



1974-2026

Tar Heel Tailings

A newsletter for Gem and Mineral enthusiasts in and around the Raleigh, NC area.

Prez Sez

A Quick Message from Club the THGMC President, Thomas Beach:

Welcome to all of our new members this month-we're excited to have you join us! We are also looking forward to this month's speaker and the valuable information he will share about rock hounding.

As schools let out and summer begins, we wish everyone a happy and safe season. Please remember that we continue to meet throughout the summer and have a strong lineup of programs planned for each meeting.



April 2026 Meeting & Club News

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026

Created by: Kelly Roney, Secretary

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order at 7:12

Number of Attendees: 60

Visitors: 0

New Members: 6

Birthday Attendees: 1

Pre-meeting: 6:30 pm-6:50 pm- Ken Carson, THGMC Club member, had rocks and gems for sale - he is downsizing his collection and allowed members to take advantage of this unique experience. This opportunity is limited and is between Ken and members, not the club. He accepted cash only.

Topics of Discussion:

- **General club announcements-** Thomas Beach
 - Welcome
- **Field trips** (Adam): Portis mine. Owner of the mine will teach to pan, and metal detecting available. Date TBD but likely 16 May 2026. Suggested gear includes long pants and closed-toe shoes.
- **Change in bylaws:** Announced at 21 April 2026 club meeting; vote scheduled for 19 May 2026 club meeting.
 - **Proposed:** Require a visitor or someone wishing to join the club to attend a meeting or volunteer at the annual show prior to being able join the club. For those who are looking at renewing their membership, if they have never attended a meeting, they would be required to attend 1 meeting before being allowed to re-join. Being an active member means you have paid your membership.
 - Member discussion/comments:
 - Require field trip attendees to have attended a club meeting.
 - Need to have attended one meeting within the last 6 months.
 - Phrase as we have a certain number for all field trips spots available. If there is a slot available after members that have

- attended a meeting, then non-meeting attendees could sign up. Give preference to meeting attending vs non-attending club members.
 - Put this into effect with a delay.
 - Consider that some people that used to be more active in the club that still pay dues that don't want anything else beyond reading the newsletter or minutes. THGMC is a member of the southeastern federation, and that gives someone joining our club a benefit.
 - The proposal as is is written as join the club. Jerry points out that
 - Decision: Tom: Table for now for the board to consider member comments and will reword for the vote next month.
- **Proposed:** Board members must be active in the club and reside within 50 miles of Raleigh. Proposal announced to the club at the 21 April 26 general meeting; vote scheduled for 19 May 2026.
 - Member discussion, comments:
 - What is the rationale? Must be able to attend a minimum of 23 meetings per year, and this can be challenging for non-local people. Additionally, it can take several months to remove a non-active board member.
 - Could this be an attendance policy instead? Some dedicated people may want to drive the distance. Some members live within 60 miles away from Raleigh- recommends attendance policy instead.
 - Is distance the common denominator for nonactive board members? This data is not available
 - Consider rules for removing nonactive board members instead.
 - Decision: Tom: We will revisit in the board and bring for a vote next month. Email suggestions can be sent to THGMC.
- **Annual Show 2026 highlights and updates:**
 - Increase in ticket sales at the door this year- almost 100 more than last year.
 - Almost \$19,000 in revenue generated by the club, not including what is charged to vendors.
 - 34 Vendors
 - Six display boxes- thank you Paint Team, for getting the insides painted black and ready for the show!
 - First year judging display boxes- First, second and third place ribbons and geodes were awarded
 - First Place- Patrick Lahr
 - Second Place- Kaye- Rock Museum
 - Third Place- Cyndy Hummel
 - Honorable mention- Walt Milowic
 - Two boxes that were not part of contest were also displayed:

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- THGMC ultraviolet box this year- thanks to all who worked to put it together.
- Fossil display box-thanks to Beverly House for providing.
- Silent auction did great this year- thanks to all that volunteered
- Sign-up Genius seems to have helped with getting more volunteers signed up for the show.
- VISA gift card drawing will be at the May 2026 meeting- we are finalizing the volunteer lists. Approximately 62 volunteers.
- Thank you Cyndy Hummel for years of service as Show Chair- we will celebrate her at the July Ice Cream Social
- New show structure for next year: All vendor contracts will go to the president and checks will go to the treasurer. Show liason- will make sure all vendor needs are met. More to follow in future meetings.
- Feedback survey sent to the vendors through survey monkey. Volunteers will also get a survey. .
- **Show and Tell:** Members brought one rock and discussed in 1 minute or less to tell something interesting about that rock. Great stories were shared!
- **Donation:** Ken Carlson donated 15 flats to the annual show.
- **Door Prize Winners and prizes:** Three door prizes were awarded: Chris malachite, Stephanie calcite, Beverly smokey quartz, and Eugene malachite

The meeting concluded at 8:20 PM.

Minutes recorded by Kelly Roney



Door Prizes which included polished Malachite and Cobaltine Calcite

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Treasurer Report May 2026:

All billings are paid to date, accounts receivable is received to date, and the club is in good standing.

Beverly House, Treasurer

Proposed By-Law Changes:

By Law request 1-The Board took into consideration the discussion posed by its members at the April 2026 meeting and decided to table until further notice the request to update the by-law requiring Board members to live within a 50-mile radius.

By-Law request 2- The Board took into consideration the discussion posed by its members at the April 2026 meeting and have re-written the By-Law update to the following for consideration by its members:

To be eligible to register for a field trip, you must be a member in good standing and have either volunteered at the annual show or attended at least one meeting within the past 12 months.

