

# Tar Heel Tailings

## Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- History of Diamonds in North Carolina
- First Ever Diamond inside Another Diamond

## Individual Highlights:

Prez Sez	1
History of Diamonds in North Carolina	1
September's Meeting Minutes	3
September's Treasurer Report	2
Grab Bags and Door Prize	5
First Ever Ammonite Trapped in Amber	6
Announcements	7

*A newsletter for Gem and Mineral enthusiast in and around the Raleigh, North Carolina area.*

## Prez Sez

**By Anthony Andreoli**

This month's meeting will be our annual elections of officers. At last month's meeting we had our nominations and all of the current officers were nominated for the positions they already hold. If you have anyone in mind you would like to see become an officer, please make it known at this month's meeting before the election takes place.

Also, I am happy to announce at this month's meeting after the elections we will have our first annual "ROCK SWAP!!" So, everyone check your collections and bring in a few specimens you may want to trade with other club members. Beverly will be bringing refreshments and beverages for this month's meeting. Remember this will be our last meeting before the New Year so I hope to see many of you there!! Remember our meeting time is now 7pm. See you all on November 19th!!

Anthony Andreoli, President  
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## History of Diamonds in North Carolina and Where to Find Them Today

Diamonds are very rare in North Carolina, so much so that historically, only thirteen were known to have been found. Twelve of those had already been found at the time of Joseph Hyde Pratt's 1933 Geological Survey. Pratt elaborates that prospectors hoped to find diamonds in the "extensive" deposits of itacolumite and peridotite that exist in North Carolina. This is because peridotite, a composite stone consisting of mostly olivine (see August's issue for more information on olivine), is a common matrix for diamonds in South Africa. Similarly, itacolumite is the matrix for diamonds in Brazil.

As a short aside, itacolumite is an interesting mineral in its own right. Found in Stokes and McDowell Counties, this sandstone is actually flexible! Despite featuring some greenish mica flakes on its split faces, most of this stone is very fine grained and uniform. After this stone has weathered, tiny quartz grains interlock and

**continued on page 4**



<https://naturalsciencesresearch.wordpress.com/>  
"NCSM 5997. This octahedral diamond crystal looks like it has been faceted. These are all natural growth textures on the triangular crystal faces"

November and December  
B-Day Members

**Tar Heel Gem & Mineral  
Club, Inc.**

PO Box 33783,  
Raleigh, NC 27636-3783

Anthony Andreoli- President  
fossilguy9494@yahoo.com  
(919) 803-4899

George Harris – V-President  
GeorgeFHarris@yahoo.com  
(919) 674-0243

Linda Searcy – Treasurer  
ljs0928@gmail.com  
(919) 909-0750

Beverly House – Secretary  
beverlyhouse@yahoo.com  
919-389-1821

Lindsey Bradsher – Newsletter  
Editor and Committee Member  
littlebluellama@gmail.com  
(919) 451-9158

Katelyn Hennessey – Field-Trip  
Coord.  
katelynphennessey@gmail.com

Cyndy Hummel-Show Chairperson  
and Committee Member  
mchummel@mindspring.com  
919-779-6220

**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:  
[www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org)

**Program & Refreshments**

<u>REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:</u>	
Coordinator: Open	
September:	Beverly
Beverages:	Beverly
<u>PROGRAM SCHEDULE:</u>	
January - Tom Todaro- Safety Briefing	
February – Michael Frankilin	
March - Grab Bags / Postcards	
April - Post-show Discussion	
May - Jeff Schlottman-Digging the Guibault Claim	
June - The Challenger Family- Mineral Identification	
July – Smithsonian Collection	
August - Cathy Young-Collecting Fossils from the Ordovician to the Pleistocene Ages	
September – Paul Byrne- Icy Satellites	
October - Grab Bags	
November – Election	

Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$85 (bring your receipts to the treasurer).

**October Treasurer's Report**

<b>TGMC Treasurer Report - October 2019</b>			
<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	10/1/19		<b>5,418.46</b>
<b>Income:</b>			
	Membership Dues	65.00	
	<b>Total Income:</b>		65.00
<b>Expense:</b>			
	Meeting Refreshments	51.87	
	Show: Geodes shipping	124.44	
	Newsletter Printing	96.04	
	Stripe Fees/chargeback	34.55	
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>		306.90
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	10/31/19		<b>5,111.56</b>
<b>CDs</b>	32-90 day		5,377.88
	91-181 day		5,702.10
	<b>Total CDs</b>		<b>11,079.98</b>

