

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

## Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Ten New North Carolina Diamonds
- In Memory
- Field Trip Report

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## Prez Sez

We need a volunteer for refreshments in February. Please contact me if you can volunteer. The club will reimburse (with receipts) expenses up to \$75. Just bring food, drinks & ice, as the club supplies the paper products and utensils.

We had many people to sign up early for the show in March for the various areas. Thanks to all those who volunteered. I will have with me the sheets available again, so look for further opportunities to enjoy the show and help out. If you cannot make the meeting, feel free to call me to sign up for the show. We really need all available hands to help for this annual fundraising event.

Hope to see you soon,  
Cyndy Hummel

## Ten New North Carolina Diamonds by [christacker](#)

There have been 13 diamonds found in the state of North Carolina since 1893, the largest of which was four carats. Most of them were found as a result of panning operations for gold or monazite. One of these is in the Geology Collection of the Museum of Natural Sciences: NCSM 3225. It came from Burke County and was part of the collection of J.A.D. Stephenson, the man who discovered emeralds and chromian spodumene (aka hiddenite) in Alexander County.

You can imagine my feelings when 13 more diamonds came into my laboratory, all at one time.

In many ways this story belongs to Jeff Moyer of Mount Pleasant, North Carolina, a gold prospector and amateur exploration geologist. Jeff was the most gifted amateur geologist I ever met. He was a keen student of history, consulting records from the old Charlotte Mint and taking time to learn the oral history of the areas where he worked. He designed and

patented his own equipment. Our conversations about North Carolina geology were long and detailed, like I was having a thesis defense all over again. His restless and curious intellect eventually became fascinated with the idea of finding the source of North Carolina's diamonds. So he modified his equipment to trap diamonds as well as gold. And it worked.

**Continued on page 4**



NCSM 5997. This octahedral diamond crystal looks like it has been faceted. These are all natural growth textures on the triangular crystal faces.



**Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.**

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org)

**Program & Refreshments**

<u>REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:</u>	
Coordinator: Need Volunteer	
February	TBD
<u>PROGRAM SCHEDULE:</u>	
February	Scott LaBorde - Photographing Your Minerals

Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$75 (bring your receipts to the treasurer).

January Treasurer's Report

Dec. Ending /	
Jan. Beginning Balance	\$7,211.88
-----	
Deposits (+)	
Dealers	\$1,180.00
Members	1,170.00
Auction	381.00
-----	
Sub total	\$2,731.00
-----	
Checks Written (-)	
SFMS Dues	\$210.00
EFMLS Dues	210.00
Newsletter	123.88
Show Supplies/Meeting Food	207.93
Show Supplies	177.11
Copy Card	30.00
Name Tags (Membership)	27.73
Flatware - Craft Center	50.28
Flatware - Container	44.82
-----	
Sub Total	\$1,081.75
-----	
Jan. Ending /	
Feb. Beginning Balance	\$8,861.13

**February B-Day Members**

- Lee Baldwin
- Joshua Brown
- Elizabeth Cantrill
- Dawn Dennis
- Greg Dillon
- Tom Gallian
- Susan Korn
- Victor Krynicki
- Barbara Lentz
- Maggie Higgins
- Kathy Williams
- Jaime Willick



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. - January Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Attendees = ??

### Opening of Club Meeting:

Meeting called to order by Cyndy Hummel at 7:48.

### New Business:

Cyndy welcomed many new members including several children. Birthday babble began with our January birthday babies: Marion Broadway, Ken Carlson, Jack Fried, Walt Milowic, John Nigro, and Cyndy Hummel.

Bob Bendelow spoke about an opening in the faceting class for this week. Anyone who is a member for over a year gets 50% off on any rock classes given at the craft center. We had some books donated to the club that were in turn offered to members to peruse. They will eventually become part of the club's library. There is another possible donation from a man on Lake Norman who has 60 boxes of lapidary journals to donate. Bob was looking for a volunteer to go and pick them up, but then where will we put them? It would allow you to see the evolution of lapidary over the ages. Let Cyndy or Bob know.

Kenny Gay offered to go and get them along with Shirley Greene. There are a few large maps of a few areas with mineralogical information. Another collection up in Illinois may be available as well this summer.

