

FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Nature's Treasures

June 15, 2017

*** **Public Version** ***



MEETING: The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, June 15, 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 meeting will be a talk by Arthur Merschat of the US Geological Survey at Reston, VA. He talked to us a few years ago on the geology of the inner piedmont. His topic will be the geology of the Mt. Rogers area, at the corner of NC, VA, and TN.



Refreshments: Refreshments for the June meeting will be provided by **the Gaskills and the Schlottmans**. The Club will provide cups and napkins and ice for the refreshments. Those volunteering to provide refreshments need only provide sufficient drinks and snacks, such as, cookies, cakes, crackers, or donuts.

2017 Refreshment List

January	Sandra & Stephanie Myers, Jim Jones	July	Beards, Sturiks
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



About the Program

When the supercontinent Pangaea began to break up about 500 million years ago, the crust along the break near here was stretched and thinned. This stretching resulted in upwelling of dark basaltic lavas. Some of the lavas surfaced to form the basaltic Hudson palisades and the Catoctin greenstone in northern VA. In the NC piedmont this took the form of numerous diabase dikes, one of which can be seen at Bethabara along Mill Creek. The dam for the mill, the bottom portion of which is still there, was built of diabase rocks. Sections of the stretched crust dropped down to form a large number of Triassic basins. Finally, in the Mt. Rogers area, there were real volcanoes related to the thinning crust.

Last year's Carolina Geological Society field trip was to the Mt. Rogers area, and was led by Arthur Merschat, our speaker this this month's program.



FGMC / DMC June Field Trip

An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club – HOST

This trip is sponsored by FGMC as our regular contribution to the DMC rotation

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.

Earthen Paradise

Prospect, VA

Fee: \$20

TRIP: Earthen Paradise is located in the very Heart of Virginia between the Historic towns of Appomattox and Farmville only a short distance from the famous High Bridge Trail.

***** This is a new site that has not been used as a field trip before *****

COLLECTING: Gemmy blue kyanite, garnet, and black tourmaline.

BRING: Picks, shovels, rock hammers and scratching tools. Screens could also be helpful. Bring plenty of drinks and lunch unless you want to drive a few miles for food.

FEE: \$20 per person / \$10 for children 12 and under.

REGISTRATION: No need to register.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult who is at least 18 years old.

PETS (NO): No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: A port-a-potty will be available onsite. Several fast food restaurants are located approximately 10 minutes away in Farmville, VA.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Address of Earthen Paradise is 599 Browntown Rd. Prospect, VA 23960

From Eastern VA:

Get to Hwy. 460 west and stay on it until the turn off to Rt. 608 (Prospect, Rd.) on your left in the town of Prospect, VA Turn left again at Rt. 677 (Browntown Rd.) on your left and go to the very end of the road.

From Western VA:

Get to Hwy. 460 east and stay on it until the turn off to Rt. 627 (Prospect, Rd.) on your right in the town of Prospect, VA Turn right again at Rt. 677 (Browntown Rd.) on your right and go to the very end of the road.

CONTACT: Stephanie Myers (witchmyers@yahoo.com) or Jessica Callan (Earthenparadiseinc@gmail.com) with questions.



Show Volunteer Sign-Ups

Believe it or not, the 2017 FGMC Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show is fast approaching. It is less than three months away!

So, it is once again time to start thinking about helping out at the show.

This year there are fewer functions than we have had in previous years. Once again we will NOT have gold-panning. In addition we are not doing the “education area” this year. So the only functions needed during the show time themselves are ticket sales, geode/grab bag sales, and geode cutting. We are looking to have two people for each hour for each of these activities.

Of course, there is also the set-up day, dealer dinner, and take-down day. These functions can always use as many people as we can get.

For those new to the club and interested in helping out, the following are the functions:

Set-Up Day: This is done on the Thursday before the show starts (Sept 7). Set-up starts around 8:30 AM and goes until completed, usually some time in mid-afternoon. Work includes fetching the display cases and other materials from the storage site, setting display tables in position, covering the tables, and assembling the cases. There are a few other minor items. All of this is generally light to medium-duty efforts.

