

Tar Heel Tailings

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Cullinan Diamond
- March Door Prize
- Field Trips

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

Prez Sez By Linda Searcy

The April program is Potluck and Show recap. A great big "Thank You" to all of the volunteers at the Show! If you have any suggestions for improvements for future shows, let's discuss!

Program Lineup:

- February - Tom Todaro, Safety
- March - Show Volunteer Signups, Grab Bags
- April 17 - Potluck and Show Discussion
- May 15 - Member Auction?

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Cullinan Diamond – Largest Diamond Found

By George Harris

Cullinan Discovery

On January 26, 1905, mine superintendent Frederick Wells made an unusual find in Gauteng, South Africa.

Only 9 meters from the surface was a large, blue-white diamond, which he extracted using a pocket knife and took to the mine office to be weighed and inspected.

The stone tipped the scales at 3,106 carats (621.35 grams), making it the largest diamond ever found.

It was named the Cullinan after Sir Thomas Cullinan, the owner of the diamond mine in which it was found.

The diamond was then dispatched to England where it would be entrusted to Premier's

London agent, Sigismund Neumann.

Cullinan Diamond Owners

To ensure the diamond reached its destination safely it was sent to England in an unmarked postal box, while a replica was publicly

accompanied by detectives on a steamer from South Africa as a diversion.

The diamond was later bought by the Transvaal government, which had been reconciled with England after the Anglo-Boer war,

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Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

10609 Chelsea Drive
Raleigh NC 27603

Linda Searcy – President
LJS0928@gmail.com
(919) 909-0750

Tom Todaro – V-President
tomtinnc@gmail.com
(919) 349-9143

Corinne Hummel – Treasurer
mchummel@mindspring.com
(919) 779-6220

Lindsey Bradsher – Secretary
littlebluelama@gmail.com
(919) 451-9158

Bob Bendelow – Librarian &
Committee Member
r.bendelow@earthlink.net
(919) 552-8175

George Harris – Newsletter Editor &
Committee Member
GeorgeFHarris@yahoo.com
(919) 674-0243

Katelyn Hennessey – Field-Trip
Coord.
katelynphennessey@gmail.com
(919) 671-6378

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

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Open

April Potluck;
Drinks - TBD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

April Potluck and Show discussion
May TBD
June Rachel Smith
July Dr. Tacker
August Ice Cream Social
September Paul Byrne
October Officer Nominations, Grab Bags
November Elections

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

April Treasurer's Report

No report for April.
Treasurer is working on Show Report.

Cullinan Diamond Facts:

Weight 3,106.75 carats (621.350 g)
Color Near colourless[1]
Cut 105 stones of assorted cuts
Country of origin South Africa
Mine of origin Premier Mine
Cut by Asscher Brothers
Original owner Premier Diamond Mining Company
Owner Queen Elizabeth II in right of the Crown (I and II) and as a private individual (III-IX)



April B-Day Members

- Bob Bendelow
- Steve Kifer
- Kathy Bromead
- Kimberly Cathey
- Katherine Cherry
- Kay Cox
- Krishna DuBois
- Patrick Kennedy
- Tim Kopp
- Bill McMillan
- Vickie Pointer
- Cindy Sanchez
- Michele Strange
- Tom Todaro
- Les Tofte
- David Tomlin
- Robert 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. - March Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 20th, 2018

Attendees = 32

Opening of Club Meeting:

Linda opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Program - No presentation this month, preparing for annual show:

- Sign up for volunteers in different club areas, members assembled 458 grab bags and addressed approximately 2400 postcards.
- Linda asked for volunteers to transport grab bags to show, need volunteers for hospitality booth.
- Discussed how Square readers will work at show.
- Worked out how new members will get name tags for show.
- Discussed who will pick up items from storage shed, and

March Door Prize – Faceting Rough

By Hudson Neyland

I attended my first Gem and Mineral club meeting and was lucky enough to win the raffle for the door prize. I chose a bag of gems and my favorite gem out of that bag was the Peridot. Here are a few facts about the Peridot I found on the internet.

Peridot is a green semi-precious mineral, a variety of olivine.

Did you know Peridot is the birth stone for the month of August?

