

GOLDRUSH LEDGER

FROM THE VP

Jimmy Strickland



OK, folks, summer is over--more of us should be back in town for the meetings. We had a very good geode-selling weekend at Matthews Alive; we have pictures of some of the big ones. "Thank You" to all who helped at this event, whether selling, cutting, or wrapping geodes, or getting the geodes, saws, and booth set up, taken down, cleaned (big fun), and then back to the trailer. We didn't have to haul nearly as many geodes back as we had hauled out there! We will face a problem in the future with this scholarship fundraiser as the price we are paying for geodes is going up like the price of gasoline. Previously, we bought geodes by the hundred-pound bag; now geodes are priced individually, and there are fewer smaller ones to purchase.

I will be doing the program this month using material from the collection Becky and I have been working on at Discovery Place. The program will be called "Rocks you don't want to lick or carry around in your pocket." Several of these specimens are from North and South Carolina; you might even find them on a dig. I will cover some of the ones like gummite and other glow-in-the-dark types from the Spruce Pine area. There will be a Geiger counter and UV lights for show-and-tell. If you have questions about some of your samples, bring them to the meeting and we can check them out.

We will have our auction in November, so start planning to bring in items that you have more of than you need but that someone else might like.

See you all at the meeting.

Our 49th Year

September Meeting Program

"Rocks you don't want to lick or carry around in your pocket."

The mineral for this month is *diamond*.



Annual Club Picnic

Mark your calendar now for
Saturday, September 16, 2006, from 10 a.m.—8 p.m.
for the Annual Club Picnic
At Dan Nichols Park, Building 14,
in Salisbury, NC

*Please contact Kim Tyler at 704/454-5337
or bbck4@yahoo.com
if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!*

More information on page 7.

**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

Refreshments

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 social time is much more fun with something to munch on!

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.

Thanks!!!

A big "Thank You" to the folks who worked at the geode booth during a very busy weekend at Matthews Alive:

Tom Blevins
Gale Blevins
Mary Fisher
Danny Jones
Jason Nolan
Faith Powell
Jennifer Powell
Dee Rittenhour
Pat Rittenhour
Jimmy Strickland
Becky Strickland
Harrell Suggs
Kim Tyler
Pat Walker

My apologies if I overlooked anyone. Your help was definitely appreciated!.

—Kim Tyler

Upcoming Shows

September 8-10, 2006, Winston-Salem, NC—Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club. 35th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show and Sale. Educational Building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. Hours: 8th and 9th, 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.; 10th, 12 Noon - 6:00 P.M. Website: www.forsythgemclub.com.

September 23-24, 2006, Hiddenite, NC—Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society. 18th Annual Hiddenite Gem & Mineral Show. Hiddenite Educational Complex, Sulpher Springs Road. Hours: 23rd, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 24th, 12 Noon - 6:00 P.M. Contact: Patty Arnold at 828.465.2769.

September 30-October 1, 2006, Lexington, KY—Rockhounds of Central Kentucky. 16th Annual Show. National Guard Armory, Airport Road. Hours: September 30th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; October 1st: 12:00 Noon—5:00 P.M. Contact : Bekki Miracle, 502.868.0258.

November 4-5, 2006, Ft. Pierce, FL—St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Club. Rock and Gem Show. St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, Midway Road. Hours: 4th & 5th, 10:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. Contacts: Dealer Chairman, Dennis Ponte at 772.288.3296 or dennisponte@msn.com and Show Chairman, Norm Holbert at 772.873.0787 or normholbert@bellsouth.net.

Upcoming Field Trips

Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig

October 6-8

8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Junior Norman has confirmed that the mine has changed hands but will still be open to collecting under his management. A new release form will be used at the site. There is collecting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. All attendees must stop at the welcome table to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to help with the cost of providing porta-johns and golf carts. Everyone must be off the mountain by 6:00 p.m. each day. There will be an area in the parking lot for vendors to sell and trade minerals. If you would like to set up a booth, contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food/cold drinks will be available for purchase.

THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL CLUBS and ROCKHOUNDS

Contact : Junior Norman - 706-359-3862 or 706-359-2381

DIRECTIONS: From Washington, Ga., drive 11 miles on SR-378, or from the Hardee's in Lincolnton, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR- 378. Look for a sign at the entrance on the south side of the road.

