

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

Organized 1969
April 2024

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2024 Officers and Committees

President:	Tracie Jeffries 828-430-1314	Editor:	Brenda Huffman 828-612-1918	Show Chairman:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448
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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.

**Spring is here, get out those digging tools!
 Go find that elusive mineral or fossil you
 have been dreaming about all winter.**

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

Web Master: Mike Streeter

Brenda Huffman, Editor
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President's Report:

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

We had a great meeting last month. The March program was on Volcanoes and this month we will continue the theme with a program about igneous rocks. The program will have tips on how to identify igneous rocks and show case some of the more common and unusual specimens.

I was just notified that the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies lost their insurance coverage. Apparently, the insurance company said clubs were identifying collecting locations on their websites. Multiple clubs were guilty including ours. We were advised to remove our field trip reports. I will find out more information and we will discuss this at our next meeting in April.

As the weather warms up more people will be outside exploring, traveling, and collecting. To have a fun and safe trip, there are several safety reminders printed below.

- Plan your trip in advance and always let someone know when and where you are going. It is best to rock or fossil hunt with a buddy!*
- Wear protective clothing and gear such as long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and a hat.*
- Use proper tools and equipment such as rock picks, chisels, and crack hammers. When using these tools don't forget to wear your safety goggles and gloves.*
- Always carry snacks and water. Stay hydrated!*
- Carry a small first aid kit.*
- Keep your cell phone charged in case of an emergency.*
- Be aware of nature! You may need to put on insect repellent and sun screen. Watch out for poison ivy and poison oak, bees, possible poisonous snakes, and always check for ticks.*
- Respect the collecting location.*

Are you collecting on public land? Make sure you know the rules and regulations. It is illegal to collect in some areas such as State and National Parks.

Are you collecting on private land? Make sure you have permission.

In general, be prepared, conscientious, and courteous when collecting!

Please remember to collect specimens this spring and summer for our grab bags!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our April 9th meeting!

Tracie Jeffries

March Minutes

CVGMC minutes for March 12, 2024

The March 12, 2024 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Tracie J. at 7:00 PM.

Visitors – John G., Caleb W., Edward H.

Program: Club President Tracie J. did a presentation on Volcanoes. (Part #1)

Minutes: A motion was made by Harry P. and seconded by Rick G. to accept the February 13, 2023 minutes. Motion was passed by the Club.

Treasurer Report: Bank balance was reported.

Education Committee:

Show Committee:

Because of the Catawba Rooms will not be ready for our spring show, the 2024 Spring Show is rescheduled for October 18-20,2024. We are planning on putting on a full show with exhibits, door prizes, Mini Mine, Children's Table and more.

Field Trip Report: April – Sapphires in Franklin, NC, also collecting in Sullivan, MO.

Old Business: Reminder that the CVGMC Annual Picnic will be October 8, 2024

Winning bragging rights certificates were handed out.

New Business:

Announcements: Sang happy birthday to Larry H.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

April Program

The March program was on Volcanoes and this month we will continue the theme with a program about igneous rocks. The program will have tips on how to identify igneous rocks and show case some of the more common and unusual specimens.

2024 Bragging Rights Winners

Best Purchased Tracie Jeffries



Best Collected Shelda Aultman



Best Crafted Slade Harvin



2024 Gem Mineral Show Theme

Our annual show will be October 18-10 this year. Fellow club member Baxter gave me several ideas for show themes. I thought it was a sign when one of his ideas matched a topic I have been thinking about. Our theme this year will be “A Rainbow of Rocks, Gems, and Minerals.”

I envision people selecting specific-colored gems, rocks, and minerals for their display cases. For example, a display case of nothing but green specimens such as; actinolite, amazonite, beryl, bloodstone, calcite, emerald, epidote, fluorite, fuchsite, garnet, hiddenite, malachite, moss agate, olivine, peridot, serpentine, tourmaline, unakite... To get enough specimens you can combine close colors such as red and pink, blue and purple, yellow and orange, white and clear, or brown and black.

Other case ideas that would fit the theme would be fluorescent minerals, or cases highlighting certain minerals that come in a large variety of colors. For example, Jeff Schlottman’s recent program on Fluorite and its amazing variety of colors comes to mind. Other potential minerals would be quartz, calcite, tourmaline, topaz, and beryl varieties. Some of the latter can give our lapidarists a chance to show off some of their beautiful creations.

I am excited about this theme and I am sure you will design some creative, colorful, and amazing cases!

I recently read an article on how to set up creative, eye-catching cases. I included the link below.

<https://wheretofindrocks.com/best-practices-guide-to-gem-show-display-case-design/be>

Tracie



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Club Meeting

**Tuesday
April 9, 2024
St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
Hickory, NC**

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