November 2026

TAR HEEL TAILINGS

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

1974-2026

Prez Sez

Happy November! We had fun last month at our carnival and congratulations to David for winning the raffle and taking home a Amethyst cathedral. As we approach the holiday season take a moment to give thanks for the things we have and enjoy the time with family and friends where you can. Do not forget elections are this month along with filling grab bags for the annual show. There is no meeting in December so our next meeting will be in January where we will start counting down in earnest for the Show. Make sure to mark your calendars for April 1-4, 2027. As always safe travels over the Holidays!

Thomas Beach, President



November 17, 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

7:15-7:45 pm Elections

Nominations

- President-Tom Beach- unopposed
- Vice President-Adam Hogan- unopposed
- Secretary-Kelly Roney- unopposed
- Treasurer-Beverly House- unopposed
- Member at Large (2)- Three candidates- Andrea Davis, Lauren Boiallis, Patrick Lahr
- Technical Lead – Two Candidates- David Harter and Jen Vanderputten

Confirm 2027 Newsletter- Patrick Lahr

7:45 -8:40 pm Grab Bags

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

Tech Lead Candidates for 2027

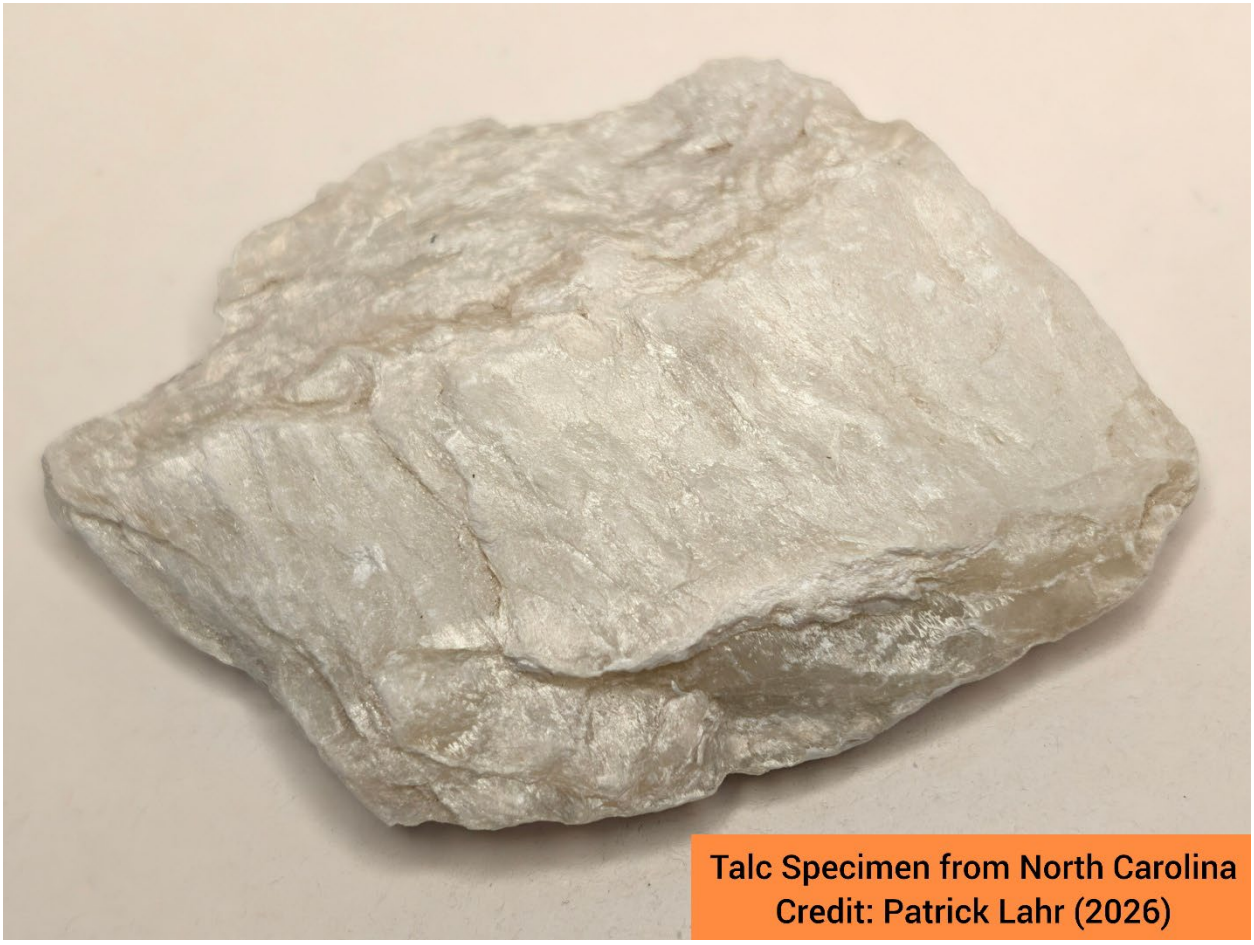
David Harter:
Hi. My name is David Harter and I am recently retired after a 40+ year career in Information Technology. During the early part of my career, I was a programmer and then finished out my career as a database administrator. I have extensive experience with a wide range of database platforms, technology, and social media. I have accounts on Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram. I am a cabber as well as a facet (lapidary) and would welcome the opportunity to put my technical experience to work supporting the club and helping enhance its technology and communications or any other facets of the club