- Andrew Robinson
- Anthony Andreoli
- Beverly House
- Bryson Pryor
- Dan Cathey
- David Challenger
- James Gillgam
- Jennifer Cox
- Jennifer Haga
- Jerry Miller
- Jim Zisek
- Joey Bolla
- Jonathan Barby
- Judy Newman
- Julia Buckner
- Karen Glaser
- Mark Wilkins
- Maureen Mercer
- Michelle Diener
- Mike Watkins
- Mike Welker
- Rachel Stackle
- Rebecca Healy
- Ronald Mason
- Roy Allen
- Scott LaBorde
- Yolanda Boone

Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
Attention: Treasurer  
PO Box 33783,  
Raleigh, NC 27636-3783



## Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. – October Meeting Minutes

Minutes 10/15/2019

Attendees (Members): 23

Visitors: 1

New Members:

TOTAL Attending: 24

Birthdays:

Membership table:

Food: Pizza- Beverly House Drinks- Beverly House

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Anthony Andreoli president

**Welcome-** Anthony Andreoli

### Spring 2020 Gem and Mineral Show updates:

- \$3.00 admission fee
  - Free admission to: Veterans, First Responders, Teachers and Members- who show ID at the do
  - \$1.00 off admission if you bring coupon (that will be on the postcards sent out)
- Grab bags-
  - Goal is 1000.
  - In addition to what is created tonight, we will create grab bags at the February 2020 meeting, barring inclement weather. March 2020 is alternate date.
  - Grab bag price- \$1.00
  - Will explore Premium grab bags at future meeting
- **Volunteers-** will begin sign up process earlier than last year- will have paper sign up and Google Doc sign up
- Opening Day of show- New Time: The first day of the show, the time is 3:00 pm-7:00 pm
- Flyer- black and white- Greg needs to send PDF to Lindsey
- Memberships: we will have two tablets at the Hospitality Table for signing up new members and renewing existing members.

### Election/Nominations

Nominations for officers was held at meeting- they are as follows:

Anthony Andreoli- President (unopposed)

George Harris- Vice President (unopposed)

Linda Searcy- Treasurer (unopposed)

Beverly House-Secretary (unopposed)

Lindsey Bradsher- Newsletter (unopposed)

Lindsey Bradsher and Cyndy Hummel- Committee Members at large (unopposed)

Grab Bags for Spring 2020 Show

- 390 grab bags were created
- Ran out of polished stones
- Need additional rough material for February 2020 date
- Process to create grab bags was streamlined and went very well

### Reminders:

- 1). Beginning with the October 2019 meeting, the meetings begin at 7:00 pm
- 2). November Meeting- elections for the board will take place.
- 3). THGMC Show 2020- the date is set—April 3-5, 2020. Mark your calendars. We are already working on the show, to improve and expand our offering. Volunteers (LOTS of THEM) will be needed
- 4). Field Trips: We will be collecting material for the 2020 THGMC show—one-gallon buckets will be distributed and members are encouraged to fill the buckets with grab bag material.
- 5). Jacob and Charles at Mineralogy, located in the Triangle Towne Center, has generously offered all THGMC members 10% discount on purchases- you must present your THGMC ID badge in order to take advantage of this offer.

Visit their website at: <http://mineralogync.com/>  
phone: (919) 637-5489

Door Prize Winner- Lindsey Bradsher

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly L. House, Secretary  
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

**Continued from page 1**

allow this stone to slowly bend under its own weight when supported at the ends. Thin flakes of itacolumite can be bend by hand and “are said to give out a creaking sound.”

Though these deposits did not give up any diamonds in North Carolina, a few famous specimens have been found. Burke County produced three, one at an unknown location and two at “Ford of Brindletown Creek.” One nice octahedral stone was appraised at \$100 in 1843, which would be about \$3,200 today! In Cleveland County, one diamond was found “near Kings Mountain,” and in Lincoln County, one was found in gold washings near Cottage Home, NC. This diamond was greenish in color, and octahedral.

McDowell County seems to be the richest in diamonds, boasting five. Three tiny diamonds were found in the gravel bed of Muddy Creek. Some more impressive finds were made in Dysartville; one was a 2 3/8 carat stone, and the other the largest diamond ever found in NC. A stone weighing 4 1/3 carats, it consisted of a “twinned octahedron” of “perfectly transparent” green. Mecklenberg County produced a white crystal of one carat in Todd’s Branch, NC, and Rutherford County’s J.D Twitty Gold Placer Mine found a yellow stone weighing 1 1/3 carats. Two additional diamonds were mined from gold mine gravel in Franklin County.

