

GOLDRUSH LEDGER



Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

November 2007

The President Sez ...

To the members of the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club. The board of directors of your club met last Monday evening at the home of Pat Walker. At this meeting, the board was presented with the votes from the members on the issue as to NO gem and mineral show for 2008 or YES show. The NO votes totaled 28 votes which constituted a quorum. By our by-laws, the board must make three votes in order for an action to carry. The three votes were made to follow the mandate of the members and the issue of show or no show for 2008 is now settled. One board member abstained. There will be NO show for 2008. I will notify the Charlotte Merchandise Mart in writing today that we are canceling. I will write all perspective vendors and the handful that have sent in deposits will have their checks returned. It was agreed that this does not mean that we cannot have a show at a later date or even perhaps a show in another format or venue. It was agreed that there is much work to do to build a vibrant club. Committees are being formed to get our club on track for solid and healthy growth. As your president, I am committed to making our club one of the best and most active in the southeast. I cannot do this alone. I need your support, your individual

creativity, your passion for the reasons that we would come together for the common bonds that we share. I intend to make some appointments and create some new positions and committees in the future. I know that in our group, there are many diverse talents and skills. Please let me hear your interests and what unique contributions that you feel that you can bring to our club. And, I need to SEE your faces at our meetings. Come join us and bring a friend or two! If you do not have a way to the show, please contact me and I will see that a member comes for you. Driving into the parking deck at Discovery Place could not be easier or safer. It is well lit, and you just get out of your car and walk a few feet and you are near our meeting room. Parking is free with a coupon. We meet at 7 P.M. with social time, then the meeting starts at 7:30. We are exploring an alternate meeting place and time, perhaps on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in order to reach folks that cannot come on a week-night due to work or kids in school. I would like to hear your thoughts on this idea. Our next meeting is our annual auction fund raiser on Nov.15. At our picnic, we had fun and raised extra money by folks bringing anything of value to sell and not just rocks and minerals and

related items. Since there are several non rock items that will carry over to this November auction, I invite you to bring ANYTHING of value in addition to the traditional rocks, minerals, crafts and equipment. As an early reminder, our annual Christmas Party is at Amity Presbyterian Church at 7 P.M. Our club house is nearing completion. This is sure to be a UNITY builder for our club. - *Jack King*



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tackyjackie@bellsouth.net

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CLUB CHAIRPERSONS **SFMS Contact & Stamp Chair**

Pat Walker

Points Scholarship Chair

open

Geode Chair

Jimmy Strickland

Show Chair

open

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

November Auction

Our November meeting is the annual auction where we use the proceeds for expenses beyond the meeting room and newsletter. The monies raised at the auction are used to help pay for the club picnic, Christmas party, and refreshments for meetings. Please bring items related to the hobby, like minerals, slabs, cabochons, beads, jewelry, a fine lapidary related "bake-good", or whatever.

Some fine items have appeared in past auctions so mark it on your calendars and be prepared to buy some nice materials.



Club Fall Picnic a Big Success

Hosted by Jack and Kathy King at their lake house we had a great picnic, mini-training session, good meal, and fine auction. We raised enough money to pay for the club house floor, and the few items that remained (due to lack of time) will be added to the November auction.

Cabochons were cut and polished by Murray Simon, as he demonstrated his prowess at the grinder. He fashioned a number of cabochons which made their way to many of the on-lookers. Linda Simon gave a mini-class in wire-wrapping to a group of interested enthusiasts. Everyone who attended the session went home with a new bracelet.

Jack kept his 18" saw slabbing a variety of materials. Some of the slabs will be available at the club auction. Everyone enjoyed seeing Jack's workshop and a few people left with some new tools. The grill was fired up and an endless supply of hamburgers and hot dogs came forth, along with some chilli, salads, deserts and chips. Even though a heroic effort was put forth by those in attendance, the food still won ... there was more than the collected group could consume!



Club Show Cancelled for 2008

By an overwhelming vote of the club membership and not enough people stepping forward to take the jobs necessary to put-on the annual show, it has been cancelled for next year. It was officially put to rest at the Board Meeting on Monday night.

Although the show has been cancelled for next year, it had not be dropped for ever. It may be resurrected whenever the club decides to support it again. For the time being energy will be directed toward growing the membership, and adding new functionality (like the club house).



