

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

MARCH 2010

## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

### 2010 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President: Tom Winslow  
800-589-4619  
Vice President: Baxter Leonard  
Treasurer: Zan Ritchie  
828-495-8456  
Secretary: Jean Moran  
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828-757-8814  
Field Trip: Harry Polly  
828-728-9553  
Education: Glenn Bolick

Show Chairmen: George Max  
828-328-9107  
Baxter Leonard  
Scholarship: George Max  
828-328-9107

Club Address: PO Box 2521, Hickory, NC 28603-2521  
Regular Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
St Aloysius Catholic Church  
921 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 All About the Show***

### **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show**

**MARCH 19, 20, 21, 2010**

**HOURS** Fri. 9:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m.  
Sat. 9:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m.  
Sun. 10:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m.

### **PLACE: HICKORY METRO CONVENTION CENTER.**

Exit 125, I-40 next to Interstate (Just off I-40 with entrances from Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard and Highway 70)

**Hosted by: CATAWBA VALLEY GEM &  
MINERAL CLUB, INC.**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Winslow, Club President

OK, folks!  
It's Show time! Time to demonstrate your commitment to the *Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club!*

I realize that this is a tough year for everyone and it may get tougher before we see any light at the end of the tunnel. Right now, that light looks like an oncoming train. But, I believe the show is a good break. A good time to forget our worries for a while. A good time to communicate with friends within the collecting family. A good time to do some showing, demonstrating, buying, selling, and trading.

**We need your help** (as in manual labor). Please make an effort to participate in the show as much as you can. Some of us (like me) have limited time available but we can all still find a job to do at the show. As for me, I usually fall into the category of manual labor – especially at the end of the show when the strenuous work begins. Last year we were abandoned! Moving that last truck load from the Civic Center the LR College was very hard. **Please, this year, will some of you good folks please hang around to share in the misery?** I plan to be there to the very end if I have to unload the truck myself.

Enjoy the show!

--

Tom Winslow  
The Catawba Trader  
2843 Devonshire Road  
Newton, NC 28658-9799

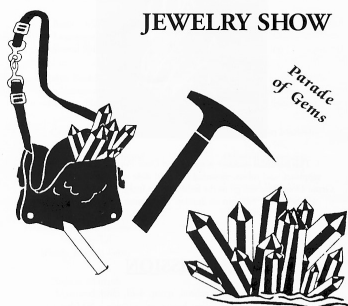
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## CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Minutes, February 9, 2010

President Tom Winslow called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The only visitors to be recognized were Jimmy and

### UNIFOUR GEM, MINERAL, AND JEWELRY SHOW



Becky Strickland who were involved with the evening program. The January 12, 2010 minutes were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Zan Ritchie noted the annual EFMLS dues have been paid. The checking account has \$ 10,175.63 and the CD is \$ 16,312.42 (8 month CD at 0.35% interest).

**Audit Committee Report:** Harry Polly reported the financial records for 2009 have been audited and were found to be in good order.

**Show Committee Report:** Harry Polly reported that 2000 show brochures have been copied and more can be printed as needed since we did not use a print shop. This has saved money. Exhibit forms are available and members are encouraged to exhibit and specify the class of exhibit for judging purposes.

Sign up sheets to help with ticket sales and setup were distributed. The show will be the March field trip.

**Field Trip Report:** Harry Polly reported the January 16<sup>th</sup> field trip was successful. Twenty people went and some nice quartz crystals were found.

On January 23rd, over 500 grab bags were packed in 2 hours.

The February field trip will be on February 20th at Bower's farm for limonite pseudomorphs. There will be a \$5.00 fee. The trip will not be held if it is raining or freezing.

**Education Committee Report:** Glenn Bolick reported that he and George Max will be going to Snow Creek Elementary School for Hobby Day and will make presentations to students in grades three to six.

**Meeting Facility Committee:** Albert Keiser had no report. Tom said it is important to check out environmental issues that could be associated with any property because clean up costs could be very high.

**New Business:** President Winslow noted that business is now using *Facebook*. It is free and he recently used it to picture a club activity.

George Max asked if we were going to have a March meeting. After some discussion, Zan Ritchie moved we have no March meeting. If business requires it, we can meet during show setup. Glenn Bolick seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned with the drawing and distribution of door prizes by President Tom Winslow.

