

Tar Heel Tailings

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- September Birthstone Is The Sapphire
- September Birthstone - Sapphire

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

Prez Sez By Beverly House

Greetings all. Happy September! I want to wish a Happy Birthday to all our members born in September and welcome to our new members!

Field trips:

Unfortunately, with the uptick in COVID cases, the quarries have not given us any tentative dates for field trips, When we have field trip notifications, they are made through emails, sent to all current members.

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September Birthstone

• Blue Sapphire •



In ancient Greece, royals were convinced that **blue sapphires** protected their owners from envy and harm. During the Middle Ages, people thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Others instilled sapphires with the power to guard chastity, make peace between enemies, influence spirits, and reveal the secrets of oracles.

September Birthstone Is The Sapphire EarthSky

September birthstone

September's birthstone, the sapphire, is a relative of July's birthstone, the ruby. Both are forms of the mineral corundum, a crystalline form of aluminum oxide. Red corundum is called ruby. And all other gem-quality forms of corundum are called sapphires. All corundum, including sapphire, has a hardness of 9 on the Mohs scale. That makes sapphire second in hardness only to diamond.

Typically, sapphires appear as blue stones. They range from very pale blue to deep indigo, with the exact shade depending on how much titanium and iron lies within the crystal structure. The most

valued shade of blue is the medium-deep cornflower blue. Sapphires also occur in other natural colors and tints – colorless, gray, yellow, pale pink, orange, green, violet and brown – called fancy sapphires. Different kinds of impurities within the crystal

cause the various gemstone colors. For example, yellow sapphires get their color from ferric iron, and colorless gems have no contaminants.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Open

September TBD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

September Zinc, Vitamin D3 and Covid by our own Dr. Mike.

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

August B-Day Members

- James Adams
- Stephen Challeuer
- Ken Fersch
- Mike Franklin
- Evan Hamilton
- Patty Hamilton
- Mary Harbison
- George Harris
- Randy Jones
- Janet Jones
- Steve Kreidler
- Gary McCutchen
- Susan McMillan
- Michael Pratt
- Karen Santala
- Linda Searcy
- Katarine Doino



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
Attention: Treasurer
P. O. Box 33783
Raleigh, NC 27536-3783

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

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

There are no minutes for this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Cyndy Hummel,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. - September Meeting Information

The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting for the September Monthly Meeting.

Our Meeting ID: 870 6466 7686

This meetings Passcode: 132206

Topic: Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club September 2021 Monthly Meeting

Time: September 21, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

We look forward to "seeing" everyone there. If you experience any issues getting into the meeting, you can call or text me at (919) 389-1821. Thanks,

To join the Zoom Meeting, use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87064667686?pwd=bGdoaXhINIBUUVNSa0Y4K01WVzVPUT09>

Beverly House

President

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

September Treasurer's Report

TGMC Treasurer Report - August 2021

This is the September report for the fiscal month of August.

Beginning Balance: 8/1/21 7,627.38

Linda Searcy

Treasurer,

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Income:

Uncashed Vendor Refunds 695.00

Membership Dues 85.00

Total Income: 780.00

Expense:

Show Refund - A Michniak 380.00

Printed Show Postcards 134.62

Stripe Fees 3.67

Total Expenses: 518.29

Ending Balance: 8/31/21 7,889.09

CDs 91-181 day 5,705.78

-

Total CDs 5,705.78

Prez Sez

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If your email is incorrect in our records, you may be missing important information about upcoming events. I do have some places to share, that you turn into an individual or family outing, at as of this writing, they are open (please check their websites to make sure nothing has changed before setting out):

Aurora Fossil Museum and Fossil Park Aurora, NC. Free. 2 3/4 hours from Raleigh, NC. Sharks Teeth, fossilized coral, etc. See their website at:

<https://aurorafossilmuseum.org/>

Emerald Hollow Mine, Hiddenite, NC 2.5 hours from Raleigh, NC. Pay for mining. Native Emeralds, quartz, rutile, Hiddenite and more. Buckets available for sluicing. See their website at:

<https://www.emeraldhollowmine.com/>

Treasure Quest Mining, Apex, NC .1/2 hour from Raleigh, NC. Pay for mining. All-indoor gem mining, gold panning & geode-cracking experience. See their website at:

<http://treasurequestmining.com/>

Meetings:

Next Meeting: September 21, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Featured Guest: Dr. Mike- "Zinc, Vitamin D3 and Covid"

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82414930613?pwd=Zlh6Mm1UZHZyT1Q0R3ZCeGsrUkpnUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 1493 0613

Passcode: 589670

Please feel free to contact me via email, text, or phone or if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you all for either being a member of THGMC or your interest in our club-and as always ROCK ON! Thank you all for either being a member of THGMC or your interest in our club-and as always ROCK ON!