Slate of New Officers at Nov. Meeting

A slate of new potential officers will be presented at the November club meeting. The slate will consist of those running for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Bulletin Editor, and two Directors at Large. These officers will take office in January of 2008. These are the club elected positions.

The floor will be open to nominate others for any and ALL positions, but the nominee must be present to verify that he/she will accept and run. If nominations are made, and accepted, then there will be floor vote on all contested positions. If no nominations are made, then the slate will be accepted or not in a single vote.

The Chair positions are not voted upon, but are selected/petitioned/begged/appointed/conjollied/black mailed or some how (if possible) filled by appointment. Anyone wishing to volunteer for a chair position is extremely likely to be appointed. PLEASE make your request known!

No one is ever forced to take a position. (Don't know how it could be done in any event.) If a position is not filled, then the club may fail to benefit from the results of the job.

The board has one additional meeting per month (currently) on the first Monday of the month. According to the current by-laws, the elected slate, the past Vice-President, and the Show Chair are voting members.

ANY member may attend a board meeting at any time and present themselves with ideas or suggestions.

Articles Wanted!

Here is your chance to be published! Please send me any articles that you may write on or about our Club and its objectives or pursuits.

Write up a "How To" make a "whatever it is, watch-a-macall-it". The editor is looking for material to put in to the bulletin. Write up a field trip or family collection trip, provide photos, diagrams or not.

Submit information via e-mail, snail-mail, or in-person! E.S.P. (mind to mind link) has thus far failed, so I need a little more substantial contact.

Please provide me with any interesting article you may uncover on the internet. I need the location of the article and not just a copy so I can be certain that it is given proper credit and that it may be legally used.

If you want to write multiple pages, then it can be serialized and used over several issues of the bulletin, so go for it!



A little piece of Quartzsite

January & February Lapidary & Minerals

There are two events on the horizon, it's almost time for Quartzsite and Tucson, two of the largest Gem & Mineral get-togethers in the world!

Thousands of people (many in campers and RVs) head to the little town of Quartzsite, AZ. They not only attend, but also take part in the largest mineral, gem, jewelry, and most everything else flea-market, swap, and sale on earth. It's a giant "tail-gate" party.

Rough, slabs, cabs, finished gemstones, fossils, spheres, gem-trees, minerals, geodes, jewelry, walking sticks, vases, cough drops, hammers, hotdogs, and just about anything else you can imagine is there.

Shows run continuously from the beginning of January to the end of the month. The shows culminate in the Quartzsite Pow-Wow, a show with over 400 dealers from all around the world.

When Quartzsite ends, a number of the attendees and dealers move down the road to Tucson. Here the entire city transforms into overlapping and simultaneous shows for two weeks. Materials come from all around the world, and there are both wholesale and retail trade shows in virtually every venue you can imagine. Hotels, convention centers, auditoriums, and even circus tents are used for display. You owe it to yourself to attend each, at least once, if you have any interest in our hobby

Agates - some classifications

by ron gibbs

Cryptocrystalline means that the structure of agate comes from many small crystals cemented together with more silica. The process of making agate is most likely a solution or gaseous process and not a simple melt cooling. Molten magmas grow large crystal if cooled slowly, or random, small, crystals if cooled rapidly. The patterns found in most agates don't fit either scheme of mineral formation from a melt.

The bulk material that cements the agate together is silica and is called chalcedony. Sometimes pure chalcedonies are formed and collected for gemstone use. Green chalcedony containing nickel is also known as chrysoprase. A red variety has the name of carnelian, brown is called sard, and there are also purple and bluish colors. These materials are usually found in seams or narrow lens like openings.

Agates form in rounded nodules or in seams. This lends itself to the theory of liquid or gas crystallization. Flowing magmas (lava) often trap gases in bubbles as they cool, thus providing an ideal nursery for agate growth. Many high silica lavas with entrapped gas sphericals can be leached by rain water dissolving some of their silica content and flow through the porous lava filling the sphericals.

Over time a repeating cycle of wetting and drying of the spherical chambers might produce a pattern of periodic precipitation. If the

silica changes chemistry from time to time it might well carry differing amounts of dissolved metals (colorants) into the growing agate providing bands of color.

