

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

MARCH 2012

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2012 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-572-1580	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
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Treasurer:	Zan Ritchie 828-495-8456	Education:	Glenn Bolick	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Secretary:	Dean Russell 828-330-0034				

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.



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CATAWBA VALLEY
GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

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<http://www.cvgmc.com/>

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CATAWBA VALLEY
GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Minutes, February 14, 2011

The February 2012 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Baxter Leonard at 7:00 PM. There were 28 members and 1 guest present. The minutes of the January 2012 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report: None available.

Field Trip Report: February field trip will be to Bower's Farm to collect limonite.

Show Committee: Marilyn Max passed various sign-up sheets for the upcoming gem show.

Education Committee: A scout group was addressed.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Larry Huffman reported that there is a need for student door prizes for the gem show. If you are able to donate, please contact Larry or drop off at PO BBQ in Hickory.

General Information:

- Complimentary show passes were distributed for members to give out. The members were reminded that they are responsible for the \$2.00 complimentary pass fees.

-A copy of Loyd Hoke's article in HDR was passed around.

-An informal information meeting about the show was given.

Closing of Business: The business meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Program: Various members talked about their favorite collecting sites in North Carolina. Thanks to Betty & Warren Hollar, Tom Winslow, Albert Keiser, Harry Polly, and Baxter Lenorad.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary



FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator

We typically do not have a field trip in March. However, we need to schedule a work day at the trailer to bust up some rocks for grab bags. I will get with George Max and try to schedule something after the show.

Harry Polly

**FEBRUARY ANNUAL DIG AT BOWER'S FARM IN
STANLY COUNTY FOR LIMONITE**



Photos by Joan Glover
Handful (Terry Russell's) of Limonite Cubes



Megan, Terry, & Dean Russell

PURPOSE OF THE SHOW

The purpose of our show is to bring you the finest in displays of gem and mineral specimens for your appreciation as well as education. You may not know it, but you may have gemstones in your own back yard.

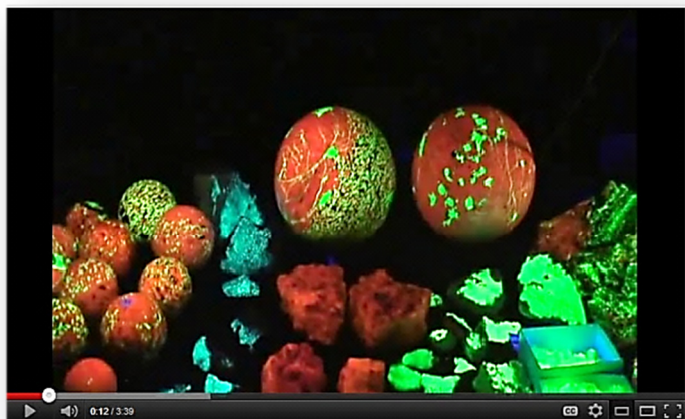


North Carolina is rich in precious and semi-precious minerals. We wish to make you more aware of this fact. This show is for you as a novice or as an experienced collector.

You may just observe or you may wish to buy or trade a fine specimen. After you have seen all, you may wish to become more involved in this fast-growing, world-wide hobby. Let us welcome you as a "rockhound."

FEATURE EXHIBITOR

The feature exhibitor will be Charles & Herschel Ward of Bakersville, NC with their beautiful display of fluorescent minerals.



GLOWING ROCKS! UV reactive spheres from Franklin New Jersey, at the Denver Show 2010

CLICK TO WATCH VIDEO

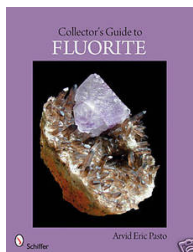
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmirFfkZkZs&feature=player_embedded#

Herschel Ward from Charles B. Ward Fluorescents shows a wide variety of spheres cut from material freshly mined from the dumps of the Franklin mine.

NOTED AUTHORS TO SIGN BOOKS AT THE SHOW

Two noted authors will be at the Gem & Mineral Show on Saturday, March 17th. They will be happy to sign your copy of the particular book they wrote.

They will have some copies of their books along and they are reasonably priced at \$20 or \$30 (in one case)*.



Arvid Pasto has written an excellent book: Collector's Guide to Fluorite.

