

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

FEBRUARY 2016

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

### 2016 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	George Brown 828-292-7407	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-572-1826	Show Chairmen:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028
Vice President:	Joan Glover 828-446-7633	Field Trip:	Harry Polly 828-728-9553	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
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				

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.



### FIELD TRIP NEWS

#### Position Open:

The Club has the Field Trip Chairman position still open and we need someone to volunteer to fill it. Harry Polly is willing to help as much as possible with contacts, etc. as he is no longer able to do it physically.

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CATAWBA VALLEY  
GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

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

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

George Brown, Club President

It will be time for our Big Annual Show before you know it. Patty and I cannot wait! Our club has a reputation for putting on a great show. So now is the time to get involved and be a part of it. Mark and clear your calendars. **We will need a lot of volunteers.** Come out and meet our great vendors, learn, teach our guests, and share our passion. CVGMC Gem & Mineral Show-- April 1-3.



**DIG IT!!**

*George*

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

### Minutes for January 12, 2016

The January 12, 2016 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President George Brown at 7:10 PM. There were 25 members and 1 visitor present.

**Minutes:** Motion by Larry Huffman, seconded by Rick Glover to accept the minutes for the December 8, 2015 minutes. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

#### **Treasurer Report:**

- 1) Bank balance was reported.
- 2) Auction results were reported.
- 3) Membership dues and paperwork are due by the end of February.

#### **Field Trip Report:**

- 1) Grab bags for the Show were prepared at St. Andrews Lutheran Church Saturday, January 16th, at 9:00 AM.
- 2) The Club needs a new Field Trip Chairperson.

**Education Committee:** None

#### **Show Committee:**

- 1) Baxter Leonard reported:
  - A) Ed Speer will be the guest speaker on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He would be available to speak at a banquet that night also.
  - B) Need Club members to display for cases.
  - C) Last documented diamond found in NC will be on display.
  - D) Case on Hiddenite and Crabtree Mine.
  - E) Projected dates for the 2017 Show are March 25-27, 2017.
  - F) **The Show Committee and anyone interested will meet 6:00 PM before the February 9<sup>th</sup> Club meeting.**
- 2) Larry Huffman reported:
  - A) Need clips for the table cloths.
  - B) Proposed have a Club table up front with volunteers to provide information on the Club.

3) Warren Huffman reported:

- A) He would take care of news releases.
- B) Recommended that the Boy and Girl Scouts only attend on Saturday.
- C) Suggested possible free admission for students with school ID and a paying parent from schools that usually attend the Show on Friday. (Not a school day on that Friday.)
- D) He can send out information to groups with chaperones for the children to attend on Friday. Example – Community School Programs. He also suggests that the visits would be kept in a designated 2 hour time period.
- E) He also suggested inviting Senior Citizen Groups, Community Groups, Scouts, and Home School Groups. Slade Harvin said he would contact the Home School Groups.

**Old Business:** None

#### **New Business:**

- 1) Richard Aultman recognized Terry Russell, Ryan and Megan Sims for their financial work at the December Club auction.
- 2) Fossil Fair February 20, 2017 at the Gastonia Shields Museum. There is no fee to set up a table.
- 3) Warren Hollar, thru Richard Sipe, discussed the possibility of merging with the Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society. That Club is a member of the Southeastern Federation Mineralogical Society, Inc. (SFMS).
- 4) Larry Huffman briefly discussed the possibility of our Club joining the SFMS, because it would open up the possibility of more collection sites. We have lost several sites the past several years. Such as Bower's Farm, Ray Mine and the Martin Marietta Rock Quarry.
- 5) A brief report on two Club members who had surgery recently was given.
- 6) Larry Huffman and Hugh McCammon reported on the feeler about a Club House for the Club to the City of Hickory to use the former Soup Kitchen Building. The City Manager let them know that the building will be razed and used for part of the "Greenway". He was interested in the Club's letter and the City Council was interested also. Unfortunately, there are no buildings available at this time.
- 7) Club members should keep their eyes open for buildings suitable for the Club.
- 8) There was discussion of the possibility of having a banquet for the vendors and the Club members on Saturday, April 2, 2017, with Ed Speer being the speaker. A motion to table the idea was made by Zan Richie, seconded by Albert Keiser. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

**Closing of Business:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**Program:** Bragging Rocks Contest

Bragging Rocks Contest Winners:

Best Collected – Jake Canipe. – Amethyst Cluster

Best Purchased – Danny Jones – Brochantite

Best Crafted – Jimmy Strickland – Faceted Amethyst

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Russell, Secretary

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Joan Glover, Program Director

The Program this month will be "A Bolivian Amethyst Mine." It will be presented by Jeff Schlottman.

