

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

Organized 1969

MAY 2018

### Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

#### 2018 Officers and Committees

President:	Harry Polly 828-244-6651	Editor:	Slade Harvin 252-702-7299	Show Chairman:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448
Vice President:	Rick Glover 828-446-7633	Field Trip:	<b>OPEN</b>	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
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Secretary:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448				

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.



Photo: Clip Art

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**CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.**

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

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### President's Message

Wow, it seems like this has been a really short month. Things have really started to pick up around our household with Spring finally arriving. It seems like we have not had time to get anything done around the house and yard.

Now that Spring has come upon us, it is time to get out of the house and get busy collecting. This is the best time of the year for it. We are still looking for a field trip chairman to plan the field trips. It is one of the lifebloods of any gem club. If you like to go on field trips, please consider this important part. Several trips come to mind; Propst farm for sapphires, Hiddenite, Presnell mine for kyanite, Sinkhole mine for apatite, and Little Pine for garnets. These are all within a two hours from Hickory. We can also do Graves Mountain and Jackson's Crossroads in GA, but that is a weekend trip. Resources are available for all of the information you need to organize and lead these trips. I will be happy to pass along any and all information I have.

Someone mentioned that we need grab bag material at the last meeting. We do not need any grab bag material. We do need to clean and break up some of the material that is in my barn. We may try to do that in July when the weather is so hot.

JUNE is PICNIC TIME!!!. As in the past several years, we will have the meeting at my house and have our annual picnic. More information at the meeting. Until next time;

*Harry*

### **2018 Labor Day Geode Trip**

I have reserved 20 rooms at this 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 20 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](mailto:info@brightleafgolfresort.com)

**Check In: August 31, 2018**

**Check Out: September 3, 2018**

Rate: \$60+/Single Occupancy; \$80+/Double Occupancy

Deposit: A \$70/room deposit is required to secure the reservation. ***Deposit is due by May 2018.***

Thank you,

**Harry Polly**

President

# ANNUAL PICNIC!

It is once again time for the club's annual picnic!

Details can be found in a separate email or flyer that will be sent to members.

**Tuesday, June 12, 2018**

**6:30 PM**

The Club will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and paper products.

Members, please bring a covered dish and/or a desert or chips and a soda to share.

Don't forget your lawn chair.



## May Field Trip

A May Field Trip is currently not scheduled, but a possible field trip will be discussed at this meeting.

Everyone is asked to please consider taking the Field Trip Coordinator position for the Club.

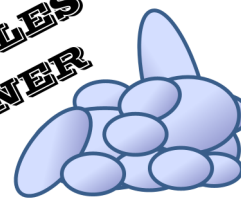
## Program

The May program will be "November Quartz Trip to Arkansas", by Slade Harvin.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

Don't miss out on the giveaways!!!!!!

## **THE PEBBLES' CORNER**



*This section of the newsletter is being started to help generate more interest and interaction with younger rockhounds and to have fun in the process.*

I welcome any information a member may wish to provide to be included in the upcoming newsletters each month, especially related to items that would be of interest to our younger and aspiring rockhounds.

**The weather is starting to warm up and it is time to get out and start collecting and most importantly to have fun.**

To help allow good collecting and to also help with the fun part, please consider the following when planning and taking a trip (a few hours to a few days):

- Bring plenty of water;
- Let someone know where you are going;
- Wear appropriate clothing;
- Wear appropriate safety equipment as needed: hard hat, steel toed boots, safety glasses, gloves, etc.;
- Wear sunscreen and other methods to protect yourself from the sun;
- Pace yourself, especially when it is hot outside;
- Make sure your tools are safe and in good working condition;
- Bring a friend;
- Have fun!

Happy Collecting!!!!!!



Photos: Clip Art

*Until next time.....*

**Slade**

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - MINUTES

The April 10, 2018 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Harry P. at 7:00 PM.

