

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

DECEMBER 2017

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2017 Officers and Committees

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President: | Harry Polly 828-244-6651 | Editor: | Slade Harvin 252-702-7299 | Show Chairman: | Dean Russell 828- 303-1448 |
| Vice President: | Joan Glover 828-446-7633 | Field Trip: | OPEN | Scholarship: | George Max 828-328-9107 |
| Treasurer: | Terry Russell 828- 303-1563 | Education: | George Max 828-328-9107 | Eastern Federation Liaison: | Larry Huffman 828-612-4469 |
| Secretary: | Dean Russell 828- 303-1448 | | | | |

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, \$18; Individual, \$12; Junior, \$6

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.



Photo: S. Harvin Quartz Geode (Kentucky)

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

Web Master: Mike Streeter

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President's Message

It has been an honor to serve this past year, and with your help, I will try to serve to the best of my ability. Thank you to all. As we finish up the old year, and look forward, let us each strive to make this club better for our new members. We want to welcome all who come through the door. My wish for all is to be safe and have a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Harry

Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

The November 14, 2017 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Harry Polly at 7:00 PM.

Minutes: Motion by Norma R., seconded by Jimmy S. to accept the minutes for the October 10, 2017 minutes. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report:

Bank balance was reported.

Field Trip Report:

- 1) The Club **NEEDS** a Field Trip Chairperson.

Education Committee: No report.

Show Committee:

- 1) All vendor slots are full.
- 2) Theme of the show will be: "Treasures In Our Own Backyard, Gems and Minerals of the Catawba Valley"
- 3) Club members, please be thinking where you want to volunteer with the Show.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- 1) Election of Officers:
 - a. President: Harry P.
 - b. Vice President: Rick G.
 - c. Secretary: Dean R.
 - d. Treasurer: Terry R.
 - e. Director-at-Large: Richard A.
Joan G.
Wayne B.
- 2) **A Field Trip Chairman is needed.**
- 3) Dixie Mineral Council – Waiting on acceptance notification.
- 4) Membership Dues 2018 – Single - \$18.00; Family - \$25.00
- 5) By-Law Change – Article 3, Section 2 – Voted to modify by-laws to allow membership eligibility to be extended to someone that attends two (2) meetings, participates (volunteer) in two (2) shows, or a combination of the two.
- 6) December Meeting – December 12th at 6:30 PM. Will be club auction. Everyone attending asked to bring a drink or snack. Terri will arrive at 5:45 PM to begin setting up.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM

Program: Carl Marlowe – "Exploring Joara – Fort San Juan"

**Respectfully submitted,
Slade Harvin, Acting Secretary**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORMS

2018 Membership Dues – due in January

Membership Information Forms are included with the December newsletter. You may also find a copy on the club's website: <http://www.cvgmc.com/>.

The membership form must accompany your dues in order for your name to be included on the 2018 club roster and to receive the monthly newsletter.

Honorary members must also fill out the form each year in order to keep the club records up to date and to maintain your honorary membership status.

Please print clearly and legibly on the form so that your information can be updated accurately. The treasurer, Terry Russell, will be deleting anyone from the roster who does not renew their membership by the March 2018 meeting.

Dues will NOT be accepted at the December meeting because of the activities going on with the auction. The treasurer will accept renewals at the January meeting or you can send your payment and form to the Club PO Box.

December Field Trip

There is not a December field trip scheduled.

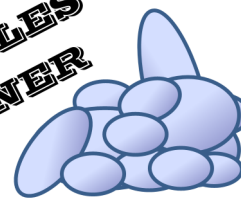
Also, everyone is asked to please consider taking the Field Trip Coordinator position for the Club.

Program

The December program will be the Club Auction.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

THE PEBBLES' CORNER



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.

As indicated, this year's series will focus on each month's birthstone. I realize that several minerals may be associated with a particular month, but I am trying to select the most commonly accepted ones for this series.

I welcome any information a member may wish to provide to be included in the upcoming newsletters each month corresponding to the particular month's birthstone.

December's Birthstone is turquoise.

Mohs Hardness: 6.

Turquoise obtains its color from copper, iron, and chrome, with the copper contributing to the blue hues, while iron and chrome adds the slight greens. Arizona leads the production of the U.S. in production by value and quantity, but other states known for turquoise are California, Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico. North Carolina does have natural sources of citrine.

