

# Tar Heel Tailings

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

## Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Lapis Lazuli
- The Gemmys Awards

## Individual Highlights:

Prez Sez	1
Lapis Lazuli	1
Treasurer's Report	2
October's Business Meeting Minutes	3
The Gemmys Awards	6
AFMS Endowment Fund	7
Vug Sites:	7

## Prez Sez By Cyndy Hummel

Nominations and Elections will be the focus for November.

### Suggested slate of officers:

President – Cyndy Hummel,  
Vice President/Program Chair– Dan Cathey.

Secretary – Melissa Whitfield,  
Treasurer/Membership – Corinne Hummel,

At Large Committee members – Bob Bendelow & Linda Searcy.

Continued on page 3

## LAPIS LAZULI - A gem with history

### By Dave Gibson

Lapis Lazuli, commonly known as lapis. It was much prized and revered by the people of the world's first civilizations in Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, and the Indus Valley. Also, much prized by the ancient Greeks, Persian's and Romans.

In very ancient times it was known as Sapphire, a name now of course given to blue corundum(sapphire). The Royal Sumerian tombs at Ur, near the Euphrates river, which is now Southern Iraq, contained over 6,000 artifacts of Lapis carved as animals urns, bowls, vases, inlayed into board games and as beads and seals. In ancient Egypt it was a

symbol of royalty an connected to the gods and deities. It was carved into scarabs and amulets. It was powdered and used as eye shadow by Cleopatra and other Egyptian women of high status. The finest quality was used in the death mask of Tutankhamun.

The source of this ancient

lapis is the mines in what is now Badakshan in north East Afghanistan. These are the world's oldest known commercial gemstone mines.

Other major deposits are found in Russia, Siberia, near Lake Baikal and in the Andes mountains in Chile. Though there is no doubt that Afghan

Continued on page 4



Ultramarine was used in the Girl with the pearl earring

# ROCK ✓ THE VOTE

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

10609 Chelsea Drive  
Raleigh NC 27603

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(919) 779-6220

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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	
November	THG&M Club
<u>PROGRAM SCHEDULE:</u>	
November	Elections/Movie: Mount St. Helens

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

**November Treasurer's Report**

No Report

**December Birthdays**

- Carolyn Beck
- Gerald Cook
- Vicki & Joe Corporon
- Judy Fersch
- Karen Glaser
- Sarah Gray
- Obsidian Harris
- Becky Healy
- