DIG -- KIDS 16 AND UNDER ARE FREE.

**Driving Directions:** I-85 North or South take exit 76-A (Salisbury, NC) onto Innes St. West (US-52), following this route until you get to the town of Porter, which is about 36 miles. (Keep an eye on the US-52 route number going through the big towns like Albemarle.) Once you have made it to Porter, start looking for Cottonville Rd. -- it will be on your right-hand side. Follow this road around the bend and keep going. You will see a school yard and the Bowers' property will be on the left-hand side.

**Note:** DO NOT PARK AT THE TIRE PLANT.

**What to Bring:** Drinking water, food, shovel, 1/2" sifting screen, rock pick, chisels, pry bars, crack hammer, wrapping paper, gloves, sturdy boots, eye protection, and containers.

**What to Wear:** Typical digging clothes. There are no toilets.

**Collecting Hours:** 9:00 a.m. until whenever you decide to quit.

**Contact:** WARREN FALCONE 704-467-5618 OR JOLENE FALCONE 704-467-5622

Email: [gemtrips@ctc.net](mailto:gemtrips@ctc.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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### **Field Trip Invitation from Greensboro Club Saturday, May 20, 2006 Thomasville MM Quarry**

The Greensboro club will have a field trip on May 20 to Thomasville MM Quarry. Our club has been invited to join in on this dig. This quarry is known for stilbite, calcite, mica and some other minerals.

Below are directions there:

- I-85 N
- Take Exit 102
- Turn right (or left when driving from Charlotte?) at the end of the ramp. Continue on.
- Turn left in few hundred yards at the first stop light on Lake Road.
- Go to the STOP sign at Johnstontown Road (09 mile).
- Turn right – then immediately turn left on to UPPER LAKE ROAD (SR 2024)
- Quarry is 2.5 miles on the left.

Sorry for some uncertainty. Please check it in internet by the above destination.

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**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee**  
**An Official Field Trip of Forsyth County Gem & Mineral Club (Host)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club**  
**8:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon, Saturday, June 10, 2006**  
**Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry**  
**Morganton (Burke County), NC**

Children: **Over 12 years old can attend if supervised closely by parent or guardian. Must wear appropriate safety gear.**

**No Pets**

**Contact:** Jim Stroud if you have any questions concerning the fieldtrip, phone: 336-744-2940; e-mail address: stroudj@vmcmail.com; mail address PO Box 4239 Winston-Salem, NC 27115

**Trip:** Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry

**Collecting:** This quarry has several rock types, which include augen gneiss, chlorite biotite gneiss, amphibolite, and pegmatite. The following collectable minerals have been found at this location: garnet, golden beryl, black tourmaline, apatite, sphene, feldspar, biotite and muscovite books, and siderite. The majority of these minerals are found in the pegmatite zones. Garnets are almandine variety and have been found up to silver dollar size. However, the majority of them are 1/8" to 1/4" in diameter imbedded in the pegmatite.

**Special Conditions:** This is an operating mine. All persons attending the fieldtrip will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement, take 15-minute hazardous training, and wear the required safety gear at all times. This includes a hard hat, safety glasses, and steel-toed boots. **We will meet at the quarry office at 8:00 a.m., sign releases, receive instructions on boundaries and safety, and be lead into the collecting area. We must leave the quarry by 12 noon!** In addition, all persons are asked to stay away from the quarry walls. There is plenty of material loose on the quarry floor. **VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE THE QUARRY ON THIS TRIP and parked until leaving.**

**Bring:** Hard hat, safety glasses, rock hammer, and something to carry and wrap samples.

**Where to Meet:** We will meet at the quarry at 8:00 am and be allowed to collect until 12:00. Quarry's phone number (828)437-2616.

