

Tar Heel Tailings

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

President's Report - Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

I hope some of you were able to escape the heat and enjoy some of the rock related activities going on in the mountains recently. Unfortunately I was not. I heard it got pretty warm during the day but the cool nights were worth the trip. I also heard that NC and other southeastern rock specimens were the hot sellers

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Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- A Walk Through Geologic History: The Silurian Period
- Pyrite Suns from Sparta, Illinois
- 2012 SFMS Workshop Class Schedule

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Walk through Geologic History...The Silurian Period

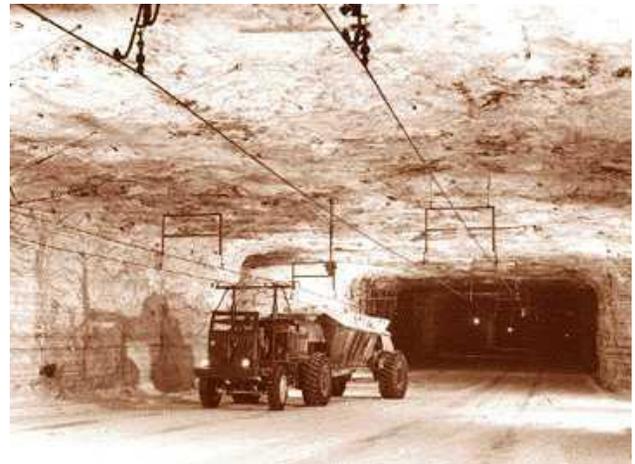
by Dion Stewart, Cobb-L-Stones, June 2012

The Silurian Period of the Paleozoic Era returned to warm tropical conditions following the glacially-triggered, mass extinction that ended the Ordovician Period. A new group of reef organisms began to flourish in the arms of the in-land sea that covered most of the Midwest as the Ordovician ice cap melted and sea level rose. The new reef organism deposited a set of limestones all across the interior of the United

States, and the most famous of these Silurian limestone is found at Niagara Falls, where it forms the top hard bed over which the river falls onto the softer underlying

rocks. The structure of the reefs that formed in the Silurian establishes the general environmental setting for all reefs to come (even modern reefs), but the organisms

More on Silurian - page 5



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

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:	
Coordinator: Jeanette Baugh (919) 522-9044 villagegems@yahoo.com	
August	Ice Cream Social
September	Walt Milowic
October	Cyndy and Corinne Hummel
November	Karen Santala
PROGRAM SCHEDULE:	
August	Ice Cream Social and Auction.

Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$40 (bring your receipts to the treasurer).

Thank you, Jeanette Baugh

August Treasurer's Report

Jun. Ending /	
Jul. Beginning Balance	\$11,587.16

Deposits (+)	
Members	\$65.00

Sub total	\$65.00

Checks Written (-)	
IMP Newsletter	155.32
Trailer / Self Storage EOY	360.00
Postage Stamps	225.00

Sub Total	\$740.32

Jul. Ending /	
Aug. Beginning Balance	\$10,911.84

August B-Day Members

- Michael Boykin
- Ken Fersch
- Sherry Noonan
- James Tunney
- Rob Whaley
- Kenny Williams



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. - July Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Attendees = 25

At 7:40 Joe Moylan called the meeting to order and welcomed newcomers to our meeting.

He then noted that the meeting would be casual with show and tell and a demonstration on silver/goldsmithing and jewelry making from the Millers.

Next, Joe explained that "Inc." had officially been added to our club name after prompting from our bank.

Tom Todaro next was given the floor and stated that he was trying to put together a field trip to:

Hanson Aggregates Southeast Inc.
10501 Capital Blvd.
Wake Forest, NC 27587.
Phone: 919-556-4011

Tom noted that this was a deep quarry and noted for feldspar deposits.

Tom also noted that he was trying to get a trip together for the Burgin Quartz Mine at:

Simpson Farm
40764 Old Cottonville Rd.,
Norwood, NC.

He also noted that there was a minimum of \$50.00 to get in (5 people at \$10.00 a head).

Joe then reminded us that there would be a great mineral show at:

Annual Macon County Gemboree
July 26 – 29
Franklin NC

And that this is the second oldest gem & mineral show in the Southeast featuring dealers from across the United States. There will be rough and cut gemstones, minerals, lapidary equipment, etc.

Joe also mentioned:

Spruce Pine NC - Grassy Creek Mineral and Gem Show
Saturday, 28 July, 2012
Parkway Fire and Rescue Station
12966 South Hwy 226 South
Spruce Pine, NC 28777.

