

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

Organized 1969

MAY 2011

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2011 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President:	Baxter Leonard 828-320-402 8	Editor:	Velda McLean 828-750-4213	Show Chairmen:	George Max 828-328-9107
Vice President:	Loyd Hoke 828-256-2466	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.

ANNUAL BRAGGING ROCK CONTEST

WINNERS ANNOUNCED



REMINDER FROM YOUR TREASURER

Treasurer, Alexander Ritchie

If you gave out any of the white passes to the show, you need to pay me \$2 for each one used. Please call me at 495-8456 if you don't know how much you owe. You can pay me at the meeting. Please bring a check or the exact amount in currency to the meeting.

You can also mail it to me at the club's address,
PO Box 5251, Hickory 28603. **Zan**

INSIDE

A Reminder from your Treasurer---	1
President's Message-----	2
Minutes-----	2
Field Trip-----	3
Program-----	3
Blog-----	3
Contest Winners-----	3
Va. Field Trip-----	3
AFMS Endowment Fund-----	4
Gem Fest-----	4
Mini Miners Monthly-----	5

Velda L McLean, Editor
3121 Blue Creek Road
Lenoir, NC 28645
velda@email.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Baxter Leonard, Club President

It is natural to feel after completing its annual show, as CVGMC did in March, relief and a desire for a slower pace. However, there continues to be work as individuals and the club as a whole. Velda McLean, our newsletter editor, without a doubt has the job that requires every month the same degree of performance without a break. CVGMC is grateful for her past contributions as well as her current ones, and we feel fortunate to have her dedication as our editor.

We all are stewards of our hobby, and when the opportunity presents itself, we all should educate the public about the things we enjoy about our club and the hobby in general. There will be upcoming shows and swaps, and we can not only obtain that special specimen for one's collection, but possibly obtain at a nominal price material for grab bags for next year. Harry Polly will be organizing field trips in the future, and when possible, participation brings the individuals closer as well as showing the club's interest in further learning. Maintenance of club's assets as display cases etc. will be needed, and when possible, talents of individuals are appreciated.

In short, let's all have fun, but keep at the forefront the objectives/ goals stated for CVGMC

Baxter Leonard

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Minutes, April 12, 2011

The April 12, 2011 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Baxter Leonard at 7:00 PM. There were 39 members and guests present. The minutes of the February 2011 meeting were read and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Harry Polly, seconded by Rick Glover and approved by the Club. (There was not a Club meeting in March)

Treasurer Report: Zan Ritchie reported that the checkbook and savings balance was \$17,065.97. He also requested that members, who gave out the white passes to the show, please reimburse the Club as soon as possible.

Field Trip Report: The April field trip will be to collect Kyanite at the Presnell Mine in Yancy County on 4-16-2011.

Show Committee: President Baxter recognized the excellent and tireless job done by the show's co-chairmen, George Max and Eric Fritz, to organize the amazing show that was put on this year.

George Max commented that 1,723 people came to the show. (966 show passes, 49 complimentary passes given out by

members, 415 free passes used, and 238 school children, teachers, scouts and leaders attended.) All but 30 grab bags were sold. He mentioned that the donation of the tables to the Hickory Metro Convention Center worked out well. The club will not have to store them, put them up and take them down and pay a rental fee on them at future shows. George mentioned the parking problems at the show, but it was mentioned that when just the gun show is on, there are the same parking problems. He asked Club members what they thought of the food concession and it was given a "thumbs up". It was suggested that maybe a Geology merit badge corner could be set up for the Boy Scouts to work on.

Eric Fritz commented on the exhibits and the job well done by all. He asked members to start thinking ahead to having an exhibit for next year's show. He also mentioned the possibility of inviting other exhibits from outside the Club.

Megan Russell made a suggestion for the Kids Corner to do a hands-on craft for next year and volunteered to head it up. She mentioned that when she helped out with the Buffalo Geological Society's Kids Corner the last several years, children used baby food jars, salt, and colored chalk to make a craft that imitated the earth's strata with the colored layers. This has been a popular event for the Buffalo Club with over 400 jars used at their 2011 show. She asked Club members to start saving baby food jars now for next year.

Education Committee: Wittenburg Elementary School in Taylorsville was visited by Glenn Bolick with 64 children and 3 teachers in attendance.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Warren Hollar commented on treasure hunting in Alexander County.

George Max made a motion and seconded by Eric Fritz to make a \$100 donation to the Eastern Federation Scholarship Fund in memory of Linda Moser. Motion approved by the Club.