Shirley Green talked about the field trip on Saturday. Some found some nice quartz crystals but none of the pink rock normally found at the quarry. Cyndy talked about the fact that 20 people signed up and only 9 showed up. Only one person called to say why they couldn't come. That left many open spots that could have been filled by other members. Please be considerate.

There is a new show called "Prospectors" on TV. Ken Carlson has been out to Colorado and was invited to see some of the sites shown in the show. Ken spoke to the group about what they found. Time Warner is showing Mineral explorers.com on channel 1277.

Cyndy offered a door prize to whoever could identify the new mineral on our new nametag. Charles Weil correctly identified it as Crocoite and won a prize (He chose a Citrine).

### Auction:

A break was taken for Joe Moylan and Jerry Miller to conduct an auction of material from a former member.

### Gem Show:

Cyndy spoke about this year's show. The sign-up sheets were brought out for all of the show areas as well as for the Thursday setup. We're going to need more volunteers this year. It was suggested by Greg Dillon to get some NCSU students. The chairmen should not have to do all of the work by themselves. We will have Panera meals again this

year. Everyone needs to pay for their meals except for chairpersons.

There will be separate silent auctions for children this year because last year adults were often outbidding the children and they got left out. The silent auction was meant to be primarily for children. We also need more grab bag material but not driveway rock, something that you would want to find in your grab bag. We will be sending out postcards again this year for people. We need to get another square for credit card purchases. We will be also be looking for runners to help dealers who are there by themselves.

Greg talked about how much the credit card square allowed us to increase our sales in the geode area. We sold a lot of product and have to replenish quite a bit this year. If anyone wants a club T-shirt, they are \$5. Next year we will be due for a new T-shirt, something we do every five years.

George Harris asked about getting some TV advertising this year. Cyndy talked about where she normally does advertising. Several people volunteered to look into a few different avenues for advertising. Cyndy will make color posters if people are going to be willing to put them up. Let her know!

The show will be March 27, 28 & 29 for this year.

### Door Prize:

Eileen Breckstein won the evening door prize and chose a quartz, galena, calcite chalcopyrite specimen.



### Close of Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 9:41

Respectfully Submitted  
Walt Milowic,  
Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## Ten New North Carolina Diamonds

Continued from page 1



NCSM 3225, one of the original thirteen diamonds found in North Carolina. From the collection of J.A.D Stephenson.

I have met all sorts of miners over the years, and Jeff impressed me as genuine. We purchased 10 of the diamonds, and I went to work. Jeff and I made plans to go into the field to reproduce his findings. It never happened. Jeff was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer, and died shortly thereafter.

My instinct was that Jeff was honest, and not trying to put anything over on me and the Museum. But there is always the nagging suspicion that diamonds could be synthetic and not natural. Perhaps someone was salting Jeff's area as a joke. We needed independent verification of the diamonds. I did everything I could. EDS analysis on the scanning electron microprobe at the [Analytical Instrumentation Facility](#) at NC State showed that they were diamonds with traces of iron, silicon and aluminum on the surface, consistent with a natural origin. The diamonds were also a variety of crystal shapes. Synthetic stones tend to be all of one crystal shape.

My own scientific expertise is in mineralogy, particularly thermodynamics and microanalysis. Minerals tell the entire story of the rock, but in this case, I couldn't read it. The processes of making synthetic diamonds can be shrouded in secrecy, and the engineering moves faster than I can keep track of it. I needed an expert in diamonds, someone conversant in the ways to tell synthetic stones from natural stones. And there the project sat for many years. The Museum did not have the money to send the samples out for independent evaluation.

Fortunately for me, our new Director, Emlyn Koster, took an interest in the project. His commute every day took him past [Diamonds Direct Crabtree](#), a North Carolina based

diamond firm. They were diamond experts, why don't we approach them? <Facepalm> *Why didn't I think of that?*

The Vice President of Diamonds Direct Crabtree, [Mr. Barak Henis](#), took a personal interest in the diamonds. Diamonds Direct has an ongoing relationship with the Gemological Institute of America, so they sponsored the Museum by sending five of the diamonds for evaluation. They saved us a great deal of money.

The verdict came back: the stones were natural diamond. The people at [Diamonds Direct Crabtree](#) were as excited as we were.

