

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

MAY 2010

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2010 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Tom Winslow 800-589-4619	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-757-8814	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
Vice President:	Baxter Leonard	Field Trip:	Harry Polly		Baxter Leonard
Treasurer:	Zan Ritchie 828-495-8456	Education:	Glenn Bolick	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Secretary:	Jean Moran 828-638-8408				

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.

Frank Gilmore,
husband of Bea Kuppe Gilmore,
died April 18th, 2010 in California.
Our deepest sympathy, thoughts and
prayers for you, Bea.

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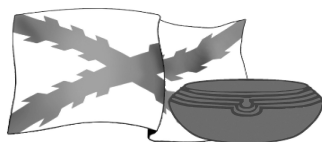


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Winslow, Club President

Several members have, in the past, expressed an interest in participating in the archeological dig this summer at the Berry Site (JOARA). If anyone is interested. Now is the time to register for the 2010 summer Field School! You work with Dr. David Moore, other professional archeologists, grad students, under-grads, and the public participants.



Exploring JOARA

Archaeological Excavation of a Sixteenth Century Spanish Fort in Morganton, North Carolina

June 1-June 25, 2010

Participation Open to the Public

No Experience Necessary

Field School Weeks

June 1 - 4

June 7 - 11

June 14 - 18

June 21-25

Field Day is Saturday, June 26!

Go to <http://www.warren-wilson.edu/~arch/fsregistration> for complete details. We are very lucky to have this opportunity this close to our city.

If I seem to be distracted – I am. This week we sell our home in Newton and also buy a new home in Newton. We are moving, packing, storing, selling, and just plain throwing away. A month ago we purchased an auction house in Taylorsville and we are busy trying to keep this from becoming a ‘money pit’. Yes, distracted I am. Also, I will not be at the June meeting because I will be attending Auctioneer School in High Point. I will soon be 68 and should be retired. Instead, I am just getting my second wind!

Tom Winslow
The Catawba Trader
2843 Devonshire Road

Newton, NC 28658-9799
(800) 589-4619 Voice
(800) 868-0394 Fax

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC Minutes, April 13, 2010

Baxter Leonard, Acting President called the meeting to order at 7: PM. The February 2010 were approved as written. There were 24 members present and one returning guest.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Zan Ritchie stated the balance in the checking account is \$14861.03. We have \$16359.79 in an 8 month CD at 3.5% interest. The 2010 show net profit was \$6452.71.

Show Committee Report: The annual gem show was well attended including around 400 students. Show preparation meetings in January were well attended. Next year we will need two more meetings in January and need to make sure all the members know about them to encourage more member participation.

The club would like more publicity for the 2011 gem show. A dealer's list needs to be publicized. More shows and activities for kids are needed as well as a broader variety of demos.

Website Update: Beth Oczkowski's daughter is working on a blog for us. Discussion ensued about a website; are we willing to pay monthly for it? We would need a single person to serve as webmaster. A motion was made to have Tom Winslow get a proposal from Josh Strickland and invite him to the May meeting, it was seconded by Harry Polly.

New Business: Our Diamond Brand cabbng machine is at Harry Polly's home. Harry Polly made a motion to buy a 18 inch saw for \$3,500.00 complete. The motion was rejected until we have a building of our own. Bob Tallent already has a 16 and a 24 inch saw and Lloyd Hoke has a 20 inch saw.

Zan Richie has a source for very small zip lock bags that will not tarnish or change the contents in any way.

Our club gets a discount if we mail out at least 200 copies of the same item. Submit any receipts to Zan Richie.

Members were reminded of the opportunity to sign up for Wildacres week long workshops in September.

Education Committee Report: Glenn Bolick presented a program at Icard Elementary with 41 students attending. An attendance award was presented.

Building Committee Report: The Building Committee had nothing to contribute.

The business meeting was adjourned. Baxter Leonard gave an interesting and informative program of *Minerals & Fluorescence*. Thank you, Baxter for the program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Moran, Club Secretary



FOSSILS CONFERENCE

Eric Fritz

If anyone is interested in fossils, the SEVAP conference is coming up soon. It will be hosted by the South Carolina Museum. I attended both previous conferences. It is an opportunity to hear about current research in the Southeastern United States. The presenters are both Graduate students and Professors. Most topics are interesting and understandable by lay people. They do encourage participation by amateurs as well. There will be a field trip possibly to the famous Camelot site which you can google for more info. The registration info can be found at

<http://www.museum.state.sc.us/events/seavp.aspx>.

You can call me for any further information at 828-381-2825. Eric Fritz

MAY FIELD TRIP

Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator

The May field trip will be held on Saturday, May 15th. We will be going to the Presnell mine for Kyanite. You will need shovel, mattock, crack hammer, and chisels. There are no facilities. There is no charge. Bring your lunch and water. Short walk in, but at times can be steep. We will meet at 8:00 am in the Rose's parking lot off Hwy 70E in Hickory. We will traveling up I-40 to Marion.