Beverly House

President

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

EQUIPMENT & CUTTING ROUGH FOR SALE!!

This is notice of a **LARGE** collection of gem & mineral-related equipment that has recently come up for sale. There is also a large assortment of cutting rough (as in a ton or two). What an opportunity for us to get used, "less pricey" equipment and/or cutting stock!

The owner is open to buyers acquiring either an individual piece of equipment or "everything". "Everything" includes saws, cabbars, dremels, tumblers, as well as numerous jewelry-making

machines (such as a wax injector, vulcanizer, therminder, kiln, hydrogen welder, etc).

Interested parties can contact this individual directly. Her name is Liz, and her number is (828) 256-2707. Please call her to arrange visits to see/buy related to this offer.

Note:

This offer is being directed to all gem & mineral clubs in the state.

September Birthstone Is The Sapphire

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The biggest source of sapphires world-wide is Australia, especially New South Wales and Queensland. Found in alluvial deposits of weathered basalt, Australian sapphires typically are blue stones with a dark and inky appearance. Kashmir, in India, used to be a well-known source of the cornflower-blue stones. In the United States, a major source is the Yogo Gulch Mine in Montana. It mostly yields small stones for industrial use.



The Logan Sapphire Brooch, the second largest sapphire known (at 422.99 carats), is on display at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Image via Andrew Bossi.

Sapphire lore

The word sapphire has its roots in ancient languages: from the Latin sapphirus (meaning blue), from the Greek word sappheiros for the island of Sappherine in the Arabian Sea where sapphires were found in ancient Grecian times, in its turn from the Arabic safir. Ancient Persians called sapphire the “Celestial Stone.” It was the gem of Apollo,

Greek God of prophecy. Worshipers visiting his shrine in Delphi to seek his help wore sapphires. Ancient Etruscans used sapphires as far back as the 7th century B.C.

Besides being the September birthstone, the sapphire was said to represent the purity of the soul. Before and during the Middle Ages, priests wore it as protection from impure thoughts and temptations of the flesh. Medieval kings of Europe valued these stones for rings and brooches, believing that it protected them from harm and envy. Warriors presented their young wives with sapphire necklaces so they would remain faithful. A common belief was that the stone’s color would darken if worn by an adulterer or adulteress, or by an unworthy person.

Sapphires were once believed to be protection against snakes. People believed that if poisonous reptiles and spiders were placed in a jar containing the stone, the creatures would immediately die. The French of the 13th century believed that sapphire transformed stupidity to wisdom, and irritability to good temper.

One of the most famous sapphires rests on the Imperial State Crown worn by Queen Victoria in 1838. It resides in the British Crown Jewels in the Tower of London. This gem once belonged to Edward the Confessor, who wore the stone on a ring during his coronation in 1042, and is therefore called St. Edward’s Sapphire.

Resources: <https://earthsky.org/human-world/september-birthstone-sapphire/>

SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE - SAPPHIRE

THE GEMSTONE SAPPHIRE

Sapphire is the most precious and valuable blue gemstone. It is a very desirable gemstone due to its excellent color, hardness, durability, and luster. In the gem trade, Sapphire without any color prefix refers to the blue variety of the mineral Corundum. However, the term Sapphire encompasses all other gem varieties and colors of Corundum as well, excluding Ruby, the red variety of Corundum, which has its own name since antiquity.

Chemical Formula	Al ₂ O ₃
Color	White, Colorless, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Brown, Pink, Purple, Gray, Black, Multicolored
Hardness	9
Crystal System	Hexagonal
Refractive Index	1.76 - 1.77
SG	3.9 - 4.1
Transparency	Transparent to opaque
Double Refraction	.0008
Luster	Vitreous to adamantine
Cleavage	None, but may exhibit parting
Mineral Class	Corundum

ALL ABOUT

The most valuable color of Sapphire is a cornflower blue color, known as Kashmir Sapphire or Cornflower Blue Sapphire. Another extremely valuable Sapphire form is the very rare, orange-pink Padparadschah. An exotic type of sapphire, known as Color Changing Sapphire, displays a different color depending on its lighting. In natural light, Color Changing Sapphire is blue, but in artificial light, it is violet. (This effect is the same phenomenon well-known in the gemstone Alexandrite). Yellow and pink Sapphire have recently become very popular, and are now often seen in jewelry.