So, dear readers, the Museum of Natural Sciences, Diamonds Direct Crabtree, and I are pleased to announce the discovery of 10 new diamonds from North Carolina. This is exciting news for everyone. These diamonds are small, but it means we are one step closer to finding the source of diamonds in North Carolina. It also means that there is a scientific treasure trove waiting to tell us about the mantle far below North Carolina. I'll take a look at that in later blog posts.

It also means we are one step closer to fulfilling Jeff Moyer's legacy. Rest in peace, Jeff. You were right.



All ten new NC diamonds, on a millimeter grid for scale.

*Pictures shown below were taken with the new Keyance Digital Microscope, purchased for Research and Collections thanks to a bequest from the estate of [Renaldo Kuhler](#).*

References:

<https://naturalsciencesresearch.wordpress.com/2014/12/04/en-new-north-carolina-diamonds/>

Also, there is another article on the process of authenticating these diamonds.

<https://naturalsciencesresearch.wordpress.com/2014/12/09/p-art-ii-ten-new-diamonds-from-nc/>



NCSM5994.

NCSM 5995.

NCSM 5996, a dodecahedral diamond crystal.

NCSM 5997, a modified octahedron.

NCSM 5998.



NCSM 5999. This is a perfect octahedron.

NCSM 6000.

NCSM 6001.

NCSM 6002.

NCSM 6003.

## In Memory of John David Everette

October 13, 1932 - November 13, 2014

John David Everette, 82, beloved husband and father, passed away at home on Thursday, November 13, 2014 after a brief illness.

He was the only child of the late John William and Vivian Joyner Everette of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. John David, as he was known as a child, enjoyed riding his bike to the Tar River where he would either play baseball, or go swimming or fishing. After graduation from Rocky Mount High School, he worked for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad for a few years before serving in the US Army in Germany during the Korean Conflict. With the help of the GI Bill, John graduated from the School of Architecture at NC State College in 1962. During his architectural career, John practiced architecture in Washington, DC, where he designed buildings for the US Naval Academy, government buildings on Lafayette Square and worked on the John F Kennedy gravesite at Arlington Cemetery. After moving back to North Carolina in 1967, John designed many institutional buildings across the state, including the original North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island.

John met his wife Sallie Tyree at 21st & P Streets near Dupont Circle in Washington, DC and they were married at her parents' home in Miami Shores, Florida in 1958. As newlyweds, John and Sallie learned to ski while members of the Washington, DC Ski Club and participated in ski trips to Europe, Colorado, New England and Pennsylvania. John served several years on the Board of Directors of the US Ski Association and he was a weekend ski instructor the first year Sugar Mountain, NC opened.

In 1973 John and Sallie moved to Raleigh with their young children, Valerie and Ty. The family found Hudson Memorial Presbyterian church the first weekend they were there and over the years John was active in roles including the Preschool Board, Deacon and Elder. He was active in Sunday school, Amazing Grays and bridge until his health prohibited it. John made friends easily wherever he went and enjoyed getting to know people. John enjoyed many activities with his family and friends, including camping, hunting and fishing, rock and fossil hunting, gardening and bridge. He was active in the neighborhood homeowners association from its beginning. He loved sharing his pig pickin' expertise at the annual picnic. For decades he was a mainstay of the geode booth at the Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club's annual show. John was a founding member of the NC Fossil Club and a past president of the Aurora Fossil Club.

John is survived by wife of 56 years, Sallie, daughter, Valerie, and husband, Duncan, son, John Tyree (Ty), and wife Amy, and extended family.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, 4921 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, or NCSU, College of Design, Designlife Fund, Campus Box 7474, Raleigh, NC, 27695-7474.

**A memorial service will be held at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, 4921 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609 on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 2:00 pm. Family will receive friends following the service in the Westminster Hall, at the church.**

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.BrownWynne.com](http://www.BrownWynne.com).

## Field Trip Information

By Shirley Green

### Maysville (Belgrade) Quarry Field Trip

#### When:

Saturday, March 7, 2015, 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. We must arrive at the quarry no later than 9:45 am. for training and signing of waivers. No Latecomers!! I have not been here in years, but there is something weird about locating this quarry, I remember. Therefore, please allow some extra time to get there in case you get turned around. Please arrive by 9:45 am for our safety briefing.

