

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

NOVEMBER 2017

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2017 Officers and Committees

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President: | Harry Polly 828-244-6651 | Editor: | Slade Harvin 252-702-7299 | Show Chairman: | Dean Russell 828- 303-1448 |
| Vice President: | Joan Glover 828-446-7633 | Field Trip: | OPEN | 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, \$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.



Photo: S. Harvin Barite on Calcite (Kentucky)

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

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President's Message

This past weekend I had the distinct pleasure of representing our club at the SFMS annual convention in Knoxville, TN. This has been our first convention since joining the organization about a year ago. The Knoxville club did a bang up job of hosting the event and attendance was very good. I met with their field trip leader and shared some information with him. They had about 20 dealers set up at the show, several that were or had been dealers at our show. The show was held about 11 miles from the hotel and meeting site, however. The meeting site was held at the home of JTV Headquarters (Jewelry Television). I had the chance to tour those facilities, but chose to help out at the show instead. The tour lasted about three hours. Friday night, I attended the "cracker barrel" at JTV Headquarters and learned some of the goings on inside the SFMS. It was very informative. Saturday morning, we met back there for the annual meeting. The meeting was not very well attended by the clubs. I was the only club president or representative from NC. None from SC or VA. GA, TN, AL, MS, and FL did have representation, but these were the state directors, not individual clubs. Again, very informative, but also very long. We gathered at 8:30 and broke up at 1:30. After grabbing a bite to eat, I headed over to the show. Saturday night, we gathered back at JTV for the banquet. I toured the room we were in and admired the many beautiful mineral specimens. (Sorry, no camera, so no pictures). Security was very TIGHT, with armed guards everywhere. The program was on a new fossil site close by that has produced a wide range of animal fossils including horse, rhino, alligator, and mastodon. They have estimated the tusks of the mastodon to be over twenty feet long, and make the modern day elephant look like a baby. They have found over 100 species of plant and animal. The site is on a farm right beside the highway. With the resources they have now, it is estimated that it will take more than 1500 years to get everything found and cataloged.

Looking forward, this month we will have our elections. I encourage you to serve if you are asked. We still need a field trip chair. Please consider this post. In December, we will start the meeting at 6:30 pm to facilitate the annual auction. The auction is open to everyone, whether they are members or not, however, only club members may put items in to sell. 10% goes to the club, 90% to the seller. Anything relating to the hobby, tools, specimens, jewelry, books, etc. are allowed. Minimum bid items must have a value of \$20.00 or more to be considered. Items that do not have a minimum bid usually start at \$1-\$3.

Harry

Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

The October 10, 2017 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Harry Polly at 7:00 PM.

Minutes: Motion by Norma R., seconded by Larry H. to accept the minutes for the August 8, 2017 minutes. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report:

Bank balance was reported.

Field Trip Report:

- 1) Field trip to Hiddenite site on October 28th. Meet at Hiddenite Dollar General at 9:00 AM. \$20.00 digging fee.
- 2) The Club **NEEDS** a Field Trip Chairperson.
- 3) Harry P. is looking into a Jackson Crossroads trip for in the future.

Education Committee: George M. did a talk at the Adult Life Center. Warren H. did a talk to 60 Boy Scouts.

Show Committee:

- 1) Looking into filling the one open vendor slot.
- 2) Theme of the show will be: "Treasures In Our Own Backyard, Gems and Minerals of the Catawba Valley"
- 3) Most contracts are in.

Old Business:

- 1) Dan S. will take over the Club rock tumbling and the tumblers are almost set up.
- 2) Keith Padgett's wife donated three boxes of unlabeled minerals.
- 3) No building has been found that is affordable.

New Business: A display case is available from Danny Jones/Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club. It is 4' x 5 ½' x 30" and very heavy.

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

Program: Ron Ruschman – "It is a Colorful Goodbye Tucson"

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Russell, Secretary

Daddy's Rocks

Evie H. (Age 11)

Rocks and gems
Fill my dad's heart with glee.

His delight over his latest find,
I love to see.

When he gathers his tools,
it's no April Fool's

He's heading to make a new rock discovery.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION UPDATES

If any of your membership information changes (address, phone number, email address, etc.) please notify the treasurer, Terry Russell, as soon as possible so she can update the Club roster.

