

# GOLDRUSH LEDGER



CHARLOTTE GEM & MINERAL CLUB  
JUNE 2010

## *the Prez Sez ...*

I have never been so proud of our club and its dedicated members as I was at our June 5th event in conjunction with Charlotte Nature Museum. We occupied the entire museum and it was first class all the way.

We demonstrated to our Charlotte community that attended the many facets of what we do from collecting rocks, minerals and fossils to wire wrapping and silversmithing jewelry, faceting, cabochons, photography, top quality exhibits of our members' collections, junior rockhound programs, and out back had a professional sluice line set up and a saw cutting geodes.

I heard more that one say comments like: "I had no idea this club did all of these many different things..." To my favorite one of all that I heard from a young mother bringing two children in from the deck where they had just mined for two bags of treasures. She said to her husband: "THIS IS THE BEST FAMILY WEEKEND WE HAVE HAD ALL YEAR!"

I cannot thank those that worked so hard enough. The total package that we presented was quality all the way.

Next, I want to tell you about our SATURDAY, JUNE 19th field trip to the Cotton Patch Gold mine. Members get 15% off any activity.

Or, you can just go, picnic under a big old oak tree and watch others pan for gold. I went there with the Junior Rockhounds a while back, found gold and had a great time. If you plan to pan wear clothes that don't mind getting wet and dirty. See the Cotton Patch website for a map.

Not a bad drive at all over to Stanley county above Albemarle. I hope to see you there. Our field trip Chairman will be leading this trip and we will join the Dixie Mineral Council for a trip to Antreville, SC in July to look for quartz crystals.

We welcome NINE new members and families who signed up at the June 5th event and more coming, I am sure.

*Jack King,  
President,  
Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club.*

## **Everyone Must Read**

### *Request/Recommendation for Club Policy Change*

In the past our club has separated the geode sales money from the club's general fund.

Geode sales were earmarked to fund scholarships and the general fund provided for all other club expenses.

### *Table of Contents*

1. Prez Sez
1. Possible change to club
- 2 Photo article on hold
2. Chinese Mineral Exhibition
3. June Meeting Presentation
3. Jr. Rockhounds on vacation
4. Pre event TV!
- 5.-8. Post event report



# 2010 CGMC Officers & Board

## President

Jack King  
tackyjackie@bellsouth.net

## Vice President

Murray Simon  
drsimon@mindspring.com

## Secretary

Pat Walker  
704/523-5261

## Treasurer

Gale Blevins  
Blevins.family@mindspring.com

## Directors at Large

Scott Stewart  
sstewart5@bellsouth.net  
Ken Anderson  
kanderson@comporium.net

## Bulletin Editor

Ron Gibbs  
theimage1@aol.com

## Past President

Jimmy Strickland  
704/537-6010

## CLUB CHAIRPERSONS

### SFMS Contact & Stamp Chair

Pat Walker

### Points Scholarship Chair

open

### Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

### Refreshments Chair

open

### Workshop Chair

Linda Simon  
lsimon1@carolina.rr.com

### WebMaster

Ron Gibbs

### Librarian

Pat Walker

### Picnic Chair

open

### Christmas Party Chair

Pat Walker

WEB Site

[www.charlottegem.com](http://www.charlottegem.com)

It has been proposed that all money coming in whether from geode sales or any activity or dues be put into the general fund.

Our treasurer, Gale Blevins says that this would be a simpler method for her.

*According to our by-laws, this change must be published in our newsletter and have discussion at the next club meeting then voting by a quorum of members at the following meeting which will be our **July** meeting.*

Again, this matter will be up for open discussion at our June 17th meeting.

