

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

NOVEMBER 2010

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2010 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Tom Winslow 800-589-4619	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-750-4213	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
Vice President:	Baxter Leonard	Field Trip:	Harry Polly	Scholarship:	Baxter Leonard
Treasurer:	Zan Ritchie 828-495-8456	Education:	Glenn Bolick		George Max 828-328-9107
Secretary:	Baxter Leonard				

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.



NOVEMBER ELECTIONS



Happy Thanksgiving



© Dorothy Powell

INSIDE

President's Message-----	2
Minutes -----	2
Slate of Officers-----	3
Field Trip -----	3
November Program-----	3
Looking Ahead-Auction-----	3
Dues-----	3
Workshop Safety-----	4
Field Safety-----	4
Mini Miners Monthly-----	5
Future Rockhounds of America-----	5

Velda McLean, Editor
 3121 Blue Creek Road
 Lenoir, NC 28645
 828-750-4213
velda@email.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Winslow Club President

I bring greetings to you, the members of the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club. Another year is almost behind us and we have the special times before us – Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is the season that I have enjoyed for 68 years.

Please remember that during the November meeting we will be electing our officers for the year 2011. Harry Polly has assembled a great slate of officers for you to choose from. The new Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club website is up and running. Thanks to one of our members, Mike Streeter. Mike is our volunteer Webmaster. If you have not yet visited the website please do so. Just go to <http://www.cvgmc.com/> or <http://www.cvgmc.org/>.

We welcome suggestions from members for additions, changes or updates to our new website. This new website will help to get the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club “out there” on the net where people can find us. The website will, hopefully, help to boost our membership, promote our annual show, and generally promote the hobby.

Below is something that we may want to consider for our website, a member's page. This club is offering a new section for any of these members who would like to tell the world something about themselves. They look for interesting personal stories about our hobby, pictures of rock & mineral collections, educational articles, or whatever members like to share. <http://www.sedonagemandmineral.org/members.html>.

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC

Minutes, October 12, 2010

The October meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by club president Tom Winslow at 7:00 PM. Twenty seven members were present, and George Matthews of Kernersville NC was welcomed as a new member. The minutes of the September meeting were approved without corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Zan Ritchie stated the existing balance was \$13,527.59.

Show Committee: George Max had nothing new to report. Eric Fritz, Co-Dealer Chairman stated Mike Wise of the Smithsonian may bring a feature exhibit for the March 2011 show.

Field Trip Report: In Harry Polly's absence, Larry Huffman reported that the September trip to Woodlawn Quarry was attended by 7 members and was a good collecting site.

Education Committee: Glenn Bolick had nothing to report.

Announcements: Wayne Bowman stated the Hickory Martin-Marietta Quarry is closed for collecting.

Eric Fritz stated PCS/ Aurora NC is being considered for sale-no collecting at the current time.

New Business: The CVGMC Board of Directors met on September 28, 2010 and recommended the following items for club members to approve:

- 1) Change in Constitution: Bylaws: delete Article III, Section 2: before a person could join CVGMC "must attend 2 meeting"--motion defeated by club vote
- 2) Change in Constitution: Bylaws: change Article III, Section 4 and delete Associate membership--club voted and approved motion.
- 3) Recommend change in Article VII-delete 7:30PM as time of meeting-continue 2nd Tuesday of each month- club voted and approved motion.
- 4) Recommend change Article XII Section 2 "approve purchases when exceed monetary limit of \$1,000--club voted and approved motion.
- 5) Web Site be approved with funds being set aside and Mike Streeter to become the web master. After discussion, Larry Huffman made a motion that DiTech.Net be paid to set up and initiate a web site for CVGMC and that Mike Streeter be appointed as the web master. A second member agreed with the motion- the club voted and approved the motion.
- 6) Lap Top/ Software- the Board of Directors did not feel a Lap Top was needed at this time, however, recommended software expenses were necessary/ beneficial up to \$500 be authorized. The club voted and approved the Treasurer for this.

Further discussion centered around club membership & show participation. Eric Fritz made a motion that any club member wishing to attend the show free would have to volunteer at the show in some capacity. This would be arranged and decided by the show committee.

