

Volume 62

Number 12

December 2021

**December 2021 Club Meeting
December 6, 7:00pm**

Zoom meeting
Instructions to come by email

[Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club Rockhounds](#)

In This Edition:

President's Corner (2)
2022 Schedule (4)
Last Month's Meeting Highlights (6)
William Holland School of Lapidary Arts (7)
FYI (8)

Who we are: The Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

First chartered in 1954, our Club decided to incorporate and secure a tax exempt 501.C.3 status. We accomplished this on June 15, 1999. The purposes for which this corporation is organized are:

- to promote the study of mineralogy, geology, the lapidary arts and related subjects; to collect and preserve minerals and gem materials;
- to provide the opportunity for purchase, exchange and exhibition of specimens and materials;
- to assist others in accomplishing the foregoing; and
- to engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may be organized under North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act.

Over the years, these purposes were and are achieved by providing monthly Club meetings with guest speakers, two open auctions per year, Show and Tell (wherein members bring their new or old accomplishments and present to the membership), field trips (wherein members go into mines to find materials and visit various museums), Gem and Mineral public Shows, providing lapidary arts at local community colleges and the Greensboro Arts Center, the Club members to provide mineral, geology, education and specimens to students attending Elementary, Middle, and High Schools from Rowan County to the west to Durham County to the east, both public and private.



President's Corner



Hey everyone! We're back!! What a successful trip. First, we hauled across the country to the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands to the "designated" agate beds. Although the agates had been picked over, the jaspers and chalcedony were

awesome. We camped at a primitive campground (pit outhouse only) for 2 nights and 3 days. Jumped a herd of mule deer on the way to the area. We figured out that the agates were actually falling out of the "badlands-type" mounds. We got on the 4-wheeler and rode for miles looking for the mounds and found several more like these. Lo and behold, they were packed and not picked over at all. Even though the temperatures were in the 30s,40s, and 50s, it was not cold until day 3 when the wind kicked up. We had our egos stroked pretty good when we played guitar and sang one night around the fire and had some other campers come by the next morning to ask us if we were just stopping to camp while we were on tour!! Either we did well or they had terrible ears for music! LOL! Then it became miserable pretty quickly due to the wind gusts. We packed up and moved to a hotel in Rapid City to hold up for a couple of days. I must admit to you guys, I went rockhounding in the decorative rock around the hotel and found fantastic stuff! They're probably going to see me on the security cameras and send me a bill. LOL! It snowed lightly, then we headed on to Montana. There were probably as many antelope as people on the way!! Also, lots of hawks and eagles. Saw a majestic golden eagle with probably a 12 foot wingspan!!

We decided to stay in Glendive, MT at a hotel the first couple nights to explore, as it is one of the most desirable areas for Montana

dendritic agates. We found another primitive camp area right on the river in front of a quarter mile long gravel bar below a small waterfall. Some locals told us that the river had not been this low in over 60 years!! So, we could not have timed it better as we were finding material no one has even seen for 60 years!! It was such easy hunting that we got to the point where we would set a bucket down, then start walking in circles around the bucket. By the time we were about at a 10 foot radius out, the bucket was full!!!. Then, being as it was in the free and open West, I just drove the 4-wheeler down onto the gravel bar, loaded up the buckets and drove them back to camp. We had 3 days of wonderful camping, saw some Pheasants, and then the wind kicked up again. I did some good cooking on the fire in a Dutch Oven. (Interjection: Secret, don't use jalapeno seasoned pinto beans in a stew. We couldn't even eat it!) Then it snowed. We basically got 5 days of hunting there. Then, we headed to Casper Wyoming and stayed there for 4 days. We used the little "Rockhounding Wyoming" book to find some places. The author of this book kept describing all the sites like "you won't find much there because it has been picked over so heavily and unless you go far away from the road, you won't find anything." How encouraging, huh! Well, me being me, I thought the road and ditches alongside would be the better places to look because they are always washing dirt away and uncovering new stuff. Turns out I was very correct. We found a full 5-gallon bucket of agate, jasper and chalcedony. Once Sharon determines what she is looking for, she is amazing at finding the best ones!! Then, I went out by myself (Sharon had to stay and write a speech) the next day and same thing from that guide. "Here you will find petrified wood but not much over an inch long." Same method and I ended up with yet another bucket full AND several pieces over 6 inches long and one

a foot and a half!!! Don't be telling the likes of me I'm only going to find one inch stuff! LOL! Just wait until you see it, Ed!

