



1974-2025

Tar Heel Tailings

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

Prez Sez

Happy October, THGMC Members!

Wishing a very happy birthday to all our October-born rockhounds!

Hope everyone is enjoying the start of fall and finding time to explore the beauty of the season.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our **October meeting on the 21st**, where we'll hold **nominations for our 2026 Board** and start preparing **grab bags for our 2026 Annual Show**. It's a great time to get involved and help shape the future of our club!

See you on the 21st!

Tom Beach

THGMC President

October 21 Meeting Agenda: Board Elections and Grab Bags for Annual Show 2026

7:00 PM – 7:10 PM Welcome & Announcements

- Thank you to everyone who attended the September 16, 2025, meeting.
 - Reminder: The updated nomination and election process (approved unanimously) is now in effect and will be used for October and November meetings.
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7:10 PM – 7:30 PM Board Nominations for 2026

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Member at Large (2)
- Technical Lead

Call for Volunteers: Newsletter Editor

7:30 PM – 8:15 PM Grab Bags

- Help the Club prepare for the 2026 Annual Show-fun and surprises for all attendees!

8:15 PM Door Prize Drawing

8:15 PM – 8:45 PM Clean-Up

8:55 PM Everyone Out of the Building

THGMC Board Nominations/Elections

Are you considering running for a position on the THGMC Board? We want to help you make an informed decision! Below is a breakdown of each role, including estimated time commitments and responsibilities. Please review time commitments and expectations carefully before nominations begin at our **October 21 meeting**.

Nomination Etiquette

- **Talk first:** Always speak with someone before nominating them
 - **Be present:** Nominees must attend the nomination and election meetings
 - **Be committed:** Avoid “if no one else will...” nominations
 - **Be excited:** Enthusiasm and readiness are key to success
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General Expectations for All Board Members

- **Monthly Meetings:** ~2.5 hours/month
 - **Board Meetings:** ~2 hours/month
 - **Meeting Setup & Cleanup:** Arrive by 6:30 PM; wrap up by 9:00 PM
 - **Annual Show Participation:** Active involvement in planning and execution
 - **Communication:** Timely responses to emails, texts, and calls
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Board Positions & Time Commitments

President (5–10 hrs./month)

- Presides over meetings and oversees club business
- Serves ex officio on all committees
- May create or dissolve committees with Executive Council approval

Vice President (2–4 hrs./month)

- Assumes President's duties when needed
- Becomes Acting President if the President resigns
- Supports other duties as assigned

Secretary (2–4 hrs./month)

- Distributes club communications (newsletters, announcements, etc.)
- Records meeting minutes
- Manages membership periodicals
- Supports duties assigned by the President

Treasurer (8–10 hrs./month)

- Manages club finances and reporting
- Authorizes expenditures (with President)
- Issues ID cards and transitions records to new Treasurer after elections

Member-at-Large (2–4 hrs./month)

- Two elected members serve on the Executive Council
- Support club initiatives and decision-making

Technology Lead (2–4 hrs./month)

- Smart Device Management: Maintain and update the club's smart devices and accessories, ensuring full functionality prior to their use at club events.
 - Event Support: Provide on-site technical support for smart devices during club events.
 - Social Media Oversight: Manage the club's official social media account(s), including content posting and engagement. May assign additional admins as deemed necessary by the board.
 - Ad Budget Management: Oversee the club's advertising budget for the annual show, as approved by the board.
 - Website Coordination: Serve as an admin-level liaison with the club's webmaster to request updates or changes to website content based on board decisions.
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If you have questions about the Board, the Club, or the election process, feel free to reach out to any current Board member.



Photo by Beverly House

Fluorescent Minerals-Adamite

By Beverly House for THGMC 2025

What do you get when you mix a few rockhounds, a UV flashlight, and a rock? A whole lot of excitement!

Nature's ability to surprise and delight us is truly remarkable, especially when it comes to rocks and minerals that glow under ultraviolet (UV) light. These fluorescent specimens reveal hidden colors and patterns invisible in daylight, transforming ordinary stones into dazzling displays of natural science.

Whether you're exploring a curated collection or shining a blacklight on a freshly found specimen, the magic of fluorescence never gets old. It's science, it's art, and it's pure wonder—all wrapped up in a rock.

Spotlight on Adamite

On a recent buying trip to Franklin, North Carolina, the Club acquired some stunning specimens of **Adamite**, which will be available to members in the coming months.

