



TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

*Organized 1969*

JUNE 2012

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

### 2012 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-572-1826	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
Vice President:	Joan Glover 828-324-0707	Field Trip:	Harry Polly 828-728-9553		Eric Fritz 828-495-7031
Treasurer:	Zan Ritchie 828-495-8456	Education:	George Max 828-328-9107	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Secretary:	Dean Russell 828-330-0034		Bob Tallent 828-851-8434		

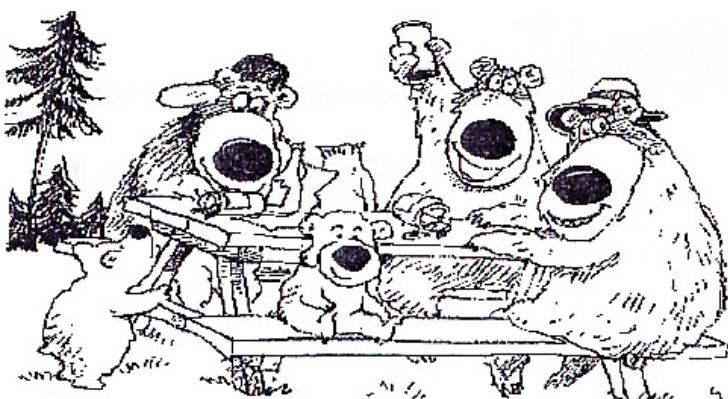
Club Address: PO Box 2521, Hickory, NC 28603-2521  
 Regular Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
 St Aloysius Catholic Church  
 921 2nd St NE Hickory, NC  
 Annual Dues: Family, \$18; Individual, \$12; Junior, \$6

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.

### ANNUAL PICNIC

**6:30 PM at Home of Harry & Janice Polly  
 Guests & Members Welcome!!**

**Burgers, Hot Dogs, & Drinks Provided by the Club  
 Members Bring a Covered Dish & Lawn Chair**



CATAWBA VALLEY  
 GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.  
<http://www.cvgmc.com/>  
 Web Master: Mike Streeter

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Baxter Leonard, Club President

It's not too early to begin thinking about next year's show which will be March 22-24, 2013. We need a central theme for the show, and I'd like to encourage those who have not exhibited in the past or the recent past to strongly consider providing one or more exhibits. All of our members must have material that would be very appropriate, interesting, educational, and beautiful for others to view and admire. Yes, it takes some time and effort to display; however, there are experienced club members that anyone can go to for advice & assistance.

CVGMC wishes to thank Shelda & Richard Aultman for their time and effort in attending the annual Aurora Fossil Fair May 25, and transporting mineral exhibits and cases for display. Their generosity certainly is appreciated by those who enjoy our hobby.

Harry & Janice Polly have graciously volunteered to host our annual picnic on June 12 at their new house. Everyone come and enjoy the food and the good company.

**Baxter Leonard**

## FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator

The field trip for June will be led by Dean Russell. It will be held at Propst farm for sapphires. The group will meet at 8:00 am in the Roses' parking lot off Hwy 70 in Hickory. The date will be June 23. This is one week later than normal, but due to Father's Day being the prior weekend,

commitments were in place. You will need digging tools, scratching tools, and possibly a screen. There is a lot of poison oak/ivy in the area. There is very short walk-in. The digging fee is \$5.00.

**Harry Polly**

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC. Minutes, May 8, 2012

The May 8, 2012 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Baxter Leonard at 7:00 PM. There were 26 members present.

**Treasurer Report:** Financial report delayed due to Treasurer having computer issues. (Can't we all relate to that?) Any questions about income and expenses from the 2012 show, please contact the treasurer. Also, club members were reminded about settling with the club for guest passes that were handed out for the 2012 Show.

**Field Trip Report:** Members were recommended to see newsletter for information on Mother's Day trip to the NAEM.

**Show Committee:** None

**Education Committee:** George Max and Bob Tallent will co-chair.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** CVGMC The annual club picnic will be at Harry Polly's new house. An email with directions will be sent to club members.

**General Information:** Wildacres workshop was discussed. The Grassy Creek and Franklin shows were brought to the members attention.