November Field Trip

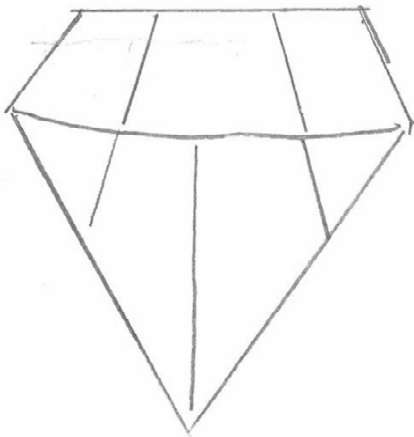
The November field trip will be discussed at the meeting.

Also, everyone is asked to please consider taking the Field Trip Coordinator position for the Club.

Program

The November program will be a presentation by Carl Marlowe about Exploring Joara – Fort San Juan, Morganton, NC.

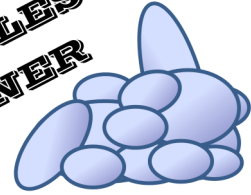
We look forward to seeing everyone.



"Diamond"

Laura H. (Age 8)

***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.

As indicated, this year's series will focus on each month's birthstone. I realize that several minerals may be associated with a particular month, but I am trying to select the most commonly accepted ones for this series.

I welcome any information a member may wish to provide to be included in the upcoming newsletters each month corresponding to the particular month's birthstone.

November's Birthstones are topaz and citrine.

Mohs Hardness: 8 (Topaz); 7 (Citrine)

Topaz obtains its color depending upon the trace elements present in the stone. Pure topaz is colorless. Citrine obtains its color from quartz crystals with traces of iron in the crystals. Brazil is the primary producer of topaz and citrine. Most of the citrine on the market is from heat treating other quartz varieties. North Carolina does have natural sources of citrine.

Some North Carolina locations where Citrine and Topaz have been found (According to Mindat.org):

- Iredell County (Citrine)
- Alexander County (Citrine)
- Mitchel County (Topaz)
- Alamance County (Topaz)



Photos: Clip Art

Until next time.....

Slade

Faircloth Mine
By: Cheryl Neary

So to continue our August field trip – on Sunday we travelled to the Faircloth Mine located at Mundy's Landing Versailles, Woodford County. Mundy's Landing is located opposite of the mouth of Shawnee Run. This landing was important for the shipment of the fluorspar and calcite mined along the river in this area by the Chinn Mineral Company.

Woodford County was formed as the last county in Kentucky while the area was still part of the Virginia Colony. The county was named after General William Woodford, who fought in the American Revolutionary War. After successfully defeating the British at various locations and moving up the ranks he was taken prisoner at the Siege of Charleston. He died on the British prison ship in New York City and is buried at Trinity Church in New York.

Mundys Landing is named after Thomas Munday, who was one of the first to settle in the area in the later 1700's. There has been over the years disagreements as to the spelling of Mundys Landing and the Munday family name! After the death of Thomas, his son established a ferry and built a large home for both highway and river travelers. The establishment of both the ferry and the inn and tavern brought business and prosperity to the Munday family. Thomas's grandson, Robert, eventually inherits the inn and tavern and this part of the history becomes a sordid story. Robert's wife, Lucretta supposedly danced naked for the sum of \$5.00 for men during the Civil War. Mundys Landing was popular rest area for both the Confederate and Union troops during the Civil War.

She later was accused of murdering her husband, with the morphine she acquired from a local doctor, to whom she offered her daughter to in exchange for the morphine. The doctor, who became her son-in-law, was found guilty of murder while the case against Lucretta was dropped after the ferry captain who placed her at the doctors that fateful evening was also murdered. Unable to retrieve the insurance money for her husband's death, Lucretta sold the property to the Faircloths around 1882.

Faircloth continued to run the tavern and built a store until the Chinns of Mercer County across the mouth of the Shawnee Run purchased the business during the 1900 decade. The Chinn's lived in the former hotel and ran the ferry and mined the fluorspar and calcite mine across the river in Mercer County until the late 1920's. During WWI the mine worked night and day. The miners, which were approximately 300 men, spent their money at the store. The calcite was utilized in making optical glass, which was shipped by river to Madison, Indiana, where it was loaded on trains for its destination of Corning, NY. The optical glass was used in the manufacture of binoculars, periscopes and other instruments used in war time. The mines closed and the ferry ceased service in 1934. The bustling settlement of Mundys Landing was once home to a ferry, mills, a lumber and boat yard and the inn and tavern. Today, nothing remains of the community but the tavern building which is now a private residence

Due to geographical obstructions, such as the shallow water of the Kentucky River in the locale of Mundys Landing and a sandbar upstream, Mundys Landing was the end of the line for river travelers. In the late 1890s, Lock No. 7 was built in High Bridge. Once they built the lock, the steamers could pass through Mundys Landing and the business began to decline.

