

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

JANUARY 2013

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2013 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

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Secretary:	Dean Russell 828-330-0034		Bob Tallent 828-851-8434		

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.

BRAGGING ROCK CONTEST



GRAB BAG SATURDAY



DUES ARE DUE

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CATAWBA VALLEY
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to serving as your president in 2013. I have a great passion for rock collecting. If I find a rock (or piece of gravel) that is pretty or unusual, I pick it up. My treasures contain more junk than anything of value. But it brings me great enjoyment. I will have to rely on the more knowledgeable members to answer questions that may arise.

The next several months will be busy as we prepare for the March show. Last year I heard quite a few out-of-towners commenting that our show was the best they had attended. I am sure this is because you are such dedicated members who go above and beyond to make the show a success. I challenge you to think outside the box and come up with some new ideas for the show in the future.

I would like to thank Baxter Leonard for serving as president over the last two years. I have enjoyed seeing the club grow both in members and knowledge under his leadership.

Please do not hesitate to offer your ideas or suggestions as I serve as your president.

Norma

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Minutes for December 11, 2012

The December 11, 2012 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Baxter Leonard at 6:30 PM at the Catawba Science Center Salt Block. There were 30 members and guests present.

Motion was made by Harry Polly and seconded by Glenn Bolick that minutes from the November 2012 meeting be approved. Club members approved the motion.

Treasurer Report: Check book balance is \$13,980.28.

Field Trip Report: The December field trip was "Rock Day" at the Salt Block at the Catawba Science Center. Eric Fritz showed pictures.

Show Committee: Reminder that the annual gem show is March 22-24, 2013. Eighteen confirmed vendors and the Hickory Metro Convention Center are in.

Education Committee: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A. Harry Polly talked about the "Don Pedro" aquamarine.
- B. Harry Polly mentioned the club needed a new field trip chairperson for 2013. Dean Russell volunteered.
- C. January Field Trip will be to fill the "Grab Bags" for the 2013 Show.
- D. Zan Richie introduced his wife, Kate as a new club member.

- E. Baxter Leonard stated the club would put together two exhibits, non-competitive, for the 2013 gem show. One would be Fossils of NC and the other NC Minerals. Baxter stated that he will need loaner minerals for the exhibits.
- F. The January meeting will be the "Bragging Rock" meeting. One specimen per category per member will be allowed.
- G. President Baxter Leonard presented a club award thanking George Max for being Club Show Chairman from 1997 to 2012.
- H. President Baxter Leonard thanked the club's officers for their help during his administration.
- I. The club thanked Larry Huffman of PO BBQ in Hickory for his donation of the Christmas party dinner tonight.

Closing of Business: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Program: Annual Christmas Party and Auction.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

JANUARY PROGRAM BRAGGING ROCK CONTEST

Joan Glover, Program Director

The program this month will be the Bragging Rock Contest. The three categories are:



BEST SELF COLLECTED



BEST SELF PURCHASED



BEST SELF CRAFTED

Club member may enter **one specimen per category** and must have acquired the specimen in the year of **2012**.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP

Harry Polly, Field Trip Director

The field trip for January will be the grab bag make up. It will be held on January 12 from 9:00 am till. Depending on the number of people to show up, it could

last until lunch. Last year we were through in just over an hour. We need good clean specimens, preferably smaller than fist size. We will be meeting in the basement of the Mingus Science Building at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, NC. George Max is heading this up.



GRAB BAG SATURDAY

On Saturday, January 12th, at 9:00 AM, the Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club will pack grab bags for the upcoming Gem and Mineral Show grab bags are a popular item at



our Gem Show, and we invite and encourage your participation in this project. Park in the parking lot beside Mingus Science Building at Lenoir-Rhyne University and enter the science building through the north door (near the metal storage building.) We will meet in the Geology Lab on the bottom floor.

We need a variety of different minerals which are clean and of appropriate size (no larger than a baseball.) Even if you do not have material to donate, we welcome your help. It's a great way to enjoy other club members while participating in a project which helps school children and others learn about gems and minerals.

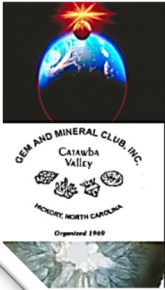
So, if you would like the opportunity to clear out a few rocks and have fun making surprise bags, we look forward to seeing you on Saturday the 12th!

George Max

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY/AUCTION



DECEMBER FIELD TRIP REPORT



Rock Day at CSC

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8, 2012
10AM TO 4PM

This event Sponsored by:
Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club
CVGMC will be on-site with many exciting activities including faceting & rock tumbling
Enjoy solar observation Catawba Valley Astronomy Club

VISIT CatawbaScience.org for more info

The Rock Day was not as well attended as we hoped (there was a Christmas Parade downtown) but it was a good opportunity for the 11 to 12 club members to learn more and visit. The Science Center really was helpful in making us feel welcome and helping to direct people.

