

Tar Heel Tailings

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

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- Gemstone & Mineral of the Month
- Field Trip Report
- Door Prize Report
- SFMS Workshops

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Prez Sez

Welcome to Summer in the Triangle. While work is being done behind the scenes on our website, it is time to turn the spotlight on revising our By-Laws. The Committee will begin this process at the Board Meeting, held at 7PM every evening prior to the meetings. Also, we have news from the Treasurer that a new Tax Auditor has been selected that will save us quite a bit of money compared to past years.

We are in for an exciting program on Tuesday. Greg Dillon, chair of

geodes, and Bob Crocker, past club member, will present "Gold Prospecting in North Carolina". Bob has found crystalline gold and smelted flake gold into "coins". Greg has been invited to work a professional gold hunt out of state. We can expect a fascinating program.

June is open as far as refreshments go. We need a volunteer if we want to snack. If you would like to do this, please contact me so we don't have more than one volunteer at the meeting. With receipts, you will be reimbursed up to \$75.

See you Tuesday,
Cyndy Hummel, Prez

June Birthstone - Alexandrite by Obsidian Harris

The Gemstone Alexandrite is the color changing variety of the mineral Chrysoberyl. The June Birthstone, its color varies from red to green depending upon the light source. It is an alternate (modern) Zodiac stone for the constellation of Gemini. Alexandrite is associated with balance, confidence, and joy.

Alexandrite is named for the former czar of Russia, Alexander II, and was first discovered in the Ural Mountains of Russia, supposedly on the day

of his birth. Chromium gives alexandrite its color and while, in most minerals, a trace element like chromium would provide only one color to the mineral, in alexandrite

it gives it two! Coloring agents are dependent on the wavelength of light and the chemical bonds in the crystal to determine the color that they will cause.

Continued on page 4



Natural oval alexandrite in white light and yellow light.

Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

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

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Need Volunteer

June	OPEN
July	OPEN
August	Ice Cream Social
September	Walt Milowic
October	Hummels
November	OPEN

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

June	Bob Crocker & Greg Dillon "Gold prospecting in NC"
July	Randy Bechtel "Volcanic Eruptions of Montserrat of the Leeward Islands"
August	Ice Cream Social AND Cabbing Demonstration by Robin Suddaby
September	The Smithsonian by George & Obsidian Harris
October	Grab Bags
November	Elections & Thank You from The Club

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

Field Trip Information

Green Mill Run Field Trip

When: Saturday, June 14, 2014, 10:00 am until you get tired

Where: Parking lot for GreenSprings Park
2500 E 5th St.
Greenville, NC 27858

Who: Please RSVP to Shirley. 919-274-1837 or Richard60Green@yahoo.com

June B-Day Members

Lisa Byrne
Cleo Gallian
Kay Kimball
Anthony Michniak
Tim Milowic
Lwih Ryan
Elliott Sprague
Angie Tunney



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. - May Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20th, 2014

Attendees = 29

Board Meeting:

The executive board meeting took place at 7 pm.

There were 4 people in attendance.

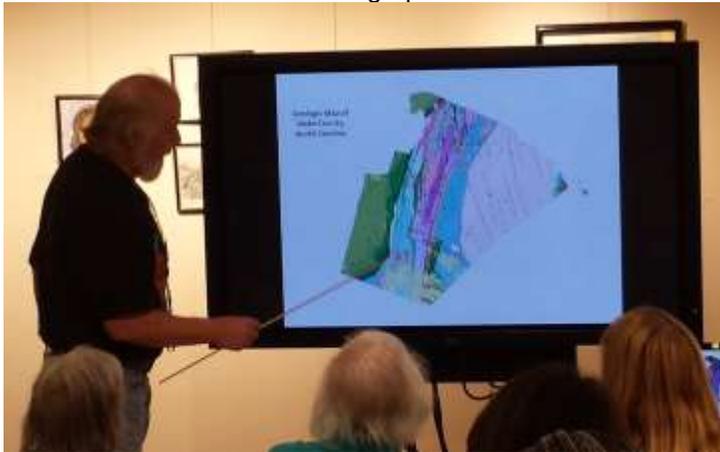
Opening of Club Meeting:

The meeting commenced at 7:35 pm with Kenny Gay conducting his presentation about mineralogy.

Program:

Minerals from Crabtree: Kenny Gay

Kenny talked about the various terrains of Wake county itself. And the coloration of the graph showed this.



Also about various ads in publications about Siderite - green- crystal formation.

Carbonite minerals were also illustrated.

Sulfosalt minerals were discussed.

Kenny also showed the microscope used to do the scanning needed.

Electrons were used instead of light rays to do the scanning.