And that this was the 28th annual Grassy Creek Mineral and Gem Show Sponsored by the Parkway Fire and Rescue Station. There would be ~72 vendor spots with vendors from across the USA. There will be all types of gemstones, jewelry, mineral specimens, fossils, beads and other items from the lapidary field.

Joe next asked for any old business.

Cyndy Hummel responded that:

Patrick Kelly
Exceptional Gemstones
6126 Brookshire Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28216-3363
Phone: (704) 483-8332

Had donated a beautiful Ethiopian Opal ring with diamonds (described later as an orange sherbet color with beautiful fire) to our club to sell for operating money. She suggested a raffle of 300 tickets at \$5.00 per ticket.

Merriam interjected that we should decide on a time and place for the drawing.

Joe suggested that fliers should be made to accompany a ticket or to be the ticket. He also noted that the proposed flier/ticket should have the following information from the purchaser:

1. Full Name
2. Address
3. Phone
4. Email

Joe also noted that there should be a rough draft of the flier/ticket presented to the board for review.

Cyndy stated that she believed that the drawing should be held on Sunday, the last day of the THG&MC, Inc Gem and Mineral Show after lunch.

Joe indicated that this seemed to be a good idea and noted that the following should also appear on the flier/ticket:

1. Dates of the THG&MC, Inc Gem and Mineral Show
2. Time of the drawing for the ring
3. Statement regarding "You do not have to be present to win."

Cyndy indicated that she would work on the rough draft.

Joe noted that there may be other business to attend to prior to closing and gave the floor over to Ms. Carrie Jones, a teacher at:

Middle Creek High School
123 Middle Creek Park Avenue
Apex, NC 27539
(919) 773-3838

Carrie stated that she is looking for guest speakers and indicated that she had started a jewelry making club for the kids.

Joe next turned the floor over to Ryan who showed us 3 beautiful cabs he had made from House Creek agate.



Joe next called for and new business or questions to which there was a stunning lack of response.

Winner of the door prize was Rachael Troutman. She selected a beautiful pyrite sunburst.

Joe finally noted that the NAEM had closed for rock hounds and had hoped that everyone who was interested had made one of the trips to the mine.

At ~7:58 PM Marian made the motion to close the meeting and Jerrold seconded the motion. The meeting was closed.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Troutman, Secretary

President's Report

Continued from page 1

at the Grassy Creek show. Which is not too hard to imagine but always good to hear. Maybe it's just me, but it seems I have been hearing of more and more collectors concentrating on improving their NC collections of late. We have an unusual abundance of different minerals in our state, but that one "perfect" specimen is still rare, hard to find, and obviously worthy of collection.

It has been just too hot to schedule any fieldtrips lately, but now that we are somewhat acclimated to the temperatures, and humidity, maybe we can start to get out in the field again soon. I look forward to whatever Tom may be able to "cook" up for us.

Did someone say Ice Cream! Yes, I believe they did. I hope you all will be able to join us at the August meeting which will begin with our totally apropos Ice Cream Social and be followed by an auction of donated rock specimens from all over the country. The public is

Pyrite Suns from Sparta, Illinois

From www.cuttingrocks.com

http://www.cuttingrocks.com/gallery_mineralspecimens1.shtml



The mineral pyrite, also known as iron pyrite, is iron sulfide, the most common of the sulfide minerals. Pyrite crystallizes in the isometric crystal system and is most commonly found associated with other sulfides or oxides in quartz veins, metamorphic rocks,

allowed to attend the auction but I'm not sure if they are allowed any ice cream? (Might have to vote on that.)

I want to remind members of the great little quiz being included in the monthly newsletter from the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, "The Lodestar", prepared by Diamond Dan Publications and called the "Mini Miners Monthly". If you have not yet tested your mineralogical acumen with this enjoyable and well prepared quiz I highly suggest you give it a try. There may just be a little contest quiz on these at one of our meetings later this year. Hmmm....?

Bring your spoon and spare change!

See you at the next meeting,

Joe Moylan, President, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

sedimentary deposits including coal beds, and as a replacement mineral in fossils. Pyrite is the paradigm "Fool's Gold". While there are other shiny, brassy colored minerals, pyrite is by far the most common and most frequently mistaken for gold. Pyrite is a favorite of mineral collectors due to its golden, metallic luster and interesting crystals. Pyrite is so common in the Earth's crust that it is found in almost every possible environment in numerous forms and varieties

One of the most unusual and striking varieties of pyrite are the disc-shaped pyrite "suns", also known as pyrite dollars, which exhibit striations radiating out from the center like rays of the sun. These unique specimens are recovered from underground coal mines near Sparta, Randolph County, Illinois USA, where they occur in narrow, compacted seams of slate interbedded in 300 million-year-old Pennsylvanian Period coal deposits. The origin of pyrite suns has been a subject of speculation and debate. While some authorities have speculated they originated as fossils that were subsequently replaced with pyrite, the current consensus is they are concretions spread out under pressure and forced to grow in a laterally compressed, radiating manner in the seams of slate.

