

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

OCTOBER 2019

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2019 Officers and Committees

President:	Slade Harvin 252-702-7299	Editor:	Slade Harvin 252-702-7299	Show Chairman:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448
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Treasurer:	Terry Russell 828- 303-1563	Education:	George Max 828-328-9107	Eastern Federation Liaison:	Larry Huffman 828-612-4469
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.



Photo: Clip Art

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

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

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### President's Message

The calendar says Fall is here, but the temperature is definitely not cooperating.

There are things that are coming up with the November meeting.

Elections for the club's officers are coming up in November.

This is a good time to help the club and to also become more involved.

Also, the annual show is in the Spring, but now is a good time to ask how to help and start getting ready.

Involvement and help is always welcome and needed.

We hope to see everyone at the October meeting.

*Slade*

### **Safety Matters – Got a Good Sole?** By: Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Yes, that is "Sole" and not a typo of "soul". Over the years I have seen a great many not so pretty soles out there on the footwear of rock, mineral, and fossil enthusiasts as they enjoy their collecting trips. I have also seen plenty of worn out, torn, missing and broken laces, as well as floppy bottomed footwear in use.

If you will permit me, I'd like to back up a bit here and mention that proper footwear is an important segment of having a good collecting experience. Having sufficient footwear for the effort is highly recommended – as recommended as utilizing safety glasses, gloves, protective clothing and sun screen.

One of my primary footwear concerns is when I see shoe soles that are worn down to the point of treadlessness. Smooth soles do not work as well as treaded soles in keeping people upright. Although a case could be made for smooth soles on the footwear of some folks who shuffle rather than walk simply because lugged soles do grip significantly better than flat ones, and may thus be a tripping hazard for some. However, that said, I rarely see folks shuffle along in quarries and pits because shuffling can be dangerous.

Another consideration with having tread on the sole of a boot or shoe is the direction or pattern of that tread. If the primary tread patten is from right to left, or left to right, such a pattern would be excellent for walking or down a slope because the tread would be perpendicular to the direction of travel. But, what if one moves across the slope inn either clockwise or counter-clockwise motion? In such a case that same tread pattern would be parallel to the direction of slope and thus not have anywhere near as much gripping power. When traipsing in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise motion on a slope it would be better to have a pattern of ridges that ran from toe to heel, and thus, again be in a perpendicular orientation to the direction of the slope. If one were similar to most of us and find the need to not just move up and down, but also right and left on a slope it would be rather impractical to change shoes for the different directions.

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## Newsletter Editor Needed

The role of newsletter editor is going to be available in January.

I have enjoyed serving in this position for the last several years, but I need to hand off this role at least for this year.

This is a good position for someone that would like to become involved with the club.

The role of the editor is to prepare and send out the monthly newsletter and help send out any emails to the club as needed.

I am happy to talk with anyone that might be interested in accepting this role and the responsibilities for the role.

Thank you,

Slade H.



## 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.

Happy Fall.

With the nicer weather hopefully coming, it is time to take up your collecting of rocks and combine them with some craftiness.

Try to find some smooth rocks that are round and/or long and narrow.

Try to invite someone with you to go such as a younger kid or someone new to the hobby or someone that likes painting.

Time for the craftiness. Your imagination is the limit. For one example you will need to find paint in autumn colors. The goal is to transform your rocks into fall decorations. The following are examples:

- Pumkin
- Ear of Corn
- Candy Corn
- A Cat or Scarecrow
- Enjoy creating items.

Hint: Hot glue, buttons, fabric, ribbon, etc. can add to the decorating and provide endless options.

Make sure you have fun. Rock on!

Be safe so another trip can be enjoyed!

And have fun!

*Until next time.....*

**Slade**

### Field Trip

The October field trip will be discussed at the meeting. This will be a trip associated with the Dixie Mineral Council.

### Program

The program for the October meeting will be about Gold and Gems from the South Mountain area by Richard Buchanan.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

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

The September 10, 2019 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Slade H. at 7:00 PM.