Zan Ritchie asked the Club to borrow the projector that was recently donated to the Club. Motion was made by Eric Fritz and seconded by Glenn Bolick to allow Zan to borrow the projector. Motion approved by the Club. Zan also mentioned that he has the *Eastern Federation Meeting* forms available.

Eric Fritz reported that the Club was asked to supply an exhibit at the Aurora Fossil Festival. Eric made a motion, seconded by Harry Polly, that the Club member that takes the exhibit to the festival be compensated for mileage. Motion approved by the club. Eric also mentioned he had various sized display boxes available for sale.

Announcements: Rock Swap, May 14th, in Denton, NC.

May's speaker will be Dale Russell, a member of the Buffalo Geological Society, who will exhibit and discuss the collection of minerals of Southern Ontario, Canada and Western and Central New York.

Program: The April meeting program was the **Bragging Rock Contest**. Fine specimens were shown and entertaining stories were told. Winners will be announced at the next meeting.

Closing of Business: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Russell, Secretary

MAY FIELD TRIP

Harry Polly, Field Trip Coordinator

Due to rainy weather, there was not a field trip in April.

The field trip for May is to the Ray mine. It will be held on May 14th. We will meet at the LARGE PINK Quonset hut (home of the BBQ Man) at 8:00 am. This building is sitting on a hill on the right hand side of Hwy 321 North just past Caldwell Community College. There is no fee to dig.

You will need digging tools, scratching tools, collecting bags or buckets, food, water, and raingear. There are no facilities. This will be a STRENOUS 1/2 mile walk-in over uneven terrain. Material to be found here include mica, feldspar (orthoclase, ogliclase, and plagioclase), amazonite, tourmaline, beryl (common green and golden), aqamarine, columbite, flourite, and others.

Present rules allow you to SURFACE collect in the creek, BUT NO DIGGING!!! All digging must be done in the area designated by the USFS. THERE IS A LOT OF POISON OAK/IVY IN THE AREA. Please take precautions for this.

Harry

MAY PROGRAM

Loyd Hoke, Program Director

Dale Russell, brother of member Dean Russell will present a program about his 25 years of collecting in Western New York and Southern Ontario, Canada and field trips with the Buffalo Geological Society. He will have slides, stories, and minerals to trade. So throw a few minerals into your pockets and come on out.

Loyd Hoke

ARTICLE

CONVERSATIONS WITH A ROCKHOUND

My blog post can be found here: <http://homeschoolinghomesteadinginthepresent.blogspot.com/2011/04/conversations-with-rockhound.html>

Smiles,

Michelle



BREAKING NEWS

Loyd Hoke, Program Director

ANNUAL BRAGGING ROCK CONTEST WINNERS

Certificate will be presented at
Tuesday's meeting.



Best Collected Rock

Rick Glover for his feldspar diamond

Best Purchased Rock

Anthony Frusheur for his Colombian emerald

Best Crafted

Betty Hollar for her onyx-pearl-cloisonne necklace



The next field trip that Dr. Lauck Ward will be leading is to Stratford Hall May 14-15, 2011. It's not too late to register. Please let us know if you would like to register.

If you have questions, please let us know.

Janet Roetken, Administrative Assistant
Research and Collections
Virginia Museum of Natural History
21 Starling Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112
276.634.4171; 276.634.4199 (F)
janet.roetken@vmnh.virginia.gov
<http://www.vmnh.net>

TAKE A CHANCE!

by Carolyn Weinberger



The **AFMS Endowment Fund** invests any money earned and uses the interest to help make some of the AFMS sponsored programs work better. Two programs that your club may be using are:

New programs are given to EFMLS each year for our program library. These programs are funded by some of the interest earned by **AFMS Endowment Fund** investments. In 2010, our library gained several new programs that your club may borrow to use at monthly meetings.

Many of our clubs have **Future Rockhound of America** youth groups. AFMS Juniors Chair, Jim Brace-Thompson has created an extensive program that EFMLS clubs may use for their kids programs. Participating juniors may earn badges to indicate their completion of various steps in the program -- and these badges are provided free of charge with monies provided by some of the interest earned by the **AFMS Endowment Fund** investments.

To raise additional funds that can be invested...and therefore provide additional services to clubs and club members, the AFMS has sponsored a drawing for prizes for the past several years. There are now 28 wonderful prizes that ticket holders may be fortunate enough to win when the drawing is held during the Awards Banquet at the Syracuse Convention. The good news is that ticket holders do not need to be present in Syracuse to win (but we hope that you will be).

You can see a full display of photographs and read the descriptions for each of the prizes, by visiting the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/endow2011.htm>.

