

GOLDRUSH LEDGER

FROM THE PREZ

Jimmy Strickland

Hello all. I think it has finally gotten cool enough to go digging without breaking a sweat; I heard the folks who went to Glendon did quite well (at least those who didn't slip on the ground and end up sitting to dig!).

We have the club auction this month, so the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. to give us more time. We will start setting up at 6:30, but not before then because there will be another group there until that time. We will start the meeting with election for officers—anyone who wants to make nomination suggestions or, better yet, volunteer for a position, please give Dee a call as he is the chair for the nomination committee, or come ready to speak up at the meeting. I have already agreed to be the show chairman, so someone else needs to step up for

some of the other positions. My head may be big but only one hat is going to go on it for this year as I am getting a little toasted around the edges from the past ten years or so.

Bring any minerals or anything related that you have an excess off to the auction, and, no, the monster door knobs I have been working on will not be there because I hope to have them shipped to Philly by then.

Also, remember that it is time to renew your memberships for next year at this meeting or the holiday party (Friday, Dec. 8th, at Amity Presbyterian Church). And, contrary to rumors, the EPA has yet to ban my chili, but I will bring sour cream for the faint of tongue, and extra hot sauce for the hard core. See you in November.



Our 49th Year

November Meeting Program

It's time for our annual elections and auction. Please bring items to be auctioned and your wallet to participate!

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. this month.

The mineral for November is *petrified wood (wood opal)*.

Refreshments

Thanks to the Stricklands for providing the refreshments at the Oct. meeting. If you would be interested in providing refreshments for this month's meeting, please contact the Bulletin Editor. Expenses up to \$30 will be reimbursed by the club, with receipt. Please consider helping the club with this job. Our auction will be fun with something to munch on while we haggle over items!

Cabochon Machines

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

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

Please call to plan a visit to use a machine.

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

**2006 CGMC
Officers & Board**

President

Warren Falcone
704/855-9815

Vice President

Jimmy Strickland
704/537-6010

Secretary

open

Treasurer

HP Giger
704/365-1734

Director-at-Large

Ron Gibbs
704/846-7102

Bulletin Editor

Kim Tyler
704/454-5337

Past President

Jimmy Strickland

CLUB CHAIRPERSONS

SFMS Contact &

Stamp Chairman

open

Points Scholarships Chair

Jolene Falcone
704/855-9815

Field Trip Chairman

Harrell Suggs
704/537-5528

Geode Chairman

Jimmy Strickland

Show Chairman

Jolene Falcone

Dealer Chairman

Becky Strickland
704/537-6010

Hospitality Chairman

Barbara Veil
704/568-3930

Refreshments Chairman

open

Workshop Chairman

open

Web Master

Ron Gibbs

Librarian

Pat Walker
704/523-5261

Picnic Chairman

Jolene Falcone

Christmas Party Chairman

Pat Walker

Officer's Slate

The following individuals have agreed to serve the club as officers for 2006:

President: Devin McRorie

Directors-at-Large: Ron Gibbs

Vice President: open

open

Secretary: open

Bulletin Editor: Kim Tyler

Treasurer: Gale Blevins

The following individuals have agreed to serve the club as chairpersons for 2006:

Show Chairman: Jimmy Strickland

Points Scholarships Chairman: open

Dealer Chairman: Becky Strickland

Field Trip Chairman: open

Picnic Chairman: open

Geode Chairman: open

Club members will vote only on the officer positions at the November meeting.

Nominations are accepted from the floor. If you are interested in an officer position, please place your name on the floor at the meeting, or ask someone else to do so.

Some of the individuals listed above have served in various positions for many years, and would actually enjoy a break if another person would like to replace them!

Chairman positions are volunteer positions, and several are still available. Please consider taking on one of these jobs and becoming more active in your club.

Holiday Party, Dec. 8, Amity Presbyterian Church

Amity Presbyterian is located between Albemarle Road and Independence Blvd., on the corner of Sharon Amity Road and Peirson Road. Turn on Pierson Road 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.