**Directions to our meeting place:** From Interstate 40, take Highway 18 North at exit 105. At the fourth traffic light, turn right on Fleming Drive. Continue to end of road at Route 64/70 (dead end at Bi-Lo Food Store). Turn left on Route 64/70, travel under the railroad bridge. Immediately after crossing under bridge, at the Viscotec plant, turn right on Kirksey Drive. Make another right on Quarry Road. Quarry entrance is 1/4 mile off Quarry Road.

Vulcan Materials Company  
Causby Quarry Road  
Morganton, NC 28655  
(828) 437-2616

**Drive Time:** This is approximately a 1-1/2 hour drive from Winston-Salem, NC.

# Mineral of the Month

## emerald



**Chemistry:**  $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$

**Uses:** As gemstones

**Color:** Green or blue-green

**Hardness:** 7.5-8

**Specific gravity:** 2.6-2.9

Emerald is the most valuable of gems. It is the transparent green variety of the beryllium alumino silicate mineral beryl that owes its green color to small amounts of chromic oxide. It is a relatively hard stone, 7.5 on the Moh's scale. The emerald (Greek: Smaragdus) of the ancients probably referred to a number of green stones. Lacking the fire and brilliance of the diamond, emerald is usually step cut, with elongated narrow facets and an oblong table, to enhance its color.

Emerald has been obtained from the schists of Cleopatra's mines, rediscovered in 1818 in the Sikiat-Zubara region of Egypt. Vast quantities were taken from South America during the Spanish conquest, but the original mines have since been lost. The finest stones come from Columbia where they are mined from the calcite veining bituminous limestone at Muzo, Cosaquez, and Somodocco and Bogoti.

The Emeralds that we have in our facet stone section comes from Zimbabwe and they are known as the Sondawana emeralds. They have stunning color and is known for the inclusions inside. Some emerald have also been found in Zambia. A lot of superstition surrounds the emerald.

Zambian emerald, although discovered in the late 40's, was not commercially mined until the 1950's. Today Zambia is one of the world's leading producers of fine Emerald. Highly prized for its intense color and remarkable clarity, Zambian Emerald retains its magnificent hue even in small stones of less than 0.5 ct. Although the experienced professional could identify a Zambian emerald in a Bond Street window, the chances are that it will be sold as a 'Sandawana' stone since the exporting of Zambian rough has long been considered a clandestine event and therefore does not lend itself well the respectability projected by the top jewelers shops of the world.

Much legend, lore and illusion are used by the trade when it comes to selling a fine emerald. Antiquity now seems to be the order of the day. Some dealers refer to emeralds as "Old Mine" and offer wonderfully supportive tales as to how the stone found its way through the centuries. Although much research has been done to establish the source of the 'Old Mine' (believed to have been in India) it still remains a mystery. This does not appear to deter the buyer and 'Old Mine' stones have been known to change hands for as much as US\$ 30,000 per carat.

Colombia, much sought after for the large crystals and therefore bigger stones. However the material does not suit small stones and invariably is more included than its Zambian brother.

Zimbabwe: Sandwana mine is well known for its similarity to Zambian material. Steady production from this mine has been bolstered by Zambia's illegal exports, rendering an even greater reputation as a reliable source.

Brazil, Madagascar, Mozambique, Russia and Nigeria also produces an 'Emerald' colored by vanadium but it is not intentionally recognized as emerald since the chromium content is too low.

It is the birthstone of May. It is treated with colorless oil or wax, or natural and synthetic resins into voids to improve appearance. Surface cavities of emeralds is commonly filled with a hardened colorless substance.

Superstitions abound concerning the emerald, birthstone for May: it supposedly soothes the eyes, preserves chastity, cures dysentery, prevents epilepsy, drives away evil spirits, and facilitates childbirth symbolizes youth and rebirth and believed by the ancients to empower the owner with foresight into the future.

As one of the most revered of all gemstones, Emeralds are a variety of the mineral Beryl and are mined in Columbia, Brazil, and Zambia. They are cut in a number of different shapes including round, marquise, oval, pear shapes, squares, cabochon, as well as the traditional emerald cut or step-cut shape.