**Introduction of New Members and Guest:** Guests: Jerry & Jenny W., Kirk W., Tami & Jerry A., Ron & Aaron.

**Minutes:** Motion by Rick G., seconded by Philip M. to accept the minutes for the March 13, 2018 meeting. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

**Treasurer Report:**

- 1) Bank balance was reported.
- 2) Please pay the treasurer for the complimentary tickets that were handed out.

**Education Committee:** Warren H. and George M. delivered the case to Hiddenite Elementary.

**Show Committee:**

- 1) Next year's show will be March 22-24, 2019.
- 2) The Show Chairman thanked everyone involved with volunteering at the show. Especially, Warren H. for all the time and effort he put into the show.
- 3) Overall attendance was up from last year.
- 4) The Club is adding 4-5 additional vendors to the show next year to increase income for the Club.
- 5) Requesting ideas for a theme for next year's show. We have one so far, but would like several to choose from.
- 6) Please start saving specimens for next year's Mini Mine while you are collecting.
- 7) The EFMLS has offered the Club to host the 2020 EFMLS Convention in conjunction with the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Show. The Club's Board of Directors will meet to decide to host or not.

**Field Trip Report:**

- 1) None scheduled for March. See next item below.
- 2) The Club needs a new Field Trip Chairperson.
- 3) Slade H., Harry P., and Larry H. went to Hiddenite to collect with the people who attended the 2018 EFMLS Convention.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** The Adam's Collection is holding a rock swap May 5<sup>th</sup> in Lexington, NC.

**Announcements:** Club member, Jeff S's father passed away recently.

**Door Prizes:** Several were given out.

**Closing of Business:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

**Program:** Ron Ruschman – "Fire Treated Rocks"

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Russell, Secretary

## What Do French Fries and Mining Have In Common By: Cheryl Neary

A few weeks ago, I attended the Hickory Gem & Mineral Show held at the Hickory Convention Center in late March.

I always stop at the Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club booth – since the club is a vendor at the show and I just happen to love the “stuff” they have for sale. So while at their booth, I overheard Brad Glover (and no relationship to Rick and Joan Glover that I know!) say that he had an international work emergency that he had to deal with.

Later, once he was free, I asked him if he was able to handle the emergency and it was at this point that I learned the following information which I will share with you.

Brad’s international emergency dealt with French Fries! Yep you got that right! I guess I seemed amused as I exclaimed- “I guess they ran out of French Fries?” Well, little did I know, but there are several types of French Fries, with various countries utilizing different specifications for the French Fries. Different specifications? Almost sound preposterous! However, there are different types of potatoes; different types of cuts – such as string, crinkle, shoestring, curly, waffle, steak, wedges, cottage, Belgian, matchstick and of course- standard cut.

There are more than 200 unique varieties of potatoes sold throughout the United States, per the Potato Goodness website (<https://www.potatogoodness.com/potato-types/>). This includes; russet, red, white, yellow, purple, fingerling and petite.

In the USA, there are more than 2,500 potato growers, making the US the 5<sup>th</sup> largest potato grower in the world. China, the leader in producing potatoes, grows more each year than the second place India and third place Russia combined.

Did you know that potatoes are native to the Andes Mountains of South America? The Inca Indians in Peru were the first to cultivate potatoes around 8,000BC to 5,000 BC. According to PotatoGoodness, the Incas utilized the potato for a variety of uses:

- Raw slices were placed on broken bones to promote healing
- Potatoes were eaten with other foods to prevent indigestion
- Potatoes were utilized in childbirth

It is believed that potatoes grew naturally in the Andes Mountains as long ago as 13,000 years, prior to Inca cultivation. The Andes, the mountainous spine which runs north to south, a total of 5,500 miles from the islands of Aruba and Curacao off the coast of Venezuela through the South American continent to Tierra del Fuego in the south is known for its natural biodiversity. The Andes is part of the American Cordillera, a near continuous chain of mountains which extend north through North America. The Andes Mountains are the result of tectonic plates (South America and Pacific) colliding – with the majority of the Andes Mountain chain volcanic. Geologic faults are scattered throughout the chain causing earthquakes, floods and landslides. With varying degrees of altitudes, the temperatures can fluctuate dramatically with over 80 degrees change in just a few hours due to the air being too thin to hold the heat.

