

# FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

## *Nature's Treasures*

May 17, 2018

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



**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, May 17, 2018**, the third Thursday of the Month, at **Vulcan Materials Company's Training Center, 4401 N. Patterson Ave., Winston-Salem, NC.**



**PROGRAM:** The May presentation for the Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club will feature Crystal Wilson from ASU.



**Refreshments:** Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by **Brouhles and McGilvarys**. 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*

### **.2018 Refreshment List**

January Fulchers and Bakers	July Hughes and Roby
February Myers and Gaskills	August Picnic
March Goodes and McGilvarys	September Show
April Whickers and Becks	October Schlottmans + <b>One Needed</b>
<b>May Brouhles and McGilvarys</b>	November Marions, Reeds
June Caroline Jones and Daniel Bowles	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:**

**June 2nd:** Greensboro (NC) Gem & Mineral Club

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



**DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS**



### **Upcoming Shows**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> :** - Greensboro (NC) Gem & Mineral Club hosts its 7th Annual Piedmont Open Air Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show - Saturday hours - 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. - Piedmont Farmers Market - Sandy Ridge Road off I-40, Colfax, North Carolina - Free admission - Door prizes hourly - Hand crafted Jewelry, Lapidary, Minerals, fine specimens, Gemstones, gold jewelry, beads, geode cutting - Lots of fun for the young, the old, the curious, and the collector - Email Gary Parker [redrutile@bellsouth.net](mailto:redrutile@bellsouth.net)



## **May Program**

### **Appalachian Topography: Everyone Loves Something New in an Old Mountain Belt.**

It is well-known that the Appalachians formed through much of the Paleozoic (~450-280 million years ago) as continental masses collided to form the supercontinent Pangaea. As a result of these collisions, crustal shortening was accompanied by thickening and uplift to produce a regional mountain belt that was likely as high as the Himalayan range today. The big question is, “After 280 million years of erosion, why are the mountains still here?” Please join us as we explore this perplexing question and evidence for recent uplift of the landscape (~40 million year ago) to create a young topography in an old mountain-belt.

Ms. Crystal G. Wilson is a Senior Lecture at Appalachian State University and teaches courses in Physical and Environmental Geology, in addition to Geologic Mapping and Field Methods. She joined the faculty following completion of her Masters in Structural Geology and Tectonics from University of Tennessee in 2006. Crystal’s field studies in the Appalachian Mountains utilize detailed geologic mapping, coupled with structural and geochemical analyses to understand the local geology. Her work spans the orogen from brittle-deformed sedimentary rocks in the Valley and Ridge to high-grade metamorphic rocks and migmatites of the Inner Piedmont.



## **Annual Aurora Fossil Festival**

One of the highlights of the year for fossil collectors is the annual festival in Aurora, NC. Aurora is the home of the largest phosphate mine and chemical processing plant in the world. The mine is also known as a major source of marine fossils from the Miocene and Pliocene eras.

Although the mine itself is closed to public access there is a significant fossil museum in the town. The museum and town sponsor an annual festival on Memorial Day weekend each year. The festival has a number of activities including a parade, car show, and numerous music presentations.

But the big attraction for fossil collectors is that the museum and mine bring out several truckloads of mine material and dump it in locations around town. These piles contain a high density of fossils – most often small shark teeth, ray teeth, crinoids, and others. However larger teeth have been found, including megalodon teeth up to four inches and larger.

(Note: The museum is open year-round and has a frequently refreshed pile of material that anyone can work through at any time. But during the festival the available piles of material are greatly expanded.)

This year’s festival will be primarily on Saturday, May 26 – though there are some events on Friday evening as well.

For more information see:

<http://aurorafossilfestival.net/>

<http://aurorafossilmuseum.org/>



## **Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip**

**An Official Field Trip of the Lowcountry Gem and Mineral Society (Charleston, SC) - 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.

### **Harleyville, SC**

**119 Railroad Ave**

**No limits on # of attendees**

**No Registration Required**

**No Fee**

**TRIP:** While fossil hunting at the LaFarge Quarry is no longer permitted, collecting is permitted in a lot next to Old Town Hall in Harleyville, SC. The material is fossil-bearing dump material brought in from the nearby LaFarge Quarry. The collecting site is approximately the size of a tennis court.

**COLLECTING:** The material from this quarry cuts 80 feet through the Harleyville Formation (Late Marine Eocene) and the Cross Formation (Middle Marine Eocene). You will find fossil shark teeth, bones, brachiopods, and other marine fossils.

**BRING:** Digging tools, shovels, screens, buckets, work gloves, and don't forget weather protection gear, water, and snacks.

**REQUIREMENTS:** No specific requirements are necessary for the site. Safety equipment like hard hat, safety glasses, steel-toed boots, gloves, etc. are not required.

**FEE:** No Fee

**REGISTRATION:** Registration not required.

**CHILDREN (Yes):** Children are allowed. If children are present, adult supervision is required at all times.

**PETS (Yes):** Pets are allowed as the site is within city limits; leash is required at all times.

**FACILITIES:** As the site is within city limits, nearby facilities are available at or near the site.



## Meeting Minutes

FGMC Minutes 4/19/18

23 members present

Our speaker was Richard Hightower- a fossil collector and a dealer -Stones and Bones- at our annual Gem and Mineral Show. His topic was on collecting fossils in Fossil Lake Wyoming and how he recognizes and prepares fossils for his own collection and retailing.

Refreshments provided by the Whicker and Beck families. Thank you!

Door prize won by: Alex McGilvary. He chose an Otodus Obiquus shark tooth.

Door prize donated by Richard Hightower- a fish fossil – was won by Sherry Marion.

Field trip to Hiddenite – May 19

Aurora Festival Weekend- May 25,26 – Large piles of material that contain fossils and shark teeth are deposited in an area and the public is allowed to hunt for treasures.

July volunteers for refreshments– Ernie Hughes and Diane Roby

1 Volunteer needed for refreshments in October. See Vickie Gaskill –refreshment chairperson

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	
Vice-President:	Jeff Schlottman	
Secretary:	Lisa Reed	
Treasurer:	Alex McGilvary	
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Hospitality Chair:	Vickie Gaskill	
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Field Trip Chair	To Be Determined	
Club Web Site:	<a href="https://forsythgemclub.com/">https://forsythgemclub.com/</a>	