Dealer Dinner: FGMC sponsors an annual dinner on the evening of the set-up day. Members are asked to provide vegetables, salads, and desserts. (The meat is handled by the club.) Setup for the dinner begins around 5 PM with positioning the tables and chairs, and organizing the food as it is brought in.

Ticket Sales: This function is handled at the front door. Volunteers here will accept the money for tickets, receive complimentary tickets, pass out door prize tickets, and answer basic questions about the show.

Geode / Grab Bag Sales: This takes place in the club corner, where geodes are sold (free cutting) and grab bags are sold.

Geode Cutting: The cutting function cuts open geodes that customers have purchased, allowing them to find out what is inside them. (Note: Cutters must be trained – but training is provided by experienced cutters at the show.)

Take-Down Day: Take-down is the exact opposite of set-up day. Display cases are disassembled, table covers are picked up, other items are packed, and all materials are then carried to the storage site. Take-down starts immediately at the show closing on Sunday afternoon and is usually completed by early evening.



Show Theme

Just a reminder that the theme for this year’s show is “Treasures From the Eastern US”. Unlike previous year’s themes that focused on particular mineral groups or other types of items, this year’s show leaves it up to each contributor to decide what they consider to be “treasures” that they have acquired from some point east of the Mississippi/Missouri river line.

Items can be mineral samples collected, jewelry pieces made, other collected items, etc. The only “requirement” is that the source of the item (or the material that it is made from) be native to the eastern US.

And of course, the them for next year’s show rolls directly into “Treasures From the Western US”.

Note: The July DMC trip will be before the FGMC July meeting, so information on this trip is included in this newsletter



DMC July Field Trip

An Official Field Trip of the Southern Appalachian Mineral Society (Asheville, 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.

McKinney Mine

TRIP: The Southern Appalachian Mineral Society is sponsoring the July field trip to the McKinney Mine at Emerald Village, near Spruce Pine, NC. The trip will begin at 9:30 am with a guided tour of the Bon Ami feldspar mine and Museum. At approximately 10:15 we will cross the road to the dump piles of the McKinney Mine. Digging is allowed all day.

COLLECTING: Nice Mica specimens as well as Smoky Quartz, Feldspar, and Garnets. Aquamarine & Green and Yellow Beryl can occasionally be found on the dumps but they are scarce. Many other rare and unusual rocks & minerals, including Columbite, Samarskite, Torbernite, Uranophane, Hyalite Opal, Malachite, Tourmaline, Thulite, Amazonite, Pyrite and Dendrites. One of our members will have a Geiger counter for checking Samarskite or Unaninite.

BRING: This is definitely a digging site. The surface will yield fewer specimens. People should bring hammers, chisel, shovel, safety glasses, gloves, collecting bucket, etc. Tools are available to rent for \$25 per day (+ \$50 deposit; tools can be shared & include shovel, rock hammer, crack hammer, safety goggles, trowel, small screen, 5 gallon bucket). Water and snacks are a good idea, but food is also available in the complex.

FEE: \$20 per person / \$10 for children 12 and under. Admission is by permit only! EVERY person going onto the dump area must pay the fee, whether collecting or not. There is also a flume where, for an additional fee, buckets can be purchased and searched.

REGISTRATION: Members should gather between 9:00 to 9:15 to register, pay the fee, and sign the release. For anyone under the age of 18, the form must also be signed by a parent or legal guardian. You must keep a copy of the permit and show it to any staff person upon request. Failure to present a permit upon request will result in your eviction from the site and confiscation of any collected materials.

REQUIREMENTS: Safety is paramount! Hazardous conditions occur on the dump and YOU are responsible for your own safety. No climbing or digging is allowed on or near the sides of the dump! Safety glasses must be worn at all times when hammering is done. Anyone practicing unsafe activities will be asked to leave and no refund will be given. Anyone on the dump without a permit (or using unauthorized equipment) will forfeit any rocks or minerals collected and will be evicted from the property. Be safe!

