

Tar Heel Tailings

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Show Information
- Turgite: Iridescent Wonder
- World's Largest Cut Aquamarine

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

Prez Sez By Linda Searcy

It is Show Time! The show is how we make money to give away to various charities, including the 2 one-week prizes to Wildacres and William Holland. A minimum of 8 hours is needed to have a chance for one of these prizes. Again, sign up sheets will be at the March meeting or you can contact directly the chairperson to volunteer.

We will be making grab bags at the March meeting. Bring your extra rocks for the grab bags.

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Show Information By Cyndy Hummel

You should wear your nametag at all times during the show. You may not be allowed entrance prior to show hours without your 2018 nametag.

Set-up time is 5 PM on Thursday, April 5th at the fairgrounds, Kerr Scott building. Tables and chairs should already be in place. Expect to paper tables for each club booth area; Silent Auction, Geode, Hospitality, Demonstration and Display Case Tables and haul boxes and assemble display cases. We are usually finished by 8PM. The more helping hands we have, the sooner we can finish! Friday morning each club booth area will remove

items from boxes and organize the areas to their preference. The dealers set-up early Friday morning beginning at 8AM. Club members also set up their own demonstration/sales area and display case on Friday no earlier than 8AM. Breakfast snacks and coffee

will be available all three mornings. The pre-ordered Panera supper on Friday will be delivered at 5PM. Lunch is provided on Saturday & Sunday for club members who are currently **volunteering** at the show, no dealers.

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Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

10609 Chelsea Drive
Raleigh NC 27603

Linda Searcy – President
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Open

March Food – TBD;
Drinks - Seward Shaddock

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

March Grab Bags, volunteer signups
April Potluck and Show discussion
May TBD
June TBD
July Dr. Tacker
August Ice Cream Social
September TBD
October Officer Nominations, Grab Bags
November Elections

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

March Treasurer's Report

Jan. Ending /	
Feb. Beginning Balance	\$11,930.61

Deposits (+)	
Convention Fees	\$2,460.00
Members	\$495.00
Polo Shirt	\$125.00

Sub total	\$3,080.00

Checks Written (-)	
Refund of dealer fee	\$332.50
Membership AFMS	\$269.50
Printing	\$117.55
Food	19.43
Machine Repair - Craft Ctr.	34.63

Sub Total	\$773.61

Feb. Ending /	
Mar. Beginning Balance	\$14,237.00

March B-Day Members

Sharon Allsbrook
Lily Janousky
Matthew Catrine
LuAnn Hagerty
Rachel Helms
Fredora Jones
Patricia Kohler
Linda McCall
Bruce Norcross
Ethan Pointer
Joy Welton
John Wiley



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
Attention: Treasurer
10609 Chelsea Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

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

Tuesday, February 20th, 2018

Attendees = 35

Opening of Club Meeting:

Linda opened the meeting at 7:38pm.

Program - Tom Todaro's Safety presentation:

- Gave us new updates about United states department of labor's rules for Mining and Quarry Safety
- Surface collecting is the kind of collecting we can do on these trips
- Tom described clothing and equipment, hand tools, specimen collecting, quarry terminology, waivers and safety meeting, safe areas to collect, & shared his great quarry pictures.
- Show proper gratitude and etiquette to the quarry



Katelyn Hennessey introduced herself as trip coordinator, and asked if any club members have favorite quarries to visit, please let her know.

Old Business:

Club member Tyler has a prototype for a new website, displayed for the club. (Ruby on Rails)

- updating meeting times
 - recent trips section
 - more user-friendly to update
 - new member sign-up online
 - Stripe has special pricing for non-profits
 - some members prefer PayPal
 - printable form as well?
 - member-restricted info, such as field trips
 - Officers have admin access
 - ability to filter members in database
 - members can reset password
 - forums?
 - SQL database
 - link to google calendar?
 - possibility of smaller committee to come up with requirements (discuss with Mellissa webmaster)
- Dr. Mike shared his bronze ring with niobium.

