

Tar Heel Tailings

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- November Birthstone - Citrine

Individual Highlights:

Prez Sez	1
November Birthstone – Citrine	1
October's Business Meeting Minutes	3
November's Business Meeting Information	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Announcements	7
Vug Sites:	7

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

Prez Sez By Beverly House

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

To our members and those who are following our club: It recently came to my attention that a lot of our members have not received the most recent emails/newsletters, for which I apologize for.

Continued on Page 3

NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/november-birthstones>

Those with November birthdays have two beautiful birthstones to choose from: topaz and citrine. Topaz comes in a rainbow of colors; citrine is prized for its charming yellow and orange hues. Both November birthstones are known to have calming energies while bringing fortune and warmth to the wearer. Most topaz and citrine birthstones are affordably priced, as good-quality gems are not as rare as for many of their counterparts. This means that those born in November have many options to choose from. Your challenge will be deciding which one to pick.

Citrine

Citrine is rare in nature. In the days

before modern gemology, its tawny color caused it to be confused with topaz. Today, its attractive color, plus the durability and affordability it shares with most other quartzes, makes it the top-selling yellow-to-orange gem. In the contemporary market,

citrine's most popular shade is an earthy, deep, brownish or reddish orange.

Continued on Page 5

November Birthstone

• Citrine •



The first uses of **citrine** in jewellery can be dated back to the Hellenistic Age (323-280 BC) in Greece. At one time it was used as a talisman against alcoholism, evil thoughts, overindulgences, scandal, libel, and treachery. Some also carried it as protection against plagues, epidemics, as well as venomous snake and reptile bites.



Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Open

November TBD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

November TBD

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

**November
B-Day Members**

- Michele Beach
- Michael Becklo
- Joseph Bolla
- Daniel Cathey
- David Challeuer
- Kathleen Hanson
- Judy Heinz
- Beverly House
- Jerry Miller
- Debbie Miller
- Raol Rodriguez
- Rachel Stackle
- Kristi Viles
- Joshua Whitfield-Strickland
- Jim Zisek



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. - October Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Opening of Club Meeting:

Beverly House opened the meeting at 7:05 pm

Program:

No Program.

Old Business:

Elections:

Nominations:

Renny Young is willing to continue as an At-Large Committee member.

George Harris is willing to be nominated as Treasurer.

A new newsletter editor will be needed.

New Business:

Columbia, SC will host the SFMS annual meeting during their show – November 19-21.

A paper newsletter will go out for the November edition since it is election month.

MEETING PLACE

NCSU Crafts Center will be charging all guild groups to meet. The cost would be \$100 per month.

Storage space will be greatly downgraded. Some items would need to be brought every meeting.

There will no longer be free studio time for club members. Anyone using the machines would need to pay for a studio pass. This would be a discounted rate.

Powell Drive Center

(740 Powell Dr, Raleigh, 27606) can be an alternate meeting place. The regular charge would be \$110 for 2 hours. But if we can give quarterly presentations (I have volunteered) that fee will be waived or greatly reduced. Parking is easy. No storage here - all items would need to be brought every month. As a History note – we met here before 2000 and this worked out well.

SHOW

Dates April 1-3. Contracts have been sent to the dealers.

Ask Chris Tacker if the museum would like to display at the show.

Close of Meeting:

Closed meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Cyndy Hummel,
Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

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

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

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

Time: November 16, 2021 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Pioneer Building at the Method Road Community Center
514 Method Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

November Treasurer's Report

There is no November report for the fiscal month of October.

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,

Beverly House
President
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Linda Searcy
Treasurer,
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Prez Sez

Continued from Page 1

November Meeting:

We are so excited to announce our November meeting will be in person. It will be in a new meeting location:

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Pioneer Building at the Method Road Community Center

**514 Method Road
Raleigh, NC 27607**

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

Meeting Agenda Items:

* Election:

This month, at our November meeting, we will need to elect our new 2022 Board, so please make sure you step up to the plate and nominate either yourself or someone else in the club for board members, member at large and other positions. Make sure, if you nominate someone, they know about it and are willing to take on the responsibilities associated with that position.

