

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

MAY 2025

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2024 Officers and Committees

President:	Tracie Jeffries 828-430-1341	Education:	George Max 828-328-9107
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Editor:	Tracie Jeffries 828-430-1341		

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.

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Web Master: Mike Streeter

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Fellow Members,

The Oxford Dictionary defines a club as “an association or organization dedicated to a particular interest or activity.” However, I believe a club is much more than that. I look forward to our monthly meetings. I enjoy talking to members, participating in club activities, sharing and learning, and experiencing camaraderie.

It was great to see many new faces at the last meeting. Remember, first impressions are critical. Give visitors a warm welcome, talk to them, and encourage them to return. Many clubs and organizations have trouble recruiting and keeping new members. Think about ways to reach out to the community and improve our club experience. I welcome all ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Tracie J.

CVGMC MINUTES FOR APRIL, 2025

The April 8, 2025, meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Tracie J. at 7:00 PM.

Visitors: We were excited to see many new faces at the meeting!

Program: The program for April was “Shades of Green from Helene Disaster Area” by Ron Ruschman.

Minutes: A motion was made by Camille and seconded by Harry, to accept the March 11, 2025, minutes. The motion was passed.

Treasurer Report: Bank balance was reported.

Education Committee: None

Show Committee:

1. The next CVGMC Annual Show will be March 6-8, 2025. We will return to the Hickory Room, where the Oct 2024 show was.
2. We will have a full CVGMC 55th Annual Show report at the May 13th meeting.
3. Many thanks to every member who helped with the show. A more detailed thank you will be in the next Tar Heel Rockhound.
4. AFMS and EFMLS convention attendees were quite impressed with our show.

Field Trip Report: None

Old Business:

1. The Catawba Library system would like the Club to provide three programs to children 6-9 years-old. We will need topics and volunteers. Please call George Max if you can help.
2. CVGMC needs volunteers for a Scout Camporee event on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Please call Warren Hollar if you would like to help.
3. Please send your membership forms and dues to Terry R. or the CVGMC PO Box.
4. The Club discussed possibly providing Club members' names, phone numbers, and email addresses to other Club members, with permission. If you do not want your name made available, please contact Tracie J. as soon as possible.
5. The Treasurer and Secretary will be unavailable for the June and July meetings. We need someone to volunteer to take minutes for those meetings.

New Business: None

Announcements:

1. The case award winners were mentioned: Rick and Joan G. – Most Educational, Ben H. – Most Interesting, and Most Beautiful.
2. Thank you note from Brenda H. about the Show being dedicated to Larry.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Russell, Secretary

MAY PROGRAM

Our May program will be "Rockhounding in the Desert Backcountry" by Clark Walker.

THANK YOU!

Once again, with the Club members' help, CVGMC put on another awesome show in March. The convention attendees from the AFMS and the EFMLS said they were impressed by our show.

A HUGE thank you to Tracie J. and Terry R. for all the work they put in before and

during the show to make the two conventions as great as they were. Thank you to Tina L. for making the center piece trays for the convention dinner.

Thank you to Jeanne S. and Anne K. for all the work they put into the CVGMC Show Facebook page. The ads were top-notch.

Thank you to Betty and Warren H. for the wonderful Larry Huffman memorial table.

Thank you to Richard and Shelda A. for the amazing Fossil exhibit and for being there all three days of the show to teach people about fossils.

Thanks to George B. for making the Mini Mine awesome for the children at the show, and for being there all three days also.

Thank you to Dale R., of the Buffalo Geological Society, who was here for the convention, but spent a lot of time helping at the Children's Hands-on Table.

Thank you to all the CVGMC members who volunteered their time to make the show run smoothly. (Setup/take down people, ticket and grab bag sellers, vendor assistants, demonstrators, and those who displayed exhibit cases.) It takes many hands to make a great show.

Thank you all,

Dean Russell

CVGMC Show Chairperson

CLUB OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

On April 10th and 11th, Wayne B. and Tracie J. ran a geology station at the annual 'Heritage Days at Maple Grove'. This is an event organized by the Hickory Landmarks Society for area fourth-grade students. Many students from Burke, Catawba, and Hickory City Schools attended.

