

FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Nature's Treasures

March 16, 2017

*** **PUBLIC VERSION** ***



MEETING: The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, Thursday, March 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 March meeting is the next lecture in the Great Lecture series, Great Smoky Mountains and Hot Springs. Lecturer is Ford Cochran, who is Director of Programming for National Geographic Expeditions



Refreshments: Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by **the Barkers and the Hughes**. 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, one needed
February	Brent Beck, Charles Whicker	August	Picnic
March	Bakers, Hughes	September	Show
April	McGilvarys, 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.



Roster Delay

Due to events in the Editor's life, the full club roster that is normally published in the March newsletter will be delayed until April. As a side effect of this, the dues deadline for 2017 has been extended to the end of March.



In Memoriam – Chris Ketner

Long-time FGMC member **Chris Ketner** passed away on Monday, February 27, 2017. She had been in declining health for a while, and suffered from a number of complications after a partial foot amputation at the end of last September.

Chris had served for many years as the Secretary of the club, and was the club's web-site administrator. She was also the "unofficial floor director" for the annual FMGC show set-up days.

Chris came by her interest in rocks from her grandfather and great-grandfather. Both took her on many collecting trips in her youth. Both also worked with gem-cutting and other lapidary work.

She was an avid field collector until health issues reached the point where she was no longer able to go on the trips.

She is survived by husband Wayne Ketner, the FGMC newsletter editor, and their seven cats, her sister Corina Campbell, mother Laura Faye Boswell, grandmother Ruth Connelly, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Chris was buried on March 4 in her family graveyard in her beloved Grayson, Kentucky. A funeral service was also held in Winston-Salem and was attended by many FGMC members in addition to other friends and family.

Chris will be sorely missed by many, but her legacy of fun, laughter, and general enjoyment of life will live on in those who knew her well.



Upcoming Shows

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/

March 31 – April 2, 2017 – Precious Gem and Mineral Show – Raleigh, NC - CELEBRATING THEIR 41st YEAR at the State Fairgrounds, this show is sponsored by the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club and includes 29 dealers. The Club Demonstration area includes club members faceting, cabbing, chain-making, wire-wrapping, bead stringing and gem tree creating. Club members will also provide lectures about minerals and demonstrations of gem polishing, geode cutting plus associated hobbies. The Hospitality area sells grab bags with mineral specimens. Some could contain a faceted gem. Tickets for the geode raffle, door prizes and rock candy are in this area. Buy a rock at the Geode booth and be the first to see what is inside. The on-going Silent Auction has new items every hour. Dealers provide minerals, fossils, finished jewelry, gemstones, findings and beads for sale. FREE admission. - Friday 3 to 8 p.m.- Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. -Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Contact: www.tarheelclub.org or mchummel@mindspring.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>



March FGMC Field Trip

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

Graves Mountain Graves Mountain, Georgia

COLLECTING: Minerals found at Graves Mountain include rutile, kyanite, lazulite, iridescent hematite, pyrophyllite, pyrite, ilmenite, muscovite, fuchsite, barite, sulfur, blue quartz and quartz crystals with a hematite coating.

BRING: You should bring a hand truck to move your buckets and tools to the collecting areas. Don't forget to include a backpack. You can bring scratching tools to surface collect and a rocker screen to sift for rutile at the top of the mountain. Gloves, safety glasses, sledge-hammer and chisels will be needed to break the quartzite boulders for the lazulite and kyanite. You might also want a shovel and pry bar. Don't forget the sunscreen, Gatorade, appropriate clothing and something to eat.

FEES: There are no digging fees for this site. However, participants normally tip the caretaker \$15 to \$20 per day per person for his generosity in providing access to the site.

DIRECTIONS: From Washington, Ga., drive east 11 miles on SR 378, look for mine entrance on the right. From the Hardees in Lincolnton, Ga., drive approximately 5.5 miles west on SR 378. The entrance will be on the left.