Emeralds are graded principally according to color, clarity and shape. For simplicity, the grades are usually called Commercial, Good, Fine, and Extra Fine. Each grade represents a range of qualities.

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### Emerald Enhancements

Most emeralds have inclusions which can be regarded as its natural birthmarks that distinguish them as truly natural gemstones. Early gem merchants from India sought to enhance the color of emeralds by immersing them in clear oils and paraffin. They discovered that clear oils and waxes rendered surface fractures nearly invisible to the naked eye.

Today, most emeralds are oiled. Oiling is the oldest and most widely used treatment and is done in most places in the world. It is a process used to enhance the clarity of emeralds and is relatively easy to identify by a gemologists. In practice, clear oil is applied to the emerald and seeps into the emerald through surface fractures. Oiling is generally not permanent and may need to be reapplied every few years. While colorless oil is considered an acceptable practice, the use of green oil is considered a deceptive practice.

Today, there are many sophisticated techniques with which to improve the clarity of emeralds. In addition, to oils and waxes, there are now clear resins called Opticon that is sometimes applied to an emerald that seals surface fractures. In contrast to oiling, Opticon is longer lasting. Opticon is considered an acceptable practice, except when green dye is used to enhance the emerald's color.

### Emerald Value

Emeralds are one of the most rare and valuable of all gemstones. While commercial grade emeralds are quite plentiful, fine and extra fine quality emeralds are very, very, rare. For purposes of illustration the following table indicates the range of retail prices that could be typical for a 1 carat emerald ( prices are for comparison only, exact prices vary according to market demand).

Quality Grade Low to High Retail Price Range for 1.0 Carat Emerald  
Commercial \$30.00 to \$525.00  
Good \$525.00 to \$1,125.00  
Fine \$1,125.00 to \$2,900.00  
Extra Fine \$2,900.00 to 9,800.00

Similar to other gemstones, larger emeralds are much more rare than smaller sizes. Accordingly, larger emeralds command much higher prices. For instance, while a one carat (1.0 ct.) good quality emerald may sell for somewhere between \$525 and \$1,125, a five carat (5.0 ct.) emerald of similar quality could sell for between \$7,500 and \$15,000 ( prices are for comparison only, exact prices vary according to market demand).

Quality Grade Low to High Retail Price Range for 5.0 Carat Emerald  
Commercial \$300 to \$7,500  
Good \$7,500 to \$15,000  
Fine \$15,000 to \$32,500  
Extra Fine \$32,500 to \$95,500

The effect of oiling or the use of Opticon on the price of an emerald depends on its quality. For most qualities of emerald sold in jewelry, the effect on the price is negligible. However, for fine to extra fine emeralds, a non-oiled gemstone could command from 30% to 60% higher

The rich green emerald holds within it the promise of new life in springtime. How appropriate that it should also be considered the May birthstone.

Long ago the emerald was dedicated to Venus, the goddess of love. Lovers were told that this gemstone could reveal the faithfulness of their beloved. Faithfulness was reflected in a fresh, bright green color; a cheating heart was betrayed by a lifeless color.

Emeralds have always been highly prized by royalty. Cleopatra, queen of Egypt wore emeralds from her mine in Upper Egypt. Emeralds are heavily represented in the Russian Crown Jewels from the time of the czars. The Emperor Nero is said to have gazed through a large emerald to soothe his eyes as he watched the gladiator games in the Coliseum.

The ancients prized the emerald highly and believed it held many powers. They felt it could endow the wearer with the ability to think clearly in the past, present and future. It was supposed to improve one's memory, promote eloquent speech, quicken intelligence and endow the ability to foretell the future. It was also believed to promote honesty and frugality. Powdered and taken as a medicine, it was considered a preventative of epilepsy and other serious disorders.

Like many other gems, emerald had to share its earliest fame with other green gems which had not yet been recognized for their uniqueness. Also called emerald by the ancient Romans were green sapphire, turquoise, smithsonite, malachite, jasper and glass. According to the historian Pliny, the Romans believed that emeralds ripened into their color, so gems with light patches or consistent paleness were considered immature.

