

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

MAY 2012

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

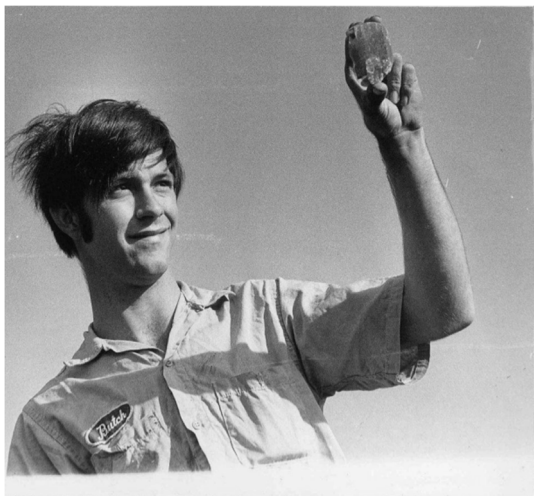
2012 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-572-1826	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
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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.

American Emerald Mines of Hiddenite, NC Opens its Gates for the First Time in Over 40 Years Exclusively to Gem and Mineral Clubs (Page 4)



BUTCH FINGER & 1,438 Ct Emerald

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

This month is a good time for reviewing safety measures and equipment maintenance. As we think about field trips and outside activities, let us all be health & safety conscious.

Proper hydration is essential on warm and hot days. Dehydration can be largely prevented by proper fluid replacement and "taking breaks" on hot days. Sun protection by "blocking out and/or covering up" is important, as is insect protection when needed. Eye protection is paramount when using hammers with or without chisels. It's never advisable to be by yourself on a field trip/outing as an unexpected event may occur—a cell phone certainly should be accessible. A first aid kit is a good idea to have handy.

Inspection of "tools of our trade" should be done on a periodic basis. Some accidents can be attributed to faulty equipment. Repair or replacement should not be delayed when tools show wear & tear.

Let us all enjoy our hobby, but always be aware of factors that can make our experiences more memorable and safe.

Baxter Leonard

MAY PROGRAM

Joan Glover, Program Director

President Baxter Leonard will present the May program *Mineral Knowledge*. It will last approximately 20-25 minutes. **Prizes will be given.** It is a "open book quiz/test", so members are encouraged to bring a **mineral reference**.

Joan Glover

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator

I will be tied up all month with moving. I will announce a field trip at the meeting if anyone will lead.

Harry Polly

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC. Minutes, April 10, 2012

The April 10, 2012 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Baxter Leonard at 7:00 PM. There were 23 members present.

Treasurer Report: \$20,372.46 (before unpaid 2012 show bills). Also, club members were reminded about settling with the club for guest passes that were handed out for the 2012 Show.

Field Trip Report: April field trip will be to Presnell Kyanite Mine.

Show Committee: Advertising, direct mailing, new signs for different areas of the show and extending free admission for pottery show attendees were discussed.

Education Committee: Cub Scout group, Banoak & Hildebran schools were visited. Glenn Bolick asked for a volunteer to take over the Education Chairmanship.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

A motion by Harry Polly and seconded by Eric Fritz for the Club to donate \$100 to the Eastern Federation Scholarship Fund in memory of Robert "Red" Reitzel. The motion was passed by club members.

The Club President will appoint an audit committee.

Eric Fritz will check into the possibility of new name tags.

General Information:

2012 Show Exhibit plaques were handed out to the winners.

Door prizes were distributed.

Closing of Business: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Program: Club member, Anthony Frushour gave a very interesting talk and PowerPoint presentation on *Appalachian Geology*.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

FROM THE TOP!

By R J. Harris, EFMLS President

Pennsylvania is calling your name! This September the *Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club* is proud to host the annual EFMLS convention. Our state boasts a wealth of natural resources from oil to nickel. We are truly excited about welcoming you to the commonwealth and have quite the itinerary planned, starting with a short trip to nearby Elizabethtown College on Friday afternoon to view the world class minerals of the "Masters Mineral Gallery." A private reception and tour with bus transportation will get our weekend underway.