Motels and Camping: Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Georgia, 706-359-6161. Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-3124. Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275

--adapted from *Hound's Howl*, Summer 2006, Aiken GMFS; originally from *Cotton Indian Gems*, Sept. 2006

Upcoming Field Trips (cont.)

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of Henderson County
Gem & Mineral Society, Hendersonville, NC (Host)
An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club
8:30 a.m. EST
Saturday, August 19, 2006
Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville
Abbeville County, South Carolina**

The Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society would like to extend an invitation to rockhound one of the premier quartz collecting localities in the southeast. The Diamond Hill Mine has been producing skeletal, amethyst and smoky quartz crystals as well as quartz scepters and an assortment of pegmatite minerals for many years. This year saw a lot of digging with a power shovel. Come join us!

Assembly Point: Diamond Hill Mine

Directions: The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville in northeastern South Carolina.

From the north: Exit I-85 at US 178 at Anderson, SC (exit # 21). Drive south on US 178 for approx. 1 mile and then bear right onto SR 28. Follow SR 28 south approx. 20 miles to Antreville. Upon entering Antreville you will see Crawford's Store on the left. Drive past the store and then watch on the right for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn right at the church onto SR 284. Drive west on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

From the south: Exit I-20 at US 221 (exit # 183) just east of Augusta, Georgia. Drive north on US 221 to McCormick, SC. In McCormick, turn north onto SR 28. Continue north on SR 28 toward Antreville (approx. 50 miles). About 2 miles south of Antreville, SR 184 enters SR 28 from the left (west). When you pass SR 184, start watching carefully on the left for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn left at the church onto SR 284. Drive west on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

Fees: Adults = \$15/day Children under 16 year of age = \$5/day
Also, upon arrival, each participant will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

Other Essentials: Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, hat, sunscreen, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of cloths if it is going to be a rainy or wet day. Please be prepared for hot and humid conditions at the mine during this time of year.

Trip Chairman:

Steve Kiser, HCGMS

johnkiser@citcom.net 828-885-2952

"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!"

Upcoming Field Trips (cont.)

Moorefield Mine, Ligon Mine Amelia County Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2006 Official MAGMA Fieldtrip

On Saturday, September 30th, we will be taking a field trip to two Virginia mines located in Amelia County. Participants may stay a whole day at either mine, or a half day at both. The Moorefield Mine is a pegmatite mine located in Winterham, VA. Of significant mention for the quality of amazonite, the Moorefield mine offers the opportunity to collect many minerals in one location, including some rare specimens. Well-formed large crystals are rare within the dumps, but micro-crystals are abundant. Known minerals are as follows: albite var.; cleavelandite; albite-anorthite series var.; labradorite; allanite; almandine; andradite; apatite; bermanite; bertrandite; beryl var.; aquamarine var.; goshenite; biotite; bismutite; brockite; calcite; cassiterite; cerussite; chalcedony var.; agate; chalcocopyrite; chiolite; chrysoberyl; columbite; cryolite; elpasolite; euclase; euxenite-(Y); ferrocolumbite; ferrohornblende; fluellite; fluorite var.; chlorophane; galena; garksutite; goyazite; helvite; hollandite; illite var.; leverrierite; ilmenite; kaolinite; lead; lindberghite; manganotantalite; masutomilite; microlite; molybdenite; monazite; moonstone; muscovite; orthoclase; pachnolite; phenakite; phlogopite; phosphophyllite; phosphosiderite; phosphuranylite; prosopite; pyrite; pyrolusite; pyromorphite; quartz var.; blue quartz, var.; rock crystal, var.; smoky quartz; ralstonite; rutile; samarskite-(Y); schorl; sericite; spessartine; spodumene; strengite; sussexite; tantalite; thomsenolite; titanite; topaz; tourmaline group; triplite; weddellite; zinnwaldite; zircon.

Directions from Richmond, VA, area:

Take Rt. 360 West. Upon crossing the Amelia County line, travel 4.8 miles to Rt. 628 (Butlers Farm Rd). Make a left on Rt. 628. Travel 0.9 miles, the mine is on your left. There are signs directing you from Rt. 360. The mine is open from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Once you have parked, please head to the store before heading down the grade to your right to the dumps. You will need to sign in and pay a \$10 fee, for first time visitors there will be an informative speech on the minerals and rules of the mine.

