

# Tar Heel Tailings

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

## Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- A Walk through Geologic History: The Ordovician
- Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig

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## President's Report

Well the 2012 TarHeel Gem and Mineral Club Show has come and gone, **AND WHAT A GREAT SHOW IT WAS!**

Congratulations and Thank You to All the folks that made the show run as smoothly as it did. The club presence throughout was calm, orderly, helpful, and thorough. I did not hear any negative grumbles from any of  
Continued on page 3



## A Walk Through Geologic History: The Ordovician

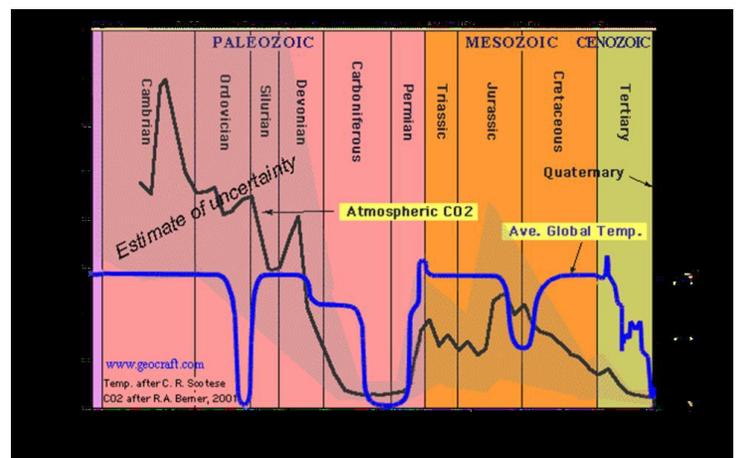
by Dion Stewart

One of the greatest climate shifts ever recorded on Earth occurred during the Ordovician Period, the second of six periods of the Paleozoic Era (Age of invertebrates). The oceans had an average temperature of over 110o F, as the Period began 500 million years ago, and nearly 40 million years later at the end of the period the Earth was experiencing a major ice age. The ice age had severe consequences that caused over 60% of the different (genera)

marine organisms to go extinct. The Earth has experienced five events of mass extinction and the event at the end of

the Ordovician is the second largest of the five.

More on the Ordovician - page 4



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**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:  
[www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org)

**Program & Refreshments**

<b>REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:</b>	
Coordinator: Jeanette Baugh (919) 522-9044 <a href="mailto:villagegems@yahoo.com">villagegems@yahoo.com</a>	
April	Pot Luck
May	Marion Broadway
August	Ice Cream Social
September	Walt Milowic
October	Cyndy and Corinne Hummel
<b>PROGRAM SCHEDULE:</b>	
April	Pot Luck

We ALL bring April's refreshments - It's Potluck! We still need people to sign up for the June, July and Nov. meetings. Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$40 (bring your receipts to the treasurer). Thank you, Jeanette Baugh

**March Treasurer's Report**

Mar. Ending /  
Apr. Beginning Balance \$13,392.11

Due to the TGMC Show, there is no treasurer's Report for this issue.

Look for the Treasurer Report next month. Most of our big bills are still outstanding. However, the trend is higher than last year.

Thanks, Corinne Hummel

**April B-Day Members**

- Bob Bendelow
- Amanda Boykin
- Chad Carabello
- Kimberly Cathey
- Pat Chapman
- Lee Fleming
- Hilton Freed
- Lana Sargent
- Tom Todaro



Geodes, cut at the show.



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tarheel Gem & Mineral Club  
Attention: Treasurer  
10609 Chelsea Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603

## Tar Heel G & M Club March Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

I opened the meeting at 7:50pm but was immediately forced to recess so additional latecomers could get settled in. The meeting was again called to order at 8:00pm.

This inspired me to begin the meeting with a reminder that the meeting starts at 7:30pm. I also advised all officers that it would be prudent to call the president if and when they are running late or unable to attend. Since I was the ONLY officer at the February meeting, and since we were still without a Secretary, and since the Vice-President hasn't been to a meeting in the last six months, I began the business part of the meeting by explaining we were not operating properly and I would be suspending any further business by the club at least until the position of Secretary was filled.

