

Tar Heel Tailings

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- New dinosaur species discovered
- June 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 June!

Happy Birthday to all our members born in and a Happy Father's Day to all of our Rock Dads.

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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New dinosaur species discovered in Australia One of world's biggest

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Scientists have confirmed the discovery of a new dinosaur species in Australia, one of the largest found in the world, more than a decade after cattle farmers first uncovered bones of the animal.

The plant-eating sauropod lived in the Cretaceous period between 92 million and 96 million years ago when Australia was attached to Antarctica, according to a research paper <https://peerj.com/articles/11317> published on Monday.

Paleontologists estimated the dinosaur reached a height of 5-6.5 metres at the hip and 25-30 metres in length, making it as long as a

basketball court and as tall as a two storey building.

That makes the new species the largest dinosaur ever found in Australia and puts it in the top five in the world, joining an elite group of titanosaurs previously only discovered in South

America.

"Discoveries like this are just the tip of the iceberg," said Queensland Museum curator and palaeontologist Scott Hocknull.

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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

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Open

June TBD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

June TBD

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

**June
B-Day Members**

Tommy Armstrong
Mitzi Broadway
Christina Child
Daniel Davis
Clea Gallian
Socorro Gonzalez
Vanessa LaPiana
Wade Rosar
Melissa Schaufler
Seward Shaddock
Angie Tunney
Loretta Turcotte
Bryan 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. - May Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

While there was a meeting in May, there were no minutes, since the secretary did not attend the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted
 Cyndy Hummel,
 Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

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

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

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,

Topic: Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club June 2021 Monthly Meeting
 Time: June 15, 2021 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Beverly House
 President
 Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

To join the Zoom Meeting, use the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88187446938?pwd=L2ZwUmp4ajVnQk91U2lyRExrcmFnUT09>

Our Meeting ID: 881 8744 6938
 This meetings Passcode: 393088

June Treasurer's Report

TGMC Treasurer Report - May 2021		
Beginning Balance: 5/1/21		20,899.95
Income:		
Membership Dues	105.00	
Total Income:		105.00
Expense:		
Show Venue Balance	11059.00	
Show Vendor Refunds	719.00	
Storage Rentals	1491.00	
Stripe / Square Fees	4.55	
Total Expenses:		13,273.55
Ending Balance: 5/31/21		7,731.40
CDs 91-181 day		5,705.50
		-
Total CDs		5,705.50

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



Prez Sez

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Meetings:

Next Meeting: June 15, 2021, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

Agenda: General information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88187446938?pwd=L2ZwUmp4ajVnQk91U2lyRExrcmFnUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 8744 6938

Passcode: 393088

Field trips:

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.

New dinosaur species discovered in Australia

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Paleontologists have named the sauropod "Australotitan cooperensis", combining "southern titan" with the name of a creek near where the first of the creature's bones were found in 2006 on a cattle farming property in Eromanga in Queensland state.

The confirmation of the new species marks a seventeen-year long journey to first unearth and then compare the bones of "Cooper", as the dinosaur is more informally known, to other finds.

Dinosaur bones are enormous, heavy and fragile, and are kept in museums around the world, making scientific study difficult.

The team from the Eromanga Natural History Museum and the Queensland Museum used new digital technology for the first time to 3-D scan each bone for comparisons.

"To make sure Australotitan was a different species, we needed to compare its bones to the bones of other species from Queensland and globally," Hocknull said. "This was a very long and painstaking task."

Robyn Mackenzie, who was mustering cattle with her husband Stuart on their property when they discovered the bones, founded the Eromanga Natural History Museum to house the find.

A swath of further discoveries of dinosaur skeletons in the area, along with a rock-shelf believed to have been

a sauropod pathway, are still awaiting full scientific study.

"Palaeo Tourism has been huge globally so we're expecting a lot of international interest when our borders re-open," said Mackenzie, now a field paleontologist.

Hocknull said even larger dinosaur specimens are waiting to be discovered, given the plant-eating sauropods were generally preyed on by huge theropods.

"We've found a couple of small theropod dinosaurs in Australia ... but it wouldn't have bothered Australotitan, which suggests there is a very large predatory dinosaur out there somewhere. We just haven't found it yet."

(Reporting by Paulina Duran in Sydney; Editing by Jane Wardell)

Resources: <https://news.yahoo.com/dinosaur-species-discovered-australia-one-072013550.html>

Moonstone Birthstone

Moonstone Birthstone Meaning & History

Moonstone is the best-known gem of the feldspar group of minerals. It is renowned for its adularescence, the light that appears to billow across a gemstone, giving it a special glow. The finest moonstones show a blue sheen against a colorless background. This June birthstone has been associated with both the Roman and Greek lunar deities. Hindu mythology claims that it is made of solidified moonbeams. Moonstone is often associated with love, passion and fertility; it is believed to bring great luck.

