

FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Nature's Treasures

February 16, 2017

*** *Public Copy* ***



MEETING: The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, Thursday, February 16, 2017**, the third Thursday of the Month, at **Vulcan Materials Company's Training Center, 4401 N. Patterson Ave., Winston-Salem, NC**



PROGRAM: The program for the February meeting is a DVD from the Great Courses. Topics are: Shenandoah: The Collision of Old Continents, and Great Smoky Mountains and Hot Springs. The courses are taught by Ford Cochran, who is director of programming for National Geographic Expeditions



Refreshments: Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by **Brent Beck and Charles Whicker**. The Club will provide cups and napkins and ice for the refreshments. Volunteers to provide refreshments need only provide sufficient drinks and snacks, such as cookies, cakes, crackers, etc.

2017 Refreshment List

January Sandra & Stephanie Myers, Jim Jones	July Sandy & Yvonne Beard, <i>one needed</i>
February Brent Beck, Charles Whicker	August Picnic
March Bakers, Hughes	September Show
April McGilvays, Brouhles	October Caroline Jones, Daniel Bowles
May Goodes, Pete Smith	November Marions, Reeds
June Gaskills, Schlottmans	December Holiday/Show Dinner

If you enjoy the refreshments, please be prepared to take a turn in furnishing them. NOTE: if you volunteer to bring refreshments, please do so. If you are unable to attend for any reason, contact Vickie Gaskill or Jeanne Schlottman prior to the meeting so that alternate arrangements can be made.



Dates To Remember:

September 8-10, 2017 – Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show



DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS



Inclement Weather Procedure

Winter is here and with it chances for bad weather for the next few months, so it is time to review the procedures to be followed in case of bad or threatening weather on any of the event or meeting dates.

If inclement weather is a possibility, plans are to try to make a go/no-go decision by the day before the meeting. If the decision is made to cancel, an email alert will be sent out, as well as a notice posted on the club web page. Members who do not have email or internet capability should call one of the officers.



Final Call on Dues

Dues for the coming year are due by January 1 of each year. Members who have not renewed by the end of February will be dropped from the roster. A copy of the membership form for next year is included in this newsletter. Dues can be paid at the club meetings or sent in by mail at any time.

FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Membership Application

For the Year 2017

Date _____

Member Name: _____

Additional Family Names: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone Home (____) _____
Work (____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

If you have an e-mail address, would you be interested in receiving the bulletin via e-mail rather than hard copy? Yes _____ No _____

Annual Dues of \$15.00 are payable January 1 for the current year, per family (mailing address). Dues are reduced to \$8.00 per family, if joining after July 1 of the year. *An additional fee of \$5 per year is charged for those who wish to receive a printed newsletter by regular mail. (\$2.50 for those joining after July 1.)*

I am interested in the following activities (check all that apply):

___ Mineral Collecting ___ Fossils ___ Gold or Silver Smithing
___ Lapidary ___ Faceting ___ Carving
___ Jewelry Making ___ Wire Wrapping ___ Other _____

I would like to help with the Annual Gem and Mineral Show? Yes No

Circle yes or no

Areas needing volunteers work in are:

Setup & display case assembly	Display case takedown and loading
Club area setup & table covering	Dealer dinner
Admission & information	Gold panning (instructor)
Grab bag, geode, and gold panning sales	Geode cutting (saw operator)

Please **complete** and **return to the Club Treasurer, Alex McGilvary, at the address below.**

Alex McGilvary
1524 Trinity Garden Circle
Clemmons, NC 27012-8356



Volunteers Needed

There are a number of upcoming activities needing members to step up and volunteer.

Dick Hartz has indicated that he may not be able to do his usual cabochon cutting demos at this year's show. As a result show chair Arvil Marion is looking for other members who may be able to handle this. Volunteers do not need to man the process full time, but if available for a couple of hours at a time it can help. It is likely that demo times will be specifically scheduled. (Note: there were a couple of volunteers at the January meeting, but there is room for others.)

In addition the vendor who normally does wire-wrapping demos will not be doing so this year. So Arvil is also looking for volunteers who will be willing to do this. (Again, there was a volunteer at the meeting but additional ones are also being sought.)

