

August 2026

TAR HEEL TAILINGS

A Newsletter For Gem & Mineral Enthusiasts of Raleigh, NC and Surrounding Areas



1974-2026

Prez Sez

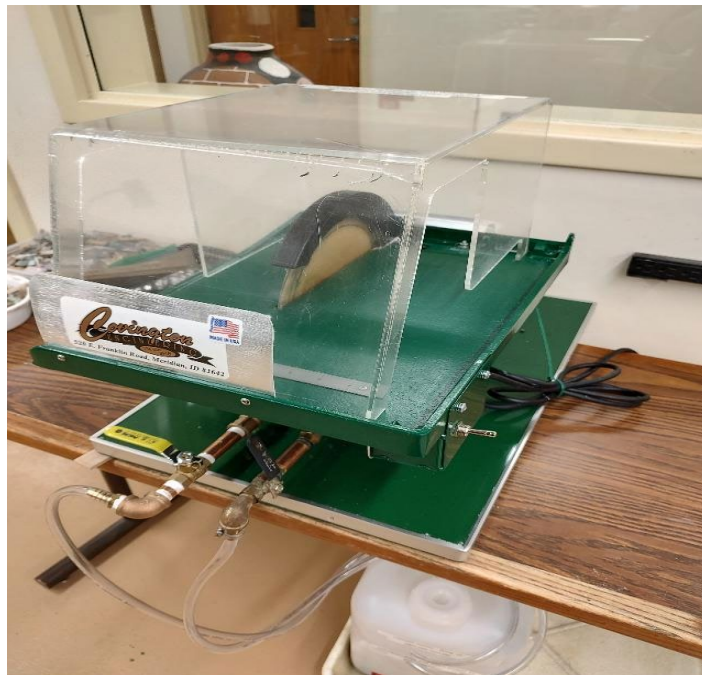
I hope everyone has been having a great summer.

The Ice Cream social was fun, I enjoyed breaking geodes for our club, but I was so busy I have no idea how the trunk swap and sale went. Please let me know at the next meeting or email Tarheel with comments so we know if it is something worth doing again. Your input is key for making things better!

Thomas Beach, President

August 18, 2026, Meeting Agenda

- 6:30 -7:00 pm Meeting and greeting, set up room
- 7:00-7:15 pm Welcome, new members, visitors, and birthdays
- 7:15-7:20 pm Updates
- 7:20 -8:30 pm Guest Speaker- Tom Beach- Everything you wanted to know about Lapidary Saws- all levels of users
- 8:30-8:55 Clean up and out of building 9:00 pm



Covington Trim Saw-picture by Beverly House



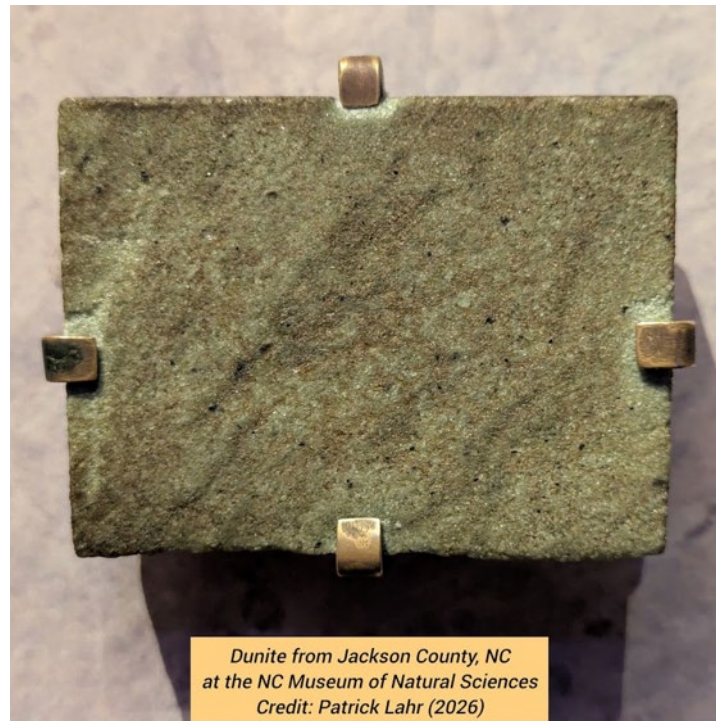
August's monthly mineral is Actinolite, a type of amphibole mineral that is chemically a calcium magnesium iron silicate hydroxide. It's most often seen as vitreous (glassy) dark green blades in metamorphic rocks, especially ones that have a lot of iron and magnesium like altered ultramafic igneous rocks. These blades can be rather striking at times, especially in schists, where they poke out due to their significantly higher hardness over the surrounding micas. The hardness is similar to other amphibole minerals, around a 5 on the Moh's Scale of Hardness, which is the same as Apatite.



Actinolite is one of several minerals classified as asbestos, as it has a fibrous form. Not all Actinolite is an asbestos mineral though, and in fact it is the primary mineral in Nephrite, one of two minerals that classify as Jade (the other being Jadeite, which is more valuable). It can be found in a variety of localities, including Wake Co., NC; Carroll Co., MD; and Windsor Co., VT.