There are many varieties of agate and it is not likely that one growth method can be found which can produce all of the various types. Many nodules contain "fortifications", or concentric bands of alternating or repeating colors. These may follow the general shape of the nodule or might form straight parallel bands across the nodule. Sometimes they do both in the same agate. The following photos

show some fortification agates. In nodules the banding often makes concentric rings that resemble ancient fortification and hence the name.

In seam agate the banding usually follows the edges of the seam or crack and forms roughly parallel lines along the length of the agate.

In some nodules the lined form parallel stripes that are aligned with the bottom of the nodule. These may be called "water-level" agates and may contain both fortification and level banding. This phenomena is also known as Uruguay bands. (see photos)



Laguna Agate Nodules (Mexico) - fortification agates



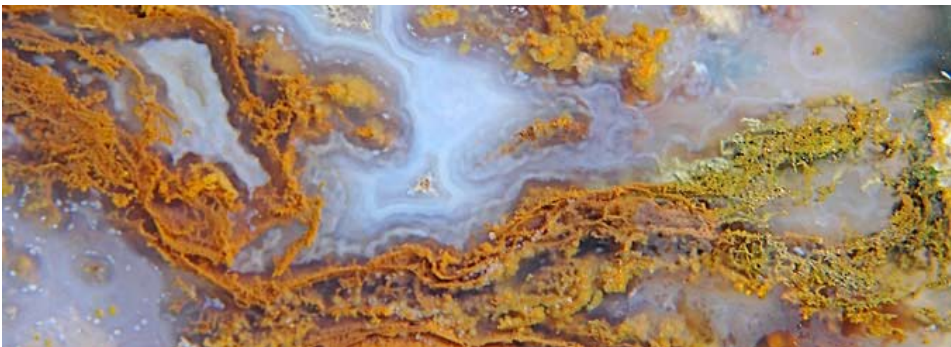
Piranha Agate (Brazil) - fortification agate



Brazilian Agate (Brazil) - (water level)



Rainbow Agate (Indonesia) - (seam agate)



Needle Peak Moss Agate (Texas)



Maury Mountain Moss Agate (Oregon)

Another popular agate type is the “moss” agate. The moss agate gets its name from the mass of vegetable like strands trapped in the silica matrix. (see lower photos)

The moss can be of nearly any color and many moss agates have more than one type of moss. This type of structure does not lend itself well to periodic precipitation as its origin. More likely the cementing mass has already begun to form a gel, and color channels are created by precipitating metal hydroxides and oxides along grain boundaries or flow channels.

The color of the moss is related to the metal hydroxide/oxide that is present. Most yellow, orange, and red mosses come from iron and black moss from manganese minerals. They are mostly made up of mixed metal oxides much of it with amorphous structure.

White mosses tend to form in the chalcedony as phase change in the silica. The white material tends to be one or more forms of common opal.

Continued next month



Moss Agate (SW Texas)

3.92 ct. Diamond Found in Arkansas

A 3.92-carat white diamond was found by a Wisconsin man digging at the Arkansas diamond park with his fiance Tuesday, but the rock will go into his collection because his fiance already has a ring and a setting.

Eric Blake, 32, of Appleton, Wis., found the stone along a trail while carrying a wash basin full of mud at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. He set down a 70-pound bucket of mud there it was. "I put the bucket down to switch hands. I looked down and there it was," Blake said. On Monday Blake found a 1.49-carat stone.

"I only found it an hour ago," he said. For now it goes into his collection although it is big enough to cut. His grandfather had originally taken him to the state park about 15 years ago, and he now returns two to three times a year. He indicated that he often finds something. His

fiance Susan Gabrielson. wears a 1 ct stone on her finger. She and her daughter Sayde with Susan's sister Sarah went to the mine with Blake for the week. Susan found a 1.47-carat stone and some smaller gems Monday.

After lunch Blake and his crew will once again "take to the field" and try their luck at finding more stones. More than 700 diamonds have been found at the park this year.

article submitted by Danny Jones adapted from Associated Press release information.

Some additional notes: The largest diamond ever found in the location was a 40.23 ct in 1924 and was named the "Star of Arkansas". In 1994 this diamond was auctioned at Christie's of New York and sold for \$145,000. In 1975 a 16.37 ct diamond was discovered and cut

in to a 7.54 ct stone which sold for between \$145-\$175 thousand dollars.

