

# FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

## *Nature's Treasures*

July 19, 2018

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



**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, July 19, 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 July meeting of the Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club will be a presentation entitled, "How Pegmatites Form, and Why They Provide Such Good Material". It'll be given by Marlene McCauley, who is from Guilford College. Marlene has spoken to our club in past years and provides some of the best presentations we've had. Please join us for this exceptional talk!!



**Refreshments:** Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by **the Hughes and Robys**. 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	<b>July</b>	<b>Hughes and Roby</b>
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
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:**

**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.

Our July field trip will be to the State Museum in Raleigh. The curator of the mineral collection, Chris Tacker, will be meeting us to provide us with a guided tour. For those of you who haven't been there before, the museum hosts some of the best North Carolina minerals in existence, including emeralds, hiddenite, gold and other specimens (as well as a hiddenite crystal that our club member Paul Burton cut!). More information on the trip will be given at the meeting on the 19th, or by contacting Jeff Schlottman. We'll also discuss carpooling at the meeting to simplify transportation.



## **Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip**

**An Official Field Trip of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (Huntsville, AL) - 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.

### **Hogg Mine** **Troup County, GA**

#### **Fee Site**

**TRIP:** The Hogg Mine started out as the Oxford Mine in 1942 to mine beryl to produce beryllium. Commercial operations shut down in 1960. The site has been opened off and on since then for specimen mining and is currently managed by Chris Painter. The site is a surface mine pit approximately 650 feet long with an east – west orientation.

**COLLECTING:** The parking area is at the east end of the pit. As you enter the pit from the parking area there is a trench approximately 150 feet long and to your right. Here has been found large green Aquamarine beryl and pockets of green Aquamarine beryl. As you enter the main pit area, there is a tailing or spoil pile to your left that came out of the pit in front of you. There has been several large nice gemmy Aquamarine beryl specimens come from this area. The main pit in front of you has a plethora of treasures, Rose Quartz, Smoky Quartz, banded Quartz, Beryl in matrix with the quartz, Tourmaline in matrix with the quartz, etc. The last area of note is at the western end at the back of the pit. There has been a new smaller pit dug in the last year and some very nice Blue Aquamarine Beryl has been found. The new pit was dug because an old drilling report had indicated that Amethyst was found. There are pieces of Amethyst coming from the new pit.

**FACILITIES:** There is an outhouse available on site. There is plenty of parking. The mine also cooks hamburgers and hot dogs and has drinks. Lunch plate is \$8.00

**FEE:** 17 years old and up is \$35 per person, 16 years old and younger dig for free.

**TOOLS:** Bring all the tools you have: pick, shovel, screen, rock hammer, hand sledge, rock chisel, bucket, hand cart, etc. The Hogg does sale some tools in limited quantities. It would be a good idea to bring an extra change of clothes. The pit can be muddy and wet.

Note: The August DMC trip will be held before the August FGMC newsletter comes out, so information on that trip is included in this month's newsletter.



## **Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip**

An Official Field Trip of the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, 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.

### **3 sites on Chunky Gal Mountain Between Hayesville and Franklin, NC Limit by area-first come first served per site Registration required on site**

**TRIP:** Chunky Gal Mountain was named from a Cherokee legend about a chubby maid who fell in love with a young man from another tribe. Her parents attempted to snuff the romance, but the young woman was determined to follow her heart, finding her way across the mountain's slope to be with her beloved. This area offers a world-class deposit of olivine in the Buck Creek area, which accounts for the presence of rubies, garnets, sapphires and other gem stones. Here at Corundum Knob (Chunky Gal) is a public rock-hunting area, which is supervised by the Tusquitee Ranger District and with this trip, **all forest service rules will apply.**

There will be 3 sites for collecting: Buck Creek, Chunky Gal mine, and Herbert Corundum Mine, with guides/monitors posted at all areas. Each area has safety precautions and will be supervised by the Franklin Club members so please cooperate with them.

**Everyone must register at the main tent near the base of Chunky Gal Mountain on Hwy 64,** sign a waiver of liability, receive a list of all forest rules, and receive a map for all areas of interest. As parking is limited in some areas, you may be asked to wait or work another area until room is available. If you can't walk unassisted, this will limit the areas where you may safely collect. Your safety is our priority.