Marcasite, a polymorph of pyrite, has also been identified in pyrite suns. While marcasite has the same chemical formula as pyrite, it crystallizes in the orthorhombic crystal system, making it a distinct mineral. Marcasite is difficult to distinguish from pyrite without laboratory analysis when clear indicators such as well formed crystals are lacking.

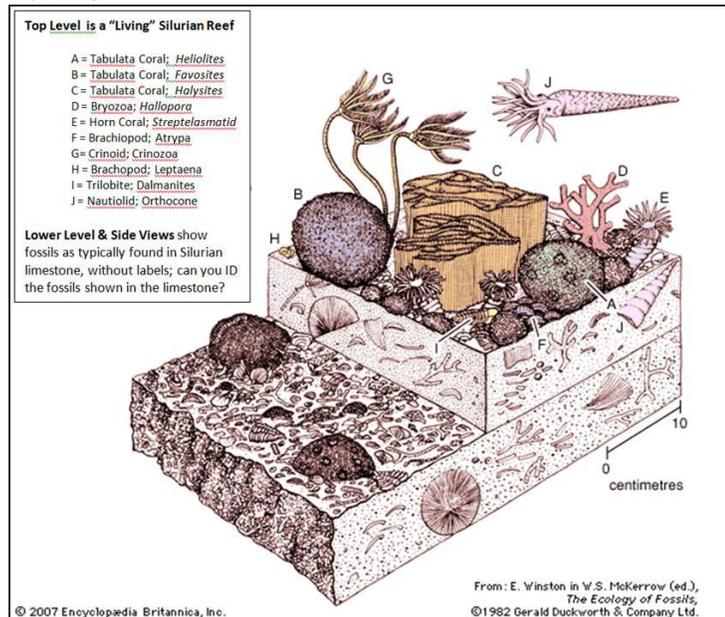
Much sought after by mineral collectors and particularly by those with an affinity for pyrite, pyrite suns will become increasingly rare and difficult to obtain as the Illinois coal mines cease production and are shut down one by one.

A Walk Through Geologic History: The Silurian Period

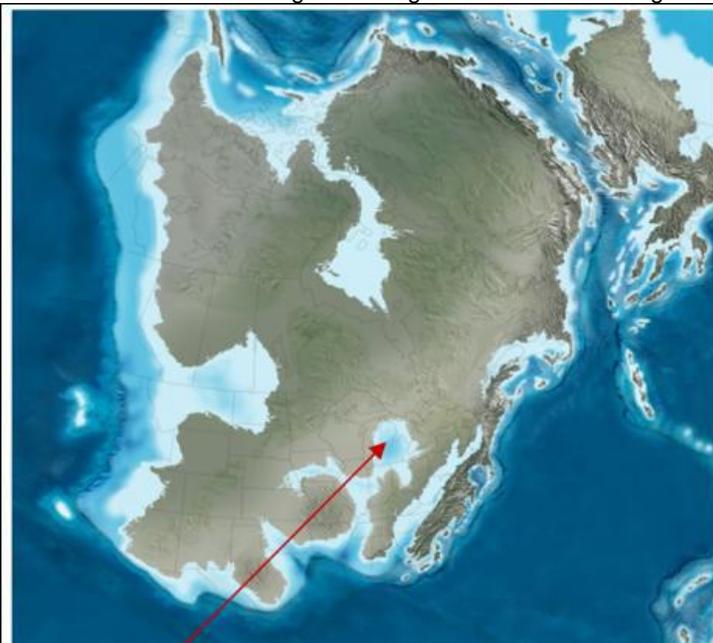
by Dion Stewart, Cobb-L-Stones, June 2012

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found in the various environments within the reef will change as time goes by. Most of the organisms in the Silurian reefs are completely extinct, and are only found in the limestone deposits of that time.



and branches in the slower moving currents where they trapped microscopic floating organisms in their tentacles and feathery arms. The brachiopods anchored themselves to the reef or burrowed into the softer mud, extending feeding arms above the sediment to filter food from the passing water. Trilobites crawled on their many legs across the sediment and used their well developed eyes to scavenge food off the surface. The last organisms frequenting the reef are the swimmers (much like the tropical fish of today's reefs) such as the giant nautilod, which -- as discussed in our previous "Ordovician" article -- could grow to lengths of over 20 feet long.