Jen Vanderputten:
I have a bachelors in Computer Science and another bachelors in Mathematics. I have over 30 years of experience as a software engineer post-graduation. The most recent 10 years have been running my own freelance business doing exactly these types of things. I've worked with so many technologies and from everything starting at packet level programming through every layer of the stack to user interface work that it would be quite lengthy to list. I am very fluent in WordPress and Shopify, including the frameworks and languages used there (PHP and Liquid). Mastery in HTML/CSS/JavaScript/jQuery, DNS (including DMARC/DKIM/SPF alignment issues for email delivery, e.g. from website forms). My career has been heavily involved with integration and automation. I have lost count of the number of REST APIs I've written, both on the server side and client side usage. Anything I haven't worked with yet, I come up to speed quickly on.

--Jen

Mineral of the Month: Talc

By: *Patrick Lahr*



Talc Specimen from North Carolina
Credit: Patrick Lahr (2026)

This month I wanna take some time to highlight a rather unassuming but very important mineral, Talc. This mineral is famous for being the softest mineral out there, easily scratched by a finger nail, which will often leave a grove in the sample as it's scratched. It's generally has a light color, usually white but sometimes tan or even green varieties occur. Talc is often found in thin sheets, and it's in the same mineral group we often associate with more common micas like Muscovite and Biotite; the Phyllosilicates. Being a silicate, Talc is mostly made of silicon and oxygen with magnesium and water mixed in.

Talc has a few different geologic settings it forms in. It's always a secondary metamorphic mineral (except for when it sometimes forms in the various chemical reactions of sedimentary rocks) and is especially common in rocks rich in magnesium. Some of the Talc found in North Carolina is the result of ultramafic rocks getting altered by hot mineral rich fluids. Ultramafic rocks are a rare type of igneous rock that comes from mantle of the earth (or very close to it). The minerals that make up these rocks are unstable at the surface, and they change as they're exposed to ground water and in general conditions common near surface. Talc in these deposits form as a result of

these changes alongside Serpentine and Chlorite. These types of Talc deposits can be seen in Wake County at certain parts along the Falls Lake shoreline, and parts of Jackson County near the little mountain town of Sylva.



The marbles around Murphy, North Carolina in far Western North Carolina also host Talc. This is because Talc can also form from the metamorphism of the Magnesium rich Carbonate mineral Dolomite. Along a line from roughly Murphy to Andrews there's a collection of Marbles and Limestones called the Murphy Marble Belt which contains this type of Talc. This formation was commercially active, with many mines in operation between 1850-1900. Talc is used in various cosmetic powers, lubricants and paper manufacturing. Soapstone, a rock made up primarily of Talc, has been used for thousands of years as a carving material, representing some of the earliest examples of self expression.



Making Plans With Mindat By: *Patrick Lahr*

You'll often hear a great way to find localities is through Mindat, and while it is a great resource I wanted to write a little about how that actually looks, using my adventure to the Lover's Leap Prospect in Orange County NC as an example. Often when I have to go to places for one reason or another, especially if I'm just looking to get outdoors, I'll search up the county I'm planning on going to. Searching by county is a great way to narrow your choices, as looking sites up by mineral or state can leave you with hundreds of localities. Searching up by town or city will often leave you with too few, as many mines sit outside municipal limits. It also makes it easier to check through property ownership, as 95% of the sites on Mindat are on private property. For this trip I planned on going to Durham for some non-rock business, so I looked up Orange County and found a little Talc prospect on public land that I hadn't visited yet.

Now MOST localities on Mindat are added by either a bot or someone copy pasting stuff directly from a mining database. There's often little more than some technical stuff, the mineral targeted by the mine and the report that the locality was pulled from. The best way to find out more about a potential site is to copy/paste that listed report, or look it up by the "Bulletin Number". For example with the Mindat page for the Lover's Leap Prospect had no information aside from a report, and I simply looked up "NCGS Bulletin 81" and was able to find out a bunch about the site. The description said it was right by the Eno River and offered a great view of the local area, and that the site had Talc isolated in thin veins along the fractures, in beds that dipped 35°.