Ultramafic Rocks of North Carolina

By: *Patrick Lahr*



Peridot is the birthstone of August, and I felt it was fitting to write about the very special type of rocks they're most commonly found in, a type of Igneous Rocks called Ultramafics. These rocks are defined by their chemistry, having the highest amount of Magnesium (and other heavy elements) of any rock type. These rocks are technically the most common type on Earth, and Olivine, a major component of these rocks, the most common mineral on earth. The trick here is that most of them are in earth's thickest layer, the mantle, buried several dozen miles under the crust. However, on rare occasions, through extreme tectonics or by hitching a ride in a magma chamber, they can be brought to the surface.

North Carolina has several exposures of ultramafic rocks, owing to the extreme tectonic events that created our gorgeous mountains out west. The most significant is probably the Webster-Addie Complex, where a big ring of these rocks and their metamorphosed forms outcrop around the town of Sylva. Here they were mined to make fire resistant bricks, and a new type of rock called Websterite was described as well. It was named for Webster, a little village north of Sylva. Wake county has some small exposures as well on the banks of Falls Lake, which are often light green and rich in Serpentine.

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



One of the many geodes purchased and cracked at the July meeting- photo by Kelly Roney

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2026

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Number of Attendees:

Visitors: 6

New Members: 4

Birthday Attendees: 2

Topics of Discussion:

- **General club announcements-** (Tom)
 - Members and visitors were welcomed, and birthdays celebrated.
- Meeting activities: (Tom)
 - **Ice Cream social:** Members brought ice cream and toppings to share. The club provided all tableware and bowls.
 - **Parking Lot Trunk Sale:** Members were invited to set up in their trunks or on tables in the parking lot to sell their rocks, artisan items, or anything related to gems and minerals. Members participated in displaying items and/or shopping while enjoying ice cream.
 - **Geode cracking and sales:** (Adam, Tom, Kelly) Geodes ranging in size from 1 inch to 10 inch were available for sale and cracking open or sawing for the small size. Many members participated in this event.
- **Special Recognition:** (Tom) In recognition of Cyndy Hummel for her outstanding dedication as Annual Show Chairperson, a card and plaque honoring her 25 years of service was presented to her by the board.
- **Field trips:**
 - **Potential trips** (Adam):
 - Tungsten Queen- pending for Fall 2026.

- **Next meeting:** August 18, 2026
- **Door Prize Winners and prizes:** Two door prizes were awarded: Sam, geode; Patrick, geode.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.

Meeting minutes recorded by Kelly Roney.



Thank you, Cyndy Hummel! Picture by Kelly Roney



Geode cracked by Tom Beach for one lucky THGMC club member at the Geode cracking event 07/21, 2026- Picture by Patrick Luhr

Tar Heel Updates

Treasurer report: We are in good standing and all our bills are paid and paid on time.

Beverly House, Treasurer

Field trips:

TBD

Upcoming THGMC Meetings/Events

September 15, 2026: Treasures & Treats Auction Members Silent Auction!

Discover a collection of exceptional treasures at our Treasures & Treats Auction!

Browse an exciting selection of:

- Mineral specimens
- Rocks and gemstones
- Rare and collectible minerals
- Stunning Amethyst Cathedrals
- Unique lapidary and jewelry items
- One-of-a-kind finds for collectors and enthusiasts

Whether you're a seasoned collector or just beginning your rock and mineral journey, there's something for everyone. Don't miss the chance to bid on rare finds and spectacular display pieces that are sure to become prized additions to any collection.

Join us for an exciting auction experience filled with beautiful treasures, friendly competition, and great deals. You never know what hidden gem you'll discover! 💎 ⚒️ ✨

*Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted.

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/>

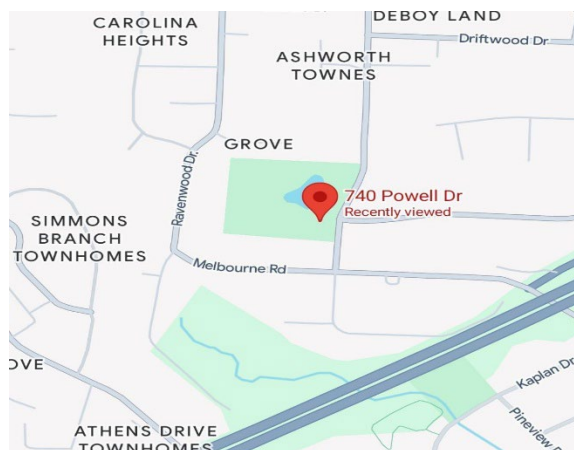
Geological Trail Guide for Falls Lake Area- Covers the area between Falls Lake Dam to the Eno River, created by Phil Bradley with the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS).
http://www.ncgeology.com/falls_lake_geology/pages/TrailGuide_FallsLake_home.html

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/>

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.



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday August 18, 2026, 7:00-9:00 PM

Powell Drive Community Center

740 Powell Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606



1974-2026