One North Carolina location where Turquoise has been found (According to Mindat.org):

Moore County



Photos: Clip Art

Until next time.....

Slade

Kentucky Bourbon Trail

By: Cheryl Neary

Before we start discussing the Bourbon Trail of Kentucky, I want to ask you this question-

Did you ever travel to another part of this scenic country and order a soft drink from perhaps a diner- type establishment? Or perhaps buy a soft drink bottled in different parts of this country? Did you notice that the soft drink had a slightly different flavor? The reason for the difference is one main ingredient – water.

This is true with beer – the main ingredients in beer is hops and water. I remember when I visited Germany many years ago, that is exactly what our tour guide informed us as we ventured to the Hofbräuhaus in Munich- different places, different water and different tastes.

According to the definition of water, in its purest form, the liquid is clear, odorless and tasteless. It is composed of the chemical elements hydrogen and oxygen. In fact, water is comprised of one oxygen atom and two hydrogen atoms (H₂O) bonded together by shared electrons. Water is the only naturally occurring substance that is found in the three states – gas, as a water vapor, liquid and solid, as ice.

Approximately 70% of the planet Earth is covered by water, with over three-quarters of the water frozen. Freshwater supply is only 3%.

Now did you ever look forward to that sip of wine only to find out that it now is vinegar? The reason for the change in product is due to the process of fermentation. The word ferment is derived from the Latin word, *Fervere*, which translates to boil. It had been observed that mixtures of crushed grapes produced bubbles. The bubbles produced were similar to the bubbles when heating water for instance, on a stove.

Evidence has proved that alcohol- fermented beverages- have been consumed by a variety of cultures as early as 1700 BC. Honey wine or mead was produced in Asia around 1700-1100 BC. The Greeks, Celts, Saxons and Vikings also produced mead. Egypt, Babylon, Rome and China produced wine from grapes and beer from barley. In South America, chichi was produced from grains, mainly maize and fruits and in North America octli was produced from agave.

To produce the consumable alcohol is an art in itself. Too little time to ferment – no alcohol; too much time to ferment – acetic acids are created by bacteria.

More information on fermenting and yeast is available on the following webpage:

<https://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/yeast-fermentation-and-the-making-of-beer-14372813>

Fermentation occurs because of yeast. Did you ever think about what yeast is? Yeasts are single-celled fungi, a eukaryote organism, which means they are microscopic. The main yeast species is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. In the absence of oxygen, this yeast ferments the sugars in different sources, such as grapes for wine and barley for beer, converting the sugars into alcohol and carbon dioxide.

What is bourbon? It is an American whiskey, made primarily from corn. In fact, in order to be considered bourbon some of the criteria must be as follows:

- Produced in the United States (with 95% of bourbon produced in KY)
- Made from a grain mixture that is at least 51% corn
- Aged in new, charred oak containers

How the whiskey was given-the name “bourbon” is questionable. Some believe that it was the Baptist minister and distiller Elijah Craig, who supposedly was the first to age the product in charred oak casks, which gives the whiskey the reddish color. Today, Elijah Craig Bourbon is noted as one of the top shelf liquor. Elijah Craig was a very interesting character, which if you have time- read about him on the internet. Some say that it was Jacob Spears, from Bourbon County, KY who put the name bourbon on his label. Michel Veach, a Louisville historian proposes that the whiskey was named after Bourbon Street in New Orleans. This was a major port where shipments of Kentucky whiskey were sold much cheaper than the French cognac.

Now as in the times of our early settlers, the whiskey from Kentucky has a distinct flavor from the whiskey that was being produced in other regional parts of the colonies, since the whiskey produced was from rye. Whiskey barrels from the area of central Kentucky were shipped to New Orleans via the Ohio River. The barrels were marked Old Bourbon, named after the geographical area and not the age of the whiskey. The local port in Kentucky was once known as Limestone and was originally in Bourbon County until 1789, when the borders were changed. Today, Maysville, the former Limestone, is found in Mason County. *(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from Page 4)

Early settlers travelling down the Ohio River found a natural harbor at Limestone Creek. John May acquired the land at Limestone at in 1787 the settlement was incorporated ad Maysville, although the name Limestone persisted into the 19th century.

