

July 14, 2009

Tar Heel Tailings

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

Special Interest Articles:

- Minutes of the June 16, 2009 .
- Forest Service closes caves and mines to protect Bats in the SE USA.
- What are Gems & Minerals?.

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A New Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Newsletter

First, She needs to be recognized and a super thank-you extended to Cyndy Hummel for her years of persistence in seeing to it that a newsletter made it to the members of this club almost every month since 2001. That's a lot of newsletters all of which had to be compiled, created, printed, folded, labeled, and mailed. The job is one that often goes with thankless hours of effort, time, and devotion. Thank you Cyndy.

Second, Although I have never edited a newsletter before, I do have a life-long passion for Gems, Minerals, and jewelry making. At age eight I thought my father was just being a really nice guy when he showed up one day with several new hammers, chisels, and backpacks for my brothers and I so we could do more on his quarry excursions than pick on the frogs. In hind sight it was the smile on his face and the sweat on our brows that showed

my dad was a fairly bright man. By age ten He helped me dope my first slab to a wooden stick and I cabbled my first stone on a machine I still own today.

I suppose it had to do with this order of exposure that I can often be found sporting a perplexed look on my face when I hear talk of someone's intent to cut a perfect Jewel into some kind of a rock that ultimately gets plastered onto a contorted form of some earth element.

Deadline & Content for Newsletter!

After this issue every TG&MC Newsletter will be published by the second Tuesday of every month. Deadline for contribution to the newsletter will be 6pm the Saturday before the publish date.

Many of our club members have an enormous amount of skill and experience with Gems and Minerals and other earth sciences. I would like to ask that these members step up and contribute their stories and biographies with our newer members through

this newsletter. Not only do you get a chance to teach someone something new, you get a chance to brag about those moments that often make this hobby what it really is. You earned those rights! Use Them!

All of our members will benefit from your ideas, contributions, information, facts, stories, photos, participation, feedback, and any other form of input that you feel might help make this newsletter a pleasure to read.

In my pursuit of Gems & Minerals I have found a lot of useful information on the internet. Vugsites will list various internet connections to other clubs, websites, and information that I think many of the members will benefit from as well as enjoy.

I originally joined the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral club around twenty years ago – A lot has happened since that time.

June 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes



A North Carolina Emerald

"All I could say was WOW!"

In 1973 The NC State General Assembly designated the Emerald as the official state precious stone. In 1969 the largest emerald ever discovered in North America was unearthed at the Rist-Mine near Hiddenite, NC. It weighed in at 1,438 Carats. That's over one-half of a pound.

Attendance - 31

Kenny Gay called the meeting to order. Then proceeded to do the program about the North Carolina mineralogical survey.

The new Mineralogical Guide book for North Carolina is in process. And the state pulled out of the process.

The minerals that were covered were done in a specific order. Which were Gorgeous!

A lot of minerals are from Grandfather Mountain Collection. And from his own collection too! All I could say was "WOW"!

Cyndy discussed that additional items were needed for Door Prizes and that she would secure them. A budget for this was set at \$420 in cost. A Motion was made, seconded, and carried. "I

would go with items that are unique"

It was suggested for members to start thinking about items that were in crystalline/mineral form or a finished piece to be used in the Display Windows" at the NCSU Crafts Center for the Club. In other words, make use of that window space. Corinne gave mention that about \$3000 is to be used for what is needed.

George gave mention about the cabbing machine & faceting wheels at the Craft Center. Club members doing work needed to display their membership card while at the NCSU Crafts Center. Filling out a registration card would be helpful too.

There was some discussion about topics to be chosen for other meetings and how would

the club deal with future students seeking to learn Gemology. As a scholarship; one idea was to do a presentation on aspect of mineralogy/ gemology and elaborate about it.

Joe was present for the slab cutting discussion. Members of the club can bring rough material to him and he will cut their rough. He stated that folks were welcome to come during the cutting process. "Hey, even I could use a 2 or 3 slabs cut!"

He stated that the cost to the club would be roughly, \$380.00. This money would be used to pay for new diamond blades and mineral oil. "What a Deal!"

Happy Rock Hounding!

Obsidian Harris

Safety & Ethical Rock Hounding

In our pursuit of Gems & Minerals on occasion we are granted access to quarries or sites that harbor material we are interested in acquiring.

Regularly we find the end of that day's access is at hand and that more quality material is just "asking" to be harvested. For some folks this "imploring" on the part of the earth is just too hard to resist.

If and when you find yourself faced with this dilemma I hope you consider this; Gone are the days that we could enjoy regular trips to Rougemont, Moncure, Crabtree, and so many other fine quarries.

And why? Because the mine operators realized that this trust they had extended was violated soon after a club had been granted access.

They concluded, and rightly so, that one of the members of a club trespassed back into the site to satisfy one person's wants.