This will be brought to the members at the May 19, 2026 meeting for discussion and request for discussion and possible vote.

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. 2026 Board

P.O. Box 33783

Raleigh, NC 27536

Thomas Beach – President

Adam Hogan – Vice President

Beverly House– Treasurer

Kelly Roney – Secretary

Lynne Kuzeff – Member At Large

Cyndy Hummel – Member At Large

Craig Downes – Technology Lead

Please contact any member of the board through
tarheelgemmineralclub@yahoo.com

THGMC Field Trips-Fossils and Gold

By: Patrick Lahr

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club hosted two fantastic club field trips over this past month which gave members the opportunity to search for 40-million-year-old marine life and iconic North Carolina Gold.



Echinoid Fossil
From New Hanover County-Photo by
Patrick Lahr



Scallop Shell
Fossil From New Hanover County-
Photo by Patrick Lahr

New Hanover County

The first was on April 24, 2026, to fossil bearing rocks in New Hanover County, NC. This formation is made of fossiliferous limestone that dates to the Eocene Period, roughly 40 million years ago. Members found marine fossils including echinoids (sea urchins), brachiopods, bryozoans, and shark teeth. Some members had some fascinating finds including a large Cretaceous spiny sea urchin, and an ancient squid called a belemnite.

Halifax County- The Portis Mine

The second was on May 16, 2026, to the Portis Gold Mine, where members received a panning lesson from the mine owner before being turned loose on the property. The gold was formed when hot silica rich fluids intruded on the surrounding rocks, carrying with it gold and other metallic minerals. The mine was originally started in 1831 and was operated on and off until the 1930's. Some of our younger members had a chance to join the hunt for the small amounts of gold too, and many of them found glittering yellow flakes of gold!

Piles of Quartz at The Portis Gold Mine-Photo by Patrick Lahr



Upcoming Field Trips:

- *The Portis Mine- June 2026 (Friday Trip)*
- *Emerald Hollow Mine- June or July 2026 (Friday Day trip)*

Monthly Mineral: Pyrophyllite

By Patrik Lahr



Pyrophyllite with Oxide Minerals for Orange County, NC (Photo by Patrick Lahr)

This month's mineral is Pyrophyllite, a phyllosilicate mineral containing aluminum, silicon and oxygen. This soft, light-colored mineral is most notable for its spectacular radiating sprays which can grow quite large. The pearly luster of the mineral, as well as its often-pure white color adds brilliance to these eye-catching specimens. Pyrophyllite is very much a local star in the Tar Heel State. Mining goes back to the early 1800's and its local abundance has been the subject of multiple studies by the NCGS and USGS. It's still mined commercially in Hillsboro, where it serves a number of commercial applications, including use in ceramics and insecticides.



Color: Often white, sometimes yellow, reddish or brown

Hardness: 1.5- 2

Luster: Pearly or Dull

Streak: White

Cleavage: Perfect

Left and Right: Macro Photos of Pyrophyllite Form Orange County NC (Photos by Patrick Lahr)



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 hobbyists. <https://www.rockngem.com/>

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

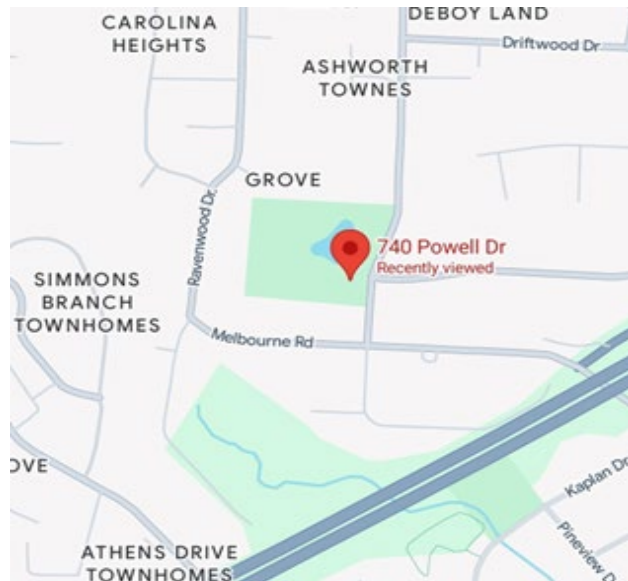
Interactive geology maps - published by the NCGS, include detailed maps of North Carolina and a rock survey of downtown Raleigh buildings.
<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/ncgs-publications/interactive-geologic-maps>

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

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 7:00 PM
Powell Drive Community Center
740 Powell Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606



Agenda items include:

Set up- 6:30 pm-7:00 pm

Open Meeting, Welcome, Birthdays- 7:00 pm-7:10 pm

By-Law Proposal Discussion- 7:10 pm-7:30 pm

Annual Show 2027 announcement: 7:30 pm-7:40 pm

Drawing- \$100 VISA Gift Cards for 2026 Annual Show 7:40 pm- 7:50 pm

Discuss June Field Trips-7:50 pm- 8:00 pm (poll members to see interest in Portis and Emerald Hollow Mine)

Presentation- Rockhounding 8:00 pm-8:35 pm

Final remarks 8:35 pm-8:40 pm

Clean up 8:40 pm-9:00 pm

Out of Building no later than 9:00 pm!

About Us:

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 public. The club pursues these goals through publications, meetings, lectures, field trips, exhibits, demonstrations, and other activities.



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