

# FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

## *Nature's Treasures*

May 16, 2019

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



**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, May 16, 2019**, the third Thursday of the Month, at **Vulcan Materials Company's Training Center, 4401 N. Patterson Ave., Winston-Salem, NC**



**PROGRAM:** Our speaker for the May 16th meeting will be Ed Brazeau. Ed is the owner of Crystal Expressions of Oak Ridge, NC that is a mineral, fossil, shell and jewelry dealer primarily doing local and regional gem and mineral shows (Raleigh, Richmond, Greensboro, Knoxville and others including new this year Winston Salem). Previously Crystal Expression was known as Mineralogical Studies of Kernersville, NC. He has been an avid collector since the 1970s and a dealer since the 1980s. He was the author of the Standard Mineralogical Catalogue, a pricing guide for minerals for over 8 years (annual issues). He brings much experience to the field. His presentation is entitled "Is It Real? Gold, Silver and Gemstones"



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

### 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 Roby
May	<b>Goode and McGilvary</b>	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**



## **Details of the Black Mountain Trip**

**Trip:** The site consists of several kyanite and mica prospects from the early or mid 1900's. They appear to be hand dug and no commercial mining ever took place. The pits are small but still open. Tailings extend 50 to 100 feet downslope.

**Collecting:** Specimens at this site include: Kyanite, Mica, Rutile (Thanks Jeff!), Garnets in schist, Smokey quartz and metamorphic schists. Blue corundum has been found in the general area, but none has been found at this site as of yet.

**Tools:** Good boots and gloves are a must. The hike to the kyanite prospect is about a tenth of a mile up a steep slope. The trail to the mica prospects is much more moderate. I would suggest boots, gloves, bug spray, sunscreen, water, shovel, pick, potato rake, buckets for carrying specimens, and possibly a screen. Plenty of good specimens can be pulled out of the tailings by hand.

**Rules:** The site is on private property and access has been granted only to members of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club under the direct supervision of member Charles Whicker. All attendees will be required to sign a release form. The dig will start at 9:00 am and everyone must be off the mountain by dark.

- All children must be under the direct supervision of an adult member.
- Collecting will be limited to one five gallon bucket per person.
- No digging in any open fields or roadways. All holes must be filled in at the end of the day.
- No collecting from around the house or outbuildings.
- No dogs allowed.
- No camping allowed, but there are hotels in nearby Black Mountain and Asheville.
- There are bears, coyotes and snakes on the property, so be careful where you put your hands and feet!

**Directions:** The property address is 44 Shumate Road, Black Mountain, N.C. approximately 20 miles east of Asheville. It is about a 2 hour drive from Winston-Salem. From Winston, take Interstate 40 West to the "Ridgecrest" exit number 66. At the end of the ramp turn left, cross over the highway and railroad and turn right on Old Hwy 70 extension. At the bottom of the hill bear right and cross the railroad tracks. You will now be on a paved two lane road parallel to the I40. After about a mile the road turns sharply down hill to the left. Cross the bridge and bear right. Cross the railroad tracks again and bear right. The property is a white farm house on your left with a split rail fence in the front yard.

**Contact:** Charles Whicker, (336) 880-9206, [ccwhicker@live.com](mailto:ccwhicker@live.com) , [ccwhicker22@gmail.com](mailto:ccwhicker22@gmail.com)

**Note:** There is no charge for collecting at this site, but it is recommended that donations be made for the owner.



## **FGMC Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip**

The club has committed to sponsoring our next Dixie Mineral Council field trip in July, 2021. So that gives us a few months to think about possible places to go.

For those who are not aware, the DMC is an organization of clubs that are members of the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies (SFMS), which is itself a subsidiary of the American Federation of Mineral Societies.

DMC clubs coordinate to sponsor regional field trips. Any current member of a club that is a member of DMC is allowed to participate on DMC trips.

In order to maintain "membership" in the council each club must periodically sponsor one of the trips. Currently this averages around once every two to three years.

FMGC last sponsored a DMC trip in January of this year. The July 2021 trip will cover FGMC's requirement for the next few years.



## **Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip**

An Official Field Trip of the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Cornelia, 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.

### **Chunky Gal Mountain Clay County, NC**

**TRIP:** Chunky Gal Mountain -- people always wonder about that name. Legend has it that it was named for a young Native American woman who fell in love with a young man from another tribe. Some stories say she prevailed by defying the odds and crossing the mountain to be with her beloved, while other stories say she never saw him again. Hopefully it was the happy ending. It is certainly a happy place for rockhounds.