In July, the club will do two programs for the Catawba County Library System. On Thursday, July 17th, at 10:00 AM, the club will give a program about 'Gemstones' at the Conover Library. The program will consist of a short talk, an activity, and gemstone identification. If you would like to help, please talk to Tracie J. The second program will be at the Maiden Library on Friday, July 16th, at 3:00 PM. The program will be on volcanoes. If you would like to help with this program, please see Tracie J.

GEOLOGY MADE EASY: HOW TO LABEL AND CATALOG YOUR COLLECTION

By Tracie J.

I will do a three-part series on how to add value to your rock, mineral, and/or fossil collection. The series will cover how to label and document your collection, clean your specimens, and store and display your specimens.

Why should you label your collection?

This is an excellent question.

- Labeling your collection will make it easier to keep track of what specimens you have or don't have.
- It will allow you to organize your collection and have easier access to specific specimens.
- By adding basic information such as location and date, your collection becomes more valuable to other collectors and can add to scientific knowledge.
- Working with your collection will add to your knowledge and enjoyment.

What information should you put on the labels?

Your labels can be simple or detailed (See images 1-3, 7, 9, and 11). The following list is modified from the post, "Labeling and Cataloging Your Mineral Collection, Jan 20, 2022, iRocks". At a minimum, labels should have the specimen name and collection location. Other pieces of information included are at the discretion of individual collectors. The label should always be kept with the specimen (See image 9).

Number or code – Each specimen should have a unique number or code that will identify and link it to its information. This number/code should be on the label, and if possible, on the specimen (See images 1-3, and 6-11).

Name of Specimen – Identify your rock, mineral, or fossil by its proper name. You may include varieties such as Quartz var. Amethyst or Feldspar var. Microcline. Use multiple resources to help with correct identification and naming. There are numerous books and online sites to help with rocks, minerals, and fossil identification (See image 4). A few examples are listed below. Ask other collectors what resources they use.

- Mindat.org is a free online database for minerals, rocks, and meteorites.

<https://www.mindat.org>

- The International Mineralogical Association (IMA) is an international scientific group that agrees on names for older and newly discovered minerals. The online database is updated yearly. I often have trouble with their website, so I access the list via Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_minerals_recognized_by_the_International_Mineralogical_Association
- 'The Encyclopedia of Minerals' by Willard Lincoln Roberts is a technical manual for the serious collector.
- 'Mineralogy' by John Sinkankas is an excellent all-around reference book for collectors.
- Other resources include field guides such as *Peterson's Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals*, the *Smithsonian Handbook to Rocks and Minerals*, and *Simon and Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals*.

Date – When did you obtain the specimen? You may also note if it was self-collected, purchased, traded, or received as a gift.

Location – Where was the specimen collected? Include as much information as possible, such as country, state, county, district, province, mine or quarry, nearby towns, and other relevant data (See images 1-3, 7, and 9-11).

Cost/Value – If purchased, record the price of the specimen. If acquired by another method, estimate the value by comparing it to similar specimens at rock shows or online vendors.

Chemical Formula - Some collectors add the chemical formula for a mineral (See images 2 and 11). If you do this, use a reliable source and consistent formatting. For example, Magnesite is MgCO_3 , or Stronalsite is $\text{SrNo}_2\text{Al}_4\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{16}$.

Name of the Collector – Identify who collected the specimen (See image 3).

Size and Weight – Collectors may utilize calipers and digital scales to measure the dimensions and weight of a sample (See images 1 and 5). Calipers can be purchased at local hardware stores, while scales may need to be ordered online.

Provenance – Always keep older labels with the specimen. The history of a specimen makes it more interesting and adds value (See images 1 and 7).

Other – This catch-all phrase is for additional data. For example, a collector may note if a specimen is fluorescent, an unusual color, rare, from a type location, or other noteworthy information (See images 1 and 3).

