

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

August 2021

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2021 Officers and Committees

President: Larry Huffman
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Vice President: Joan Glover
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Treasurer: Terry Russell
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Secretary: Dean Russell
828-303-1448

Editor: Brenda Huffman
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Field Trip: George Brown
828-292-7407
Education: George Max
828-328-9107

Show Chairman: Dean Russell
828-303-1448
Scholarship: George Max
828-328-9107
Eastern Federation: Larry Huffman
Liaison: 828-612-4469
Southeast Federation: Larry Huffman
Liaison: 828-612-4469

Club Address: PO Box 2521, Hickory, NC 28603-2521
Regular Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7:00 PM
St. Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St. NE Hickory, NC
Annual Dues: Family, \$25; Individual, \$18;

The purpose of the Club is to increase the individual's knowledge of the earth sciences and to aid in the development of lapidary and related arts and skills; to promote fellowship and exchange of ideas; to hold exhibitions, contests, lectures and demonstrations for educational purposes; to help interest more people in the gem and mineral hobby; and to capture and preserve the beauty of nature, the arts, and the works of man.

PIX BY SLADE HARVIN
KENTUCKY GEODE



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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

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President's Message

The July meeting saw four first-time visitors to our club meeting. All indicated they would be back next month to join our club. Two are planning on going on our Kentucky field trip over Labor Day weekend. Finally, our club is seeing new faces join our ranks after a year and half of Covid-19. Welcome to all of you.

Warren Hollar gave a proposal to the club to sponsor a Geology Scout Merit Badge day in late September. The motion was accepted. Look for Warren's article about it below.

The program, a CD by Susan & Jim Beck on Hunting Kentucky Agates was well received by all present. Part of the Labor Day field trip will be a half day guided agate collecting trip.

It is not too late to sign up for the Labor Day field trip. Please see Slade Harvin's article below for sign up info.

The September program will be sent out with a reminder of the upcoming meeting.

HOT HOT HOT yes it's that time of year. Be sure to take along a cold Dr Pepper for that outing to your favorite collecting site.

'til next month..... Larry

2021 Labor Day Field Trip

I have reserved 10 rooms at the Bright Leaf Golf Resort. All of the rooms have two double beds. Please call them and give them your credit card information to reserve your room. BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB in order to get the special rate. At this time 10 rooms at the resort have been reserved in a block. Everyone will need to call or email the resort for their own reservation. ALL of the rooms will be reserved under one entity: CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB. Everyone needs to make sure that you let the resort know that you are with the CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB.

Bright Leaf Golf Resort

1742 Danville Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330
Telephone: (859) 734-5481; (800) 469-6038

Website: <http://www.brightleafgolfresort.com>

Email: info@brightleafgolfresort.com

Check In: September 3, 2021 (Friday)

Check Out: September 6, 2021 (Monday)

Rate: \$60+/Single Occupancy; \$80+/Double Occupancy

Deposit: A \$70/room deposit is required to secure the reservation. **Deposit was due by June 1, 2021.**

This year we plan to go to two quarries and also a location for geodes. Plus a ½ day guided KY agate trip. We hope to see you there.

Slade Harvin

Geology Merit Badge

At the July meeting of the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, CVGMC agreed to sponsor a Geology Scout Merit Badge "Event." Warren Hollar presented a request for the club to provide the stations for three scout groups (about 50-60 scouts and youth) to meet requirements for Geology Merit Badges. The club agreed to provide volunteers and supporting materials for the scouts to receive the merit badge.

Tentative plans call for the merit badge to be completed the last weekend in September at the First United Methodist Church in Hickory. The date is pending approval of the church. The merit badge requirements are like those presented at past gem and mineral shows.

Volunteers will be needed to assist in the operation of 7-8 stations for scouts to complete 13 requirements. Warren Hollar will work with Rick Glover as the merit badge counselors for the event. Warren will be coordinating the volunteers.

The actual event will last approximately 3 hours not including set-up and take down. Three groups will arrive at staggered times and then divided into smaller groups. Stations may include Identification of Gems and Minerals, Moh's Scale, Job of a Geologist, Geologic Maps, Fossil Displays, additional displays of specimens and sharing by club members, Crystal Collecting, Road-building materials, Wire-wrapping techniques, table assistance with forms, and other activities to be determined.

Final arrangements will be presented at the August meeting and commitment from volunteers will be requested. Call Warren Hollar at (828)446-5400 for additional information.

Newsletter Editors Comments

We plan to send the Tar Heel **ROCKHOUND** newsletter to the membership by the first of every month. If you want to submit any articles for the month, please have them to my email by the 20th of the previous month. We welcome your input into this publication!

**** "Larry and I have almost figured this Newsletter out now, but I do appreciate any comments, critiques offered as a suggestion for improvement."**

Brenda Huffman

bhhuffman@gmail.com

CVGMC minutes for July 13, 2021

The July 13, 2021 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Larry H. at 7:00 PM. There were 15 members present.