**3 COLLECTING AREAS:** Degrees of difficulty for each area assigned.

Moderate 1) Buck Creek is known for its small gemmy almandine garnets. In and around the creek quartz and chert are available as well as blue corundum dump piles and a ruby area.

Hard 2) Chunky Gal Mine, on the top of the mountain, has smaragdite with ruby confirmed with a long wave UV lite, some bronze sapphire and some blue corundum can be found there as well.

Hard-Demanding 3) Herbert Corundum Mine has hexagonal corundum crystals, mostly white and blue, in the creek. A 2 mile hike, round trip, is required to collect in this area. Tiffany's first mined rubies/sapphires at this location for gem/abrasive quality minerals in the early 1900's. An old vertical mine is there and several horizontal tunnels to see but not to explore!

**COLLECTING:** Smaragdite, Red corundum, blue corundum, almandine garnet chips, quartz, chert.

**BRING:**

- 1) Buck Creek we suggest: 1/8" sifting screen, hand shovel, and rubber boots/wading shoes. Lunch, water, towel, and UV lite. Caution: water is swift and up to 2-3 ft. deep in places. Snakes have been spotted.
- 2) Chunky Gal Mine: rock hammer, short rock pick, short handled sledge hammer, hand shovel, and hiking boots. Lunch, water, and a UV lite. Caution: Snakes and wild animals. 150 ft. hill climb required at steep angle to the top.
- 3) Herbert Corundum Mine we suggest 1/4' sifting screen, hand shovel, rock hammer, short rock pick, hiking and rubber boots. Lunch, water, and UV lite. Caution: Creek water can be swift and 1-2 ft. deep in places. You will need to traverse a muddy area approximately 50 ft. long and a couple creeks to get to the site. Total hike is 2 miles round trip.

**Very Important** – Please read carefully: According to National Forest rules, “materials must be removed using small hand tools without mechanical means or motorized equipment. You cannot remove mineral materials with a pick, shovel, sluice box or similar large tools.”

**REQUIREMENTS:** The ability to walk unassisted, cross and work in cold streams with swift currents up to 2-3 ft. deep, steep hill climbs, avoid snakes and wild animals, and hike up to 2 miles round trip. No bathrooms. No convenience stores. There is limited to non-existent cell phone coverage throughout the collecting areas. Forest Service rules and restrictions for Gold Panning and Rock Hounding apply and may be found at: [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5420144](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5420144) . As always the AFMS Code of Ethics applies (<http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm> ). Your safety is our business. Poison ivy and ticks are especially abundant this year. Sun screen and rain gear as needed.

**FEE:** None.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** At the bottom of Chunky Gal Mountain there will be a registration tent at the intersection of hwy 64 and forest road #6236. Registration begins at 9 AM Eastern for all areas. No early reservations accepted. Once an area is full it will be closed until parking spots become available. No exceptions.

**CHILDREN (NO):** Unless they are over 12 years of age and under adult supervision at all times. Unsupervised children and their adults will be removed as necessary for your safety.

**PETS (NO):** This is a wild area and interactions with wild animals pose a safety risk for your pet and all participants.

**FACILITIES CLOSEST:** Hayesville, NC is 9 miles west on hwy 64 and Franklin, NC is 25 miles east on hwy 64. You can locate food, drinks, and a toilet there. If you wish to stay overnight, Franklin has several great locations to choose from. The chamber of commerce in Franklin can help you out.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin will provide bottled water and a snack until source is exhausted. Club members will be monitoring all activities, in all areas, to help you out



### **Volunteering For the Show**

(Yep – I told you last month that it is the beginning of “nagging season”...)

This is a reminder that Arvil is still looking for volunteers for the show functions.

Volunteer activities include set-up day, dealer dinner setup, take-down day, door/ticket sales, geode/grab bag sales, and geode cutting.

Volunteer signup sheets will be available at the July meeting. They will also be available at the club picnic in August. Those wishing to assist with the dealer dinner setup should contact Hospitality Chair Vickie Gaskill.