At this point, you may feel a little intimidated or overwhelmed. Don't worry! Your labels can be as detailed or as simple as you want. Below are some examples of labels (See images 1-3, 7, 9, and 11). Etsy has a great selection of pre-made labels, or you can print your own from free online templates. I designed my cards and had them printed at Staples (See image 7).

Just remember:

- Keep the labels uniform in size and format,
- Use heavy cardstock,
- Use acid-free paper,
- Use easy-to-read fonts,
- If information is handwritten, use long-lasting, waterproof, black ink
- And be consistent.

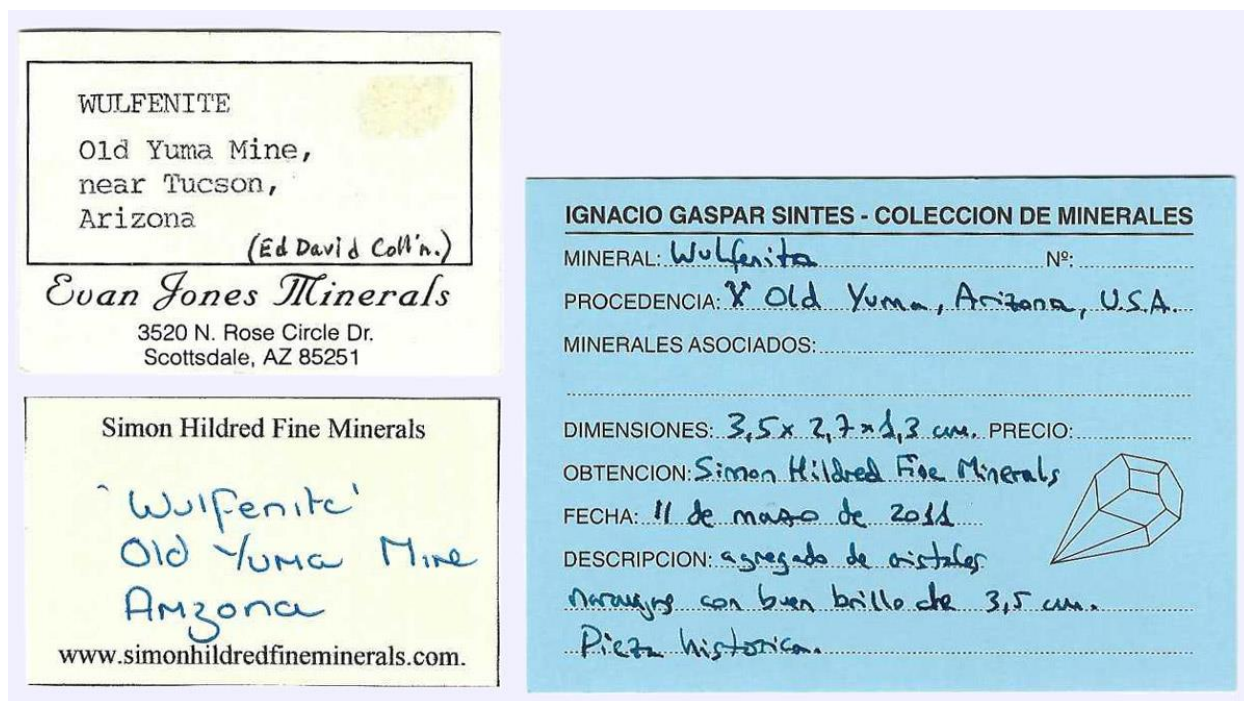


IMAGE 1: Here is an example of retaining older labels with a specimen as it is passed from owner to owner.

<https://www.fabreminerals.com/LargePhoto.php?FILE=Wulfenite-NE98AM5e.jpg&LANG=EN>

217.20

LAZULITE



GRAVES MOUNTAIN
LINCOLN CO., GEORGIA, USA

Ex. Neal Yedlin, Rock Currier

ALEX VENZKE COLLECTION

IMAGE 2: An example of a private collection label. Note the specimen number, mineral name, chemical formula, location, and collector name.

