

TAR HEEL



ROCKHOUND

SEPTEMBER 2017

Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

2017 Officers and Committees

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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.



Quartz Geode (Kentucky)
Photo: S. Harvin

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CATAWBA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.

<http://www.cvgmc.com>

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September Program

The September program will be a presentation by Slade Harvin about the August Field Trip.

We look forward to seeing everyone.

September Field Trip

The September field trip will be discussed at the meeting.

Also, everyone is asked to please consider taking the Field Trip Coordinator position for the Club.

President's Message

Well summer is winding down, the kids are back in school and the weather is turning cooler. We have had a good year so far, but we need to keep the future in mind. Elections are just around the corner, and I ask that everyone consider serving the club. We still need a field trip chair. We need some young blood in the leadership positions. PLEASE CONSIDER.

On another note, we had a very successful trip to KY this year. To put it in one word, WOW. I did not get a final headcount, but we had 37 for dinner on Friday night and more came in after that. We ended up with somewhere around 45. We had one from Texas, 11 from NY, 19 from our club, plus several others from different states. After dinner Friday night, we all gathered around for a tailgate rock swap. There were some beautiful specimens brought out for trade.

Saturday morning we gathered in the parking lot early for the caravan to the quarry. After we filled out the required forms, we made our way into the quarry to collect. Since the quarry was operating that day, we could only stay until noon, but with the heat, that was plenty of time. There were some very pretty specimens collected that morning. After lunch, we headed over to creek to collect some geodes.

Sunday morning, we again gathered in the parking lot to caravan to a fluorite mine that is on private land. This mine is over 200 years old, but has not been worked in over 100 years. We were able to go through the tailings and dig, and dig we did. We were able to stay as long as we wanted, and some beautiful specimens were found. Most of the fluorite was clear to golden, but a few brown/purple were found.

Monday morning we gathered the few that were left and went to collect geodes and to watch the eclipse. The geodes were not as plentiful this year due to the lack of rainfall there in the spring, but some nice ones were found. On the way back several stopped at the road cut on HWY 150 and collected the calcite, dolomite and sphalerite that is found there.

I have made inquiries at another motel near where we stayed and have a cheaper price for next year. The rooms are a bit smaller, but much cleaner and are closer to the restaurant. I will discuss this at the meeting.

Harry

Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

The August 8, 2017 meeting of the CVGMC was called to order by President Harry Polly at 7:00 PM.

Minutes: Motion by George B., seconded by Slade H. to accept the minutes for the July 11, 2017 minutes. The motion was passed by the Club membership.

Treasurer Report:

Bank balance was reported.

Field Trip Report:

Kentucky for geodes, fluorites and the eclipse.

Education Committee: George M. was in the process of arranging to do a talk.

Show Committee: None.

Old Business: Discussed the microscope.

New Business:

- 1) It was noted that Roger C. passed away..
- 2) Motion by Harry P., and seconded by George B. to donate \$100.00 to the William Holland School of Lapidary arts in Memory of Jake Roger C. The motion was passed by the Club membership.
- 3) Baxter L. is looking for someone to take over the rock tumbling for the Club.

Closing of Business: The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM

Program: CVGMC member, Harry Polly did an interesting talk on "How to properly crack geodes".

**Respectfully submitted,
Dean Russell, Secretary**

Kentucky Field Trip By: Cheryl Neary

I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity this year to travel to Kentucky. This trip came about when Kerry (Dicker) suggested the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club take a field trip to KY to witness the eclipse, and perhaps collect geodes. I asked Harry (Polly) of the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, if it was at all possible to arrange for our group to collect on the McClure Farm. Being that the eclipse was two weeks earlier than the CVGMC annual geode hunting field trip, I was surprised and overjoyed to hear that the CVGMC decided to change their Labor Day weekend field trip to coincide with our planned weekend.

I was excited too because my sister and her husband now live in KY, not too far from our base in Harrodsburg, near Danville and I prepared plans to visit with them and to witness 98% of totality at their Science Hill residence. Both my mom and my brother ventured south to visit with them while I was out amongst the rocks.

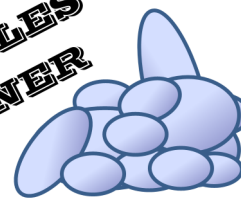
For many of us from the north, our travels began on Thursday – allowing for a leisurely drive to our destination in Harrodsburg, while many of the CVGMC members started their trek to the west on Friday morning. I heard from Harry that James from Missouri, along with his dog Onyx and some of his interested collectors would also be meeting us – but I had no idea that they represented several states, such as CT, TX, IA, OH and IN.

Friday night after dinner at the Golf Resort, we had the first of the rocks swaps and plans to meet for the first field trip planned for Caldwell Stone Quarry, Saturday morning. The quarry is an active quarry and we were able to collect until 12pm, before the trucks started rolling in. This was followed by a geode hunt. Although we first drove to McClure's farm in Rockcastle County, due to circumstances we ended up collecting in Lincoln County at the Phillip Daly Home. This also allowed many of us to purchase some fine mineral specimens from the proud owner of the KY Rock Mobile! (and there was a bathroom at his facility – where many of the troop ventured to!)