**COLLECTING:** Green smaragdite is abundant and can be found in small chunks to large boulders. It is a variety of the amphibole mineral actinolite and gets its emerald green color from a touch of chromium. Some of the smaragdite has tiny bits of pink to red corundum in it.

**BRING:** Rock hammer, chisel, short handled sledge, a UV light for verifying corundum, gloves, safety glasses, hiking boots, 5 gallon bucket, and paper for wrapping specimens. You should also bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, water, and snacks.

**Very Important – Please read carefully: According to National Forest rules, “Materials must be removed using small hand tools without mechanical means or motorized equipment. Removing mineral materials with a pick, shovel, sluice box or similar large tools can cause significant impacts to resources is considered mechanical so therefore not allowed.”**

For more information about these rules, see the following website:  
[www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5420144](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5420144) .

**TERRAIN:** Wooded areas are steep and rocky and may be difficult for people with mobility issues. There may be poison ivy, snakes, ticks, mosquitoes, and other wildlife in the area. Parking may be limited, so carpooling is highly recommended.

**FEE:** None.

**CHILDREN (MAYBE):** The terrain may be difficult for small children and they may encounter dangerous wildlife. Parents are encouraged to consider their child's interest and abilities before attending this trip. All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Attendees with unattended children will be asked to leave for the safety of the children and other participants.

**PETS (NO):** This location is not suitable for pets so pets are NOT allowed.

**FACILITIES:** There are no facilities at this location. Closest facilities are in Hayesville, NC, about 16 miles to the west, and Franklin, NC, about 19 miles to the east. **Cell coverage may be spotty or non-existent.**

**LODGING:** There are some hotels in Franklin, NC and near Hayesville, NC, and several in Murphy, NC (about 30 miles away).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Northwest Georgia Mineral Society members will be available to answer questions about the site and will have water and snacks.

#### **DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

GPS coordinates: 35 04' 10.0" N, 83 37' 43.3 W

Intersection of Highway 64 and Buck Creek Road

From the west: Approximately 16 miles from Hayesville, NC on Hwy 64 (left turn onto Buck Creek Road).

From the east: Approximately 19 miles from Franklin, NC on Hwy 64 (right turn onto Buck Creek Road).

**Editor's Note:** The collecting area is also known to have rattlesnakes, particularly "hiding" under rock piles. Be VERY careful when moving rocks, and even just walking around. Always use a tool, not your hand, for turning over rocks to look beneath them.



### **Upcoming Shows and Events**

**June 1st, 2019 -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 Triad Farmers Market 2914 Sandy Ridge Road, Colfax, NC Gemstones, minerals, fossils, geologic collectibles, slabs, cabachons, hand crafted jewelry, demos, books. Free mini-geode cut for kids 12 and under. Gem mining wagon. Door prizes and Grand Prize raffle. Concessions. Free parking and free admission. 24+ vendors, 1200+ attendees. Fun for the young, the no-so-young, the curious and the collector. Vendors contact KB Montgomery, [gcmc.rock@gmail.com](mailto:gcmc.rock@gmail.com) or 336-706-0061. More info and application and flyer on [www.gcmc-rockhounds.com](http://www.gcmc-rockhounds.com)

**Sunday, July 28th to Sunday, August 4th, 2019 - The 35th Annual Grassy Creek Mineral and Gem Show** put on by the Parkway Fire and Rescue to raise money for new equipment. This Gem Show has everything! 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. Porta-a-johns are available. This is an outside event so be prepared for rain. Some vendors open on Saturday 27th. 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. Email: [info@grassycreekgemshow](mailto:info@grassycreekgemshow) . Website is [www.grassycreekgemshow.org](http://www.grassycreekgemshow.org) . Applications and pictures are available on the website.



### **Grab Bag Material Needed**

With the arrival of the main collecting season, it's once again time for the nagging reminder that when you're out in the field keep a lookout for possible material for grab bags for the show.

Arvil reports that we're going to need to make 1,000 bags this year, so we're going to need LOTS of specimens.

As usual, quartz and calcite are readily accepted, but we also need to try to find some other types of material to include. The general objective is to try to find sufficient quantities of samples to have eight to ten per bag. It is not necessary to try to provide that many specimens yourself, as we can easily mix-and-match contributions from several people. Every rock helps, even if you can only get a few.

