

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

November, 2023

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2023 Officers and Committees

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| Secretary: | Dean Russell 828- 303-1448 | | | Southeast Federation Liaison: | Larry Huffman 828-612-4469 |

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.



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Annual Club Christmas Party and Auction

The Christmas party and Auction will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at the Club's regular meeting. The meeting will start at 6:30pm instead of the regular time of 7:00pm.

The meal will be catered by Publix Deli again this year. Chicken tenders and several side dishes will be provided.

All who attend are asked to bring a drink or dessert. The Club will provide the plates, cups, napkins, silverware and ice.

Come early, if you can, to help set up the room.

See Auction Rules below

November Program

The program for November will be presented by Shields Flynn.

The presentation will cover three mineral/geological museums, two that have opened within the last few years, and one that has been in existence since 1901. The talk will include: 1) the Maine Gem and Mineral Museum located in Bethel, Maine, 2) Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum associated with the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ, and 3) the Harvard Mineralogical and Geological Museum located in Cambridge, MA.

Below is the opening slide.

Mineral & Geological Museums



Maine Mineral and Gem Museum



Harvard Museum of Natural History



Alfe Norville Gem and Mineral Museum

2023 December Auction Instructions:

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

Anyone interested in participating in the auction (selling AND/OR buying) needs to have a number assigned to them (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.). Terry will have a list of numbers and stickers at the November meeting so you can sign up for a number and get stickers to label your specimens at that time. If you are not able to attend the November meeting and would like to participate, please call her (828-303-1563) to get a number. If you don't get a number and stickers before the December meeting, they will be available the evening of the auction, however please 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 used 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 are bidding. This process should keep things moving and will make it easier to record the sellers and buyers. Please also include a description of the item.

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 8:45 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 so that you'll be ready when the item comes up for bidding. To keep things moving 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 group 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 of the auctioneer. If you have an item that you want started at a minimum bid, please note it on the label ahead of time. Remember, guests are welcome, so feel free to bring a friend. They can bid on items, BUT cannot sell items.

Payment method: Only cash or checks accepted, no plastic (credit cards).

**Little Pine Garnet Mine
Marshall NC
Report by Tina Lakhotia
Photos by Rick and Joan and Tina**

Little Pine Garnet Mine is operated by Sandy Bottom Trail Rides and offers half day digs for \$25 and full day digs for \$50. A small group including Slade Harvin, Joan and Rick Glover, and Tina Lakhotia (plus Casper), met up on Saturday, October 14 th , to dig for garnets. The weather was absolutely terrific for digging and everyone enjoyed getting dirty while not sweating or shivering.

Due to people digging in the supports of the old mine, it is no longer possible to go inside to dig because the roof is not stable. That didn't prevent the group for scooping up some really good finds including individual garnets of all sizes and some nice specimens in matrix. Slade dug deep into the side of the spoils pile and was rewarded with some very large garnets. Rick and Joan teamed up with Joan collecting matrix for Rick to bust through looking for garnets. Rick had great success finding specimens in matrix and Joan was able to collect some nice single garnets while digging They also brought some material home to work on later.

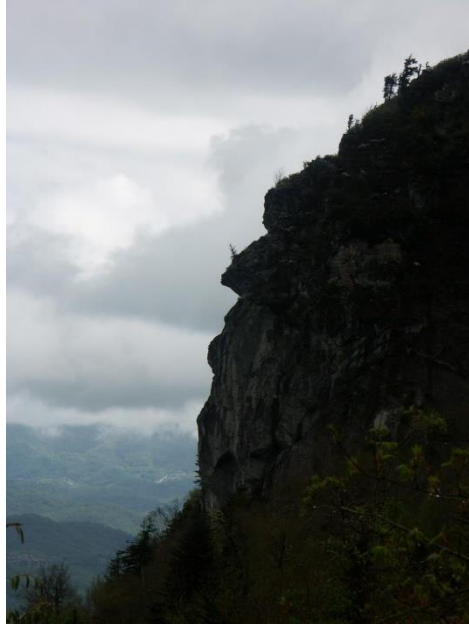
Tina focused on the top edge of the spoil pile and went home with a very satisfactory little bag of individual garnets.

It couldn't have been a more pleasant day getting dirty!



Geology of Grandfather Mountain

By Cheryl Neary



Picture this –

A supercontinent –over a billion years old- one large land mass surrounded by a single ocean - starts to pull apart with the expansion of the continental crust a mere 750 million years ago. Seawater spreads into the continental pieces that broke away 540 million years ago, forming new oceans. Currently a deep basin, Ocoee basin, is formed on the margin of the supercontinent in the areas known today as the western Carolinas, eastern Tennessee, and northern Georgia. Over a million plus years, the sea-floor basin is filled with layers of accumulated sediments. Then about 270 million years ago, two continental plates – North America and Africa drifted towards one another and collided. The devastating impact causes rocks over a billion years in age to be pushed up- and over (thrust) and a mountain range – the Appalachians - is formed. This action of rocks sliding over other rocks causes such intense heat that the rocks begin to melt. The molten rock that is located deep below the ground, cools and crystallizes to form igneous plutons. As the rocks overlying these bodies of igneous material composed of granite begin to erode, the smooth-side domes appear at the surface – such as,

Looking Glass Rock south of Asheville. The collision of the continental plates caused the rocks to fold and to break at places known as a fault. Linville Falls, north of Asheville is an example of a major fault. The folds and faults formed with northeast- southwest alignments. Then around 240 million years ago, the continental mass began to pull apart and a new ocean basin began to form – the Atlantic. Around the same time, the Appalachians began to erode. During this time the Appalachians are over ten times today’s height. During the periods of advancement of ice to the north, animals and plants migrated southward to this area of Grandfather Mountain.

The Blue Ridge thrust Sheet was moved 60 miles to cover what is now Grandfather Mountain. Rocks consists basically of schist, gneiss, and amphibolite derived by metamorphism of sedimentary and volcanic rocks were built 1,000 to 1,100 million years ago.

The original Cherokee name for this mountain with its rugged terrain and diversity in flora and fauna was “Tanawha” meaning “ a fabulous hawk or eagle”, The present name was from the pioneers in the area that saw an old man’s bearded face in one of cliffs. Which can be best seen from the town of Foscoe.

Grandfather Mountain’s highest peak is Calloway Peak which rises to a height of nearly 5,950 feet above sea level. An attraction at the Mountain is the Mile High Suspension bridge which spans an 80- foot chasm. A chasm is a deep fissure in the earth’s surface – a gorge.

The Mountain is located near the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Visitor Center will be able to provide you with more information about the geology, fauna and flora.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization recognized Grandfather Mountain as a member of the international network of Biosphere Reserves. Today, the mountain is renowned for its biodiversity, which includes rare and endangered species. Grandfather Mountain State Park covers over 2,500 acres of the mountain and is also known for its environmental preservation and wildlife rehabilitation programs. The State Park was established in 2009. The park is known for some of the South’s extreme weather.

Annual Picnic Oct 10 2023
At Janice and Harry Polly's





What A great time of fun, food, and fellowship was had by all!

First Class Mail

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Club Meeting

Tuesday
November 14, 2023
St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
Hickory, NC

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