<https://www.mindat.org/mesg-451547.html>

Species: **PETTERDITE**

Notes: Crystalline coating on crocoite

Locality: Red Lead mine,
Dundas,
Zeehan district,
Tasmania, TYPE LOCALITY
Australia

Collector: Purch. G. Dainty Date: 1-2023

B. GRGURIC COLL. # BG2227.

IMAGE 3: Another excellent example of a collection label. Note the mineral name, notes, location, collector, date collected, and a coded identifier.

<https://www.mindat.org/mesg-451547.html>



IMAGE 4: Every collector should have a small library of reference books. You can start with a few books and add to your library over time. Photo by Tracie J.

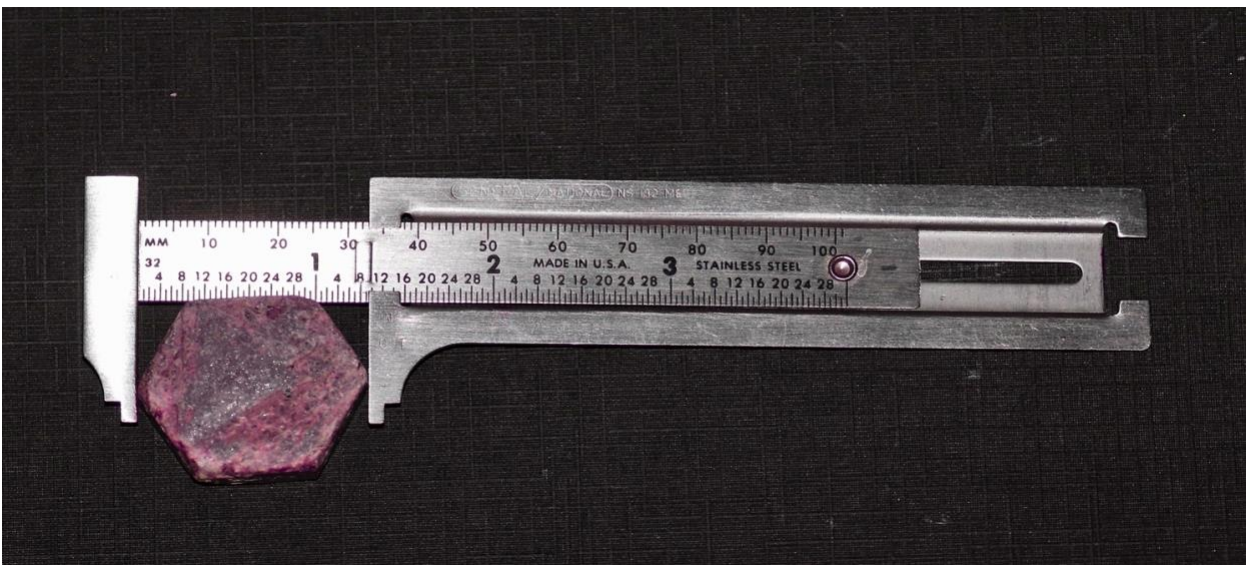


IMAGE 5: Calipers can be used to measure the dimensions of a specimen. Photo by Tracie J.

How do you link the label to the correct specimen?

A specimen needs to be linked to its information card. Many collectors put matching numbers/codes on the specimen and label. Several methods are used to put numbers/codes on specimens. Traditionally, a white enameled area was painted onto the specimen, and waterproof ink was used to write the number/code (See image 6). Some collectors prefer paper labels and

use waterproof ink, acid-free paper, and water-soluble glue such as Elmer's School Glue (See images 6 and 8). You can number the mineral box a specimen is in. However, it is too easy for specimens to escape from their box.

Sometimes, a collector may not want to put a number/code directly on a specimen. The sample may be too small, rare, or delicate, or the collector does not want to ruin the aesthetics. Also, some minerals are water soluble and could be damaged by paint or glue. In these cases, a collector may:

- Measure and record the dimensions and weight of the specimen to help distinguish it from others.
- Take a photograph of the specimen (See image 13).
- Put the number/code on a Perky Box, Riker mount, or base the specimen is attached to (See images 10 and 11).