It was also mentioned that there is a need for someone to take responsibility to notify the Winston-Salem Journal each month to publicize the meetings in their Relish activity publication.



Show Publicity Ideas Sought

During the January meeting there was an extended discussion on looking for ideas of new ways to publicize the annual show, and to a lesser extent the monthly meetings.

One suggestion was to look into the cost of a segment on the newer electronic billboards.

Another idea was to look at possible locations to put up a banner, in addition to the one that is displayed every year over University Parkway heading into the downtown area.

Other ideas are also needed, particularly for anyone with experience with social media.



Upcoming Shows

March 10-12, 2017 - Augusta, GA - 29th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show -

Always Held: 2nd Weekend in March - Vendors that offer a wide variety of jewelry, rare fossils and mineral specimens, gems of all colors shapes & sizes, lapidary and much more. - Member Show Cases, Lapidary Demonstrations, Educational Resources, Grab Bags, Treasure Dig, Geode Sales & Cutting, Mineral Panning, Hourly - Door Prizes and a Grand Prize that will be awarded at the end of the show on Sunday. - Show Contact: Richard McNutt 706-650-8280 -Sponsoring Clubs: Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society www.aikengmfs.org and the Augusta Gem and Mineral Society www.agam.club - Fri & Sat 10AM-6PM / Sun 11AM-5PM Julian Smith Casino / 2200 Broad St. / Augusta GA - Admission: \$3 per adult or \$5 Weekend pass-Children under 12 Free with an Adult

MARCH 24-26, 2017 - Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club Show -HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA -Annual show; Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave Dr SE, Hickory NC 28602 Fri. 9-6; Sat. 9-6; Sun. 10-5 School, scout, youth, retirement home groups and law enforcement officers/military admitted free; \$5.00 admission; Children under 12 free; Hourly and grand door prizes, 20+ vendors with gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry; Theme- "Meteorites + Dinosaurs=Extinction?"; Programs for school groups, children, and adults; Displays of meteorites, dinosaur bones, Guinness Record sapphire, 112 lb. ruby corundum, educational displays, mini-mine, faceting, cocooning, specimen identification by geologists Contact: Dean Russell, show chm, (828) 303-1448 or cvgmcsecretary@aol.com Complete show info on web page: www.cvgmc.com/ .

Note: There are also several shows in Florida and other southern states during the January to March time period. Members who will be traveling to these areas during this time and are interested in possibly attending such shows should check the SFMS calendar at: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/club-shows-123.html>



February Field Trip

Note: FGMC Field Trips are for club members only. Liability issues mean that these trips cannot be attended by the general public unless otherwise noted.

The club will hold a field to the **Douglas Lake area in Tennessee**. This is a recreational area managed by TVA. Rock hounds can find small double terminated quartz crystals similar to Hekimers. Also found are small geodes and very rarely Indian artifacts. Double-terminated quartz crystals and small geodes

Per Mike Streater: <http://mcrocks.websitetoolbox.com/post/lake-in-tennessee-3328688>

The two locations for Douglas Diamonds (quartz crystals) that I recommend when asked by rockhounds are the following:

1- Mud Creek (At Sandy Ridge). This site area is approximately 1/4-mile south of the intersection of TN-363 (Indian Creek Road) & TN-92 (Chestnut Hill Road). There is a small gravel parking area on the east side of the highway on the north side of the bridge that goes over Mud Creek

(Douglas Lake). You can collect along the north side of mud creek on both sides of the highway to find quartz crystals and arrowheads (rare).

2 - Douglas Lake Dam (At Union Grove)- The Dam is about 2 miles south of the intersection of TN-139 and TN-338 (Douglas Dam Road). Simply drive to the parking area on the south side of the Dam and collect along the lake for quartz and small geodes. You will see rock outcroppings in the area near the Lake - this is the center of the collecting area.

You can only collect when the lake level is low enough, generally from late November to Mid-March. The southeast drought has kept the water level unusually low at times during the other months. There is a website where you can keep track of the water level at: <http://www.douglaslake.info/levelcal.asp> The optimum level is below 965 - any higher and you have much less lake bottom to work. It has been our experience that we find less diamonds in December than later months. Once the lake becomes exposed, it takes some rain and frost heaving to expose crystals on the surface. This may be why you didn't find much in December and may do better in February and March before the lake level rises back up. Although, both sites do get picked as the winter progresses. Going right after a series of good hard rains in late January through early March is always your best bet.



