

# Tar Heel Tailings

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

## Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Show Information
- Field Trip

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## Prez Sez By Cyndy Hummel

We need a refreshment volunteer for February. If you would like to do this, please contact me.

We will have a special guest speaker from the museum downtown – Patricia Weaver.

The decision will be made about the design for our 40th anniversary T-shirt. If you would like a say in this, come to the February meeting.

The volunteer sheets for each club area will be available at the February meeting. I will coordinate the volunteer sheets for the show.

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## SHOW INFORMATION By Cyndy Hummel

**Sign up to volunteer for different booth areas at the January meeting!!!!**

**You should wear your nametag at all times during the show. You may not be allowed entrance prior to show hours without your 2015 nametag.**

Set-up time is 5 PM on Thursday, March 26th at the fairgrounds, Kerr Scott building. Tables and chairs should already be in place. Expect to paper tables for each club booth area; Silent Auction, Geode, Hospitality, Demonstration and Display Case Tables and haul boxes and assemble display cases.

We are usually finished by 8PM. The more helping hands we have, the sooner we can finish! Friday morning each club booth area will remove items from boxes and organize the areas to their preference. The dealers set-up early Friday morning beginning at 8AM. Club members also set up their own demonstration / sales area and display case on Friday no earlier than 8AM.

Breakfast snacks and coffee will be available all three mornings. The pre-ordered Panera supper on Friday will be delivered at 5PM. Lunch is provided on Saturday & Sunday for club members who are currently **volunteering** at the show, no dealers. The purpose of these meals is to feed our own volunteers who work all day so they need not worry about their meals.

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

10609 Chelsea Drive  
Raleigh NC 27603

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

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

**Program & Refreshments**

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Need Volunteer

February TBD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

February	Patricia Weaver: Ediacaran Fauna of North Carolina
March	Grab Bags & Postcards
April	Potluck & Show discussion
May	Gary McCutcheon: Silversmithing
June	Vince Schneider: Triassic Basins and Their Fossils
July	Fred Booth: Geology Trip to Yellowstone, Wyoming
August	Ice Cream Social AND Auction
September	Scott LaBorde: Quartz Collecting
October	Grab Bags AND (short) Program
November	Elections & Thank You from The Club

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

**February B-Day Members**

- Lee Baldwin
- Sam Bryan, Jr.
- Dawn Dennis
- Greg & Michaela Dillon
- Tom Gallian
- John Hagen
- Susan Korn
- Victor Krynicki
- Barbara Lentz
- Fletcher Macdonald
- Mike Shore
- Kathy Williams
- Jamie Willick



**February Treasurer's Report**

Dec. Ending /	
Jan. Beginning Balance	\$5,637.76
-----	
Deposits (+)	
Dealers	\$2,219.50
Members	320.00
-----	
Sub total	\$2,539.50
-----	
Checks Written (-)	
Trailer Rental Space year	\$780.00
Dealer Refund	285.00
Miscellaneous expense	152.16
Newsletter	138.08
Empty flats	128.59
-----	
Sub Total	\$1,483.83
-----	
Jan. Ending /	
Feb. Beginning Balance	\$6,693.43



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, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

No minutes at this time.

### Peacock Marble Bowl

By Joe Moylan

Winning the drawing for those members who correctly guessed the identity of the mineral chosen to be pictured on our new 2016 THGMC name tags I chose an 8" diameter stone bowl for my prize. This bowl has been among the door prize selections for over a year now and I think everyone has just been referring to it an "agate" bowl. Indeed, I was not sure what to call it either and suggested to the Secretary she just call it Jasper for the minutes. Ken Carlson, who was standing by at the time suggested serpentine, which was more in the right direction.



The many different contrasting swirls, veins, and areas of color marbling through the stone does make one think of an agate, but the lack of any translucency or banding tells you that isn't quite right. A quick check for hardness told me it was soft, guessing around a 4 on Mohs. The material reminded me of soapstone from Africa I've seen called a "Butterstone", but it wasn't that soft and had too many different colors and minerals evident in it. So the key word from my description above is "marbling". I was thinking about some of the marbles I'd seen from Brazil when I stumbled across Peacock Marble bowls from China on Alibaba.

I proceeded to find the exact same description of Peacock Marble on several different sites and am quoting it here.