The area of Mundys Landing is located in the Kentucky River Palisades. The Palisades are steep gorges and limestone outcroppings that stretch from Clay Ferry in Madison County to Frankfort in Franklin County, approximately 100 miles.

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The oldest rocks exposed on the surface in Woodford County are the High Bridge Group, named after High Bridge, KY. High Bridge was originally known as North Tower. In 1888, the town was renamed for the nearly 300-foot high railroad bridge crossing the Kentucky River Palisades which opened in 1876 and was the first cantilever bridge in North America. The 1888 bridge was replaced in 1911 by the current bridge which stands 308 feet above the river in the Kentucky Palisades. The American Society of Civil Engineers has designated it a National Engineering Landmark.

The High Bridge Group was deposited in shallow seas approximately 490 million years ago, during the Ordovician Period. When the waters were warm and clear, animal life flourished such as brachiopods and bryozoa. The massive limestones of the High Bridge Group are more resistant to erosion and are responsible for the gorge's topography.

Different formations are distinguished and correlated based upon the overall rock characteristics which include the composition of mineral grains, color, texture and fossils – this is known as the lithology of a formation. In the area of Mundy's Landing there are three lithological divisions of the massive limestone. The names – Camp Nelson, Oregon and Tyrone are named after the exposed area on the Kentucky River in which sections are typical. Camp Nelson was a federal camp during the Civil War and now a national cemetery located on the Nicholasville and Danville Pike where it crossed the Kentucky River. Oregon is a village located in Woodford County. While excavating for the installation of lock #6, approximately a mile from the village, great exposures of the magnesium rich limestone were exposed. Tyrone limestone is named after the Village of Tyrone in Anderson County, in which at the crossing of the Railroad and the Kentucky River a typical exposure was viewed. The Oregon bed is also known as Kentucky Marble. The light color – cream to light gray rock was utilized for building and ornamental purposes. The lithologies identified in Kentucky are at the same geologic horizon (a horizon is a layer of rock with a particular composition for dating the stratum, such as use of fossils) as New York, Tennessee and the Illinois – Wisconsin lead district.

The limestones in Central Kentucky, are characterized by solution-enlarged joints and bedding planes that allow water to flow through. There are two parallel veins located at the Faircloth Mine - the east Faircloth known as the Hayden Mine and the West Faircloth known as the Moore Mine. It is believed that the vein is an extension of the Green Million vein located in Mercer County, located directly opposite the mouth of the Shawnee Run.

According to the Kentucky Geological Survey: Bulletin No. 2 the Lead and Zinc Bearing Rocks of Central KY (1905) (Arthur M. Miller)

“The one vein is located in the Tyrone Limestone. The vein is approximately three feet wide, with its content fluorite. The other vein is located to the back of Faircloth's house near the Ferry. It can be seen in the cliff 100 feet above the river, which is the horizon of the Oregon Bed. 60 feet above this is an adit which runs 150 feet. The fluorite found in this vein is much in the form of cubical crystals. Fluorspar has been mined in the area - the Twin Chimney Mine in northern Mercer County and the Faircloth mine in southern Woodford County both at Mundy's Landing”.

Information was from both The Advocate-messenger (www.newspapers.com) and from KGS Bulletin

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There is an article I found on the website, No One Stands A Chance in Colonel Chinn's Cave House. It speaks about the life of George M. Chinn, born in 1902 and died in 1987. George Chinn was not only influential in Kentucky but in the world. He played in the 1921 national championship football game for Centre College against Harvard. He served in the armed forces during WWII, Korean and the Vietnamese Wars. He was an accomplished ordinance engineer and designer of the M-19 automatic grenade launcher.

What I found interesting about George Chinn is his cave house. Chinn, who was an expert in military explosives, hired a person who knew about the type of explosives required for the project of blasting away the face of the palisades. They blasted a tunnel 30 feet long. To the left was another cave at least 100 feet. Outside of the entrance hung a sign - Chinn's Cave House. The Cave House was used during the Prohibition serving those interested in seeking the alcoholic drinks.