*Joan*

## FINAL NOTICE FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES

Terry Russell, Treasurer

The deadline for membership dues is February 29, 2016. You may find membership forms on the club's website:

<http://www.cvgmc.com/>. Blank forms will be available at the February meeting.

The membership form must accompany your dues in order for your name to be included on the 2016 club roster and to receive the monthly newsletter. **Honorary members must also fill out the form each year in order to keep the club records up to date and to maintain your honorary membership status.** Please print clearly and legibly on the form so that your information can be updated accurately. Anyone who does not renew their membership by the end of February will be deleted from the roster.

## GEM SHOW TICKET VOLUNTEERS

Terry Russell

It's not too early to be thinking about the Gem & Mineral Show coming up at the beginning of April. One area where we need volunteers is for ticket sales. With that being said, I am soliciting volunteers NOW to help sell tickets at the front tables. The ideal number of people per shift is three, but if we can have four per shift, it gives us more flexibility. Each shift is 3 hours long. I would like to have the work schedule finalized by the March meeting so I have time to communicate the process to everyone. **PLEASE** consider volunteering – it's a great way for new members to get involved and get to know other club members. I will have a signup sheet at the February meeting.



## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB SHOW *NC Emeralds and Diamonds Featured*

Dr. Warren Hollar, Educational Liaison

The Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club will hold their forty-sixth annual gem, mineral, fossil, and jewelry show on **April 1, 2, and 3, 2016** at the **Hickory Metro Convention Center**. Hours are 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Chaperoned school, boy or girl scouts, 4-H, church youth, day care, retirement home groups, and law enforcement officers in uniform will be **admitted free anytime during this 3-day event.**

The show theme is "**North Carolina Emeralds.**"

The feature exhibit this year will be Crabtree Mine Emeralds from Mitchel County and Hiddenite Emeralds from Alexander County. On Saturday, a display will feature the last verified **North Carolina diamond** discovered by Roger Grinnell. This Diamond was found in McDowell County in 2008. Ed Spear, internationally known geologist and Roger Grinnell will man a table with a microscope to educate visitors about diamonds and emeralds. Club members and several vendors will provide outstanding displays of various precious stones from around the world for enjoyment by show visitors. On Saturday, April 2, Ed Spear, geologist will offer two slide show presentations for visitors. The first show will be presented at 1:00 p.m. and will feature North Carolina Emeralds. The second show will be presented at 3:00 p.m. and will highlight North Carolina diamonds.

An education area will house hands-on displays and demonstrations of the lapidary arts of faceting, cabachon cutting, and tumbling. An area with black lights will allow visitors to see fluorescent minerals. Younger children will enjoy searching for free specimens at a sand table. Participants are invited to bring gem and mineral samples for identification at a booth in the education area staffed by a geologist. Over twenty vendors will be on hand to sell during the show.

Drawings for regular door prizes will be held every hour. The club will be selling grab bags containing minerals and fossils for \$1.00 each. Cost of admission is \$5.00 which will allow admission for all three days of the show.

If you have additional questions concerning bringing a group to the show, please contact Warren Hollar or Baxter Leonard. Dr. Hollar's email address is [whollar@charter.net](mailto:whollar@charter.net) and his phone number is (828)446-5400.





## GRAB BAGS

George Max



We enjoyed a stimulating two hours on January 16th packing grab bags at St. Andrew's Church Fellowship Hall. We had a wide variety of gems, minerals, and fossils, and this allowed us to make some really good grab bags. Twenty-three of us packed 560 bags. A big thank you to all who made donations of their time and grab bag material. This had to be our most exciting bag-packing ever!

PHOTOS BY JOAN GLOVER



## JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Gary Lohman, Jrs. Chair

Happy New Year to all young rockhounds – of all ages! Field trips are an important aspect of many clubs. While we mourn the closing of several popular sites and feel the frustration with increased access restrictions and policy changes brought on by changes in the management of local quarries, we need to search for alternative field trip opportunities. Hands-on activities for junior rock hounds are vital to our clubs' missions.



