



GEM SCOOPS



Vol. 54, No. 1

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

January 2016

Crystals and Fossils from Lake Douglas

President's Message

Welcome to 2016 in the Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society. I am happy to be back as President, returning after an academic sabbatical in Calgary, Canada last year. I thank everyone for "holding down the fort" in my absence. We have an exciting docket in store for you this year.

January's presentation features Hendersonville's Tim Barton. Tim will speak to us about the fossils and minerals that can be found at Lake Douglas near Knoxville, Tennessee. The talk takes place at 7:00 pm. at our usual OLLI meeting location, on Tuesday, January 19.

My wife Carol and I went on a field trip with Tim to Lake Douglas in December. We found many things, including some very showy double-sided quartz crystals, some chert, geodes, and even some stromatolites. We will bring these specimens to the talk. Tim will likely also bring some of his finds from his extensive collection that he has accumulated on his many visits to the lake over the years. What is amazing is the number of different types of specimens that can be easily found near the main dam. Hopefully, this talk will whet everyone's appetite for a field trip to the lake. Carol and I liked the site so much that we went

JANUARY MEETING

WHEN: January 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm
WHERE: The Olli Classroom Building
SPEAKER: Tim Barton
TOPIC: Secrets of Lake Douglas
ABSTRACT: This presentation will offer an overview of the minerals and fossils at Lake Douglas (south-east of Knoxville, Tennessee).
 Refreshments will be served by Teresa Smith. Visitors are always welcome.

back last week.

We are still collecting showy specimens for our "Beneath Your Feet" display that will be housed at the State Botanical Gardens. So far, donations have been disappointing. That said, we are still waiting for John Denny and Ted Wallenius to drop their "mother-lode of collections" on us. Reiterating what we seek: showy specimens of minerals (and perhaps fossils) found within a couple hundred miles of the Clemson area. Please bring any such specimens to the meetings. You will be acknowledged as the donor in the display case and you can get your specimens back in due course.

Robert

SFMS Workshop Schedule

William Holland.....June 5-11, 2016
Wildacres.....August 22-28, 2016
Wildacres.....September 19-25, 2016

Mini-Minutes

December 15, 2015

The PDGMS held its annual holiday pot-luck dinner in the OLLI classroom building at 6:00 pm. Fifteen members attended but there was plenty of great food. John Ishler brought a ham and Ted Wallenius roasted chicken. We missed the rest of you.

Meeting Report

Fred Sias and Ted Wallenius met with Dr. Adam Smith, Curator of the Bob Campbell Geology Museum at 10 am, Friday, January 8th to dis-

FEBRUARY MEETING

The next meeting of the PDGMS will be on February 16, 2016. Put it on your calendar.

Officers for 2016

Robert Lund, President.....864-888-8719
John Palmer, V. Pres.....941-545-3713
Teresa Smith, Sec.....864-888-8719
John Ishler, Treasurer.....864-885-9126

2016 Directors

Carol Lund (Past Pres).....864-888-8719
Charlie Rowe.....864-985-0446
Fred Sias.....864-654-6833
Bob Whitmore.....303-565-2727

cuss issues of mutual interest.

Adam received his Ph.D. in Geological Sciences at the Univ. of Texas at Austin. His current research interest centers on paleontology, more specifically on the evolution of birds. Learn more at www.paleosmith.org. He may be able to attend our January meeting. He said he would be happy to speak at some future meeting.

Dr. Smith shared with us his plans to expand and modernize exhibits and facilities at the Bob Campbell Geology Museum. Obviously, these changes will have an impact on our plans to put a "Right Beneath Your Feet" display case in the museum. For example, he wants to establish criteria for grouping rocks and minerals such as igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic; or by chemical class such as silicates, sulfides, oxides, phosphates, etc; or by crystal structure such as orthorhombic, tetragonal, hexagonal, etc. Right now, organization appears rather random with the exception of a display based on location: "Minerals of South and North Carolina," closely approximating "Right Beneath Your Feet". Here is a logical place where PDGMS might play a role. Adam was very receptive to the idea. Therefore, our idea of putting a "Right Beneath You Feet" exhibit in place will best be put on hold unless we think of doing something of a temporary nature. In that regard, Adam suggested we might consider putting a display case in the *Hayden Conference Center* and *Nature Learning Center* on the opposite side of the gardens from the BCGM. That is something we could do without waiting. And, as far as publicity goes, that facility actually has as many or more visitors than the BCGM. Thus, our display might attract more visitors to both BCGM and PDGMS, resulting in some measure of synergism.



Blue Topaz Gemstone Set in Tripps Sterling Silver Pre-notched Setting

Preview

Easy Jewelry Making

by Fred Sias

Most jewelry-making techniques require a degree of dexterity and skill at using tools. I propose to introduce you to a method of making good looking rings, pendants and other quality jewelry using a few elementary tools. Sterling silver jewelry can be made at a modest price and 14K gold jewelry can be made by those with a larger budget.

The specially made parts for your jewelry may be purchased from a company named **Tripps** that is located in New Mexico. All you need is a credit card and the folks at Tripps are easy to deal with and very helpful when you contact them over the telephone.

Tripps developed a gemstone setting technique that employs pre-notched findings that are available at wholesale prices. They also sell

tools and a variety of gemstones. Finally, a special setting plier is offered to make it easy for a beginner to set gemstones without damaging them.

My presentation in February will show all the steps for creating rings, pendants, and other jewelry. We start with choosing a ring selected for the proper ring size and for a calibrated gemstone. Using the special pliers available from Tripps, the proper setting technique will be demonstrated using a video.

Many years ago I started making jewelry using Tripps findings and their special stone-setting tool. At first I started setting stones that I had faceted but then I found that it was possible to buy unset stones at very reasonable prices at gem and mineral shows in the region.

If you really get into the jewelry making, go ahead and create a jewelry company and obtain a South Carolina sales tax license. Sterling silver is now very popular and your rings and pendants will be easy to sell. Come hear the details.