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The emerald's exciting color has always been its lure. Even uncut, unpolished crystals are immediately recognized as something special. Indeed, when evaluating emeralds, color is the most important quality factor. Included crystals and cavities are not a hindrance unless they weaken the stone or cause it to appear cloudy or muddy. In fact, emerald inclusions often create a graceful, branch-like pattern known as a "jardin" (French for "garden").

#### A colorful history

Colombia, South America has always been the source of the finest emeralds. When the Spaniards conquered the Incas in the early 16th century, they stole all the emeralds they could find. However, the Incas refused to reveal the source of these coveted gems, and fortunately, the jungle quickly grew over the paths to the mines. The precious treasure was safe from the plunderers---at least temporarily. In 1555 one of the mines of Muzo was discovered by accident, and the Spanish began mining.

Colombian emeralds are a relatively clear pure green, slightly yellowish-green or slightly bluish-green. The only neighboring country to Columbia that is important as an emerald source is Brazil. Other sources are the African countries of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The two most famous emeralds are the Devonshire and the Patricia. The Devonshire is a 1383.95-carat, uncut Colombian crystal of fine green color. It was given to the sixth Duke of Devonshire by Emperor Dom Pedro I of Brazil in 1831. It is on permanent loan to the British Museum of Natural History. The 630-carat Patricia Emerald is another crystal of fine color that resides in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

#### Duplicating nature

Synthetic emeralds first became commercially available in the 1940's. This was a tremendous technological improvement over the imitations which had been substituting for emeralds for generations. The synthetic is physically, optically and chemically identical to the natural gemstone. It is the result of the scientist's attempt to duplicate nature's processes in the laboratory.

#### Jewelry fashioning

The most popular cut for emeralds is a rectangular step cut. As a matter of fact, this cut is so widely used, the cut itself is often called the emerald cut. It is preferred because it shows fine color to the best advantage.

Emeralds are used in a wide range of jewelry styles from dainty pinkie rings to the most extravagant emerald and diamond necklaces. Quality and prices vary just as much. Emeralds are popular as center stones in rings, earrings and pendants, either encircled or offset by diamonds. Small emeralds are often combined with diamonds in cluster rings or pins or set into an anniversary ring. They are sometimes carved into exciting ring stones or pendants *Used*

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

The May Board Meeting will be held at 7:00, May 21,  
at Ron Gibbs home, 1224 Willow Oaks Trail, Weddington.



### **Plan Now for a Special Gem and Mineral Club Meeting!**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 24, when we will have a special club meeting. Instead of our regular Thursday evening meeting at Discovery Place in June, Danny Jones has graciously offered his home as our meeting location. The afternoon will begin with a covered-dish dinner, and be followed by a tour of his wonderful exhibit and rock talk. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

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## **Upcoming Shows**

June 2-3, 2007, Birmingham, AL—Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 34th Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show. Tannehill Historical State Park. Hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Contact: Rick Kittinger at [rick.kittinger@bellsouth.com](mailto:rick.kittinger@bellsouth.com) or James Carr (publicity) at [james@lapidaryclub.com](mailto:james@lapidaryclub.com). Check out the website as well at [www.lapidaryclub.com](http://www.lapidaryclub.com).

July 25-28, 2007, Franklin, NC—Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. Community Facilities Building, Hwy 441S (Georgia Rd.). Hours: 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](http://www.franklin-chamber.com).

August 31- September 3, 2007, Hendersonville, NC.—Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society. Witmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Road. 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) @ 828/692-1249 or [mgt.j.ed@brinet.com](mailto:mgt.j.ed@brinet.com).

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

**Next Meeting**

**Friday, May 17  
7:30 pm  
Discovery Place**

**May  
2007**



**GOLDRUSH LEDGER**

**First Class Mail**

«First Name» «Last Name»  
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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.

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