Sunday found us at the Faircloth Mine on Mundys Landing Rd. in Woodford County – as we searched for fluorite. Mundys Landing was once a port across the Kentucky River established by Thomas Munday in the early 1800s.

(Continued)

THE PEBBLES' CORNER



This section of the newsletter is being started to help generate more interest and interaction with younger rockhounds and to have fun in the process.

As indicated, this year's series will focus on each month's birthstone. I realize that several minerals may be associated with a particular month, but I am trying to select the most commonly accepted one for this series.

I welcome any information a member may wish to provide to be included in the upcoming newsletters each month corresponding to the particular month's birthstone.

September's Birthstone is the sapphire.

Mohs Hardness: 9

Sapphires are a variety of the mineral corundum. Sapphires can be a variety of colors, including blue, yellow, green, orange and purple. The only color they cannot be is red. The variety of colors is due to trace amounts of elements like titanium, iron, copper, chromium, or magnesium. (Source: Wikipedia.com)

Some North Carolina locations where sapphires have been found:

Franklin County
Catawba County
Haywood County



Photos: Clip Art

Until next time.....

Slade

Kentucky Field Trip Photos

Photos: J. Johnson, N. Mattson, S. Harvin



(Continued from page 3)

On Monday, many of the northern group left for parts further south to witness 100% totality and for those that continued to collect, a trip to the creek of the McClure farm for geodes. I was informed that the goats ran into the barn when the sun's rays were blocked and the roosters started crowing when the darkness receded to light.

So this is our exciting weekend in a "geode". Now I want to share information that I found interesting about the area that we travelled through or collected at during that weekend.

As I drove down to KY and back to NY, I commented that I spotted license plates from possibly near-by states and thought to myself- you need to brush up on your geography and so here we go:

Kentucky borders seven states. To the north is Indiana (IN) and Ohio (OH); to the east is West Virginia (WV) and to the southeast is Virginia; to the south is Tennessee and to the west is Missouri and the northwest is Illinois (IL). Remember this later as we discuss the geodes. Rivers define Kentucky's borders except on the south.

Driving down I-64 from West Virginia and crossing the Ohio River, the first city encountered in KY is Ashland. What you notice is the manufacturing plants to the east. What you do not know is that Ashland was settled by the Poage family from the Shenandoah Valley in 1786. The family travelled to the area, which was originally named Poage Landing via the Cumberland Gap.

The Cumberland Gap is a natural pass at an elevation of 1,640 feet, formed in the Cumberland Plateau by stream erosion. The Gap is located near the point where the states of KY, VA and TN meet, between present-day Middlesboro KY and the town of Cumberland Gap in TN. There will be more about this famous Gap later in the article(s).

In 1854 the name was changed to Ashland, after Henry Clay's Lexington estate

Note: Henry Clay was the leader of the Whig party (which upon his death disappeared but was succeeded by the Republican Party). For over forty years he served in politics; was the Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams; and the longest Speaker of the House of Representatives in the 19th century. Five times he unsuccessfully ran as a presidential candidate.

Henry Clay was known as the "Great Compromiser" for his role in the Missouri Compromise of 1820, the Tariff Compromise of 1833 and the Compromise of 1850. He is also known for the "American System" economic and political vision of America - which have been fulfilled throughout the many years.

Prior to the arrival of the Poage family, the area south of the Ohio River, was originally inhabited by the Native Americans, especially the Shawnee. Four other tribes inhabited the land what is present day Kentucky; the Cherokees, Chickasaw, Mosopelea and Yuchi.

Map of Kentucky tribes in the past: (<http://www.native-languages.org/kentucky.htm>)



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What you may not know about Ashland is that its Central Park has a series of six ancient Native American mounds, believed to have been built by the Adena Culture, which spans from approximately 500 BC to 100 AD. The mounds, approximately 20 feet in diameter and 6 feet tall are comprised of layers upon layers of deceased members. The mounds served as burial, ceremonial and historical landmarks of the Adena Culture. It is possible that mound building practices may have continued as late as 1400 A.D. At least sixteen mounds were located in what is Ashland today. Unfortunately, as is with fossil - and rock collecting-sites, development projects have eliminated many of the mounds.

Reading about the mounds reminded me of the mounds I visited in Georgia during the late 1970s, the Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site.

Today there are no federally recognized Indian tribes in KY. Most of the Native Americans were forced to leave KY during the Indian Removals of the 1800's and marched to Oklahoma. The Indian Removals were named the Trail of Tears by the Cherokee who were forced to leave their homeland for the government created "Indian Territory" during the winter time. Many of the Cherokee and Native Americans from other eastern tribes died on the Trail of Tears.

Brushing up on some more history of KY - the area now known as Kentucky was once part of VA. It is said the name "Kentucky" comes from an Iroquoian word 'Kentake', which means "meadow land." Note, the Iroquois were not the original native people of this region. The Iroquois nations were composed of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca tribes located in the northeastern region of the North America. In the early 18th century, the Tuscaroras migrated into Iroquois country.