Another scanning showed different chemicals present.

Seven samples were shown prepared with a hyperprobe.

He talked about the 2 to 1 ratio with minerals.

A new mineral showed up.

Kenny also talked about how the mineral strata looks much like an upright book on its binding, and sheared to the side.

There was talk about how at the south end of Wake county, there was possible of fossils showing up as the area was under water 3 million years ago.

After the presentation ended, Kenny had various minerals present on the table.

New Business:

Gem & Mineral Show Discussion:

Cyndy noted 2 new visitors at the meeting. They discussed how they got into minerals & stones.

Cyndy also mentioned Birthday Babbles for the month of May for club members and how they go into minerals.

Shirley shared her experience.

Shirley also asked that folks during field trips to bring small minerals for the grab bags.

Since folks did not sign up to bring munchies there were none at the meeting. There was bottled water.

Cyndy went over how the site online for the club would be updated.

Jerry asked about "archiving" newsletters for the past 5 years.

Another person came up with the suggestion of designing a logo for the club t-shirt.

Joe asked about how Treasurer Corinne is doing since the hospital visit.

Cyndy responded that Corinne appreciate the calls & visits she got during her hospital stay.

Bob Bendelow presented a deal for the club members with Laser pointers. He had them sold before 5 minutes were up!

Julie started talking about a publication called American Rock Hound & Our State.

Chris Wright, who was the last remaining dealer at the Mineral Show, has crossed over.

Prep has some business to discuss with the club about a faceting machine. He is apparently returning the faceting machine to the club that he borrowed.

Bob mentioned about the faceting machines and what is involved in working with one.

Door Prize:

The door prize winner was drawn. Shirley Green won! She chose a faceting collection.

Congratulations Shirley!

Old Business:

Cyndy proceeded to start drawing for the workshop winners that worked at the G & M show in April 2013. And they are as follows. Congratulations all!

Winners

Obsidian Harris

Kenny Gay

Alternates

1st Hilton Freed

2nd Amanda Dean

3rd Walt Milowic

4th Karen Santala

Close of Meeting:

Cyndy put out a call for all old and new business.

The meeting came to an unofficial close at 9:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Obsidian Harris,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

June Birthstone - Alexandrite

Continued from page 1

An element like copper, in normal light, can cause a green color in malachite and a blue color in azurite, it all depends on the character of the chemical bonding. In a single specimen of alexandrite, the chromium is in such a balanced situation that the color of the specimen depends on the character of light that hits the crystal. If the light is natural sunlight or fluorescent light, the crystal will be green; however, if the light is incandescent light from a common indoor light bulb, then the crystal will appear red.

Synthetic corundums spiked with trace elements that yield an alexandrite-like color change are sold as alexandrite on the gemstone market. These stones have a red-violet, near-amethyst color in incandescent light and a blue-violet color in daylight. They are far cheaper than natural alexandrite, which is one of the rarest and most expensive of gemstones.

June Mineral - Oligoclase

By Obsidian Harris

Oligoclase is not a well-known mineral but has been used as a semi-precious stone under the names of sunstone and moonstone. Sunstone has flashes of reddish color caused by inclusions of hematite. Moonstone shows a glowing shimmer similar to labradorescence, but lacking in color. The display is produced from lamellar intergrowths inside the crystal. These intergrowths result from compatible chemistries at high temperatures becoming incompatible at lower temperatures and thus a separating and layering of these two phases. The resulting shimmer effect is caused by a ray of light entering a layer and being refracted back and forth by deeper layers before it exits the crystal. This refracted ray has a different character than when it went in and produces the moonlike glow. Moonstone is an alternate birthstone for the month of June.

- Chemistry: Na(90-70%) Ca(10-30%) (Al, Si)AlSi₂ O₈, Sodium calcium aluminum silicate.
- Class: [Silicates](#)
- Subclass: [Tectosilicates](#)
- Group: [Feldspars](#)
- Uses: ornamental and semi-precious stone and as mineral specimens.
- [Specimens](#)

For Moonstone Jewelry, see -->	MOONSTONE JEWELRY
For Sunstone Jewelry, see -->	SUNSTONE JEWELRY

<http://www.galleries.com>

The spiritual aspects of Alexanderite follow Alexandrite is a rare gemstone regarded as having regenerative power. It enhances the rebirth of both your inner and outer self, providing impetus to expedite the changing of your world while producing the qualities of expansiveness, creativity and awareness in the realm of manifestation. The energy of the crystalline form is especially conducive to the art of manifestation. It can be used to facilitate the alignment of your mental, emotional and etheric bodies, creating a more balanced emotional state.