*Jack King*

*President*

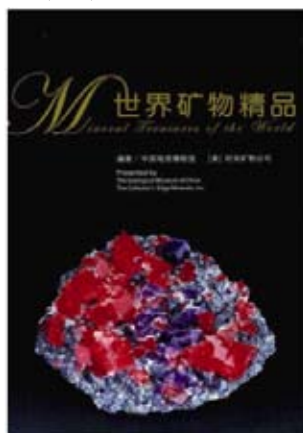
*Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club*

---

## *Photo article ... part XII*

by ron gibbs

The next installment of the photo series takes a break this month as we have a full newsletter with all the reporting of the goings-on at the Nature Center Event this month. (See pages 4 ... on)



## **GRAND OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "MINERAL TREASURES OF THE WORLD" EXHIBITION - BEIJING, CHINA**

*forwarded by Danny Jones*

*press release from Collectors Edge*

Collector's Edge Minerals Inc. of Golden, Colorado announces the Grand Opening Ceremony of the "Mineral Treasures of the World". The event took place on May 18th at the prestigious Geological Museum of China and was broadcast by national Chinese television to millions of people throughout China. After months of hard work on both sides of the Pacific, the joint efforts of the Collector's Edge Minerals Inc. and The Geological Museum of China are finally on display for the people of China to enjoy.

The "Mineral Treasures of the World" exhibition is designed to share western knowledge of minerals and mineral collecting with the people of China. The exhibit contains many extraordinary mineral specimens and is highlighted by educational dioramas, brightly lit showcases and video presentations. Collector's Edge created a special collector's guidebook for the exhibit covering the displays and exhibition concepts. The book, beautifully published in both Chinese and English by The Geological Museum of China, shows each specimen in the exhibit. The exhibition runs through July 18th.

Mineral Treasures of the  
World - Guidebook

## ***June Regular Meeting***

Charlotte Nature Museum 1658 Sterling Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28209

**Date:** June 17, 2010

**Time:** 7:00 pm

### ***Fossils - Finding & Collecting***

It will feature a talk by club member *Lindsay Werden* on finding and collecting fossils. Lindsay picked up his first fossil in Europe in 1968 and has been “hooked” ever since. He took up serious collecting about 10 years ago.

His talk will feature:

- Descriptions of available collecting sites within an easy drive of Charlotte
- The geology of fossil formations
- How to “read” a dig site for best collecting results
- Safety issues involved in collecting fossils

If you have a fossil specimen that needs to be identified bring it to this meeting

## ***Charlotte Junior Rockhounds***

***The Jr. Rockhounds are taking a break for the summer - (summer vacation is summer vacation!) - Jr's. and their families are invited to attend all regular Club Meetings and don't forget the summer field trips.***

***The next regular Jr. Rockhound meeting will be in September***

***See you then!***

## ***CG&MC's Ratings Top American Idol, Dancing With the Stars and the Final Episode of "Lost"!*** by Murray Simon

On the dark and rainy early morning of Tuesday, June first the CG&MC players (Jack King, Murray Simon, Linda Simon, Clarence Johnson and Scott Stewart) assembled at Charlotte's Nature Museum at 5:15AM for costume fittings, makeup and to immerse themselves in their roles for Channel 18 Fox Rising's live coverage of Charlotte Nature Museum/CG&MC's REALLY BIG FUTURE EVENT . . .

### **ROCKS ROCK!!!**

From 6AM through 9AM live segments were broadcast featuring host John Wilson talking with Jack about minerals and mineral specimens, Jack simulating the working of a sluice line, Murray talking about cabochons and teaching Wilson how to use a Genie.

Clarence showing and explaining geodes (as Forest Gump said, "Geodes are like a box of chocolates . . .") and Linda "wrapping it all up" with a wire wrap teaching session (ask her about the student with the snake necklace).

Throughout the three hours of segments CG&MC and the June 5th Rocks Rock event were mentioned several times by Wilson, the CG&MC players, Charlotte Nature Museum staff and the host back in the studio. It was truly a free advertising extravaganza / bonanza for the club and the pending event on June 5th . . . unlike anything we have had within recent or distant memory.

Hats off to those members (some of whom will obviously go on to new careers in TV) who got up in the dark and went before the camera to do their part for club and event.



## June 5th - Saturday - The Event! *by ron gibbs*



The Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club, in association with the Charlotte Nature Museum hosted a Saturday event from 10 am till 5 pm. The Museum provided the setting and helped with the volunteers, and the club provided the “show”.