Did you know Peridot is the National gem of Egypt?

Did you know ancient Egyptians knew Peridot as “the gem of the sun?”

Did you know Peridot was mined as early as 1500 BC?

Did you know Peridot has long been called “an Evening Emerald” because under artificial light the stone glows a brilliant green?

I find these facts very interesting and look forward to learning a lot more about gems and minerals in the years to come.

Prez Sez

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- June 19 - Rachel Smith, "Interstellar Travel and the Fermi Paradox"
- July 17 - Chris Tacker?
- August 21 - Member Show-n-Tell, Ice Cream Social
- September 18 - Paul Byrne, "A tour of Solar System Geology"
- October 16 - Officer Nominations, Grab Bags
- November 20 - Officer Elections
- December - no meeting

order of how the trailer is packed.

- Explained logistics of set-up.

Refreshments:

Thanks to Linda Searcy for refreshments and thanks to Seward Shaddock for bringing drinks in March.

Door Prize:

Winner: Hudson Neyland won the door prize of Facet Rough.

Close of Meeting:

Meeting closed at 8:55

Respectfully Submitted

Lindsey Bradsher,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Respectfully,

Hudson Neyland



See you at the April meeting!

Thank you,
Linda Searcy
President

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Field Trips

By Katelyn Hennessey

Hey everyone,
I just got an updated list of members and their emails. You must be a current member to go on any trip. So for those of you that have not gotten the previous emails, here are the next 3 upcoming trips. I am working on setting up another for April, and when that is confirmed, I will send out another email to you.

Please make sure you read all the details BEFORE signing up for a trip.

****For any trip you need to sign up AT LEAST 24 HOURS before the start of the trip. (Unless otherwise noted) This is so we have time to let the quarry know how many are attending. ****

Trip #1

This is a field trip that costs money, but with the amount of time that they're open, I think it's well worth it! Please let me know if you plan to attend. The sooner I find out how many people are going the sooner we know if we get a discount. We need 12 people or more for a discount!

Club	Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club	
Date	May 5th, 2018 8:30 am - Sunset (should be about 8:14 pm on May 5th) Permit is good for the whole day and you can get back in if you leave for lunch.	
Location	Emerald Hollow Mine 484 Emerald Hollow Mine Dr, Hiddenite, NC 28636	
Website	http://www.emeraldhollowmine.com/	
Under 18	Yes!! (With parent or guardian)	
Recommended Tools	-Rock Hammer -Non-metal tools (for Creeking) -Chisels -Shovel -1 gallon bucket for creeking	-5 gallon buckets or milk crates for digging -Newspaper for wrapping -rubber boots or canyoneers for creeking -Probably a change of clothes (and shoes) would be ideal for your ride home! There are tools available there for rent. (\$\$)
What we can find there?	Quote from the website: "Host to more than sixty different types of naturally occurring gems and minerals, a virtual treasure trove of gemstones can be found at our gem mine! Many of these are very rare, including emerald, aquamarine, sapphire, garnet, topaz, amethyst, citrine, rutile, and tourmaline, along with an abundance of world class smoky and clear quartz crystals. Hiddenite is also famous as being one of the few places on earth where the very rare gemstone "Hiddenite" can be found!"	
Extra Info	Metal Tools are not allowed in the creek area, but they are allowed for digging. The digging area is approximately ¼ mile from the creek and sluicing area. They say it's a bit of a hike. The Mine is Pet Friendly and the website says: "Yes! We love animals at Emerald Hollow Mine. Your furry friend is welcome to tag along as long as he/she is friendly and on a leash."	
Pricing \$\$	If we have more than 12 people attending we will get a discount. There are different options for Passes. They take credit cards, cash and checks. Pass Types Sluicing & Creeking Combinatin Pass: \$18 /adult, \$8 /child, 3yrs & under free Creeking Pass: \$10 /adult, \$5 /child, 3 & under free Sluicing Pass: \$10 /adult, \$5 /child, 3 & under free Sluicing, Creeking & Digging Combination Pass: \$25 /adult, \$8 /child, 3 yrs & under free Bucket Prices for sluicing range from \$5 - \$1000 The price of the passes include your necessary permit for that day only. If you are unsure what you want to do, you can start with one pass and later upgrade to another.	
What should I wear/bring to the mine?	Answer from the website: "We suggest wearing comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting wet and dirty. A change of clothes and a towel are always a good idea. If you plan on creeking, water proof shoes are a must. A cushion to sit on while sitting at the sluiceway is nice to have. Bring something to keep your finds in (plastic baggie/storage container)."	

