

# FORSYTH GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

## *Nature's Treasures*

January 16, 2020

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



**MEETING:** The next meeting of the Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club will be held at **7:30 PM, January 16, 2020**, the third Thursday of the Month, at **Vulcan Materials Company's Training Center, 4401 N. Patterson Ave., Winston-Salem, NC**



Our program will be a lecture on plate tectonics by Michael Wyssession, geologist from Washington University in St. Louis. It is a video from the Great Courses Series, How the Earth Works.



**Refreshments:** Refreshments for the meeting will be provided by the **Myers families**. 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*

### 2020 Refreshment List

January	<b>Myers and Myers</b>	July	Schlottman and Wilhelmi
February	Hebert and Gaskill	August	Picnic
March	Brouhle and McGilvary	September	Show
April	Lovelle and Fulcher	October	*** <b>Two Needed</b> ***
May	Whicker and Beck	November	Reed and Marion
June	Shelton and *** <b>One Needed</b> ***	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 11 – 13, 2020 – Annual Show



### **DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAGS**



### Inclement Weather Procedure

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.



### FGMC Field Trip Meeting

There will be a special meeting for anyone interested in attending and/or helping out with the field trips for the coming year. The meeting will be held immediately before the regular January meeting. The meeting will held on Thursday January 16, 2020 starting at 6:15 PM. The meeting will be in the usual club meeting room.

(There are rumors that there will be pizza...)



## Reviewing: Charoite

From [Geology.com/minerals](http://Geology.com/minerals)

### A purple mineral, gem material and ornamental stone

Charoite Rough

#### What is Charoite?

Charoite is the name of a purple to violet silicate mineral with a striking appearance. Its vibrant purple color grabs a person's attention. Then, upon closer examination, the viewer discovers interesting banding, swirls, scales, or radial and parallel habits.

Many rocks that contain abundant charoite will accept a beautiful polish. As a result, high-quality pieces of charoite can be cut into spectacular purple cabochons, or used as an ornamental stone to veneer a delightful jewelry box. A pearly luster or chatoyance often increases the beauty of this gem.



Charoite is a rare mineral, found in commercial quantities only in a few small and closely spaced deposits in the Sakha Republic of eastern Russia. It received its name from the Chara River, which drains that geographic area.

#### Geologic Occurrence

The charoite of the Sirenevy Kamen ("purple stone") deposit of eastern Siberia is thought to have formed when an alkali syenite intrusion encountered a dolomite containing a significant amount of terrigenous clastic sediment. The result was a complex geochemical environment of hydrothermal metasomatism.

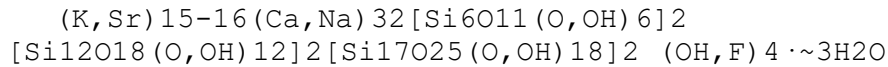
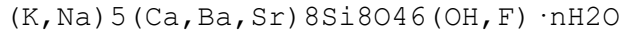
Mineral-rich fluids permeated the dolomite and surrounding rocks, forming charoite and a variety of other rare minerals with complex chemical compositions. The charoite in these rocks is impure and intimately mixed with microscopic particles of other rare minerals (see accompanying photomicrograph).

#### Physical Properties of Charoite

Chemical Classification	Silicate
Color	Purple to violet, light brown. Weathers to chalky white. Color caused by the presence of manganese.
Streak	White
Luster	Vitreous to pearly to silky
Diaphaneity	Semi-translucent to opaque
Cleavage	Three directions of cleavage, but rarely seen because of the material's texture. Breaks with a conchoidal fracture.
Mohs Hardness	5 to 6
Specific Gravity	2.5 to 2.6
Diagnostic Properties	Purple to violet color; fibrous to swirly color pattern, sometimes chatoyant, almost always impure.
Chemical Composition	$(K,Na)_5(Ca,Ba,Sr)_8Si_8O_{46}(OH,F) \cdot nH_2O$
Crystal System	Monoclinic
Uses	Rocks containing abundant charoite with a pleasing color and interesting pattern are often cut into gems or used as an ornamental stone.