Though you will likely not dig up a diamond on your own, one of the Burke County stones can still be “found” in the North Carolina Museum of Natural History’s gem collection. The museum is also involved in new research to find diamonds in NC. According to Dr. Chris Tacker (who has also given some fascinating presentations for our club), ten new diamonds were sold to the Museum by miner Jeff Moser. Moser had apparently modified his gold panning equipment to capture tiny diamonds. Unfortunately, Mr. Moser passed away before he could partner in a project with Dr. Chris Tacker to reproduce the find. The samples that the museum had already purchased were verified as natural diamonds by NC State University, and a Gemological Institute of America evaluation. The GIA report was sponsored by a local diamond firm,



<https://naturalsciencesresearch.wordpress.com/>  
One of the Burke County diamonds at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Diamonds Direct Crabtree, since the museum could not normally afford this.

Overall, the prospect of finding diamonds in NC is certainly exciting. However, mineral collectors may have more fun (and less frustration) going to locations that are also known for panning gold or itacolumite and actually coming home with a specimen!

If you decide to search for diamonds (or something more likely) in any of the counties or areas described above, check to be sure you are on public land (or get permission on private land) and checking with the Bureau of Land Management is recommended (see: <https://www.blm.gov/basic/rockhounding>).

Rockhounding is allowed on most public land, but there are exceptions for national monuments and national wilderness areas such as Linville Gorge. There may also be restrictions on where you can park. Usually, in public areas, collection is limited to less than 10-25lbs of material.

**Sources:**

<https://books.google.com/books?id=OhgtAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA226&hl=en#v=onepage&q&f=false>

<https://naturalsciencesresearch.wordpress.com/2014/12/04/ten-new-north-carolina-diamonds/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itacolumite>

## Making Grab Bags at October Meeting—Great Job!



### Door prize: Jasper

I picked this red and green jasper because I love cabbing, and this large slab should keep me busy for a while!

This piece looks like bloodstone, also known as heliotrope. This stone is primarily found in Indonesia. In both ancient Rome and India, there was a legend that heliotrope could stop bleeding, and it was worn as a protective charm.

For more information about jasper in North Carolina, see the July issue of this newsletter!

Thanks again to the club for this lovely prize, I look forward to cutting it.

--Lindsey



## Ninety-nine-million-year-old ammonite trapped in amber discovered for first time

By Phoebe Weston

A 99-million-year-old ammonite trapped in amber has been discovered for the first time.

Found in northern Myanmar, it contains at least 40 other creatures, including spiders, millipedes, cockroaches, beetles, flies and wasps that would have lived on the forest floor.

Ammonites are extinct sea-dwelling relatives of squid. It is incredibly rare to find sea life trapped in amber because the fossilised resin is produced by land-based trees.

"The find was a big surprise," Professor Bo Wang from Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology told *The Independent*. "We never imagined we would find an ammonite in amber. This is the first record of ammonite in amber, and also the first marine macrofossil in amber."

All the shells in the amber are empty and have no soft tissue, according to researchers at the institute from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. They believe this proves the organisms were long dead by the time they were engulfed in the resin.

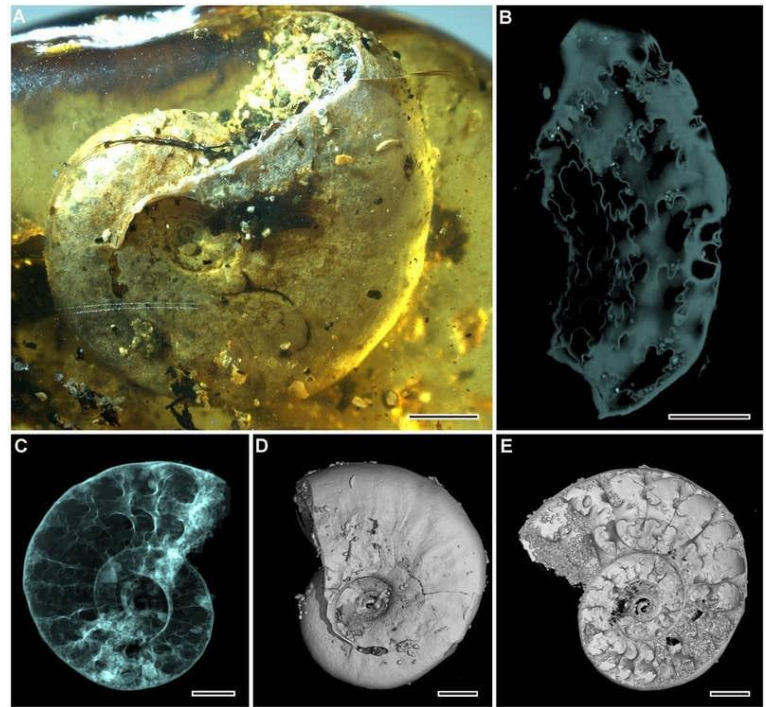
The outer shell of the ammonite is also broken, and the entrance is full of sand. Scientists believe it would have washed up on a sandy beach covered with shells that was close to resin-producing trees.

