

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

OCTOBER 2015

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

2015 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President: | George Brown 828-292-7407 | Editor: | Velda McLean 828-572-1826 | Show Chairmen: | Baxter Leonard 828-320-4028 |
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| Secretary: | Dean Russell 828-303-1448 | | | | |

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.



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CATAWBA VALLEY
GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com/>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



George Brown, Club President
At our next meeting let us discuss ways to get the word out about our Great Club, especially to the younger people!

George

CATAWBA VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Minutes for September 8, 2015

The September 8, 2015 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President George Brown at 7:00 PM. There were 32 members and 2 visitors present.

Minutes: Motion by Terry Russell, seconded by Zan Ritchie to accept the minutes for the August 11, 2015 minutes. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report:

- 1) The bank balance was reported.
- 2) If you need a membership card, see Terry Russell

Field Trip Report:

- 1) August 15th field trip is Elk Park for epidote, magnetite, and augite.
- 2) Kentucky Geode Trip is Labor Day weekend.
- 3) August 27th is Wildacres field trip at Little Pine Garnet Mine led by Harry Polly and Larry Huffman.

Education Committee: None

Show Committee: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1) Glen Bolick advised the Club to be careful on the type of donations that are made.
- 2) 37th Annual Gaston Gem & Mineral Show is October 2-4, 2015.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Program: President George Brown reported on the *Judge Training Program* he attended and explained what the judges look for when judging cases.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Rick Glover, Program Director

October Program will be a presentation on the *Education Program* by George Max so that all club members can be aware of what the education committee presents to the public and perhaps assist in the future.

Rick

FIELD TRIP NEWS

Harry Polly,
Field Trip Coordinator



OCTOBER CLUB FIELD TRIP

The field trip for October will be held on October 17. We will meet at 9:00 am at the Propst farm for

sapphires. With all of the rain, the area should be easier to dig in. There is a \$5.00 dig fee. We will meet at the dig site. You will need shovels, mattocks, scratching tools. A screen is helpful if the area is not too wet, but useless if it is. Wear old clothes that you do not care to get dirty. There are no facilities. Bring your food and water along also. There is a short walk in of about 100 yards.

Directions from Hickory:

Travel south on Hwy 321 to exit 33, Startown Road. At the top of the ramp turn right towards Lincolnton. Drive about two miles until you see the Lincoln County Line. Turn left into the driveway at the first house after you cross the county line. Place your dig fee in the coffee can on the carport at the house on your left. Drive down to the barn, or behind it, if there is room. Walk behind the barn, down the path, and into the woods on your right. You can dig anywhere back there. Dig in one of the current holes, or start a new one.

Harry

SEPTEMBER LABOR DAY WEEKEND CLUB FIELD TRIP REPORT

On Friday, September 4th, Gloria Sigmon and I left for Kentucky on the club's annual geode hunt. It was a beautiful, sunshiny day and the weather was good all the way. We left my house at 10:00 am and took our time, stopping to rest and stretch our legs along the way. We arrived in Harrodsburg, KY about 4:30 pm. As we drove up to the hotel, we saw the vehicles of David and Sue Russell from New York, and Dean Russell from our club. After we checked into the hotel, we went in search of the others, but, they had already left for supper. Gloria and I walked over to the golf club restaurant for a nice seafood buffet that was very good and very reasonable. Afterwards, we turned in for a good night's rest.

Saturday morning, we all gathered in the breakfast room and planned the day's activity. After a light breakfast, we met at the appointed time and traveled to our location outside of Junction City. The day turned out to be hot and humid, with no wind and no rain. The creek bed had very little water in it, partially due to the fact that the landowner had a road cut across the creek. There were several trees down across the creek also. David Russell offered to cut one of the trees out of the way, but the landowner refused, as he said he wanted keep people from accessing the creek on their four wheelers. We had a good, productive time there, with several nice geodes found. Dean Russell gets the prize here. We stopped about 3:00 pm and visited with the landowner for a while before heading back to the hotel. We agreed to meet again at 6:30 for supper. After a good, much needed shower, and a little rest, we were ready to go again. We walked over to the golf resort

restaurant for a roast beef buffet. The food was very good and tasty, the company was exceptional. Afterwards, we walked back to the hotel for a good night's rest.