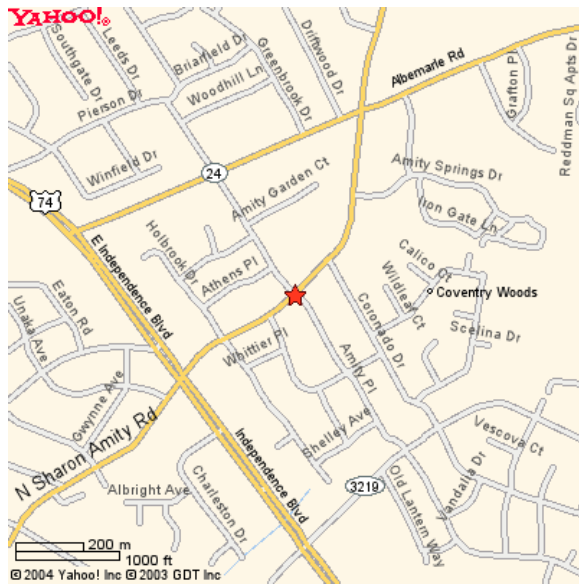
The club will provide the meat, desserts, drinks, and paper products. Everyone needs to bring a covered dish with a serving utensil.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped club-related gift. Everyone who brings a gift will be permitted to exchange a gift.

A reservation/sign-up sheet will be passed around at the November meeting. If you are planning on attending the party but cannot attend the meeting, please call Becky Strickland at 704/537-6010.

The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8th. Hope to see you there!!

Help is needed in decorating for the holiday party. Setup will occur at 1:30, Dec. 8th. Please contact Becky Strickland (704/537-6010) if you can help.



SFMS NEWS

2006 SFMS SLATE OF NOMINEES

The SFMS Nomination Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for officer elections to take place during Part 2 of the Annual SFMS Meeting in Montgomery, Alabama in December 2006:

President: Buddy Shotts
1st Vice President: Steve Heneger
2nd Vice President: Betty James
Secretary: Beryl Ferguson
Assistant Treasurer: Roger Campbell
Lodestar Editor: Carolyn Daniels
4th Vice President
AFMS: Don Monroe

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES ANNUAL MEETING (PHASE 2)

Hosted by Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society, Montgomery, Alabama
Saturday, December 2, 2006

Hotel: Drury Inn & Suites located at I-85 & Eastern Boulevard, 1124 Eastern Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama. For reservations call: 1.800.325.0720 and use the code SFMS for the rate of \$64.00 for King Bed Deluxe or \$74.00 for two Queen Beds Deluxe (the rates are for up to six people per room). Rates are valid per room, per night plus tax. Reservations must be made by November 1st for these special rates. Hotel amenities include: Free Hot! Quikstart Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, sausage, Belgian waffles, biscuits & gravy and more. Free Evening Beverages and Snacks. Free Long Distance: One Hour, Every Room, Every Night. Free High-Speed Internet Access in all rooms. Free Local Phone Calls. Free HBO, ESPN, CNN & More. Indoor/Outdoor Pool & Whirlpool. Well-Lit On-site Parking. Plus much more!! Directions to Drury Inn & Suites: Exit I-85 at Eastern Boulevard. (Motel sign can be seen from the I-85.)

There are **R.V. hookups** at Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive, the site of the Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, for \$15.00 per day. The spots are on a first-come, first serve basis, and anyone desiring a spot should go to the Coliseum office any time from 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (CST) to pay and be assigned a spot.

Directions to Coliseum from Drury Inn & Suites: Turn left on Eastern Bypass after leaving motel parking lot. Travel west approximately 4.2 miles to U.S. 231/Wetumpka exit, turn left and travel about 2.9 miles. Coliseum will be on the right side of Federal Drive (you can't miss it.)

Show Information: The 36th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show, December 1-3. Show times: Friday, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Sunday, 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Free Admission & Parking.

Meeting: The meeting will be held in the Kiwanis Room at Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive.

The Banquet: The banquet will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum auditorium and will be served buffet style. It will feature roast beef, boneless chicken breast, tossed garden salad, potatoes O'Brien, buttered green beans almonidine, bread, drink, and dessert. Reservations must be made by November 1st and should include your check made payable to the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society for \$20.00 per person and returned to P.O. Box 3273, Montgomery, Alabama 36109-0273.

Directions to Mann Museum from Drury Inn: Travel as if going to Garrett Coliseum. Instead of getting off on the Highway 231 go to Coliseum Blvd. exit. Turn left, go to Gardendale (there is a traffic light there). Turn right and go about 2 blocks to Fairground Road. Turn right again and following the road pass the Zoo on right. Look for Mann Museum sign and parking. It will be on the right hand side of the road.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Number Attending _____
Amount enclosed _____

2007 Dues

Please remember that our new year starts in December and it is now time to pay your annual dues. We require a signed copy of the membership application with your dues. The application is located on the inside back cover of this newsletter, on page 7.