Outside of Asia, the Andes are the highest mountain range in the world and the longest mountain range on the planet, with many locales more than 22,000 feet above sea level. Located in the high altitude with air temperatures so cold in the equatorial area of the Andes Mountains, lie 99 percent of tropical glaciers, with the Quelccaya Ice Cap in Peru, the largest glaciated area. Tropical glaciers are also found in the mountains of East Africa and Indonesia. The glaciers are a source of drinking water for millions of inhabitants – who today are at risk due to the enhanced melting, which can severely affect the availability of water resources for future generations.

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The Andes Mountains are comprised of three different main climatic zones; in the north the Tropical Andes; the Dry Andes in the central part of the Andes; Wet Andes in the south. The mountains act as wall blocking frigid Pacific winds, thus creating the arid landscapes of the western side of the Andes and tropical lushness of the eastern slopes. These varying climatic zones are responsible for the incredible biodiversity in wildlife.

Some of the biodiversity include approximately 4,000 different types of potatoes grown in Peru alone, with different varieties grown at different altitudes. In addition to potatoes, tomatoes also originated from the Andes. From the western slopes of the Andes, coca leaves originated. Ancient Incas also cultivated coca, and today coca tea is served in the high Andes and is an effective reliever of symptoms of altitude sickness. The Andes also are home to the tree responsible for producing quinine, used as a treatment for malaria.

The potato is from the perennial *Solanum tuberosum*. *Solanum* is from the Latin word *solamen* meaning comfort, solace or soothing. It is purported that it is a sedative and has healing effects from the application of the leaves of some genus plants to cuts, wounds and inflammations or skin problems. *Solanum tuberosum* belongs to the Solanaceae family which includes tomato, sweet pepper, eggplant, tobacco and petunia.

Most famous of the civilizations that lived in the Andes were the Incas, who built their empire conquering other civilizations; built great highways and cities. The Inca practiced basic mining, as the Andes provided minerals rich in gold and silver. The gold and silver mined were used for ornaments; decorations and jewelry. It is in Peru today that the world's most productive gold mine resides at an elevation of 13,000 feet the Yanococha Mine. Both Chile and Peru combine to produce almost half of the world's mined copper.

It was noted by the Spanish in the early 1500s, before conquering and destroying this civilization from war and disease, that the Incas ate tuber and root crops- the potato the most important. The Incas preserved the potato for storage by dehydrating and mashing the potatoes into chuño (The word chuño is from [Quechua](#) *ch'uñu*, meaning 'frozen potato'). This product could be stored for up to 10 years without refrigeration. Chuño is made by repeatedly spreading potatoes outside to freeze during the cold nights, then thaw in the morning, allowing for the softening of the potato. This was cooked in a spicy stew. It was the food that sustained both the Inca armies and later the Spanish silver miners in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Spanish chroniclers, misused the Inca work batata (sweet potato) as the name of plant, now known as the potato. The Spanish had discovered the taste of the potato and carried the tubers to Europe, for planting first at the Canary Islands. The Canary Islands exported this crop to the northern European countries then part of the Spanish empire, such as the Netherlands.

Potatoes arrived in Ireland in the late 1580's and forty years later it spread to the rest of Europe. The potato was found to be easier to grow and to cultivate. The potato contains most of the vitamins needed for sustenance.

In the 1840's, potato blight outbreak wiped out most of the potato crops in Europe. The Irish working class diet was mainly potatoes and when their main staple was unavailable it resulted in almost a million deaths from starvation or disease and another million emigrating from Ireland mostly to the North American countries of Canada and the US.