Sunday morning, we again met in the breakfast room, and after a light breakfast, we headed out at the appointed time. Our destination this day was in Rockcastle County to the farm of one our old friends. He welcomed us when we arrived and let us through the gates. He left shortly after for church, but said he would see us before we left. As we drove down to the creek, it became evident that there had been much more rainfall here than at the previous place. Several trees were down across the creek, and the geodes were laying everywhere. There was not much water in the creek, but that did not matter. We did not need to "wade the creek" to get to the geodes. The sandbar next to the parking area was covered in them. The quality of these geodes was much better than at the previous place also. I am VERY SELECTIVE! On the average, I will keep less than 10% of the ones I break open. These were exceptionally good quality. Maybe it was because of all the rain, maybe I was just lucky, but I kept better than 50% of these. And the best part was that I carried them only 20 yards. Gloria got her quota of good ones also. After a nice lunch, we loaded up the vehicle and checked in with Dean and David. Their story was just like ours. Very good quality and close by.

The landowner came by as promised and we had a very good visit. He asked about Glenn Bolick and I gave him the report that we had at that time. The landowner remembers Glenn very well and wished him good health.

We left about 3:00 pm and headed back to the hotel, but first stopped on the way at a road cut on Hwy 150 that has always produced some calcite, dolomite, and sphalerite. This time proved no different. Walking along the side of the road, we picked up several nice specimens. We did not need any tools, as the freezing and thawing over the winter had broken the specimens out of the limestone and slid them down onto the right of way. We collected for about an hour and headed back to the hotel for showers and a little rest before supper. We met at 6:30 pm again for supper and enjoyed a nice meal at a family restaurant before a good night's rest.

We met again on Monday morning in the breakfast room, but instead of planning our activities, we all said our goodbyes. A good time was had by all, our vehicles were full of geodes, and we headed home.

Harry

FOR SALE

Display cases available. I have seven, brand new, in the box, china cabinet tops, all glass front, with two glass shelves. Lighted, 62" wide, 50" high, and 18" deep. The price is right, do you have the space? Contact Harry at 828-244-6651.

Norma Ridenhour is selling her 45 year collection of gems and minerals. Please see her after the October meeting if you are interested in purchasing.

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION – A GREAT INVESTMENT!

By Alice Cherbonnier,
Scholarship Foundation Coordinator



What began as an idea in the 1960's has blossomed into an invaluable asset for almost 500 graduate students to date. Back in the early 1960's, EFMLS President Richard Burnham suggested that it might be a good idea for the AFMS to establish a scholarship foundation to benefit graduate students in the earth sciences. The idea "stuck" and a committee was quickly formed to draft guidelines, incorporate the new "Scholarship Foundation" and get the ball rolling to collect funds for the project. ***The idea then as now, was to collect funds, deposit them in secure accounts and use only the interest to fund scholarships to selected grad students.*** The first grant was made in 1965 and the student selected received \$300.00. Since those early days, over one million dollars in scholarships have been awarded!

The AFMS itself does not make the selections for the scholarship recipients.

Rather, each of the six participating regional federations selects an honorary recipient – usually either an individual who has worked tirelessly for their federation or a college professor in the earth sciences field. It is this individual who, working with a college or university, selects the two recipients for the awards. In 2015 there will be twelve awards of \$4,000 each made - 2 for each federation.

You and your club members can certainly get involved in this program by contributing. "Credits" are awarded to each club equalling 1 credit for each \$1 sent to the Foundation. When your club contributes \$1 for each member, you get an award of 100%. These contributions are continuous so if your club sends in \$1 for each member 24 times, your club would be noted as a 2400% donor.

