

TAR HEEL TAILINGS

A newsletter for gem and mineral enthusiasts in and around the Raleigh, NC area.

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Prez Sez

Greetings THGMC members!
Happy May 2023 THGMC! Happy birthday to those born this month and welcome to new and returning members. Judging on the membership, we have a lot of people who have come back to the club this year. And for those who have been away for a while, I know things are a lot different than they were. With so much that has happened- COVID, the loss of our trailer/show items, changing locations for our monthly meeting, and more it might be a little difficult to catch up or know about things going on in the club. I think a suggestion box, ready at the monthly meetings, would be a great place to start collecting ideas on what you, as a club, would like to experience moving forward. Especially since next year, 2024, is THGMC's birthday- it will be 50 years old, and I hope we can come up with a lot of exciting things to celebrate throughout its birthday year. I also wanted to provide an update -thanks to the success of the two Silent Auctions held earlier this year and a great Annual Show, we have been able to overcome some of the challenges left from the stolen trailer. I am happy to announce we purchased one used saw in April and will be placing an order for a new one from Highland Park for our Geode Booth for the 2024 show. Look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting scheduled for May 16, 2023. Plan on arriving early at 6:30 so you have time to mingle and chat before the meeting. (and of course, help set up!)

Rock on ya'll,
Beverly House
Present



A variety of beryl, hiddenite and diamond from western North Carolina. George F Kunz, *Gems of North Carolina*, 1907, Plate III, 9

Monthly Club Meeting Programing

May: Guest Lecture by Mark Winston, “A Rock-hounding Vacation - How to be successful in the field”

June: Guest Lecture by Jeff Schlotmann All about Fluorite

July: Annual Ice Cream Social & Rock Swap

August: Guest Lecture, North Carolina Museum of Natural Science Geology Curator Dr. Tacker is scheduled to give a presentation.

Upcoming Shows

Franklin Gem & Mineral Society Show

5/19 - 5/21

Hours: Fri/Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

Venue: Robert C Carpenter Community Building

Address:

1288 Georgia Road (Rt. 441)

Robert C Carpenter Community Building

Franklin, NC 28734

Website: <http://fgmm.org/>

10th Annual Piedmont Open Air Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show

6/03

Hours: 9:00-5:00

Venue: Piedmont Triad Farmers Market

Address:

2914 Sandy Ridge Road

Colfax, NC

Website: <https://www.ggmc-rockhounds.com/>

May Birthdays

Evan Glaesner

Rachel Nagy

Christopher Liskiewicz

Richard Witter

Yudy Lopez

Emily Carabello

Jay Calendine

Nicole DaVia

Edie Evans-Bisbee

Gail Ferguson

Chris Palmer

John Heinz

Corinne Hummel

Membership applications may be mailed to:

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



April Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to order at 7:05 PM

Minutes taken by Craig Downes.

Annual Show Key Takeaways:

- Admission was charged for the show for the first time.
- There were no complaints or negativity from attendees.
- This is the first year advertising on Facebook for the show.
- Provided ad data, showed audience type, analytics.
- More affordable cost than mailing postcards.

Overall, the show was a great success!!!

Volunteer Drawing for \$100 Visa Gift Card Winners Announced:

- Robert Larsen
- Selena Luck
- Kathy Williams
- Lynn Kuzeff
- Craig Downes
- Steven Nohren

Annual Show Discussion:

- Thank you to all who volunteered!
- In the future, more volunteers are needed so that nobody has to multitask, things run more smoothly, and our club members can take breaks to enjoy the show.
- Many of our members enjoyed their first annual show whether it was volunteering, attending, or both.
- If you have ideas for improvements, you are encouraged to take the initiative and collaborate with each other to make those changes.
- The new geode booth built this year worked well and fits into storage.
- Geode saw purchased at show.

Board members present:

- Beverly House - President
- Faye Duterte - Vice President
- Katie Kennedy- Treasurer
- Craig Downes - At-Large committee
- Cyndy Hummel - At-Large committee

- Gross sales announced.
- Switching the grab bag material from ziploc bags for storage to paper bags during the show was a success for saving time, easier transport, and quality control.
- Sold out of grab bag materials, rock candy, and the new tote bags before the show's end.
- Display cases were not ready for this year's show. We will make sure we have cases for next year's show. A prototype deadline has been set for June.
- Credit card and cash payments were accepted at all booths including admissions.
- Tablets were donated to the club prior to the show to help accommodate some of the booths.