The estimated value of each of the prizes ranges from \$50 to \$450 and many of the prizes are hand made by award winning artists. The really bad news is that you have to have a ticket to have a chance to win! Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and all monies raised goes into the Endowment Fund investment -- remember that only the interest generated from the fund can be used and the higher the fund gets, the more interest that can be used.

To participate in the drawing, send your check, payable to "AFMS Endowment" to me at PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD. Include your name, address, phone number and a self-addressed stamped envelope so I can return the ticket stubs to you. Deadline for my receiving your request is July 1.

EFMLS News -May, 2011



Gem Fest
2011
Asheville

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
June 17, 18 & 19
Pack Place, Downtown Asheville

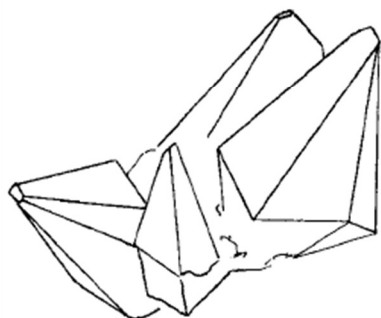
Don't miss this annual event - millions of years in the making - featuring quality dealers and fabulous prices.

Gemstones • Jewelry • Minerals
Fossils • Meteorites • Beads
and much, much more!

Kids Activities!
Door Prizes!
Silent Auction!
and Free Admission to the
Colburn Earth Science Museum!

Dogtooth Calcite Is From Real Dog's Teeth

By Dr. Calvin Seyet, Mineralogist, Petros University



Many mineral collectors feel that calcite is THE most interesting and important mineral species. It is found in nearly every color in the rainbow (and some that are not, like black and colorless). It is also found all over the world in all three types of rock - igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Above all, it forms more unique crystal shapes than any other mineral - over 600!

Recent studies by my team here at Petros University have led to the conclusion that one form of calcite, commonly known as

"Dogtooth Calcite," is actually real dog's teeth. All scientists know that teeth are a form of the mineral *apatite* (editor's note: please see the lead article in this issue, *Mineral of the Month: Fluorapatite*). Apatite is 5 on the hardness scale. Calcite is only 3 on the hardness scale. This has led us to the conclusion that when ancient dogs lost their teeth, the apatite in the tooth would chemically change to calcite. A mineral that has the shape of one mineral but its chemistry has later changed into a different mineral is called a *pseudomorph* which literally means *false form*. So, "Dog's Tooth Calcite" is a pseudomorph of dog's real teeth.

Mineralogists also study the forms of minerals. We have looked very closely and have determined that dogtooth calcite crystals really do look like dog's teeth.



Compare these calcite crystal drawings with this drawing of a dog's canine tooth. You have to admit, they look very much the same!

Now that you have seen the evidence, I'm sure you will have to agree that "Dogtooth Calcite" crystals are pseudomorphs of the canine teeth of ancient dogs.

And if you believe this, all I have to say to you is . .



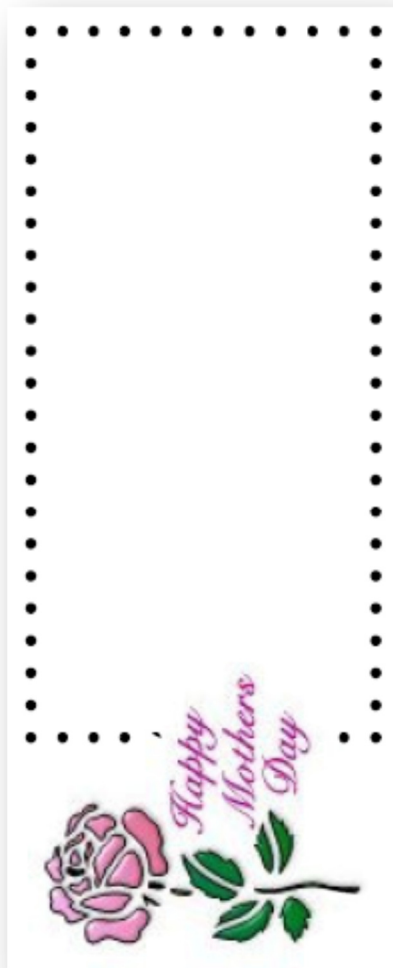
Late at night, if you listen carefully, you can hear the Dogtooth Calcite howling at the moon.

April Fools!

First Class Mail

Tar Heel Rockhound

Velda McLean, Editor
Post Office Box 2521
Hickory, North Carolina 28603-2521
<http://www.cygmc.com/>



TAR HEEL ROCKHOUND

Official Publication of

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

Volume 40 Number 5

**Club Meeting
Tuesday
May 10, 2011
7:00 PM**

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