IMAGE 6: This malachite specimen has been part of two collections and features two labels. One is an area of white paint with a code written in ink, while the second is paper glued to the specimen. Note that each collector had a unique system of numbering/coding their specimens.

https://www.etsy.com/shop/TeriyakiMinerals?ref=shop-header-name&listing_id=1679729390&from_page=listing

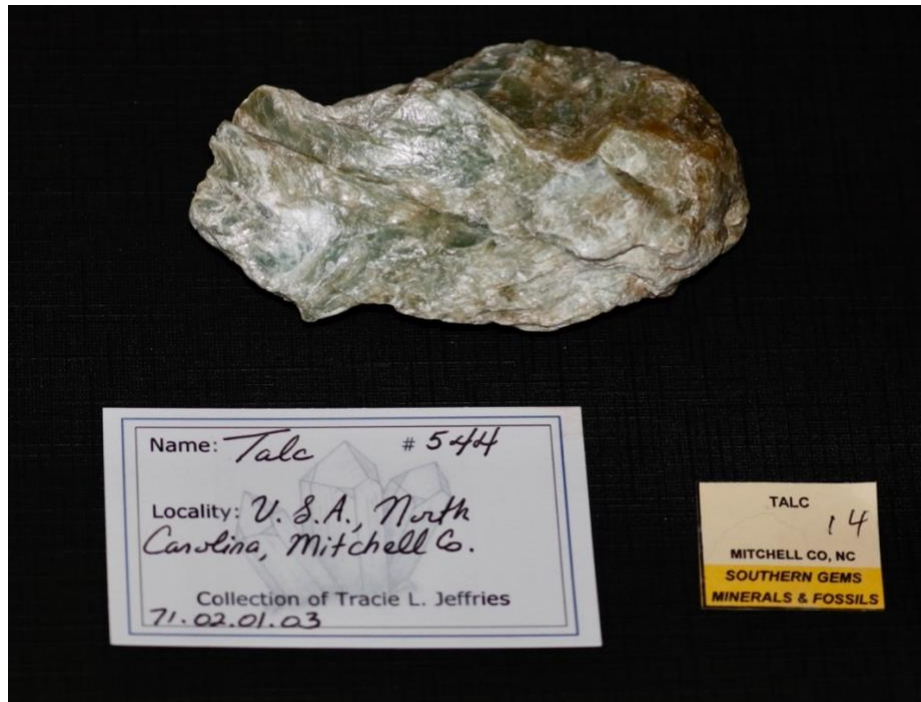


IMAGE 7: Here is a label from my collection. It includes the mineral name, identification number, location, and Dana classification number. I also write notes on the back of the card. Notice the older card I kept with the specimen to help with provenance. Photo by Tracie J.



IMAGE 8: This specimen has a paper disk with an identification number attached to an inconspicuous area with water-soluble Elmer's glue. Photo by Tracie J.

