

## Special Interest Articles:

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- May Birthstone

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

## Prez Sez By Beverly House

Greetings all. Happy May!

### New Members:

I personally want to welcome all the new members we have had sign up this year. Hopefully, as we see things opening up with the state, we will be able to resume field trips in the near future.

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## MAY BIRTHSTONE EMERALD BIRTHSTONE

Emerald, the birthstone for May, has been beloved for millennia, evoking rebirth and renewal. Widely regarded as the definition of green, emerald is the perfect color for spring. From the poetic description of Ireland as "the Emerald Isle" to the vibrant green of the famed gemstone itself—the May birthstone emerald has captured hearts and minds through the ages.

Variations of this rich green color suggest soothing, lush gardens. Legend has it that emerald has the power to make its wearer more intelligent and quick-witted, and it was once believed to cure diseases like cholera and malaria. Today, it's the gemstone

given for the 20th and 35th wedding anniversaries.

### EMERALD BIRTHSTONE MEANING & HISTORY

From Egyptian pharaohs to Inca emperors, emerald has enchanted royalty. Cleopatra was known to have a passion for emerald and used it in her

royal adornments. The legendary Crown of the Andes, fashioned in colonial South America, is one example of how the Spanish revered the May birthstone.

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

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org)

**Program & Refreshments**

<u>REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:</u>	
Coordinator: Open	
May	TBD
<u>PROGRAM SCHEDULE:</u>	
May	TBD

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

**May  
B-Day Members**

- Peter Barra
- Mickey Broadway
- Ben Cathey
- Katherine Cherry
- Timothy Challeuer
- Mark Cox
- Jim Davenport
- Shirley Green
- Vincent Hagerty
- John Heinz
- Mark Hipps
- Corinne Hummel
- Ramon Malheiros
- Edward Markarian
- Linda Pratt
- Alexis Norwood
- James Tunney
- Leanna Tunney
- Kim Whitfield
- Ron Wilson



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
Attention: Treasurer  
P. O. Box 33783  
Raleigh, NC 27536-3783

## Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. - April Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

### Opening of Club Meeting:

President Beverly House opened the Meeting at 7:36 pm

### Show Reports:

Thanks to everyone for coming tonight (via zoom). One and a half weeks ago we were getting geared up for the show. There was so much anticipation, when we got to the end of it – it came and went really fast. Early on, a ruby necklace was dropped and lost. Fortuitously, it was claimed by the owner on Sunday morning.

Most mineral, fossil and opal dealers did make a profit at the show. The jewelry dealers were more challenged to break even. With other shows being canceled throughout the year, this was an opportunity to make some money. Volunteers were stretched thin. Part of this was because we had not met in person for a year and generated excitement and participation for the show.

Cyndy will contact the printer to get the invoice for the postcard printing mailed to the PO Box. She will contact Annette at the Fairgrounds for the invoice to be paid. She will work on sending Linda a request for a few dealer refunds.

Linda needs the invoice for the trailer tires from John G. She will pay for the storage units to cover the months for the rest of 2021. She will investigate the idea to purchase a multi-year tag for the trailer - how long this would be valid and the cost.

At one point in our history, we had amassed quite a bit of money from show profits and put it into 3 - \$5,000 CDs for an emergency. We have one remaining, using one last year.

Show chairs will meet to discuss what needs to be

purchased and broken equipment to be fixed. What would make each booth better will be a question. Silent Auction needs a functional cash box and new totes are needed for T-shirts.

### Old Business:

The wholesale show in May for GL & W in Franklin is still a go.

There are 2 treasurer's reports in the April newsletter.

There will be no in-person meetings until Fall (August/September) at the Crafts Center.

William Holland has closed for the rest of the year for classes. We don't have updated information about Wildacres.

### Field Trips:

Field trips – Beverly will check with the quarries after Mother's Day. Meanwhile Senter Quarry will be scheduled in the next 2 weeks. An event at Senter Quarry in June was discussed. This would be an ice cream get together/rock hunt from 10-2.

### Close of Meeting:

Closed meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Cyndy Hummel,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. - May Meeting Information

The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting for the May Monthly Meeting.

Topic: Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club May 2021 Monthly Meeting

Time: May 18, 2021 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

To join the Zoom Meeting, use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84681394934?pwd=OFIhOEFRRWo5V2JYaW1WcC9ILzJGZz09>

Our Meeting ID: 846 8139 4934

This meetings Passcode: 327452

We look forward to "seeing" everyone there. If you experience any issues getting into the meeting, you can call or text me at (919) 389-1821. Thanks,

Beverly House

President

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## May Treasurer's Report

TGMC Treasurer Report - April 2021		
<b>Beginning Balance:</b> 4/1/21		<b>8,180.92</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Membership Dues	790.00	
Re-deposit of Show Petty Cash	620.00	
Show Dealer Fees	5,606.50	
Show - Geode Sales	5,543.50	
Show - Silent Auction sales	942.93	
Show - Hospitality Sales	1,359.00	
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>14,861.93</b>
<b>Expense:</b>		
Petty Cash for Show	620.00	
Show - Postcard postage	777.60	
Show - Food	626.53	
Show - misc. supplies	18.86	
Stripe / Square Fees	99.91	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>2,142.90</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b> 4/30/21		<b>20,899.95</b>
<b>CDs</b> 91-181 day		5,705.22
		-
<b>Total CDs</b>		<b>5,705.22</b>