"Peacock Marble is formed from limestone by heat and pressure in the earth's crust in Southwest China. Recrystallization during Himalaya formation caused the limestone to change in texture and makeup. Fossilized materials in the limestone, along with its original carbonate minerals, recrystallized and formed large, coarse grains of calcite. Impurities present in the limestone during recrystallization affected the mineral composition of the marble that forms. The minerals that result from these impurities give marble a wide variety of colors.

Peacock Marble is also called "Seven Color Jade" in local language. More than ten colors can be found in the marble."

Granite Mountain Nature Gallery carries one of the most diversified selections of Peacock Marble in the U.S.

### OQZO-Metalsmith

By Tricia Weiner

Hello Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club!

I am currently a member and fan of this great club! I will begin teaching at OQZO-Metalsmith in February and I would love if this information could be shared with the members at the next meeting and in the next newsletter.

OQZO-Metalsmith is a brand new state of the art jewelry school and facility in Hillsborough, NC. We are offering foundations in metalsmithing classes and more advanced offerings like faceted stone setting, fabrication of settings, and chase and repousse.

Please forward this message to the members and email or call us if you have any questions. Take a look at our website and class listings.

Thank you very much and have a great night!

<http://www.oqzo-metalsmith.com/oqzo-home.html>

<http://www.oqzo-metalsmith.com/take-a-class.html>

Sincerely,

Tricia Weiner

Jewelry Instructor

[www.tbeckerjewelry.com](http://www.tbeckerjewelry.com)

[www.OQZO-Metalsmith.com](http://www.OQZO-Metalsmith.com)

## Prez Sez

Continued from page 1

You can either sign up at the meeting, contact me or directly contact the chair of the area you would like to work. The areas in which to work are – Hospitality, Refreshments, Geode, Silent Auction and Demonstration. We need all hand on deck at show time. This is a fun event that makes money

for our various charitable contributions. We also help the public with a free, fun and educational event.

See you soon,  
Cyndy Hummel  
President,  
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## Field Trip Information

By Tom Todaro

### Lehigh Hanson Quarry, Princeton, NC Field Trip

#### When:

February 20, 2016, Saturday from 09:00 am – 2:00 pm. We must arrive at the quarry no later than 8:45am. for for the safe ty briefing. No Latecomers!! DO NOT ARRIVE LATE IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE.

#### Where:

476 Edwards Road, Princeton, NC 27569. We must all meet at the office by the gate for the quarry trip.

#### Collecting:

I have never been here so don't know the names of the minerals here. I do know it is a granite quarry.

#### Requirements:

- Citing Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) regulations, no one under <18 will be permitted in the quarry.
- Everyone must comply with any and all safety requirements or directions as set forth by the quarry operator and staff.
- Everyone must stay away from quarry edges and rock walls
- No climbing on rock face's
- Everyone must have and wear a hard-hat
- Everyone must have work boots with steel toe would be better. - Note: Sorry but do not show up wearing sneakers or boat shoes, etc. and expect to go down into the quarry.
- Everyone must have safety goggles or glasses.
- Everyone must sign in at the quarry office and signoff on the safety rules
- Please arrive prior to 9:00 am as this will provide the quarry operator time for safety briefings and waiver signoffs.
- We are guests of this site so please do not leave any litter behind.

#### Tools:

- Sunscreen
- Bug spray - not sure if we will need or not
- Rock hammer
- 3 pound hammer or sledgehammer
- Backpack or bucket or both
- Newspaper to wrap your specimens in
- Plenty of fluids to drink
- Snacks
- Chisel or pry bar
- Long screwdriver
- Hand truck

#### Notes:

- Bring a change of clothes in case you get wet.
- Dress according to the weather, expect it to be cold. It is always easier to take clothes
- off then put stuff on that you don't have.
- Camera , Magnifying glass, eye loop, etc.
- Ask for help to lift or load your take home rocks (If its looks heavy then it probably is ! :)
- Be sure to thank the quarry operator upon leaving as we want to leave a good impression so as we can come back again.
- Have Fun !

#### Who:

Please RSVP to Tom Todaro. 919- 349 9143 or [tomtinnc@gmail.com](mailto:tomtinnc@gmail.com)

#### Directions:

476 Edwards Road, Princeton, NC 27569

## SHOW INFORMATION

Continued from page 1

Water, soda, coffee and tea will be provided for both dealers and club members throughout the three-day period. Sunday evening is pack-up and takedown for dealers and the club. Display cases are disassembled and wrapped in the table paper. Each booth inventories and boxes their items. Everything is then carefully placed in the storage trailer or rental unit.