**Introduction of New Members and Guest:** Guest: Camila L., John A.

**Minutes:** Motion by Harry P., seconded by Becky S., to accept the minutes for the August 13, 2019 meeting. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

**Treasurer Report:** Bank balance was not reported. The statement had not arrived in time for the meeting.

**Education Committee:** None.

**Show Committee:** Contracts were sent out to vendors and 5 have been received already.

**Field Trip Report:** 1) September 22, 2019 to Summerville, Ga,  
2) October 12, 2019 to Senatobia, MS. For fossils and quartz.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** EFMLS is starting a collecting club, similar to the Dixie Mineral Club.

**Announcements:**

**Closing of Business:** Motion by Norma R, seconded by Harry P., to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

**Program:** Review of the Kentucky trip by Slade H.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Russell, Secretary

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Thankfully, most manufacturers offer patterns that are practical for all applications. While most manufacturers offer a pattern suitable for any occasion, I still see patterns that are biased to be better in one direction rather than all directions.

Another important consideration is the flexibility and resilience of the sole material. A softer material will have significantly greater gripping power than a hard material. However, a softer sole material will not last as long as a hard sole material -- especially as these boots and shoes are used on very abrasive surfaces. Again, most manufacturers realize their products will be worn in varying environments and so have selected a compromise material, a material that will wear well on wood floors as well as quarry bottoms.

Another sole consideration is water. Many of the wanderings through the woods I do when seeking lost or forgotten quarries brings me into contact with brooks, creeks and streams - all of which are wet. I frequently have occasion to walk on, over and through wet slippery rocks. If one has ever experienced such situation, one will no doubt recall the slipperiness of slick, bio-film, and moss covered rocks. Even a superior lugged sole can lose its grip on rounded slippery rocks. So, in such instances, having a soft sole with great gripping power is most helpful. The salient point when working in wet environments is to try and keep one's feet dry.

Additional footwear considerations also come to mind. If one is prone to dropping rocks, perhaps such folks should consider using strong or safety toe footwear. If one were to crawl among the rocks or walk on or over tough and abrasive surfaces, folks should consider using strong or safety toe footwear. Folks should also consider safety toe footwear if walking through biting insect or critter inhabited areas or areas of unknown danger.

Do you see a pattern forming here? Yes, I do suggest wearing good and appropriate footwear -- footwear suited for the occasion.

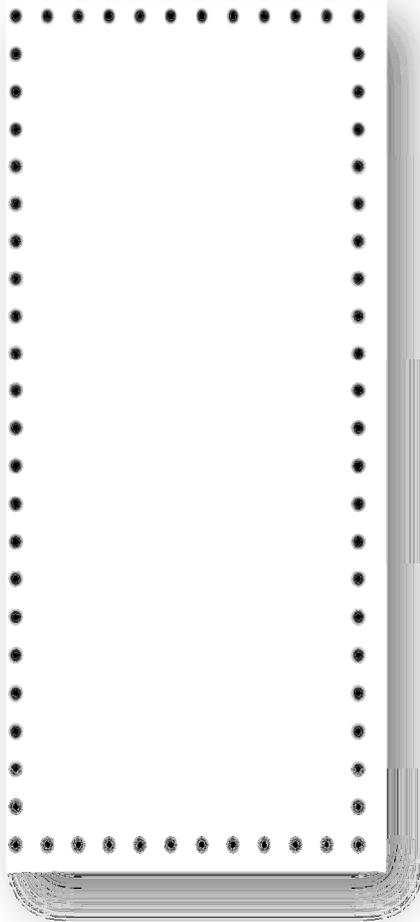
As I like to say, it is not that the sole makes the man, it is that the sole makes the man, or woman or entire family safe.

The takeaway here is that your foot safety matters...even if it sometimes becomes a wet foot.



First Class Mail

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Club Meeting

Tuesday  
October 8, 2019  
7:00 PM  
St Aloysius Catholic Church  
921 2nd St NE  
Hickory, NC