**Program:** Baxter Leonard distributed certificates for the winners of the January Bragging Rock Contest. He then introduced Jimmy Strickland who presented the program: *Rocks You Won't Want to Lick or Carry Around in Your Pocket*. If you collect minerals you need to be aware of the hazards such as: mercury in cinnabar, arsenic (in 30 to 40 minerals), asbestos, radioactivity, and radon. One must exercise care in storing, displaying and doing lapidary work on some minerals. Inquire before you buy a mineral if the specimen requires special care in handling or storing it.

Respectfully Submitted,  
George Max, Acting Secretary

**There Will Be No  
March Meeting or Field Trip  
Due to the  
Annual Catawba Valley  
Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show**

## ADMISSION FOR THE SHOW

Chaperoned school, scout, 4-H, church youth, and retirement home groups-----FREE  
Children (12 and under)-----FREE  
Adults (13 and over including senior citizens)  
Ticket Good for Entire Show-----\$4.00  
Admission at door-----\$4.00

FREE ADMISSION  
FOR CURRENT MEMBERS

## FORTIETH ANNUAL

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## HELP WANTED

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**President Tom Winslow**

## NO DUES ACCEPTED AT THE SHOW!

No membership applications or membership dues will be accepted at the show. To pay your dues for 2010, send an application form and a check for the appropriate amount shown on the form to Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, P.O. Box 2521, Hickory, NC 28603. Need a form? Contact any club officer listed in this bulletin.

**Alexander Ritchie, Club Treasurer**

## 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. The temperatures as I write this have been hovering in the upper teens and the wind chill has been at or below zero! Snow is on the ground and the forecast for us predicts a chance for more by the end of the week. Brrrr!

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 April 23 – 29 and Bob Jones, Sr. Editor of Rock & Gem Magazine will be our featured speaker. Bob's a delightful and knowledgeable guy who has a special knack for telling a story. He'll regale us with several during his daily talks.

The fall session will be held from September 7 - 13 and our featured speaker will be Lisa Karp who will regale us with information about jewelry. Lisa too is an excellent speaker and delightful person who will be living on campus with us during the week (as will Bob).



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 Eastern Federation workshop is \$350 - that 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), meet new folks who share common interests with you, and "get away from it all" for the week in an idyllic setting.

Think spring (or fall)! — think Wildacres! Make your plans now to fill in an application and join the fun. A list of the classes we're going to have this year and application can be found on <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/effeb10.pdf>.

Want to see what Wildacres is all about? We've got a nifty video program that you can see by logging on to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kac0qhJG0OM&feature=channel\\_page](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kac0qhJG0OM&feature=channel_page). You can also get more information about EFMLS Wildacres from our website <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/> and clicking on the Wildacres tab. 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.

Think spring (or fall)! and plan on having a ball at Wildacres. *EFMLS News* -- February 2010

## HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim-Brace Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

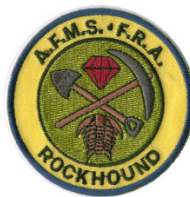
### Help Spread the Word about the FRA Program



With the new year upon us, I'd like to issue a plea to AFMS representatives from all our regional Federations (not limited to, but especially regional newsletter editors and junior activities chairs) to actively promote the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. Activity seems to be down a bit lately, and I receive the

occasional email asking about the program from junior leaders of local clubs who says they just happened to "stumble across" the program on the web. Rather than having folks stumble their way in, let's guide them to us! Alert folks in your Federation and within your club to <http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm>.

Any AFMS-affiliated club with even a single junior member can sign that child into FRA at no cost whatsoever, and that child will be sent a free FRA Membership patch, and your club will receive an AFMS/ FRA Certificate. From that initial step, kids can then work (either through formal, structured club activities or via home self-study) toward earning 15 free activity badges that span the full range of our hobby, as well as a "Rockhound" badge for kids earning 6 or more activity badges. Again, all free to the child and to the club, thanks to generous funding by the AFMS. Please help to continue spreading the word with brief write-ups in your regional and local newsletters and announcements at your Federation and club meetings. 97 clubs have used the program at various times and in various ways, but that's out of a total of 640 clubs within AFMS. Let's not rest until we've reached out to every child in every club.



Finally, I'm also seeking ideas for new badges we might consider adding to the program in coming years. My goal has always been to re-examine the program every four years or so. Last time was two years ago, when I revised elements of the original 9 badge units and added another 6.