CHILDREN (Maybe): Collecting on the dumps can be hazardous and is not suitable for small children. Any person under the age of 18 going on the dumps must be accompanied by, and under the direct supervision of a responsible paying adult.

PETS (NO): No information, so assume pets are not allowed.

FACILITIES: Food, water, restrooms, and picnic tables are available at the site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: There is a walking path to the creek on the left as you enter the dump area. You can wash your rocks here or carry water from this location to your dig-site. Please do not access the creek anywhere else.

Collecting is only allowed in the designated dump area. Parking is not allowed along the road-side. All vehicles must be removed from the property by closing time. Emerald Village reserves the right to refuse access to anyone at any time, the right to close the dump at any time, and the right to limit amount collected to one 5 gallon bucket full per permit. Permits are revocable and are not transferable.

You are allowed to leave and return to the dump area to use the restrooms or get something to eat. When you are finished collecting please return any rental tools and get your deposit back. You are expected to remove any trash.



Display Case Contest

Once again FGMC will be having the “Favorite Display Case” contest for those who are interested in participating. The “winner” will be determined by popular vote count from show attendees on Friday and Saturday. Winners will receive a prize.

There will again be separate categories for adults and students.

If interested, notify Arvil no later than by the picnic so that he can get a count of the number of cases needed.



Club Case Coordinator Needed

Along with the various display cases put up by club members, the club traditionally also includes a special “club case”. This case is generally directly related to the show’s theme, though with this year’s theme the connection might be a bit less strict.

For the last several years the club case was handled by Chris Ketner. With her passing it will be necessary for someone else to step up to assume responsibility for the club case. Note that the club case is often filled with pieces loaned from various members, so it is not necessary to have all of the materials for the club case in your own collection.

Anyone who is interested and willing to take on this responsibility should contact show chair Arvil Marion.



Revamped Web Page

The club’s web site has recently been reworked. It has been “refreshed” up to more modern standards. It has also been upgraded to a higher security level in preparation for requirements of coming browsers.

The site’s URL (address) has not changed. It can still be reached at <http://forsythgemclub.com/>

Note that once you access the page you may need to scroll down a bit to get to the main page information. More information about the new site will be coming in future newsletters.



Screening Alternatives

It was noted for the upcoming field trip that screens available for sifting dirt to find samples can be quite useful. Generally having a few screens of varying densities will prove very useful on a number of trips. But for those who might not have the time or experience to prepare such screens, there are a couple quick alternatives that might be considered.

Many stores that have cooking supplies will have screen mesh colanders. These can be quite useful, as well as being small and easily carried. They may not always be have a lot of different mesh sizes, but anything helps.

In addition many office supply stores have various screen style racks and trays for use on desktops and in drawers. Again the selection may be limited, but can still be useful.

(Hint: Walmart generally carries both types of these and can allow for grabbing a couple of quick options in a single trip.)



Meeting Minutes

The May FGMC meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM on May 22 by club president Jeanne Schlottman. There were 22 members and guests present.

Refreshments were provided by the Goodes. David Goode noted that Pete Smith had a heart attack a couple of weeks back and was unable to attend the meeting.

The program was a presentation and discussion on FGMC's "Outreach" materials and experiences.

Field trips were discussed with details on the May 20 trip to the Propst Farm.

Jeff Schlottman also noted that he is coordinating the trips to the new Hiddenite location, and that there were a few possible openings for members in the June and July trips for FGMC members who missed our own trip (or wanted to go again).

Door prizes were not held as access to the materials was not available.

The date for the annual picnic was confirmed.

There was also discussion about possibly needing additional assistance at the dealer dinner, as the hospitality chair (Vickie Gaskill) may not be able to attend this year (due to an expected grand-baby due near the same time – congrats!).

Respectfully Submitted,
Wayne Ketner, Secretary



Nature's Treasures

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

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