

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

FEBRUARY 2012

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2012 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-572-1580	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
Vice President:	Joan Glover 828-324-0707	Field Trip:	Harry Polly 828-728-9553		Eric Fritz 828-495-7031
Treasurer:	Zan Ritchie 828-495-8456	Education:	Glenn Bolick	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Secretary:	Dean Russell 828-330-0034				

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.



It's Show Time

Parade of Gems

INSIDE

President's Message----- 2  
 Minutes----- 2  
 Bragging Rock Contest Winners--- 2  
 Field Trip News----- 3  
 February Program----- 3  
 Children's Project----- 3  
 Show Flyer----- 3  
 Dues are Due----- 3  
 Grab Bag Packing----- 4  
 Having Fun: Junior Activities----- 4  
 Speakers in Residence----- 4  
 Mini Miners Monthly----- 5

CATAWBA VALLEY  
 GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Website:

<http://www.cvgmc.com/>

Web Master: Mike Streater

Velda L McLean, Editor  
 3484 Coy Miller Road  
 Lenoir, NC 28645  
[velda@email.com](mailto:velda@email.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Baxter Leonard, Club President

Thanks to George Max and all the volunteers who assembled grab bags on January 14. Due to the great response, all of the grab bags were virtually completed in 90 minutes. This effort will bring smiles to many children at our March show.



I had a chance to see the dinosaur exhibit at the Catawba Science Center during its first week of exhibition. Eric Fritz's many fossilized items were in four cases on loan, and we all should take advantage on seeing this exhibit and his truly beautiful specimens--my favorites were the Harding County South Dakota T. Rex specimens, the polished dinosaur bone items, and the cones from Argentina. Thanks Eric for your generous loan.

Since we have no club meeting in March, much final arrangements for the show needs to be reviewed at this month's meeting. All members should make an effort to attend and ask what questions need to be answered. Warren Hollar's efforts to publicize the event within the school systems have shown responses already. The feature exhibitor has continued to be notified of updates, and I, as much as anyone, am looking forward to the diversity of things to see and learn at our annual show.

***Baxter Leonard***

### CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC. Minutes, January 10, 2011

The January 2012 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Baxter Leonard at 7:00 PM. There were 33 members and 3 guests present. The minutes of the December 2011 meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Zan Ritchie reported that the checkbook balance as of December 2011 was \$10,910.60. He also requested any member who is not receiving the Club Newsletter to contact him.

**Field Trip Report:** January field trip will be Grab Bag packing at Lenior-Rhyne University on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

Tentative February field trip will be to Bower's Farm to collect Limonite.

**Show Committee:** George Max reported that he received the contract from the Hickory Metro Convention Center (HMCC). George also reported that the dealer list is growing.

**Education Committee:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** Larry Huffman reported that there is a need for Student Door Prizes for the Show. If you are able to donate, please contact Larry or drop off at PO BBQ in Hickory. There were three mineral identification books available from Richard Aultman.

**Closing of Business:** The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM

**Program:** The Bragging Rock Contest.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Russell, Secretary

### JANUARY BRAGGING ROCK CONTEST AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Joan Glover

#### **1st place Best Collected:**

*Harry Polly,*  
Apatite, Garnet, and Autanite on Feldspar--Yancey  
County Ray Mine

#### **1st place Best Purchased:**

*Michael J. Wiest,*  
Fluorite Auglaze--Ohio;  
Kammererite--Turkey;  
Shattuckite with Malachite --Namibia

#### **1st place Best Crafted:**

*Phyllis Bridgeman,*  
Display of Picture Rocks



## FIELD TRIP NEWS



Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator  
This is February and time for our annual dig at Bowers Farm in Stanly County for Limonite. We will meet at 8:00 am in the Roses' parking lot on the morning of the 18th and travel to the dig site. There is a \$5.00 dig fee. You will need a shovel, mattock, scratching tools, food, water, and rain gear. Also a collecting bucket or bag will be useful. There is a short walk in if approximately 1/4 mile with moderate inclines. There are no facilities and no food places close.