George Max



FOUR STEPS: BUILDING A MINERAL COLLECTION

Condensed from Darryl Powell's Article
...putting a bunch of specimens on a table doesn't make a mineral collection. It makes a pile of minerals. A bunch of minerals becomes a true mineral collection when you take care of it, store your specimens properly, number, record and label your specimens. Then you have a real collection.

There are only 4 basic things you need to do. They are *Properly Store Your Specimens, Number Your Specimens, Label Your Specimens, Keep a Record of Your Specimens.*

PROPER STORAGE

Always keep your specimens safe so they don't get chipped or broken.

Option 1: Egg Cartons/Cigar Box

Step 1: Decorate pictures from mineral magazines. Write your name on box.

Step 2: Put a small amount of cotton in space or line bottom of box with batting..

Step 3: Carefully place your specimens in each space.

Option 2: Small boxes (shoe or cigar). Put in dividers so your specimens



Option 3: Plastic Hardware Storage Box with Drawers
Option 4: Shelf

They could be dropped, and can easily be pushed into each other. They will also get dusty and it can be challenging to clean some mineral species without damaging them. You can find an actual display cabinet or old curio that has a glass front to it.

Option 5: Old Chest of Drawers

Choose drawers that are deep enough to allow 1/2 inch or more clearance.



NUMBER YOUR MINERAL SPECIMENS

Step 1: Write small numbers on a piece of white paper. Better yet, type out numbers on your computer in an easy to read font like Times New Roman, and use a very small font size. For most mineral specimens, 8 is recommended.

Step 2: Carefully cut out the number "1" and glue it to the mineral specimen. Always apply a number on a part of the specimen that will not be seen, such as on the bottom of the specimen or on the back. Also, do not apply it to a crystal but rather to the matrix. If your specimen does not have matrix, find the least visible spot where it will not be easily noticed.

Step 3: On a sheet of paper, write the number, the name of the mineral specimen and where it came from. This is your Specimen List. If you have a computer, keep your list on the computer. Remember to always back up your files so you don't lose your information. Your list should look something like this:

Diamond Dan's Mineral Collection

1. Quartz Arkansas
2. Galena Kansas
3. Fluorite Colorado
4. Calcite New York



Step 4: Repeat steps 1-3 for all of the specimens in your collection.

LABEL YOUR MINERALS

Label includes the name and locality (where it was found) of the mineral. Some mineral labels include the name of the collector. Labels are written by hand, printed on a computer printer, or are typed. The size and color of the label is up to you. Labels are usually printed on slightly heavier paper. Place the label with the specimen in your cabinet. Mineral labels are collector's items themselves.



KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR SPECIMENS

Preserve as much information about the specimen as you can possibly find. When you add a specimen to your collection, you must write it down or, keep a computerized record.

What is the specimen? If it is calcite, record "Calcite." But if it is calcite with amethyst and pyrite, record "Calcite on Amethyst with Pyrite" or "Calcite and Pyrite on Amethyst" or whatever is the best description of the specimen.

Where was the specimen found? When you record this information, be as detailed as possible. The more information you can give, the more valuable the specimen will be in the future to other collectors. Let's say you purchased a specimen of marcasite that came from the great state of Missouri. You could simply record the locality as "Missouri." However, it is much more helpful and valuable to record that it came from the 1000 foot level, Magmont Mine, Iron County, Missouri. (Keep in mind that your labels don't have to have this detailed information.)

Who? There are two "who's" that are important to record.

Who collected the specimen? This piece of information is one of the hardest to get, especially if you are purchasing a specimen at a show.

Who has owned this specimen in the course of its history? Some day you may wish to sell some or all of your collection. When you do, you can get more money for the specimens if you have as much information about them and their histories as possible.

Other Information Worth Recording . . .

You don't have to keep information about a mineral that is easily found in a mineral book. Its chemical formula, for example, is easy to find on line or in a book. The crystal system is also basic information that is easy to find. However, there are some special pieces of information that would be worth recording. Here is a brief list:

Crystal Form. Some minerals can be found in different crystal forms. Pyrite is a great example. Most collectors know it crystallizes in the cubic or isometric system. However, your specimen might be a simple cube. Maybe it's a pyritohedron. Maybe it's a combination of a cube and an octahedral. Maybe it's a cube and a dodecahedron. This detailed information helps identify your unique specimen.

Price Paid. How acquired (purchase, trade, gift) and from whom.

Previous Owner(s)

Color-- especially if the color is particularly interesting or unique for the mineral species.

Stories or History behind the specimen

Written or Computerized?

Some of us old folks still like the idea of hand writing our collection catalog information. It feels more personal for some reason. However, most collectors, and certainly all museums, use a computerized system.

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First Class Mail

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Club Meeting

Bragging Rock Contest
Come early to set up if you plan to enter.

Tuesday
January 8, 2013
7:00 PM

St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd St NE
Hickory NC