This is a reply we all got from Lindsey, another club member, who has been to Emerald Hollow before. Thanks again for the info Lindsey!

"FYI on the Emerald Hollow Mine:

I've been there and when you get the digging pass, you can fill up your bucket with native dirt and sift through it in the sluiceway (rent or bring your own sifting pan). It is not super far to the area where you can dig, but it feels like it when you are carrying a full bucket back. The regulars there brought small wagons with them to carry their buckets back to the sluiceway . I found quartz and some really cool mica chunks. The digging area is forested, and the sluiceway is also in the shade.

The seeded buckets you can buy there are fun too (you can technically buy buckets of native dirt also, but it's the same as if you filled up a bucket of dirt from the digging area), especially if you like to cut or polish your own stones.

--Lindsey Bradsher"

Trip # 2

This trip is to North Myrtle Beach Quarry. I need to know **at least 1 week before the trip**, if you plan on attending.

Club Hosting	Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club	
Date	May, 19th 2018	
Time	9:30am - 1:30pm	
Location	North Myrtle Beach Quarry 3990 Highway 9 Business East Loris, SC 29569	
Can we drive into the quarry?	Pretty sure we can. My contact was unable to confirm at this time, so be prepared for either case.	
Under 18	Yes, they are allowed! (With parent or guardian)	
Safety Requirements	-Hard Hat -Steel Toed Boots -Reflective Vest - Orange or Green	-Safety Glasses -Long Pants -Gloves
Recommended Tools	-Rock Hammer -Chisels -5 gallon buckets or milk crates -Newspaper for wrapping	
What we can find there?	We'll find out!	

After the field trip, Tyler and I will be heading to North Myrtle Beach (20 minutes away) to enjoy the sand, sun and waves, and possibly find some sharks teeth. If anyone would like to join, you are welcome. I believe that parking is \$1/hour, but don't quote me on that. If you think you'll want to go, don't forget your beach gear!

Trip #3

We only have 3 spots remaining for this trip!

Club	Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club	
Date	June 29th, 2018	
Time	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	
Location	Castle Hayne Quarry 5435 Holly Shelter Road Castle Hayne, NC 28429 (Near Wilmington, about 2 hrs from Raleigh)	
Can we drive into the quarry?	Yes, we drive our own vehicles into the quarry	
Under 18	Yes, but they need a parent or guardian	
Safety Requirements	You must have this safety gear to attend: -Hard Hat -Steel Toed Boots -Reflective Vest -Orange or Green	-Safety Glasses -Gloves -Pants
Recommended Tools	I am not sure if there will be any digging, or if this is only to walk around and look for fossils. -Waist pack, for carrying fossil specimens -Rock Hammer -Chisels -5 gallon buckets or milk crates -Newspaper for wrapping specimens	
What we can find there?	Fossils	
Important Information	Also, you need to be there for the whole trip, no leaving early or arriving late. We only have 10 slots for this trip. As of today 7 of those have been filled. Only 3 spots remaining.	

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, including neat dig locations, please feel free to email me.

Katelyn Hennessey
Field Trip Coordinator
Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club
katelynphennessey@gmail.com

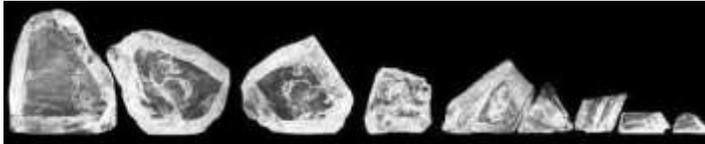
Cullinan Diamond

Continued from Page 1

for £150,000 and presented to King Edward VII as a goodwill gesture on his 66th birthday on November 9, 1907.

