

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club
December 2008

The Prez Sez ...

It has been my honor to serve as club president this year and I want to take a moment to thank all of the officers and board of directors who helped my job go so easily.

We all owe our newsletter editor, Ron Gibbs a big thanks for bringing our monthly newsletter and website to be one of the best of any rock and mineral club anywhere!

I would also like to thank all of our volunteers who worked so hard cleaning, painting and donating materials to get our clubhouse up and working.

Speaking of the clubhouse, I had a very rewarding day this past Saturday when Mary Fisher brought her junior rockhounds to see how a cabochon is cut and polished.

At the end of the demonstrations each kid got to pick a pre-made cabochon onto which Murray Simon then glued a bail on it so that the kid could present a family member with a special gift.

Our club had many interesting and qualified scholarship applications and our board of directors is awarding three five hundred dol-

lar scholarships this year, now to be known as the James Strickland scholarship.

And speaking of old James, I am pleased to announce that I just received the certificate from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies naming Jimmy as Rockhound of the Year for our club. This will be presented at our Christmas Party next Friday night.

There is no regular meeting or program at the Christmas party, just good food, good fellowship as well as introducing the three scholarship winners to our club.

The club furnishes ham and turkey drinks and deserts and our members are encouraged to bring a side dish such as veggies, casseroles and the like.

I am happy to report that our annual auction was one of our most successful ever with some of our members going home with some real rock treasures.

I wish for you and your families the happiest of holiday seasons and for a very happy and rock filled new year!

yours ...

Jack King, President, Charlotte-Gem and Mineral Club

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2008 CGMC Officers & Board

President

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open

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Past President

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CLUB CHAIRPERSONS **SFMS Contact & StampChair**

Pat Walker

Points Scholarship Chair

open

Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

Show Chair

Murray Simon

Dealer Chair

open

Hospitality Chair

open

Refreshments Chair

open

Workshop Chair

open

WebMaster

Ron Gibbs

Librarian

Pat Walker

Picnic Chair

open

Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

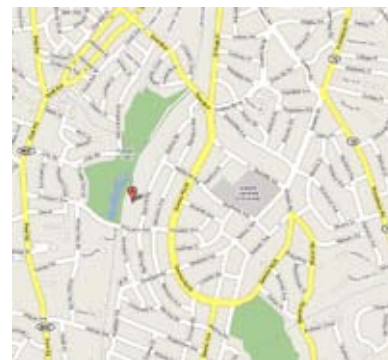
Recognize this place?

If not, you will soon. It's the new home of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club. With expansion and building modification in progress at Discovery Place, we needed to find a new place meet.



Located near Freedom Park, it has a central location and resides at:

**1658 Sterling Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 372-6261**



The first meeting will be in January, and we will maintain the same day and time.

Our first meeting will be the third Thursday of January, the 15th, at 7:00 pm. The January newsletter will announce the meeting topic.

No February Newsletter - 2009

by ron gibbs

Your newsletter editor will be on the road in late January and early February, making what has become his yearly trek out west.

He is driving first to Quartzsite, Arizona to attend the Desert Garden rock and gem show (kind of a giant tail-gate event) with hundreds of dealers from all over the world.

This show flows into the Quartzsite Pow Wow show which has about 400 dealers in RV's, tents, and booths, congregating around a central structure. This show is put on by the QIA (Quartzsite Improvement Association.)

During the winter months, the town of Quartzsite (about 1900 people) swells to many tens of thousands, living in RV's and camping in the

area. They have the largest Rock and Gem club in the United States that resides there for the winter months. It is made up of those who migrate there yearly. There is a large permanent club house with cabbng machines, saws, and even a room of faceting machines.

More than a million people will visit Quartzsite in a given year to attend the Rock and Gem Shows and the RV shows held both concurrently and sequentially for nearly two months.

The Pow Wow show began around 1967 with about 40 vendors. Today's cap of 400 vendors has been put in place due to space limitations.

