October 2026

TAR HEEL TAILINGS

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

1974-2026

Prez Sez

Happy Fall All!

Thomas Beach, President



October 20, 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 By-law- Request for formal approval and vote; Nominations for 2027 Board

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

Call for Volunteer: Newsletter Editor

7:30 -8:40 pm Fall Festival- Games, prizes

8:40-8:55 Clean up and out of building 9:00 pm

Please feel free to come in costume (nothing too scary- keep it kid friendly!)

Prizes for games and snacks!

Proposed Bylaw Amendment

III Election of Club Officers and Board Members

E. Specialized Positions Requiring Qualification Verification

Due to the fiduciary, technical, and operational responsibilities associated with the offices of Treasurer and Technology Lead, candidates for these positions shall satisfy the eligibility requirements set forth in this Article before their names may be placed on the election ballot.

The purpose of this review is to verify that candidates meet the published eligibility requirements and is not intended to limit member participation or substitute the judgment of the Board for the vote of the membership.

1. **Treasurer Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for election as Treasurer, a candidate must:

1. Be a member in good standing for at least six (6) consecutive months immediately preceding nomination.
2. Demonstrate at least one (1) of the following qualifications: a. Professional employment involving accounting, bookkeeping, financial management, auditing, banking, payroll administration, budget administration, or related financial responsibilities; or

b. Completion of formal coursework, certification, degree program, or professional training in accounting, finance, bookkeeping, business administration, or a related field; or

c. Previous service as a Treasurer, Finance Officer, Bookkeeper, Accountant, Fiscal Agent, or equivalent financial position in a nonprofit organization, educational institution, government agency, business, or professional association.

3. Agree in writing to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer as described in these Bylaws and any adopted financial policies of the organization.

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2. Technology Lead Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for election as Technology Lead, a candidate must:

1. Be a member in good standing for at least six (6) consecutive months immediately preceding nomination.
2. Demonstrate experience in at least two (2) of the following areas: a. Website administration or website content management;

b. Email system administration or management;
c. Database administration or data management;
d. Cloud-based collaboration platforms;
e. Social media platform administration;
f. Information technology support or help desk services;
g. Cybersecurity, data privacy, or access management;
h. Management of technology systems for a nonprofit, educational institution, business, or governmental organization.

3. Agree in writing to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Technology Lead as described in these Bylaws and any adopted technology policies of the organization.

Candidate Qualification Verification Process

1. Candidates for Treasurer and Technology Lead shall submit a Candidate Qualification Statement to the Board within fourteen (14) days following nomination.
1. The Candidate Qualification Statement shall identify the specific eligibility requirements satisfied by the candidate and provide sufficient documentation or explanation to support each qualification claimed.
2. The Board shall review only whether the candidate has met the objective eligibility requirements established in Sections 3 or 4.
3. The Board shall not consider personal preferences, political viewpoints, prior election outcomes, personality traits, or any other subjective criteria when determining eligibility.
4. A candidate who satisfies all required eligibility criteria shall be certified as eligible and placed on the election ballot.
5. Any determination of ineligibility must be approved by a majority vote of the Board and documented in writing, identifying the specific eligibility requirement or requirements not met.

Candidate Information and Membership Notice

At least ten (10) days prior to the election, the Board shall provide the membership with:

1. The names of all certified candidates;
2. The office sought by each candidate; and
3. A summary of each candidate's qualifications and relevant experience as submitted by the candidate.

Appeal Process

A candidate determined to be ineligible may submit a written appeal within seven (7) days of notification.

The Board shall consider the appeal at its next meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The Board's decision on the appeal shall be final and shall be communicated in writing to the candidate.

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 20 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.

If you have questions about the Board, the Club, or the election process, feel free to reach out to any current Board member.



Assorted specimens sold at the Members Silent Auction September 2026.
Photo by Patrick Lahr

Mineral of the Month: Sodalite

By: *Patrick Lahr*



October's mineral of the month is a true classic in both the lapidary and fluorescent mineral community: Sodalite. Sodalite is uncommon mineral which is famous for its rich, royal blue color. It's a member of a sort of weird group of minerals called Feldspathoids, which are a group that physically resemble feldspars but lack the silica to be a true feldspar. In simple terms, chemically they're completely different from minerals like Orthoclase and Microcline despite having similar properties. Sodalite is most frequently found in a rather uncommon type of igneous rocks called Nepheline Syenite, which is very low in silica, the same chemical that produces quartz. Sodalite can be vividly fluorescent and almost always glow a rich orange under black light. In fact, it's the mineral that produces the glow in Yooperlites found in glacial till of the Great Lakes.

Sodalite has a hardness of 6 which makes it suitable for lapidary, although it's known for being somewhat brittle and prone to chipping. It also frequently occurs with network of white veins, which can be a number of minerals including calcite and nepheline. These veins give the samples a striking appearance, but can also make the material a bit more challenging to tumble or polish Canada has two famous Sodalite localities, one in Quebec (Mont-Saint-Hilaire) and one in Ontario (the Princess Sodalite Mine). Other international sources include Brazil and Namibia. Here in the states, Sodalite is pretty rare, but Litchfield, Maine and Magnet Cove in Arkansas have produced notable specimens.

The Crabtree Emerald Mine: A NC Lapidary Icon

By: *Patrick Lahr*



Deep in the foggy Appalachians mountains, there's a rusting old mining truck, a long abandoned and now home to a timber rattlesnake that doesn't usually bother anyone who respects its home. It's a relic of one of the few commercial gem mining operations to occur on the east coast, the Crabtree Emerald Mine. Emeralds have been found at this spot since the late 1800's and it was only recently closed as a commercial site in the 90's. That gives it a century long run, which is impressive for any mine, especially one on the east coast. Thankfully the site was scooped up by the mineral community pretty much the moment the companies left it and is now maintained by the Mountain Area Gem & Mineral Club (Post Helene status is a little messy like most sites up there). Fee collecting has been permitted ever since, and I've been up numerous times to hunt for my own.