Maysville is located in the northern portion of Kentucky and the town was founded by Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone. The area once utilized by native people hunting buffalo and other game. In the 17th century the Iroquois Confederacy, based in present day New York State drove other tribes from the region to hold the Ohio Valley as a hunting ground. Buffalo forded the Ohio River to search for salt licks in the interior of what is known today as Kentucky. Natural salt licks or mineral licks are exposed salt that serve as a gathering place for various wildlife. Salt licks are usually found in ground surface springs.

The salt licks were also important and common on the Kentucky frontier. Early Kentucky salt deposits were found in the Appalachian Mountains of the eastern part of the state. Once the lick was located, in order to obtain salt – a valued commodity - they drilled through the mud and sand in a nearby creek bed until they struck the salt water. The salt water was placed in large kettles where the water was boiled and evaporated leaving behind the salt residue.

I discovered that there is a unique state park in Boone County, Kentucky known as Big Bone Lick, named for the Pleistocene megafauna fossils found there. The following information is straight from their website: (<http://parks.ky.gov/parks/historicsites/big-bone-lick/history.aspx>).

“Once covered with swamps, the land that makes up Big Bone Lick featured a combination of odorous minerals and saline water that animals found difficult to resist.”

For centuries great beasts of the Pleistocene era came to the swampy land in what is now known as northern Kentucky to feed. Animals that frequented Big Bone Lick included bison, both the ancient and the modern variety; primitive horses, giant mammoths and mastodons, the enormous stag-moose, and the ground sloth. The earliest peoples, from the Pre-Paleo Period (13,000 BC) down to the Late Woodland Period (AD 1000), found a seemingly endless supply of wild game to hunt in and around the mineral and salt springs and Big Bone Lick became a killing ground for thousands of years. Over the millennia, the bones gradually accumulated and were frequently covered by flooding sediments, preserving them for modern archaeologists and paleontologists to recover in the future.

American Indians, and later the settlers from the east coast marveled at the “big bones” that lay scattered about the lick. Word of these intriguing remains became part of Indian lore until in 1739 a French Canadian explorer and soldier, Charles LeMoynes, second Baron DeLongueuil discovered the site. In 1744 Robert Smith, an Indian trader, visited the area and removed fossils from their swampy bed. Kentucky explorer, John Findlay, noted the bones at the lick in 1752, and Robert McAfee described Big Bone Lick in his 1773 journal.

.....Big Bone Lick State Historic Site now has 813 acres with 40 acres of picnic grounds and a 62-site campground with electricity, water, grills, bathhouse, and a pool. There are facilities for various recreational pursuits and mosaic trail system. The park’s modern museum and visitor center has paleontological and archaeological exhibits on display and the adjacent grounds also feature life-sized replicas of mammoth, mastodon, ground sloth, and bison.”

Bourbon County in Kentucky was once part of Virginia, and named after the French House of Bourbon, when at one time it was part of the French territory of Louisiana. The original Bourbon County is now 34 different counties in Kentucky.

So it has been said by many that the Kentucky’s climate and geology is responsible for the great taste of Bourbon. The water is free of iron since the water’s natural filtration is through the massive limestones of central Kentucky.

As we travelled from one dig site to another in August of this year, I am sure many saw the signs indicating the Kentucky Bourbon Trail – a tourist promotion to attract visitor to the distilleries, including Four Roses, Heaven Hill, Jim Beam, Maker’s Mark, Town Branch, Wild Turkey and Woodford Reserves.

Oh- another side note- the state of Tennessee is home to what is known as “Tennessee whiskey” – straight bourbon produced in Tennessee – Jack Daniel’s the most recognized brand- whose product is filtered through chunks of maple charcoal.

Today, you can purchase “Old Limestone” mixing water, used as a splash or in ice cubes for bourbon. The company states that it is the first bottled water “sourced from an ancient limestone aquifer that runs underneath the Kentucky bluegrass region, the same aquifer that has drawn bourbon distillers for centuries.” I also learned from today that primarily in the south – a tributary to a stream is called a branch and water pulled from a branch is called branch water. When serving bourbon, it can be “neat” (made without ice or mixer), “on the rocks” (the spirit poured over ice cubes) or “bourbon and branch”, which refers to bourbon whiskey and plain water.

Maybe the next time I visit Kentucky – I just might visit the Bourbon Trail – which will “put me in the spirit!”