**Harry Polly**

## Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club 42nd Annual Unifour Gem, Mineral, Bead, Fossil and Jewelry Show

March 16, 17 & 18, 2012



Friday - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Saturday - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Sunday - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Hickory Metro Convention Center**  
**1950-A 13th Avenue Drive S.E.**  
**I-40 exit 125**  
**Lenoir, North Carolina**

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Joan Glover

The program in February will be *Carolina Collecting Sites*.

### Volunteer to Help with the Show And Get Free Admission

At our February 14 meeting, we will pass around sign-up sheets for demonstrations and for helping with ticket and grab bag sales at the March 16-18 Gem Show, so be thinking about how you can help. It's a great way to get free admission to the show.

People are encouraged to do exhibits for the show. Inform George Max or Wayne Bowman the size of case you will need if you plan to exhibit.



## CHILDREN'S PROJECT 2012 CLUB SHOW



## DUES ARE DUE DON'T GET DROPPED

Treasurer Zan Ritchie will be purging the membership list first of the year. **The Membership Form must accompany your dues in order for your name to show up on the 2012 Club Roster.**

Honorary members also need to fill out the form in order to keep records up to date and maintain your *Honorary Membership*.

Members received the *Membership Information Forms* with the December newsletter. You may also find a copy on the club's website: <http://www.cvgmc.com/> or contact an officer.



## No Dues accepted at the Show!

No membership applications or membership dues will be accepted at the show.



## GRAB BAG PACKING

George Max, Show Committee

There will be nearly 500 grab bags for sale at our Gem and Mineral Show in March, thanks to the 20 enthusiastic people who packed them in record time on January 14th. Each January we have fun at our annual grab bag packing session at Lenoir-Rhyne, so if you didn't get to come this year, look forward to joining us next year. Start saving materials to pack in the grab bags next year.



At our February 14 meeting, we will pass around sign-up sheets for demonstrations and for helping with ticket and grab bag sales at the March 16-18 Gem Show, so be thinking about how you can help. It's a great way to get free admission to the show.

People are encouraged to do exhibits for the show. Inform George Max or Wayne Bowman the size of case you will need if you plan to exhibit.

**George Max**

## HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

### An Update on Revisions to Our Badge Program

As noted in previous articles, I've been working this past year on five new units to add to our Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program. I'm glad to report those are done, the new badges have been designed, and the order has been sent to our badge manufacturer, A-B Emblem in North Carolina. I anticipate having the badges in-hand to be able to start awarding to kids by the end of February.



In the meantime, I've been going back over all the previous fifteen units, inserting cross-references to the new units, checking any references to web sites to make sure they're still active, and adding additional activities and little tweaks and adjustments here and there, largely in response to great suggestions that have been sent in over the years from local juniors leaders. My target date to have all this done, with a revised manual posted to the AFMS web site and badges to distribute, is the end of February. Watch in next month's newsletter, when we'll hopefully be hitting the "Go!" button. Until then--have fun in the New Year! <http://www.amfed.org/>

*AFMS Newsletter* – February, 2012

## SPEAKERS IN RESIDENCE

Steve Weinberger, Wildacres Workshop Committee

What a line-up Speaker Coordinator Bruce Gaber has given us for the 2012 EFMLS Wildacres Workshops. Whether you attend the April session or the September session, you're sure to be "wowed"!



absolutely "wow" you with his talks and fabulous photographs.

September (3 - 9) will feature Julian Gray, curator of Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, GA. A Georgia native, he has collected minerals since age twelve. Although he is particularly interested in micromounting and optical mineralogy, he enjoys sharing his passion for minerals with others and his illustrated talks will reflect his wide range of interests in minerals and travel.



Registration for the week long Wildacres session still remains a bargain. The April session is \$350 while September is \$370 per person. This includes the full week's activities plus room and board. The only "extra" added on to the tuition is a small charge for materials fees for the class or classes that Chair you take during the week. Faceting for example, will be \$25 or \$30 while classes involving metals may be higher due to the higher cost of silver, gold-filled wire, etc. Instructors are required to keep their materials fees "at cost" in order to keep them as low as possible.

A week at Wildacres is fun, relaxing, and most enjoyable. If you've never been, seriously consider joining the group this year for one or both of the sessions.