Annual Show Proposed Ideas:

- More volunteers are needed
- Purchase additional saws, tablets, geodes, and grab bag material
- Have one designated runner and the designated food prepper can help in between
- Create a more kid focused activity.
- Find a better system to track show attendance
- Test tech equipment prior to show throughout the year and before show use
- Create a schedule of events for the demonstration booth
- Advertise and follow through with any new ideas.

Meeting called to a close at 8:54PM

April Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	17,517.57
Deposits from Annual Show :	
Memberships	630
Hospitality	2581.74
Admission	4759
Geode	8322
Silent Auction	1194.8
Other	4,382.22
Total:	21,869.76
Expenses:	
April Meeting	53.89
Used Saw for Sh	1,500
Show Volunteers	510
Insurance	435
Facebook Advert	639.99
Other General E	2,250.21
Ending Balance:	33,997.64

Emeralds in North Carolina

by Steven Nohren

North Carolina is known for its emeralds, so much so that they are actually the official state gemstone. Emeralds are a variety of the mineral beryl, typically recognizable by its shades of iconic green. The most common places to find emeralds are Brazil, Colombia and Zambia. However, in the entirety of the continent of North America, North Carolina is the only significant source of emeralds. In 2012, an anonymous donor gave three large uncut emeralds and the largest cut emerald known as the "Carolina Emperor." to the state Museum of Natural Sciences. Then Museum director Betsy Bennett stated emeralds are among the one of the most valuable donations in the museum's history up to that point. One of the uncut emeralds weighs more than 1,200 carats. For reference, an emerald for a ring would range about 1 to 4 carats with an average price of \$4,500 per carats. And these donated gems came specifically from Emerald Hollow Mine. Emerald Hollow is located in

Hiddenite NC and is the only emerald mine in the United States open to the public for prospecting. If you thought Hiddenite sounds like a mineral, you'd be right. Coincidentally, the town actually got its name from the discovery of a pale green crystal in 1879. And this mineral, hiddenite, got its name from geoscientist William Earl Hidden. Hidden came to North Carolina after being commissioned by Thomas Edison to search for any sources of platinum in the area. While he was unsuccessful in finding the platinum, he did come into possession of an odd pale green crystal. While emeralds and hiddenite have similar colors, they have very different physical properties. William Hidden was able to send samples of this unknown mineral to J. Lawrence Smith, a prominent chemist and mineralogist in Louisville, Kentucky. Smith correctly identified the specimens as being a variety of spodumene, a major ore for lithium.

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Workshops

William Holland *School of Lapidary Arts*

William Holland, School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, GA hosting a series of classes June 4 - 10, 2023. Take a look at the wide range of classes being offered. For tuition and boarding costs, materials expenses, required tools for classes, registration info, and any other helpful information, please visit <https://www.sfmshworkshops.org/home>

Sliver I (waiting list only)

Silversmithing (Plus) for beginners and intermediate skill levels with an emphasis on using fabricated stock silver material to make settings for Cabochons and Faceted Stones to create Rings, Pendants, Bracelets, Earrings and more.

Sliver III - Channel Inlay

Channel Inlay combines a soldered silver grid with carefully fitted, shaped pieces of stone. Students will fabricate a silver grid of their own design or use provided patterns to create pins, pendants, bolo ties, or belt buckles. Combining silver and lapidary techniques makes this a challenging class. Lapidary skills are helpful but not required.

Casting

This class will teach silver casting for beginner and intermediate silversmithing. The class will teach centrifugal and vacuum casting, wax modeling, spruing, investing, burnout, casting, finishing and polishing, rubber mold making and wax injection. Students will learn to make cast silver embellishments for their silversmith pieces. Students may bring items they wish to make molds of.

Weave Tap & Drop

Sounds like a dance step but it's not. We will create a number of different weaving patterns using round copper wire. Then use these patterns to make bracelets, earrings, rings and more.