Chakras: Causal, Crown, Earth Star, Heart, Navel, Soul Star

Astrological sign: Pisces

<http://www.thatcrystalsite.com>

Oligoclase is a member of the Plagioclase Feldspar Group. The plagioclase series comprises minerals that range in chemical composition from pure NaAlSi₃ O₈, Albite to pure CaAl₂ Si₂ O₈, anorthite. Oligoclase by definition must contain 90-70% sodium to 10-30% calcium in the sodium/calcium position of the crystal structure. The various plagioclase feldspars are identified from each other by gradations in index of refraction and density in the absence of chemical analysis and/or optical measurements.

All plagioclase feldspars show a type of twinning that is named after albite. Albite Law twinning produces stacks of twin layers that are typically only fractions of millimeters to several millimeters thick. These twinned layers can be seen as striation like grooves on the surface of the crystal and unlike true striations these also appear on the cleavage surfaces. The Carlsbad Law twin produces what appears to be two intergrown crystals growing in opposite directions. Two different twin laws, the Manebach and Baveno laws, produce crystals with one prominent mirror plane and penetrant angles or notches into the crystal. Although twinned crystals are common, single crystals showing a perfect twin are rare and are often collected by twin fanciers.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Color** is usually off-white or gray or pale shades of green, yellow or brown.
- **Luster** is vitreous to dull if weathered..

- **Transparency** crystals are translucent to transparent.
- **Crystal System** is triclinic; bar 1
- **Crystal Habits** include blocky, or tabular crystals. Crystals have a nearly rectangular or square cross-section with slightly slanted dome and pinacoid terminations. Twinning is almost universal in all plagioclases. Crystals can be [twinned](#) according to the Albite, Carlsbad, Manebach and Baveno laws. Oligoclase can be found as a major rock forming component in granites and syenites.
- **Cleavage** is perfect in one and good in another direction forming nearly right angled prisms.
- **Fracture** is conchoidal.
- **Hardness** is 6 - 6.5.
- **Specific Gravity** is approximately 2.64 - 2.68 (average)
- **Streak** is white.
- **Associated Minerals** are [quartz](#), [muscovite](#) and [K-feldspars](#).
- **Other Characteristics:** index of refraction is 1.533 - 1.552. Lamellar twinning may cause a grooved effect on crystal and cleavage surfaces that appear as striations.
- **Notable Occurrences** include Sri Lanka; New York, USA; Russia; Sweden and Canada.
- **Best Field Indicators** are occurrence, twinning striations, shimmer, density and index of refraction.

The spiritual aspects of Moonstone are:
 Grab a Moonstone when you need to feel balanced or are changing aspects in your life. It brings calm through awareness and provides the energy to sustain you through stages of growth. It's a highly intuitive stone that allows self-expression and creativity to your energy flow. You can carry it to provide protection while travelling and as a bringer of good fortune. Moonstone eliminates all the negativity, presenting you with only truth. Bestowing purity and connection to the Divine, it softens and enhances your capability for giving and receiving, and supports your emotional life. It opens up your Heart Chakra and allows the energy to heal the lower Chakras. Moonstone is nurturing and harmonious, and when the moon is waning it helps you to look into the future. Its protective powers are strongest when the moon is full or waxing. It is one of the best stones used to promote ease of pregnancy and childbirth, to enhance fertility, relieve PMS, to eliminate insomnia and circulatory disorders. Blue Moonstone creates a balanced, whole and unified energy field, absorbed in Divine Light. It assists active, aggressive people to open to their more gentle, nurturing natures and brings harmony into hormonal imbalances. Pink / Peach Moonstone is extremely gentle and is an excellent choice for working directly with children.

Chakras: Base, Earth Star, Heart, Link, Sacral, Solar Plexus, Universal Gateway

Astrological sign: Cancer, Libra, Scorpio

Door Prize - Topaz

By Shirley Green



increases with a deepness of color in orange and red hues. Its colors can be white, colorless, blue, red, green, yellow, brown, pink, purple, gray and

Topaz has a good hardness and desirable colors combined with a relative abundance and availability. This makes it a very valuable gemstone. The most valuable colors are the golden orange yellow type, called Imperial Topaz and the dark pinkish red and orange red colors. Value

multicolored. Some of the largest gemstones ever were cut of topaz. Imperial Topaz is the most valuable type of topaz.

Topaz is a hard and durable gemstone and will not dissolve in most chemical solvents. However, it does have perfect cleavage which can make it prone to chipping or forming flaws if banged hard.

Topaz is a pleochroic gemstone and can have very color intensity when viewed at different angles. Due to its good cleavage and pleochroic nature, care must be exercised when faceting Topaz gemstones. (The definition of pleochroic is: absorbing different wavelengths of light differently depending on direction of incident of the rays or the plane of polarization, often resulting in the appearance of different colors according to the direction of view.)

