

The Prez Sez

This month's meeting will be a little varied. First, Skip Stoddard will give a ten-minute power point presentation on Geology class field trips. He will explain why these trips are so necessary and costly. There may be something here that we can help with.

Then, in keeping with my belief that you all need to get your hands dirty once in a while, we will have a hands on workshop with the cabochon machines.

We can use the 5 machines in the lapidary room, plus some personal machines brought in by brave volunteers. Anyone that has a reasonably portable cab machine is invited to bring it. I would like those with cabbing experience to assist as instructors and helpers. This will not be a complete course in cabochon making, (for that, you need to sign up for a class), but if you haven't done this before, it should be a good introduction to working with stones.

Wear casual clothing that you don't mind getting a little mud on. Unfortunately, there won't be time enough in one evening to finish a cabochon, but you will at least get to see what the fuss is about, and whether you enjoy doing this kind of work. After this fun stuff, there will be the usual business meeting. We have some financial considerations (of the fun kind).



From the Editor...



It was a perfect day for a field trip... sunny, mid 70's. Now if we could just find our group. We found vehicles. Were they rock people or hunters? A license plate identified a club member by his initials. What luck! But how did Bob Crocker, the group leader get his truck in the woods without any road in sight? I gave a holler and heard a yell in return. Matt came to collect us. Bob instructed the group about the panning and the dredge machines. One tube was for water flow and a separate hose pulled the dirt, rock and gold into the machine. A fascinating process. Bob is extremely knowledgeable about the area and gold mining. He is also a very patient teacher as he carefully demonstrated the art of creek panning. The water was surprisingly cold for May. I panned my two pans, took a break, watched the others and distracted them by talking. After changing into old shoes (breaking in new ones), I wandered around looking at the flora. I saw two different plants that I wanted to rescue. I liberated the plants and took another break. Everyone had found specks of gold, but not pickers (big enough to pick up with your fingers). This is the spot where Matt and Bob found the big nugget shown at the show. No such luck this time. While in the panning area, a spider came to visit. It wanted to go home with me! I needed a sealed container. Oh, this gold/water bottle looks good. Now what to do with the two gold specks inside. I set them free in the creek along with the water (don't tell Bob). I wanted that spider to populate my yard with a new and fascinating kind of spider. He won't be doing that. Don't laugh, Bob.



Reminder

Lois Norman has volunteered to bring refreshments.
The Hummels will again bring drinks and ice.

***We still need a volunteer
for June refreshments!***

Complete list of Refreshment Volunteers

June – OPEN
July – Marion & Mickey Broadway
August – Ice Cream Social
September – C & C Hummel
October – Charlie Bender
November – Debbie & Jerry Miller

MAY FIELD TRIP

Aurora Fossil Festival

WHERE – Aurora, NC

WHEN – May 28th, Saturday

Be there for the parade at 11 AM (very good parade). It takes about 3 to 3 1/2 hours from Raleigh.

MINERALS – Fresh gravel/dirt piles are brought for this festival.

Expect to find small items such as shark's teeth.

DETAILS – This festival is lots of fun. There will be dealers with all kinds of fossils for sale. There are rides for the smaller children (age 10 and under). There is fair food and trinkets. There are extensive displays of fossils in the building. The Smithsonian Institute usually brings some large bone to display and talk about. There are bus trips to the mine for tours (no collecting).

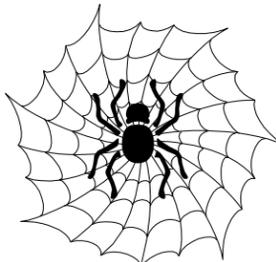
If you are wild about fossils – attend this event!!!

DIRECTIONS – Take Hwy 70 East thru Raleigh to New Bern, Take the bridge over the Neuse River. The sign should say Bridgeton/Grantsboro. You will be heading due east. I don't know the highway number, it is not clear on the map. It could be 55. When you reach Grantsboro, Take highway 306 to Aurora. You will initially be going due north. Follow road signs and stay on 306 until you reach Aurora. Take a map with you.

If you would like to form a carpool, call Cyndy and she will organize it.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

rockhounds.com



This site is called "Bob's Rock Shop". Go to the table of contents at the bottom. There are articles from Rock & Gem Magazine, faceting information, information about the Tucson show and Arizona, an extensive article about Graves Mountain with pictures, a section on rock identification, photos of minerals with descriptions and lots more. Something for everyone here!

Tips for Buying Faceting Rough

- Do not buy rough that sparkles. Flashes inside a piece of rough material are caused by internal flaws. Cutting this rough will yield more flaws and a lot smaller stone than you thought you could get from the rough.
- Do not buy tourmaline that has a dark, inky-looking C-axis. Stones cut from this material will almost always be murky.
- The best rough will look like a hard piece of crystal glass.
- When buying rough by the piece, always remember the depth to width ratio of the stone you are trying to cut.
- Whenever possible, buy rough by the largest parcel you can afford. Grade a portion of this parcel and bid on the whole parcel.