The Crabtree Emerald Mine is known for it's small rich green emeralds in a white matrix. The emeralds were described to me by another geologist as having some of the richest color of any source out there, and while carat and clarity are kind of a mixed bag, the color is consistently extremely vivid. This is due to the high Chromium content these emeralds have, which they pull from pockets of dark colored, flakey Biotite Schist in the rock surrounding the deposit. Tourmaline is also extremely common, forming geometric prisms alongside the rich green emeralds. The material is perfect for lapidary, being colorful, dynamic and unique and it's hard to find a show in North Carolina without at least a few Crabtree Emeralds on the tables.

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show 2027

The date is SET! April 2-4, 2027
NC State Fairgrounds, Kerr Scott Building
Trinity Road, Raleigh, NC
Over 30 vendors

Volunteers Needed for the 2027 THGMC Show!

The success of the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show depends on our amazing volunteers, and sign-up sheets will be available soon! We encourage all members to consider helping with this exciting event. Whether you can volunteer for an hour, a shift, or several days, your support makes a tremendous difference.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following THGMC show areas:

- Silent Auction
- Geode Booth
- Hospitality
- Education Area
- Display Area
- Admissions
- Meals/Kitchen Area

These booths and activities are an important part of our annual show and help create a welcoming and enjoyable experience for our guests. Volunteers of all experience levels are welcome, and training will be provided when needed. These areas are key components of the 2027 show.

Please watch for the upcoming sign-up sheets and consider lending a hand. Signing up early helps us ensure that every area is adequately staffed and allows volunteers to select the booth or activity they enjoy most.

Thank you for supporting the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club and helping make our 2027 Annual Show a success!

Many hands make light work, and every volunteer helps create a great show experience for our visitors, vendors, and members.

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes

September 15, 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 7:03 PM

Number of Attendees: 46
Visitors: 3
New Members: 1
Birthday Attendees: 1

Topics of Discussion:

- **General club announcements**- (Tom)
    - Members and visitors were welcomed, and birthdays celebrated.
    - **Proposed by-law change** (Tom): The Treasurer and Technology Lead roles require specific knowledge and skills. To help ensure continued services in these areas to the club, by-law changes verbally presented to the club that will require board members to review the qualifications of any member that would like to volunteer for the role of Treasurer and Technology lead. Any comments on this proposal were requested to be sent by email to the THGMC email. **Action:** Proposed by-law changes will be sent to club members by email.
    - **Elections** (Tom): Elections: Nominations for board members will be held at the October 2026 meeting, followed by elections in November 2026. Craig will step down as Technology Lead after completing this year. If any club members are interested in the role of Technology Lead, please email the board with a paragraph outlining your interest and relevant experience. Volunteers are also needed to serve as field trip coordinators, which is a role appointed by the board.

- **Paid work opportunity** (Tom): An auction company is seeking assistance in identification of a collection of rocks and minerals. Interested members should contact Tom Beach if interested and are experienced in rock and mineral identification. This is not a club sponsored opportunity.
- **Field Trip** (Beverly): A field trip for fossil collection is planned for 02 Oct 2026 in Castle Hayne, NC. Full safety gear is required. Twenty spots are available. An email will be sent out to the club to notify club members on how and when to sign up for this field trip over the next few days.
- **Next meetings:**
  - 20 Oct 2026: Halloween Fair/Carnival. Any member interested in hosting an activity at the Halloween carnival should email the board at the THGMC email.

- **Door Prize Winners and prizes:** Two door prizes were awarded: Steven: Tourmaline, David: Malachite

The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.

Meeting minutes recorded by Kelly Roney.



Malachite Door Prize and Tourmaline Door Prize- Pictures by Kelly Roney

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:

October 2, 2026-Castle Hayne, NC

Upcoming THGMC Meetings/Events

October 20, 2026- Fall Festival and Elections!
November 17, 2026 – Elections and Grab Bags
December 2026- Happy Holidays! No General Club Meetings

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

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/

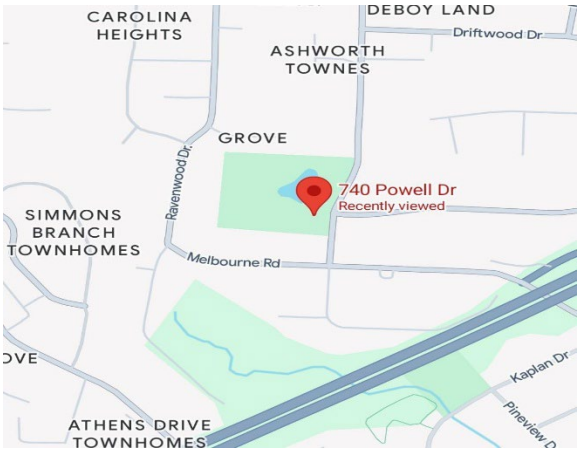
Geological Trial Guide for Falls Lake Area- Covers the area between Falls Lake Dam to the Eno River, created by Phil Bradley with the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS).
http://www.ncgeology.com/falls_lake_geology/pages/TrailGuide_FallsLake_home.html

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, 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 October 20, 2026, 7:00-9:00 PM

Powell Drive Community Center

740 Powell Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

TAR HEEL GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
Raleigh, North Carolina

1974-2026

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.