Great designers of the Art Nouveau era (1890s–1910s), such as René Lalique and Louis Comfort Tiffany, featured moonstone in their fine jewelry. The moonstone birthstone came to the forefront again during the 1960s “flower child” movement and with New Age designers of the 1990s.

Where Is Moonstone Found?

Moonstone can be found in a wide variety of places. This includes parts of the United States, such as New Mexico, North Carolina and Virginia. The most important world locations for the moonstone birthstone are India and Sri Lanka, but sources also include Brazil, India, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Myanmar and Tanzania.



Mining for moonstone in Sri Lanka. Photo: Afsaneh Tazari/GIA

Moonstone Birthstone Care & Cleaning

Moonstone is a 6–6.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness and has poor toughness. It may crack when exposed to high heat. Therefore, ultrasonic and steam cleaners should not be used on your moonstone. The best option for cleaning is warm, soapy water with a soft brush.

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



Frankish disk brooch from the second half 7th century. Medium: Gold sheet, filigree, moonstone/adularia, glass cabochons, garnets, mother-of-pearl, and moonstone. Courtesy: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Moonstone

Moonstone is a sodium potassium aluminium silicate ((Na,K)AlSi₃O₈) of the feldspar group that displays a pearly and opalescent schiller. An alternative name is hecatolite.



Etymology

Its name is derived from a visual effect, sheen or schiller (adularescence), caused by light diffraction within a micro-structure consisting of regular exsolution layers (lamellae) of different alkali feldspars (orthoclase and sodium-rich plagioclase).

History

Moonstone has been used in jewelry for millennia, including ancient civilizations. The Romans admired moonstone, as they believed it was derived from solidified rays of the Moon. Both the Romans and Greeks associated moonstone with their lunar deities. In more recent history, moonstone became popular during the Art Nouveau period; French goldsmith René Lalique and many others created a large quantity of jewelry using this stone.

Geology

The most common moonstone is of the orthoclase feldspar mineral adularia, named for an early mining site near Mt. Adular in Switzerland, now the town of St. Gotthard. A solid solution of the plagioclase feldspar oligoclase +/? the potassium feldspar orthoclase also produces moonstone specimens.



Occurrence

Deposits of moonstone occur in Armenia (mainly from Lake Sevan), Australia, the Austrian Alps, Mexico, Madagascar, Myanmar, Norway, Poland, India, Sri Lanka and the United States.

In Popular Culture

The moonstone is the Florida State Gemstone; it was designated as such in 1970 to commemorate the Moon landings, which took off from Kennedy Space Center. Despite it being the Florida State Gemstone, it does not naturally occur in the state.



Moonstone or moonstone gems have been used frequently in many supernatural applications, particularly in pop culture, such as in *The Vampire Diaries*. Most often in stories about supernatural vampires or werewolves, moonstones have been shown either enhancing or suppressing the abilities of supernatural creatures.

Resources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moonstone_\(gemstone\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moonstone_(gemstone))

UPCOMING SHOWS

September 3 – 6, 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 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 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 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 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.

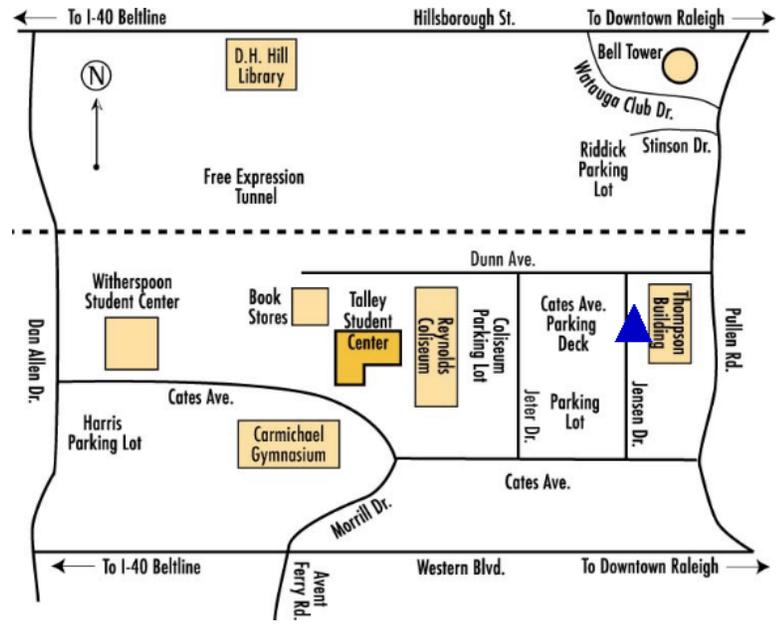
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

**Our Next Meeting is
June 15, 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 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