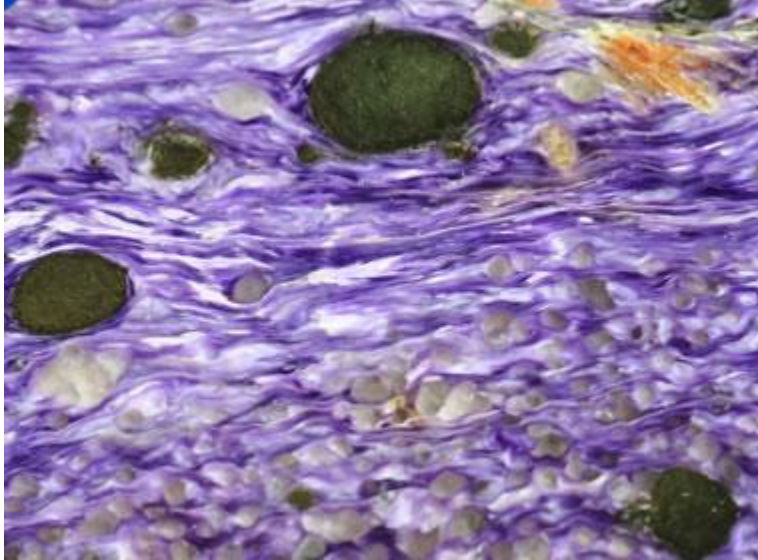
#### Charoite's Chemical Composition

Charoite is a complex silicate mineral. Published chemical compositions are in disagreement. We checked numerous references, and each one presented a different composition. The compositions reported below are from the Glossary of Geology, the International Mineralogical Association, and Mindat.org.



Determining a composition for this mineral might be difficult for two reasons: 1) well-formed crystals and specimens of pure charoite have not been found; and, 2) charoite is always intimately associated with and intergrown with numerous other minerals.

### Charoite



Charoite is only known from rocks that are either charoite-rich or charoite-dominated. The name used for these rocks is "charoite". Most people in the gem and lapidary trades simply refer to them as "charoite" and may not suspect that they are a rock which contains a variety of rare minerals.

Charoite is a contact metamorphic rock that usually contains a variety of alkaline calcium silicate accessory minerals. These can include miserite, benstonite, canasite, tinaksite, pectolite, and fedorite. These are often associated with textural varieties of charoite and include: massive (miserite), parallel fibers (benstonite), and radially fibrous (canasite and tinaksite).

### Uses of Charoite

Rocks containing abundant charoite with a pleasing color and interesting pattern are often cut into gems or used as an ornamental stone. Charoite cabochons, beads, tumbled stones and other items made of high-quality material can sell for high prices. Charoite is also used to make small sculptures and small utilitarian items that include vases, spheres, goblets, desk sets, small boxes, and decorative tiles.

High-quality charoite rough and items made from charoite are not abundant in the marketplace because the material is rare, costly, not regularly mined, and much of what is produced is consumed in Russia.





# SFMS ROCKHOUND ROUND-UP - 2020

## Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) 2nd annual Rockhound Round-Up.

**Who:** Vendors are from the SFMS Clubs. Clubs in good standing with SFMS.  
from over 70+ Clubs in: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN.

**What:** A good old-fashion Rock-Swap

**When:** March 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2020.

**Where:** Spirit of Suwannee Music Park  
3076 95th Drive  
Live Oak, FL 32060  
(386) 364-1683  
[www.musicliveshere.com](http://www.musicliveshere.com)



**How Much:** **For Buyers Only:** the only cost to attend is the Admission Fee for the Park

**For Sellers:** \$25.00 for a 10' x 20' 'booth' to be a Vendor, plus the Park Admission.  
The \$25.00 is for the 10 foot by 20 foot vendor booth, for all three days.

Vendors—Must be a member of an SFMS Club.

Place your reservation with the SFMS Contact. Separate email sent with Application.

**Vendors MUST have Application and Payment delivered by February 28th 2020.**

**For Overnight Stays:** The Park offers several overnight or weekend options,  
Cabins, RV spots, Tent Camp-out locations. There are also nearby Hotel / Motels.  
Contact the Park directly to make a reservation to stay overnight or for the weekend.

We look forward to seeing all of you there!

- ◇ Bring rocks you might want to swap with, remember this is a Rock-Swap!
- ◇ Bring Cash, etc. (The Campground does have 2 ATMs on the premises.)
- ◇ Vendors may or may not accept credit / debit cards, and may or may not have service.
- ◇ Bring flyers for your shows in the next season!
- ◇ Learn more about us, and the Benefits of Belonging to the SFMS!
- ◇ Rock and Roll with us all weekend!

**YOU  
ROCK**



## Dues Renewal Time

Just a reminder that dues for the coming year are due. Dues may be paid at the meeting 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 2020 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.



## Refreshments for 2020

There are still a few slots open for the meeting refreshments for the coming year. Anyone willing to participate should contact Vickie or Al as soon as possible. The objective is to have all of the slots accounted for before next year begins.



## 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.

At this point there is no scheduled field trip for January. However that is subject to change depending on decisions made at the Field Trip meeting to be held just prior to the regular January club meeting.



## Meeting Minutes

FGMC Meeting 12/19/2019

The December meeting was the annual Holiday and Show Celebration Dinner for FGMC Volunteers

28 members attended our get-together at Golden Corral, Hanes Mall location, on December 19. Supper was our "Thank you" for volunteers that worked at the FGMC 2019 show.

Good food and a good time..

.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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