

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

MAY 2024

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2024 Officers and Committees

President:	Tracie Jeffries 828-430-1314	Editor:	Tracie Jeffries 828-430-1341	Show Chairman:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448
Vice President	Rick Glover 828-446-7634	Field Trip:	Tina Lakhotia 727-688-1068	Scholarship:	George Max 828-328-9107
Treasurer:	Terry Russell 828- 303-1563	Education:	George Max 828-328-9107	Eastern Federation Liaison:	
Secretary:	Dean Russell 828- 303-1448			Southeast Federation Liaison:	

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, \$25, Individual, \$18

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.

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello Fellow Members,

Last month was bitter sweet for our club. While our club is doing well and gaining new members, we lost a prominent member and friend. Larry was a very active member and did a lot for the club. His passing has left the club with several openings and responsibilities that need to be filled.

I will do the club newsletter but I am calling on all members to consider volunteering for the openings below at our next meeting.

First, we need someone to replace Larry Huffman as our "Member at Large" on the board of directors. According to Article V, Section 3, the Board of Directors shall act as a steering committee for the Club and if necessary, make decisions in the best interest of the Club. They shall also approve the disbursement of funds, as limited by Article XII of the Club by-laws. (Amended 1983) If you are willing to volunteer, please speak up at the next meeting and the club members will vote to accept you as the new "Member at Large".

Second, we also need an AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies) and EFMLS (Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies) club liaison. This person will help coordinate between our club and the two organizations for the 2025 show and conventions.

There is also another opportunity to volunteer in July. Our club has been asked to do a program on geodes at the Maiden Public Library on July 24 at 11:00 AM. I will prepare a short informative program and bring some examples of geodes. After the educational part, the children will get to crack open their own geodes. There will be approximately twenty children. It would be nice to have at least two other people help me with the program and supervise the children cracking geodes. Please let me know if you can help. The entire program should be over by 12:30.

I hope all of you are enjoying the warmer weather and having fun collecting and creating!

Tracie Jeffries

CVGMC MINUTES FOR APRIL 9, 2024

The April 9, 2024 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Tracie J. at 7:00 PM.

Visitors – Joanne G., Patty C., Joseph C.

Program: Club President Tracie J. did a presentation on Volcanoes. (Part #2)

Minutes: A motion was made by Keith .and seconded by Becky S. to accept the March 12, 2023 minutes. Motion was passed by the Club.

Treasurer Report: Bank balance was reported.

Education Committee:

Show Committee:

1. Because of the Catawba Rooms will not be ready for our spring show, the 2024 Spring Show is rescheduled for October, 18-20, 2024. We are planning on putting on a full show with exhibits, door prizes, Mini Mine, Children's Table and more.
2. The Club will probably look into doing grab bags for the October Show in September. Please remember to save items while you collect this summer for the grab bags.

Field Trip Report:

Old Business:

New Business:

1. A motion was made by Tracie J., seconded by Richard A. to donate \$250.00 to the EFMLS in memory of Larry H. Motion was passed by the Club.
2. The Club discussed the various positions that Larry H. held within the CVGMC and that we will need people to fill those positions as soon as possible.
 - a. CVGMC Director at Large
 - b. CVGMC representative to both the EFMLS and the SFMS.
 - c. EFMLS and AMFS liaison from the Club for the March 2025 Conventions hosted by the Club at the Annual Show.
3. The Club needs a new Newsletter Editor.

Announcements:

1. Meredith FF is getting married.
2. Janice P. is having health issues.
3. Several Club members spoke about their memories of Larry H.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Russell, Secretary

MAY PROGRAM

Our next meeting is May 14th at 7:00 PM. One of our newest members, John G. will do a program on laser-induced spectroscopy identification of rocks and minerals.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Our field trip coordinator, Tina Lakhotia, reported a successful field trip to the Mason's Ruby and Sapphire Mine in Franklin. The Mason's Ruby and Sapphire Mine is a privately owned mine where you pay to dig your own gems (<http://www.masonsmine.com>). This was a trip our club sponsored for the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Even though the weather was poor, thirty-three individuals showed up to dig. Tina found several nice specimens (see the picture below). Thanks Tina, for organizing this collecting opportunity!



LARRY REMEMBERED

Cheryl Neary who is a member of our club wrote a lovely article in the April EFMLS about Larry. I have put a copy in our newsletter for all to read.

Larry Huffman

April 3, 2024

I have many fond memories of Larry Huffman.