(continued on last page ...)

Christmas Party - Friday, December 12th

When: Friday, December 12th
Where: Amity Presbyterian Church
Time: 7:00 pm
Address: 2831 N. Sharon Amity Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28205

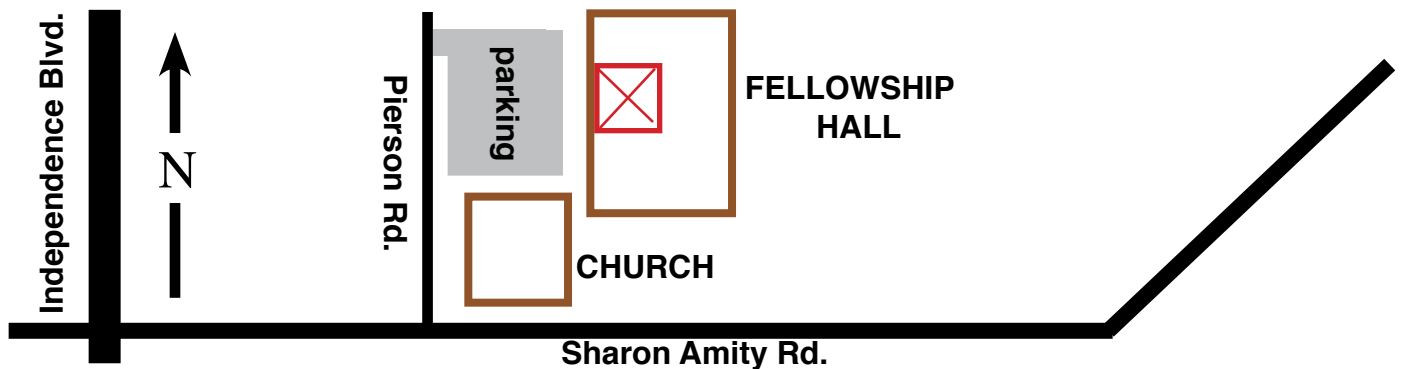
Amity Presbyterian is located between Albemarle Road and Independence Blvd., on the corner of Sharon Amity Rd. and Pierson Rd. Turn on Pierson Rd. and go to the back of the church to park. The fellowship hall is in the long wing of the church bordering the north side of the parking lot. (Map below)

The Club will be providing meat, drinks, and paper products. Please bring a vegetable, dessert, or salad dish to pass, along with serving utensils.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring one or two wrapped gifts, connected to our hobby. Everyone who brings a gift will be permitted to exchange a gift on the table.

The scholarships for the UNC Geology students will be announced, as well as well as next years club scholarships for Wild Acres or William Holland lapidary schools.

If you are planning on attending the party and haven't RSVP'ed yet, please call Pat Walker, 704 523-5261. (If you would like to help with table setup and decoration please show up at the church at 1:30 pm on Friday, this usually takes about an hour.)



Fossilized Materials by ron gibbs

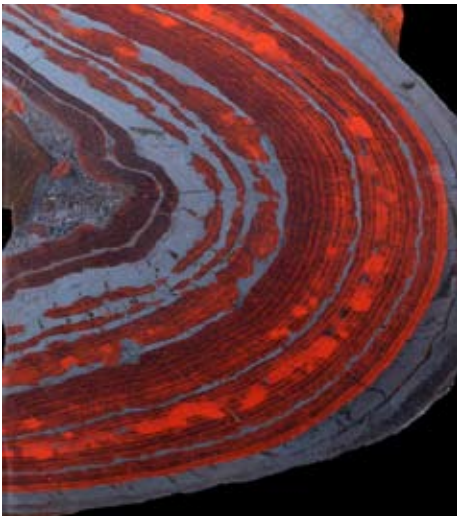


Fossil wood with grain pattern and knot

Fossilized materials (also known as “petrified” in some circles) are formed when previous living material is replaced molecule for molecule with silica. For this process to be successful the original material must be protected from normal oxidation and destruction by bacteria early in the process.