Solution: DENY ACCESS TO ALL CLUBS

Not only does the actions of the one spoil it for the many, this behavior can cost a life - Yours! . Please
Rock hound - Responsibly

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 06-09

FOREST SERVICE CLOSES CAVES AND MINES TO PROTECT BATS IN SOUTHEAST

ATLANTA – Most caves and mines on National Forests in the southeastern United States are being closed for one year in an effort to protect bats, according to Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa. “We are working to stop the uncontrolled spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) among bat species,” she said. “The closures will allow scientists and land managers time to work together and study the fungus, learn how it spreads and how to best address it.” Under the 12-

month closure order signed by Agpaoa on May 21, 2009, all caves and abandoned mines on national forests and units in 13 Southeastern states from Oklahoma to Virginia and Florida will be closed unless posted as open. All uses would be prohibited except organized rescue efforts and other actions specifically authorized by the agency.

White Nose Syndrome, or WNS, is named for a white fungus that appears on the faces, ears, wings and feet of hibernating bats.

Scientists are trying to determine how WNS affects bats. The disease causes bats to come out of Hibernation severely underweight. In a desperate attempt to avoid starving, the affected bats are often seen flying during the day. They are looking for food, but the insects they normally eat in the spring are not yet available. Once a colony is affected, the fungus spreads rapidly and may kill 90 percent of bats at the hibernation site in just two years.

What are Gems and Minerals

Minerals are typically formed when molten rock, or magma, cools, or by condensing out of mineral-rich water, such as that in underground caverns. In general, minerals begin as solutions and dissipate out within confined areas such as lava flows or between grains of sediments. Large crystals found in geodes and other rocks are tend to be rare.

Rocks themselves are made of clusters or mixtures of minerals, and minerals and rocks affect landform development and form natural resources such as gold, tin, iron, marble, and granite.

Silicates—including quartz, mica, olivine, and

precious minerals such as emeralds—are the most common class of minerals, as well as the major components of most rocks. Oxides, sulfides, sulfates, carbonates, and halides are other major mineral classes.

Gemstones

Many minerals form beautiful crystals, but the most prized of all are **gemstones**. Uncut gems are often fairly ordinary looking. It's only when they are cut and polished that they obtain the brilliance and luster that makes them so valued.

Historically gems have been divided into precious and semiprecious classes. There are a number of

semiprecious gems, many quite beautiful, but diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and emeralds continue to qualify as "precious." (At one time, amethyst was also considered a precious gem, but large reserves were later found in Brazil, reducing its value.)

Diamonds, made of carbon atoms
Rubies are formed of a mineral called corundum, comprised of aluminum oxide.

Emeralds are formed of a mineral called beryl whose chemical formula is a complex mix of beryllium, aluminum, silicon, and oxygen.

FACT: Wake County, NC (home of the TG&MC) has more PhD's per capita than any other county in the United States.

“There are so many fun things to do in North Carolina. All you have to do is look for them.”