LODGING and CAMPING

Quality Inn, Washington, Ga. (706) 678-7925

Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Ga. (706)359-6161

Elijah Clark State Park (706)359-3458 (800)864-7275

Other hotels are located in Augusta approximately 45 minutes south

GRAVES MOUNTAIN CODE OF CONDUCT!!!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area at the end of the paved access road.
- NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved.
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Junior Norman has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- **STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!**
- **NO RAPPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!!!!!!**
- **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA!** (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)
- **EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK.** (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)
- Please protect our ability to field collect at Graves Mountain!
- Report violations to:
 - Junior Norman
 - Norman C E Wrecking Co
 - 3333 C E Norman Rd
 - Lincolnton, GA 30817-3110
 - 706-359-3862 (his business)
 - or
 - 706-401-3173 (cell)

All reported violations will be held in strict confidence.



February Field Trip Report

Approximately six club members participated in a field trip to Douglas Lake in TN. The weather was semi accommodating – we could have used a bit more sun in order to better spot the ‘diamonds’ and it sprinkled rain towards the end of the afternoon. Despite the February weather, everyone seemed to find plenty of specimens including the doubly terminated quartz ‘Douglas Diamonds’, small geodes with quartz interiors, and some grey/blue striped agates. Thanks to Al for providing info on a great rockhounding site.



Show Update

Show Chair Arvil Marion reports that all of the dealer slots have now been confirmed and set.

Arvil also sends out a reminder that at this year’s picnic we will be making up a LOT of grab bags, at least twice as many as we normally do. So members will need to be on the lookout to collect suitable samples during the field trips over the coming several months.



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Florence, MS) - 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.

Hammett Gravel Pit

Redwood, Mississippi

Attendance Limited to 80 People
Registration Required by March 22

TRIP: This is an active gravel pit producing sand and gravel for industries. The site has igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. The hunt site includes “oversize” rocks culled from commercial gravel. Citronelle gravel is mined from a layer 40 feet below Ice Age loess soil. The abundance of agate, coral and other fossils made this site a favorite last year

COLLECTING: Expect to find agates, coral and other fossils, geodes, chunks of petrified wood and Sioux quartzite. A few unusual finds included a magnificent Petoskey stone and a piece of St. Francois Mountain rhyolite.

BRING: We’ll hunt around and on tall piles of gravel. Bring a bucket, bag or backpack for collecting as you climb on the gravel piles. A walking staff is helpful but not necessary. Wear close-toed shoes to protect feet. If you need ankle support, wear hiking boots. An extra pair of “muck” boots might be helpful if there is mud. Wear clothes that you won’t be afraid to get dirty and bring a change of clothes. Weather may be cold and/or windy. Bring a coat and dress in layers. Expect cold mornings and warm afternoons. If you have allergies or require medication, please bring your medication. Bring water, snacks and drinks. Pack a lunch if you expect to stay until 2 p.m. Bring gloves, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and a chair.

REQUIREMENTS: The collecting area will be limited to specific gravel piles that will be announced on site. Participants must stay off equipment, away from slopes adjacent to ponds, out of ponds and away from loess walls.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: We will not park close to the hunt piles. Unless you are very selective, you will make multiple trips to your auto to deposit your finds to avoid potential injury. Footing on the gravel piles can be tricky. People who have stability issues should stay at the bottom of the gravel piles. It will still be good hunting. Walking and digging on steep slopes can lead to slides. Be aware that gravel slides are possible. Care must be taken when around the ponds. Stay away from the edge of rock piles against the ponds. This is a remote area and there will be little or no cell phone reception.

CHILDREN: Children are allowed - minimum age 8 years. Adult supervision is required at all times. Children may not throw rocks or run at the site, especially on the gravel piles. Care should be taken when around the ponds. No climbing on equipment is allowed.

PETS: No pets are allowed

FACILITIES: No stores or facilities are close to the collecting site. A portable toilet will be on the site. At the meeting place before the convoy goes to the site, there will be drinks, snacks, some prepared breakfast/lunch food items, and restrooms.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The meeting place is nearly midway between Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi. Hotels and restaurants are available in both locations, If you would prefer to stay in the Jackson area, there are a variety of hotels and restaurants available at Exit 48 (Pearl). The Pearl location is a nice area. Vicksburg is a historical area with casinos.