Due to the influx of people to the Cave House, traffic jams became a problem for the state police. George counted on his reputation as a football player with Centre's 1921 crushing victory over Harvard, his legacy as the assistant coach at Centre and the all-time winning coach at Catawba in North Carolina.

He had a sign at the entrance placed which read "If you like me come on in - If not- there's the river- go jump in it" His cave house sold ham sandwiches and had in the dimly lit tunnel of the cave a line of slot machines. Once hauled into court he defended himself arguing that the slots did not constitute an illegal game of chance because you don't have a chance when you gamble at Chinn's because every slot was rigged so that anyone who played lost money. The jury acquitted him!

Next month more about Kentucky - the bourbon trail!

EFMLS Convention

by Larry Huffman

I ventured to CT. for the annual meeting. It was great to see so many acquaintances and to still hurl accolades for our convention. There were 25 clubs in attendance.

Noted issues:

1. Wildacres is looking to change format for one session each year
2. Looking for 2nd VP for next year- someone from NC would be nice
3. 2018 convention will be held in Raleigh, NC. I am helping with this - and hope to see many of our members attend.
4. Looking for both auction items and endowment fund items - AMFS Fund donations should be ASAP to be recognized on website
5. BEAC submissions must be in by early this year.. This year, Dec. 2017 bulletins will be eligible for 2019 submission due to the time frame.

Briefly, I would like to extend congratulations to Slade for his work on our bulletin and for placing in the top three for the category of Written Feature and New Editor.

Instructions for the upcoming December 2017 auction (from the treasurer):

It's that time of year for our annual auction.

Anyone who participates in the auction (selling AND/OR buying) needs to have a number assigned to them (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.). Since Terry will not be at the November meeting she is asking that you contact her by email (tmkrussell5@aol.com) or call and leave a message at her work number (828-584-5360) by November 27th. Please include the number of stickers needed. She will then mail the stickers and a number to you. If you don't get a number and stickers before the December meeting they will be available the evening of the auction so come early. Terry will be at the church by 5:45pm for anyone who hasn't signed up to participate and needs a number and/or stickers.

All specimens must be clearly identified with a sticker which should be coded with your assigned number because this is what will be referenced during the auction process. Please label your specimens as follows (using this example): if your assigned number is 2 and you plan to sell 5 items then the stickers should be labeled as 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e. **It is VERY important to label ALL specimens so the correct information is recorded.** This same number will also be your bidding number. Terry will have bidder cards at the meeting with the numbers on them for people to hold up when they win a bid. This process should keep things moving and will make it easier to record the sellers and buyers.

Items will be auctioned off in order to make it fair for everyone. It will go as follows: 1a, 2a, 3a...etc., then start over at 1b, 2b, 3b...etc. so label your items in the order that you want to sell them, with your best item being the first one. We will sell as many items as possible in the time that we have (ends at 9:00 PM). There is no limit to the number of items a Club Member can bring.

Anything rock related can be auctioned; this includes tools, cut stones, display boxes/cabinets, rough stones, jewelry, etc. Members will retain 90% of the sale price and 10% will go to the club unless the member specifies all proceeds go to the club.

Please come early to preview the items and make notes (including the number on the sticker) of the ones you are interested in bidding on then you'll be ready when it comes up for bidding. To keep things moving along the items will not be walked around during the auction.

Items will go up in price by \$1.00 increments per bid until it reaches \$25.00, then bidding will go up by \$5.00 increments per bid until it reaches \$50.00. Once it reaches \$50.00, bids will go up by \$10.00 increments per bid. Once the bid reaches \$100.00, bids will go up by \$20.00 increments per bid. Bidding increments can change at the discretion or lack of memory of the auctioneer. If you have an item you want started at a minimum bid, please note it on the label ahead of time.

Remember, guests are welcome, so bring a friend. They can bid on items, but cannot sell items.

Payment method: Cash or checks accepted but sorry, no plastic.

2018 CVGMC Dues Increase

For 2018, there will be an increase in member dues. There has not been an increase in the last eight years and the increase helps with the increases in costs.

Single - \$18.00
Family - \$25.00



First Class Mail

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Club Meeting

Tuesday

November 14, 2017

7:00 PM

St Aloysius Catholic Church

921 2nd St NE

Hickory, NC