On average the park produces about 600-700 diamonds a year and all are taken home by the finders! The park produces white, brown and yellow diamonds in that order of abundance.

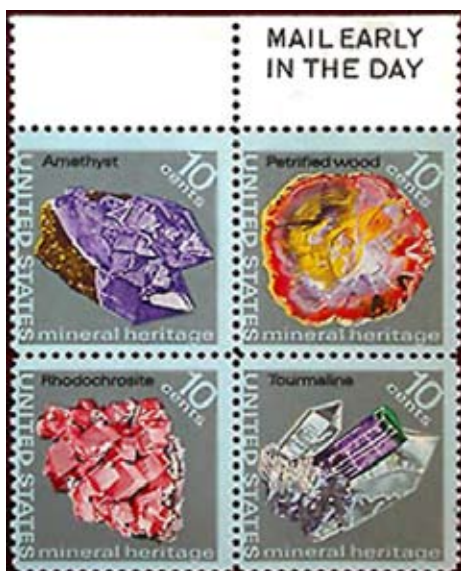
In 2006 notable stones of 1.11 ct, 1.3 ct, 2.37 ct, 5.47 ct, and 6.35 ct were uncovered.



This photo provided by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism - 3.92 ct



SFMS Stamp Program

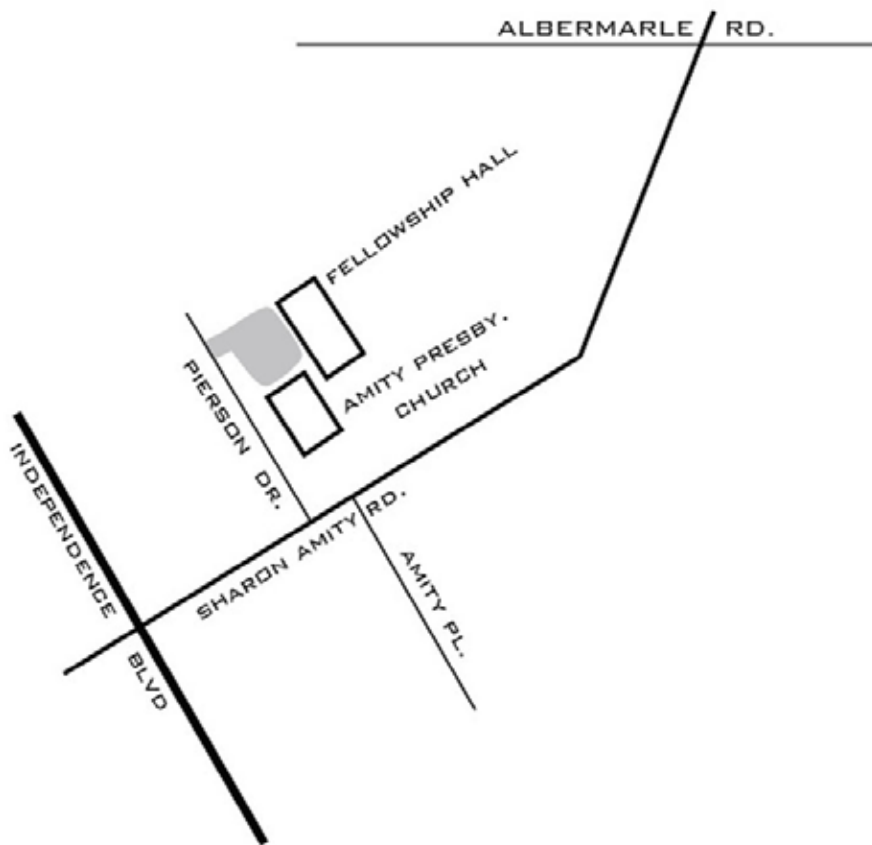


Our club is a participating member in the SFMS cancelled-stamp program. Our members are asked to save stamps from their mail by cutting around the stamp, leaving 1/4" so as not to damage the edges of the stamp. The stamps can be soaked off of envelopes, and our club will receive twice as many credits 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.

Christmas Party Coming in December



When: December 7th, 2007

Where: Amity Presbyterian Church Holiday Party

Time: 7:00 pm

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

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

If you are planning on attending the party and haven't RSVP'ed yet, please call Pat Walker, 704 523-5261.