Specimens should be somewhere between dime and quarter-sized. In many cases larger samples can be broken down into smaller ones if needed (we WILL have a hammer at the picnic.)

Grab bag assembly will be done at the annual picnic in August, just before we eat.



## **Wild Acres and William Holland Classes**

Ah, in the spring rockhounds hearts turn to....well, collecting mostly It's a wonderful time to get out in the field and find stuff.

But what do you do with after you find it?

Many people like to turn it into jewelry. And in that vein (pun intended) one opportunity to learn about how to do so is at the Wild Acres and William Holland SFMS classes.

These facilities are "camp" locations where, among other things, classes are held in various gem and mineral topics. These are "hands on" classes where you can actually learn to use the various techniques and end up making some minor samples for yourself. The camps are often open to the public, but the Southeastern Federation of Mineral Societies offers a couple of special sessions each year.

Each session is a week long, running from Sunday through Saturday. Cabins are provided as part of the attendee's cost (two people per room), and meals are covered. Classes are during the daytime, and evenings are spent in various activities. Usually part of one day is also devoted to a "rock swap".

Many FGMC members have attended these sessions through the years, and those who have attended have always considered it to be wonderful experience, well worth the minor cost. And with today's travelling expenses, these can be some of the least expensive and most rewarding vacations that one can take.

Wild Acres is the closest facility for our club, but just barely. It is very close to the Little Switzerland/Spruce Pine area. More information on the facility can be found at the web site:

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/wildacres-retreat.html>

Wild Acres will have two sessions this year: August 19-25 and September 16-22.

William Holland is a bit further away, but not by much. It is located in Young Harris, Georgia.

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/william-holland-retreat.html>

William Holland will have one SFMS session this year, June 9-14. William Holland also has class sessions open to the public outside of the SFMS weeks.

Registration for either facility can be found at:

<https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/>

This site also has the details of what classes and instructors will be available for each session, as these vary. Note: Each "topic" is a full-week class, so you will not be able to mix and match. Topics typically include several levels of silver-smithing, cabling, faceting, metal casting, and others.

The full week cost for the accommodations, registration, and meals is roughly \$400 per person (double occupancy). Limited single-occupancy accommodations are available at a higher cost, and both offer "day class" options, though you'll have to find your own place to stay and eat. William Holland also has a camp-site option.

Classes may have an additional fee (instructor preference) and likely will have additional materials fees. Both of these are very reasonable.

FGMC is a member of SFMS, so FGMC members and families are eligible to attend during the SFMS weeks at each facility. As mentioned previously William Holland also offers sessions on other weeks outside of the SFMS sessions.



## 2019 Show Theme

Each year for the annual show a “theme” is chose for that year’s show. Generally the these doesn’t mean a lot. Members who are interested in putting in display cases often will use the theme as a guide for ideas of what to include.

For this year’s show the theme is “The Minerals, Gems, and Fossils of Mexico”.

Where sometimes the theme might provide help in field trips, it’s kind of unlikely that we will have many members venturing that far south. Still, when you’re out and about at other shows and you’re thinking about that mineral specimen that you can’t decide if you should get it, if it’s a Mexican piece that might help you decide.



## Meeting Minutes

22 members present The refreshments provided by the Whickers and the Becks were truly wonderful! Thank you so much.

Our presenter was Shaun Shelton. He is a club member and vendor (Backwoods Prospector) at our annual show. The topic was the “History of the Silver Hill Mine.”

Upcoming events:

April 27 - field trip to Hiddenite. Meet at Dollar General at 8:30 am.

May 11 – 9-5 pm. Mason’s Ruby and Sapphire Mine near Franklin, NC. This is a mine/sluice site open to the public. Purchase buckets of material for \$25 per person /group rate.

June 1 (Sat.) – 9 – 5 pm. Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club 7th Annual Piedmont open-air Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show.

July 25-28 – Franklin, NC Gem and Mineral Show.

July 28 to August 4 – 35th Annual Grassy Creek Mineral and Gem Show. Spruce Pine, NC.17, 2019

August 17, 2019 – Sat.- 4-7 pm. Annual Club Picnic and Grab bag

September 6-8. FGMC Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show. Winston-Salem, NC. Show topic is : Minerals, Gems, and Fossils of Mexico.

We are rescheduling May 18, 2019 field trip to June 2nd weekend.

FGMC is required to sponsor a fieldtrip for the Dixie Mineral Council in 2021. July 2021 was picked as our timing.

Door prize won by Stephanie Myers- she picked a slab of cutting material.

.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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