Our conventions are the ideal way to find out what the EFMLS is about, and how to better use our resources for your club. It will also give you an opportunity to find ways for you and your club members to become involved. The EFMLS is just a larger version of your local club; an organization run by volunteers. We need fresh blood infused often, or we become stagnant like any organization. Please pay special attention to your convention letters and get them in as soon as you can.

A special shout out to *the Gem, Mineral, and Lapidary Society* of Montgomery County Maryland. I have never been to a show that had the breadth of hobby-related demonstrations that they had. Cabbaging, faceting, tumbling, mineral identification, jewelry making, scouting activities, and more- all at one show! Their attendees see all of the aspects of our hobby before they see a single vendor. Bravo!

Lastly, like the swallows return to Capistrano signaling spring, so the new EFMLS Directory arrives. A big thank you to Carolyn Weinberger for the great job on this valuable resource. Happy Spring rockhounding!



THINK FALL!

By Steve Weinberger

Spring sprung and with it the first 2012 EFMLS Wildacres Workshop came and went. What a wonderful week the assembled group enjoyed! Wildacres itself is special and an EFMLS Workshop held in this fabulous retreat is even more special.



Jeff Scovil, our Speaker-in-Residence took us on photo journeys to Morocco and Madagascar, to Cornell University and Arizona, shared images of an amazing private mineral collection and shared a year in his life as a world class photographer. All of that just weeks after undergoing hip surgery -- that's true dedication!

Fall is just months away and with it comes your last opportunity for 2012 to get in on the action and fun at Wildacres. The line-up of classes being offered is exciting and listed on page 7 of EFMLS News.

If you've not yet registered for fall (September 3 - 9) what are you waiting for? Where else can you find a week of fun, relaxation, and learning for \$370 per person? This fee includes room and board!!!! Rooms are comfortable with private bath. Meals are good and the food is always plentiful.

Best of all, besides the classes you take and the talks you'll hear from Speaker-in-Residence Julian Gray are the people you'll share the week with. Priceless!

So register for the fall session and enjoy an experience that you won't soon forget at the Wildacres Retreat. A registration form is on page 8 of EFMLS News.

Questions? Visit the EFMLS Wildacres website www.amfed.org/EFMLS and click on the Wildacres tab or contact us at info@efmls-wildacres.org.

EFMLS News--May, 2012

FALL CLASSES

September 3-- 9

Cabochons (Basic)--Al DeMilo
Opal Cabochons--Al DeMilo
Faceting--Reivan Zeleznik
Fused Glass (Advanced)--Becky Edmundson
Fused Glass (Basic)--Becky Edmonson
Gem Trees (Basic)--Suzie Milligan
Gem Trees (Advanced)--Suzie Milligan
Micromounting--Carolyn Weinberger
Hand-Formed Pewter--Bruce Gaber
Silversmithing (I)--Pat Baker
Silversmithing (II)--Pat Baker
Soapstone Carving--Sandy Cline
Beaded Bezel Cabochons--Cheryl Brown
Beaded Embroidery Plus--Cheryl Brown

EFMLS Annual Convention

**Theme: Crystals--
"Flowers of the
Mineral Kingdom"
September 14-16,
2012**

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Hosted by the Central Pennsylvania
Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.**

www.rockandmineral.org



EFMLS News--May, 2012

WORLD FAMOUS NORTH AMERICAN EMERALD MINES OF HIDDENITE, NORTH CAROLINA

World famous North American Emerald Mines of Hiddenite, NC, formerly the Rist Mine, opens its gates for the first time in over 40 years exclusively to gem and mineral clubs.

In celebration of May, the emerald birthstone month, NAEM is running a Mother's Day Two-Day Dig Special on Friday and Saturday May 11-12. We are offering a discounted admission of \$35 per person per day (normally \$45/day or \$85 for 2 days). Act fast to reserve your spot because this dig will fill up quickly.

