



FORSYTH GEM & MINERAL CLUB

The Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club (FGMC) was established in the early 1970's as a combination of the Forsyth Mineral Club and the Winston-Salem Gem Club, because *-we like rocks!* FGMC is an active organization with monthly meetings, field trips and a yearly gem show. Our group is diverse in both interests and age, we're sure you'll find something to interest you! Come join us!

Program Meetings

The Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club has a program meeting most months. These meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are held in the Maintenance office building of Vulcan Materials at 4401 N. Patterson Avenue in Winston-Salem.

Each meeting will have a topic with a speaker or video program, a brief social period, and a business meeting.

Topics vary considerably and cover a wide variety of gem, mineral, and rock-related subjects. Presentations have been done by FGMC members, local and regional university staff, museum staff from many local facilities, and practitioners of a variety of jewelry and gem-working arts.

Meetings are NOT held during the months of August, September, and December. The August meeting is replaced by the annual club picnic. The September meeting is replaced by the annual Jewelry, Gem, & Mineral Show. And the December meeting is replaced by the annual Christmas/Show Rewards dinner.



Field Trips

FGMC conducts a number of field trips, one of the more popular activities. Field trips are used primarily to allow members to have a chance to collect rock and mineral samples, and even gemstones, in a variety of locations.

Field trips may be conducted to working quarries, abandoned mines, and other areas where interesting rock and mineral samples can be obtained.



The club also occasionally takes field trips to various museums as well.

FGMC is also a member of the Dixie Mineral Council, an organization of rock clubs in the southeastern U.S. DMC sponsors one or more regional field trips each month at various locations throughout the southeast. As a member club, FGMC members are allowed to attend any of these field trips.

Annual Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show



One of the most important activities of the club is sponsoring the annual Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show. This show is held on the weekend after Labor Day each year. The show is held in the Education Building of the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds.

A variety of jewelry, gem, mineral, tools, supplies, and fossil dealers set up their booths at the show. FGMC members handle show registration and other functions in organizing and running the show.

FGMC also sells and cuts geodes at the club area, and sells grab bags with a variety of mineral samples donated by club members. The club provides gold-panning opportunities for the public to try their hand.

The FGMC show is widely regarded as one of the best in the southeastern U.S., and there is a long list of vendors on the waiting list to get into this prime event.

Other Activities

Newsletter

The club publishes a monthly newsletter containing listings of upcoming events, coming meeting programs, and other such announcements. Most issues include articles on various minerals or gemstones, and occasionally on lapidary techniques.

The newsletter accepts contributions by members who wish to cover topics of their own interest.

The newsletter is delivered by email to current members, though there is also a printed option for members who do not have/use email.

Internet Web Site

The club maintains an Internet site that is also used for passing on information. The web site includes a recent copy of the newsletter, as well as maintaining other historical and general information.

The web site address is:

<http://www.forsythgemclub.com>

Club Picnic

Each August the club holds an annual picnic where members and their families are able to socialize. The picnic is a “pot-luck” affair.

Most years the picnic is also the time that the club makes up the “Grab Bags” with mineral samples that will be sold during the annual Jewelry, Gem, and Mineral Show. Members bring in their “extras” to donate and an assembly line production fills the bags quickly.

Joining the Club

The best way to join the club is to come out to one of the monthly meetings. These are on the third Thursday of each month (except August, September, and December) at 7:30 PM in the Maintenance office of Vulcan Materials.

A membership form is also available on the club's Internet Web Site.

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year for a Family membership. All members of the immediate family are allowed to participate in all activities including meetings, the annual show, and field trips. (Some field trips have age minimums due to quarry/safety requirements.)

More Information

Questions can be emailed to:

Contact@forsythgemclub.com

Or questions can be mailed to:

FGMC

201 N Lee St

Winston-Salem, NC 27107