

FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Nature's Treasures

August 17, 2019

*** *Public Version* ***



MEETING: There will be no program meeting this month. Instead the club will have its annual club picnic.



PROGRAM: Club Picnic (and Grab Bag Assembly)



Refreshments: No refreshments are required for August.

2019 Refreshment List

January	Sandra and Stephanie Myers	July	Shelton and Gonzalez
February	Dow and Brouhle	August	Picnic
March	Hebert and Gaskill	September	Show
April	Whicker and Beck	October	Fulcher and Roby
May	Goode and McGilvary	November	Reed and Marion
June	Hyde, 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:

August 24, 2019 - Club Auction

September 6-8, 2019 – Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show



DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS



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.



No DMC Field Trip for August

There is no Dixie Mineral Council field trip for August.

Trips will resume in September. Information for the September trip will be in the September newsletter.



Club Auction

With the success of last year's trial run on short notice, the club is going to hold another auction this year. This time the notice is getting out a bit sooner so that people can plan for such.

Also, this year's auction will be open to allow members of other clubs to submit items for sale, as an attempt to get more items and possibly more variety.

Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club Auction Details

In place of our normal monthly field trip, our club will feature an Auction! The date will be Saturday, August 24nd, from Noon till 4:00PM. It will be held at Cornerstone Christian Church (1585 Hwy 801 North, Mocksville, NC. This is 3.7 miles north of I-40, taking exit 180 for Hwy 801N just after the Tanglewood exit heading west). There are rules that we will follow to ensure a smooth, planned event. If you have any questions about these rules, please contact Jeff Schlottman before the event!

Rules:

Sellers are allowed to auction off a maximum of 10 items each. We will invite other clubs as well to this year's event, with the expectation that it will bring in more items to purchase, and more buyers as well.

Proceeds are divided between the seller (80%), and the Club (20%) if an item sells. Items may be donated to the Club, in which the Club retains the full amount of the sale.

Items must be related to our hobby. This includes minerals, books, jewelry, tools, fossils, supplies, cut stones, etc. Non-mineral items will not be offered up by the Auctioneers.

All sellers and buyers must get a number assigned (sellers must get one before the auctioning starts!). The number is used to know who is selling an item, and who has the winning bid. The first person would be 1, then the next is 2, and so on.

All items must be labeled. A "Post-It" or piece of paper is fine. The label will include the seller's number, the name of the item and (if applicable) location details. If there is a minimum bid for an item, it must be noted on the label.

Items are auctioned off in a manner to make everything fair. Items will be sold as follows: 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a... and so on so that everyone has a chance to sell their items. Then we go to everyone's second item, like 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b....

Items sold will be given to the buyer after it sells. The buyer will settle up for all items purchased (and turn in their card) before they leave. Cash and checks are allowable modes of payment; no credit/debit cards.

I will be there to open up and prepare the room at Noon. At 12:15 we will let people in to bring in their items and to preview things that are for sale. We will start the Auction promptly at 1:00PM. Please come before 1:00PM to preview items. We will take brief intermissions (5 minutes) each hour to look at remaining items, but you will not be allowed to simply walk up to look during the Auction!

The Auction will end at 4:00PM. At that time we will remove our material, settle up for purchases, and clean up the room. Plan to be out by 4:30PM.

Auctioneers Lowell Baker and Jeff Schlottman suggest bringing your cash/checks and excitement for a fun event! There will be plenty of great pieces and great buys!



Reviewing Geodes

Geodes – What Are They?

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

Geodes are geological rock formations which occur in sedimentary and certain volcanic rocks. Geodes are essentially rock cavities with internal crystal formations or concentric banding. The exterior of most geodes is generally limestone or a related rock... Other geodes are completely filled with crystal, being solid all the way through. These types of geodes are called nodules.

Geodes can form in any cavity that is buried. These can be gas bubbles in igneous rocks, pockets under tree roots, vesicles in lava after a volcanic eruption, or even animal burrows. Over time the exterior wall of the cavity hardens, and dissolved silicates and/or carbonates are deposited on the inside surface. Over time, this slow feed of mineral constituents from groundwater or hydrothermal solutions allows crystals to form inside the hollow chamber...