With the conclusion of the business, door prizes were drawn by members. The program on a recent trip to Arkansas by members Baxter Leonard & Wayne Bowman was conducted. Both members had samples/specimens to show the club. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20PM.

Reminder: November Program- Ron Ruschman will present *AFMS Collecting Sites of the Southeast*.

December Program will be the *Annual Auction*. All members scan your collections for items.

Respectively submitted:

Baxter Leonard, acting Secretary

SLATE OF OFFICERS

Harry Polly, Chairman/Nominating Committee

I am pleased to announce the slate of officers for the year 2011. If all goes well, they will be formally voted upon at the November meeting. Members at large will be nominated from the floor at the meeting.

President: Baxter Leonard
Vice-President: Loyd Hoke, Jr.
Treasurer: Zan Ritchie
Secretary: Dean Russell



I wish to thank each of you for your consideration of these offices. I will be glad to help in any way you wish.

Also please note that the floor will be open for nominations. You can nominate other club members to fill any of the available positions.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP

Harry Polly, Field Trip Chairman

The November field trip of the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club will be held on November 13th. We will be going to the Propst Sapphire Mine in Lincoln County. There is a \$5.00 digging fee. You will need to bring digging tools, i.e. shovel, mattock, scratching tools, prying tools, bucket, food, drink, and raingear. Optional is a screen, soap, water, towel, and a change of clothes. This is classic red clay and can get very muddy if it is wet. **BE PREPARED TO GET DIRTY.** The sapphires found here are mostly of the specimen variety, but some gem quality have been found.



We will meet in the Roses parking lot off Hwy 70E at 8:00 am. This is off of I-40, exit 123, and west on Hwy 70. Those coming late or from the south can meet at the site. To get to the site, follow Hwy 321 to exit 33, Startown Road. Go west on the Startown Road (towards Maiden). As soon as you cross the Lincoln County line, turn into the FIRST driveway on your left. There will be coffee can on the carport of the house on your left. Pay your fee and drive behind the barn or park in front of the barn. The diggings are in the woods and field behind the barn. For additional information on that date, call me @ 828-244-6651.

Harry

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

by Ron Ruschman
American Mineral Treasures
Southeastern Collecting Sites

LOOKING AHEAD DECEMBER

Our *Annual Auction* is at the December meeting. Please note start time is **6:30 sharp**. A short business meeting will be held prior to the auction.



The *Christmas party* will be going on during the *Annual Auction*. Members are asked to bring goodies. Be sure to come early enough to set up for both the party and the auction. **Remember the auction will start 7:00 sharp.**

DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 2011

Members will be receiving the *Members Information Forms* with the December newsletter. Please complete these for our records and return them along with your dues by **January 2011** so that you can remain on the club roster as an active member. The dues and *Information Form* will go to Treasurer Zan Ritchie. You may mail them to the club address or give them to Zan at the meeting.



For New Members Joining:

January 1-June 30, full amount of annual dues;
July 1- September 30, 50% of annual dues and
October 1 - December 31, full amount of annual dues
(shall apply as payment of the year 2012).

GENERAL LAPIDARY SAFETY GUIDELINES

by Jim Doran, Safety Chair

I was trying to decide what my topic would be for this article, and I got some ideas from the Silversmithing Class I took two weeks ago at *Wildacres Retreat*. These are some general safety practices that you should follow in your own lapidary shop or your club's shop:

WORKSHOP SAFETY

1. Safety procedures for all equipment should be given before every class, it doesn't matter how experienced someone is, accidents may still happen.
2. Newer students may need to be watched more closely while they're using the equipment because there will be many operational and safety procedures and techniques that they need to get familiar with.



3. Always use safety glasses or goggles when using Grinding wheels, rock or trim saws, laps, faceters, or torches.

4. You should use dust masks or respirators with rock or trim saws, and grinding wheels. Some saw lubricants are toxic and masks should always be used when using saws with chemical lubricants.