Materials needed: Shovels, screens, and buckets are provided on-site, but feel free to bring your own. For collecting micro-minerals, bring a fine screen. You will need a buckets/containers to transport your finds home with. Chisel and hammer are not needed, as there is no breaking of rock allowed within the dumps. Please stay within the designated dump area. Do not cross/dig into an area marked off by yellow tape.

The Ligon Mine is a pegmatite mine located in Chula, VA. At this location, you may screen for gemmy rhodonite garnets in the creek, or collect beryl, schorl, monazite, asteriated quartz, and rose quartz from the cow pasture.

Directions from Richmond, VA, area:

Take Rt. 360 West to Rt. 604 (Chula Rd.). Take a right, travel north approximately 4 miles to make a left onto Rt. 616 (Genito Rd.). Go about 1 to 2 miles and make a right onto Archers Creek Lane. Go about 1.3 miles to "End State Maintenance" sign and turn left onto a gravel driveway. Drive up to the house on the left. Please sign in at the house and pay a \$10 fee. The owners require everyone to wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, a hat, and sturdy shoes. Please assume that all electric fences are live.

Materials needed: Screen, shovel, buckets, chisel, hammer

We will be camping overnight at Amelia Family campground, located just off of Rt. 360. It is east of the Moorefield. Take Rt. 360 to Rt. 153 south, the campground is not a mile off of Rt. 360 on the right. It is \$20 a night to camp. Their phone number is (804)561-3011.

Sunday, Oct 1st, we will be leaving from the campground for a 45 minute trip to Mineral, VA. Tom Leary will be taking us to a couple of locations he has found for spectacular almandine garnets. We will be in the gold/pyrite belt in a known gold-producing creek; you may find gold and other accessory minerals. There is no fee for this dig.

Materials: Screen, shovel, buckets, chisel, hammer, gold pan

For more info, contact Cathy Clouser at Catann@gmail.com

Upcoming Field Trips (cont.)

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the
Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society (Host)
An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club
8:30 a.m. EST
Saturday, October 14, 2006
Kingston, TN**

We will be collecting the cephalon (head) and pygidium (tail) of the Cambrian trilobite *Blountia* sp. from the Conasauga Shale formation. They will range in size from 1mm to 25 mm. On rare occasions, a complete specimen will be found. For the trilobite collector this will be an opportunity to add a rare specimen to your collection.

Tools: At a minimum, bring a rock hammer, newspaper (to wrap specimens), and a beer flat or similar item (to hold specimens)

Hazards: Some climbing on loose slippery shale may be involved. This will not be a good trip for small children, but teenagers will probably do OK.

Directions: Take exit 350 off of I-40 east or west bound (approximately 40 mile west of Knoxville, TN). You will be able to see a Lowes and Kroger's as soon as you exit. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Lowes / Kroger's Shopping Center on Highway 70. Park near the SFMS sign. We will convoy to the site at 8:30 a.m. If you arrive late wait, for someone to return for another group at 30-45 minute intervals until approximately 10:00 am.

Essentials/Accommodations: There are several eateries and motels one exit before 350 and one exit after 350. All are within 6 mile of the collecting site.

Contact: If you have any questions or would like to see photos of specimens, please contact:
Danny Griffin, (865) 406-8802, or GCJINC@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!"

**Tennessee Valley Rocks & Mineral Club
1995 SFMS President
Vi Hicks
1923-2006**



Mabel Vivian Hand "Vi" Hicks, of Chattanooga, died on Monday, August 28, 2006, at her home.

Born on May 6, 1923, she was a native of Laurence County, TN. Mrs. Hicks lived in Hixson for many years and was retired from DuPont. She was a charter member and past president of the Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Club.

She taught jewelry making at the William Holland School for Lapidary Arts for several years. As part of this hobby, she served as president of the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies and as vice president of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

She was a long-time member of Burks United Methodist Church, where she was a member of the Eldridge Class.

Mrs. Hicks is survived by her husband, William TO. Hicks; a sister, Ann Hand Hensley, of Manchester, TN; a daughter and son-in-law, Diane Hicks Walker and Randall WE. Walker, of Chattanooga; sisters-in-law, Marjorie Hicks Barnett, of Denver, CO, and Virginia Hicks, of Denton, TX; and several nieces and nephews.

