

FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Nature's Treasures

March 21, 2019

*** *Public Version* ***



MEETING: The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, March 21, 2019**, 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 March meeting will be a DVD from the Great Courses series entitled "Cave of Crystals" about a cave full of enormous selenite crystals discovered during mining operations in Mexico.



Refreshments: Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by the **Heberts 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*

2019 Refreshment List

January	Sandra and Stephanie Myers	July	Shelton and Hyde
February	Dow and Brouhle	August	Picnic
March	Hebert and Gaskill	September	Show
April	Whicker and Beck	October	Fulcher and *** <i>one needed</i> ***
May	Goode and McGilvary	November	Reed and Marion
June	Gonzalez & Schlottman	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 6-8, 2019 – Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show



DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS

March 22, 23 & 24, 2019 - Hickory, NC - 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show - Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Fri: 9 AM to 6 PM; Sat: 9 AM to 6 PM; Sun: 10 AM to 5PM - Hickory Metro Convention Center - 1960 13th Ave. Drive SE, Hickory, NC 28602 off of I-40, Exit 125 - Admission is \$5.00, which good for all three days; Children under 12 free; Also free - Boy & Girl Scouts in uniform, law enforcement officers & military with ID, and approved school & youth groups. - Hourly door prizes and a grand prize drawn at the end of the show, 29 vendors with gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry; Theme "Gems, Minerals and Fossils from the Mountains to the Coast." ; Focal display and presentations including; hands-on displays; mini-mine; faceting, cabochon cutting, specimen identification by geologists; Show contact: Dean Russell, Show Chairperson, (828) 303-1448 Email contact: cvgmcsecretary@aol.com <http://www.cvgmc.com>



FGMC Field Trip

The March 2019 field trip for the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at the Propst farm in Maiden, NC. This is a well-known site where rockhounds have been collecting for many years. We will be digging for weathered corundum crystals (var. ruby) that fluoresce a bright red under UV light. There is a designated digging area at the site. Digging outside of the designated area is not allowed and will be considered trespassing. Please respect the rules as established by the owners.

Cost: There is a drop box located on the storage building adjacent to the dig site with liability forms to be signed and a fee of \$25 per person. Sign the form, attach your fee and put it in the drop box upon arrival.

What to bring: Bring shovels, picks and a screen (1/4 to 1/2 inch). Wear gloves, mud boots, knee pads and be prepared to get dirty. There are no bathroom facilities at the site, but convenience stores are located nearby. You will probably want to bring drinks and food.



Club Trip to “Super-Dig” Postponed

At the February meeting there was some discussion regarding possibly attending the fluorescent “Super-Dig” in New Jersey. This would be a long, likely multiple over-night trip. It is offered on an annual basis.

This year the trip coincides with another FGMC field trip. After some discussion it was decided to not do the super-dig as a club trip this year. Instead the dates will be left open for next year and the trip will probably be done as a club trip at that time.



Sponsored DMC Field Trip for 2021/2022

Yes, the club just completed the sponsoring of the DMC field trip in January, to Douglass Lake in Tennessee. However, we have been informed that the future schedule is filling up fast and that in order to maintain our access to the DMC trips we need to set the month for our next trip. The open dates for now are in 2021 and 2022.

Charles Whicker has asked that members give some consideration on this and be prepared to make a decision soon in order to reserve our spot. If we don't reserve a slot soon we may be forced to take a date that is not necessarily good for us. (This is how we ended up having January of this year as the most recent trip.)

Note that the specific date and location of the trip is NOT required at this time. DMC is just looking for a commitment for what month we will do. At the moment, January, July, November and December of 2021 are available. All of 2022 is available with the exception of February



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

**An Official Field Trip of the Tennessee Valley Rock And Mineral Society (Chattanooga TN) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem and 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.

Ross Creek Gruetli-Laager, TN

TRIP: Day trip to a Pennsylvanian/Mississippian scale tree and tree fern fossil site. Site is easily accessible by auto and is not strenuous. Site is a shallow creek that is wet year round. This time of year snakes and poison ivy are probably not a problem.

COLLECTING: Site collecting will include various genus and species of Pennsylvanian and Mississippian Carboniferous plants.

BRING: Bring a bucket and digging trowel, a geology hammer, magnifying lens, packing material to protect finds, wet weather gear (especially boots), gloves, and a change of shoes and pants as you will get wet. It will be cold this time of year and you will be on top of a mountain. Bring warm dry clothes to change into. Check the forecast weather for Monteagle, TN.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Parking will be ample and on a dirt road. Depending on the weather it may be muddy.

REGISTRATION: Will register everyone at meeting place.

CHILDREN (Yes): No age limit but must be able to walk on uneven surfaces. Adults are expected to supervise your children.

PETS (No): Pets are not allowed.

FACILITIES: There are no adjacent facilities for this site. This is a remote site and very primitive. There are no facilities in the area, so bring water and food and first aid/meds if needed. Cell phone reception is unreliable at best.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: A brief safety/orientation meeting will be held at the meeting site. Samples of collecting material will be available.

The April DMC trip will be before the FGMC April meeting, so the information is included in this month's newsletter.



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

An Official Field Trip of the Georgia Mineral Society (Norcross, GA) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem and 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.

Dual Trip: Corbin Gneiss Complex and Summerville, GA Bartow County, GA

Both locations require registration

TRIP: The first location is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex where porphyroblastic granite gneiss is being mined. The rocks there are some of the oldest in Georgia - approximately 1.2 billion years. The second location is a small, family owned quarry that has been a popular location for local clubs for many years. There will also be an optional side trip to a location close by where a variety of cutting material will be for sale.