Cabbing equipment update:

- Pixie: \$1,299-1,430
- Slabbed camber, flat lap: \$459
- Genies: \$1,895-1,992
- Cab Kings: \$1,399

Show Business:

Cindy shared new Square device for the show.

- Show signups
- Hosting National show
- Federation will give us \$400 and we put down deposit for rooms at Embassy Suites.
- Federation meeting on Thursday, Friday, Saturday.
- Need cardboard flats to store grab bags in.
- Received donation for silent auction and grab bags from Trisha

Trisha

New Business:

Make donation of periodic table of elements?

Refreshments:

Belated thanks to Jim Jin for January refreshments and thanks to Seward Shaddock for the February Refreshments, and also bringing drinks in March.

Door Prize:

Winner: Katelyn Hennessey, won the door prize of Turgite.



Close of Meeting:

Meeting closed at 8:55

Respectfully Submitted
Lindsey Bradsher,
Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Prez Sez

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If you have items for the Silent Auction, bring them to the Show Thursday night setup or after. If you have cardboard flats for the grab bags, bring those for packing to the meeting.

We will also be labeling and stamping postcards for the show mailing list. We need a volunteer to purchase refreshments - Seward Shaddock has volunteered to bring beverages. The club will reimburse your

refreshment purchases up to \$85 (allow \$10-\$15 for Seward towards the cost of beverages).

See you at the March meeting!

Thank you,
Linda Searcy
President
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Show Information

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The purpose of these meals is to feed our own volunteers who work all day so they need not worry about their meals. Water, soda, coffee and tea will be provided for both dealers and club members throughout the three-day period. Sunday evening is pack-up and takedown for dealers and the club. Display cases are disassembled and wrapped in the table paper. Each booth inventories and boxes their items. Everything is then carefully placed in the storage trailer or rental unit.

Show hours for customers are -

Friday, April 6 3PM – 8PM
Saturday, April 7 10AM – 6PM
Sunday, April 8 10AM – 5PM

Remember, ENJOY the show. This is a rewarding and exciting time!!!

More Show Information

By Cyndy Hummel

Hello There,

I see we have a lot of new club members. Welcome to the group. You may have heard about the annual Rock & Gem show. If not, sit back and I will tell you all about it.

literature. Knowledgeable club members identify items in the grab bags and answer general questions about the show and club. This is a good place for new members to learn and share their enthusiasm for the hobby with the general public.



The annual show at the Fairgrounds has free parking and free admission. As you enter the double set of doors of the Kerr Scott building, you approach the Hospitality Booth. This area is responsible for the daily door prize tickets, grab bag sales, club membership forms, free magazines and other

Directly behind the Hospitality area are Display Cases for club members to spotlight their talents and discoveries. Minerals, fossils, silver, gold and wire wrapped jewelry, cut and polished gems, and slabs of rock that all combine to create our fascinating hobby are reflected behind glass.



As you move around the room, listen for the dulcet tones of saws cutting through hard rock. The Geode Booth along the right hand wall is very popular with customers. Indeed, the same people purchase geodes year after year. One never knows what is inside each hollow or solid sphere until it is sliced open. In this area, there is a display of beautiful geodes that have been cut over the years. Knowledgeable club members operate the saws, clean, wrap and bag the geodes. Be sure to quiz them on how geodes are formed.



Along the left back wall is where our club's talent shines, literally. This is The Demonstration/Sales Area where club members showcase their hobby/addiction. At any given time you will see faceting, cabbing, wire wrapping, gold and silver smithing and gem tree creating. Be sure to come view our specialties and ask plenty of questions about how we do what we do.



The Silent Auction is located on the back wall to the right. This is where children and adults alike can find treasures at bargain prices. Items such as jewelry, minerals, fossils, faceted gemstones and slabs of rock are put up for auction for an undisclosed amount of time. Each item has a paper listing the name of the item and location of origin in the case of a mineral or fossil. The bidder places their name and a dollar amount on a blank line and steps away from the bidding table. The next person places a higher bid on the next line. When time is called, the last person on the list is the lucky winner.