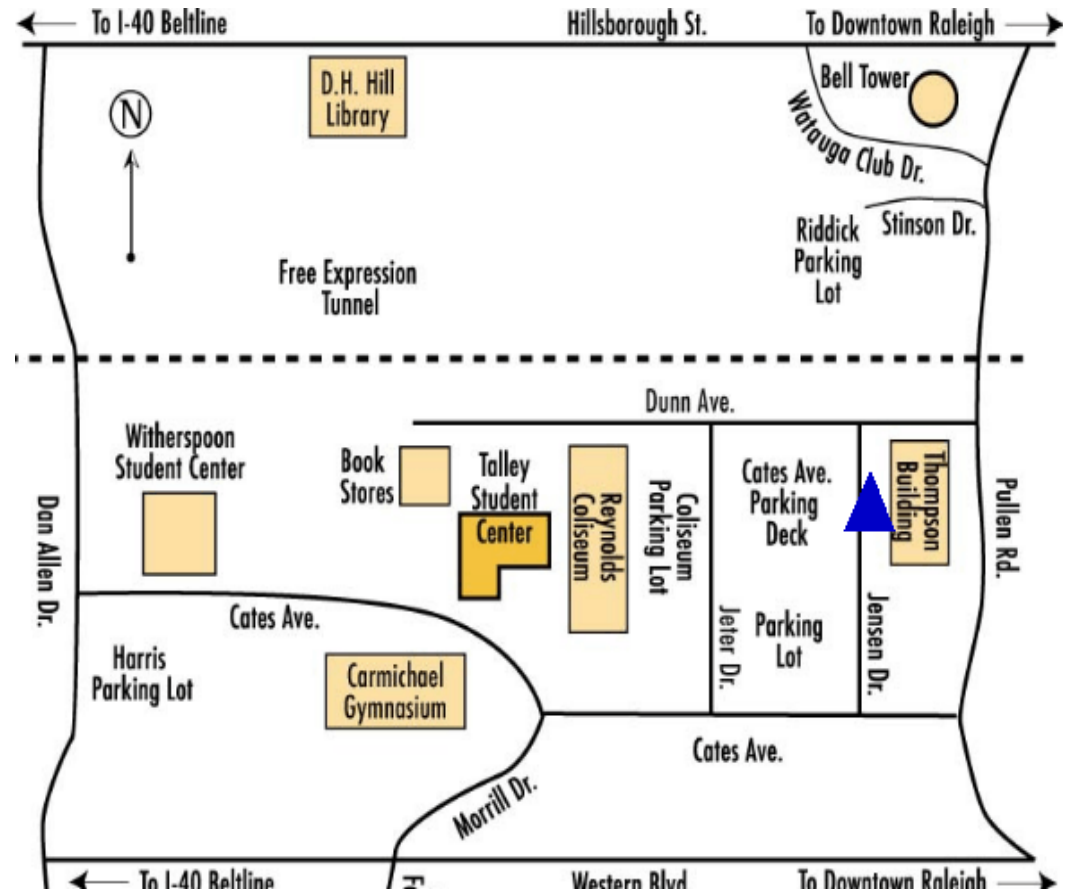


“FACT: A little over 4.5 Billion years ago earth was a molten ball of magma. A lot has changed since then.”

July Meeting

The next meeting is July 21st, 2009 at 7:30 PM – at the NCSU Crafts Center

Our New Meeting Location – NCSU Crafts Center



Vugsites

A great site for NC publications, although a little out of date is

<http://www.carolinageologicalsociety.org/cgscdguide.htm>

For instant access to specific mineral information and photos try

<http://www.mindat.org/>. I have found this to be a very usefull site.

This is a good club to belong to if field trips further from home are of interest

<http://www.mcrocks.com>

And of course there is always ebay.com. I myself have acquired a few choice specimens through this site. Just remember – Buyer beware!

Upcoming Local Events

July 17-19--BOONE, NC: 15th annual show; Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; Boone National Guard Armory, 274 Hunting Hills Ln., near the hospital and behind the fire station; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$2 (good all 3 days), children under 16 free

July 30 - August 2 – SPRUCE PINE, NC: NC Mineral & Gem Festival (4-hrs from Raleigh) Thur- Sat 10am-6pm, Sun; 12:30-5pm Mine tours are available, however reservations are required. Call 828-765-9033 if interested.

July 22-25 -- FRANKLIN, NC: 44th annual show, "Macon County Gemboree"; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin; Macon County Community Bldg., US Hwy. 441S; Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6; adults \$2, children 12 and under free

August 7-9--DALTON, GA:

18th annual show; Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows; NW Georgia Trade & Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd., I-75 Exit 333; Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$3 (good all 3 days), children under 16 free

August 14-16--CARTERSVILLE, GA: "Southeast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn, I-75 and 411 NE; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission.

September 11-13--WINSTON-SALEM, NC:

38th annual show; Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club; Coliseum Annex Bldg., Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Gate #9 from 27th St.; Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 12-5

October 16-18--FRANKLIN, NC: 20th annual show, "Leaf Lookers Gemboree"; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin; Macon County Community Bldg., US Hwy. 441S; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; adults \$2, children 12 and under free

The Spruce Pines and the Franklin Shows which occur one week back to back have been called "the best Gem and Mineral show on the east coast" in years past.

These shows in the past tended to have a lot of International dealers. On the last day in the last hour of the show, many dealers will take pennies on the dollar so that they can avoid shipping material back overseas.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

A good plan is the first piece of equipment that I employ when I decide to go out on a collecting trip.

It is very discouraging to find yourself hours from home in the depth of a quarry and then determine that you forgot an important tool. It is well worth the little extra time it

takes to create list(s) of equipment needed for each kind of collecting trip. A hard-rock quarry trip requires different tools than a panning trip.

Most of my efforts tend to focus on hard rock. The basic tools for this kind of trip I use are; Steel-Toe boots, Coveralls, Hard

Hat, Water, a 2.5lb hammer, crowbar(s), various chisels, 10X Loop, Egg cartons, newspaper, folding shovel, Whisk brush & nap sack. Be sure to bring a lunch. 3-4 hours of wrestling the earth for her jewels will stack up a powerful hunger.

The North Carolina Fossil Club meets - in Raleigh

The NCFC meets at 1:30 PM on the third Sunday of January, March, May, July and September at the North Carolina Museum of

Natural Sciences in Raleigh. A guest speaker or other fossil related program is presented first, followed by the business

meeting and a "show and tell" period. Refreshments are served. Guests are welcome.

About Our Organization...

The Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club 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**
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