I've already, in fact, received some great ideas unsolicited, such as adding units on fluorescent minerals, on thumbnails and micromounts, on map reading, on fundraising, and more. Toward the end of this year or early next year, my plan is to compile a list of potential topics and send them out for comments and votes from participating clubs, so please send me your ideas today. Here's thanking you in advance for your suggestions to make a fun program even more fun!

To view merit badges:

<http://www.amfed.org/fra/images/AFMS%20FRA%20Badges.jpg>  
*AFMS Newsletter* – March 2010

# MINI MINERS MONTHLY

Vol. 4 No. 2

February 2010

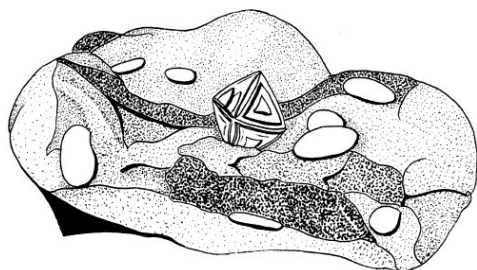
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## DIAMOND

One of the most famous, popular and valuable of all gems is the diamond. Diamond is number 10 on Mohs' Hardness Scale, making it the hardest substance on Earth. It is so hard that it is actually 4 times harder than corundum (number 9 on the hardness scale) and 8 times harder than topaz (number 8 on the hardness scale).

Most diamonds contain black carbon. These black diamonds are not useful as gems, but they are useful to make diamond blades for cutting and polishing rock. Pure diamonds are colorless. When light shines through them, especially when the diamonds are cut into gems, they break the light into its different colors. You will see flashes of different colors when light hits a gem quality diamond. This is a special optical property of gems called refraction. Refraction is a measurement of how much a material breaks light into its individual colors.

Natural diamonds are usually "diamond-shaped," that is, they are octahedral crystals. They can also form as cubes, and rarely in more complicated crystal forms.



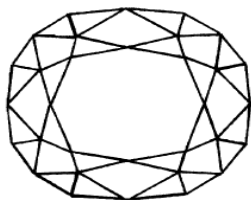
**Above left:** A diamond crystal in matrix, known as "blue ground" because it is a dark, grayish-blue color. This specimen is from South Africa.

In very rare situations, diamonds can have deep colors, like blue, yellow, red, orange or pink.



**Above right:** A single, octahedral diamond crystal. Note that the faces are composed of smaller octahedra.

Diamonds that are naturally colored are called "fancy diamonds" and can be extremely valuable. The Hope Diamond is one of the most famous fancy diamonds in history. Today it belongs to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and is on display in the Gem Gallery. If you go to the Smithsonian, you will see that the Hope Diamond is set in a necklace and is surrounded by diamonds.



Here is a simple drawing of the Hope Diamond by itself.

The name diamond literally means "invincible." As a result, people have believed that diamonds have the power to do all sorts of wonderful things for those fortunate enough to wear one. Legend says that diamonds protect people from fire, poisoning, snakes, a variety of sicknesses, floods and even evil spirits. Soldiers who wore diamond would be extremely courageous and, therefore, would be victorious in battle. Diamond rings are given before a couple gets married. This tradition goes back to the days when people believed that diamonds were a sign of purity and would make people love each other even more than they could without the diamond!

## THE FOUR C'S OF DIAMONDS

Diamonds are graded based on "the four C's," which are color, clarity, cut and carat weight. A higher quality gem, which means a more valuable gem, has high scores in each of these categories.

### COLOR

is a description of how colorless to yellow a diamond is. The highest quality white diamonds are the ones with absolutely no yellow color at all and are described as colorless. The scale is colorless, near colorless, faint yellow and yellow.

### CLARITY

is a description of the number of the flaws inside a cut diamond as well as where they are in the diamond. "Flaws" include inclusions and fractures.

### CUT

You might think that "cut" refers to the shape of a gem and the facets cut into that gem. However, cut is really a description of the dimensions of the gem. In other words, is it the right width and height so that light goes into the gem from the top and bounces back off of the faces on the bottom of the gem.

### CARAT WEIGHT

is a measure of the weight (and therefore, the size) of a cut diamond. Heavier, larger diamonds are a rarity and are, therefore, more valuable.

