

FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Nature's Treasures

December 20, 2018

*** *Public Version* ***



MEETING: The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be the annual holiday and show-celebration dinner.



PROGRAM: There is no program meeting for December.



Refreshments: Since there is no program meeting for December there will be no snacks.

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 and Heberts
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.



DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS



Inclement Weather Procedure

Winter is just around the corner and with it 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.



Dues Renewal Time

Just a reminder that dues for the coming year to due to be paid by the end of the current year. Dues may be paid at the November meeting, at the December dinner, or mailed to the Treasurer.

Members who do not renew by the time of the March meeting will be dropped.

In order to assist, a copy of the 2019 membership form is included in this newsletter, and will also be in the coming months' editions. Also a reminder that ALL members need to fill out the forms with current information each year.



Annual Holiday/Show Celebration Dinner

December is the time for our annual Holiday / Show Rewards Dinner

The dinner is both a chance for the families to get together plus a reward for those who worked at the show.

If you worked at the show, then the club will cover the cost of the meal for you and your immediate family (spouse, dependent children).

If you are a new member who joined at or after the show (September or later), the club will also cover your family's meal. And we hope that you will join us at the show next year.

If you are an existing member but did not work at the show, we also encourage you to come out, but we do ask that you cover your own meals' costs.



Election Results

Elections were held at the club's annual "Business" meeting in November.. The slate of nominees was presented by the Nominating committee and was accepted by acclamation.

President	Albert Gaskill
Vice-President	Charles Whicker
Treasurer	Alex McGilvary
Secretary	Lisa Reed
Directors	David Goode Sandra Myers Sherry Marion Ken Reed



FGMC / DMC Field Trip

The January DMC field trip will be hosted by FGMC. This will fulfill our requirement to periodically host a trip in order to be able to continue to participate in trips hosted by other groups.

The field trip will be to Douglass Lake for collecting quartz specimens. See the detailed information in the DMC field trip notice.



Field Trip Committee Meeting

The club will have a "field trip committee" meeting prior to the January club meeting. Any member who is interested in participating in field trips is encouraged to attend the meeting if possible. (Note: all members who participate in field trips are nominally members of the "committee".)

The meeting will be held just before the January meeting on Thursday, January 17. The meeting will start at 6 PM.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss possible field trips for the coming year, and to determine contacts to work toward arranging possible trips.

As noted above, the January field trip is already set due to requirements to host the DMC trip.

Anyone who has ideas on possible field trip locations but is not able to make the meeting is encouraged to get the information to other members, in particular Al Gaskill or Charles Whicker.

Note that there was also some discussion about possibly getting pizza for the meeting. If you plan to attend, notify Al or Charles so that they can plan accordingly and/or let you know if the pizza idea will be pursued.



Lapidary Material and Equipment For Sale

Charles Whicker reports that he knows someone who has a variety of lapidary material and equipment for sale. Items include arbors, a trim saw, and a variety of rough material. Anyone interested should contact Charles for further information.



Greensboro Club Looking for Liaison

The Greensboro club is looking at possibly establishing a liaison relationship with the Forsyth club. The general idea is that each club would have a member who would attend the other clubs' meetings. This would allow both clubs to keep up with what each other is doing, and possibly lead to more joint activities.

Anyone interested in possibly being the FGMC member to attend the Greensboro meeting should contact one of the officers. Note that it was also discussed that this might be a part-time position, with the function rotating between several different members if no one person is able to commit to it full time.



Opportunities Abound

As with any hobby organization FGMC is powered by the activities of the members. The more members that participate, the more the organization is able to do. In addition, the more that each member participates, the more they get out of their membership.

One key way that members can participate is in the various offices, appointed positions, and committees.

The current leadership is looking to add some opportunities for experience, to allow other members to get involved. Specifically, the President is hoping to add the following functions to assist current activities and prepare for the future.

Assistant Field Trip Chairperson – traditionally the Vice President serves as de facto chairperson of the field trip committee, though this has varied in the past. This function is aimed at providing some assistance on this function. The primary function would be to serve as an additional contact point for getting information about trips out, helping to coordinate trip-day activities, etc.

Assistant Hospitality Chairperson - the hospitality committee has three main functions: 1) coordinating the monthly snack providers, 2) bringing the club materials (plates, cups, etc.) to the meetings, and 3) coordinating the dealer dinner at the annual show. The assistant position here is mainly focused on being a backup contact, plus being backup to bring the club materials to meetings, and assist in planning and setting up the dealer dinner.

In addition, two other appointed positions are available if there is any member interested in them:

Newsletter Editor – the editor's function is to put together the monthly newsletter by gathering appropriate information and "writing" the newsletter. (Often it's a matter of copy/paste from various sources.) The editor is also charged with getting copies printed for the members who receive physical copies, and getting the email copy distributed to those who get the newsletter by email. As part of that function the editor also works in conjunction with the Treasurer to keep up the club's member roster.

Webmaster – the webmaster is responsible for keeping up the club's Internet site. This includes posting information on the site, uploading current newsletter copies, and responding to emails that come in through the club site. (Technical note – the club's current web site is driven by Wordpress so it does NOT require extensive technical ability.)



Cabbing Class Available

FGMC member Charles Whicker has been working with the Sawtooth Center to offer a class in cabochon cutting. Charles reports that there will be a new class starting up in January.

Anyone interested should contact Charles or the Sawtooth Center for more information.

FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.
Membership Application
For the Year 2019

Date _____

Member Name: _____

Additional Family Names:

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Telephone Home (____) _____

Work (____) _____

E-Mail Address _____

If you have an e-mail address, would you be interested in receiving the bulletin via e-mail rather than hard copy? Yes _____ No _____

Annual Dues of \$15.00 are payable January 1 for the current year, per family (mailing address). Dues are reduced to \$8.00 per family, if joining after July 1 of the year. *An additional fee of \$5 per year is charged for those who wish to receive a printed newsletter by regular mail. (\$2.50 for those joining after July 1.)*

I am interested in the following activities (check all that apply):

___ Mineral Collecting ___ Fossils ___ Gold or Silver Smithing
___ Lapidary ___ Faceting ___ Carving
___ Jewelry Making ___ Wire Wrapping ___ Other _____

I would like to help with the Annual Gem and Mineral Show? **Yes** **No**

Circle yes or no

Areas needing volunteers work in are:

Setup & display case assembly	Display case takedown and loading
Club area setup & table covering	Dealer dinner
Admission & information	
Grab bag, geode, and gold panning sales	Geode cutting (saw operator)

Please **complete** and **return to the Club Treasurer, Alex McGilvary, at the address below.**

Alex McGilvary
1524 Trinity Garden Circle
Clemmons, NC 27012-8356



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club (Winston Salem, NC) - HOST

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.

Douglas Lake

Jefferson County, Tennessee

TRIP: Douglas Lake is a 30,000 acre impoundment located near Dandridge, Tennessee with over 500 miles of shoreline. It is managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Each winter, the TVA lowers the water level significantly, exposing miles of dry lake bed. We will be searching the dry lake bed for “Douglas Lake Diamonds”.

COLLECTING: “Douglas Lake Diamonds” is a phrase coined by local rockhounds for the quartz crystals found at the site due to their resemblance to Herkimer “diamonds” from New York. Crystals found here are often double terminated or twinned and are very clear. Sizes range from smaller than a pea to thumb size. Small crystal lined geodes are found here as well as chert, fossils, and agate. Note: It is illegal to remove, disturb, dig or damage historical or cultural artifacts on federal property, including items exposed on land normally covered by water. The public is asked to leave such materials in place and report anyone digging for artifacts to TVA police at 1-855-476-2489.

BRING: The TVA will not allow any digging or excavation of the lake bed, therefore we will be surface collecting only. Bring suitable containers for your specimens. Wear waterproof boots, warm clothes and a change of clothing. The wind can be quite cold coming off the lake with nothing to block it. Be prepared to do a lot of walking.

REQUIREMENTS: No special requirements, although we will be subject to the TVA rules and regulations for public lands. As noted earlier, no digging in the lake bed is allowed, no disturbing artifacts, and no littering. More information can be found at www.tva.gov.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: We will be parking at the public boat ramp near the dam. The parking is paved and adjacent to the collecting site. The collecting area is slightly to moderately inclined. There will be no fee or registration required.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children are allowed but must be closely supervised by a responsible adult or legal guardian. The site is probably not appropriate for small children unless closely watched.

PETS (Yes): Pets are allowed but must be closely supervised.

FACILITIES: There are restrooms at the site. There are convenience stores nearby and along the route and some restaurants in Dandridge.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: More information about Douglas Lake can be found at www.douglaslake.info, including water levels, public ramps and lodging.



Meeting Minutes

Minutes from 11/15/18 FGMC Meeting - 25 members present.

Alex McGilvary introduced a DVD that detailed mining and collecting in Mines Gerais, Brazil.

Door Prizes were won by: Gabi Dow- she chose a strand of Gidden rhodochrosite beads, and Bruce Bennett chose a quartz specimen from Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Refreshments were provided by the Reeds and Marions. All was very good , especially my brownie/cookies!

Next meeting is our annual club dinner. Anyone that volunteered at the FGMC show, or new members , will have their supper paid by the Club.

FGMC is hosting the January Dixie Mineral Council trip to Douglas Lake.

1/17/19 Meeting. Field trip meeting to be held from 6 to 7 pm prior to the full meeting at 7:30. Volunteers to plan and set up future field trips for FGMC.

Proposal to add an assistant to the Vice President to help with field trip planning. Also an assistant to the refreshment coordinator.

Slate of Officers:

President: Al Gaskill

V-P: Charlie Whicker

Secretary: Lisa Reed

Treasurer: Alex McGilvary

Directors: David Goode, Sandra Myers, Sherry Marion, Ken Reed

Officers were elected by acclimation.

Members present voted to have the 2019 FGMC Show.

Charlie Whicker is an instructor at the Sawtooth Center teaching classes in cabochon cutting. He has information about a Lortone trim saw with a diamond wheel, and 8 and 6 inch arbors, that a student has for sale. Please contact Charlie if you want more information.

Recommendation that FGMC network more closely with the Greensboro NC Club on field trip information and planning. They meet the 1st Monday of each month. Stephanie Myers volunteered to attend the meetings when possible.

Note about location: Vulcan Materials now requires that we come in the front door of the building. This door automatically locks when it closes. A cell phone number will be posted on the door and a club member will come to the door to open door and welcome members. Members will rotate from month-to-month. Charlie Whicker and Vickie Gaskill volunteered for the first 2 months.

.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	
Directors	David Goode Sandra Myers Sherry Marion Ken Reed	
Hospitality Chair:	Vickie Gaskill	
Editor:	Wayne Ketner	336-769-3553