

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- NYC's Largest Garnet Was Found in the NYC Subway
- World's Largest Garnet Was Found in Norway
- Giant Tsavorite Discovered in East Africa

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

Prez Sez By Linda Searcy

Happy New Year and let's welcome in a great 2018! Please welcome the officers / committee chairs for this year:

President – Linda Searcy
Vice President – Tom Todaro
Treasurer – Corinne Hummel
Secretary – Lindsey Bradsher
Newsletter – George Harris
Webmaster – Melissa Whitfield
Member-at-Large – Bob Bendelow
Member-at-Large – George Harris

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NYC's Largest Garnet Was Found in the NYC Subway

Nasha Virata - Arts & Culture, New York

In 1885, a press sensation erupted over the discovery of the "Subway Garnet" or Kunz Garnet, as it is otherwise known, underground at West 35th Street between Broadway and 7th Avenue. Eventually owned by the New York Mineralogical Club, the largest perfectly-formed mineral found in the United States was written up in many academic and industry publications. The size of a bowling ball, the Kunz Garnet weighs about 10 pounds with a diameter of roughly 7 inches. The New York Times wrote that it was the "city's most spectacular mineral specimen."

Yet the name is a misnomer as the garnet was found during a

routine sewer excavation and not during a subway construction but the story is that the New York Mineralogical Club thought "subway" sounded more upscale than "sewer."

Like all objects however,

the garnet's novelty faded over time and when the Department of Public Works acquired the mineral, they decided it was prime for adaptive reuse,

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Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

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Open – Field-Trip Coord.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Open

January TBD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

January TBD

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

January Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's Report due to illness.

January B-Day Members

- Marion Broadway
- Ken Carlson
- Jack Fried
- Ron Helms
- Cyndy Hummel
- Jason Jin
- Suzanne Love
- John Nigro
- Mary Obenchain
- Ryan O'Neal
- Kerry Sappie
- Greg Shay
- Connie Shay
- Jacob Stephens
- Nancy Tuttle
- Laura Wahl
- Diane Willis



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. - September Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2017

Attendees = 15

Opening of Club Meeting:

Melissa opened the meeting at 7:50pm.

Program: Auction

A variety of stone rough went up for auction and sold – malachite, chrysocolla, petrified wood, rainbow obsidian, mahogany obsidian, picture jasper, rhodonite, agate, chert, selenite. Several pieces of lapidary equipment were sold – a used flat lap, a used 2-barrel tumbler, and a brand new Loretone 2-barrel tumbler. Total \$530.



Officer Elections:

Nominations for new officers for 2018: Linda Searcy – President (for one year only, in-trainee for Treasurer 2019), VP – Tom Todaro, Treasurer – Corinne Hummel, Secretary - Lindsey Bradsher, Members-At-Large – George Harris, Bob Bendelow. Voted in as nominated.

Old Business:

Show Business –

Chair persons for:

* Hospitality – Linda Searcy,

* Silent Auction -Jack Fried,

* Geodes - Greg,

* Demonstration – Cyndy Hummel,

* Refreshments – Gerald for cooking but need another volunteer/assistance to pickup and purchase of supplies, coffee, soda, ice - to setup and breakdown, assist with member lunch. Gerald has list for supplies, etc. Purchases will be reimbursed.

Display cases – Joe Moylan, hosted show by Federation, cases to be judged. Need to check for repair – January?

Polo shirts – Greg - special order with embroidery, TGMC 2016, Emerald NC Gemstone - \$25/each pre-order – for members, dealers, and Federation?

One dealer cancellation – may have replacement? Looking for other dealers...

Refreshments:

Thanks to Jim Jin for the great refreshments!

Door Prize:

Winner: Linda Searcy, due to time constraints, prize to be picked at next meeting – and lots of rocks (mostly pet wood) went home with her...



Close of Meeting:

Meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Searcy,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Prez Sez

Continued from Page 1

We have 2 spots open – Field Trips and Hospitality. We thank Shirley Greene for her many years in coordinating the rock hounding trips – now who wants to step up to continue offering opportunities for members to find rocks?

Thank you, Loretta Turcotte, for the wonderful refreshments this past year. We will need someone to coordinate having refreshments for each meeting. Whoever provides refreshments may be reimbursed up to \$85 – just submit your purchase receipts to the Treasurer.

As a side note, I will be working with Corinne to train as the Treasurer for next year.

Please consider volunteering for our upcoming Gem Show the first weekend in April. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is to ensure everything runs smoothly. This year the show will be sponsored by the American Federation (AfMS/EFML Convention – see their latest newsletter

http://www.amfed.org/news/n2017_12.pdf) – Cyndy Hummel is coordinating this effort. Again, we will be awarding two prizes to two lucky show volunteers. Each prize entitles the winner to a week of class time at William Holland or Wildacres. To be eligible for a chance at one of these prizes, you need to volunteer a minimum of 8 hours at the show.