**Closing of Business:** The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

**Program:** Club president, Baxter Leonard tested club members *Mineral Knowledge* and gave mineral prizes to correctly answered questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Russell, Secretary

## MAY PROGRAM Annual Club Picnic

Joan Glover, Program Director

June 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM

Home of Janice and Harry Polly  
2821 Blowing Rock Blvd, Lenoir, NC

**Joan Glover**

## ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC



At our monthly meeting, it was announced that we would have our annual picnic Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30. Typically we have held this at Glen Hilton Park in Hickory. This year Janice and I are inviting the club to our new home in Lenoir. There is plenty of room for all to come and enjoy the comforts of the weather, whatever it happens to be at the moment.



Meat, bread, plates, napkins, and utensils will be provided by the club.

All are asked to bring a side dish and a lawn chair.



The address is: 2821 Blowing Rock Blvd, Lenoir, NC  
Telephone: 828-728-9553 (home)  
828-244-6651 (cell)

Directions from Hickory:

Drive Hwy 321 North all the way through Lenoir as if you are going to Blowing Rock/Boone. Look for the CAUTION LIGHT at Cheeks Crossroads. (There will be a Citgo station on your left and Hwy 268 turning to your right.) **Go through the caution light (get in the left lane)** and stop at the top of the hill above it at the next intersection/turn-a-round. Look to your left at the three mailboxes and driveway. Turn into the driveway and bear to the right. **YOU HAVE ARRIVED.**

If you miss the intersection/turn-a-round, drive to the next intersection about 1/4 mile up the road and turn around. Call if you get lost. **DO NOT TURN LEFT AT CHEEKS CROSSROADS AS SOME GPS UNITS TELL YOU.**

**Harry & Janice Polly**

**July 24-29, 2012**

Echo Valley Gem & Mineral Show

**July 25-29, 2012**

Highlands Road Gem Show

**July 26-29, 2012**

G&LW Gem

Show

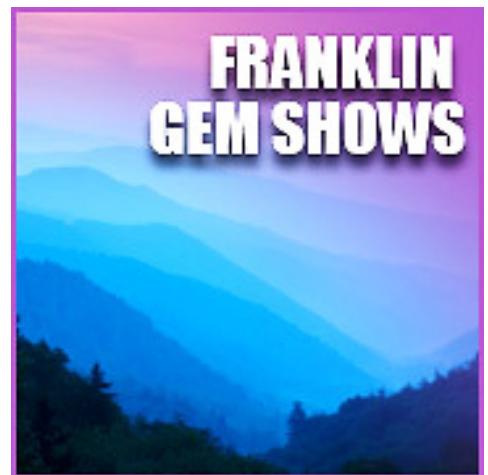
Watauga Festival

Center

**July 26-29, 2012**

Macon County Gemboree

# FRANKLIN GEM SHOWS



<http://www.xpopress.com/NC-show-schedule.html>

SPRUCE PINE, NC

August 2-5, 2012

Thursday-Saturday 10-6 -- Sunday 12:30-5:00



Since the early 1950's Spruce Pine, North Carolina has been the host of the Festival and welcomed visitors from around the world to shop for beautiful jewelry, gemstones, minerals, beads, crystals, fossils and more! Even celebrities have been spotted at the Festival selecting their jewelry, gemstones and gifts! The Festival features gem, jewelry and mineral dealers from across the country showcasing their merchandise to fit every budget. Whether you are shopping for an engagement ring, a special stone for your own setting, a custom designed piece of jewelry or a special crystal display for your home, you can't miss the NC Mineral and Gem Festival.

The NC Mineral, Gem and Jewelry Festival is directed by the Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce and supported by nearly 100 community volunteers. The Festival is an indoor festival so weather is never a problem! Set in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Spruce Pine, NC, Festival goers not only enjoy shopping during the four day Festival, but they also enjoy all that there is to do in our beautiful area. Check out our Area Attractions page to plan your visit to Spruce Pine and the NC Mineral, Gem and Jewelry Festival.