The Michigan area 425 million years ago was not only covered by a shallow sea filled with reefs, but the flat lying bottom rocks began to warp downward forming a basin. This basin was situated on the equator, where the tropical heat evaporated large volumes of seawater, generating thick layers of rock salt in the bottom of the basin. This salt has been extensively mined from under Detroit, and the provided link takes you to an article called "The Ghostly Salt City beneath Detroit", the mines are over 1,000 feet below the city and they were reopened in 20001 after being closed for 80 years.

Reefs of the Silurian formed as barriers, hindering the flow of currents across the shallow sea especially around Michigan. The main organisms that built and inhabited the reefs 425 million years ago have mostly gone extinct. The main reef "constructors" were the tabulate corals (A,B, and C in picture), a tabulate coral commonly called "Petoskey Stone" is the State Fossil of Michigan. The next organism in a reef is called the "binder", which forms a stabilizing sheet. The Silurian binder was the stromatoporoid (not pictured), which is a calcareous sponge that would slowly grow over and encrust other organisms on the reef. The "bafflers" of a reef build up-right structures that slow the flow of water across the reef. In Silurian one of these bafflers was the now extinct horn coral, shown as E in the picture. Although these three groups built the reef structure about 90% of the organisms in a reef are called "reef dwellers" and they live in the reef taking advantage of this ideal living environment. These dweller include the crinoids (letter G), bryozoans (letter D), brachiopods (letters F & H), trilobites (letter I), and the nautiloids (letter J). The crinoids and bryozoans build stalks



2012 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

<http://www.sfmsworkshops.com/SFMSgeneralinfo.html>

Workshop Staff

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216 Springview Street
Murphy, NC 28906
Phone: 828-494-7213
E-mail: dtalbott@bellsouth.net

Wildacres Workshop Director

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727-522-1254
E-mail: wadir2011@yahoo.com

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Education Chairman

Kathy L. Morris
551 Grayce Lane
Hiawassee, GA 30546
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252-571-5050
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Wildacres Workshop September 10-16, 2012	
<u>Beading for the Holidays</u>	Barbara Green
<u>Cabochons, Free-Form</u>	Pat Davis
<u>Chain, Beginning</u>	Marilou Hillenbrand
<u>Faceting</u>	Steve Hillenbrand
<u>Fused Glass, Beginning</u>	Rich Dillon
<u>Mineral ID</u>	Scott Forward
<u>*Silver, Filigree</u>	Shannon Stafford
<u>*Stone Setting</u>	Don Roberts
<u>Wire for Beaders</u>	Leslie Wayment

William Holland Workshop October 7 - 13, 2012	
<u>Beading for the Holidays</u>	Barbara Green
<u>Beading</u>	Becky Patellis
<u>Cabochons</u>	Jerry Mason
<u>Casting</u>	Joe DePietro and Lou Mager
<u>*Channel Inlay</u>	Don and Ann Monroe
<u>Faceting</u>	Bill Roberts
<u>Lampwork</u>	Cindy Reed
<u>Mineral ID</u>	Scott Forward
<u>Opals</u>	Sara Lee Boyce, Carl Talbott
<u>Polymer Clay</u>	Carolyn Stearns
<u>*Silver, Filigree</u>	Shannon Stafford
<u>Silver, Beginning</u>	Mack Thornton
<u>Wire I</u>	Diane Mason



UPCOMING SHOWS

Sept 21-23, 2012: Jacksonville, FL - Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. 24th Annual Show, Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 Saint Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville. Hours: Fri 1-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Admission \$4. Contact: Karen Olson (904) 448-5182 or e-mail igmsnews@gmail.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.

November 16-18, 2012: Marietta, GA - Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society. 27th Annual Rock, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA. Hours: Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Free Admission. Contact Mary Ingram: 404-915-3588 or mandmingram@gmail.com.

November 17-18, 2012 (Always held the weekend before Thanksgiving): West Palm Beach, Florida - Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. 46th annual gem, mineral, jewelry, bead and fossil show, South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Free Parking. Admission \$7, children under 12 free. Visit website for \$1 off coupon, <http://www.gemandmineral.cc>. Contact show chairman, Barbara Ringhiser at bar5678@aol.com

December 8-9, 2012 (2nd weekend each December): Franklin, TN - Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale, Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin (this is a new location rather than the old location at the TN State Fairgrounds in Nashville). Drive 20 miles south of Nashville on I-65 and take exit #61, turn east onto Peytonsville Road for 1/3 mile, and turn left onto Long Lane. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Admission \$4 (2-Day Pass \$6.00), students 18 and under \$1, children under 12 free with adult. For additional information and maps visit www.MTGMS.org. Contact John Stanley, Show Chair, (615) 885-5704 or e-mail show@mtgms.org.



Specimens from Last Meeting

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 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.

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.