Five show cases were set up by various club members displaying many aspects of the lapidary, fossil, and rock expertise within the club. Four in the main entrance area

and one in the room shared by its creator, Jimmy Strickland. Fossils, petrified wood, sphere making, cabochon cutting and faceting were all displayed in the array of cases.

The club desk was manned by Bill Parrish, and the club added nine new memberships during the days event. Brochures and newsletters were freely given upon request.

The main greeter for the day was Clarence Johnson, who provided



*Jimmy's case*



the case with information on cutting spheres. He would explain the sphere making process to those who were interested and helped direct attendees to other demonstrations.

Most of this just happened in the first of many rooms and areas. There was more to see so let's move on to the jewelry wing.

Here, Murray and Linda Simon, Pat Walker, Ellen Gwin, Jessica Nguyen, and Gayle Blevens, were

*Bill Parrish - club desk*



Clarence - the 'Sphere Man'

set up to demonstrate jewelry work, crystal trees and other associated crafts.

The room stayed busy with many customers both window shopping and actually stopping to buy. People learned about wire wrapping, setting stones, and in general the creation of jewelry items.

A wide array of jewelry was available for purchase in all price ranges. The room appeared busy most of the day. Scott Stewart and his crew maintained the second table



Murray - filling in



Craft & Jewelry Central



Rocks to Jewels

with a wide range of copper-silver earrings and a few mineral and rock samples for the kids. Scott, himself, spent most of the day doing geode cutting on the back deck and maintained a respectful quantity of mud on his arms, shirt and clothing. (More on that later.)

Following the corridor around, passing the Cotton Patch Gold mine table, and some of the watchful Museum Staff, brought the attendees to the busy rear deck "play-ground".

The Cotton Patch Gold Mine hung-out in the connecting area between the entrance and the rear deck attractions. Here Jeff Pickett, could be



Cosmic Rock Shop

Cotton Patch Gold mine



found explaining the operations of North Carolina's only working gold mine. Jeff also gave the best attended talk in the Dragon Fly room in the afternoon where he explained how the gold is found and separated from the rock vein.

Following the hall on to the back, lead to the rear-deck actions, the sluice, geode cutting and cabochon cutting demonstrations.

Jack King, Robyn Vernon, Donna Forster, Catherine Peterson, Heidi Davis, Eric and Gigi Lovell, Kim Gwyn, and a host of others provided the guidance and identification for the sluice.

Scott could be found cutting cabochons and cutting geodes, he was anywhere that mud could be produced, and he wore it well!

Heading to the other side of the building was the Sunspot room where Mary Fisher and Denise Trufan hung out with swarms of eager children. They demonstrated and gave hands-on training to the Jr. attendees. Mary also gave presentation in the Dragonfly Theater on the topic of starting a rock collection.

Just beyond the Sunspot room was the Naturalist Lab, or for this par-



*Museum Staff Watchman!*



*Becky and Tom handled the purchases*



*Scott cut geodes (and played in the mud)*



*Jack King on the sluice*



*Sunspot room and the kids!*

*Robyn Veron on the sluice*



*Mary Fisher - How to start a rock collection*



ticular show it was mineral central.

Here could be found Jimmy Strickland and Danny Jones who held court on all things mineral and gemstone related.

Danny was set up to sell his minerals and most recent collection purchases, and Jimmy had a table to explain faceting and try and identify any rocks brought in by the attendees. When needed he and Danny worked on it together.



*Danny and Firebird Minerals*

*Jimmy - a whole box to identify*

*Loop, books, geiger counter, UV light and other tools*



*John Holmes club member and author of Opal Books  
Lisa Hoffman Director of the Natue Museum*

There were more than 400 total going through the displays and demonstrations on Saturday, and everyone associated with the club did a great job.

Maybe we'll do it again next year!



*This guy was all over the place, holding doors, sitting in chairs, making up stories, giving thumbs up, anyone know who he is? Resembles a dentist to me...*