Source: Chattanooga.com August 28, 2006



Annual Club Picnic

Mark your calendar now for
Saturday, September 16, 2006,
from 10 a.m.—8 p.m.,
for the Annual Club Picnic
at Dan Nichols Park, Building 14,
in Salisbury, NC

The Club will be providing chicken and paper goods; members are asked to bring a covered side dish or dessert (or both!). Lunch will be served about 1:30-2:00. The shelter is rented until 8:00 p.m., and you are welcome to stay as long as you'd like. Non-perishable leftovers will be available for snacking, but you will need to bring your own (second) meal if your family would like to stay and enjoy the park all afternoon. Don't forget to bring your tailgating items!

There will be a competition for the Junior members—best find from the flume, \$10 bucket limit.

There are other group and family-oriented things to do at Dan Nichols Park, including train and carousel rides, paddle boats, fishing, putt-putt golf, a petting barn, and a large playground for the kids. While some of these items are not free, the fees are reasonable.

Getting there is pretty easy:

- Take I-85N to exit 76A
- Take a right from exit ramp onto West Innes St.
- Take a left at light onto Stokes Ferry Rd.
- In approximately 8 miles, take a left onto Providence Church Rd. (There is a sign here noting direction to the park.)
- Take a right on Bringle Ferry Rd. (again, follow sign to park)
- The park entrance is a few hundred yards down on the left. Our pavilion will be marked with signs.

*Please contact Kim Tyler at 704/454-5337 or bbck4@yahoo.com
if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!*

Mineral of the Month



diamond

Chemistry: C, carbon

Uses: gemstone, and as an abrasive in cutting wheels

Color: yellows, light blues, white, colorless, black, greenish, and even reddish

Hardness: 10

Specific gravity: 3.5

Streak: white

Crystals: isometric forms such as cubes and octahedrons

Accompanied by: often found in a conglomerate like kimberlite

Similar to: cubic zirconia when faceted

Diamond melts at 3820 degrees centigrade and is formed under enormous pressure and heat. It is four times harder than the nearest stone to it, which is the corundum. Diamond and graphite share the same chemical formula, C. They are polymorphs of one another. The diamond has always been regarded as the king of the gemstones. It has a very high luster and the supply has been controlled by a consortium called De Beers. This has led to the diamond retaining its high prices over the years. Diamond is the ultimate abrasive and is used to cut and drill a variety of material.

The history of diamonds in South Africa

Way back in 1867, a young boy picked up a shiny stone in the vicinity of Hopetown, close to the Orange River. A neighbor saw the stone and took it over from Daniel Jacobs. He then gave it to a dealer with the name of John O'Reilly who sold it to the Governor of the Cape for a sum of \$150. This diamond weighed 21.75 carats. This led to several prospecting trips by Dr Atherstone and others for the source of the diamonds. It took two years for the second big stone to be found. This one weighed 82.5 carats and was named the Star of South Africa. This diamond was bought for 500 sheep, a horse, and 10 bulls from a local Griekwa. It was then sold for a huge sum of \$6500, also to the Governor. This gave rise to the first diamond rush. Everybody rushed off to the interior to go and find their fortune. In 1870, almost 50,000 people joined this diamond rush. They looked for diamonds next to the riverbeds.

But in the autumn of 1870, a boer with the name of De Klerk discovered a diamond of 50 carats in a rock that was later to be named kimberlite, after Lord Kimberley. So everybody started looking for the garnet, ilmenite, and chromediopside soil that makes up the kimberlite. This led to the discovery of several kimberlite pipes, of which the most famous one was at the town of Kimberley.

At first the diamonds were mined by individuals with small claims of 9.1 x 9.1 meters. They were working at different tempos and this resulted in undercutting and claims collapsing and people getting injured. Rhodes and Barnaby saw the problems and, through their amalgamation, the company De Beers came about. This gave rise to an industry that was able, through its clever marketing, to keep the diamond market stable worldwide.

Diamonds were then discovered in the Namib and this gave rise to the Spergebied in Namibia. A huge area is inaccessible to all because of the fact that diamonds have been found there. Stories of smuggling from this area abound.

Alluvial diamonds have also been found near Lichtenburg and Ventersdorp, and, in 1927, as many as 140,000 people were working the claims there and over R 9.9 million Rands worth of diamonds were retrieved that year. Oversupply and the depression of 1932-1933 stifled this mining operation.

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

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

Next Meeting
Thursday, September 21
7:30 p.m.
Discovery Place

September
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>