Amsterdam-based company I. J. Asscher and Co cut the diamond. The two resulting stones, weighing 1,977ct and 1,040ct, were cleaved into nine major stones, 96 brilliants and 9.5 carats of unpolished pieces.

The two main stones, Cullinan I (The Great Star of Africa) and Cullinan II (The Lesser Star of Africa) were given to King Edward VII. Both currently reside in the Tower of London as part of the Crown Jewels.



Cullinan Unpolished Parts

Cullinan Diamond Facts:

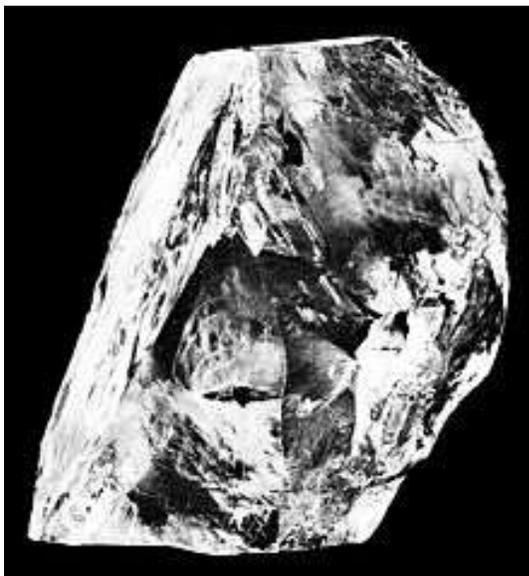
Throughout the years, rumors have spread about a second half of the Cullinan diamond, as certain signs point to the diamond being part of a larger crystal.

Legend has it that before Frederick Wells sold the diamond to Sir Thomas Cullinan, he broke off a piece which weighed 300-400g. If this were true, the Cullinan diamond would have weighed in about 1kg.

It is said that when the famous diamond-cutter, Asscher received the stone to cut it, he studied it for months.

In 1908, at his first attempt to cutting it, the blade broke but the diamond remained unbroken. After the second successful attempt, it is said that he fainted.

The Cullinan diamond is the largest uncut diamond ever discovered. However, when it comes to polished diamonds, the Great Star of Africa (530.4 carats) lost its title as the biggest polished diamond to the Golden Jubilee Diamond (545.67 carats) in 1985.



Cullinan Unpolished Parts

Cullinan Diamond worth

The value of the Cullinan diamond is incomparable due to its uniqueness. However, below we will give you some data about its estimated worth as well as historical worth.

Soon after it was found, it was sold to the Transvaal Government for 150,000 pounds.

In 1907, when the diamond was sent to England, it was insured for \$1.250.000, which would convert to around \$123,000,000 currently.

The largest piece of the Cullinan Diamond, the Great Star of Africa is evaluated at around \$400,000,000, although this is just an estimate, since it is not and presumably will not be up for sale in the future either since it is part of the Crown Jewels of the UK.

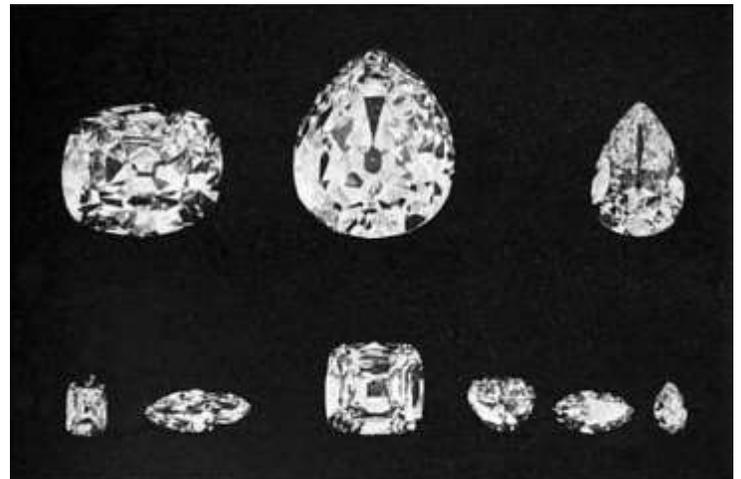


Cullinan I

Theoretically speaking, given its rarity and history, it could go for more than this as well, although the pool of potential buyers would be select given the price.