NAEM is also taking reservations for the summer season. Be sure to reserve your club's place on our calendar before we are booked up.



TERRY LOFGREN & JOHN KEHOE 3/24/12

Have your club take advantage of this opportunity for your members to be able to collect at this historic site. NAEM's ten-acre pit area has produced in excess of 60,000 carats of emeralds since mining began over 40 yrs ago. This includes North America's largest uncut emerald, the 1,869 Hill Emerald (est. value of \$3.5 million), now presiding at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The mine, also yielded the longest emerald crystal discovered on the North American continent, the 10-inch, 591 carat twinned emerald (owned by a private collector), as well as the North Carolina Royal Family of cut gems – the Carolina Queen, the Carolina Prince, the Heart of Carolina, and the Princess of Carolina – all considered to be among the highest quality found in the world.

Recently, news-making emerald finds were made at our mine by rock hounds. On the first day that the mine opened to clubs, Libby and Kevin Barrieault of Hiddenite found an emerald greater than 50 carats and were featured on World News Tonight with Diane Sawyer. The following day, Terry Lofgren and John Kehoe of Ocala, Florida found over 425 carats of emeralds. Lofgren and Kehoe went on to appear on the

Anderson Cooper Show in New York City. Both rock hound finds were covered on many national news outlets. See our North American Emerald Mines' Facebook page (see link below) for more information. Please

follow the links below to recent articles written for the Huffington Post and Smoky Mountain Living

Carl Talbott of the Southeast Federation wrote "NC Emeralds and NAEM" for the April LODESTAR newsletter. NAEM staff geologist, Ed Speer, has a website detailing the history of emeralds from this mine.

In addition to emeralds, many mineral specimens are commonly discovered on the NAEM site, such as clear, smoky, rose and rutiled quartz; rutile; calcite; pyrite; siderite; dolomite; muscovite; mica; amethyst; tourmaline; garnet; and more.

On a weekly basis, NAEM is constantly excavating, turning over and opening new areas in and around the pit location. For serious prospectors, new discoveries are certain to be made.

The price of admission includes THE GEM WITHIN poem poster OR the Emerald Man coffee mug OR 8 x 10 Emerald Man story cards, while supplies last (\$10 value)

The Emerald Man, Jamie Hill's, THE GEM WITHIN poster is a 16 x 20 emerald poem poster containing a beautifully photographed cascade of rough to cut emeralds. The photograph and poem are supposed to represent one's own personal or spiritual transformation from the roughness of self to the polished gem which lies within each and every one of us.

The Emerald Man coffee mugs contain The Gem Within poem, as well as a photograph of Jamie Hill holding the uncut 71 carat emerald that become the Carolina Queen.

The Emerald Man story card is a brief biography of Jamie Hill's earliest record discoveries, with a picture of Hill holding up a handful of over 1,000 carats of emeralds.

Contact Randi Van Vliet at naeminc@bellsouth.net for more information or to make your reservations. Reservations are made in the order they are received.

LINKS:

http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_pdf/Lodestar_april2012.pdf

<http://www.andersoncooper.com/2012/04/20/couple-discover-gems-worth-how-much/>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/04/two-couples-amateur-miner_n_1400340.html

<http://www.smliv.com/features/1308-unearting-carolinas-emerald-highway.html>

<http://www.northcarolinaemeralds.info/HiddeniteDistrict/NAEMMine/NAEM.htm>

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Randi S Van Vliet

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MAGMA Dig 3/31/12

MINI MINERS MONTHLY

Vol. 6 No. 4

A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors

April 2012

Pliny the Elder 23 CE ~ 79 CE

Gaius Plinius Secundus is best known by the name "Pliny the Elder." He lived in ancient Rome. He was a naturalist and an author. He spent a lot of time observing and studying the natural world and writing about it. He wrote *Naturalis Historia* one of the only ancient writings about nature that still exists today. He died from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79. The mineral name asbestos was first used by Pliny the Elder.