Typically a living material dies and is buried under sufficient sand, soil or even water to protect its structure until it dehydrates. After the drying process the open cells in the material are filled in with chalcedony, sometimes in the form of small agates (see dinosaur bone). Once the cells have been filled in, the remaining non-silica areas define the original cell structure. This is then filled in over time with more silica.

The colors in fossilized material come from the replacement silica solution and secondary metals dissolved within. Reds, oranges, and yellows come mainly from iron, black from iron or manganese, and green from iron, copper or chromium.



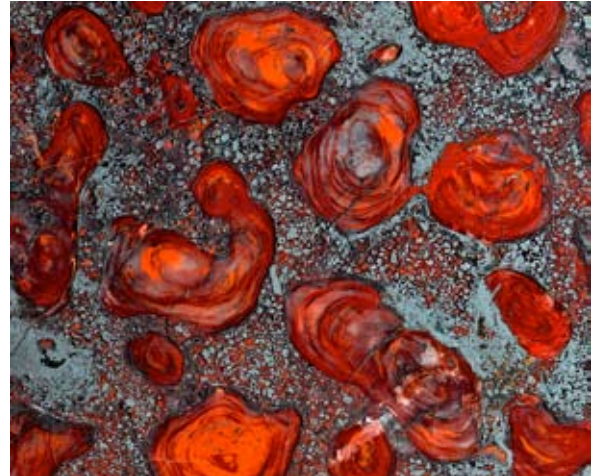
BIF - banded iron formation

The best known material is likely fossilized wood, and it comes in a variety of types. The interior of the wood is often preserved showing the ring structures, as well as bark, knots, feathers and other features. Fossilized pine cones are even known.

One of the oldest fossilized materials on earth is known as BIF (Banded Iron Formation) and is found on every continent. Although not a fossil itself, it was caused by ancient bacteria in the early oceans that were responsible for the first free oxygen. The oxygen caused hematite and magnetite to precipitate from the early seas. It was a cyclic process with alternating layers of metal oxides and red jasper being precipitated. Due to its extreme age much of it has seen secondary tectonic processes that folded and contorted the original layers. It is considered to be about 220 - 230 million year old. (myo)



Mary Ellen Jasper - fossilized stromatolite



Mary Ellen Jasper - fossilized stromatolite

Another fossilized material related to bacteria is fossilized stromatolite. Stromatolites are likely the same bacteria that produced the BIF formations. They grew in colonies in ancient oceans, and they still exist today along the shore of parts of Australia. In the United States their fossilized remains are found in Minnesota and are called Mary Ellen Jasper.

Another interesting material is called Gary Green Jasper (aka Larsonite), and is thought to be fossilized swamp bog. In general it's made up of swirling patterns and layers. Although it's often green in color the green is from replacement minerals and not the original bog.

Fossilized dinosaur bone is popular with most lapidary artists. It is found in great abundance in Utah, and Colorado. It's no longer available for collection due to some poorly crafted legislation.

Fossilized ancient fern is also found and much of it comes from Brazil and South America. It often preserves the interior detailed structure of the fern and makes really interesting patterns.

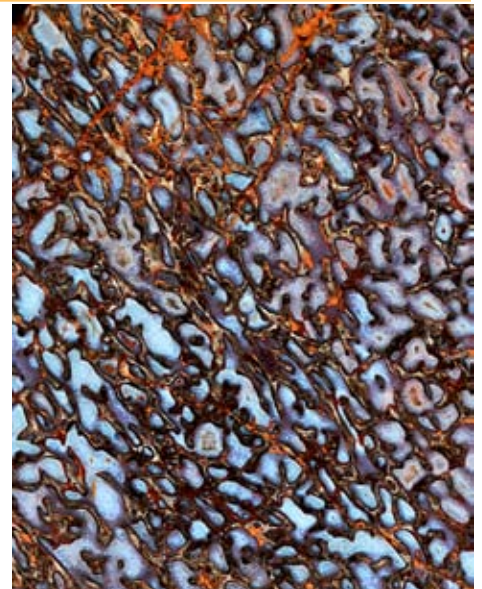
Coral can be fossilized and can be found all over the world. The example shown here is from Indonesia.