5. The shop should have adequate ventilation.



6. Hearing protection should be used if the equipment is loud or you'll be using it for a long time.

7. Always have a working, recently inspected, fire extinguisher rated for chemical, electrical and other fires. Know how to use it.

8. Keep your workplace clean. The cleaner it is, the less chance you'll have for fall injuries, chemical or fire injuries.

9. If using chemicals, know how to use them correctly. Never mix chemicals. Always use eye protection.

10. Keep all liquids away from electrical equipment.



I hope that these guidelines will be helpful to you. These are not all the safety procedures that you may need for your lapidary shop, but I think they will a good start to build on.

EFMLS News -- October 2010

"HUNTING" IN AUTUMN –A FIELD SAFETY NOTE FOR THE SEASON

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair



For some folks down here in the SCFMS region the boiling bite of summer may have started to wear off. Here in Houston we're counting the days until October when our 6 month summer unofficially ends! Of course, once it cools down it will be time to fill our weekends with field

trips and visits to locations from our youth or rumored spots not on any map!

It all sounds like great fun, but keep in mind that this time of year we aren't the only ones "hunting." Dove season started in north Texas a couple of weeks ago. Subsequently a couple of my friends (Barry and Tera) ended up in a creek next to someone's hunting lease. As there were plenty of doves, there were also plenty of shots going up into the air. On several occasions bird shot could be seen and heard falling back to earth right where they were hunting.

Barry, who has the nickname Creek Crawler, has plenty of experience doing both kinds of hunting and felt confident that they were not in danger. However Tera eventually had enough of the gun shots and decided to move. <insert any mental comment here that you may have about women having better common sense than men>

Similarly a few years back, OK it was 25 years ago, I was out hunting and was marveling at the new path that had been cut through the cedar and oak brush at an old quarry spot where I liked to hunt. Well shortly thereafter I discovered at the head of the path a big deer stand. Luckily no one was hunting that day or I might have been in a heap o' trouble!

As for a general safety recommendation make sure you are aware of potential hunting activities in areas where you go on field trips. You never know when you are going to head to an area and find a couple of dozen grizzly looking rednecks all excited about bow season starting that Saturday!

BE SAFE!

AFMS Newsletter – November, 2010



FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

All you need is a group of kids (or just 1 child), a sponsor, a name, and an application to FRA!

http://www.amfed.org/fra/fut_rock.htm

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Your group must be a member of your regional federation, either through a sponsoring club or through an independent application into your local federation.
2. The number of youth is not important: you can have as few as 1 or 2 and as many as you can handle.
3. Age: any kids up to the age of 18.

Contact your regional federation Juniors Chair or check out the "Kids Corner" of the AFMS web site

<http://www.amfed.org/>

:

HISTORY OF FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA

Rockhound clubs throughout the Federations have been supporting youth groups for many years. Most clubs have always had young members but often didn't know what sorts of activities to provide for them. Consequently many youth fell through the cracks. We're sure no one would argue the fact that we need to ensure the future of our hobby by encouraging our youth. Knowing this, under the direction of AFMS President Bill Cox in 1984, a committee was added to the AFMS called "Junior Clubs." Bill coined the name "Future Rockhounds of America" and designed a certificate to be given to junior clubs becoming members of FRA. It gives pebble pups and juniors the distinction of belonging to something worthwhile.

The only requirement for kids to obtain FRA membership is to be a member of a regional federation club with an AFMS affiliation. There are no dues to pay to AFMS. Starting in Fall 2004, Juniors Activities Chair Jim Brace-Thompson developed a free badge program of guided activities to provide youth leaders with 53 individual activities in 9 areas: Rocks & Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Collecting, Showmanship, Communication, Field Trips, and Leadership. In 2008, 6 new areas were added with 32 more activities on Earth Processes, Earth in Space, Gold Panning & Prospecting, Gemstone Lore & Legend, Stone Age Tools & Art, and Rocking on the Computer.

