

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

JANUARY 2023

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2023 Officers and Committees

President:	Harry Polly 828-244-6651	Editor:	Brenda Huffman 828-612-1918	Show Chairman:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448
Vice President	Rick Glover 828-446-7634	Field Trip:		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			Southeast Federation Liaison:	Larry Huffman 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.



INSIDE

President’s Message	2
January program	2
Club Auction Recap	3
Pix of Club Auction	4
Grab Bag Project Date	5
March Show Info	5
Pebbles Corner	6-7
2023 Membership dues	8
Membership Application	9

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

Web Master: Mike Streeter

Brenda Huffman, Editor
 P. O. Box 2444
 Hickory, NC 28603
 bhuffman@gmail.com

President's Report

As we enter the New Year and leave the old one behind, let us do so with thanksgiving and a cheerful heart. The club has experienced new growth and has been successful financially.

As we enter the New Year, my hope is that this trend will continue. We need new members, especially young families, as some of us are getting up in age and having to curtail some of our activities. Let each of us seek out these families.

Don't forget the grab bag day on Saturday January 14th at St. Andrews Lutheran Church on the campus of LR starting at 9:00 am. Bring all your goodies to make the grab bags for the show.

In the meantime, stay warm and have a cup of hot cider, coffee, or tea.

Harry

Our January meeting will be "Bragging Rights" by Rick Glover.

The program for January will be our annual Bragging Rights Contest. Participants may enter 1 specimen in each category as follows:

1. Best Collected - Specimens you have found in 2022.
2. Best Purchased - Specimens you have purchased in 2022.
3. Best Crafted - Specimens you have crafted in 2022.

The Bragging Rights Contest is open to club members only. The prize for each category is bragging rights.

Respectfully,

Rick Glover

Results of the December 2022 Club Auction:

The total sales at this year's auction were \$742 (60 items sold) and the proceeds to the Club were \$101.20.

The sales were down from the previous auction however, considering it was the first auction we have had since December 2019 (pre COVID), it was fairly successful.

We had a great turnout and over 15 people participated in the auction either as bidders or sellers.

This year the Club voted to have a meal catered from Publix and it was a big hit. The food was plentiful and delicious and thank you to everyone who brought additional snacks, desserts and drinks. No one should have gone home hungry!!

Thank you to those who helped with the setup, cleanup and running the auction.

Thank you also to Jeff Schlottman who took over Dean's responsibilities as auctioneer on short notice since Dean was not able to attend. We missed Dean's "bubbly" personality and he was very disappointed he couldn't attend; it's his favorite meeting of the year!

Terry



Grab Bags

On Saturday, January 14th, at 9:00 AM, the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club will pack grab bags for the upcoming Gem and Mineral Show. Grab bags are a popular item at our Gem Show, and we invite and encourage your participation in this project. Depending upon the number of bags, we will finish before noon.

We will be at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church at 629 Eighth St, NE at the edge of Lenoir-Rhyne University. From I-40, drive north up LR Blvd and go under the railroad underpass and turn left at the first stoplight and straight at the next stoplight and then take the first left into the parking lot behind the church educational building. We will work in Fellowship Hall on the bottom floor.

We need a variety of different minerals which are clean and of appropriate size (no larger than a baseball.) Even if you do not have materials to donate, we welcome your help. It is a great way to enjoy the activity with other club members while preparing bags that help school children and others learn about gems and minerals. So, if you would like the opportunity to clear out a few rocks and have fun making surprise bags, we look forward to seeing you on Saturday the 14th! Thanks so much.

Catawba Valley Gem Mineral Club Show March 24-26, 2023

The Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. will hold their 53rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry show on March 24, 25, and 26, 2023 at the Hickory Metro Convention Center.

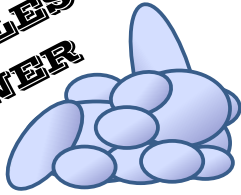
The convention center is located at 1960 13th Ave Drive SE, in Hickory, NC. Hours are 10:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 10:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is \$6.00 which is good for all three days. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Law enforcement officers and active or retired military with credentials, Scouts and Leaders in uniform will be admitted free anytime during this 3day event.

Scheduled are many educational displays and presentations that will be in operation during the show. Some of the areas will include Children's "Hands On" table, Mini Mine for children, wire-wrapping, cabochoning, faceting, and other lapidary arts. Other glass-enclosed displays will feature high quality specimens from many United States locations and other countries. Drawings for regular door prizes will be held every hour and a Grand Door Prize drawn on Sunday at 5:00 PM.

The club will be selling grab bags containing minerals and fossils for \$1.00 each for as long as they last. The web page for the club is www.cvgmc.com Special Events. The Facebook page with show news is Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Annual Show. For additional information concerning the show, contact Dean Russell, show chairman, at cvgmcsecretary@aol.com or (828) 303-1448 Please consider where you would like to volunteer, as a CVGMC member, for the show. We will need help in set up, take down, tickets, children's table, mini mine and demonstrations. Please plan to volunteer!!

THE PEBBLES' CORNER



What is a Watershed?

**By
Cheryl Neary**

A watershed is an area of land that drains water into a specific body of water. Watersheds include networks of rivers, streams, and lakes and the land area surrounding them. Watersheds are separated by high elevation geographic features (mountains, hills, ridges).

Even if you do not live near water, you still live in a river basin. The land you live on drains to a river, lake or estuary. In North Carolina the water flows into the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.

In North Carolina, the five western basins drain to the Gulf of Mexico (Hiwassee, Little Tennessee, French Broad, Watauga and New). The other 12 basins flow to the Atlantic Ocean. Only four basins are contained entirely within the state (Cape Fear, Neuse, White Oak and Tar-Pamlico).

Do the math! $5 + 12 = 17$ watersheds in the state!

The largest watershed is the Cape Fear Basin with over 9,300 square miles. Within this watershed are quite a few large cities, including Durham, Wilmington, Burlington and Greensboro. The river ends in 32,000 acres of estuary near Southport.

Let's look at the river basin in your backyard.

The Catawba River Basin is over two million acres. The headwaters or source of the Catawba River is on the eastern flank of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the western portion of McDowell County.

By the way, on the last day of the year, Marion, the county seat of McDowell County will be having their Gold Nugget drop with festivities!

The Catawba River basin includes several natural wonders such as Grandfather Mountain, Linville Falls and Linville Gorge.

Linville Gorge is one of the deepest canyons in the eastern United States. The Linville Gorge Wilderness is part of the Pisgah National Forest. The gorge formed on the east by the Jonas Ridge and the Linville Mountains on the west. The Linville River drops over 2,000 feet into the valley below. The Linville River above the Falls is also home to the Grandfather Mountain crayfish - the only place they are found in the world! From the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Catawba River flows approximately 220 miles to the east and ends in the state of South Carolina, where the Catawba River changes its name to the Wateree. The Wateree joins the Congaree River at Congaree National Park, forming the Santee River that eventually makes its way to the Atlantic Ocean.

The once wild Catawba River was named after the Catawba Indian Nation, who settled on the banks of the river over 12,000 years ago. The name Catawba translates to “the people of the river”.

Several facts about the Catawba River Basin:

- 1. In Burke County you can pan for gold in the rivers and creeks.**
- 2. The 30-mile section of the Catawba River downstream from Lake Wylie dam was designated a South Carolina State Scenic River in June 2008.**
- 3. The river weaves through rural and urban landscapes and passes by densely populated Charlotte.**
- 4. Lake Norman and six other man-made reservoirs are part of the basin.**
- 5. Beginning in 1904, in an effort to foster growth in the region and to meet demands for energy a series of hydroelectric dams were constructed. The hydro station forming Lake Wylie was the cornerstone of what is now Duke Energy, the largest electric power company in the U.S.**
- 6. In 2008, American Rivers named the Catawba River one of America’s Most Endangered Rivers®. In 2020, the N. C. Department of Environmental Quality approved a suite of plans to close and excavate the coal ash. Coal ash, a byproduct of power generation, has historically threatened the river and local water supply with pollution. The plan was to move the coal ash to lined landfills or recycle it for beneficial use. This was a great victory for improving the health of the Catawba River. Today, the river has not been named on the top ten endangered rivers!**
- 7. The textile industry was powered by small dams on the tributary rivers that flow into the Catawba River. In Hickory, on the Henry Fork, the old dam was removed in order to restore the river and improve recreational and economic activities.**
- 8. Alligators live in the southern portion of the Catawba River basin in South Carolina.**
- 9. Deer, rabbits, beavers, snakes, bald eagles and ospreys are some common animals in the basin. Several insects such as dragonflies and mosquitoes are also found.**
- 10. Around 40 recorded fish species such as bass, mussels, snails, and crayfish fill the river.**

2023 Membership Dues

This is a reminder that the membership dues are now being collected. If we do not receive your membership dues & form by the March meeting your name will be removed from the roster and the mailing list!!

Included in this month's bulletin is a blank 2023 Membership form. Dean will also bring some blank forms to the meeting.

This membership form must accompany your dues for your name to be included on the 2023 club roster.

**Family membership is \$25
Single membership is \$18**

Please print clearly and legibly on the form so that your information can be updated accurately.

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.

**You can send your payment and form to the Club PO Box (address on the membership form) or directly to Terry Russell at the following address:
5254 Olde School Drive
Hickory, NC 28602**

Terry



2023 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: _____

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 _____ Ch

First Class Mail

Tar Heel Rockhound

Official Publication of
**Catawba Valley
Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.**

Volume 53 Number 1

Club Meeting

Tuesday
January 10, 2023
St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
Hickory, NC



Tar Heel Rockhound,
Brenda Huffman Editor
Post Office Box 2521
Hickory, North Carolina 28603-2521
<http://www.cvgmc.com/>