Editor's Note

There is no December Newsletter. I wish you all a very happy holiday season. I look forward to many interesting articles from club members next year!

Be sure to check the club website for updated information about digs and shows.

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. Last year five workshop scholarships were awarded!

Self-Kept Score Sheets are Due!

November is the last month in 2006 that counts towards your annual scoring for scholarships and coffee mugs. Please bring your score sheet to the meeting so it may be categorized for the December holiday party drawings. Extra score sheets are printed on page 5 of this newsletter and will be available at the meeting. If you cannot attend the November meeting, please mail the score sheet to:

Kim Tyler, 5437 Somerset Lane, Harrisburg, NC 28075

One scholarship is available for each membership category ("under two years" and "over two years"). All members who have reached the threshold point total will receive a CGMC coffee mug. The threshold points are 25 points for the "under two years" members, and 30 points for those folks who have been members for more than two years.

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club Workshop Scholarship Program Points Record Sheet

Name: _____
Member Since: _____

Pts	Event	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
1	Meeting-Regular or Board													
1	Scheduled Field Trip													
1/hr	Work at Show/Event													
1	Item for Newsletter													
1	Single Meeting Substitution													
per	Contribution to Stamp Program													
2	Mint Program for Meeting													
2	Recruiting a new member													
2per	Exhibit/case @ show													
2	Attend Club Workshop													
5	Host Refreshments													
5	Arrange Field Trip (non chairman)													
5	Setup/Tear-down Show/Other													
5	Show sub-committee chairperson													
5	Original article for Newsletter													
5	Lecture to outside group													
10	Program at meeting													
10	Officer													
10	Committee Chairperson													
10	Teaching club sponsored workshop													
	Totals:													

Mark the appropriate point(s) in each month's column. The new points year starts with the Holiday Party in December and all sheets are to be turned in at the Annual Elections and Auction in November. There are two categories for the scholarships: members who have been in the club 2 years or less and those who have been in the club longer than 2 years.

Mineral of the Month



Petrified Wood



Chemistry: SiO₂; **Uses:** As a collectors' specimen; **Color:** Green, red and brown in various shades; **Hardness:** 5.5-6
Specific gravity: 2.7-3.5

Wood opal is formed by the replacement of the wood by siliceous material. Ancient forests which became immersed in water containing silicas are the basis of petrified wood. Scientist can still not adequately explain the process. The final product looks like wood but it actually is a stone. The decaying cells of the wood were replaced by the silica and, because each growth ring in any particular tree varies in hardness, decay seems to have taken place at varying rates. The replacement by the silica has been at different times with the result that the wood opal has different colors showing in the same stone. Many people are amazed when they see it.

Wood opal, or petrified wood, should really be included in the quartz group of stones, but it is not normally accepted as being a true mineral and is frequently protected as a national relic in countries where it is scarce.... Petrified wood is the result of a process called petrification (or petrification), meaning "to change into stone." The process involves mineral emplacement, in which dissolved minerals are carried by groundwater into the porous parts of buried wood (or shells or bones), where they crystallize out and settle, filling the pores. An object so impregnated with minerals is denser, heavier, and more resistant to destruction than it was originally. The term petrification is also used to designate the process in which minerals completely replace the original material, which has been slowly dissolving away. A distinction is sometimes made between these two processes, the first being referred to as permineralization, the latter being called mineralization.

During the Triassic Period, from about 225 million to 190 million years ago, two major elements of the dominant flora were the cycadophytes and the conifers. The cycadophytes were relatively small cycadlike trees, but some of the conifers grew to about 60m (220 ft) in height and 3m (10 ft) in diameter. The conifers often grew in large forests, in marshes, and in other very humid habitats. Many of these wetlands had previously been shallow seas, and at the end of the Triassic the shallow seas returned and submerged the forests. The drifting logs or upright stumps of the forest remains were eventually buried in volcanic ash or other sediments, and the process of permineralization began. The waters penetrating the sediments were rich in mineral salts, which reacted with the plant matter inside the cell walls of the trees. The most common of these minerals were silica, occurring as quartz, of which chalcedony and jasper were part; calcium carbonate, occurring as calcite; pyrite and dolomite; and iron and magnesium oxides, which give petrified wood colors of red, yellow, and orange. As the mineral salts penetrated into the cells and started to crystallize, they usually left the cell walls almost completely intact. Thus petrified wood, although of rocklike density and weight, consists of both organic (1% to 15%) and mineral matter.