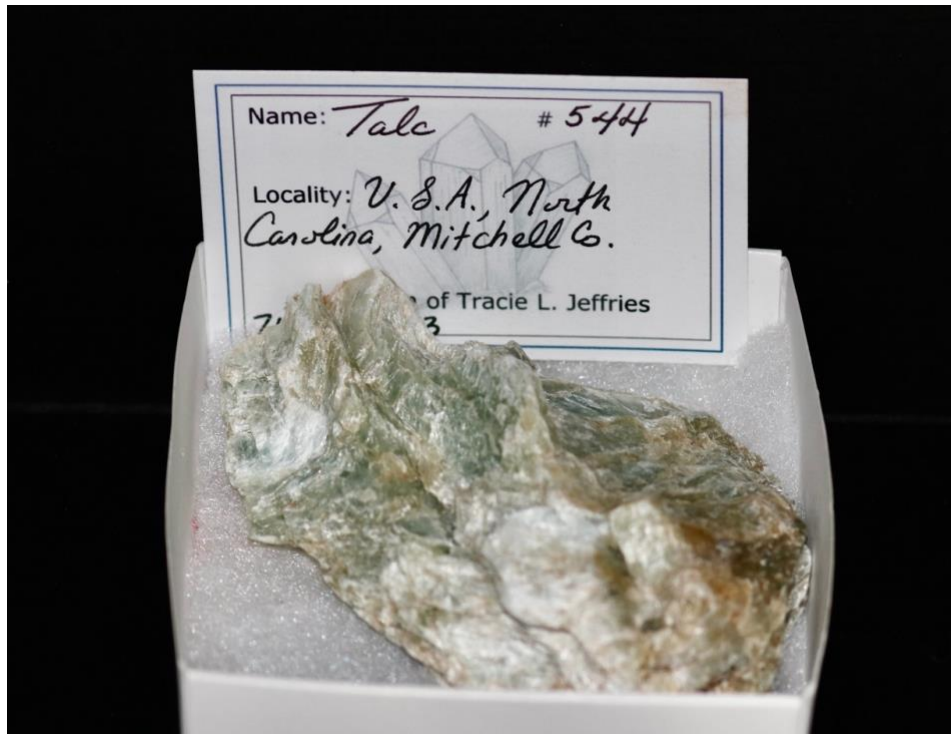


IMAGE 9: The specimen is placed in a mineral box with cotton. The older label is under the cotton, and the newer label is visible with the mineral. Photo by Tracie J.



IMAGE 10: Here is a meteorite specimen. The sample is in a gem jar within a Riker mount. Due to the small size and value of the specimen, I did not want to glue a number to this sample. Therefore, I put the number on the back of the Riker mount, and my label card is under the cotton. Photo by Tracie J.

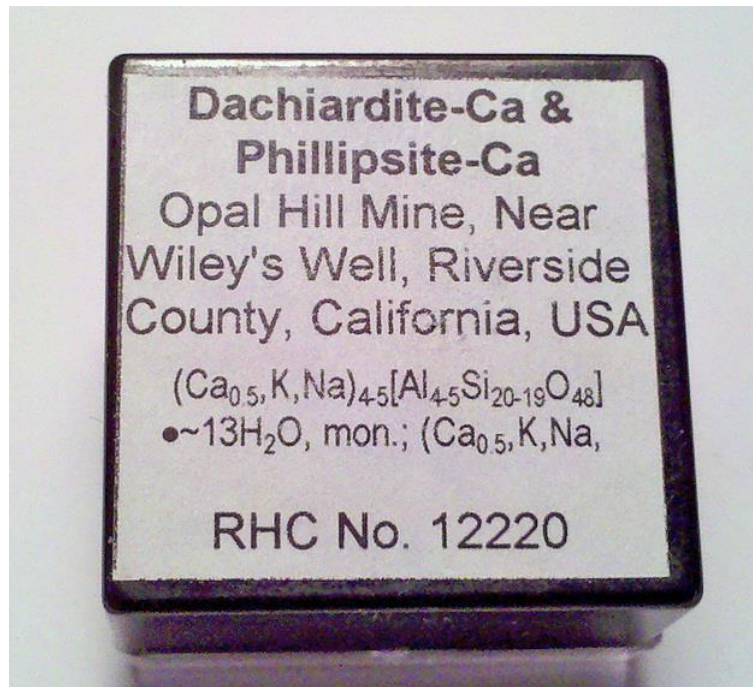


Image 11: Here is a thumbnail mineral in a Perky box. It would not be practical to glue a number/code directly on a small specimen. However, information can be printed on paper and put with the box. The label pictured above is on the bottom of the box. Some collectors will even glue a small thread to a specimen with the label on the other end.

<https://www.mindat.org/article.php/1263/Making+Labels+for+Mineral+Specimens>

How do you keep track of all this information?

Most collectors keep a master list, database, or spreadsheet for their collection.

Traditionally, collectors maintained detailed ledgers, but nowadays information can be entered and saved on computer systems. The advantage of a database or spreadsheet is:

- It is easy to use,
- It allows for easy and quick data editing,
- A collector can find information about a specimen without searching the entire collection,
- The collection or individual specimens can be readily appraised,
- And, it allows large amounts of information to be efficiently analyzed and compared.