Upstairs is where we keep the goodies to eat, the Refreshment Area. Hot coffee, soft drinks and snacks can be found at differing times throughout the weekend. Club members are greatly encouraged to bring homemade tasty treats. This area is for current club members and dealers ONLY. Current nametags must be worn.



Set up for the show is Thursday night. Set up involves papering the club area tables, unloading boxes of merchandise for the Hospitality, Geode and Silent Auction areas and assembling the display cases. Club members set up their own space in the demonstration area and fill their display case on Friday morning.

As you can see there are many areas that club members can participate in during the show. I hope you will join us in April.

Turgite: Iridescent Wonder

By Katelyn Hennessey

A combination of the minerals hematite and goethite results in the sometimes iridescent beauty, named Turgite. There appears to be a lot of debate amongst mineralogists as to whether or not turgite is its own mineral, or just a combination of the two. Original descriptions come from Turjinskii Mine in Russia.

However, turgite can be found at a variety of locations around the world and is a sought after treasure at Graves Mountain in Georgia along with rutile, kyanite and other interesting specimens. The gasoline-like rainbow iridescence and globular formations inspired its comic nickname “Unicorn Dung”. Some specimens, such as the raffle specimen, more resemble the stalagnates (columns), stalactites, stalagmites and other speleothems that are found inside caves.



Smithsonian Displays World's Largest Cut Aquamarine

By Kelly Carnes

The National Museum of Natural History permanently displays the Dom Pedro Aquamarine, which is the largest single piece of cut-gem aquamarine in the world. It joins an illustrious cast of famous gemstones already on exhibit in the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals such as the Hope Diamond and the Marie Antoinette earrings. Jane M. Mitchell and Jeffery S. Bland donated the piece. The quality of the original crystal and its size, exquisite blue-green color and distinctive cut make it an exceptionally rare gem.

“There is so much about the Dom Pedro that is remarkable, but what excites me most is that we are able to preserve the story that goes along with it,” said Kirk Johnson, the Sant Director of the National Museum of Natural History. “The Dom Pedro is enriched by all the people and places that have been a part of its fascinating journey from the crust of the Earth to its home here in the National Gem Collection. We are grateful to Jane Mitchell and Jeffery Bland for their wonderful gift.”

Mined from a Brazilian pegmatite in the late 1980s, the magnificent aquamarine was named for Brazil's first two emperors, Dom Pedro Primeiro and his son, Dom Pedro Segundo. Before cutting, the portion of the beryl crystal from which the obelisk-shaped gem was fashioned measured 23.25 inches long and weighed nearly 60 pounds. The obelisk, designed by world-renowned gem artist Bernd Munsteiner, stands 14 inches tall, measures 4 inches across the base and weighs in at 10,363 carats or 4.6 pounds. These impressive dimensions render the Dom Pedro the largest cut-and-polished gem aquamarine known. A pattern of tapering “negative cuts” faceted into the reverse faces of the sea-blue obelisk serves to reflect the light within the gem, giving the piece surprising brightness and sparkle. With the proper lighting, this remarkable sculpture appears to be illuminated from within.

“The Dom Pedro Aquamarine represents a combination of an extraordinary crystal of rare clarity and rich color with the unique skills of a celebrated artist,” said Jeffrey Post, curator of the National Gem and Mineral Collection at the museum.