Show hours for customers are -

Friday, April 1	3PM – 8PM
Saturday, April 2	10AM – 6PM
Sunday, April 3	10AM – 5PM

Remember, ENJOY the show. This is a rewarding and exciting time!!!

## Show Information for New Members

By Cyndy Hummel

Hello There,

I see we have a lot of new club members. Welcome to the group. You may have heard about the annual Rock & Gem show. If not, sit back and I will tell you all about it.



The annual show at the Fairgrounds has free parking and free admission. As you enter the double set of doors of the Kerr Scott building, you approach the Hospitality booth. This area is responsible for the daily door prize tickets, grab bag sales, club membership forms, free magazines and other literature. You might even see a display from the Aurora Fossil Museum. Knowledgeable club members identify items in the grab bags and answer general questions about the show and club. This is a good place for new members to learn and share their enthusiasm for the hobby with the general public. This area also hosts different groups such as local museums.



Directly behind the Hospitality area are display cases for club members to spotlight their talents and discoveries. Minerals, fossils, silver, gold and wire wrapped jewelry, cut and polished gems, and slabs of rock that all combine to create our fascinating hobby are reflected behind glass.

As you move around the room, listen for the dulcet tones of saws cutting through hard rock. The Geode booth along the right hand wall is very popular with customers. Indeed, the same people purchase geodes year after year. One never knows what is inside each hollow or solid sphere until it is sliced open. In this area, there is a display of beautiful geodes that have been cut over the years. Knowledgeable club members operate the saws, clean, wrap and bag the geodes. Be sure to quiz them on how geodes are formed.



The Silent Auction is located on the back wall to the right. This is where children and adults alike can find treasures at bargain prices. Items such as jewelry, minerals, fossils, faceted gemstones and slabs of rock are put up for auction for an undisclosed amount of time. Each item has a paper listing the name of the item and location of origin in the case of a mineral or fossil. The bidder places their name and a dollar amount on a blank line and steps away from the bidding table. The next person places a higher bid on the next line. When time is called, the last person on the list is the lucky winner.



Along the left back wall is where our club's talent shines, literally. This is the Demonstration/Sales area where club members showcase their hobby/addiction. At any given time you will see faceting, capping, wire wrapping, slab cutting, gold and silver smithing, bead stringing, gold and silver chain making, and gem tree creating. Be sure to come view our specialties and ask plenty of questions about how we do what we do.





Upstairs is where we keep the goodies to eat. Hot coffee, soft drinks and snacks can be found at differing times throughout the weekend. Club members are greatly encouraged to bring homemade tasty treats. This area is for current club members and dealers ONLY. Current nametags must be worn.

Set up for the show is Thursday night. Set up involves papering the club area tables, unloading boxes of merchandise for the Hospitality, Geode and Silent Auction areas and assembling the display cases. Club members set up their own space in the demonstration area and fill their display case on Friday morning.

As you can see there are many areas that club members can participate in during the show.

I hope you will join us in April.  
Cyndy Hummel

## Malachite

### Jacob Stephens

Malachite is a carbonate mineral that is green due to the presence of copper. It has been known to humans for thousands of years and was as a source of copper before more economical ores were discovered. The secondary historic use of malachite was as a green pigment in paint. Today, and for the last couple hundred years, malachite's primary use is as a decorative stone.



Slices of malachite are very attractive due to the agate-like bands throughout the stone. The dramatic green color, the banding, and its softness make it a prime choice for carving and polishing. Those stones polish to a mirror-like finish. Most carvings from single pieces of malachite are relatively small, but pieces 1 foot across and larger exist. Mosaic techniques can be used to create even larger pieces and many extraordinarily large pieces were commissioned by Russian Tsars from Russian malachite.

While Russia's Ural Mountains once produced large quantities of malachite, production is virtually nonexistent today and most specimens on the market now come from the Congo area in Africa. It is increasingly difficult and expensive to acquire specimens due to the corruption and constant wars in that region. A US based wholesaler said that in the 90s he was obligated to hire armed mercenaries to guard the material as it traveled from the mines to the ports. As his inventory from that period runs out he is discontinuing the products as he no longer finds it feasible to import under the current conditions. It is interesting to note that just a few years ago it could be found in the \$1 tumble stone bins at the gift shop in the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. The days of finding malachite at that price may be gone forever.