Potatoes were given to the early colony of Jamestown by the Governor of Bermuda in the early 1620s. The first permanent potato crop was in the 1700s near Londonderry, New Hampshire brought by Scotch and Irish immigrants, which became known as the "Irish potato". It was not until Thomas Jefferson served them at the White House during his presidency (1801-1809) that the potato become accepted in North America. Jefferson first tasted potatoes in 1767 while as ambassador to France, he was invited by the King to a feast with only potato dishes being served. Crops spread west from that point, especially when missionaries tried to teach the American Indian tribes how to grow the crop instead of relying on hunting and gathering methods for survival. Idaho began growing the potato in the late 1830s; however, it was not until 1872 when the Russet Burbank variety was developed that the Idaho potato industry flourished.

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Potatoes thrive in the cool northern half of the United States and southern half of Canada. Potatoes need space, fertile and well-drained soil and sunshine. The best growing conditions is in acidic soils. U.S. potato production has increased steadily; two-thirds of the crop comes from Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and Maine, and potato growers have strengthened their position in both domestic and foreign markets.

During the Klondike Gold Rush in the Yukon during the years 1896-1899, potatoes were valued for their vitamin C and "worth their weight in gold". However, Yukon Gold potato (one of my favorite) is a crossbreed of a North American white potato with a wild South American yellow potato, developed by University of Guelph in Ontario Canada in the 1960s.

In 1995, the potato was the first vegetable to be grown in space under NASA and the University of Wisconsin- Madison creating the technology for Quantum Tubers. Currently, there are experiments to determine which varieties of potatoes are best suited for growing on Mars.

When Thomas Jefferson introduced Americans to the potato during his presidency – it was actually in the form of what is now referred to as French fries!

Potato soufflé was created accidentally when King Louis Phillippe arrived late for dinner and the fried potatoes were reheated in the hot oils in the 1830s. The potato chip was invented in 1853 in New York when railroad magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt complained that his potatoes were cut too thick and sent them back to the kitchen. Perhaps in spite, the chef cut the potatoes so thin and refried them, salted them and served them to Vanderbilt who loved his Saratoga Crunch chips!

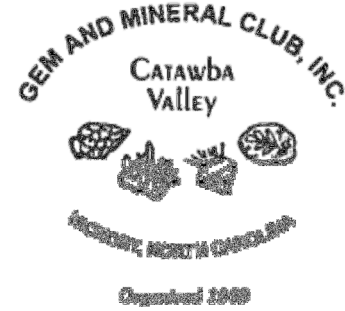
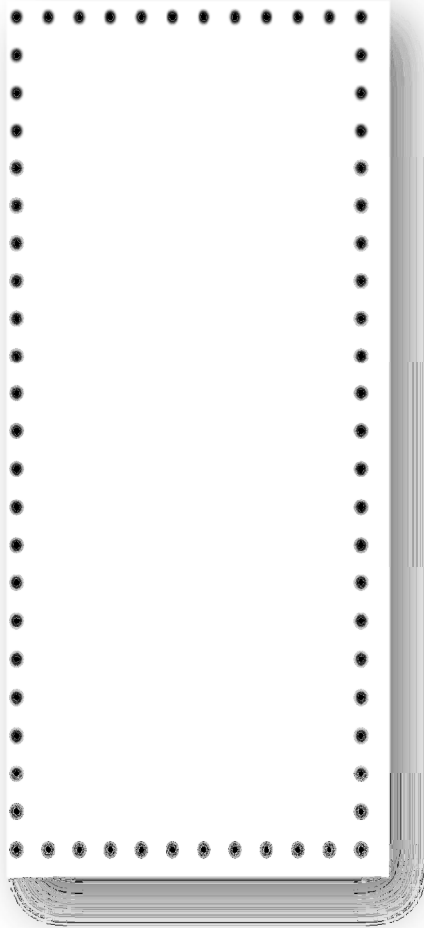
So now you know about the potato – but do you know what the potato and mining have in common? Find out in the second part of this article.....

#### AMFS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

First Class Mail

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# Tar Heel Rockhound

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Catawba Valley  
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Volume 47 Number 5

Club Meeting

Tuesday

May 8, 2018

7:00 PM

St Aloysius Catholic Church

921 2nd St NE

Hickory, NC