Munsteiner, the “Father of the Fantasy Cut,” is considered one of

the greatest gem artists of the 20th century. He combines traditional methods with dynamic modern forms to create gem sculptures. Munsteiner was born to a family of gem carvers, and his work is the manifestation of an art form that has been passed from generation to generation. He became an apprentice in the family trade at the age of 14 and later went on to become a student at the School of Design in Phorzheim, Germany, where he graduated as a designer of precious stones and jewelry. It was in school that Munsteiner was first challenged to take the traditional cameo to a new form, and he has been stretching boundaries and defying traditional methods ever since. His faceting technique known as “Fantasy Cuts” has inspired a modernization of gem art creation, and his innovative style is exemplified in the Dom Pedro Aquamarine. Munsteiner spent four months meticulously studying the crystal and an additional six months carving, polishing and faceting to create this unmatched work of art.

The Dom Pedro Aquamarine joins the Smithsonian's famous gem and mineral collection of more than 10,000 gems in addition to 350,000 mineral specimens. The Smithsonian's gem and mineral collection is one of the largest of its kind.



<https://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/smithsonian-display-world-s-largest-cut-aquamarine-dom-pedro>

UPCOMING SHOWS

April 6 - 8, 2018: Raleigh, NC – 42nd Annual Capital Area Gem & Mineral Show. Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. The show is sponsored by the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club and includes 29 dealers. The Hospitality area sells grab bags with mineral specimens. Buy a rock at the Geode booth and be the first to see what is inside. The on-going Silent Auction has new items every hour. Dealers provide minerals, fossils, finished jewelry, gemstones, findings and beads for sale.. Hours: Fri 3-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5. Admission: Free and Free Parking. Contact: Cyndy Hummel; 919-779-6220; mchummel@mindspring.com; www.tarheelclub.org;

May 11, 12, & 13, 2018: Franklin, NC - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. Fri. & Sat., May 11th & 12th, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Sun., May 13th, 10:00 AM- 4:00PM. Carpenter Community Center, 1288 Georgia Rd. (US441), Franklin, NC. No admission charge, indoor, climate controlled, rough and finished gemstone and jewelry, minerals, fossils and demonstrations. Contact: Norman Holbert, 828-634-0350, normholbert@comcast.net

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

March 20, 2018 @ 7:30PM

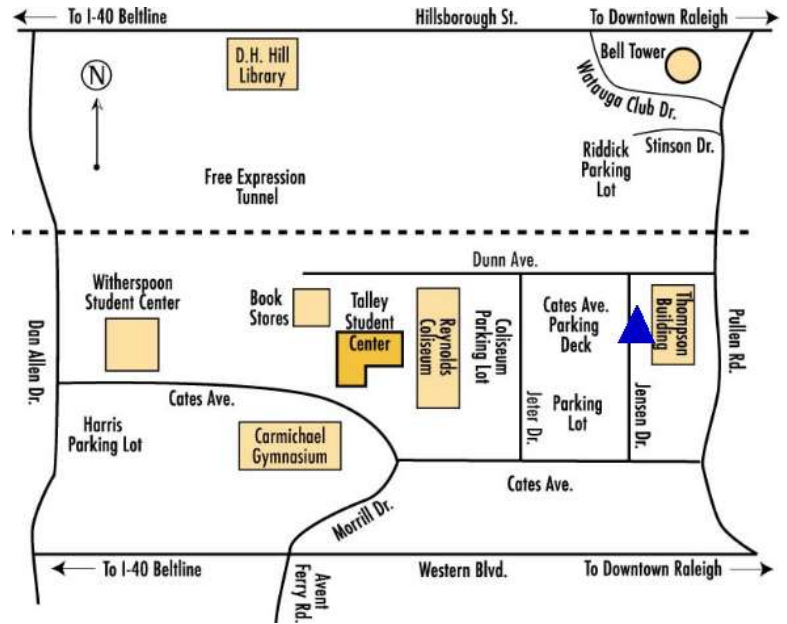
NC State Crafts Center

210 Jensen Dr, Raleigh, NC 27606

About Our Organization...

The Tar Heel Gem and mineralogy, paleontology, Mineral Club, Inc. was earth sciences, and formed in 1974 as a lapidary techniques, nonprofit educational organization for people 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