COLLECTING: At the first location we will be collecting granite gneiss with blue quartz. Small pieces can be collected by hand and larger pieces can be collected with hammer and chisel. This material can be cut and polished and it also makes nice specimens. The second location is known for its colorful lace banded chert/agate. Most of the material is loose and ranges in size from pebbles to boulders. Some of the material is good for lapidary use and some of it is more suitable for specimens.

BRING: For both locations, bring a rock hammer, small sledge, chisel, scratching tools, buckets, and a spray bottle with water to wet the rocks so you can see the color better. You may also need sunscreen and gloves, plus a dolly is recommended for hauling out large rocks and heavy buckets.

REQUIREMENTS: The first location requires gloves, safety glasses, hard hat, and steel toed or sturdy boots with ankle support (hiking boots). No open toed shoes allowed. The same equipment is recommended for the second location, but not required.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Both locations are active quarries. **STAY AWAY** from all heavy equipment, high walls, ponds, and quarry machinery.

TERRAIN AND ACCESSIBILITY: Both locations have flat areas and areas with loose rock. People with mobility issues may have some difficulty navigating over and around boulders. There may also be soft, muddy areas if it rains before or during these trips. Collecting areas are within 100 yards from where we park.

CHILDREN (Yes): Both locations allow children, but they must have adult supervision at all times. And, at the first location, they must have all of the required safety equipment.

PETS (No): No pets allowed at either location.

FACILITIES: There are NO facilities at either location. Food and restrooms are several miles away.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are many hotels in Cartersville, GA, which is less than half an hour away from the first location and approximately an hour away from the second location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Georgia Mineral Society members will be available to answer questions about each location. There will also be a table with examples of collecting material, water, and snacks.



First Annual SFMS Rockhound Roundup

The Southeast Federation is sponsoring a new event this year, which we hope will become an annual event. In an effort to promote interclub and improved SFMS and Club relations, we are sponsoring our 1st Annual SFMS Rockhound Roundup. Because time is short, we are emailing all clubs/presidents to start getting the word out. This will be followed by the addition of a Rockhound Roundup page on the SFMS Website, postings to our Facebook page and more emails to our member clubs.

The dates are May 17-19, 2019, to coincide with our 2nd Executive meeting, to be held at the same dates and place. The Roundup location is the Suwannee River Music Park near Live Oak, Florida. (<http://musicliveshere.com>)

Space is limited and time is short, so if any of your members are interested, we suggest applying for a space quickly. If you have a means of sending emails to your club's membership, we ask that you forward this information to get the word out.

If you have any questions, please email me at: Jheerx6@aol.com. I prefer a written means of communication so I can keep record of questions and answers. This is a new venture, and there will most certainly be a learning curve as we progress!

[Editor's Note: If any FGMC members are interested, I have the application form and facilities map available in electronic format.]



Meet the Vendor: Blue Ridge Gallery

Next up in our new series is another vendor that is also run by FGMC members. Joe & Melia Edwards are long-term FGMC members, with heavy involvement in field trips and the annual shows.

Joe & Melia used to run a Christmas Tree farm near Sparta in the fall. A few years back they decided to move up there full time and have opened up a gallery just off of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Blue Ridge Gallery offers a very wide selection of jewelry, paintings and other art work, crafts, wines and more. For more details see their web site at: <http://www.blueridgefineart.com/>

At the annual club show their primary offering is a selection of jewelry and jewelry supplies. Much of their stock is standard fare, but Joe is well-known for his wire-wrapping skills and as such they offer a number of completely unique pieces. They also dabble in other types of crafts/arts and often have those results available for sale as well.

Blue Ridge Gallery is also unusual among the FGMC vendors as they have a permanently available facility that can be visited year-round, and the facility is within a couple of hours of Winston-Salem. However, it is best to check on their schedules as they often travel to other gem shows and aren't always available on weekends.



Meeting Minutes

27 members present

Our presentation was by David Goode on igneous rocks. Thanks to David for stepping in at last minute. Scheduled speaker had family emergency.

Door prizes : Ethan Sheets chose a fluorite on quartz. Alex McGilvary chose a pyrite cube on matrix from Navajon, Spain.

Refreshments provided by the Dow and Brouhles families. Thank you very much!

Field trips -2/23/19. Schiele Museum in Gastonia , NC. Fossil Fair 10 am to 4 pm.

3/2/19. Area near Fairy Stone State Park to look for staurolites. Charlie Whicker has details.

3/23/19. Propst Farm. Corundum specimens can be found. \$25 per person.

4/27/19. Hiddenite location. FGMC field trip.

4/27/19. Super Dig in Franklin, NJ. Sponsored by location. Preregister for Dig and it is recommended that hotel reservations are made. \$50 per person for the Millsite and Buckwheat areas. Material collected is also weighed and charged for. Day and night collecting. Famous for fluorescent minerals. Superdig.com.

Memorial service for Libbi Stroud ; long-time club member and wife of Jim Stroud, to be held 2/23/19. Lewisville Hayworth-Miller.

Club Picnic dates- August 17 or 24. To be confirmed.

Raleigh field trip to NC Museum date to be confirmed.

Dixie Mineral Council field trip to be sponsored by FGMC in 2021 and 22. Dates and location to be confirmed.

Discussion: Is lifetime membership available for FGMC? Tabled at this meeting. Will be considered and discussed more fully at October meeting..

.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:	Charles Whicker	ccwhicker@live.com
Secretary:	Lisa Reed	
Treasurer:	Alex McGilvary	amcgilvary@csmenvironmental.com
Directors	David Goode Sandra Myers Sherry Marion Ken Reed	dgoode@triad.rr.com
Hospitality Chair:	Vickie Gaskill	
Editor:	Wayne Ketner	336-769-3553