Many clubs send around a kitty at each meeting and ask members to contribute. Others, just simply take a lump sum from their budget each year, while others do a matching scheme. Club members may also contribute directly as recognition of a noteworthy event, or untimely memorial. Credit may be given to their home club.

Interest rates are down, and even though there's a substantial bank account, the interest generated from it, continues to be low. Obviously, the more funds deposited in the account, the more money there is available for scholarships. Your help therefore is needed and encouraged.

Send your donations to:

AFMS Scholarship Foundation to me at:

Alice Cherbonnier

4000 N Charles St, #701

Baltimore, MD 21218

Your club will receive a "thank you" note as will the family of anyone you recognize as a memorial contribution, and you can be assured that your dollars will go towards an excellent cause that will help further.

EFMLS News -- October, 2015

SHARING FOR EACH ONE TEACH ONE

by Betsy Oberheim, EOTO Chair



What a beautiful month this is; the leaves turn all the colors of our favorite rocks!! Its not too cold and the air is so crisp and pleasant. What a great month to go out and rockhound, but get there before those leaves actually fall, and think about sharing all those accumulating flats of rocks with others. Certainly you know some kids who

would treasure your contributions. And while you are at it; tell them about your club and its activities. Next thing you know you'll have new friends, club members, and be on your way for the *Each One Teach One* award.

I hope all club members are observant enough to notice such sharing people and will take a few minutes to send that information to me. I know we have a year yet before the award applications are due, but the early bird...is appreciated!!!

EFMLS News -- October, 2015

TWO AMAZING SESSIONS!

by Steve Weinberger

Our Eastern Federation has been privileged to hold workshops at the *Wildacres Retreat* since 1973. Although I did not attend the very first workshop, Carolyn and I did attend the 3rd, in 1976 and, in my opinion, each year since our workshops have gotten better and better! This year was no exception!



Some highlights of note. Our two wonderful speakers, Bob Jones and Denise Nelson, kept their audience spellbound as they related tales of helicoptering into a mine, entering the famous cave of Mini Miners Monthly, September, 2015

humongous crystals at Naica, Mexico, the mines and gems of Minas Gerais, or the world's best gem carvings and the history of the materials, art, tools and people who created them.

Classes were fabulous! We faceted terrific gemstones, cut amazing cabochons, wirewrapped, photographed, learned to identify gemstones, carved soapstone, made chains and gem trees, learned to make silver and polymer clay jewelry, learned about the geology of the Wildacres area, learned to make intarsia, fused some glass, knotted beads and learned to knit with wire. What an array of classes taught by our ever patient instructors.

Thanks to excellent and generous donations, both our auctions did well, and our May Fun Night saw the reappearance of the "Moosketeers" who made Carol and Bob Jones honorary members of the troupe. In August, Fun Night was replaced with a concert given by Don Pedit, a well-known dulcimer player. Both Show & Tell sessions amazed the group with the wonderful projects completed by all.

As per usual, the food was good, comradery among the participants delightful and cooperative weather truly enhanced the Wildacres 2015 experience.

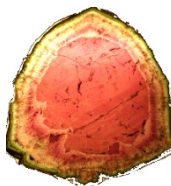
Watch this space in the coming months for information about our 2016 sessions. We'll publicize them here once we receive our dates from the Wildacres Foundation and have lined up our speakers and instructors. In the meantime, do consider joining the fun "on the mountain" next year.

EFMLS News -- October, 2015

Mystery Minerals

By Emma Fajcz

This month, I have a quiz for you to see how much you know about a few common minerals. I will give you clues about each mineral, and then you will try to guess what it is called. Do your best to not look at the answers at the end of this article until you have completed all the questions! Perhaps you might want to quiz your parents, another family member, or a friend once you're done.