Small Dues Increase for Next Year (2008)

At the last general meeting the club voted to raise the dues by \$5 per year for both the Individual and Family memberships. The club has fixed expenses for the meeting room and monthly newsletter that total about \$700 per year.

The new due for 2008 are \$20 for an Individual membership and \$25 for a Family membership.

Dues are due in December for next year. A copy of the Membership Form has been included in this newsletter (Page 8). It can also be downloaded from the club WEB site. www.charlottegem.com

Point Sheets Due in November

For those wanting to try for a club sponsored scholarship to Wild Acres or William Holland School next year, your point sheet is due at the November auction meeting. Included with this newsletter is a copy of the points sheet. (Page 9)

The club sponsors one or two scholarships each year. Everyone who turns in a point sheet with the required minimum number of points has their name entered in a drawing.



Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

Membership Application

Member Information

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Check One:

Member Type Individual \$20.00/yr (___) Family \$25.00/yr (___)

Please List Family Members:

(Include Names & Childrens Ages - also birthday months)

Interests: (Plese Select ALL that Apply!)

Lapidary: tumbling Cabochon cutting faceting
spheres intarsia slab polishing

Jewelry: goldsmithing silversmithing beading wirewrap
gem trees stone setting chain making

Minerals & Rock: mineral collecting: rock collecting identification fieldtrips

other interests: _____

I/we agree to abide by the AFMS Code of Ethics. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of Membership.

(Code: <http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>)

signature: _____ date: _____

mailto:

CGMC

P.O. Box 10233

Charlotte, NC 28212

Notice small dues increase for 2008. The meeting place is costing the club about \$600 per year, the newsletter about \$200 per year (postage & printing). The dues just cover these charges, all other club functions are paid by fund raising events (geode sales, show returns, auctions, etc.)

There is a higher resolution copy of the point sheet on our WEB. You can download it at: <http://www.charlottegem.com/gemclubpoints.pdf>

Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club

Workshop Scholarship Program Points Record Sheet

Name: _____

Member Since: _____

	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 or event													
1 Item for Newsletter													
1 Single Meeting Substitution													
per Contribution to Stamp Program													
2 Mini program for meeting													
2 Recruiting a new member													
2 per Exhibit Case @ Show													
2 Attend Club Workshop													
5 Host refreshment													
5 Arrange field trip (non chairperson)													
5 Setup/TearDown Show/Other													
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 columns. The new points year starts with 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 scholarship: members who have been in the club 2 years or less and those who have been in the club longer than 2 years.



Bulletin Editor ron gibbs
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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 \$25.00 (family) and \$20.00 (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 7:00pm, 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. [http:// www.charlottegem.com](http://www.charlottegem.com)

Nov. 2-4, Louisville, KY—Kyana Geological Society 38th Annual Mineral, Gem, & Fossil. Highland Legion Post 201, 2919 Bardstown Road. Hours: 2nd, 12:00 Noon - 7:00 p.m.; 3rd, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; 4th, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Show Contact: Charles Oldham at 502.241.8755

Nov. 16-18, Marietta, GA—Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society. Annual Show. Cobb County Civic Center, Corner of South Marietta Loop and Fairgrounds Road. Hours: 16th & 17th, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; 18th, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Contact: Mary Ingram at 770.427.1108 or mandmingam@comcast.net.

Nov. 23-25, Columbia, SC 40th Annual Show Columbia Gem & Mineral Society; (NEW LOCATION) South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais St., Columbia, SC, ; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adults \$3.50, children 12 and under free; rough and cut gems, mineral specimens, fossils, gold and silver jewelry, beads, lapidary supplies, geodes; contact Susan Shrader, P.O. Box 6333, Columbia, SC 29260, (803) 736-9317; e-mail: ashreader@mindspring.com.
Norcross, GA --- 13th annual show

Dec 7-8, Norcross, Georgia North Georgia Trade Center; Georgia Mineral Society; North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Ct.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; more than 40 dealers, gems, fossils, minerals, jewelry, door prizes. Mammoth Rock Shows, 7334 Quail Run Road, Lizella, GA 31052, website: www.mammothrock.com, e-mail: hightrp@mindspring.com.

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