**Arvil has asked that if it is at all possible that you contact him BEFORE the picnic this year.**

The vagaries of the calendar cause there to be a shorter time between the picnic and the show. In order to get the schedule worked out and get it to the newsletter editor in time to get published and distributed it will help immensely if the schedule can be as complete as possible prior to the picnic.

Anyone with questions about what the volunteer positions involves can ask any of the officers, or most of the longer-term members.

Remember that the show is the primary educational activity for the club, and is a major factor in what allows the club to retain educational organization tax status.



## Upcoming Shows

**July 28 to August 5, 2018; Spruce Pine, Nc - The 34th Annual Grassy Creek Mineral and Gem Show** - put on by the Parkway Fire and Rescue to raise money for new equipment. -Over 60 US and International dealers with almost any kind of jewelry, gemstone and mineral specimens, fossil, lapidary equipment and more you might want. Each booth is 20 foot by 40 foot so there are LOTS of items for sale. - Parking and admission are free. - Food is available. - Hours: 10 to 6 daily with many vendors open earlier and later because they are staying with their booth. - Address: 136 Majestic View, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. This location is on the hill above the previous location. - Contact: Donna Collis [collisdonna@yahoo.com](mailto:collisdonna@yahoo.com) 828-765-5519

**August 31 - September 3, 2018 - Hendersonville, NC - Labor Day weekend -Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society 37th Annual Gem & Mineral Spectacular -Colorful World of Jaspers** - Friday-Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM -Monday 10 AM to 5 PM - Whitmire Activiy Center, 301 Lily Pond Rd, Hendersonville, NC - \*Demonstrations\*Exhibits\*Hourly Prizes\*Refreshments Available\* - \*Raffle\*Grand Prizes\* - For more info check our website: <http://HCGMS.com> - Admission: \$5.00 Adults - Children under 12 accompanied by an adult are free - \$1.00 off admisson with coupon on our website!



## No Program Meeting for August or September

It's that time of the year to go "off track" with the meetings. There will not be a regular/program meeting for either August or September.

The August meeting is replaced by the annual club picnic.

The September meeting is replaced by the show.

Normal meetings will resume in October.



## 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.



## Show Display Cases

As a reminder, members are encouraged to set up displays at the show in the club's display cases. Displays do not have to be directly related to the theme of the current year's show, though such is encouraged when possible.

Displays must be set up no later than the dealer dinner on Thursday night, and cannot be taken down until the show closes on Sunday evening.

Members wishing to put in one or more displays should contact the display coordinator Alex McGilvary to let him know how many cases you would like to have. Actual case assignments will be done on setup day itself.



## Meeting Minutes

6/21/18 FGMC Minutes

29 members present

Shaun Shelton was our speaker discussing the topic of “The Chemistry of Minerals”. Shaun is one of the mineral dealers at our show and a very talented professor at Guilford College. Thankfully, a test was not given at the end of his presentation. But, I think most of the audience could have scored well!

Tasty summertime refreshments were provided by Caroline Jones and Daniel Bowles.

Door prizes were won by: David Goode- a mineral specimen of quartz with chlorite inclusions.

Dave Thomas- shell opal earrings.

Saturday June 23- FGMC Field trip prospecting for kyanite and mica. Black Mountain, NC area. Handout available with directions for club members and their families only. Liability issues mean that these trips cannot be attended by the general public unless otherwise noted.

At each meeting and at the picnic, sign-up sheets will be available for volunteers to choose hours of “working” at the FGMC show. September 7-9 are the dates of the show, with the set-up day and Dealer Dinner taking place on Thursday September 6. Show theme this year is “Minerals of the Western United States.”

Thank you notes will be sent out to property owners that allow FGMC to collect minerals on their property.

Sawtooth Center is interested in providing classes about learning the lapidary arts. They are searching for someone that knows faceting and cabochon cutting.

Next field trip: Museum of Natural Science in Raleigh, NC.

Next month’s speaker: Marlene McAulee.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Reed, Secretary



## Nature’s Treasures

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

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