Museum field trips can be interesting alternative to the popular collecting field trips. Museums typically only display a small portion of their collections at any one time. Many museums are also actively involved in collecting, researching, preparing, and curating mineral and fossil material. Both the undisplayed and in-work holdings are the center pieces of a museum's "back room." Most museum curators also appreciate the importance of gaining the interest of today's youth. Consequently, many museums are willing to forge partnerships with clubs and open their back rooms to junior rock hound field trips and special presentations. Many curators even show children how to handle and touch things, thus making such museum visits also "hands-on." Back room field trips are even exciting for the accompanying adults! In the spirit of partnering, clubs in return could also offer to help out their local museums through volunteering subject matter expertise as amateurs and even extra specimens to the museum. Though one might think that museums already have the "best" stuff, many museums long for local specimens and the stories of the sites that they help illustrate. If you're looking for programs for young rock hounds, consider forming alliances with your local natural history museum or even the geology department of a local university or college. The nice thing about museum back room field trips is that they can generally be conducted during less optimal seasons for collecting, such as winter.

Finally, let the junior rockhounds be part of the process. Help them to make contact and learn how to speak with curators. Curators rarely say 'no' to junior rockhounds and using the experience to teach them organizing and communication skills will prove useful for life, not to mention the jobs as future club officers!

*EFMLS News* --February, 2016





## BRAGGING ROCKS CONTEST WINNERS

Best Collected – Jake Canipe. – Amethyst Cluster  
Best Purchased – Danny Jones – Brochantite  
Best Crafted – Jimmy Strickland – Faceted Amethyst

PHOTOS BY JOAN GLOVER



## THINK SPRING (OR FALL) – THINK WILDACRES!

by Steve Weinberger, WA Committee Chair

I don't know what the weather is like where you live, but here in Maryland there sure are signs of winter. Nigh time temperatures as I write this have been hovering in the upper teens with daytime temps in the upper 20's. What happened to the 70's we had in December?

With all that said, it's time to start thinking about the warmth of spring....and spring means only one thing - another opportunity for you and your club members to take advantage of one of the Eastern Federation Wildacres Workshops!



Our spring session will be held from May 9 - 15 and the very creative Helen Serras-Herman will be our featured speaker. Helen's a delightful and knowledgeable gal who has an amazing talent for unique creating jewelry, carved gems, and wonderful sculptures combining gems and metals. She'll regale us with six talks during the week.

The fall session will be held from September 5 -11 and our featured speaker will be Alfredo Petrov, world traveler and mineral expert. Alfredo too is an excellent speaker and delightful person who will be living on campus with us during the week (as will Helen and her husband Andy).



Think spring (or fall)! — think Wildacres! If you've never been, you're in for a treat. Wildacres is situated on its own private mountain, just off the Blue-Ridge Parkway near Little Switzerland, NC. (just an hour north of Asheville). Housing is in modern motel-type rooms each with private bath. Meals are served family style in the modern dining room and classes are held in well-equipped rooms throughout the campus.

Think spring (or fall)! — think Wildacres! The cost for a week of fun at an EFMLS Wildacres workshop is just \$400 per person. That fee includes room and board plus one of the best views in the Blue Ridge as well as the opportunity to learn a new skill (or refine an old one) from our carefully selected instructors, meet new folks who share common interests with you, and "get away from it all" for the week in an idyllic setting. Just think...no stinky exhaust fumes, honking car or truck horns, and no blaring radios or TV's. What you will hear is the sound of birds chirping, people laughing or engaging in quiet conversation, and/or working on projects in classes. If we're lucky, we may also hear the sound of music from a class held by one of the music groups that also use the facility. (We've had cellists and dulcimer players with us the past few years.)

Think spring (or fall)! — think Wildacres! Make your plans now to fill in an application (see page 10, *EFMLS News* --February, 2016, <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efnews/feb16web.pdf>) and join the fun. A list of the classes we're going to have this year can be found on the next three pages.

Want to see what Wildacres is all about? We've got a nifty video program that you can see by logging on to the EFMLS Wildacres information web site (<efmlswildacres.org>). While there, you can also get more information about our program and perhaps get answers to some of your questions. You'll find an registration form there that you can download, fill in and print out as well as photos and a link to the Wildacres Retreat website. And you can always contact our Registrar, Director or me by clicking on the contact link on our Wildacres web site (efmls-wildacres.org).

Think spring (or fall)! and plan on having a ball at one or both of the EFMLS Wildacres Workshops.

*EFMLS News* --February, 2016

First Class Mail

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# TAR HEEL ROCKHOUND

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Club Meeting

Tuesday  
February 9, 2016  
7:00 PM

Show Committee Meeting  
(and anyone interested)  
6:00 PM

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