I dropped Sharon off for her conference in Denver, stayed the night and made the 25 hour drive back in 28 hours, sleeping for 4 hours in the only space I could find at a rest area after stopping at 3. I was going to stop at the crystal mines in Arkansas on the way back, but the one I wanted to do (The High Shoals mine) is now permanently closed. I spoke to Bryan Major and he is scheduled to do several filming sessions in the coming months at different mines in that area. I thought a better idea would be to arrange a club trip out there to correspond with one of Bryan's filming sessions. I know it would be a long trip and many would not be able to go but I think it would be worth it. I found numerous Forest Service campgrounds that are around \$22/night and they have group camping areas with all hookups. Another thing would be a legacy. If Bryan films us, the GGMC would have a permanent youtube video seen by rockhounds all over the country/world for years to come! I think that would be so cool. More details to come on that.

The only bad or at least irritating part of the vacation was the cost of fuel! Diesel was anywhere from 3.59 to 4.12 a gallon!! Pretty much, I had to fill up about every 5 hours of

driving to the tune of \$100 per fill up. Because of this, the trip cost us about 40% more than it would have just last year. The drive through Kentucky, West VA, VA and NC was beautiful being the height of the leave's color change. However, we were really impressed with the stands of bright yellow Cottonwoods all over the west. When I got back, I unloaded (25) 5-gallon buckets of rocks, pretty much all of which cannot be found in the East. I'll be slabbing for the next several years. 😊 I can't wait for you guys to see some of the stuff. I can hear our illustrious previous President now saying, "This stuff is gorgeous!" I'll try to show some of our photos at the Dec Zoom meeting.

The Board has collectively decided to once again cancel the Christmas dinner due to lack of an adequate meeting facility, the continuation of Covid 19 cases and the probability of low attendance. We just don't think everyone is comfortable meeting in person yet and especially for a covered dish style event. But, please, try to attend the Zoom meeting. We will discuss election results for next year, get updates and additional suggestions for meeting places and time permitting, I'll show some photos of our trip. Be safe everyone!

Rick Godbee
336-210-9141

Meetings are currently being held the first Monday of each month on Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent by email.

Be sure to Like and Share us on Facebook: Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club

See us on the web: <https://www.ggmc-rockhounds.com/>

2022 SCHEDULE

- Jan 3 - Membership Meeting - 2022 Dues Due, rolled over from 2021
- Feb 7 - Membership Meeting -
- Mar 1 - Membership Meeting-**
- Apr 5 - Membership Meeting- Spring Auction
- May 2 - Membership Meeting-
- June 4 - ***Our annual outdoor gem and mineral show – Piedmont Triad Farmers Market***
- June 6 - Membership Meeting-
- July 11 - Membership Meeting-
- Aug 1 - Membership Meeting-(6:30) Board of Directors, and Nomination Committee
- Sept 12 - Membership Meeting
- Oct 3 - Membership Meeting
- Nov 7 - Membership Meeting- Ballots
- Dec 5 - ***Holiday dinner, “Dirty-Rotten-Santa”, Awards, Election results,***

2022 Programs

- Jan 3 -
- Feb 7 –
- Mar 1 –
- Apr 5 - Spring Auction
- May 2 –
- June 4 – Gem & Mineral Show, Farmer’s Market
- June 6 -
- July 11 –
- Aug 1 - Show and Tell
- Sept 12 -
- Oct 3 -
- Nov 7 –
- Dec 5 – Holiday dinner

2022 Field Trips

- Jan –
- Feb –
- Mar –
- Apr –
- May –
- June –
- July –
- Aug –
- Sept –
- Oct –
- Nov –
- Dec –



AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you.

AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping App for iOS and Android phones. AmazonSmile will be listed in the Settings menu; from there, you can follow onboarding instructions to activate the program on your device.