I let all those who subscribed or renewed their subscriptions to Rock & Gem Magazine know that their first issues should be arriving in April. I have now received my first issue. Anyone who hasn't can contact me and I will give you the number to call to check on your subscription.

## President's Report

Continued from page 1

the dealers that had to do with us or the way we ran the show. Of course, there were still complaints about the economy, but we all have to live with that.

Everyone I talked to really liked the new hours for Friday. It enabled them to get down to business earlier and to close earlier after a very long day. A few were caught unaware of the time changes, but hopefully they will learn to read their contracts closer in the future.

Friday evening and Sunday morning were a bit slow, but there was a good steady crowd all day Saturday and late Sunday afternoon.

All in all I was extremely happy with the way things went and am proud of all the TarHeels that volunteered so much of their time to see this effort through to the end. Thank You!

There is no program planned for the April meeting besides for the Pot Luck get together. So come and enjoy a plateful of whatever appears and we can talk about the show and maybe make some plans for the rest of 2012.

One final note already mentioned in the Minutes; The NC Museum of Natural Sciences is holding their grand opening of the new

## A Walk Through Geologic History: The Ordovician

Continued from page 1

What causes such a climate shift? It is blamed on a large drop in the amount of carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere; a gas that traps heat on Earth. During the previous period (the Cambrian) widespread volcanic eruptions had released large volumes of carbon dioxide into the air. The concentration of carbon was nearly 20x greater than our current value. The dramatic drop in CO<sub>2</sub> (resulted in a major loss of heat and the ice age) came about as the gas

We talked about the latest fieldtrip to the Carrboro quarry. It sounds like there was a good turnout. The next fieldtrip on the calender is the SFMS sponsored trip to the Glendon Quarry, Saturday, April 21.

Cyndy Hummel made an announcement seeking volunteers to man a club display and membership sign-up booth at the grand opening of the new annex of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. This event is planned to run for 24 straight hours from 5:00pm, Friday, April 20 until 5:00pm, Saturday, April 21. Cyndy plans for the club booth to be run on Saturday only from 8:00am until 5:00pm. The more volunteers to man this booth will mean more time for everyone to have to look around the new museum building. Please contact Cyndy if you are interested.

Michael Troutman was the Raffle Prize winner and chose a beautiful pale green fluorite cluster from China. Michael was also one of two people to volunteer for the position of Secretary, and I accepted his offer. Thank you Mark and Michael for volunteering.

Respectfully Submitted

Joe Moylan, President

museum building April 20 & 21. This is a really big 24 hour event and the TarHeel Club has been invited to participate. We will not be trying to man a booth for the entire 24 hours, but would like to have a booth set up for the day on Saturday, April 21, from 8:00am to 5:00pm, IF we can find enough volunteers. The more volunteers we have the more time you will be able to take off and visit the new annex. This is a great opportunity to let people know we are here and invite them to join. Please contact Cyndy Hummel if you are interested.

Now go hunt some rocks, and while you're out there remember, it's Morel time of the year!