Coprolite

We'll finish with fossilized dinosaur %\$&#@%^, you know what it is, it's called coprolite. If you don't know then it's your homework assignment, look it up on the WEB.

Fossils provide a wide variety of patterns for lapidary work.



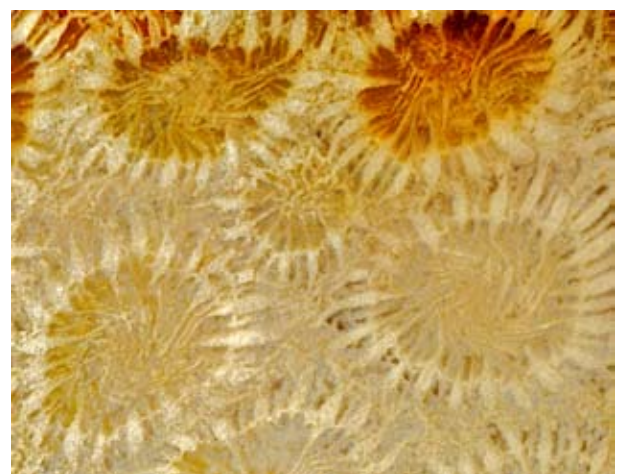
Fossil dinosaur bone



Fossil fern stalk



Gary Green Jasper - fossilized swamp bog



Fossilized Coral

November Meeting - Auction

All that came was equal to all that went!

by ron gibbs

The November meeting was our annual fund raising auction. Materials were donated from many parts of the world. Most everyone who attended managed to take a few items home, and few even managed to take box loads home!

Goodies (that's eats to those who don't know) were provided by Linda and Murray Simon, and even a few eatable treats were auctioned.

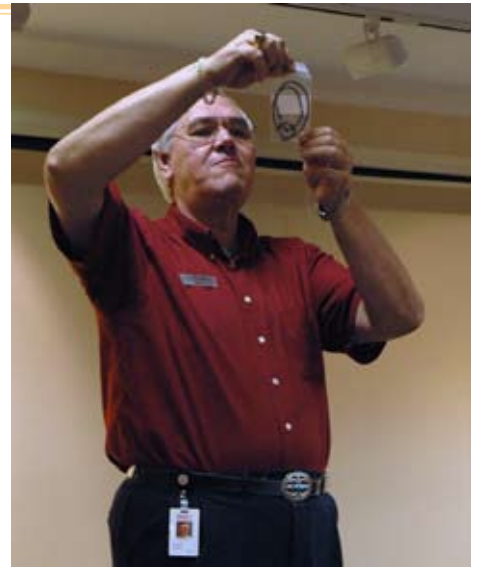
The club raised several hundred dollars that will be used for other club events, including the club house, meeting room rental, WEB site rent, printed documentation, and other necessary club materials.

The money is also used to provide the club scholarships to Wild Acres and William Holland lapidary schools. These scholarships are earned by providing service to the club during the year.

Points are earned by donating your time and energy to various club events or helping out with club functions. Points can be earned as easily as just showing up to monthly meetings!

The point sheets (available from the WEB site) are turned in at the November meeting each year. From these sheets the lucky winners are drawn at random. Usually two each year. If you won a scholarship in the previous year you are not eligible for the next. They are worth a little over \$300 to the recipient.

The sheets are currently turned in to Linda Simon.



Danny Jones, auctioneer extraordinaire, had the job of figuring out what it was, and then trying to auction it!



Sometimes Danny just said, "I don't know, just bid on the pretty rocks!" or "You have a look! And now get back in place and bid!"