Linda Searcy  
Treasurer,  
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## Prez Sez

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### Meetings:

Next Meeting: May 18, 2021 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

Agenda: General information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84681394934?pwd=OFIhOEFRRWo5V2JYaW1WcC9lLzJGZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 8139 4934

Passcode: 327452

In case you missed this bit of information last month, unfortunately, the NC State Craft Center has informed me we will not have access to the Craft Center for meetings until Fall 2021. I know this is disappointing as we are all eager to meet in person, but we will continue to have the Zoom meetings until we are able to return there.

We are moving ahead with the club social in June that would include ice cream, drinks, snacks, and some rock trading and hunting. I will be scheduling this on our website for Sunday, June 13, 2021 11:00 am- 3:00 pm at Senter Quarry, Lillington, NC

### Field trips:

Next Field trip will be to Senter Quarry-Date to be determined.

Other Quarry Field trips: We still do not have any dates to share-but as they open back up, I will share that information asap! We appreciate the kindness of the quarries for their continued support of field trips and totally understand the issues they face, especially their concerns of possible exposure to their employees.

A quick note: Field trip notifications are made through emails, which are sent through emails to all current and non-current members. If your email is incorrect in our records, you may be missing important information about upcoming events.

Please feel free to contact me via email, text, or phone or if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you all for either being a member of THGMC or your interest in our club-and as always ROCK ON!

Beverly House  
President

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## MAY BIRTHSTONE

Continued from Page 1

According to lore, its largest stone—now called the Atahualpa emerald—was taken from the last Inca emperor, Atahualpa, by conquistador Francisco Pizarro. The emerald and gold treasures recovered from the sunken 17th century Spanish galleon Nuestra Señora de Atocha represent a small fraction of the colonial riches sent to Spain from the New World.



The Crown of the Andes boasts an impressive 24 ct emerald center stone and 442 additional emeralds set in the intricately crafted golden headpiece. Photo: the Metropolitan Museum of Art

The word “emerald” comes from smaragdus, ancient Greek for a green gem. Roman author Pliny the Elder, who died in the 79 CE eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, wrote in his encyclopedic *Natural History* that “nothing greens greener.” He also stated that the May birthstone had therapeutic properties that helped gem cutters: “(they) have no better method of restoring their eyes than by looking at the emerald, its soft, green color comforting and removing their weariness and lassitude.” Science now proves this belief: The color green relieves stress and eye strain.

The green birthstone was also thought to have magical powers. By placing it under the tongue, one could see into the future. Some believed it made one an eloquent speaker and exposed lovers who made false promises.



An emerald cross and gold rosary recovered from the Nuestra Señora de Atocha shipwreck. Courtesy: Eileen Weatherbee. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA

### WHERE ARE EMERALDS FOUND?

Colombia has been the source of the finest emeralds for more than 500 years, and Colombian emeralds are the standard by which all others are measured. Three mining sites in Colombia are particularly noteworthy: Muzo, Chivor and Coscuez. Each locality produces a range of colors but, generally speaking, darker tones of pure green emeralds come from Muzo. Emeralds that are lighter in tone and slightly bluish green are associated with Chivor. Slightly yellowish green emeralds are unearthed in Coscuez.

The May birthstone is also found in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. One of the most productive sites for the green birthstone is the sophisticated Belmont mine. Capoeirana is another important locality, a rugged region worked largely by independent miners and small-scale operations.

The May birthstone can also be found in Africa. Zambia is a major source, and mines in the Ndola Rural Restricted Area are known for producing emeralds that are bluish green and darker in tone. Pakistan and Afghanistan are important producers as well.



An independent miner at the Capoeirana mining area holds a rough emerald. Photo: Eric Welch/GIA

### EMERALD BIRTHSTONE CARE & CLEANING

Emerald is a 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale of hardness, so it is more susceptible to scratching than a diamond, which ranks 10 on the scale. The May birthstone is often treated to improve its color or clarity. Common treatment methods include:

1. **Dyeing:** Paler emeralds with multiple fractures may be dyed green to enhance their color.
2. **Fracture Filling:** Oils, waxes, and artificial resins are often used to fill surface-reaching fractures in emeralds. The goal is to reduce the visibility of the fractures and improve the apparent clarity. The volume of filler material present can range from minor to significant; the different substances have varying degrees of stability.

The emerald birthstone requires some special care: Avoid exposure to heat, changes in air pressure (such as in an airline cabin) and harsh chemicals. Never put an emerald in an ultrasonic cleaner, as the vibrations and heat can cause the filler to sweat out of fractures. Filled emeralds can also be damaged by exposure to hot water used for washing dishes. The safest way to clean emeralds is to gently scrub them with a soft brush and warm, soapy water.