I first met Larry Huffman and Harry Polly in 2013 at a Fall Session of Wildacres. They were the field trip leaders to the Presnell Mine where we were on the hunt for kyanite. Larry was on his way to retrieve water for the drill when Harry mentioned that someone should help him because he had a heart attack a few months earlier. I was, at that time, the president of the EFMLS and felt obligated to help when no one else volunteered. We started talking about Wildacres and he teased me about my NY accent. We made several trips to the stream and enjoyed talking about our field trip adventures. He had just returned from an annual Kentucky field trip for sedimentary geodes. I just arrived at Wildacres from the Poland Spring Mine in Maine. I happen to be fond of geodes so I asked how one would be able to attend - and was informed it was open to all. The following year a group of NY club members were on the field trip! I believe I may have attended every year since, especially since my sister and her husband had moved less than an hour away from the motel we stayed at.

It was at this first meeting that I informed Larry that we were in need of a convention location for 2015. I think between Carolyn Weinberger and I nagging him the following weeks, he decided it was a great deal easier to volunteer his club, with their approval.

Somehow, during the field trip to the Presnell Mine, the subject of food was brought up. Larry asked if I liked BBQ.

I remember from an experience with my sister-in-law in Virginia that BBQ down south is not what we northerners consider a BBQ. I responded yes but I preferred Eastern NC BBQ sauce which is mainly vinegar. Larry said "I was in luck, I happen to have a BBQ restaurant located in the foothills of western NC and we serve Eastern NC BBQ".

The convention in 2015 was a huge success thanks to all the hard work by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club and to the direction provided by Larry.

Although retired when I met him, he was quite the entrepreneur, owning several businesses, but the one that stuck out was the BBQ restaurant which many of us visited while at the convention.

Larry formed and operated Southern Gems, Minerals and Fossils. Larry and Harry would "partner up", selling at their club shows and various other shows. I would travel down, as a "helper" and then as a club member, as well to help at the club shows. The weekends were always entertaining.

Larry was very active with his club. He was active with the EFMLS and he was looking forward to the 2025 Joint Convention of the EFMLS and AFMS. He would have been president of the EFMLS during the joint convention.

Over the years I have gone on several field trips with Larry, including Mt. Pleasant in PA where we met with RJ Harris, and another club trip to Herkimer where both Richard and Shelda Aultman and their daughter Laura and Harry Polly worked the hammers!

Larry and Brenda met several of us a few times in Tucson. He enjoyed the Mexican restaurant El Charo and the Cadillac de la casa margaritas!

Several times former EFMLS president David Korzendorfer and his wife Barbara had us for dinner at their now old home in northern Tucson.

Larry was proud of his two sons, their wives and their children. He has one granddaughter - the oldest, and three grandsons. He often commented on how he loved to be with them.

I know he was able to spend the last week of his life with Brenda and his whole family on a family vacation.

I did speak to him when he returned to remind him of a task he needed to perform as 1st VP. He assured me he would get on it

The earth will miss Larry but the sky added another star! May his light shine upon us and guide us as we travel the road of life.

Cheryl Neary

FIELD TRIPS AND INSURANCE LIABILITY COVERAGE

I recently had a conversation with Mrs., Lori C. in Georgia concerning liability coverage for DMS field trips. Our insurance coverage was temporarily dropped due to several issues. We have regained our insurance coverage but we need to be vigilant in the future if we wish to:

- 1- keep insurance coverage, and
- 2- keep collecting sites open to our members.

One problem was clubs allowing non-members to attend DMS sponsored field trips. We need to make sure that members only sign up for collecting trips.

Another issue was that some clubs were giving away the locations of collecting sites. Too much information was in their field trip reports, pictures, videos, announcements, and even on their personal media such as Instagram and Facebook. This was probably not intentional but non-members can gather multiple clues to find these collecting sites. This

allows the general public to find these areas and potentially cause issues that get the sites closed permanently to everyone.

What you can do!

- We can report county and state. For example: "Our club recently went to Boyle County Kentucky to hunt geodes."
- You can use the names of well-known public, pay to dig areas. For example: "Our club just sponsored a trip to the Little Pine Garnet Mine in Murphy N.C."
- You can post pictures and videos. BUT, make sure there are no road signs, easily recognized businesses, or landmarks, and make sure the metadata does not give GPS coordinates!

What you can't do!

- Do not use or give out street addresses to collecting sites.
- Do not name mines and quarries if they are not well-known pay sites.
- Do not return to these areas on your own after a sponsored field trip.
- Do not tell friends where these areas are.
- Do not post pictures and videos with metadata (GPS coordinates), with road signs, easily recognized businesses, or landmarks.

Due to these guidelines some of our old field trip reports will need to be removed from our webpage. I have already contacted our webmaster to make sure we are in compliance.

Just remember, if you are not sure if it's okay to post certain information, then don't. It is better to be safe than sorry. We want to be good stewards and help keep collecting sites open for future rock- hounds!

Tracie Jeffries



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**Club Meeting Tuesday
May 14th 7:00PM
St Aloysius Catholic Church
921 2nd Street NE Hickory, NC**

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