Simply sign on to Amazon, search for Amazon Smile. It will ask you to select a charity. If you already have a charity, you can click "change" beside your charity and look up the charity you want to donate to.

Year-long Raffle

Remember the prizes for the 2020 year-long raffle will be available in 2022. Mary Pegram has donated a tiger eye necklace with a pendant of opalized ammonite fossil set in a sterling cap and hoop. Steve and Grace Smith have already contributed a beautiful gem tree with over 200 bloodstones sitting on a base of petrified wood. Tickets for the raffle can be purchased at each monthly meeting. The winners will be drawn at the 2022 December Holiday Party. The person whose name is drawn first gets their choice of the prizes.

McCreery Scholarship

Current balance: \$399. When the opportunity is available again, depending on how much is in the fund, up to two people can take a class each year. The schools are one week of classes at either the [William Holland School](#) or [Wildacres Retreat](#), or one class at [Sawtooth School for Visual Arts](#) in Winston Salem, In order to qualify for the scholarship, recipients must be a member in good standing for at least one year, pay for the school initially, and then give the club a program about the school, e.g. information about their class, the instruction, a sample of what they made, a demonstration, etc. A wide variety of classes are offered—cabochons, wire wrapping, faceting, silver, gem trees, casting, beading, etc.

Hospitality Report 2022

Jan 3 -	July 11 – Maggie, Vickie, Mary P.
Feb 7 -	Aug 1- KB Montgomery
Mar 7 -	Sept 12 – Steve Smith
Apr 4 -	Oct 3 – Roy Carlson
May 2 -	Nov 7 -Gerri Stone
June 6 -	Dec 5 - Holiday Dinner

Kernersville Arts & Crafts Guild's
Christmas Store
 1040-A South Main Street * Kernersville, NC
 (beside the Spectrum Store)
 November 26 – December 22, 2021
 Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.


Shop Safely
 6'

 Wear a mask in the store

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER 2021 MEETING

Vickie Hodges, Secretary

- The meeting was attended by 6 members, Gary, Roy, Ed, Steve, Gerri and Vickie, and 3 visitors, Audrey Holland, Pattie and Earl Huffman.
- We had a door prize drawing for the 3 visitors.
- Audrey chose a Calcite and Celestite from PA
- Pattie chose an Amethyst from Casville, NC in Caswell Co
- Earl chose a Hemimorphite from Durango, Mexico
- Roy motioned that the officers be accepted as slated and Vickie seconded. It was accepted.
- Gary did an informal presentation on tumbling tips
- It was mentioned that the facility that we are now in is way too small for a Christmas dinner with dirty Santa and it has been suggested that everyone be on the lookout for a more suitable facility. If you find something, please send your finds to Rick Godbee.

A note from Marie Anderson-Whitehurst Earth Songs rock shop

First of all, Marie would like to thank all the club members that came out and helped clean and sort rocks! That was a GREAT help!

She also wants to thank Terra Blue who brought food, water and tea for the volunteers. Eclectic By Nature was extremely supportive in many ways. Personal friends were helpful with painting, electricity and more sorting. The employees continued to be there and stepped up to the plate and did what was necessary to get the store going again.

The store is back open and ready for your holiday shopping.

Earth Songs
2106 Patterson Street
Greensboro, NC 27407
Phone 336-294-2111

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5
Saturday 10 - 5
Sunday - Closed.

If you have photos from trips or anything you think would interest the club, send it to Maggie to include in the newsletter. bearsmama1@gmail.com

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts Reopening for 2022!

After closing for the 2020 and 2021 summer seasons William Holland School of Lapidary Arts will be open for classes in 2022!

As many of you know, William Holland is an arts school located in Young Harris, Georgia. This year's season will run from the week of April 3 through the week of November 6, 2022. They offer a wide range of classes, from calligraphy, to gem trees, to cabochons, to leather working, and much more. As a long-time student, I cannot recommend this school enough. A week at William Holland is one of the best vacations you could ask for.

Our own Vickie Hodges will be teaching several classes:

Wire weaving: May 8 – 13
 August 21 - 26
Beading: August 14 – 19
 October 2 – 7
 October 9 - 14

You can see the 2022 catalog [here](#), and the 2022 class schedule [here](#).