Going way back in time, Sapphires (excluding blue) were often called the same name as a popular gemstone of that color with the prefix "oriental" added to it. For example, green Sapphire was called "Oriental Emerald". The practice of applying the name of a different gemstone to identify the sapphire was misleading, and these names are no longer used. What was once called "Oriental Emerald" is now called "Green Sapphire". The same holds true for all other color varieties of Sapphire. However, the word "Sapphire" in its plain context refers only to blue Sapphire, unless a prefix color is specified. Sapphire with a color other than blue is often called a "fancy" in the gem trade.

Sapphire often contains minor inclusions of tiny slender Rutile needles. When present, these inclusions decrease the transparency of a stone and are known as silk. When in dense, parallel groupings, these inclusions can actually enhance by allowing polished Sapphires to exhibit asterism. Sapphire gems displaying asterism are known as "Star Sapphire", and these can be highly prized. Star Sapphire exists in six ray stars, though twelve ray stars are also known.

Sapphire is pleochroic, displaying a lighter and more intense color when viewed at different angles. Some pleochroic Sapphire is blue when viewed at one angle, and purple at a different angle. Color zoning, which forms from growth layers that build up during the formation of the stone, may also be present in certain

Sapphires. Color zoning is responsible for certain Sapphires having lighter and darker colors in different parts of a crystal. Some Sapphire gemstones may even be multicolored such as purple and blue.

Sapphire is a tough and durable gem, and the only natural gemstone harder than Sapphire is Diamond. Despite this, Sapphire is still subject to chipping and fracture if handled roughly, and care should be taken to ensure it is properly handled. Sapphire was first synthesized in 1902. The process of creating synthetic Sapphire is known as the Verneuil process. Only experts can distinguish between natural and synthetic Sapphire.

USES

Sapphire is one of the most popular gemstones, and is used extensively in Jewelry. Fine colored Sapphire with a deep blue color and excellent transparency can reach several thousand dollars a carat. The blue variety is most often used in jewelry, but the yellow, pink, and orange "fancies" have recently become very popular. Green and light blue Sapphires are also known, but are less commonly used in jewelry. Opaque Black Sapphire is also used a minor gemstone.

Sapphire is used in all forms of jewelry, including bracelets, necklaces, rings, and earrings. It is used both as centerpiece gemstone in pendants and rings, as well as a secondary stone to complement other gemstones such as Diamonds. Star Sapphires are polished as cabochons, and, if clear, are extremely valuable.

The rare orange-pink variety, known as Padparadschah, can be even more valuable than fine blue Sapphire. Blue Sapphire is sometimes carved into cameos or small figures, especially the less transparent material. Synthetic Sapphire is often used as a cheap substitute for the natural material.

Resources:

https://www.minerals.net/gemstone/sapphire_gemstone.aspx

UPCOMING SHOWS

November 19 – 21, 2021: Raleigh, NC – Treasures of the Earth. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. Our shows feature estate, classic, handcrafted and fashion jewelry made from a variety of metals, as well as a vast array of crystals, minerals and fossils. Hours: Fri 12-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 10-5. Admission: TBD and Free Parking. Contact: <https://treasuresoftheearth.com/events/nc-state-fairgrounds/>;

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.

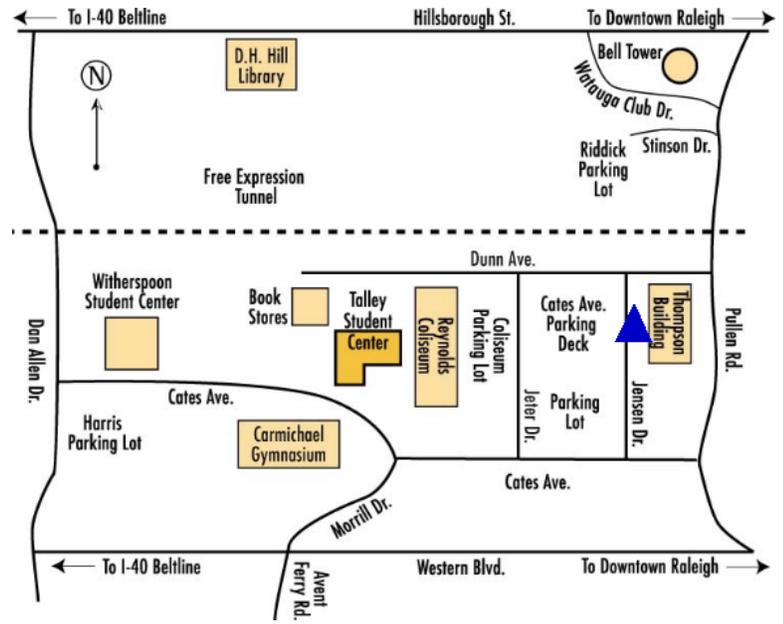
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

Our Next Meeting is September 21, 2021 See Inside for Meeting Details

About Our Organization...

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 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
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