Adamite is a rare zinc arsenate mineral, typically formed as a secondary mineral through the weathering of zinc- and arsenic-rich ore deposits. It's known for its vibrant hues—ranging from yellow green to brownish to colorless—and often forms in radiating or fan-like clusters.

At first glance, Adamite may appear to be just another brownish rock. Its shapes and formations might catch your eye, but the real magic happens under UV light. Shine a blacklight on it and **POW!** You'll witness its stunning luminescence, often glowing in brilliant lemon-yellow or bright green.

Why Rockhounds Love Adamite

- **Chemical Composition:** $\text{Zn}_2(\text{AsO}_4)(\text{OH})$ — a zinc and arsenic-containing mineral.
- **Crystal Structure:** Prismatic or needle-like crystals, often forming aggregates, botryoidal masses, or crusts.
- **Fluorescence:** A vivid display under UV light, making it a favorite among collectors.

Where to Find Adamite

Adamite can be found in several locations around the world, including:

- **Ojuela Mine**, Mexico
- **Tsumeb**, Namibia
- **Gold Hill**, Utah

Adamite Safety Tips

Because Adamite contains arsenic, zinc, and sometimes copper, it's important to handle it with care. With proper precautions, it's safe for display and collection.

Key Safety Guidelines:

- **Toxicity:** Arsenic is poisonous, and Adamite is soluble in acids.
- **Dust Inhalation:** Avoid breathing in dust from Adamite—especially when cutting or polishing.
- **Ingestion:** Never put Adamite in your mouth or use it to make elixirs.
- **Handling:**
 - Wash hands thoroughly after handling.
 - Avoid creating dust.
 - Use a dust mask when cutting or polishing.
- **Storage:**
 - Keep in a sealed container in a well-ventilated area.
 - Store out of reach of children and pets.

Other interesting Facts on Adamite

- Streak: White
- Hardness: 3½ on Mohs scale
- Tenacity: Very brittle
- Cleavage: Distinct/Good on {101}, good; on {010}, poor.
- Fracture: Irregular/Uneven, Conchoidal

References

"Adamite." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, Wikimedia Foundation,
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adamite>. Accessed 16 Sept. 2025.

"Adamite." *Mindat.org*, Hudson Institute of Mineralogy, <https://www.mindat.org/min-21.html>. Accessed 16 Sept. 2025.

Meeting Agendas 2025-2026

- **October 21, 2025**
 - Nominations
 - Grab bags
- **November 18, 2025**
 - Elections
 - Annual Show volunteer training presentation
 - Begin advertising Annual Show signups
- **December 2025**
 - ❌ No meeting – Happy Holidays!
- **January 20, 2026**
 - Grab bags
 - Sign up for Annual Show



Bituminous Coal (Pennsylvania)

Grab Bag material self-collected and donated by Craig Downes

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2025

Board Members in Attendance:

- Thomas Beach, President
- Lynne Kuzeff, Vice President
- Adam Hogan, Secretary
- Beverly House, Treasurer
- Craig Downes, Technology Lead
- Cyndy Hummel, Member-at-Large
- Kelly Roney, Member-at-Large



Number of Attendees: 41

Visitors: 0

New Members: 0

Birthday Attendees: 2

Door prize: Betty H.-Orthoceras

Door Prize Winners: Drew-Smokey Quartz; Liz-Apophyllite specimen, Betty H.-Orthoceras

Topics of Discussion:

- Meeting called to order at 6:58 PM
- Thomas Beach gave general club announcements
- Beverly House presented club by-law changes

1) Formally add the Technical Lead position to the by-laws and the following description of duties:

The Technical Lead is responsible for the following duties:

- Smart Device Management: Maintain and update the club's smart devices and accessories, ensuring full functionality prior to their use at club events.
- Event Support: Provide on-site technical support for smart devices during club events.
- Social Media Oversight: Manage the club's official social media account(s), including content posting and engagement. May assign additional admins as deemed necessary by the board.
- Ad Budget Management: Oversee the club's advertising budget for the annual show, as approved by the board.
- Website Coordination: Serve as an admin-level liaison with the club's webmaster to request updates or changes to website content based on board decisions.
- Meeting Participation: Expected to attend monthly club meetings and board meetings.
 - Motion to vote on changes by Davis Hall
 - Seconded by Kris Staska
 - Unanimous approval from all members

2). Update verbiage for nominations and voting for the board

Current Verbiage:

A. The election of Club officers shall be held at the last monthly meeting of the year. Nominations shall be made from the floor. People can either be nominated by others, or self-

nominated but actual acceptance of position must be done by the individual nominated for the position. Should more than one person be nominated for a position, the vote shall be by secret ballot and the candidate with the majority of votes shall be elected.