MINERAL #1 With a hardness of about 7 to 7.5 on Moh's scale of hardness, I'm about the same hardness as Mineral #4. Sometimes, I look similar to a slice of watermelon, with a brilliant green "rind" and bright pink interior. When you look at me from different angles, I often appear to change color, depending on what color I am originally. I usually form in long crystals that are sometimes more than one color. If I'm good enough

quality, gem cutters cut me into beautiful faceted gems that go into jewelry.

I'm called _____.

MINERAL #2 When you look through me, it looks like you're seeing double of everything! That's a special property called double refraction. Although I can occur in a few pale colors, including yellow, green, purple, and red, a lot of times I'm clear and not any color at all. I'm pretty soft, with a hardness of 3 on Moh's scale. Under shortwave ultraviolet light, I glow blue; under longwave ultraviolet light I glow pink. Like Mineral #1, I can be faceted into gems for jewelry. I'm called _____.

MINERAL #3 I'm a shiny, metallic-looking mineral that has often tricked people into thinking I was gold! My favorite crystal shape to form in is a cube, but I can form a few other shapes too. One of these other shapes looks like a sand dollar. Sometimes you might even find me inside a fossil. I'm a fairly hard mineral, with a 6-6.5 on Moh's scale. A good while ago, I was used in radio receivers. More recently, I've been used in a certain brand of rechargeable batteries. I'm called _____.

MINERAL #4 You'll probably find me in almost every mineral collection. I occur all over the world in many different colors.

Often, you'll see me in the shape of a six-sided column topped with a six-sided pyramid. On Moh's scale, I'm a 7. Throughout the centuries, I have been cut and carved into pitchers, sculptures, and other items. I also have the ability to split white light into its respective colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Nowadays, I'm also used in many clocks and watches to help keep accurate time. I'm called _____.

MINERAL #5 In my natural state, I'm almost always around the shades of sky blue and robin's egg blue. Frequently, veins of tan or brown will weave through the blue to create a fascinating effect. You'll usually see me in a mass or in rounded lumps called nodules. Although I have a hardness of 5 to 7 on Moh's scale, I'm really brittle and can crack or break fairly easily. I've been used for thousands of years as an ornamental mineral in jewelry, masks, tiles, and more. I can be found in several places around the world, especially in the southwestern United States. I'm called _____.

MINERAL #6 My name is derived from a huge river in South America, even though I haven't been found near that river and I've been often found in Russia and the United States. Despite having a Moh's hardness of around 6 to 6.5, I'm rather brittle. Even though I am microcline feldspar, I am known by a different name as a result of my brilliant aqua or green

coloring. Some people think that a little bit of lead and water are responsible for my bright colors. Since many mineral collectors like my colors and crystals, I'm often displayed on shelves or sometimes even fashioned into jewelry.

I'm called _____.

MINERAL #7 To many people, I am known as the world's most colorful mineral since I occur in multiple shades of many colors. In a lot of specimens, I appear in bands or stripes of different colors. I'm strongly fluorescent in some specimens, which means I glow in a different color like blue or green under ultraviolet, or UV, light. In other samples, I barely glow under UV light at all! On Moh's scale, I am a 4. I contain the element fluorine, which might be found in your toothpaste or drinking water. I'm called _____.



ANSWER KEY

1) Tourmaline, 2) Calcite, 3) Pyrite, 4) Quartz, 5) Turquoise, 6) Amazonite, 7) Fluorite

Photo Credits: via Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain
Mini Miners Monthly, September, 2015

KENTUCKY FIELD TRIP

Photos submitted by Dean Russell, David Russell, & Harry Polly



David Russell-botryoidal chalcedony



Harry Polly



Harry Polly



David Russell



Gloria Sigman



Harry Polly



Harry Polly



Dean Russell



Dean Russell



Harry Polly

First Class Mail

Tar Heel Rockhound
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Post Office Box 2521
Hickory, North Carolina 28603-2521
<http://www.cvgmc.com/>



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

Volume 44 Number 10

Club Meeting

**Tuesday
October 13, 2015
7:00 PM**

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