Wire II - Bracelets

This class focuses solely on bracelets. Make bracelets using sterling silver and gold-filled pattern, half round, square, twisted square and round wire twisted together and flattened on a rolling mill. We will use beads and crystals in some projects, and cabochons and sculpted cameos in. Students should bring their own tools,

Flame Painting on Copper

Learn how to use a Victor J40 Torch to control color changes and patterns on copper, with somewhat consistent results. Prior use of torch will be helpful, but not absolutely necessary.

Soft Solder

The art of translating Tiffany style stained glass soldering into jewelry. We will be using a soldering iron instead of a torch to get similar looks. This technique is especially good for those who do not have an appropriate place for torch work, or just don't like working with fire. Students will use copper foil around cabochons, beads, or just make wire structures to form their individual designs.

Seed Beaded China Cabs

This class will teach creating beaded peyote bezels for cabochons, as well as a variety of attachment points, edge stitches and embellishments. We will explore use of color palettes, many varieties of beads, crystals and embellishments to create your own unique piece. Students can expect to complete at least two pendants.

Cabbing I

Introduction to Cabochons is designed to teach you the basics of creating a beautiful cabochon from a slab of rock! You will learn slab selection, the use of water, motion, touch, inspection, safety, and patience!

Cabbing II

Learn freeform and special designs. Explore cutting stones with live edges for one-of-a-kind creations. Learn how to enhance and clean druzy crystals. Stabilization of stones using epoxy and vacuum treatments will be taught.

Wildacres

Wildacres Retreat is situated on just over 1200 acres atop Pompey's Knob, not too far from Mt. Mitchell and just off the Blue Ridge Parkway in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Take a look at the classes offered for the August 14 -20 season.

For tuition and boarding costs, materials expenses, required tools for classes, registration info, and any other helpful information, please visit:

<https://www.sfmshworkshops.org/home>

Stained Glass

In this class we'll explore the art of stained glass using the Tiffany method, also known as the copper foil method, that allows more creative freedom. We'll be incorporating agate slices and other gems into the final pieces. During the course of the week, you will have the opportunity to create two projects – a hanging panel and a freestanding tabletop piece. This is a fun and focused class for the beginner as well as the more experienced craftsperson.

Wire Wrap/ Weave

Learn the basics of wire wrapping and weaving to prepare you to launch into a new and exciting art. Learn the most popular different weaves starting out with basic weaving and working up to more complex weaves and styles. With the weaves and wrap styles we learn, we will make earrings, pendants, rings, bracelets and more using mainly copper wire and some sterling silver wire as well.

Sliver I+

This class will teach Silversmithing (Plus) for beginners and intermediate skill levels, with an emphasis on using fabricated stock silver products to make completed settings for Cabochons to create: Rings, Pendants, Bracelets, Earrings and more. You will learn techniques in: Shaping, Soldering and Polishing. The projects will progressively challenge you as the education level rises, that will involve learning techniques using a saw, soldering, torch/flame control, alternate cabochon setting, design forethought and the ever popular, "I goofed up, now what"?

Scrimshaw

Scrimshaw, a folk-art dating back centuries, is a special form of engraving applied to whales' teeth and bone by the ancient sailors. This course offers an excellent way to begin traditional scrimshaw. Working with a hand scribe, you will learn attractive shading techniques and how to work on both natural and man-made materials. Also, basic composition and tool sharpening, as well as transfer methods for those who are "drawing challenged". This hands-on course is specifically designed so no previous art or drawing experience is necessary.

Casting

This class will teach silver casting for beginner and intermediate silversmithing. The class will teach centrifugal and vacuum casting, wax modeling, sprueing, investing, burnout, casting, finishing and polishing, rubber mold making and wax injection. Steam casting will be covered if there is interest. Waxes will be available, and students will learn to inject their own. Students will learn to make cast silver embellishments for their silversmith pieces.

Specal Projects

To make something you are proud of and have fun doing it. This class is "Advanced" in that students should have a basic understanding of the craft. After taking one of the excellent beginning classes the Federation offers most people want to learn more but might not be sure what direction to go in. Most have a few unfinished projects in their tool box that need a technique or two in order to finish them. Finishing these pieces or starting something from scratch is where this class comes in. We cover many processes that will allow students to take their skills to the next level.

