

# FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

## *Nature's Treasures*

June 21, 2018

\*\*\* **PUBLIC VERSION** \*\*\*



**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, June 21, 2018**, the third Thursday of the Month, at **Vulcan Materials Company's Training Center, 4401 N. Patterson Ave., Winston-Salem, NC.**



**PROGRAM:** The speaker for the June meeting of the Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club will be Shaun Shelton of High Point. Shaun is one of the dealers in our September Show, and is also a college professor teaching Chemistry. His talk is entitled, "The Chemistry of Minerals". Please join us for an informative presentation!



**Refreshments:** Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by **Caroline Jones and Daniel Bowles**. 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> |
| May         | Brouhles and McGilvarys                 | November  | Marions, Reeds                  |
| <b>June</b> | <b>Caroline Jones and Daniel Bowles</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:**

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



**DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS**



**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.



## **Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip**

**An Official Field Trip of the Middle Tennessee Rockhounds (Nashville, TN) - 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.

### **Coon Creek Science Center** **McNairy County, Tennessee**

**Limited to 35 participants**

**Pre-Registration Required**

**FEE \$15**

**TRIP:** Within the grounds of Coon Creek Science Center, located in rural McNairy County, Tennessee, lies one of the most important fossil sites in North America. Acquired by the Memphis Museum System in 1988, this property contains a treasure lode of superbly preserved Upper Cretaceous marine shells and vertebrate remains left there 70 million years ago when the water of the Gulf of Mexico receded. Coon Creek fossils are mostly marine invertebrates (clams, snails, oysters, shrimp etc.) that are about 75 million years old. They are found in an unconsolidated clay/sand matrix. Coon Creek fossils are very unique because of the state of their preservation. They are original material – the shells have not turned to stone. They are also very abundant with a huge variety of species. You will be able to collect in a “quarry” area and surface collect from Coon Creek's stream bed (as guided by the museum staff). You will be “carving” fossils out of the Coon Creek formation by looking through chunks of the formation that have been loosened from the quarry. Participants will use a curved linoleum knife for collecting. Museum instructors will demonstrate how to collect your fossils and how to clean them. Everyone will find fossils! Some of the fossils are very fragile. You keep what you find with a few exceptions. If you find a specimen that would be beneficial for the Museum's collection or research, the Museum reserves the right to keep that fossil. See also: [http://www.memphismuseums.org/coon\\_creek-overview](http://www.memphismuseums.org/coon_creek-overview)

**Program** – Field Paleontology (4 Hours): Introduction – 30 minutes; Collecting Session (quarry and surface) – 2 Hour; Lunch – 30 minutes; Clean and Identify Fossils - 45 minutes

**COLLECTING:** Upper Cretaceous marine fossils.

**BRING:** Lunch (there is no food nearby & no vending machines at the center), water, boots or shoes that can get wet/dirty, poncho, towel, change of clothes & shoes (for return home), bucket, small digging tool (optional; linoleum knives will be furnished), roll of aluminum foil (to protect your finds), and bug spray.

**FEE:** \$15 per participant

**REGISTRATION:** Pre-Registration Procedure: After you supply required information by email to Middle Tennessee Rockhounds (MTR), MTR will assign you a registration number by return email – bring registration number the day of the fieldtrip. [Instructions for mailing the \$15 per participant fee will be included with registration number. Registration is not official until fee is received.] Once registration reaches 35, registration is closed. To register, email [Fieldtrip@rockhound.org](mailto:Fieldtrip@rockhound.org) with: Name(s; Last, First), Address/ City/State, Phone (include cell for day of trip), club, age of children (must be 10 to 17 years old and accompanied by a parent or a guardian). Registration requests are limited to family members, couples, and significant others; non-related individuals must email separate registration requests. All persons who attend DMC fieldtrips (including children), must be members, in good standing, of an SFMS club (who has provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance).

**CHILDREN:** Yes (see stipulations in registration above; no children under 10 per Coon Creek Science Center)

**PETS:** No.

**FACILITIES:** Bathrooms and showers are available. There are no snack or drink machines. There are no restaurants or stores nearby.

**RAIN OR SHINE:** This fieldtrip is rain or shine. The Science Center will cancel only if weather conditions are threatening.