Killing a Legend

By Robert Locke, *Dinosaur Magazine*

New evidence paints T. Rex as a nasty scavenger, not a vicious hunter. *Tyrannosaurus rex* was 40 feet (12 meters) long, weighed in at 6 tons and stood 15 feet (4.5 meters) high. Enormous, powerful legs could have stepped over a car in a single stride. Four-foot (1.2-meter) jaws, raggedly studded with 7-inch (17.8-centimeter) teeth could crush bone and consume 500 pounds (225 kilograms) in a single bite. Clearly this was the ultimate predator — the undisputed master of its Cretaceous world. Every living thing must have trembled when the "tyrant lizard king" was on the prowl.

Or not. One of the world's top paleontologists says *T. rex* was not a hunter at all. The fiercest giant of dinosaur lore was but a well-designed scavenger that had much more in common with buzzards and hyenas than with lions and tigers.

Tyrannosaurus, says Jack Horner, was a nasty-looking, hunched-over beast that was a lousy runner with mediocre vision and had spindly little arms that would have been useless in a fight. Even worse, if *T. rex* tripped and fell or was toppled by a stubborn foe, those arms could do little to dampen the impact of tons of falling dinosaur; the all-but-inevitable broken bones could easily prove fatal.



But *T. rex* would have been a masterful scavenger. Huge olfactory gear could have smelled a carcass from miles away, and legs designed for walking — not running — could cover vast distances in search of carrion, much as olfactory-gifted vultures soar over the landscape for hours. And those vicious teeth were adapt not at slicing through choice cuts of meat but at crushing the bones and cartilage left behind by the true hunters.

A Stone for Every Profession

For laundresses, the Soapstone.

For architects, the Cornerstone.

For cooks, the Puddingstone.

For politicians, the Blarneystone.

For borrowers, the Touchstone.

For policemen, the Pavingstone.

For stockholders, the Curbstone.

For burglars, the Keystone.

For tourists, the Yellowstone.

For beauties, the Peachstone.

For motorists, the Milestone.

For editors, the Grindstone.

For seamstresses, the Ironstone.

For surgeons, the Gallstone.

For miners, the Lodestone.

For icemen, the Hailstone



Via San Diego G&M, Slabs & Cabs 2/95, and The Southwest Gem 5/95

Gem & Mineral Shows

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| May 17-19 | Salem, VA "Treasures of the Earth" |
| May 24-26 | Martinsville, VA "Treasures" |
| June 8 | Cartersville, GA 14 th annual Weinman Mineral Museum |
| June 14-16 | Asheville, NC Colburn Museum |
| July 5-7 | Waynesboro, VA "Treasures" |
| July 19-21 | Boone, NC "Treasures" |
| July 25-28 | Franklin, NC Wholesale & Retail Shows |
| Sept 28 | 2 nd Annual Greensboro, NC Rockswap of the Carolinas |

I attended the Rockswap in Greensboro and enjoyed the day very much. I plan attending this year, Editor

Collector or Specialty

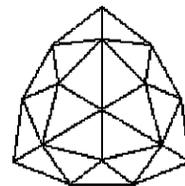
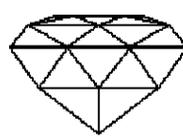
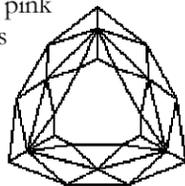
U.S. Geological Survey/Department of the Interior

Each year hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of collector or specialty gems are purchased in the United States. Many of these gems are cut from gemstones produced from foreign deposits, but tens of thousands of dollars worth of these gems are cut from gemstones from U.S. deposits. A good working definition of collector/specialty stones would be: "Collector or specialty gems are rare, unusual, or unique gems that are not normally seen by the gem buying public. These stones may be gem materials that are common to the market place, but are unusual or unique because of their large size or unusual color." Some of these stones are suited for use in jewelry or limited use in jewelry. The stones suited for limited use can be used in earrings, pins, and pendants, but not for rings or bracelets. These nondurable stones are soft or fragile and are subject to scratching, abrasion and breaking. Some of the rare collector/specialty stones from U. S. deposits are rare because of production practices at the mines. If this production were to increase, then these stones might no longer be as valuable. These stones vary in value from dollars to more than \$1,000 per carat. Production of collector/specialty stones by State is discussed below.

Alaska.--Small dark green to dark brown to black colored stones have been cut from material from the epidote deposit on Prince of Wales Island.

Arizona.--Large, fine quality brownish to yellow colored stones have been cut from scheelite crystals from a deposit in the Hualapai Mountains in Mohave County. Some of the finest-quality, bright red facet grade wulfenite in the world comes from the Red Cloud Mine in Yuma County.