Attendees are invited to attend the MGMS monthly program meeting on Friday, March 24. Our meetings are held at the MGMS Lapidary School, 176 Tazan Avenue, Florence. (Pearl is approximately 10 miles from the MGMS Lapidary School.) MGMS monthly program meetings start at 7:30 p.m.; gathering begins around 7:00. Although the address is Florence, the School is located in a residential area just south of Richland. Detailed directions to the MGMS Lapidary School can be found on the MGMS website - www.missgems.org.



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

Since the April DMC Field Trip will be before the April FGMC meeting, information on it is included in this month's newsletter

An Official Field Trip of the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club (Charlotte, NC) - 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.

Sharpes Emerald Prospect

Alexander County, NC

Release Form Required

Fee Site (Details Below)

TRIP: Sharpes Emerald Prospect is operated in association with the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (MAGMA). The club has been generous enough to allow CG&MC to host a field trip at their site. The mine is located in what is considered the most productive emerald mining district in North America. Emeralds are yet to be found, but there are current mineral finds of glass-clear tesson, smoky quartz, tourmaline, muscovite mica, beryl, and other minerals are in abundance. The mine is geared with rockhounds and collectors in mind, and is not salted with material from offsite.

COLLECTING: Mining and gathering can suit a variety of styles. Hard rock digging is available in pits and trenches throughout the site. Less rigorous collecting can be found by sifting and gathering in dump piles on the property. All areas of the mine are open to collectors and new areas are opened regularly.

BRING: Only hand tools are allowed on site – shovel, pick, hammer, chisel, etc. No power equipment or heavy machinery. Buckets, sifting screens, etc are also useful. Spring weather is unpredictable, so come prepared with season appropriate clothes, sensible footwear, protective eyewear, and raingear if the forecast indicates poor weather. No alcohol is allowed on site, and mine owners request that no garbage is left on the premises.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Protective equipment such as goggles/eyewear, boots, and gloves are recommended.

FEE: \$25/day for adults, \$20 per day for MAGMA paid members. Children 12 years of age or younger are free but must be accompanied by guardian

REGISTRATION: Advance registration is not required, but release form must be completed.

CHILDREN: Yes, children are allowed, but anyone 12 years of age or under must be accompanied by adult.

PETS: No

FACILITIES: None - There is a gas station a mile down the road with bathrooms, drinks and snacks.



AFMS Raffle

Just before the February meeting the club received a packet from AFMS with raffle tickets and a letter requesting that the club either sell the tickets and return the proceeds to AFMS or donate something for the raffle with a basic value of \$75 or more and no more than 5 pounds. Proceeds from the raffle go to the AFMS Endowment fund

Club members who were present discussed the option. The decision was made to ask if any member wished to donate a suitable raffle prize to serve as the club donation.

In addition to or in place of that, the club may make a simple monetary donation to the fund.

Members who wish to get more information on the raffle can contact FGMC Treasurer Alex McGilvary who has the information from the society.



Meeting Minutes

The February 2017 meeting of FGMC was called to order at 7:30 by President Jeanne Schlottman. There were 28 members and visitors present.

The program was a video from the Great Courses. Shenandoah: The Collision of Old Continents. The courses are taught by Ford Cochran, who is director of programming for National Geographic Expeditions

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 guest Toni Julian who chose a pair of garnet earrings, and Al Gaskill who chose a faceted YAG (synthetic garnet) sample.

Arvil reminded members that as we go on field trips through the year we will need a lot more samples for grab bags. The plan is to make many more grab bags this year than our usual supply.

Discussion was held regarding upcoming field trips. Plans were tentatively made for a trip to Graves Mountain for March 17/18.

The decision was also made to have the June field trip to Earthen Paradise for kyanite. This will also be the FGMC-hosted event for DMC.

There was some discussion regarding the SFMS request for raffle ticket sales and donation options. It was decided to ask if any FMGC members wished to contribute a raffle prize and/or to have FGMC make a basic monetary donation in lieu of selling the tickets.

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.

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