Two examples are shown below (See images 12 and 13). The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. has an article and a link to a free online database. The database, 'Geology365', gives you directions and tools to create an electronic catalog of your collection.

#	NAME	MINERAL/ ROCK/ FOSSIL	LOCALITY	\$	OTHER	DANA CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
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99	Pyrite - 2 Cuboidal Crystals in Matrix - 02.12.01.01	Mineral	Spain, Navajum, Soria	\$20.00	* Old collection # = 7721	02 - Sulfides - Including Selenides and Tellurides
100	Opalized Wood	Fossil	USA, Montana, Logan	\$5.00	* Old collection # = 8609	Fossil
101	Apatite - Crystal - 41.08.01.00	Mineral	Canada, Ontario, Silver Crater Mine, Bancroft		* ~ 3.5 cm long	41 - Anhydrous Phosphates containing Hydroxyl or Halogen

IMAGE 12: Here is a sample of a spreadsheet. It is easy to customize a spreadsheet for a collection. Photo by Tracie J.

1	CATALOG #	PHOTOGRAPH	SPECIES	LOCALITY	SIZE (mm)	PROVENANCE	DATE ACQUIRED	PURCHASE PRICE	ESTIMATED PRICE	NOTES	DIBS
102	#197		Elbaite, quartz	Malikhan pegmatite field (Malchan; "Malechansk"), Krasnyy Chikoy, Zabaykalsky Krai, Russia	27 x 17 x 23	Ex. Mark Cross	6/21	\$600.00	\$600.00	Purchased from Mark Cross during one of his FB lives.	
104	#199		Vanadinite	Mibladen Mining District, Midelt Province, Draa-Tafilalet, Morocco	46 x 33 x 23	N/A	6/21	\$250.00	\$250.00	Purchased from a very fascinating hydrologist at the little Arlington show in June. Not many good specimens but this one stuck out.	Tracie J.
105	#200		Legrandite	Ojuela Mine, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico	22 x 20 x 16	Ex. Daniel Peters	7/21	\$300.00	\$300.00	Picked up from Daniel at the Frisco show in July.	Daniel Peters
106	#201		Rhodochrosite (wheatseaf habit)	N'Chwaning I Mine, N'Chwaning Mines, Kuruman, Kalahari manganese field, Northern Cape, South Africa	26 x 23 x 15	Ex. Leonard Himes	7/21	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Leonard had held onto this specimen since the original find in the 1980's, and kept it up until I acquired it at the Frisco show. Lucky me :)	Leonard Himes

IMAGE 13: Here is another example of a collection spreadsheet. Note that this collector has added pictures to help identify the minerals. This template is free on mindat.com and can be modified to fit your needs. Go to the link below and follow the directions.

<https://www.mindat.org/mesg-564905.html>

I enjoy working with my collection and learning about each specimen. Rainy days are good for labeling, cleaning, or organizing my collection. I make it a habit to create labels for new

specimens within a few days of obtaining them. This way, I do not forget information or get behind in cataloging my rocks and minerals. I hope this article has given you some ideas, tips, and resources on documenting and cataloging your collection.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR AREA

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Georgia Mineral Society's Gem and Mineral Show	May 9 – 11 th Fri/Sat: 10 – 6 Sun.: 10 - 5	Cobb Civic Center Address: 548 South Marietta Pkwy Marietta, GA 30060 Website: http://www.gamineral.org/
Franklin Gem and Mineral Show	May 9 – 11 th Fri/Sat: 10 - 6 Sun. :10 - 4	Carpenter Community Center Address: 1288 Georgia Road (Rt. 441) Franklin, NC Website: http://fgmm.org/
G & LW Wholesale Gem Show	May 16 -18 th Th/Fri/Sat : 10 – 6 Sunday :10 - 3	Watauga Festival Center Address: 6295 Sylva Road Franklin, NC

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Club Meetings

2nd Tuesday of Month, 7:00PM

St Aloysius Catholic Church

921 2nd Street NE Hickory, NC

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