Kids can now earn badges in each of 15 overall areas. Those earning a minimum of 6 of the 15 badges earn a "Rockhound" badge as a mark of accomplishment and distinction. Details of the program may be found on the "Kids Corner" section of the AFMS web site:

www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Can you name the first person who helped you collect minerals? Was there someone who noticed that you had a new interest in crystals and he or she encouraged your interest? During vacation I was visiting my brother and we were talking about the teacher who lived next door to us where we grew up in Massachusetts. Her name was Mrs. Raymond. She was one of those teachers who noticed her students' interests and then said and did things to encourage them.

When I was in 5th grade, my science teacher assigned us a research project. We could pick any subject we wanted and write a 2 page report about that scientific subject. I don't know why, but I picked rocks and minerals. Really soon I found that I could look for rocks in my own neighborhood and add them to a collection. The minerals I saw in books were colorful and were found in amazing shapes. Right away I became interested in minerals.

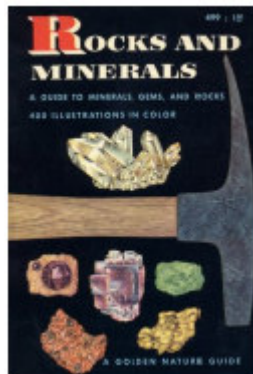
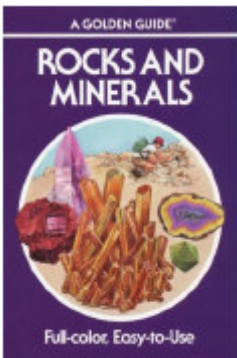
My mother must have told Mrs. Raymond that I had a new interest. The very next day, Mrs. Raymond came over to our house with a small present for me. It was a copy of the little mineral book, "Rocks and Minerals" by Herbert S. Zim and Paul R. Schaffer (published by Golden Guide books). You would think she had given me a nugget of gold! I read that book from cover to cover and spent hours looking at the pictures. As my own collection grew, I began to compare specimens in my collection with the pictures in the book.

To this day, I believe that this little present from Mrs.

Raymond pushed me from a passing interest in minerals to a full-blown love of the subject. So again I want to ask you, is there someone in your life who has encouraged your interest in minerals? When I am done writing this issue of Mini Miners Monthly, I am going to send a copy to Mrs. Raymond and thank her for supporting my interest in learning about minerals. Why don't you write a note and thank the person who encouraged your interest in minerals?!

Above is a picture of the book that Mrs. Raymond gave me. This is what the cover looked like when it was printed back then. Today, the book looks like the picture to the right here, now printed with a purple cover. I would recommend this book as the best first mineral book for a young mineral collector. It is easy to read, full of accurate and colorful pictures, and easy to understand. When Mrs. Raymond gave me a copy, it cost only \$1! Today the cost is over \$10. It is still worth the price. (They publish a similar book about fossils, too.)

by Darryl Powell, aka Diamond Dan

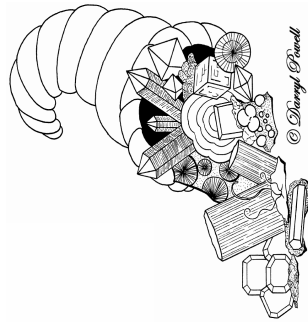
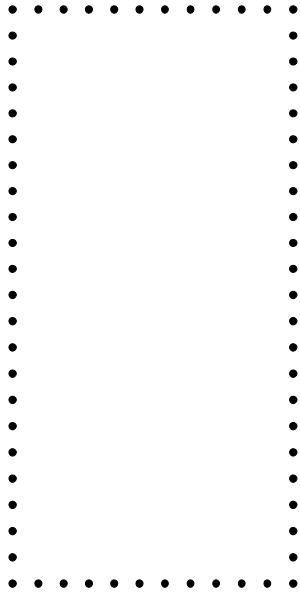


TAR HEEL ROCKHOUND

Velda McLean, Editor
Post Office Box 2521
Hickory, North Carolina 28603-2521

e-mail: velmail@bellsouth.net

First Class Mail



TAR HEEL ROCKHOUND

**Official Publication of Catawba
Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.**

Volume 39 Number 11

Club Meeting

**Tuesday
November 9, 2010
7:00 PM**

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