Visitors: Ken P., Richard P., Bethany W., and Chris W.

Minutes: Motion by Harry P., seconded by George B., to accept the minutes for the May 11, 2021 meeting. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report: Bank balance was reported.

Education Committee: None

Field Trip Report:

1. Rooms are setup for the Labor Day KY trip. (See Slade H. for information)
 2. Sat. will be in the morning at the Caldwell Quarry in Danville, KY, afternoon will be either the Phillips property for Geodes or a guided Agate hunt. Cost for the Agate hunt is \$50.00 per person, with a limit of 20 people to attend. Sunday and Monday will be at the Litter Quarry.
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1. CVGMC will hold another "Only Vendor" Show October 29-31, 2021.
 2. Hopefully, the Club can hold a full show with all of the exhibits in the Spring of 2022.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. CVGMC members Anne K. and Zan R. have passed in the past year. The Club will send out a \$100.00 memorial in each of their names to the AFMS Endowment Fund.
2. Boy Scouts are looking for volunteers for 40-50 Scouts for the Geology Merit Badge. If you are interested, contact Warren H. Motion by Warren H., seconded by Harry P., for CVGMC to sponsor the event. There was discussion, more information will be available at the August meeting. The motion was passed by the Club membership. If you are interested in volunteering to help at this event, please contact Warren H. If you need Warren's phone number, please contact Dean Russell at (828) 303-1448.

Announcements: Door prizes were chosen by the visitors.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM

Program: Hunting Kentucky Agates: "Where the Bluegrass Kiss the Mountains" A DVD by Susan & Jim Beck.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

Rare Find in Thailand



It's rare enough to find a pearl in a shell, so to happen upon an extraordinary orange pearl — worth more than \$330,000 — was like winning the lottery for one Thai fisherman.

Brothers Hatchai Niyomdecha, 37, and Worachat Niyomdecha, 35, were walking the shore of Nakhon Si Thammarat in the Gulf of Thailand on Jan. 27. when they spotted an abandoned buoy, dotted with shellfish, according to Viral Press.

The siblings plucked three snails from the apparatus with plans to have them for a snack. But what their father Bangmad Niyomdecha, 60, found while cleaning the shells was worth much more than fresh escargot.

The tangerine-hued pearl, which is about the width of a dime and weighs 7.68 grams, was found in the Melo melo sea snail, as opposed to typical oyster pearls. These exceedingly rare pearls, formed in a gastropod native to Asian waters, can be found in shades from tan or brown to the more coveted orange color, and take many more years to form than standard pearls.

Hatchai, whose family hails from an impoverished fishing community, believes it may have been destiny that led him to the treasure.

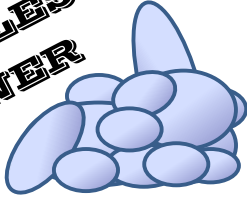
“An old man in white with a long mustache told me to come to the beach so I can receive a gift. I think he led me to finding the pearl,” he said of a dream he had just days before the discovery.

“I want to sell the pearl for the highest price,” he told Viral Press. “The money won't just change my life, it will change my destiny. My whole family will have better lives.”

He was since approached by at least three buyers, two of whom low-balled the pearl's value.

The family, including wife Worachat Niyomdecha, 35, and their two sons, is negotiating with a buyer from China who is allegedly offering \$10 million Baht (about \$332,000) following a live appraisal, scheduled for later this month.

THE PEBBLES' CORNER



Last month member Cheryl Neary submitted an article about our club starting a Pebble Club. I have copied the startup article from 2017 by Slade Harvin where he started the Pebbles Corner. I urge each of you to please help in some way to keep this page going for our youth. This is the future of our club. Email any ideas or articles to bhhuffman@gmail.com

This section of the newsletter is being started to help generate more interest and interaction with younger rockhounds and to have fun in the process. I welcome any information a member may wish to provide to be included in the upcoming newsletters each month, especially related to items that would be of interest to our younger and aspiring rockhounds. With summer nearing an end, the start of school is drawing closer. Once school starts, the homework and school activities also begin. Try thinking of some fun rock activities to add to the mix of the school year. Here are some examples to consider:

- **Use rocks for crafts/projects**
- **Book reports: Mineral and geology books**
- **Presentations: Rock collection; rocks trips; places I would like to visit**
- **Math: Use rocks for counting and visual tools**
- **Art: Use rocks or minerals or draw a picture of them**

The key is to have fun and enjoy the time together and “making a memory” in the process. Just think, the use of rocks might just add extra credit. Feel free to let me know of any activities or uses for rocks you come up with during the school year. I wish all the students a “Rockin’ School Year.”

**Until next time.....
Slade**

First Class Mail



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Organized 1969



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Club Meeting

Tuesday
August 10, 2021
St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
Hickory, NC