Registration for classes begins in December 2021. If you are interested in taking a class this summer, please watch the William Holland [website](#) for more information about the registration dates. If you would like to get on the mailing list or ask questions, you can email them at info@lapidaryschool.org.

(The school has developed stringent health and safety policy in order to keep all students, staff, and instructors safe. The policy is outlined in the catalog.)

Maggie Gillet
Editor



View from Sparks Lodge veranda at William Holland.

FYI

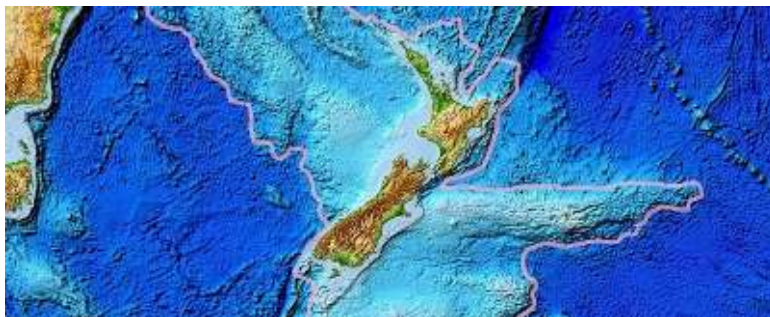


A Little Girl Gave Her Favorite Rock to A Museum, So They Put It On Display

Read the article [here](#)

A Giant 'Sea Scorpion' May Have Attacked This Trilobite 450 Million Years Ago

A mangled trilobite, found fossilized in Czechia, looks like it narrowly escaped becoming lunch more than 450 million years ago. Read the article [here](#).



A Chunk From The Sunken Continent of Zealandia Is Twice as Old as We Thought

About 3,500 feet under the South Pacific sits a piece of land 2 million square miles in size – about half as big as Australia. Read the article [here](#).

Ammonlite: Fossilized Ammonites Gem

Ammonite is an opal-like organic gemstone found primarily along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Read the article [here](#).





<p>The Piedmont Prospector©</p> <p>2017 Honorable mention Small Bulletins 2012 Honorable mention Large Bulletins 2002 winner AFMS Large Bulletin</p>	<p>The Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.</p> <p>The Piedmont Gemcutter’s Guild c/o – GGMC Editor P.O. Box 13087 Greensboro, NC 27415 – 3087</p>
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Year 2022 Officers

President, & Chairperson – Rick Godbee, c/o Club address (2022)
Vice President - Kathie Montgomery (2023)
Treasurer – Mary Pegram Secretary – Vickie Hodges (2024)

Board of Directors for 2022

Vickie Hodges '24	Roy Carlson '22
Charlie Finch '24	Rick Godbee '22
Ed Deckert '24	

Program Chair - Gary Parker	Hospitality – Sharon Godbee
Membership – Mary Pegram	Newsletter Editor – Maggie Gillet
Historian – Joyce Patton	Show Chair - Gary Parker
Librarian – Steve Smith	Web Chair - Glenn Woodfin
Auctioneers - Steve Smith / Gary Parker	Publicity -Kathie Montgomery
McCreery Fund - Club Treasurer	Special events/Geodes – Ed Deckert
Show Hospitality - Joyce Patton & Grace Smith	Holiday Chairperson -OPEN
Facebook – Kathie Montgomery	

“Dig” Committee – Rick Godbee, Bryan Burdette, Gary Parker

Honorary Life Members

Dr. Cyril H. Harvey & Judith W. Harvey	Joe Meadows	Steve and Grace Smith
Gary Parker	Steve Adams	Laurie Adams
Dr. Jean & Kevin Bonebreak	Joyce & Kelly Patton	Debra Livingston
Marie Anderson-Whitehurst	Dr. Joseph & Maria Mountjoy	
Kathy & Jim Montgomery		
Dr. Tim & Elaine Biggart	Joe Maguire (D)	
Ed Deckert	John Hiller (D)	
	Russ Holshouser (D)	
	Mac Anderson-Whitehurst (D)	