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joe Moylan, President

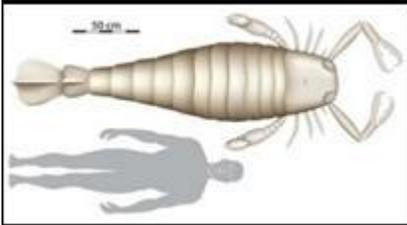
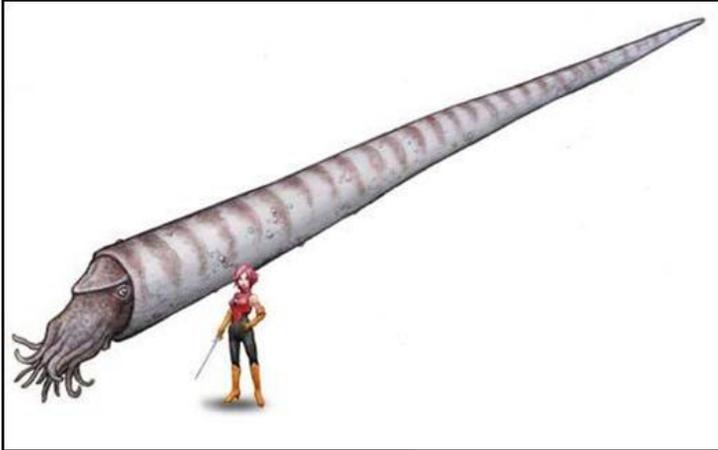
**Late breaking news** - *The Museum did not have us scheduled to attend the Grand Opening Event. The coordinator did not receive my email ( although I do have a record of it being sent). So I do not need any volunteers for this event.*

dissolved into the early ocean where it combined with calcium to form thick beds of limestone on the ocean floor of the Ordovician. Limestone is the most common rock made during the Ordovician.

A dramatic change in life (and fossils) came about because of the growing calcium carbonate content of the ocean. Those organisms that secrete shells made of calcite had an explosion in their populations. The top predator of the ocean became the nautilus. The Giant Orthocone, pictured below,

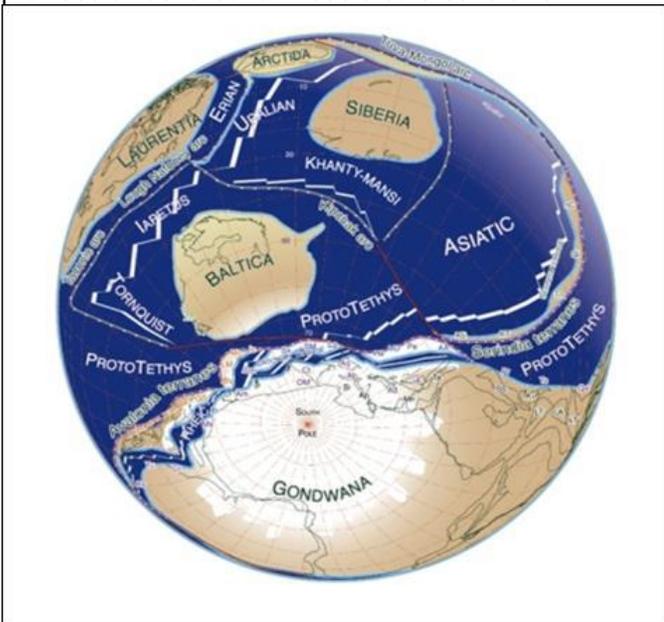
grew to reach 35 feet in length, and was called the “great white shark of its time”. The arch enemy of the nautilus was the sea scorpion called Eurypterid, which grew to be over eight feet long, and the “fictional fights” between these two creates was featured in one episode of “Animal Armegdon”, an Animal Planet TV series...

south pole. A vast ice sheet several miles thick formed on the continent and trapped much of Earth’s water on land, causing a dramatic drop in sea level. The loss of the shallow sea over the USA was the major cause of the mass extinction of the carbonate loving organisms, which could not adapt to living in the cold, deeper waters off the continental shelf.



The higher temperatures of the first half of the period melted nearly all ice from the poles, sea level rose, and the ocean covered much of the USA in a warm shallow sea which provided a vast area for these creatures to exist.

Early nautiloids had straight shells, and slabs of multiple Ordovician (and Devonian) nautiloids from the Atlas Mountains in southern Morocco are commonly sold at mineral shows. Unfortunately, nautiloids swim back-wards by releasing jets of water from their large openings, and straight nautiloids had difficulty swimming in a straight line. They soon evolved curved shells for better swimming, and the most distinctive Ordovician nautiloids are those having an early formed curved shell and a straight living chamber.