The rarity and expense of malachite has opened the market for man-made/simulated malachite. Some vendors are honest about the synthetic origin of the material, but many polished pieces sold under the name "Malachite" from China and India are actually simulated material. Specimen collectors need not worry as simulated malachite is only used in polished carvings such as in jewelry – not raw specimens. Some synthetic malachite is obviously fake, but some can be convincing – especially material made from reconstituted malachite. Anyone buying malachite jewelry should educate themselves on the differences between real and synthetic malachite.

Chemical formula:  $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_2$

Mohs Hardness: 3.5-4

Streak: Light green

Crystal habits: Massive (shapeless), botryoidal, or stalactitic

US locations: Arizona

Article written using personal knowledge and information from:

Danny Gillespie, Rock Shop Wholesale, Van Buren, MO  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malachite>

<http://www.alexanderpalace.org/petersburg1900/21.html>  
<http://invoguejewelry.blogspot.com/2013/06/malachite-real-or-fake.html>

## 2016 Show Chairpeople

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

Hospitality	Linda Searcy	(919) 909-0750	LJS0928@gmail.com
Geode	Greg Dillon	(919) 772-3164	wygunsmoke@aol.com
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

**April 1-3, 2016: Raleigh, NC - 40<sup>th</sup> 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 Club Demonstration area includes club members faceting, cabbing, chainmaking, wirewrapping, bead stringing and gem tree creating. Club members will also provide lectures about minerals and demonstration of gem polishing, geode cutting plus associated hobbies. 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](mailto:mchummel@mindspring.com); [www.tarheelclub.org](http://www.tarheelclub.org);

**March 11-13, 2016: Augusta, GA – 28th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show.** Sponsoring Clubs: Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society and Augusta Gem and Mineral Society. Julian Smith Casino / 2200 Broad St. / Augusta GA. Vendors that offer a wide variety of jewelry, rare fossils and mineral specimens, gems of all colors shapes & sizes, lapidary and much more. Member Show Cases, Lapidary Demonstrations, Educational Resources, Grab Bags, Treasure Dig, Geode Cutting, Mineral Panning, HourlyDoor Prizes and a Grand Prize that will be awarded at the end of the show on Sunday Admission: \$3 per adult or \$5 Weekend pass-Children under 12 Free with an Adult. Hours: Fri & Sat 10AM-7PM / Sun 11AM-5PM. Co-Chair: Richard McNutt and Chris Glass; Show Contact: Chris Glass 706-284-9239; [www.aikengmfs.org](http://www.aikengmfs.org); [www.agam.club](http://www.agam.club).

**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.htm> 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.

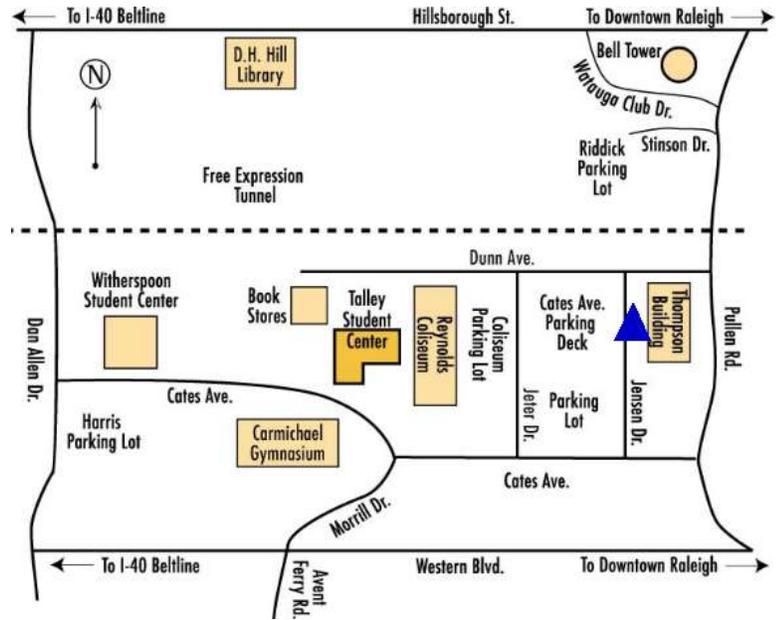
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

**Our Next Meeting is  
February 16, 2016 @ 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