#### Where:

691 Upper Lake Rd., Thomasville, NC 27630

#### Collecting:

This is a fossil site that produces shark teeth and vertebrae, skate/ray mouth plates, boney fish teeth and vertebrae, croc teeth, porpoise vertebrae, and related pieces.

#### Requirements:

Hard hats, safety vests, and sturdy footwear are required (safety glasses not needed as this is a sand/clay collecting site). Choose sturdy footwear appropriate for soft sand that may also be wet in spots.

#### Tools:

This is a surface collecting quarry, and the only tool needed is a small spade or hand rake.

#### Who:

I would appreciate everyone's cooperation in making sure we follow all of the rules given to us by the Quarry Manager. If we do this we can be allowed to return again. Please RSVP to Shirley. 919-848-1085 or [Richard60Green@yahoo.com](mailto:Richard60Green@yahoo.com)

#### Directions:

Take Route 70 into Kinston. In Kinston, look for a Waffle House on the right, where there are road signs: "Trenton right lane" and "Route 58 right lane". Take this right fork (Route 58) to Trenton. If you miss this fork and stay on Route 70, you will eventually reach an exit for Route 41 that you can take south to Trenton and get onto Route 58. From Trenton, continue on 58 until it joins Route 17 at Pollackville. Turn right (south) on 17/58 and go 8 miles to Maysville. Look for the stop light in Maysville with a Piggly Wiggly on the left, and turn left. This is 8th Street/Rt. 58. (If you want to use a GPS, the Piggly Wiggly address is 707 Main Street, Maysville, NC) Continue on 8th Street/Rt. 58 for about 2 miles until you see the Martin Marietta sign and gate on the right.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

By Linda Searcy



Linda Searcy's entry (Faceted rutiled quartz trillion) in the Jewelry Arts Design Competition, presented by Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist magazine has been chosen, and her work will soon be in print!

The Gemmys winning pieces will be featured in Interweave's hardbound showcase of the best in contemporary gem and jewelry art.

From single pieces to suites, including non-jewelry metalwork and display gems, this publication will exhibit the best of the best in a variety of styles and subjects.



## 2015 Show Chairpeople

If you are unable to make the meeting, contact these people to volunteer in their areas.

Hospitality	Marion Broadway	(919) 612-0721	<a href="mailto:thewirenut@charter.net">thewirenut@charter.net</a>
Geode	Greg Dillon	(919) 772-3164	<a href="mailto:wgygunsmoke@aol.com">wgygunsmoke@aol.com</a>
Silent Auction	Jack Fried	(919) 761-9390	<a href="mailto:jacklfried@aol.com">jacklfried@aol.com</a>
Display Cases	Jack Fried	(919) 761-9390	<a href="mailto:jacklfried@aol.com">jacklfried@aol.com</a>
Demonstration	Obsidian Harris	(919) 674-0243	<a href="mailto:foxivy@nc.rr.com">foxivy@nc.rr.com</a>
Refreshments	Gerald Beck	(919) 848-3319	<a href="mailto:gbeck23@nc.rr.com">gbeck23@nc.rr.com</a>

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**March 27-29, 2014: Raleigh, NC - 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital Area Gem & Mineral Show.** Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC. Hours: Fri 3-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5. Admission: Free and Free Parking. Contact: Cyndy Hummel; 919-779-6220; [mchummel@mindspring.com](mailto:mchummel@mindspring.com); [www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org);

**April 30 - May 3, 2013: Spruce Pine, NC – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Grassy Creek Gem and Mineral Show.** Parkway Fire and Rescue Department at 12966 Hwy. 226 South, Spruce Pine, NC, halfway between US 19E and the Blue Ridge Parkway (exit 331). There are 30 dealers who have all kinds of gemstones, mineral specimens, jewelry, beads, fossils, and lots more. Mine tours available. Admission is FREE. Parking is FREE. Hours are from 8 to 6 all days. Contact Donna Collis: 828 765 5519; [collisdonna@yahoo.com](mailto:collisdonna@yahoo.com) for information.

### Pictures from the January Meeting



Aucton Material

Citrine

Opals

## 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.

[http://diamonddanpublications.net/index\\_files/page0009.html](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  
February 17, 2015 @ 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