Harry

2010 GEM AND MINERAL SHOW VIDEO

By Rick and Joan Glover



<http://sharing.theflip.com/session/71c33d2841e6496fce49a9d4f707af49/video/12616082>

Click to View ↑

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

South Carolina State Museum
 3RD Annual Meeting

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Fax #: _____
 Email: _____

Please make checks payable to State Museum Foundation (We're sorry but we are unable to process credit cards—sorry for the inconvenience!)

South Carolina State Museum c/o Jim Knight
 301 Gervais St.
 Loading Zone D
 Columbia, SC 29201

Hotel Information:

SpringHill Suites by Marriott

511 Lady St.
 Columbia, SC 29201
 (803) 978-2333
 \$119 per night
www.marriott.com/caesh

Holiday Inn Express

501 Taylor St.
 Columbia, SC 29201
 (803) 744-400
 \$85 per night www.hiexpress.com

Staybridge Suites

1913 Huger St
 Columbia, SC 29201
 (803) 451-5900
 \$93 per night www.staycolumbiasc.com





SPRING SOLD OUT... FALL'S ON THE HORIZON

By Steve Weinberger,
Wildacres Workshop Committee Chair

The good news is that the spring EFMLS Wildacres Workshop was a sell-out and had a waiting list. The bad news is that although we were able to gain a couple of extra rooms, we were not able to accommodate all on the list.

The good news is that our fall session, is not yet filled and so, if you act now, you can attend this fun filled, educational week in the mountains of North Carolina. For your registration fee of \$350 per person you'll be treated to a week of fresh air, good food, an opportunity to learn one or more new skills or refresh old ones, hear talks by our excellent speaker, Lisa Carp, meet lots of new people with interests similar to your own, and "get away from it all".

The Wildacres facility is located in Little Switzerland, NC about an hour north of Asheville, on a private mountain just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. There are two "motel style" buildings that house the bedrooms plus a canteen, meeting room and a couple of classrooms. Also on the property is a lovely auditorium, library, dining hall and a variety of other classroom/shop buildings.

The peacefulness at Wildacres is only broken by the sound of laughter, quiet talking and the sounds of nature.

So what's keeping you from attending? Our fall dates are September 6 - 12 (Monday - Sunday). During the week you'll be able to take one or two classes (faceting takes the entire time while our other classes allow you to take two separate ones). You'll also be treated to Lisa Carp's talks, an auction, programs by some of your fellow participants, and a good old fashioned talent show. And all that peace, quiet, rest and relaxation.

Come to Wildacres this fall and find out why so many EFMLS club members come back raving about their experience. Come to Wildacres and learn a new skill. Come to Wildacres and let us get to know you. I know you'll be glad you did.

EFMLS News -- May 2010

FALL CLASSES

Cabochon Making - Basic
Cabochon Making - Intermediate
Faceting
Geology I
Geology II
Glass Engraving & Etching
Metal Beads - Cold Connections
Metal Beads - Hot Connections
Photographing Small Minerals
Photographing Gems & Jewelry
PMC - Bronze
PMC - Chain Making
Silversmithing
Wirewrapping - Basic
Wirewrapping - Intermediate

HELP YOUR KIDS FEEL IMPORTANT AS CLUB MEMBERS

by Roberta Goldsmith, Junior Activities Chair

Hopefully, all of you EFMLS member clubs have at least a club for your kids and, that it is also an AFMS Future Rockhounds Club. Is that club working in a vacuum, with no real connection to the adult club? This should not be.



Make them feel that they are real Rockhounds, and their knowledge and achievements are very important to the parent club.

One way you can do this, is to have the kids (not the adult advisors) present a report or mini-program once a month, or every several months. Have a section within your meeting agendas for this purpose. Their input could be what "merit badges" they are working on, and what they have found out about the subject, for instance. I'd bet that many of the adults do not know much of the information within these badges and would like to know this information.

Another way is for them to have real input into your club's annual mineral show. MMGS has started this by having the "Touch Table" (my special project for the show"). There, I have an exhibit and mineral display on a major topic - "Minerals of Maine" for this year. This is primarily a place where kids of all ages can pick up the minerals and ask questions. I will also ID the minerals they have received at the Spin Wheel or Mini-Mine (a sandbox filled with small mineral specimens and tumbled stones). They love these treasures. But this project is FOR the kids, not DONE BY the kids! We have display cases to show the show's patrons a sampling of the minerals of the world. Why can't the *Future Rockhounds* have their own case(s)? They can explain the *Future Rockhounds of America* and show what they are doing as part of it. They can have a case with info on their badges. They can have a case with some of their very own mineral collections. Whatever topic they want on minerals, geology, etc.

The kids can also be volunteers at the show. They are great at interacting with the other kids by actually running the Spin Wheel table or the Mini-Mine. They can be runners at the show and do necessary errands for the Club adults.