Show volunteers may sign up at the March meeting or direct contact with the activity chairperson. Grab bags will also be made at the March meeting – so check your personal rock / slab stash to donate for the grab bags.

Again, I welcome all suggestions and recommendations for improvements for the Tarheel Gem and Mineral Club!

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

NYC's Largest Garnet Was Found in the NYC Subway

Continued from Page 1

and the garnet could be found on the floor as a doorstep for many years. Eventually, a dealer recognized the quality of the piece and purchased it on behalf of the Mineralogical Club. Today, the garnet resides in the archives of the American Museum of Natural History.

Yet the Garment District remains largely under the radar at best or actively disliked. In 2010, the Municipal Art Society granted the same street next to Macy's where the garnet was discovered with the dubious title of the "ugliest street" in New York City. In 2012, the city attempted a failed rezoning of the area, as well as a rebranding. We at Untapped though remain big fans of the Garment District and all its "untapped" surprises.

<https://untappedcities.com/2015/01/13/daily-what-the-worlds-largest-garnet-was-found-in-the-nyc-subway/>



Illustration of the Kunz garnet from the New York Academy of Sciences Transactions 5.

World's Largest Garnet Was Found in Norway

by Peter Rickwood

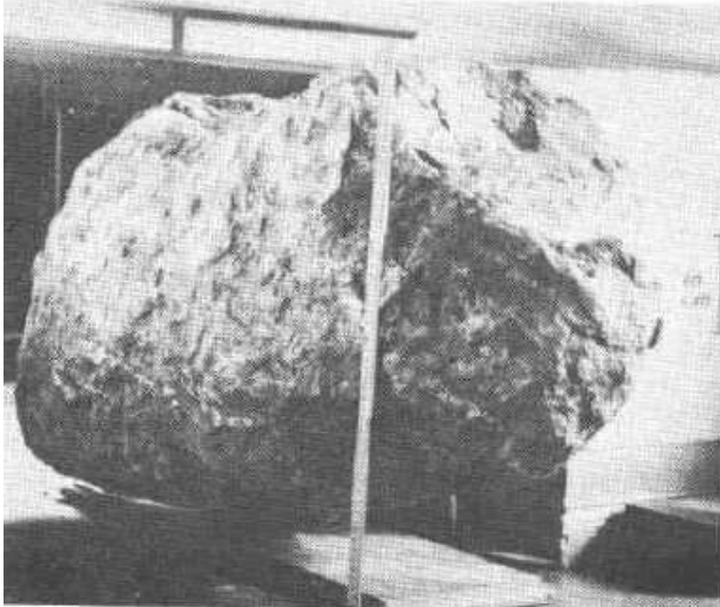


Fig. 8. The largest NESOSILICATE crystal by length, volume and mass that has been authenticated. Garn t, Selvik, north of Gylanger Molle, Fjaler herred, Sogn of Fjordane fylke, Norway (100 x 70 x 40 cm). photograph provided by, and is reproduced by permission of, Professor B. A. Sturt, Universitv of Bergen, Norway (Table I-rr).

This is an irregularly shaped shell of garnet around a block of limestone, and it may be a crystal aggregate. The density was calculated, not assumed and is almost certainly smaller

than the true value; the reported weight (37.5 tons) was taken to be:" metric tons. A sketch accompanies both reference; and from it the maximum dimension of the garnet is measured as 2.3 m, a value incompatible with the stated volume estimate (10 m³) even if the limestone is included.

Subsequently, Kolderup (1960, p.74) stated "Here a giant crystal, measuring 90 cm, was found". . . , and Kostov (1968, p.318) recorded "In the western part of Norway garnet has been found as porphyroblasts with a diameter of 1 m in amphibolite". These accounts probably relate to the same specimen which is the very imperfect dodecahedral crystal, (Fig. 8) mentioned in Table 1, and which is kept at the Natural History Museum, Bergen, Norway. Note that the volume has been calculated from the reported mass and density.

http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/collectors_corner/arc/large_crystals.htm#TAR1

Volume 66, pages 885-908, 1981

The largest crystals

PETER C. RICKWOOD

School of Applied Geology

University of New South Wales

Kensington, N. S. W. 2033, Australia

Giant size top color clean tsavorite discovered in East Africa

by David Weinberg

Weighing in at 325.14 carats and priced well over two million dollars, this extraordinary tsavorite is one of the largest most valuable gems ever to be discovered in East Africa.

An exceptional gemstone, most likely the largest fine color clean tsavorite in the world was discovered near Arusha, Tanzania. The stone was found at the border of the original block B tanzanite mining area (Block B extension), at a depth of 160 meters. The area is locally known as Karo.