## **FGMC / DMC Renewal**

The basic requirement for a member club to be able to participate in the SFMS/DMC field trips is that the club must sponsor a periodic trip in return. With the number of clubs participating the requirement to host a trip only comes around every couple of years.

In order to better plan for the future the SFMS/DMC organization is looking to set up trips well ahead of time. As such it is time for FGMC to sign up for our next trip to sponsor.

At the moment there are several options open from July 2019 to December 2020. The officers are working toward picking an appropriate time. Any member with a preference, and particularly any member with an idea for a good location to use is encouraged to contact the officers. DMC trips should be able to accommodate a large group (groups from 20 to over 100 are common on these trips).

The primary consideration at this point is setting the month, but the date will be upon us very quickly.



## **Show Time Is Coming**

Yes indeed, the 2018 show is barreling down upon us. It's hard to believe, but in less than three months from now the show will be behind us! Of course that means that we have barely over two months to get ready for it.

Members need to start thinking about volunteering for the show if possible (more on that below).

Also, members who are interested in setting up displays in the club cases should start thinking about how many cases they will need and contacting case coordinator Alex McGilvary.

Note that the club will NOT be doing the "favorite case" voting process this year. That process has pretty much run its course for now.

Also, as regularly noted, members need to start collecting any specimens that are to be donated for the grab bags. The club will again be assembling grab bags at the August picnic. Quartz and calcite are always welcome of course, but we also need a variety of other types of samples. Even small quantities can be useful to help make up distinctive bags. Upcoming field trips over the next couple of months are prime times to gather additional samples.



## **Volunteering For the Show**

Yes, it's time for the reminders (nagging) to begin. 😊

A show like the one that FGMC puts on requires a large amount of volunteer support to make it happen. Much of the effort is year-round work done by the show committee, and particularly the show chairperson Arvil Marion.

But at the time of the show itself there is a need for a large number of bodies/hands to help out. This includes setting up for the show, breaking things down after the show, and working in the various volunteer slots during the show.

Setup day is very important and is done on the Thursday before the show opens. Setup includes retrieving the display cases and other materials from the storage unit, setting up the tables, and assembling and wiring the display cases themselves. There are usually a few other tasks as well. Setup starts early in the morning and needs to be completed as quickly as possible. Primary setup functions are usually finished by mid-afternoon (in time for members to get ready for the dealer dinner).

Takedown day is pretty much the reverse of setup day, but done in a more compressed timescale. Takedown involves disassembling the cases and taking them and the other materials back to storage. This process commences as soon as the show closes on Sunday, and is usually complete within about three hours or so.

During the show days, Friday through Sunday, work is a bit less strenuous, but still requires several people. There are three core functions that volunteers are needed for: front door/entry ticket sales, club corner geode and grab-bag sales, and geode cutting. These functions are divided into hourly slots from opening to closing, with two people needed for each function for each hour.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the June and July meetings, and at the club picnic in August. Members are encouraged to sign up to help out if possible, and even better to sign up for two consecutive hours when that can be arranged. Members can also contact Arvil directly, either by phone call or by email. (And if you have indicated on your membership form that you are willing to help at the show and don't contact Arvil soon, he will be contacting you...)

Anyone with questions regarding any of the functions and duties is encouraged to ask any of the officers or other members.

Note that the electronic sign-up process that we have used for the last few years will not be used this year. There simply weren't enough members using it to make it worth the effort in coordinating it.



## **Club Outreach Opportunity**

FGMC member Jim Stroud has notified us that he will be presenting his "Rock Buddy" talk at the Lewisville library on July 26, from 4-5 PM. He has invited any other members who would like to attend to come out and help out in answering questions and/or doing some recruiting for new members.



