

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

Organized 1969
July 2021

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2021 Officers and Committees

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Scholarship: George Max
828-328-9107
Eastern Federation Liaison: Larry Huffman
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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.



MAY IT FOREVER WAVE

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

INSIDE	
President’s Message	2
2021 Labor Day Field Trip	2
Zan Ritchie Memorial	3
Editor’s Comments	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Picnic Photos	5
The Pebbles’ Corner	6

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.
<http://www.cvgmc.com>
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President's Message

The June picnic meeting was a mouth-watering event. Members and guests enjoyed a wonderful assortment of food, friendship, and plenty of rock talk. (Pictures below on page 4, 5) The group talked of the passing of long-time member Zan Richie in April of 2020. After the invocation was given, we paused for a moment of silence for Zan. Please see a memorial to Zan on page 3.

Cheryl Neary, a member of the AMFS Juniors Program Ad-hoc Committee, wrote an article for our Pebbles section this month. She made a good point for having a Juniors program. I encourage you to read and consider the possibilities.

Please don't forget these three upcoming dates:

Friday, September 3, 2021 ... Leave for Kentucky for the Labor Day Field Trip. See below for details.

The July 13th Program will be "Hunting Kentucky Agates." A 30-minute CD by AFMS award winning authors.

October 29-31, 2021 Fall gem and mineral show, Hickory Metro Convention Center.

'til next month... when you are out rockhounding in this wonderful "Hot" summer weather, don't forget to take along a cold Dr Pepper, add a slice of lemon to give it a different taste.

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

Memorial to “Zan” Ritchie

The following is a reprint from the alumni report of the University of Texas where Zan received his PHD.

Alexander Webb Ritchie (M.A. '69, Ph.D. '75) died of kidney failure on April 6, 2020, two days short of his 76th birthday. Zan — as he was known to all — asked that there be no funeral service or obituary, requests totally in keeping with his life philosophy. To honor his wishes, this announcement of his departure will be brief. Zan was a lifelong educator who held faculty positions in the geology departments of Furman University, University of South Florida, and the College of Charleston in South Carolina. He was married to the love of his life, Kate, for 45 years, until her death in 2014. As a UT graduate student, Zan was one of Bill Muehlberger’s extensive Central American crew; he did his dissertation field work in Guatemala, where he had some hairy adventures, including being run out of his first chosen field area by armed banditos. Farewell, Zan, que te vaya bien!

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!

**** *“This is still a learning curve, and I do appreciate any critique offered as a suggestion for improvement.”***

***Brenda Huffman
bhuffman@gmail.com***

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - MINUTES

There was not a business meeting, hence ... minutes for the June meeting. Please enjoy the photos of the picnic held at Harry & Janice Polly's House on June 8, 2021. CVGMC members in attendance enjoyed the fellowship, the food and the perfect place in the garage that sheltered us from the rains that came. Many thanks to our hosts, Janice and Harry Polly and to chef Larry for grilling the burgers and hot dogs!



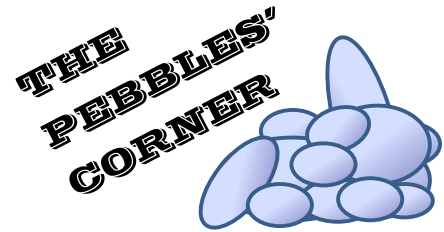
After the delicious meal of hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings, some of our group went downstairs to “Harry’s Museum” for a “tour!”



Harry is always updating his showcases, either adding more specimens or rearranging them into geographic collections or adding new showcases with newly acquired specimens!. It is a new adventure each time you visit!!

Harry's Museum





Why not a Juniors Program?

This year I have been active with the AFMS Juniors Program Ad-hoc Committee. Many times I informed AFMS members of what a great job the **CVGMC** has done at your club shows for children's participation.

My first time at your show was when you hosted the EFMLS Convention in 2015.

What I remember best was how this club had the children involved in various activities. The children responded to the activities and many seemed eager to learn more. Since I was on crutches at the time, I could not participate on the field trips, so I decided to help out with the Children's program. Joan and Rick set me up to work the feel and touch table. Children were able to feel the different rocks and minerals, view them through a microscope and learn about the Mohs scales. I was quite perplexed when a youngster, probably in first grade, after eying a specimen under the microscope blurted out "How did you do it". I was thinking to myself how did I do what? "How did you get that bug in the rock -was it magic?" Then I realized that he had picked up the piece of amber that was sitting nearby. I had the opportunity to explain to him about the formation of amber and the demise of the bug. He was so attentive - and then he blurted out "So it wasn't magic - but all about a bug in the wrong place at the wrong time". How true! What he did next was call over a group of his friends and related the story of the bug.

So you might not be too amazed that I was quite surprised to learn that CVGMC does not have a Juniors Program through the AFMS. I know the issues cannot be not having children eager to learn - I have seen it every year since I attended the club show until the 2020 pandemic cancelled the club show.

So I can only speculate that there may be a shortage of adults willing to serve as a leader and start a Juniors Program or a Pebble Pups group. The leader doesn't need to be one person, it can be several adults that take turns or participate together. It may possibly be one of your at home instructors, or possibly a member from another nearby hobby or club -such as 4-H.

The AFMS under Jim Brace Thompson has a wonderful program that should be utilized. Also, you may use your show as part of the program, where the children earn badges.

The badges are free to AFMS members. The Endowment Fund supplies the income for the Juniors Program. Larry Huffman is the EFMLS representative for the Endowment Fund. Hopefully, Larry will be selling tickets shortly for the new AFMS year which starts November 01, 2021.

If anyone is interested in being a leader, I have great resources for you. Or you can simply visit the new website of the AFMS, which presently is a work in progress, and it will be very user friendly.

Have a great day!
Cheryl Neary

First Class Mail



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Club Meeting

Tuesday
July 13, 2021
St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
Hickory, NC