2018 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM

Please Check all the Appropriate Boxes

New Member Renewal

(New members must attend TWO meetings and may apply for membership at the second meeting)

Single \$18/yr Family \$25/yr Honorary \$0/yr

** Onetime fee for name badge \$10/person Quantity

** Spelling on badges ONLY IF PURCHASING any: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & FILL IN ALL INFORMATION

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (family membership): _____

ADDRESS (Street): _____

ADDRESS (City, State, and Zip Code): _____

MINOR CHILD (family membership): _____ Age _____

MINOR CHILD (family membership): _____ Age _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

How do you want to receive the bulletin? E-mail and/or US Mail

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

MAIL TO: Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc

c/o Terry Russell

PO Box 2521

Hickory, NC 28603-2521

DUES (NEW MEMBERS ONLY) SHALL BE PRORATED AS FOLLOWS:

January 1 – June 30: full amount of annual dues

July 1 – September 30: 50% of annual dues

October 1 – December 31: full amount of annual dues shall apply as payment for the following year

FOR USE BY TREASURER ONLY: Amt Rec'd _____ Check # _____ Date _____

Instructions for the upcoming December 2017 auction (from the treasurer):

It's that time of year for our annual auction.

Anyone who participates in the auction (selling AND/OR buying) needs to have a number assigned to them (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.). Since Terry will not be at the November meeting she is asking that you contact her by email (tmkrussell5@aol.com) or call and leave a message at her work number (828-584-5360) by November 27th. Please include the number of stickers needed. She will then mail the stickers and a number to you. If you don't get a number and stickers before the December meeting they will be available the evening of the auction so come early. Terry will be at the church by 5:45pm for anyone who hasn't signed up to participate and needs a number and/or stickers.

All specimens must be clearly identified with a sticker which should be coded with your assigned number because this is what will be referenced during the auction process. Please label your specimens as follows (using this example): if your assigned number is 2 and you plan to sell 5 items then the stickers should be labeled as 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e. **It is VERY important to label ALL specimens so the correct information is recorded.** This same number will also be your bidding number. Terry will have bidder cards at the meeting with the numbers on them for people to hold up when they win a bid. This process should keep things moving and will make it easier to record the sellers and buyers.

Items will be auctioned off in order to make it fair for everyone. It will go as follows: 1a, 2a, 3a...etc., then start over at 1b, 2b, 3b...etc. so label your items in the order that you want to sell them, with your best item being the first one. We will sell as many items as possible in the time that we have (ends at 9:00 PM). There is no limit to the number of items a Club Member can bring.

Anything rock related can be auctioned; this includes tools, cut stones, display boxes/cabinets, rough stones, jewelry, etc. Members will retain 90% of the sale price and 10% will go to the club unless the member specifies all proceeds go to the club.

Please come early to preview the items and make notes (including the number on the sticker) of the ones you are interested in bidding on then you'll be ready when it comes up for bidding. To keep things moving along the items will not be walked around during the auction.

Items will go up in price by \$1.00 increments per bid until it reaches \$25.00, then bidding will go up by \$5.00 increments per bid until it reaches \$50.00. Once it reaches \$50.00, bids will go up by \$10.00 increments per bid. Once the bid reaches \$100.00, bids will go up by \$20.00 increments per bid. Bidding increments can change at the discretion or lack of memory of the auctioneer. If you have an item you want started at a minimum bid, please note it on the label ahead of time.

Remember, guests are welcome, so bring a friend. They can bid on items, but cannot sell items.

Payment method: Cash or checks accepted but sorry, no plastic.

2018 CVGMC Dues Increase

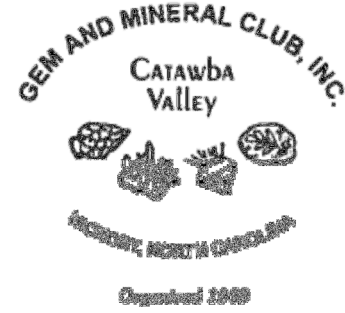
For 2018, there will be an increase in member dues. There has not been an increase in the last eight years and the increase helps with the increases in costs.

Single - \$18.00
Family - \$25.00



First Class Mail

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Club Meeting

Tuesday

December 12, 2017

7:00 PM **6:30 PM**

St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
Hickory, NC