Cullinan Diamond parts

As mentioned before, the Cullinan diamond was cut into 9 stones, 95 brilliants and 9.5 carats of unpolished diamond. Of these, Cullinan I and II belonged to King Edward VII, while the rest of the diamonds were given to the cutter, Mr. Asscher.



Cullinan Polished Parts

The bigger stones are named Cullinan I to Cullinan IX respectively, the Cullinan I being the biggest while the Cullinan IX being the smallest of the stones.

Cullinan I

Cullinan I or the Great Star of Africa as it is also known was given to Edward VII and it currently stays in the Tower of London.

Cullinan II

Cullinan II, or the Lesser Star of Africa weighs 317.4 carats sits in the center of the Imperial State Crown of Great Britain.

Cullinan III and IV

Cullinan III (94.4 carat) and Cullinan IV (63.6 carat) were purchased in 1910 from Asscher and Queen Mary put them in a brooch.

Cullinan V brooch

The 5th stone, Cullinan V was used by Queen Mary in a platinum brooch.

Cullinan VI

The 6th stone, Cullinan VI, was purchased immediately after the Cullinan was cut from Asscher.

Cullinan VII and VIII

Cullinan VII and VIII were used in the same brooch made for Queen Mary.

Cullinan IX ring

The smallest of the Cullinan diamonds, a 4.39 pear-shaped diamond was used in an engraved ring which is currently used by Queen Elizabeth II.

Brilliant

Some of the 95 brilliants were also purchased by the Royal Family and used in necklaces and other jewelry.

Resources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cullinan_Diamond
<http://www.cullinan-diamond.com/>

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 29 - 31, 2019: Raleigh, NC – 43rd 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 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: Free and Free Parking. Contact: Cyndy Hummel; 919-779-6220; mchummel@mindspring.com; www.tarheelclub.org;

May 11, 12, & 13, 2018: Franklin, NC - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. Fri. & Sat., May 11th & 12th, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Sun., May 13th, 10:00 AM- 4:00PM. Carpenter Community Center, 1288 Georgia Rd. (US441), Franklin, NC. No admission charge, indoor, climate controlled, rough and finished gemstone and jewelry, minerals, fossils and demonstrations. Contact: Norman Holbert, 828-634-0350, normholbert@comcast.net

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

April 17, 2018 @ 7:30PM

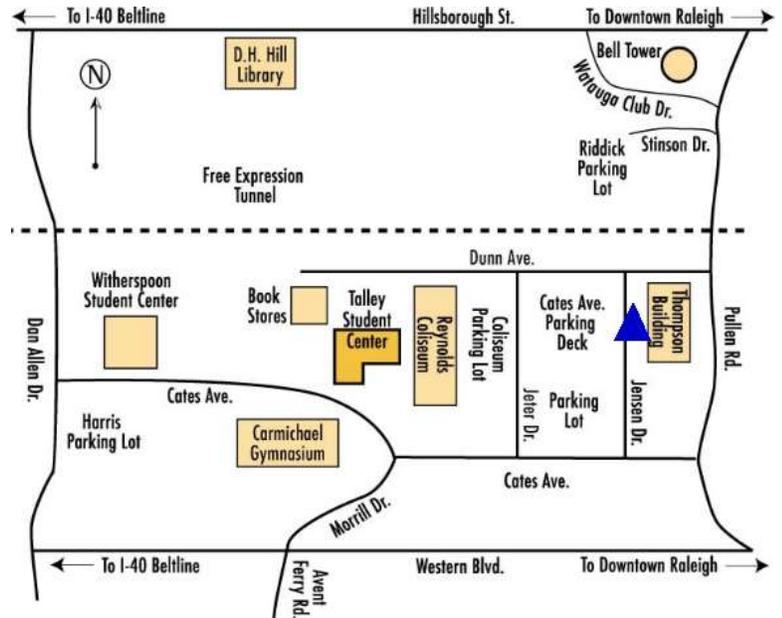
NC State Crafts Center

210 Jensen Dr, Raleigh, NC 27606

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 organization for people 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