The size of the crystals including their form and shade of color vary – making each geode unique... There is no way of telling what the inside of a geode holds until it is cut or broken apart.

In addition to the primary crystals, geodes often contain other materials embedded within them. Often will have other mineral forms as additional crystals:

Sphalerite

Dolomite

Calcite

Malachite

Pyrite

Frequently will have other materials within the body (as discovered when cut open).

Where Do They Come From?

FMGC obtains the show geodes from a mineral importer: Gem Center USA

The Geodes are “Las Choyas” geodes, and come originally from Chihuahua, Mexico.

Known as “Coconut Geodes”



What Do I DO With Them?

Easy Answer: You LOOK At Them!

Can't use them for jewelry... too large and fragile...

Can't cab or facet them...

No particular industrial or commercial use for them (except to sell to other people who like to look at them)...

Only significant value is as a display object, like art...

But there ARE things that can be done to enhance their display value.

Clean Them

Most geodes need to be somewhat cleaned up after opening.

They may have interior "gunk" that needs to be removed.

If they were cut on a rock saw, they may have saw oil in them.

The exterior surface may also be cleaned if desired (this is more of a personal preference – some people like the matrix coating)

Due to the fragile nature of the Geodes and the interior crystals, EXTREME caution should be used in all cleaning!

For interior cleaning, best technique is to allow them to soak in warm water with a mild detergent, preferably some form of "grease cutting" variety.

After soaking, GENTLY "swish" them around, then turn them up and allow the water to run out.

Allow to air dry.

Repeat if necessary.

For exterior cleaning, use the detergent and water mixture with a soft cloth to wipe the exterior. Can also use an old toothbrush for limited scrubbing.

Can clean the cut surfaces as well, but NEVER wipe or brush the interior.

Further Enhancements

Mostly a matter of personal preference and situation.

Display cases are very useful, IF you have them and have space for them. In addition to allowing for display of the Geodes, they can also help keep dust out of them.

Geode stands are almost a "must have". Geodes generally do not sit stably in a way that best shows off the interior. Stands can allow the Geodes to be best seen.

If the Geode is cut instead of cracked, then the cut surfaces can be enhanced.

Although often brightly colored when first cut and wet, the surface tends to dull as it dries.

The bright shine can be restored by applying a coat of clear liquid floor wax or clear fingernail polish.

Make certain that the surface is as clean as possible before waxing or applying the polish. Crud on the surface will become embedded if overlain with wax or polish.

Will most likely need SEVERAL coats of wax or polish to get the shine back.

Best to apply floor wax with a finger or a soft brush. (Paper towels or cloth will absorb too much wax, and may cause roughing of the surface.) Fingernail polish can be applied with the provided applicator.

Wax or polish coatings will deteriorate and need to be periodically renewed.



Meeting Minutes

7/18/19 FGMC Meeting Minutes

25 members present

Our speaker was Maureen McCauley, professor of geology specializing in Minerology and Petrology, at Guilford College. The topic was “Gems and Light: Color and other optical phenomena.”

Thanks to the Gonzales’ and Shelton’s for their tasty refreshments.

Door prizes won: Lisa Reed- chose a black onyx bracelet

Sherry Marion chose a wavelite mineral specimen.

August 17 – Picnic and grab bag packaging. Sign-up sheets for volunteers at the FGMC show will be available. Tickets and flyers will also be available. Please sign up with Alex McGilvary , or email, if you want to reserve a showcase for your minerals.

Minerals need to be in small pieces to add to grab bags. Asked for volunteers to help break up materials. Scott Brouhle volunteered.

5 of the showcases have been updated. They have been painted white inside and LED lights have been added to improve their presentation of minerals.

There will be a memorial case in honor of Paul Burton; club member, expert faceter, and long-term chairman of the FGMC show for many years.

August 24 – Club auction. Contact Jeff Schlottman for assigned number. Limit 10 items for sale. Club will receive 20 % of the proceeds.

.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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