Complete crystallization of the cell cavities was a very rapid and extremely efficient process that left fossils so well preserved, with such excellent clarity and transparency, that they can be studied through a microscope in the same manner as recent biological material. Eventually, the shallow seas once more withdrew, leaving great depths of sediment behind. Erosion by wind, rain, and other agents began and eventually exposed the petrified trees....

A petrified log may look like a wooden log, complete with growth rings and bark. But touch it, and you'll realize the log is really a model of the original cast in solid rock. The colors may be very different, too—how often does an ordinary log have patches of orange and red, or glitter like rhinestones? And just try lifting a petrified log; even a smallish one has the weight of a concrete garden ornament.

A chunk of petrified or "permineralized" wood is a fossil, like a dinosaur bone or the imprint of an ancient fern leaf in rock. Most wood ends up decaying and disintegrating over time, or burned up, or digested by insects, bacteria or larger animals. Wood that becomes petrified escapes this fate by being quickly buried—say, in a catastrophic mud slide or in volcanic lava or ash flow—which preserves it in an oxygen-free environment. Then, when some mineral-rich water percolates through the muck, the statue-making process begins. Over time, the buried log's cellulose cells lose their fluids, while water from outside seeps into cracks, between cells and into empty cells. As the water evaporates over time, it leaves minerals like silica or calcite or marcasite behind. Gradually, the tree's structure fills with minerals. And as the minerals harden over the centuries, the original log is replaced, cell by cell, by a stone replica.

Petrified wood comes in a rainbow of colors, reflecting the minerals that made it. So a calcified log will be white (unless it's exposed to the browning effects of sunlight). Impurities in the invading mineral influence the color, making no log exactly alike. Iron adds reds and yellows; manganese and copper may create blue or green patches. Crystals of quartz and other minerals make petrified wood glitter.

Because wood is sometimes set in stone, bearing many of its original markings and rings, we get glimpses of what the landscape and climate were like millions of years ago. The many petrified logs found in South Dakota include several species of palm tree, revealing a semitropical past for this now chilly state.

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

Upcoming Shows

November 10-12, 2006, Pascagoula, MS—Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. 17th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours 10 a.m.—6 p.m. Contact: John M. Wright, 228.875.9192 or osjw@datasync.com.

November 11-13, 2005, Louisville, KY—Kyana Geological Society. 34th Annual Show. Executive Inn, 978 Philip Lane and I-264 at the Fairgrounds Exit. Hours: 11th-12th, 10 a.m.—7 p.m.; 13th, 10 a.m.—6 p.m. Show and Dealer Contact: Charles Oldham at 502.241.8755.

November 17-19, 2006, Marietta, GA—Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society. 21st Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Cobb Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway. Hours: 17th & 18th, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.; and 19th, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Contact: Mary Ingram at 770.427.1108, www.cobbcountymineral.org/event.html or mimgram@mindspring.com.

December 11-12, 2006, Deland, FL—Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society (of the Greater Daytona Beach & Holly Hill, Florida Area). Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Arena, State Rd. 44 (one mile east of I-4 Exist 118). Hours: 11th, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.; 12th, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Contact: Pollyan Darling @ 386.428.7696 or gemdarlings@cfl.rr.com. Website: www.tomokagemmineralsociety.com.

February 24-25, 2007, Jackson, MS—Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. Trade Mart Building, StateFairgrounds, I-55 and High Street. Hours: 24th, 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. and 25th, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Contact: Betty James at 601.914.6747 or mineralid@jam.rr.com.

March 9-11, 2007, Augusta, GA—Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society and the Augusta Gem and Mineral Society. 19th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street. Contact: Shellie T. Newell at 305 Fairway Drive, Graniteville, SC 29829; aa.gmfs@earthlink.net; or www.homestead.com/aikengms.

Information from the *Lodestar*, 10/06

Mail to: CGMC PO Box 10233 Charlotte, NC 28212	Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club 2007 Membership Application	New Membership (____) Renewal (____)
Name: _____ Phone: _____		
Address: _____		
City, State, Zip _____		
Email Address: _____ Check # _____ Cash (____)		
Membership Type: Individual \$15.00 (____) Family \$20.00 (____)		
Family Members and Ages (please include birthday months): _____ _____		
Interests: _____		
I/we agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of Membership.		
Signature _____ Date _____		

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

Next Meeting
Thursday, November 16
7 p.m.
Discovery Place

November
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>