Hydraulic Press / Rolling Mill

TBD

Fused Chain - Loop & Loop

In this class we will work with Fine, Argentium and Sterling Silver to make the links. You will learn to coil, cut, and fuse. You will then stretch, forge and weave into patterns. You will need magnification of some kind. You must bring your own.

Field Trips:

Club Sanctioned:

May 27 - Hanson Quarry Aggregates, Holly Springs

On Your Own:

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

<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.

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

Treasure Quest Mining, Apex, NC .1/2 hour from Raleigh, NC. Pay for mining. All-indoor gem mining, gold panning and geode-cracking experience.

<http://treasurequestmining.com/>

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Directory

P.O. Box 33783
Raleigh, NC 27536

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Craig Downes

Member At Large
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Vugsites and Links :

Billionaire art collector's \$150 million jewellery collection to be sold at Christie's

<https://somethingaboutrocks.com/article/heidi-horten-jewellery-collection-to-be-auctioned-at-christies/>

A brief history of powerful gemstone amulets

<https://youtu.be/kqa09KH4weQ>

5-Carat Emerald Ring From 400-Year-Old Shipwreck Surfaces for Auction

<https://nationaljeweler.com/articles/11427-5-carat-emerald-ring-from-400-year-old-shipwreck-surfaces-for-auction>

Gems of North Carolina, George F. Kunz, 1907

<https://ia601309.us.archive.org/34/items/HistoryOfThyeGemsFoundInNorthCarolina/Kunz-g-history-1907-rtl014242-lowRes.pdf>

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club- These are the official sites for the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club.

<http://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 down loadable field trip guidebooks, maps, and charts of the Carolinas. It will prove to keep any avid rockhound busy for years.

<https://www.carolinageologicalsociety.org/>

North Carolina Rockhounding Location Guide & Map-This site provides information about rocks and minerals, especially those found in Western NC.

<https://rockhoundresource.com/north-carolina-rockhounding-location-guide-map/>

Rock and Gem Magazine -Leading magazine for lapidary and mineral hobbyist.

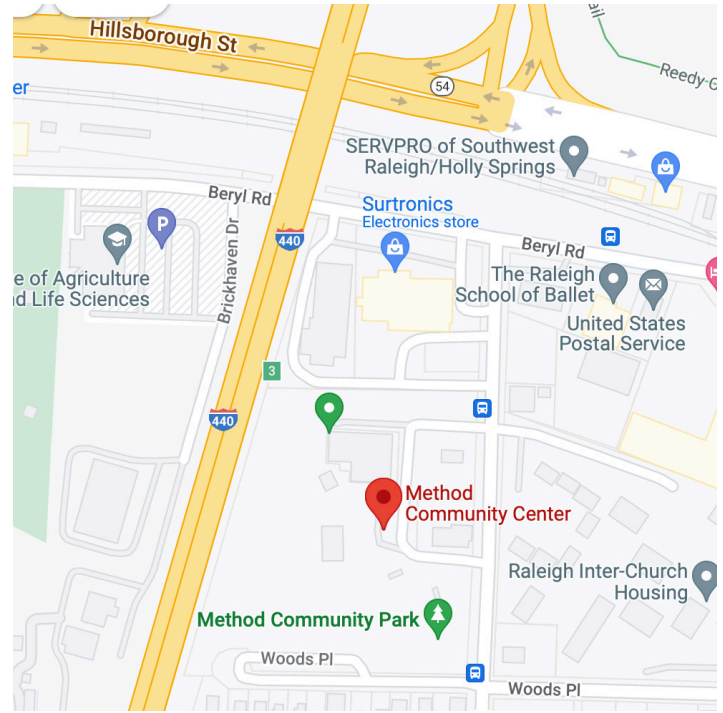
<https://www.rockngem.com/>

Any member of the THG&MC that maintains their presence on the Internet can [send us 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.

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.

**Our Next Meeting is
Tuesday, May 16th
7:00 pm-8:45pm
Method Road Community Center
Pioneer Building
514 Method Road,
Raleigh, NC 27607**



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MINERAL CLUB**

P. O. Box 33783
Raleigh, NC 27536-3783