These are just a few of the ways to help our Juniors be an integral part of the adult club. Can you think of more? **EFMLS News -- May 2010**

MINI MINERS MONTHLY

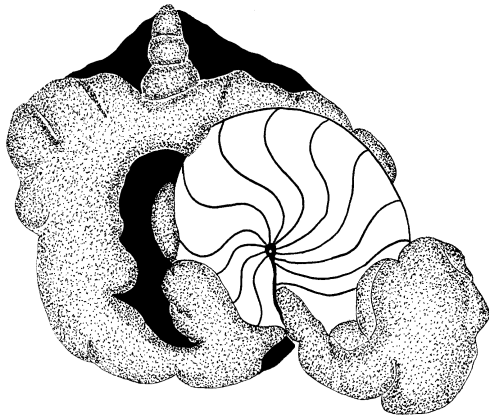
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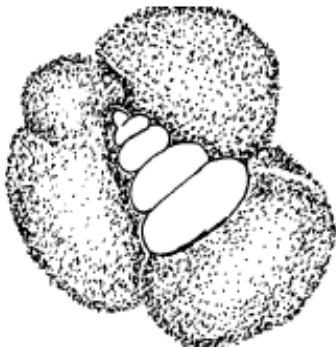
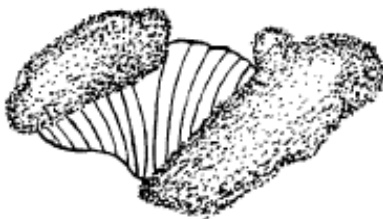
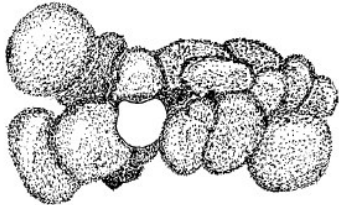
When Minerals & Fossils Meet

by Darryl Powell



There is a very special fossil occurrence here in New York State not too far from the City of Buffalo. In the little village of Alden, right

up next to the local stream, you can find fossil shells that have been turned into the mineral pyrite! Usually shells are fossilized as limestone. Very rarely the original shell material is preserved. But, when ocean creatures are buried in sediments that have very little oxygen in them and a lot of sulfur, the shells can become pyrite!



These pyritized fossils occur in a layer of sedimentary rock that is called the Ledyard Shale. The Ledyard Shale is part of a larger

rock formation that is called the Ludlowville Formation. The Ledyard Shale was deposited in deep ocean water (that is when western New York State was under ocean water!). The shale that contains the pyritized fossils is exposed along Spring Creek in the town of Alden, New York. The organisms that are fossilized in the Ledyard Shale include brachiopods, ammonites, and trilobites. There are also many individual and connected "balls" of pyrite that are not attached to any fossils at all. Pictured above is an ammonite fossil. Not only is the ammonite shell now pyrite, but the fossil is also surrounded by "blobs" of pyrite.

To the left (top) is a small brachiopod pyritized shell that is surrounded by a number of balls of pyrite. The middle picture is of a different type of brachiopod that has pyrite growing on either side of the shell. On the bottom is a picture of a gastropod (that is, a snail) that is surrounded by three balls of pyrite.

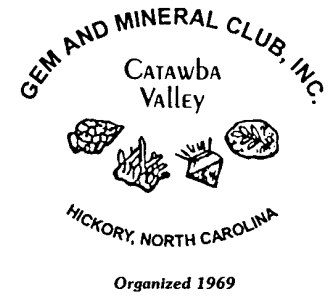
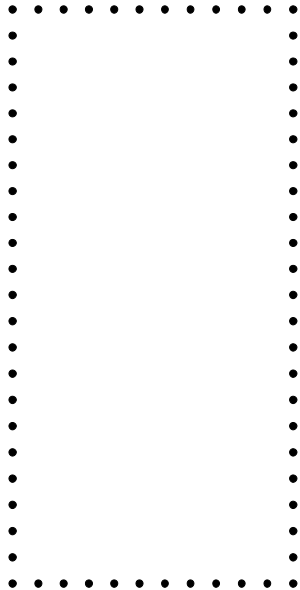
The fossils take a little work to get out of the shale bed. Of course we always wear safety goggles to protect our eyes and heavy gloves to protect our hands. Using wide, flat pieces of steel and a heavy hammer, we dig into the shale. It takes practice to look for the slightest spark (that means you hit the pyrite) or to see the rounded pyrite blobs. When they first come out of the shale, they are covered with the gray, shale rock. You never really know what you have until you take them home to clean them. So, collectors take buckets of specimens home and carefully, one by one, clean them off and inspect them. The best way to clean them is to soak the pyrite in a mixture of water and toilet bowl cleaner! After they have soaked for a couple hours, they can be brushed with a stiff toothbrush. We also brush them with a water-baking soda mixture to neutralize the toilet cleaner acid. When these steps are done, we have sparkling pyrite balls and pyritized fossils! Maybe you will be able to visit New York State and dig at the Village of Alden, too.

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First Class Mail



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Club Meeting

**Tuesday
May 11, 2010
7:00 PM**

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