The uncut stone weighed 185 grams and was examined by Dr. H. Hanni of SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute during a recent trip to Arusha. The stone was preformed and faceted in Thailand and certified by Dr. A. Peretti at the GRS Gemresearch Swisslab in Bangkok. The impressive size and saturated color combined with remarkable clarity and transparency put this stone in a class of its own. According to Dr. A. Peretti's report, -- "One Magnificent Gemstone".

Even tsavorites over 2 cts. in size are considered to be rare so an amazing stone like this will certainly end up with a collector or in a museum. The stone is step cut with good proportions and superior transparency and measures 42.11 x

36.46 x 28.34 mm. The GIA color was graded as G 4/5 - G 4/6 (medium tone, strong to vivid saturation) using the GIA 324 color comparison set. Although difficult to verify, our research indicates that at 325.13 carats, this stone is the probably the largest and definitely the largest clean tsavorite in the world. In a smaller size, material like this would be much lighter in color but in such a large size, the tone darkens to that illusive jello green that every connoisseur of tsavorite asks for -- not too light and not too dark

Tsavorite garnet was first discovered in Tanzania in 1968, and was named after Tsavo National Park by the promoters from Tiffany & Co. Tsavo national park is located near the border between Kenya and Tanzania. A member of the garnet group, the species is grossularite and the variety is tsavorite. Tsavorite is said to be the most valued variety of this species. Although tsavorite is the name usually associated with the darker green garnets, there is no universally accepted standard that designates which shade of green qualifies as tsavorite.



Many experts believe tsavorite will be the next demantoid, extinct and ultra-rare. It is often called the Rolls-Royce of greens at Cadillac prices. From a collectors perspective, tsavorite is 200 times more rare than emerald, it is cleaner, more brilliant and not oiled or treated in any way. At 1/4 - 1/2 the price of emerald, tsavorite offers excellent value when we consider its rarity. Today there are only a few mines operating in Kenya and Tanzania. Any stone above three carats is considered to be large and exceedingly rare. Sporadic production probably means higher prices and prices have been rising steadily. Collectors should look for bright attractive highly saturated greens, and avoid over dark stones.



GEMSTONE REPORT

EDELSTEINBERICHT
RAPPORT DE PIERRE PRÉCIEUSE
PLATINUM RARITY AWARD ISSUE

No. GRS2006-101181 (Award No 348)
Date 6th November 2006
Object One magnificent gemstone
Identification Natural Tsavorite (-Grossularite-Garnet)

Origin
Gemological testing revealed characteristics corresponding to those of a natural tsavorite (grossularite-garnet) from:

Tanzania

Special Comment
Extremely rare combination of excellent
brilliance and clarity, size over 300 cts and
well-balanced proportions.



Weight 325.13 ct
Dimensions 42.11 x 36.46 x 28.34 (mm)
Cut brilliant/step (S)
Shape oval
Color vibrant green
Comment No indication of treatments

Dr. A. Pretti FGG FGA
GRS Gem Research
European Geologist

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INTERNET
www.gemsearch.com

Dieser Edelsteinbericht wird nur wenn der Verkaufer angegeben, dass die wichtigsten Bestimmungen auf der Rückseite des Vertragsdokumentes von der GRS Gem Research Swisstitli AG akzeptiert werden und, spezifische Beachtung in der Handhabung mit der Deklaration von Schwabingen zu schätzen.

GRS Gem Research Swisstitli Gemstone Reports are issued under condition that the information and statistics on the internet site form an integral part of the relevant contract with GRS Gem Research Swisstitli AG. Please note the regulations governing the declaration of gemstone treatments.

<http://www.multicolour.com/tsavorite/giant-tsavorite-discovered-in-east-africa.html>

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 ongoing 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;

March 9–11, 2018: Augusta, GA - 30th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Sponsored by the nonprofit organizations: Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society; Augusta Gem and Mineral Society. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St. Augusta, GA. Diamonds, sapphires, tanzanites, emeralds and other fine jewelry. Gorgeous everyday jewelry, mineral lamps, art objects, and beads. Fabulous fossils and minerals from around the world. Jewelry making and cabochon cutting demos. Kid's Treasure Dig, Grab Bags, Geode cutting, Member case displays, Educational resources. FREE "Adopt-a-Rock" to every child. Hours: Fri & Sat 10–6 / Sun 10–5. Concessions benefit Relay for Life. Admission: Kids under 12 FREE with one Adult admission: \$3/day or \$5 weekend pass; 50¢-off admission coupon on our websites. Contact: Show Chair: Chris Glass 706-284-9239; <http://www.aikengmfs.org>; <http://agams.club>

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
January 16, 2018 @ 7:30PM
Thompson Building / NCSU Campus.**

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 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 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