New Jersey Field Trip / UV Lights

The club is working on plans for a field trip to the Franklin / Sterling Hill area of New Jersey for collecting fluorescent mineral samples. Current plans are working toward the trip occurring in August. More details will be available later.

For this trip it is strongly advised that members have an ultraviolet light to make collecting easier. David Goode has volunteered to gather some information on available light sources and to present the information at a meeting later in the year.



Future Programs

A number of good speaker have signed on to speak to us this year: June - Arthur Merschhat on Mt. Rogers area; July - Wayne Steinmetz, a retired chemist, on mineral identification; October - Andy Heckert, a geologist from ASU on Triassic fossils; and November - Lill Shade on wire wrapping. We still need to fill Mar, Apr, and May, but several people have agreed to speak and dates have not been set. One person (Crystal Wilson from ASU has May of next year.



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

**An Official Field Trip of the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL) - HOST
An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club**

Note: DMC Field Trips are for club members of DMC-affiliated clubs and their families only. Liability issues mean that these trips cannot be attended by the general public unless otherwise noted.

Gravel Pit / Coal Mine

Brookwood, AL

TRIP: This is an old alluvial deposit containing rocks eroded from the Appalachian Mountains since their formation 400 million years ago. This site is an old gravel quarry that is now producing natural gas field.

COLLECTING: Material at Brookwood is primarily water smoothed pebbles of mixed size from teeny to baking potato size. We will be looking for petrified wood, jasper, agate, crazy blue lace, and oolite. This site has an abundance of water smoothed quartz pebbles shaped like a double sided cabochon. Small amounts of many other types of rock are found including petrified wood, jasper, agate, marine fossils, Indian paint pots and any number of other unknown materials. Lots of great tumbling material but some is suitable for cutting.

BRING: Sack lunch, plenty of drinks, buckets or bags for specimens, hammer, screwdriver (or something similar to pry the rock out of the surface). No digging needed. Wear appropriate dress, hat, good gloves, and sunscreen..

REQUIREMENTS: All tools, equipment, and ponds are strictly off limits.

The SFMS code of ethics should be strictly observed.

The property owner has been generous to let us collect here for many years and we would not want anything to jeopardize that.

WAIVER FORMS MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE YOU DIG!!!

Please check out with me before you leave so we can keep count of who is there. We do not want anyone to get locked in the gate!!

EVERYONE MUST BE OUT OF THE SITE BY 3:00

The March DMC trip will be to Hammett Gravel Pit in Redwood, Mississippi to collect agates, fossils, and geodes. Details will be in the March newsletter.



Meeting Minutes

The January 2017 meeting of FGMC was called to order at 7:30 by President Jeanne Schlottman. There were 27 members and visitors present.

The program was a presentation on “Feldspar and Igneous Rocks” by FGMC Vice-President David Goode.

A preliminary report was provided by the Field Trip committee, including that there will be a field trip on February 18 to Douglas Lake in Tennessee to collect double-terminated quartz.

Door prizes were won by Terry Fulcher, who chose a pyrophyllite crystals sample from Silver Ridge, NC, and Wayne Ketner, who chose an ammonite jewelry box.

Show chair Arvil Marion mentioned that he was looking for volunteers to demo cab cutting and/or wire-wrapping at the show. Anyone interested should contact him. He also reported that about ½ of the vendor contracts had been returned, which was a bit slower than usual.

There was also a discussion on other methods to publicize the show for the coming year.

It was mentioned that there are tentative plans toward a field trip to New Jersey for August.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Ketner
for Chris Ketner, Secretary



Nature's Treasures

Nature's Treasures is the monthly newsletter of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club.

President:	Jeanne Schlottman	336-940-2203
Vice-President:	David Goode	336-761-0326
Secretary:	Chris Ketner	336-769-3553
Treasurer:	Alex McGilvary	
Hospitality:	Vickie Gaskill	
Editor:	Wayne Ketner	336-769-3553
Directors	Ken Reed Jeff Schlottman Sherry Marion Sandra Meyers	