

# FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

## *Nature's Treasures*

February 15, 2018

\*\*\* *Public Version* \*\*\*



**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, Feb 15, 2018**, 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 will be given by Dr. Bob Lauf, and the topic will be "Tourmaline". Bob is a retired Oak Ridge (Tennessee) Lab Director and mineral enthusiast who last gave us a presentation some years back. He is a field collector and the author of numerous books for the average collector (his books aren't pictures of museum-type specimens, but rather what the average collector finds available to them. Bob will have some books along at the meeting, including his one on Tourmaline, for anyone interested).



**Refreshments:** Refreshments for the October meeting will be provided by **the Myers and Gaskills**. 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 *and ice*

### **.2017 Refreshment List**

January Fulchers and Bakers	July *** <b>Two Needed</b> ***
February <b>Myers and Gaskills</b>	August Picnic
March Goodes and McGilvarys	September Show
April Whickers and Becks	October Schlottmans + <b>One Needed</b>
May Brouhles and McGilvarys	November Marions, Reeds
June *** <b>Two Needed</b> ***	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 or Al Gaskill prior to the meeting so that alternate arrangements can be made.

Note: Due to equipment issues in the meeting area kitchen, it will be necessary for the refreshments providers to also bring ice for the drinks, at least for the next couple of months.

### **Dates To Remember:**

**March 16-18** – Magma show, Arden NC

**March 23 – 25** – Hickory Gem Show

**April 6 -8** – Raleigh Gem Show

**September 7-9** – Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show



**DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS**





## **Refreshment Volunteer Time**

There are still a few slots left for volunteers to bring refreshments. Anyone willing to participate should contact Hospitality Chair Vicki Gaskill.



## **Membership Renewal Soon Due**

As the new year starts off it is time to renew memberships for the coming year.. Members who have not renewed by the end of February will be dropped from the roster.

A copy of the membership form is included in this newsletter. The form can also be downloaded from the club's web site. Note that ALL members, *including existing members*, must fill out the form each year so that FGMC can keep the records up to date.

Membership can be renewed at any of the upcoming meetings or they can be mailed to the Treasurer.



## **Upcoming Shows**

**March 16-18—ARDEN, NORTH CAROLINA:** Annual show; M.A.G.M.A., Camp Stephens; 263 Clayton Road; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Numerous indoor and outdoor vendors specializing in gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and artifacts from North Carolina and around the world. ; contact Richard Jacquot, PO Box 542, Leicester, NC 28748, (828)-779-4501; e-mail: [rick@wncrocks.com](mailto:rick@wncrocks.com) ; Web site: [www.americanrockhound.com](http://www.americanrockhound.com)

**March 23-25: HICKORY NC – Unifour Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show – Hickory NC –** Fri-Sat: 9 AM – 6 PM, Sun: 10 AM – 5 PM - Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave Drive SE, Hicory, NC – hosted by Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club – Theme: "Treasures in Our Back Yard, Gems and Minerals of the Catawba Valley" - Admission is \$5.00 which is good for all three days. Children 12 and under are admitted free. – for more info see web site: <http://cvgmc.com/SpecialEvents.html>

**April 6-8—RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA:** Annual show; Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Raleigh, NC; NC State Fairgrounds, Blue Ridge Rd, Kerr Scott Building; Fri. 3-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; National Show - Host of American & Eastern Federation Meetings. Club areas of Demonstration of jewelry making, gem trees, faceting, cabbing, Hospitality with grab bags, t-shirts, door prize tickets, membership, Geode area with sales and cutting of purchased geodes, Silent Auction area for children and adults with minerals and jewelry.; contact Cyndy Hummel, 10609 Chelsea Dr, Raleigh, NC 27603, (919)-779-6220; e-mail: [mchummel@mindspring.com](mailto:mchummel@mindspring.com) ; Web site: <http://tarheelclub.org>



## **Inclement Weather Procedure**

We have already had an early taste of winter, with the main season just around the corner. With it comes 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.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The DMC March trip will occur before the March newsletter will be published, so it is included in this newsletter.



## Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

An Official Field Trip of the Mid-Ga Gem & Mineral Society (Macon, GA) - 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 pub



### Reviewing: Scapolite

From [Geology.com/minerals](http://Geology.com/minerals)

A name used for the solid-solution mineral pair of marialite and meionite.

#### What is Scapolite?

Scapolite is a name used for a group of aluminosilicate minerals that includes meionite, marialite, and silvialite. Meionite and marialite are end members of a solid solution series. Silvialite is a mineral that is very similar to meionite.

These minerals have very similar compositions, crystal structures, and physical properties. They cannot be easily distinguished from one another in the field or during hand specimen examination in a laboratory. The name "scapolite" is a term used for convenient communication. These minerals are found in small quantities in some metamorphic and igneous rocks. Their compositions are compared in the table below.



**Right:** Cat's-Eye Scapolite

Mineral	Chemical Composition
Meionite	$\text{Ca}_4(\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8)_3(\text{CO}_3, \text{SO}_4)$
Marialite	$\text{Na}_4(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8)_3\text{Cl}$
Silvialite	$(\text{Ca}, \text{Na})_4(\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8)_3(\text{CO}_3, \text{SO}_4)$

#### Physical Properties of Scapolite

Scapolite has an appearance that is very similar to many feldspars. As a result, it can easily be overlooked in the field and during hand specimen examination in a laboratory.

Massive scapolite is found in regionally metamorphosed rocks such as marble, gneiss, and schist. These massive specimens often exhibit a wood-grain or fibrous texture which facilitates their identification. Well-formed, gem-quality, prismatic crystals with a square cross-section are sometimes found in marbles.



**Left:** Scapolite Crystals

In metamorphosed igneous rocks, especially gabbro and basalt, scapolite often occurs as complete or partial replacements of the feldspar grains. Crystals of scapolite are sometimes found in pegmatites and rocks altered by contact metamorphism.

Scapolite minerals are easily attacked by weathering. They are some of the first minerals attacked in their host rocks and easily alter to micas and clay minerals. As weathering begins, the mineral grains lose their transparency, become opaque, and have a reduced hardness.



**Right:** Faceted Scapolite

Chemical Classification	Silicate
Color	Colorless, white, gray, yellow, orange, pink, purple
Streak	White
Luster	Vitreous
Diaphaneity	Transparent to translucent
Cleavage	Good
Mohs Hardness	5 to 6
Specific Gravity	2.5 to 2.7
Diagnostic Properties	Luster, specific gravity, massive specimens often have a wood-grain or fibrous appearance, prismatic crystals have a square cross-section
Chemical Composition	A solid solution between marialite ( $\text{Na}_4(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8)_3\text{Cl}$ ) and meionite ( $\text{Ca}_4(\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8)_3(\text{CO}_3, \text{SO}_4)$ )
Crystal System	Tetragonal
Uses	Faceted gemstones and cat's-eye cabochons

### Uses of Scapolite

Scapolite does not have a role as an industrial mineral. It is rarely found in minable quantities and does not have a composition or physical properties that make it of industrial use.

The only use of scapolite is as a minor gemstone; however, in that use it can be beautiful and interesting. Yellow and pink transparent scapolite can be cut into very attractive gems. Some specimens contain tiny fibrous inclusions that produce a "silk" within the stone that reflects light to form a cat's-eye.

Scapolite has a Mohs hardness of between 5 and 6, which is too soft to serve as a ring stone. Its use is therefore limited to being a collector's stone and being mounted in jewelry such as earrings and pendants that have a low risk of impact or abrasion.

Hobart M. King, Ph.D.



## Meeting Minutes

The January meeting was cancelled due to weather, so there were no minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Reed, Secretary



## Nature's Treasures

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

President:	Al Gaskill	
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