The sample also contains flying insects which were probably trapped by the resin as it was pouring out of the tree.

As the ammonite, which is 33mm long, 9.5mm wide, 29mm high and weighs 6.08g, flowed down the trunk it trapped organisms near the foot of the tree and when it reached the beach it entombed the shells.

The amber also contains other marine fauna such as sea snails and sea slaters.

Of the terrestrial fauna found in the amber, mites are the most abundant, according to the paper published in *PNAS*.



<https://www.independent.co.uk>

"The outer shell of the ammonite (pictured), an extinct sea-dwelling relative of squid, is also broken and the entrance is full of sand (NIGPAS)"

He added: "We took several thousands of images and combined them together to get a 3D photo. Micro-CT is also a non-destructive testing, so it does not destroy the amber."

Researchers found the ammonite was a juvenile *Puzosia* (*Bhimaites*) living during the late Albian-early Cenomanian age. Its presence in the amber helped scientists date the deposit.

It also shows that a Myanmar amber forest existed near a dynamic coastal environment 99-million-year-old.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/ammonite-prehistoric-amber-myanmar-spider-cockroach-wasp-a8911546.html>

## Announcements

Mineralogy has opened a new location at Southpoint Mall in Durham (in addition to their Triangle Town Center location in Raleigh). Both decorative specimens and rough slabs were available at my visit, and the proprietor reported that they are to have more slabs coming in in the next few months. Tarheel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. members who bring their badge will receive a 10% discount on their purchase.



### Holiday Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show –

Start Date: 12/13/2019

End Date: 12/15/2019

Hours: Fri/Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

Contact: Richard Jacquot

Venue: WNC Agriculture Center

Address:

1301 Fanning Bridge Rd

Fletcher , NC 28732

Website: <http://www.americanrockhound.com/>



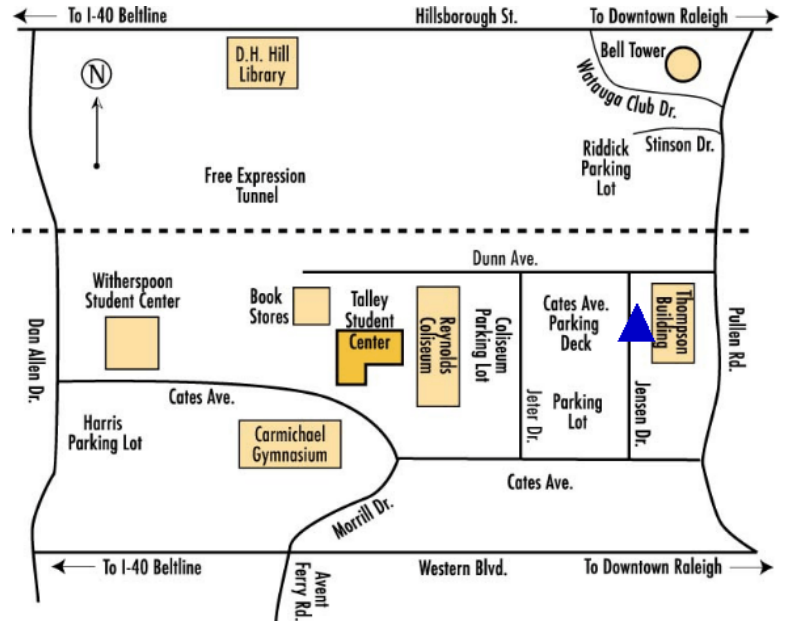
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

**Our Next Meeting is  
November 19, 2019 @ 7:00PM  
Thompson Building / NCSU Campus.**

***About Our Organization...***

The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. was formed in 1974 as a nonprofit educational organization for people who enjoy the arts, earth sciences, and related subjects. The main objectives of the club are to investigate, preserve, and share knowledge of rocks, minerals, and precious stones, and to promote interest in mineralogy, paleontology, earth sciences, and lapidary techniques, among club members and among the general public. The club pursues these goals through publications, meetings, lectures, field trips, demonstrations, and other activities.

**Come and be a part of the Fun!**



**TAR HEEL GEM & MINERAL CLUB**  
**PO Box 33783,**  
**Raleigh, NC 27636-3783**