A list of classes being offered along with a registration form are included in the issue of EFMLS News (pages 5-6 and 8 <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/> ). More information and photos can be found on our EF Wildacres Workshop website <[www.amfed.org/efmls](http://www.amfed.org/efmls/)>. Click on the Wildacres tab. We encourage you to register as early as possible - class sizes are kept small so that you can get the maximum attention from your instructor so the earlier you register, the better your chance of being placed in your first choice. Once a class is filled, you will be assigned to your 2nd or perhaps 3rd or 4th choice, so please be sure to indicate all on the registration form.

I look forward to seeing you at an EFMLS Wildacres Workshop in 2012. I can guarantee you a wonderful week!

*EFMLS News* --February, 2012

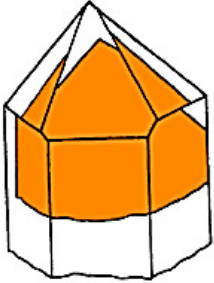
# MINI MINERS MONTHLY

Vol. 6 No. 1

A Monthly Publication for Young Mineral Collectors

January 2012

1



A **ghost** specimen is created when a crystal grows and then, at a later time, more of the same mineral grows over the first crystal. The result is that the first crystal can be seen inside the larger, outer crystal.

True or False?

Gold is **malleable**. This means that it can be hammered into very thin sheets.

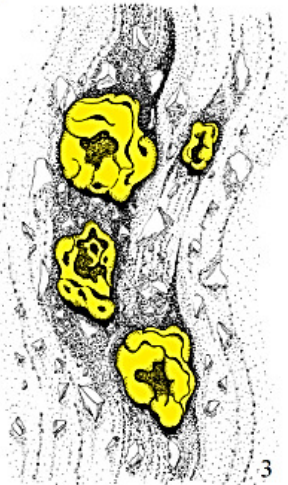
True or False?

Gold has a **vitreous** luster.

True or False?

Like copper, silver, platinum and mercury, gold is a **native element**.

True or False?



3

Silver has a bright white, silvery color, it has a metallic luster, is soft (only 2 1/2 to 3 on the hardness scale) and crystallizes in the hexagonal crystal system.

True or False?



2



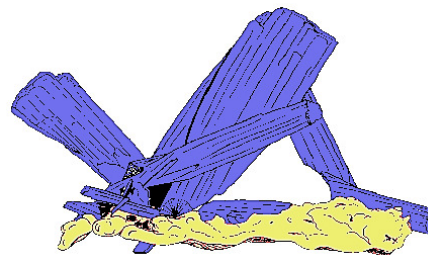
4

Pictured here is blue-green amazonite. Amazonite is a variety of the group of minerals known as the *feldspars*. The feldspar minerals are the most abundant minerals in the Earth's continental crust.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Here is a picture of large azurite crystals on matrix. ("Matrix" is the term mineralogists use for the rock or mineral material on which a crystal forms.) Azurite and its green "cousin," malachite, have very similar chemical formulas. In fact, over time, a chemical change occurs and azurite can become malachite. Azurite and malachite are copper minerals (which simply means they contain copper.)

TRUE or FALSE?



5

## Answers

1. False. A phantom specimen.
2. False. Silver crystallizes in the isometric or cubic system.
3. True: malleable. False: metallic luster. True: native element.
4. True.
5. True.

*Darryl Powell*

Diamond Dan  
Publications  
P.O. Box 143  
Manchester,  
New York  
14504

585.278.3047 or  
585.289.4936

Publisher of  
*Mini Miners  
Monthly*

the only monthly  
publication about  
minerals for  
young collectors

[www.diamonddanpublications.net](http://www.diamonddanpublications.net)

First Class Mail



# TAR HEEL ROCKHOUND

Official Publication of

**Catawba Valley  
Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.**

Volume 41 Number 2

Club Meeting  
Tuesday  
February 14, 2012  
7:00 PM

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

**Tar Heel Rockhound**  
Velda McLean, Editor  
Post Office Box 2521  
Hickory, North Carolina 28603-2521  
<http://www.cvgmc.com/>