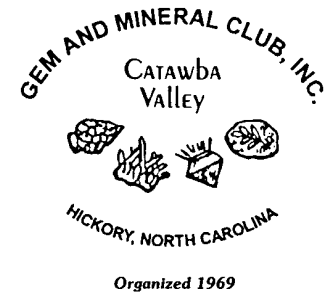
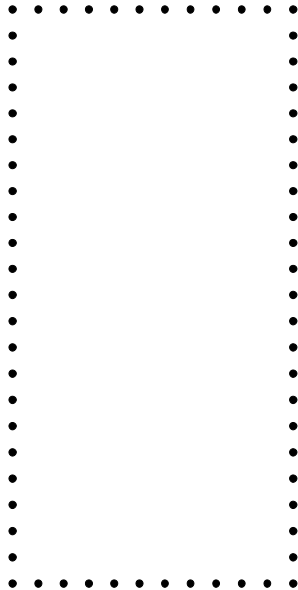
*The value of a diamond is determined by the combination of its color, clarity, cut and carat weight.*

**TAR HEEL ROCKHOUND**

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First Class Mail



# TAR HEEL ROCKHOUND

**Official Publication of Catawba  
Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.**

**Volume 39 Number 3**

## ***40th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show***

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Sun. 10:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m.

**PLACE: *HICKORY*  
METRO CONVENTION CENTER**

## OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:

General Show Chairman.....George Max  
 Asst. Show Chairman.....Baxter Leonard  
 Treasurer.....Zan Ritchie  
 Advertising & Publicity.....Baxter Leonard, Harry Polly, George Max  
 Badges & Certificates.....George Max  
 Children's Corner.....Joan & Rick Glover  
 Dealers.....Eric Fritz  
 Demonstrations.....Harry Polly, Betty Hollar  
 Door Prizes.....David Cline  
 Exhibits & Judges.....George Max, Wayne Bowman  
 Grab Bags.....Gloria Sigmon, Zan Ritchie  
 Inventory.....Albert Keiser  
 Setup/Breakdown.....Richard Aultman, Robin Coulter  
 Tickets.....Marilyn Max

CATAWBA VALLEY  
 GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.  
 PO BOX 2521  
 HICKORY, NC 28603-2521

MEETINGS SECOND TUESDAY - 7:00 pm  
*St. Aloysius Catholic Church*  
 Hwy 127 & 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., NE  
 Hickory, NC

### - MEMBER OF -

Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies  
 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
 Catawba Country Council for the Arts

### PURPOSE OF SHOW

The purpose of our show is to bring you the finest in displays of gem and mineral specimens for your appreciation as well as education. You may not know it, but you may have gemstones in your own backyard.

North Carolina is rich in precious and semi-precious minerals. We wish to make you more aware of this fact. This show is for you as a novice or as an experienced collector.

You may just observe or you may wish to buy or trade a fine specimen. After you have seen all, you may wish to become more involved in this fast-growing, worldwide hobby. Let us welcome you as a "rockhound."

## FORTIETH ANNUAL

# UNIFOUR GEM, MINERAL, AND

## JEWELRY SHOW

*Parade  
of Gems*



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## **THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S SHOW IS:**

### **THE HISTORY OF MINERALOGY IN NORTH CAROLINA**

We have three very exciting exhibits to showcase this:

#### **Colburn Earth Science Museum Asheville, N.C.**

#### **HAMME TUNGSTEN MINE Townsville, Vance County North Carolina**

The Hamme brothers started out as gold prospectors in North Carolina in the 1930's, and began prospecting for strategic metals in the 1940's. They discovered a deposit of tungsten minerals in a series of quartz veins located near Townsville, Vance County, North Carolina in 1942. For a time, it was the largest tungsten mine in North or South

America, and the only tungsten mine east of the Rocky Mountains. Tungsten production ended in 1963.

The Colburn Museum 's display will show an assortment of tungsten ore minerals huebnerite and scheelite and associated vein minerals, including rhodochrosite and some of the finest crystals of green fluorite ever found in North Carolina. Historical photographs and text will accompany the minerals.

There will also be a historical display of North Carolina minerals by Kenneth Gay. Kenneth is a professional geologist with the NC Geological Survey and is currently writing a book documenting the minerals of North Carolina.

Also we will have a display of gold by local collector, Jerry Baker.