Bob Lauf has written a number of books and has more in the works. Some of these are as follows:



Collector's Guide to the Mica Group
Collector's Guide to the Epidote Group
Collector's Guide to the Vesuvianite Group
Collector's Guide to the Tourmaline Group
Collector's Guide to the Beryl Group
Collector's guide to the Pyroxene Group
Introduction to Radioactive Minerals *

George Max



OLLIE MAE CLOER

April 18, 1928-February 6, 2012
Ollie Mae Davis Cloer of Hudson, NC, mother of club member Shelda Aultman passed Monday, February 06, 2012.

Our club members would like Shelda and Richard Aultman and family of Ollie Mae Cloer to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

The family respectfully requests that memorials be made to the Humane Society or the Foundation of Caldwell Community College or charity of donor's choice.

Online condolences may be placed at www.pendrysfuneralhome.com.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Workshop Committee Chair

In recent days I've spoken to a number of people who tell me that they plan on attending Wildacres this year. "Have you sent in your registration form yet?", I ask. "Not yet" is too often the replay. If you're like the people I'm referring to, my question is "What are you waiting for?"

We've put together what I think are two dynamite sessions for 2012. The first, April 10 - 15 features Jeff Scovil as our "Speaker in Residence". Jeff is one of the premier mineral and gem photographs in the world; a terrific, knowledgeable speaker and a darn nice fellow. He'll present several programs during the session which are sure to be of interest to everyone. His photographs are always great too.



The second session, September 3 - 9 will feature Julian Gray as the "Speaker in Residence". Julian is the Curator of Minerals at the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA.

Like Jeff in the spring session, Julian will regale us with six wonderful illustrated talks.

The class lineup for both the spring and fall session is varied and we believe that we're offering something for everyone.

So...What are you waiting for?

A complete listing of classes and an application form are included beginning on page 13 <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efmarch12web.pdf> in the EFMLS Newsletter—March 2012.



It's our 40th year of workshops at the fabulous Wildacres Retreat. We're planning a few surprises in addition to our classes, speakers and camaraderie. Come and join the fun at Wildacres in 2012.

EFMLS News --March, 2012

ROBERT NEWELL (RED) REITZEL

Robert Newell (Red) Reitzel, Sr., 86, of Newton, died Saturday, March 10, 2012, at Catawba Valley Medical Center. Born December 5, 1925, in Catawba County. An active member of CVGMC, "Red" was a renowned Rock Hound and won multiple awards on his collection. He was credited once with the largest emerald find in North America, weighing in at 1,493 carats. It is currently on display at the Smithsonian. He also found a twin emerald at 900 carats, which is currently in The Houston Museum of Natural Science.



The funeral will be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at Jenkins Funeral Home in Newton, NC with Rev. C.B. Barr officiating. Burial will follow at Eastview Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at Jenkins Funeral Home. Please sign the online guestbook at *Hickory Daily Record Obituaries Today*.

NC Geological Survey 1978
Reitzel Emerald Twin 1,493 cts
Found 1971

Thank you for serving the club. We will miss you.



"Red" Exhibiting at 2011 Gem Show

An article featuring Red Reitzel can be viewed on page 4 of December 2011 *Tar Heel Rockhound* by clicking this link.