2014 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

SFMSworkshops.com

Workshop Staff

Wildacres Director, Lisa Roberts
 10328 Briar Bay Loop
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 423-494-7096
 878-479-4177
 Email: wadirector1314@yahoo.com

Wildacres Registrar, Paula Griffin
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 865-248-8393
 865-406-8801 alternate
 Email: waregistrar2014@gmail.com

William Holland Director, David & Leslie Wayment
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 772-532-6432
 772-539-2409
 Email: aastainedglass@bellsouth.net

William Holland Registrar, Rosemary van Wandelen
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 386-860-5586 Home
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 Email: rrborzoi@gmail.com

Education Chairman, Roy Deere
 7041 Rodes Place
 W. Melbourne, FL 32904
 321-725-9179
 Email: SFMSeducationdir@gmail.com

The intermediate / advanced classes listed with an asterisk (*) require some prior experience by the student. Experience in a class provided by your local club, Workshop class, or self study may be enough. Please do not exclude yourself, if you're interested in one call the registrar.

SESSION ONE - WILLIAM HOLLAND June 8-14, 2014	
Bracelets, Bracelets & More	Tom & Kay Benham
Cabochons	Pat Davis
Castin	Bill Harr
Chain-Maille, Beg & Int	Roy Deere
Facetin	Tom Mitchell
Hammer & Stakes	Annette Gi bney
Lampwork	Cindy Reed
Silver 1	Jim Richardson
The New Seed Bead	Barbara Green
Wire 1	Sandra Bergquist

SESSION TWO - WILDACRES MONDAY, August 18-24, 2014	
Bracelets, Bracelets & More	Tom & Kay Benham
Castin	Bill Harr
Flint Knapping	Michael Miller
Gem ID	Teresa Polly
Jewelry Bench Building	Danny Griffin
*Metalwork Special Projects	Jeff Sheer
Seed Beading	Gail Deluca
Silversmithing	Bev Schabillion
Weaving Freeform Wire Jewelry	Kaska Firor
Wirecraf - Beginning	Rowan Rose-Morgan

SESSION THREE - WILDACRES MONDAY, September 22-28, 2014	
Beading Special Techniques	Haydee Hernandez
Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Castin	Bill Harr
Chain-Maille, Beg & int.	Roy Deere
Chasing & Repoussé	Tom & Kay Benham
Cold Connections & Enameling	Debora Mausea
Flint Knapping	Michael Miller
Gem ID	Teresa Polly
Seed Beading	Gail Deluca
Silversmithing	Bev Schabillion

SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND SUNDAY, October 12-18, 2014	
Bead Netti	Ronald Midkiff
*Bits & Pieces	Don & Ann Monroe
Cabochons	Ellis Bray
*Faceting	Tom Mitchell
Lampwork	Cindy Reed
Opals	Sarah Lee Boyce
*Silver Filligree	Shannon Stafford
Wire	Pat Brown

UPCOMING SHOWS

October 3 – 5, 2014: Dallas, NC - 36th Annual Gaston Gem & Mineral Show. Gaston County Park, 1303 Dallas Cherryville Hwy, Dallas NC. 28034 (HWY 279), or GPS 120 Leisure Lane, Dallas, NC 28034. Hours: Fri & Sat, 9am - 6pm - Sunday 9am - 5pm. FREE ADMITTANCE and FREE PARKING. Minerals and Fossils from around the world. Cutting material, Quality Gemstones, Wire wrapping, settings, Geodes, Jewelry, etc. SLUICE - A real working sluice, \$3 & \$5 sand buckets; perfect for children and adults. Amethyst, Quartz Crystals, Faceted Stones mixed at random in buckets; you must might get that special stone or treasure! Contact Show Chairman, Rick Perkins, at 704-825-9456 or online at <http://gastongemclub.weebly.com/our-show.html>

November 22 - 24, 2014: Columbia, SC - The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society will hold its 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show 2014. Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd. (Exit 106A off I -26), Columbia, South Carolina 29210. Hours: Friday November 22, 10:00 - 7:00. Saturday November 23, 10:00 - 6:00. Sunday November 24, 12:00 - 5:00. Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale. Geodes sold & cut. Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, children sixteen & under are free with adult. All military & their dependants are free. Contact information is: Sue Shrader...Publicity...803-736-9317 ashrader@mindspring.com Fax 803-736-2578. Sharon Sterrett...Dealers...803-356-1472 ssterrett@sc.rr.com The society website is www.cgams.org



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.

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
June 17, 2014 @ 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