[http://nccgemfest.com/Home\\_Page.php](http://nccgemfest.com/Home_Page.php)

## PROPST FARM

Will Heierman



Approximately thirty-five years ago, Helen Propst found a, flat "hex outline" rock in her garden. It was identified by a local jeweler (?) as a sapphire. Soon after, she found another. Thinking they were parts of the same crystal, she "tried them together, but they wouldn't fit". Soon afterward, word got out and the "Propst Farm" became a favorite dig site for rockhounds. The locality has been open for casual digging ever since, and for a nominal fee you can still park your car on the grass under the big oak tree and have at it! (See picture above.)

The farm is on the Startown Road, south of Conover, Lincoln County, North Carolina. Doug Hess and I spoke with Helen when we visited the site on May 29, 2007; so the above anecdote is from the primary source.



The sapphire distribution began in the center of the second photo, where crystals and clusters occurred in a thin layer about a foot below the surface. It continued to the left, around the big oak tree to the barn in the background of the first photo, and onward. How far, nobody yet knows. Off the first picture to the left is an area of secondary growth that covers numerous old pits; and although there might be some material left between them, you would surely earn what you got - bring mice to bribe the rattlesnakes! (The grassed portions have been thoroughly worked, reworked, and reclaimed; so forget them too!) I recommend you go behind the barn and into the woods, where Doug has been digging recently. He's the guy in the next picture.

The pay layer seems to be buried more deeply as you go farther to the left, and it can sometimes be identified by a greyish to yellowish clayey layer immediately above it. It seems to contain larger milky "bull quartz" cobbles (to about 3" diameter) along with the sapphires. Doug's pits revealed about 4' to 5' of overburden, and he tells me the stones recovered seem to be "not as good." It may be that the best of this "vest pocket" deposit has already been found. Regardless of its size, it is an important American corundum locality.

### THE DOUG HESS COLLECTION



Doug Hess

I met Doug Hess at the Asheville Mineral Symposium in June, 2001. He showed up with a fishing tackle box full of carefully wrapped stones, which we carefully unwrapped to reveal some of the most unusual and attractive corundum I have ever seen. It, and the collector, we're featured in a video on North Carolina's natural resources. If ever a collection defined the material a locality produced, this is such a time! In the website are a dozen of the more than eighty pictures I took of it on May 29, 2007. They are thumbnail-sized, so you can click on any image to see it in high resolution.

[http://www.corunduminium.com/images2/Propst\\_grassy.JPG](http://www.corunduminium.com/images2/Propst_grassy.JPG)

Examples of Doug Hess Collection



Will Heierman holding a 55 pound sapphire crystal from Madagascar

<http://www.corunduminium.com/oldsitebackup/index>

# MINI MINERS MONTHLY

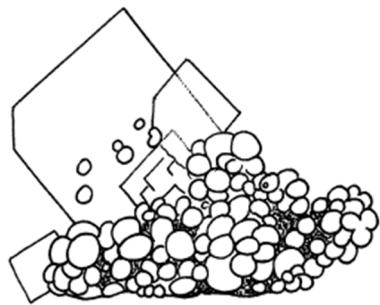
Vol. 6 No. 5

A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors

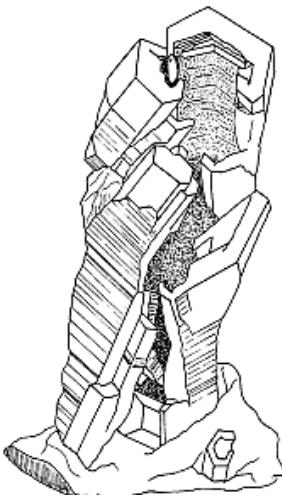
May 2012

## MINERAL OF THE MONTH- MIMETITE

Mimetite forms in lead deposits. Often it often found as hexagonal (that is, six-sided) crystals. However, it is very commonly found as rounded, bubbly masses, like the specimen pictured here. This is a specimen of paper-thin *wulfenite crystals sitting on bubbly mimetite*. The specimen is from the San Francisco mine, Sonora, Mexico. This mimetite is



This is because mimetite crystals look like a very similar mineral called *pyromorphite*. They look very much alike because they have almost exactly the same chemical formulas -- except mimetite has the element *arsenic* in it. Pyromorphite has the element



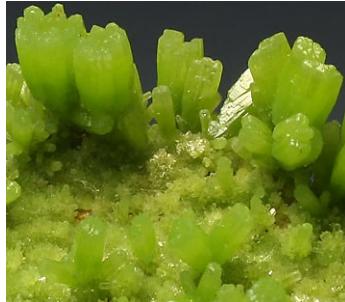
*phosphorous*. Mimetite is also chemically very much like the mineral vanadinite which also has the same chemical formula except it contains the element *vanadium*. Pictured here is a bright, apple-green pyromorphite specimen from China.