Future In-person Meetings:

* In-person meetings in 2022

The North Carolina State University Craft Center has been a gracious host to our club, and I want to take the opportunity to thank them for allowing us to use their space, without charge, over the years. Yes, our club did donate lapidary equipment in the past, but that was 20 years ago and at this time, all the guilds utilizing the Craft Center is moving to a pay-for meeting space. We need to decide, as a club, if we want to continue holding meetings there or do we want to look at other locations.

* THGMC Annual Show- April1-3, 2022

We will begin discussions on the Annual show which is slated for April1-3, 2022. Set up will take place on March 31, 2021 and we will be needing volunteers to continue the show's success.

Field trips:

Senter Quarry Update-Senter Quarry is now an active quarry. We will no longer have free access to the quarry, as Hansen has decided to reactivate the quarry. Hopefully, in 2022, we will be able to make appointments to visit the quarry, through a formal field trip.

Unfortunately, we still do not have any tentative dates for field trips. When we have field trip notifications, they are made through emails, sent to all current members. 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/>

Rockhound's Creed

by Beverly House

As a Rockhound, I take joy in all things of the earth- especially, rocks, minerals, fossils, and gems.

As a Rockhound, I make it my mission to leave every place I look for rocks better than I found it.

As a Rockhound, I encourage others who are interested and find ways to share my expertise and enthusiasm.

As a Rockhound, I am grateful for other's experiences as they are shared with me.

As a Rockhound, I acknowledge and give thanks for all places that may be available to any and all rockhounds.

As a Rockhound, I am not prejudiced by any particular stone or mineral, except Rose Quartz! (or insert your favorite)

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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE

Continued from Page 1

This November birthstone is the transparent yellow to brownish orange variety of quartz, which has been used in jewelry for thousands of years. Citrine has been a popular gemstone since ancient times and has shared a history of mistaken identities with the other November birthstone, topaz. As a result, people thought citrine had the same powers as topaz. They believed the citrine birthstone could soothe tempers and calm the wearer.

Chemical Formula	SiO ₂
Composition	Silicon dioxide
Color	Yellow, yellow-brown, orange, dark orange-brown, reddish-brown
Streak	White
Hardness	7
Crystal System	Hexagonal
3D Crystal Atlas (Click for animated model)	
Crystal Forms and Aggregates	Most often as protruding clusters of pyramids on a geode base. Also occurs as short, stubby , terminated crystals, either singular or in drusy aggregates, and occasionally as long prismatic crystals and groupings. Also occurs massive and crusty .
Transparency	Transparent to translucent
Specific Gravity	2.6 - 2.7
Luster	Vitreous
Cleavage	Indiscernible
Fracture	Conchoidal
Tenacity	Brittle
Complex Tests	Soluble in hydrofluoric acid
In Group	Silicates ; Tectosilicates ; Silica Group
Striking Features	Color and crystal habits
Environment	Occurs in all mineral environments , especially in igneous environments.
Rock Type	Igneous , Sedimentary , Metamorphic
Popularity (1-4)	1
Prevalence (1-3)	3
Demand (1-3)	1

The ancient Greeks carved rock crystal ornaments that glistened like permafrost. Roman pontiffs wore rings set with massive purple amethysts, and citrine has been reported in Roman jewelry. It was particularly popular in colorful Scottish

jewelry from the Victorian era. Citrine, is given for the thirteenth wedding anniversary.

Natural Citrine, which is rare, is yellow to orange-yellow, and occurs in much lighter hues than the heat-treated material, which is dark orange-brown to reddish-brown. Virtually all heat-treated material has a reddish tint, whereas the natural specimens do not. Natural light yellow Citrine is often called "Lemon Quartz", as it is believed to derive from the French word for "lemon" (citron). Sometimes Citrine has a "smoky" hue to it, and can be borderlined between Citrine and Smoky Quartz, with either definition being correct.



A fantasy cut unleashes the fire within this 43.49 ct citrine. Photo: Priscilla Dyer. Courtesy: John Dyer & Co.