But as time when by and the temperatures dropped, a large continent called Gondwana (consisting of Africa joined to South America, Australia and India) drifted directly over the

**Editor’s Comment:** This article was 1st published in the Cobb County GMS’ April 2012 newsletter, **Cobb-L-Stones**. Professor Stewart will be writing a series of articles on earth history for future editions; if interested stay tuned at [www.cobbcountymineral.org](http://www.cobbcountymineral.org)

## The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

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### Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 am to 6 pm, Friday, April 27, 2012</li> <li>• 8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, April 28, 2012</li> <li>• 8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, April 29, 2012</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 5, 2012</li> <li>• 8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 6, 2012</li> <li>• 8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 7, 2012</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"**

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during 2012. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

#### Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

**THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL.  
NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP FOR ALL "ROCK SWAP AND DIGS"!  
Mark your calendar and tell all your friends about these great events!**

#### Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)

Graves mountain is accessible and open for mineral collecting by colleges, universities, and gem and mineral societies. Groups as small as two INDIVIDUAL mineral collectors can now reserve the mountain!

In order to gain access, (except for the two yearly "Rock Swaps and Digs") you will need to contact the caretaker, Clarence Norman, Jr (Junior) at 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home). Give him a call and he can reserve the mountain exclusively for your group. All of the mineral societies that come here to collect, offer the caretaker a donation for his trouble and effort in keeping the mountain open and assessable to them. Please consider what it is worth to your mineral society to be able to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!

## Graves Mountain code of conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area(at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).
- NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved.  
**ALL CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER STRICT ADULT SUPERVISION!**
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (**HAND TOOLS ONLY!**)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!
- NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- **NO ONE** IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA!  
(The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)
- EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

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Please protect our ability to field collect at Graves Mountain!

Report violations to:  
Clarence Norman, Jr  
Norman C E Wrecking Co  
3333 C E Norman Rd  
Lincolnton, GA 30817-3110  
706.359.3862 (his business)  
or  
706.359.2381 (his home)

All reported violations will be held in strict confidence

SFMS Field Trip Committee:  
Please reply by e-mail to: [dmc@gaminerall.org](mailto:dmc@gaminerall.org)  
Jim Flora - SFMS Field Trip Committee Chair  
DMC Program Coordinator

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**April 21-22, 2012: Dothan, AL** - Dothan Gem & Mineral Club. 5th Annual Show and Sale; James Grant Recreation Center at Westgate Park; 501 Recreation Road, Dothan, AL. Hours: Sat 9-5 and Sun 10-4. Free admission. Contact Arnie Lambert 334.792.7116 or email [alambert@comcast.net](mailto:alambert@comcast.net); See [www.wiregrassrockhounds.com](http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com).

**April 28-29, 2012: Memphis, TN** - Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show "The Earth Wide Open". Memphis International Agricenter, Expo Center, West Pavilion & A and B-wings 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN. Hours: Sat 9-6 and Sun 10-5. Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00. Scouts free. Portion of admission benefits the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis. Contact W.C. McDaniel 901-274-7706 or email [w.c.mcd@att.net](mailto:w.c.mcd@att.net); See [EarthWideOpen.com](http://EarthWideOpen.com).

**May 3-6, 2012: Charlotte, NC** - K&S Rockhounds Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show; Metrolina Tradeshow Expo, 7100 Statesville Road, Building B, Charlotte, NC 28269; Contact Information: 704-864-3748; [www.ICASHOWS.com](http://www.ICASHOWS.com)

**October 6-7, 2012: Lexington, KY** - Rockhounds of Central Kentucky (ROCK). 22nd Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Road, Lexington, KY. Show includes minerals, jewelry, equipment dealers, club sales, exhibits, KY Agate, fluorescent displays, hourly prizes, and Grand Prize drawing. Admission: \$1 adults, \$0.50 children, \$3 max family; Scouts in uniform free. Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5. Contact: Allen Ferrell, 859-277-2469 or [kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com](mailto:kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com).



## Vugsites

The following are some links to Web-Sites that may interest some of our members:

<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](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](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](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.

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.