B. The officers shall serve for one calendar year, and their duties shall begin immediately upon election.

C. There shall be no limit to the number of terms an officer may serve.

Requested Changes/Verbiage:

Club Officer & Board Member Election Process

1. Nominations:

- Occur at the second-to-last monthly meeting of the year.
- Must be made from the floor.
- Individuals may be nominated by others or may be self-nominated.
- Nominees must personally accept the nomination to be considered.
- Nominees must be willing and able to accept the nomination and commit to the duties outlined in the bylaws.

• No nominations will be accepted at the last monthly meeting.

2. Election:

- It will be held at the last monthly meeting of the year.
- If more than one person is nominated for a position:
- Voting will be conducted by a written, secret ballot.
- The candidate with the majority of votes is elected.

Rationale: Our current by-laws lack clarity regarding the Board election process, particularly around the timeline and nomination procedures. Holding nominations in October and elections in November, while still allowing nominations on the night of the election, limits the Board's effectiveness and transparency. This compressed timeline restricts members' ability to thoughtfully consider candidates and undermines the integrity of the election process. A clearer, more structured approach will promote informed decision-making, encourage broader participation, and strengthen the leadership of the Board.

- Motion to vote on changes by Davis Hall
- Seconded by Peter Stumbar
- Unanimous approval from all members

The rest of the meeting was a presentation titled "NC MINERALS (What can we find, and Where?)" by Jeff S. from Crystal Perfections

Meeting concluded at 8:30 PM

Tar Heel Treasurer Report:

We are in good standing, and all our bills are paid and paid on time. Beverly House,
Treasurer

Field trips:

Trips will be announced via email and on THGMC webs

Vug Sites

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club- These are the official sites for the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club.
<https://www.facebook.com/tarheelgemandmineralclub>

<https://www.tarheelclub.org/>

The Southeastern Federal Mineral Society (SFMS) Lodestar Newsletter- The Southeast Federation includes clubs and societies mostly in the region east of the Mississippi River and South of a line following the northern borders of Tennessee and North Carolina.
<https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter>

Carolina Geological Society- This site provides numerous downloadable field trip guidebooks, maps, and charts of the Carolinas. It will prove to keep any avid rockhound busy for years.
<https://www.carolinageologicalsociety.org/>

Rock and Gem Magazine -Leading magazine for lapidary and mineral hobbyist.
<https://www.rockngem.com/>

Geological Trial Guide for Falls Lake Area- Covers the area between Falls Lake Dam to the Eno River, created by Phil Bradley with the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS).
http://www.ncgeology.com/falls_lake_geology/pages/TrailGuide_FallsLake_home.html

Geological Trial Guide for Eno River Area -created by Phil Bradley with the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS). http://www.ncgeology.com/pages/Index_eno.html

Interactive geology maps - published by the NCGS, includes detailed maps of North Carolina and a rock survey of downtown Raleigh buildings. <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/ncgs-publications/interactive-geologic-maps>

MinDat - Open database for rocks, minerals and mines from around the world.
<https://www.mindat.org/>

THGMC would like to encourage our members that maintain their own presence on the internet to send us a link to their site, to review and possibly, be published in future Vug Sites so that other club members may learn and enjoy the craft, the art, the interests that many of us have in common. You can submit your link to: tarheelgemmineralclub@yahoo.com



**To contact the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club (THGMC)
and its Board Members, please email us
at tarheelgemmineralclub@yahoo.com**

**Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 33783
Raleigh, NC 27536**

Thomas Beach – President

Lynne Kuzeff – Vice President

Beverly House– Treasurer

Adam Hogan – Secretary

Kelly Roney – Member At Large

Cyndy Hummel – Member At Large/ Annual show chair

Craig Downes – Technology Lead

Acting Newsletter Editor- Beverly House



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The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. was formed in 1974 as a nonprofit educational organization for people who enjoy the lapidary 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, exhibits, demonstrations, and other activities.



Our Next Meeting is October 21, 2025

7:00 pm-8:45 pm

Method Road Community Center

Pioneer Building

514 Method Road, Raleigh, NC 27607