Murray Simon, our Vice President, tries to explain to the crowd the fine art of "auction gesturing" ... or maybe it was something else ... I forget



Some people left with more than others.

Scholarship Winners Selected at December Board Meeting

by ron gibbs

The December board meeting was hosted by Pat Walker, and it was time to select both the UNC student scholarship winners, and the club scholarship winners from those who turned in point sheets.

Gale Blevins, Club Treasurer and our UNC contact, brought us a slew of scholarship applications, and the members present read through them and selected this years winners. Three scholarships will be awarded this year and the recipients will be announced at the Club Christmas party.

The club point sheets were carefully folded up by Linda Simon, and in a spirited game of “guess which hand,” the two winners and runner-ups were truly randomly selected. They will also be announced at the club Christmas Party.

Murray Simon recommended raising dues to \$10,000 per year to help with the various Washington bail-out programs, but that was voted down narrowly, about 10 to 1. So dues will remain unchanged for next year.

Murray made several other interesting, and equally useful recommendations during the meeting, but they were all voted down about 10 to 1. Later it was pointed out that Murray had purchased the radioactive box of rocks from Jimmy at the auction, and this may have had something to do with his “festive suggestions.”



Jimmy carried in a box of “lightly radioactive” minerals for the auction, and they were sold to Murray Simon. Low light photos may have revealed a bit more radiation than was originally disclosed!

Dues Due!

Club dues are once again due. The family membership costs \$25 and the individual membership is \$20.

We ask that a membership form also be filled in so we can update our member information and keep it current. (addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails sometimes change.)

The dues are used to pay the room fee for our monthly meeting, the WEB site monthly fees, postage, and printing costs for club brochures, business cards, notices, etc.

The scholarships are paid from our extra activities like the geode sale at Matthews Live and our November auction.



Officers Due!

A slate of officers was proposed at the November meeting and it requires a yeah or neigh vote at the December Meeting (Holiday Party).

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor before any vote is taken. Anyone wishing to run for any office is most welcome. We could also use some volunteers for chairmanship positions.

Remember the club is run by its members and volunteers.





November - Jr. Rockhounds Pan for Gold

The Rockhound Jr. group struck gold at the Cotton Patch Gold mine in November. The weather was great and everyone had a good time.

Please bring your **stamps** to Pat Walker at the club Picnic this month as she wants to turn them in soon.

Thanks!



No February Newsletter - 2009

Continued

The Pow Wow runs from January 21st to January 25th. The last week of January is kind of a down time for Rock and Gem people at Quartzsite as they prepare for the move to Tucson, and the GIANT Tucson Gem and Mineral Show(S).

Tucson, Arizona. The 2009 Tucson show schedule begins on February 1st this year. The main body of the show will run from Feb 1 to Feb. 14th. There are at least 45 shows during this time, and Tucson will have both vendors and visitors from all around the world.

If you need to find a tool, a rock, a mineral, a special bead, a fossil, or just about anything else related to

the gem, mineral, fossil or jewelry industry it will be in Tucson.

All of the major downtown hotels, and many of the motels host shows, both retail and wholesale. Rio Grande jewelry supply takes over the Hilton Hotel for their "Catalog in Motion" and offers hands on demonstrations of their tools and multi-day classes.

There are complete shows dedicated to single topics, fossil shows, mineral shows, and gemstone shows. A retail tax license will get you into most but not all of the wholesale shows. The retail shows are open to everyone.

The Electric Park Show houses a multitude of tool dealers where you can try out faceting machines, and get first hand demos of nearly all the tool lines. For the past couple of years they have sponsored a tool show and learning center.

So if you are in immediate need of a 100 lb iron meteorite, a full sized dinosaur skeleton, a 10 ct. diamond, or just a pound-sized gold nugget, then Tucson in February is where you'll want to be.

I'm staying for 9 days this year, about enough time to see 60% of it!

So I won't be here to put out a February newsletter - so you're on your own!