WHERE IS CITRINE FOUND?

The top sources for this November birthstone are Bolivia, Spain, Madagascar, Mexico and Uruguay. Amethyst that's typically heat treated to a citrine color is mined mostly in Brazil.



Thousands of crystals with both purple amethyst and yellow citrine have been recovered from the Anahí mine in Bolivia. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA

Deep in the world's largest freshwater wetland lies Bolivia's Anahí mine, an important source for natural, unheated citrine. Fields of wildflowers, brightly plumed birds, kaleidoscopes of butterflies, Howler monkeys and jaguars are some of the actors on this vast stage. The story of the mine is worthy of

the setting. Discovered by a Spanish conquistador in the 1600s, it was given to him as dowry when he married Anahí, a princess from the Ayoreos tribe of Paraguay. The mine was lost for three centuries until it was rediscovered in the 1960s.

The Anahí mine produces a unique combination of amethyst and citrine in the same crystal; when the two colors appear together in a fashioned gem, it is known as ametrine. The citrine birthstones produced at the Anahí mine typically range from orange-yellow to brownish/greenish yellow.



Faceting of the Anahí mine crystals produces citrine, amethyst and ametrine gems. Photo: GIA & Tino Hammid

CITRINE BIRTHSTONE CARE & CLEANING

At 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness with good toughness, your citrine birthstone is usually durable enough for normal wear and care. It can be safely cleaned with warm, soapy water. While it is usually okay to clean your November birthstone in an ultrasonic machine, steam cleaning is risky since high heat could cause the stone to crack.

AMETRINE

A bicolor variety of quartz that is purple amethyst on one side and orange citrine on the other, ametrine occurs naturally only at the Anahí Mine in the Sandoval Province of eastern Bolivia.

Ametrine is composed of silicon dioxide (SiO_2) and it is a tectosilicate, which means it has a silicate framework linked together through shared oxygen atoms.

Ametrine is a mix of both Ametrine and Citrine producing a mixture of purple and yellow/orange crystal colours. It is produced under such exceptional and improbable conditions, requiring a perfect combination of iron presence and differing temperatures within a very confined area, that it has occurred only once that we know of, in only one known place in the world: Santa Cruz, Bolivia.



Rough Ametrine. credit: GoldenHourMinerals

The Anahí mine is the one and only bolivianite mine known to exist anywhere on Earth. The mineralization is found in the northern part of a hill formed by limestones and dolomites, and has been generated by silicification of the limestones belonging to the Murcielago Group, deposited in the Precambrian, between 500 and 900 million years ago. Ametrine crystals are found in hydrothermal breccias.

The Anahi ametrine crystals range in size from 10 to 30 cm in length and 4 to 12 cm in diameter. When sliced and polished, the interior of the crystals show the typical color zoning. The amethyst and citrine zones run from top to bottom, parallel to the crystal's c-axis.

Ametrine in the low price segment may stem from synthetic material. Green-yellow or golden-blue ametrine does not exist naturally. This gem only exists in Bolivia, it comes from the Ricón del Tigre area, from the Anahí mine.

Resources: <https://www.gia.edu/birthstones/november-birthstones>

<https://www.minerals.net/mineral/citrine.aspx>

<https://www.geologyin.com/2021/04/the-colorful-charm-of-ametrine.html>

UPCOMING SHOWS

April 1 - 3, 2022: Raleigh, NC – 46th 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 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: TBD and Free Parking. Contact: Cyndy Hummel; 919-779-6220; mchummel@mindspring.com; www.tarheelclub.org;

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.htm> 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.

Our Next Meeting is November 16, 2021 See Inside for Meeting Details

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 among club members and organization for people among the general public. who enjoy the lapidary The club pursues these arts, earth sciences, and goals through related subjects. The main publications, meetings, objectives of the club are lectures, field trips, to investigate, preserve, exhibits, demonstrations, and share knowledge of and other activities. rocks, minerals, and **Come and be a part of precious stones, and to the Fun!** promote interest in

TAR HEEL GEM & MINERAL CLUB
10609 Chelsea Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