GIA.edu

The beauty of emerald is seen in this 3.69 ct stone flanked by six diamonds. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA. Courtesy: Ismael Daoud

The May birthstone is perfectly suited to the celebration of life blooming everywhere. Given the rich green hues of emerald, it was inevitable that we would fall under its spell. Productive mines around the world ensure that all who love green or are born in May will continue to be enchanted.

Resources: <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/may-birthstones>



The lush green Andes Mountains tower over the deep tropical valleys around Muzo. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**May 14 – 16, 2021:** Raleigh, NC – Treasures of the Earth. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. Our shows feature estate, classic, handcrafted and fashion jewelry made from a variety of metals, as well as a vast array of crystals, minerals and fossils. Hours: Fri 12-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-5. Admission: TBD and Free Parking. Contact: <https://treasuresoftheearth.com/events/nc-state-fairgrounds/>;

## Vugsites

The following are some links to Web-Sites that may interest some of our members:

<http://www.tarheelclub.org/> / <https://www.facebook.com/tarheelgemandmineralclub/> These are the official sites for the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club. I would strongly urge all members to check them out on a regular basis.

<http://www.amfed.org/> / <http://www.amfed.org/sfms> These are the official sites for the organizing body that the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club is founded under. I would strongly urge all members to check them out on a regular basis.

[http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar\\_newsletter.html](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html) The SFMS Lodestar Newsletter

<http://www.carolinageologicalsociety.org/CGS/Home.html> This site provides numerous downloadable field-trip guide books, maps, and charts of the Carolinas. It will prove to keep any avid rock hound busy for years. Great Site!

[http://www.ncminerals.com/ncmineralswebsite\\_files/page0011.htm](http://www.ncminerals.com/ncmineralswebsite_files/page0011.htm) And while we are on the subject, try this link. Its titled: Links of Interest to Rock hounds in NC. It will take you to a list of links for North Carolina gems and minerals.

<http://www.rocksforkids.com/> Just like the name says, a nice place to steer the younger members.

Information & photographs of over 6300 specimens from the Glenn & Martha Vargas Gem & Mineral Collection.

<http://www.rockhoundlounge.com> Scott Laborde, a club member maintains his own web site that might be of interest to people collecting in and around Wake County.

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29726500/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-science](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29726500/ns/technology_and_science-science) This site highlights a half dozen of the most recent significant fossil finds.

<http://appmodo.com/13971/mole-quest-for-the-terracore-gem-app-review-for-the-iphone-and-ipod-touch/> If you have an iphone or an ipod touch, this rock-hounding may be the game for you.

[http://diamonddanpublications.net/index\\_files/page0009.html](http://diamonddanpublications.net/index_files/page0009.html) Diamond Dan's Mini Miner's Monthly

I would like to encourage all members of the THG&MC that maintain their own presence on the internet to send me a link to their site to be published in future Vugsites so that other club members may learn and enjoy the craft, the art, the interests that many of us have in common.

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

# Our Next Meeting is

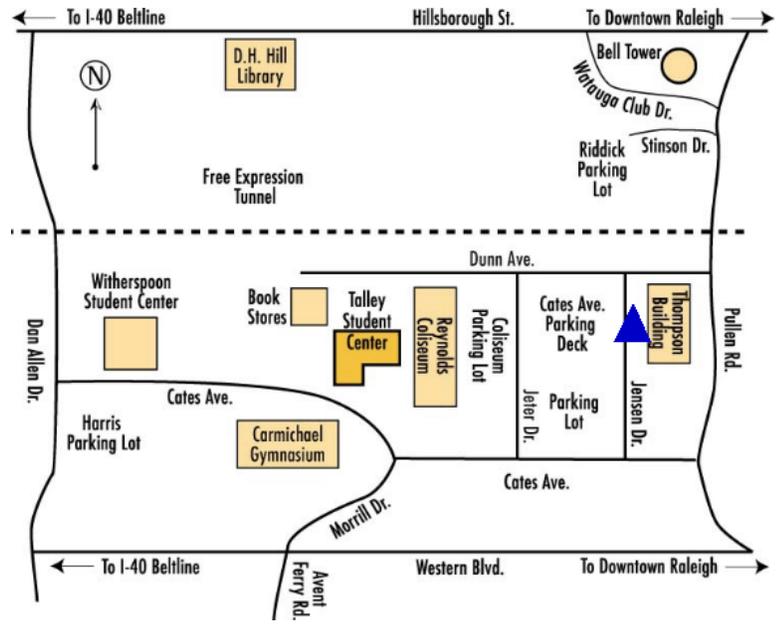
## May 18, 2021

# See Inside for Meeting Details

### 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 lapidary arts, earth sciences, and related subjects. The club pursues these 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.

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



**TAR HEEL GEM & MINERAL CLUB**  
 10609 Chelsea Drive  
 Raleigh, NC 27603