## **Dedication Presentation**

Jim Stroud prepared the following dedication to Joe Gutierrez for presentation at the Highway Geology Symposium, which both he and Joe were National Steering Committee Members

# *Dedication*

*The Proceedings of the 69<sup>th</sup> Highway Geology Symposium are dedicated to*

**Joe Gutierrez**

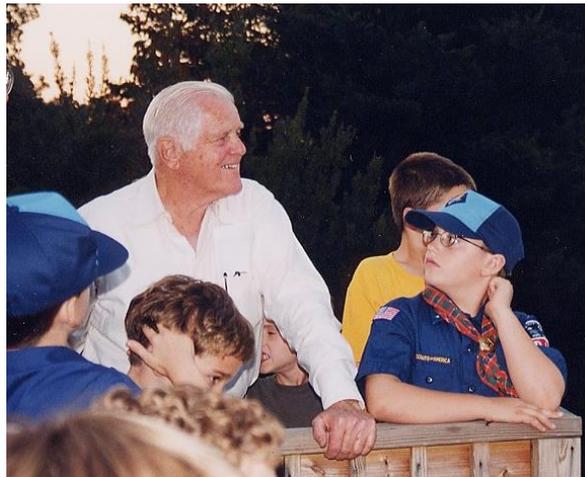
**1926-2018**

Joe Gutierrez was born on August 12, 1926, in Lafayette, IN. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1956. Joe proudly served in the United States Army Air Force during WWII. He started his career working for the North Carolina Department of Transportation in 1956 as a Highway Geologist, shortly after that he went to work for W.E. Graham & Sons, which eventually became Vulcan Materials Midwest Division, where he retired in 1992. Joe continued working for Vulcan as a temporary part-time employee leading school groups through the Joseph Andres Gutierrez Earth Science Museum until 2013. This museum is Joe's legacy for teaching children that "Everything comes from the Earth, and if you can't grow it, you've got to mine it."

Joe was always trying to advance the fields of Mining and Geology through outreach classes. The Joseph Andres Gutierrez Earth Science Museum was opened and dedicated to Joe at his retirement in 1992, due to his outreach programs. This museum has won numerous state and national awards over many years and is still active. Joe taught children and adults about the importance of mining with over 3000 students per year touring the facility and Vulcan's North Quarry. Joe was instrumental for thousands of scouts obtaining their geology badges. He was an important part of Vulcan's and the Nation Stone Association's outreach program, which developed nationwide into educating people about the importance for mining. This has played a key role in getting new properties rezoned and permitted for mining. Joe remained involved as a temporary part-time employee at Vulcan Materials leading tours through the museum until 2013 at 86 years of age, which was 21 years after he retired. He became a Vulcan Midwest Division icon and was loved by teachers from across NC, SC, and VA. Joe received the Non-School Teachers Award in 1999 from the North Carolina Science Teachers Association (NCSTA).

Joe was a member of the HGS Steering Committee for approximately 30 years and served in several officer positions during his attendance. He served as Secretary and Treasurer in the early 70's for many years and Vice Chairman in late 70's. He was a mentor to many younger geologists that followed in his footsteps over the years and will always be remembered for his generosity.

Joe enjoyed helping others. He will always be remembered for his dedication to educating youth about geology and his fun wit with such a positive attitude.





## Show Theme

Just a reminder that the theme for this year's show is "Treasures From the Western 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 west 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 western US.

(Reminder: Displays in the show cases do NOT have to be done to fit the show's theme. The theme is intended simply as a way to get some ideas flowing and to hopefully provide several cases with displays along the lines of the themes. Don't let a lack of materials that fit the theme prevent you from setting up a display of something else.)



## Meeting Minutes

FGMC Minutes 5/17/18

19 members and guests present

The program was a video on colors in minerals. (The planned speaker had a last-minute cancellation.)

Refreshments provided by the Brouhles and McGilvarys. Thank you!

Door prize won by: David McCracken, who chose a GGG (Gadolinium Gallium Garnet) faceted stone.

Second door prize won by: Tami Lovelle (new member), who chose a Hemimorphite from Wenshan mine

Field trip to Hiddenite – May 19

Steve Hebert discussed that the Sawtooth Center is looking to begin classes in the lapidary arts, and may be looking for assistants to help instruct the classes. Any member interested should contact Steve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Ketner, substituting for Lisa Reed, Secretary



## Nature's Treasures

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

|                    |   |              |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
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| Field Trip Chair   | To Be Determined  |              |
| Club Web Site:     | <a href="https://forsythgemclub.com/">https://forsythgemclub.com/</a> |              |