California.--Stones have been cut from fine-quality, pink apatite from San Diego County. Some small colorless stones have been cut from analcime, but the location from which the material was recovered is unknown. Fine-quality, brown colored stones have been cut from axinite from deposits in Calaveras, Madera, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. San Benito County



is the only source of the blue colored gem Benitoite, the State gemstone. Large, fine-quality, light to medium green colored stones can be cut from fluorite found in Los Angeles County. Large, colorless stones are cut from scheelite from deposits in Kern and Inyo Counties. Nearly flawless, colorless stones have been cut from natrolite from San Benito County. The author also has seen natrolite stones that were labeled as being from Los Angeles County. Deposits in the State also yield fine-quality, brown epidote, colorless calcite and colemanite, and augelite.

Colorado.--Light yellow colored stones are cut from apatite recovered from a deposit in Eagle County. Large fine-quality colorless stones are cut from barite from nodules found in Mesa County and fine-quality, blue colored stones are cut from barite found in Weld County. Some colorless stones have been cut from phenakite from White Mountain and Mount Antero in Chaffee County. The finest-quality, bright red colored facet-grade rhodochrosite is found in Park County. Deposits in the state also produce fine-quality, facet-grade sphalerite.

Illinois.--The fluorite mines in Hardin and Pope Counties produce a variety of different colors of facet-grade fluorite. A mine in the State furnished the material from which the world's largest, faceted yellow fluorite was cut.

Idaho.--Yellow and blue colored facet-grade opal is recovered from deposits in Custer County.

Maine.--John Sinkankas, reported that the finest, gem-quality purple apatite in the world was from Mount Apatite in Androscoggin County. Oxford County is the only known location for gem-quality beryllonite, and this location has produced only very small colorless or light yellow stones. Pegmatites in the state have produced colorless and pale yellow herderite crystals from which small gems have been cut. Oxford County deposits have produced colorless, facet-grade phenakite from which small to medium stones have been cut. Small to medium sized, colorless to slightly pinkish stones have been cut from pollucite recovered in Oxford County.

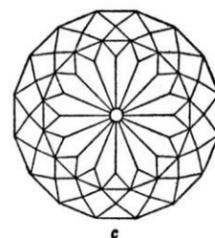
Massachusetts.--Blue or violet colored diaspore crystals of gem-quality large enough to cut small stones have been recovered from the emery mines and mine dumps in Hampden County. These deposits also produce fine, facet-quality faintly greenish colored datolite.

New Jersey.--Facet-grade, colorless analcime is recovered from the Watchung basalt flows, facet-grade datolite is recovered from basalt flows in Passaic and Bergen Counties as is gem-quality natrolite, and deposits in the state also produce gem-quality epidote. The world famous zinc deposits near Franklin and Ogdensburg in Sussex County produced gem-quality sphalerite, willemite, and zincite.

Montana.--Facet-quality calcite and sphalerite are recovered from deposits.

New Hampshire.--Large pieces of facet-grade, green transparent fluorite is mined from deposits in Cheshire County. Gem-quality herderite and phenakite also are recovered from deposits in the state.

New Mexico.--The only facet-quality dolomite in the U.S. is colorless material recovered from a deposit in New Mexico. Gem-quality fluorite is produced from deposits in Bernalillo, Catron, Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Rio Arriba, Socorro, Sierra, and Taos Counties. Facet-quality linardite is recovered in Socorro County. The finest, facet-quality moonstone in the U.S. comes from a deposit in Grant County.



New York.--A few nice-quality stones of actinolite have been marketed from an undisclosed deposit in New York. Deposits in St. Lawrence County produce the fine-quality, purple tremolite. Deposits in the state also produce facet-quality calcite, celestite, chondrodite, diopside, dravite, fluorites, and sphalerites.

North Carolina.--Deposits in Yancy County produce fine-quality, bright blue facet-grade kyanite. These beautiful stones are some of the finest in the world. Deposits in Alexander County produce some of the finest-quality hiddenite in the world, named for the town near which it is found. The same deposits produce small amounts of bright red, facet-grade rutile.

Ohio.--Deposits in the state produce fine quality, facet-grade fluorites, celestites, and sphalerites.

Utah.--Deposits in the Wah Wah Mountains and the Thomas Range Mountains are the only known deposits in the world to produce fine-quality, bright red facet-grade beryl. Deposits in the state also produce facet-grade fluorite, scheelite, and sphalerites.

ANNOUNCEMENT



We recently received some very sad news. Long-time club member Eldine Olds has left our group and this earth. Funeral services were May 6th. Many club members, including Corinne and I, Shirley and Gary McCutcheon, Jackie and Earl Hines and Diane Russell attended the wake on Sunday evening. She will be missed. Our thoughts, prayers and good wishes go to Walt. Eldine was just 77.