First, it is important to know some fun facts about the Bluegrass State of Kentucky. First, why is it called the bluegrass state? The grass is not really blue; however, the seed heads produce a bluish-purple bud, and when the plant grows to its natural height of 2'-3', it appears to be a meadow of blue. Hence, that is why Kentucky is known as the Bluegrass State. The Bluegrass regions have phosphate-rich soils due to the limestone of the Ordovician Period (445-490 mya). The Bluegrass Region pastures have produced some of the world's most famous horse farms.

Additionally, settlers from NC, VA, MD & PA, the majority of them of European descent- English, Scottish, Irish, settled in the first permanent settlements in the Bluegrass Region. In fact, did you realize that Daniel Boone was born in PA, moved as a youth to the Great Appalachian Valley of VA, then into NC, where he lived until he led settlers through the Cumberland Gap to KY, where they settled mainly in the Bluegrass Region due to area having the best agricultural land.

It was interesting to learn that the town where we stayed -Harrodsburg, originally known as Harrods Town, was named after the person who built the first permanent white settlement in KY's Bluegrass Region. James Harrod formed the first permanent white settlement in Kentucky.

Fair warning, I have found quite a bit of information that I will be sharing with you - and so I have decided that it will be best to split the article for several bulletin submissions. I plan to share some interesting geography/geology facts - along with some just general interesting facts.

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Over the next few articles I will be discussing the following:

- Caldwell Stone Quarry and the Walker vein of Boyle County
- Geode belt of (remember the quick geography given above) of the states of IL IN, OH, KY & TN
- Faircloth Mine of Woodford County



Danny Floyd Jones

Danny Floyd Jones, 69, died on September 1, 2017, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC. The only child of F.F. "Payne" Jones and Kathleen Fulbright Jones, he was preceded in death by his parents. Danny grew up in Cullowhee, NC, and attended local schools including Western Carolina University from which he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business. He earned a Master's in Business Administration at the University of Georgia before beginning a career in banking. He retired as Float Manager for BB&T Bank in Charlotte.

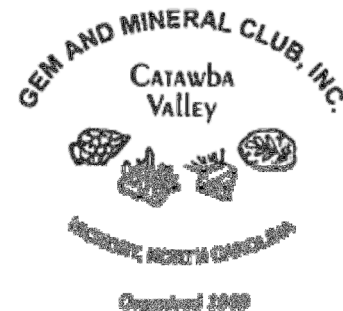
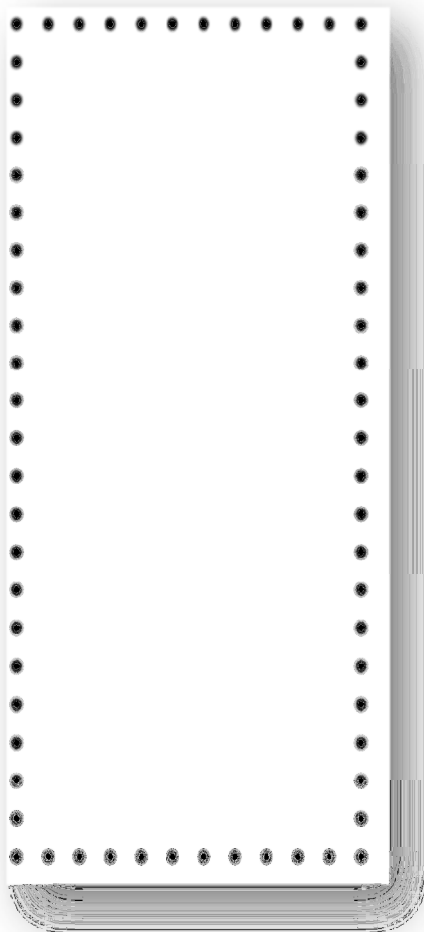
From early childhood, Danny loved to travel, and he has seen much of the world. Extensive travel in the United States led to his avocation – the study and collection of rocks and minerals. He was the owner of Firebird Minerals, Inc. and enjoyed attending rock and mineral shows across the Southeast.

Danny was of the Baptist faith having been baptized into membership at Cullowhee Baptist. He attended Pleasant Plains Baptist in Matthews and was a 32 degree Mason. He chose to support the Baptist Children's Home throughout his adult life, and his family would appreciate memorials made in Danny's name to any of these.

Surviving Danny are his foster brother Manley F. Brown of Macon, Georgia and his wife Jean, along with their children and grandchildren: Philip and Julie Brown, daughter Catherine and Ian Harrison; Josh and Kathleen Brown Pierce and son Jackson; Matthew and Megan Brown, sons Matthew and Benjamin, daughter Lucy. Danny is also survived by cousins Sammy and Mike Parker, Jeffrey Parker and Kristy Parker Solanzo, as well as numerous Jones cousins and his many loyal and loving friends.

First Class Mail

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Club Meeting

Tuesday

September 12, 2017

7:00 PM

St Aloysius Catholic Church

921 2nd St NE

Hickory, NC