<http://cvgmc.com/Newsletters/TarHeelRockhoundDecember2011.pdf>

MINI MINERS MONTHLY

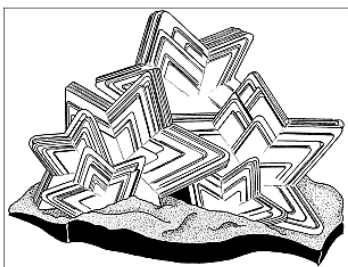
Vol. 6 No. 2

A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors

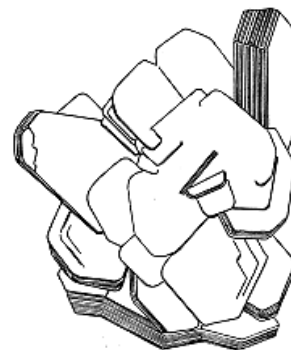
February 2012

MINERAL OF THE MONTH MICA MINERALS

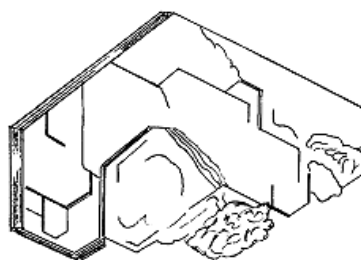
Muscovite is also known as “white mica.” It is the most common of the mica minerals. The name comes from Muscovy Province in old Russia. At one time, muscovite was cleaved into thick pieces that were used as windows in wood and coal burning stoves. These windows were called Muscovy Glass. There are some varieties of muscovite that have different colors due to different elements that are in their chemical formula. **Alurgite** is a purple-red variety of muscovite. **Fuchsite** is a green variety. Pictured here is an interesting specimen of muscovite known as “Star Mica.” Individual crystals are repeated in a regular pattern that looks like a star. This specimen is from Minas Gerais, Brazil.



Lepidolite is a pretty, light purple variety of mica. Its name comes from two Greek words, *lepidos* meaning scale (masses of small lepidolite flakes look like fish scales) and *lithos* meaning stone. In short, “scale stone!” The color comes from the element lithium in its crystal structure. It is an ore of lithium (as well as of the elements cesium and rubidium). Pictured here is a group of light purple lepidolite crystals from California.

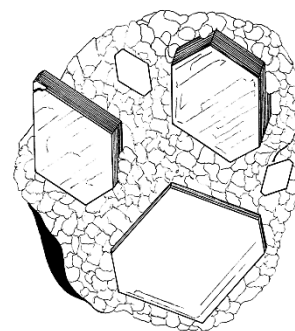


Phlogopite is usually brown, dark brown, dark yellow, and reddish brown. The name comes from the Greek word *phlogopos* which means resembling fire because of the red color of some specimens. Pictured here is a golden brown phlogopite crystal from New York State.



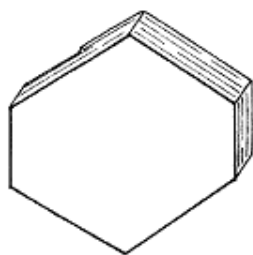
Mica Crystals Are a Surprise

Using very special X-ray machines, mineralogists have determined that all of the mica minerals crystallize in the **monoclinic** crystal system. However, when you find mica crystals in the field, you will see that they always are six sided. Since you are a very smart Mini Miner, you know that six sided crystals are from the **hexagonal** crystal system. So, mineralogists and mineral collectors refer to mica crystals as **pseudo-hexagonal** which means false hexagonal. In other words, they look hexagonal, but they are not! Pictured here is a group of mica crystals from Canada. They each have six sides. But to which crystal system do they belong?



Biotite is the name that has been used for black mica. It is named after a French physicist, Jean Baptiste Biot (1774 - 1862) who studied how light behaves when it goes through mica minerals. In 1999, mineral specialists determined that “biotite” should not be used as the name of the black variety of mica. Instead, it now

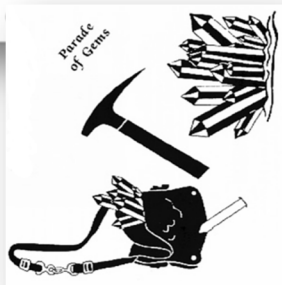
refers to a whole group of mica minerals that have similar chemical formulas. Since the name “biotite” has been used for many generations to refer to dark micas, it most likely will be used this way for many years to come. Pictured here are “books” of biotite crystals from Canada. Mineralogists and collectors refer to groups of mica crystals as “books” because they look like layers of pages, carefully piled together. With a knife or your fingernail, you can easily peel the pages apart from one another.



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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 3

No Club Meeting
ANNUAL GEM SHOW
March 16, 17, 18, 2012

HICKORY METRO CONVENTION CENTER
Exit 125, I-40
Hickory, NC

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club
42nd Annual
Unifour Gem, Mineral, Bead,
Fossil and Jewelry Show

March 16, 17 & 18, 2012



Friday - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sunday - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Hickory Metro Convention Center
1950-A 13th Avenue Drive S.E.
I-40 exit 125
Hickory, NC

Admission for the Show

Adults (13 and over)	<i>GOOD FOR THE ENTIRE SHOW</i>	\$4.00
Children (12 and under)		FREE
Chaperoned School, Scout, 4H, Church Youth and Retirement Home Group		FREE