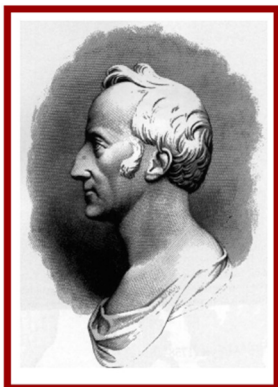
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George F. Kunz 1856 ~ 1932

George Frederick Kunz was one of the most important gemologists in the world. He was also a serious mineral collector from a young age. By the time he was 20 years old, he had built a collection of over 4,000 specimens. He wrote many books about gems. He was one of the founders of the New York Mineralogical Club. The mineral kunzite, a pink gem variety of spodumene, is named in his honor.

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James Smithson 1764 ~ 1829

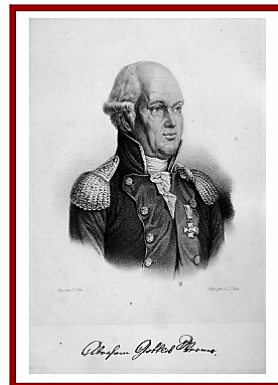
James Smithson was born in Paris, France and was named Jacques Louis Macie. He changed his name to James Smithson in 1800. He was a mineralogist and chemist. The mineral Smithsonite is named in his honor. Smithson is most famous for his gift to the United States of America which was a large amount of money to start what we know as The Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian is the National Museum in Washington, D.C.

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Abraham G. Werner 1749 ~ 1817

Abraham Gottlob Werner was a geologist from Germany. He is sometimes called "the Father of German geology." Collecting minerals was his passion when he was young. He wrote what is considered the first modern mineral book. It was a description of the mineral species known at the time. Among the many minerals studied and named by Werner are apatite, graphite, olivine, prehnite, and rutile, to name only a few.

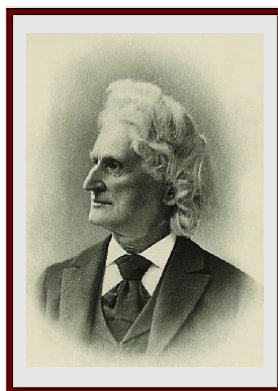
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James D. Dana 1813 ~ 1895

James Dwight Dana was born in Utica, New York. He was a mineralogist, geologist, volcanologist and zoologist. He studied volcanoes, mountains and natural history for the United States Exploring Expedition. He is best known for his books *System of Mineralogy* and *Manual of Mineralogy*. His *Manual of Mineralogy* was so influential that revised editions are still used in colleges and universities to this very day.

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Friedrich Mohs 1773 ~ 1839

Friedrich Mohs was a German mineralogist and geologist. In 1802 he was hired to identify minerals in a collection. He did so by studying their physical properties. This led him to develop the mineral hardness scale, which is also known as Mohs' Hardness Scale. This scale of 10 minerals from softest (1 - Talc) to hardest (10 - Diamond) is still taught in schools today.

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Thomas Jefferson 1743 ~ 1846

Thomas Jefferson was the author of the Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States. He was one of America's very first naturalists. He collected mineral specimens from the United States, not really to enjoy them as specimens, but to show the world the rich mineral resources of this new nation. He displayed American mineral specimens in his home, Monticello. Monticello still exists; his mineral collection is gone.

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Peter Zodac 1894 ~ 1967

Peter Zodac was born in Peekskill, New York. He was the founder of the magazine *Rocks & Minerals*. He started this important magazine because he felt there was a need for a regular magazine for mineral collectors that was written for the average collector rather than for professors and scientists. He was a mineral collector. He also ran a successful mineral specimen business.

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Club Meeting
Tuesday
May 8, 2012
7:00 PM

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