Because their chemical formulas are all very, very similar, the crystal forms of **mimetite**, **pyromorphite** and **vanadinite** are all the same. Mineralogists describe these minerals as *isostuctural* which means that they have the same crystal



orange-yellow; however, it can also be yellow brown, orange-red, brown, green, white and even colorless.

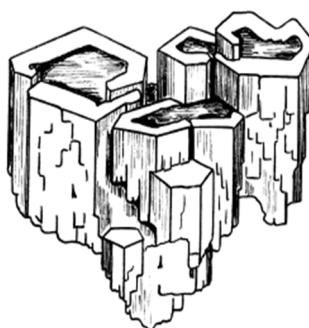
The name mimetite comes from the Greek word *mimetes* which means *imitator*.



Mimetite	Pyromorphite	Vanadinite
$Pb_5(AsO_4)_3Cl$	$Pb_5(PO_4)_3Cl$	$Pb_5(VO_4)_3Cl$

structure. They are all *hexagonal!* (How many sides do hexagonal crystals have? 4? 5? 8? No! 6!)

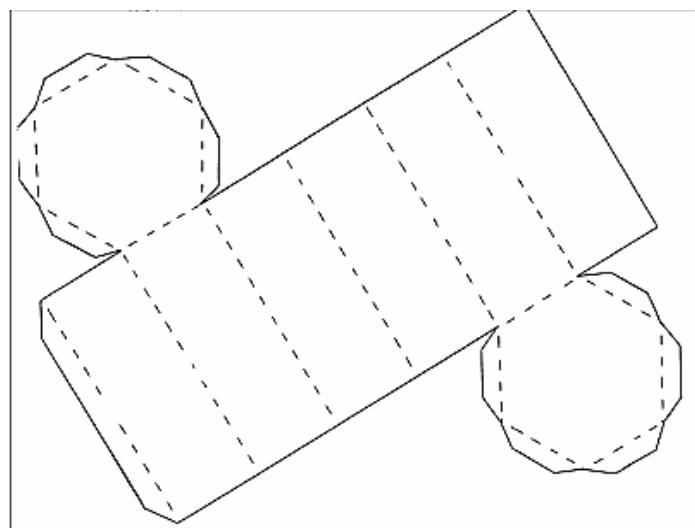
Pictured here is a group of bright red *vanadinite* crystals from Arizona.



### Build a Simple Mimetite Crystal

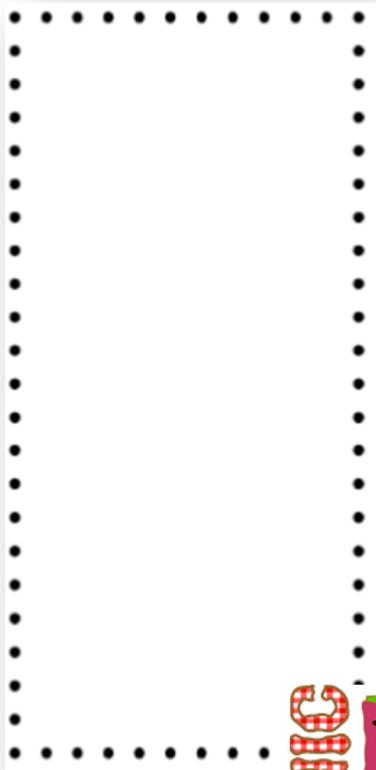
Here below is a cut-and-fold model for a simple hexagonal crystal, like mimetite. Cut on the solid lines, fold on the dotted lines. Tape or glue the tabs to the back side of the corresponding crystal face. Have fun!

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First Class Mail

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# TAR HEEL ROCKHOUND

Official Publication of

Catawba Valley  
Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Volume 41 Number 6

Club Meeting  
Tuesday  
June 12, 2012

**6:30 PM**

*Annual Club Picnic*  
Home of Janice & Harry Polly  
Lenoir, NC