When visiting the site, I used the trails at the Historic Occoneechee Speedway to get onto the Mountains to Sea Trail, and that trail pretty much took me directly to the locality. Sometimes a little bushwhacking is an order, so be careful about where the park boundaries end. The prospect turned out the be the whole hill, where small cuts and test holes could be kinda worked out. Since the site hasn't been active and a long time and there's no description of what was actually done at Lover's Leap, it's hard to tell what's mine activity and what's natural. At the very least I could tell that at a certain part of the hill, there were rock faces that looked rather steep and broken rocks all over the place nearby, which is sometimes as good of evidence as you'll find. I did find some Talc scattered around, though they weren't in fractures, but rather something called lenses, which are small pockets of ore that follow the general direction of the rock.

Though the site itself didn't offer any glitter crystals it was still a great trip. The Historic Occoneechee Speedway (Which I had to walk through to get to the site) is a preserved NASCAR track that was one of the first in the sport. They held races between the late 40's and late 60's and many of the original structures are still present. The Eno River which was right by the prospect is beautiful this year, lined with trees with vibrant orange and red leaves. Sometimes the trip out is just as interesting as the site itself. There's really no such thing as a bad day looking for rocks, so next time you're planning a trip take a look at Mindat and see what's hidden around.

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

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

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes

October 20, 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 PM
Number of Attendees: 36
Visitors: 1
New Members: 2
Birthday Attendees: 2

Topics of Discussion:

- **General club announcements**- (Tom)
    - Members and visitors were welcomed, and birthdays celebrated.
- **Proposed Bylaw Amendment (Tom):** Members vote on the proposed amendment establishing eligibility requirements and a candidate qualification verification process for the offices of Treasurer and Technology Lead. The proposed amendment included:

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.

- **Vote:** Attending members voted yes for the amendment for the role of treasurer, and voted yes for the amendment for the technology lead role with the addition of “or other similar role” to the list of qualifications.

- **Elections (Tom):** Nominations were accepted for:

    - President: Tom Beach
    - Vice President: Adam Hogan
    - Secretary: Kelly Roney
    - Treasurer: Beverly House
    - Member-at-Large (2 positions): Andrea Davis, Lauren Boiallis, Patrick Lahr
    - Technology Lead: David Harter, Jennifer Vanderputten. Candidates for technology lead will send email to Tom outlining qualifications.
- **Carnival (Tom):** A Halloween-themed member carnival was held that included food, games, and prizes. Games included Rocking Duck Pond, Spooky Muffin Tin Game, Guess the Candy Corn & Pumpkins, Panning for Gold, Geode Cathedral Raffle, and a Rock Cake Walk.

The meeting concluded at 8:45 PM.
Meeting minutes recorded by Kelly Roney.



Ducks from the Grab a Duck at the Fall Festival (Picture by Beverly House)

New By-law- Passed at 10/20/2026 Meeting

Bylaw Amendment
III Election of Club Officers and Board Members
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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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h. Management of technology systems for a nonprofit, educational institution, business, or governmental organization.
i. Or other similar role

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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:

To be determined

Upcoming THGMC Meetings/Events

November 17, 2026 – Elections and Grab Bags
December 2026- Happy Holidays! No General Club Meetings
January 19, 2027- First Meeting of the Year!
February 16, 2027- Second Meeting of the Year!
March 16, 2027- Grab Bags, Final Prep for the Annual Show
April 2-4, 2027- THGMC Annual Show!
April 20, 2027- After Show Meeting

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/

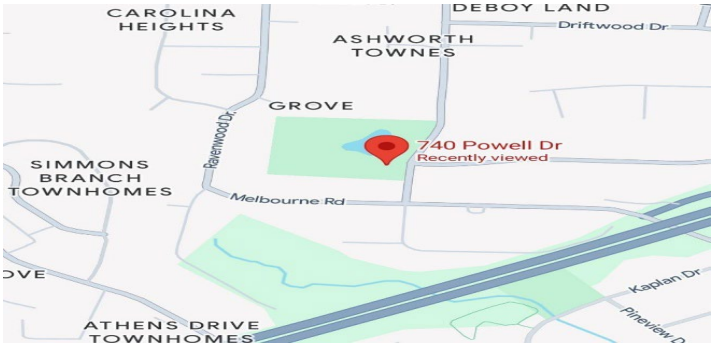
Geological Trial Guide for Falls Lake Area- Covers the area between Falls Lake Dam to the Eno River, created by Phil Bradley with the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS).
http://www.ncgeology.com/falls_lake_geology/pages/TrailGuide_FallsLake_home.html

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 November 17, 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.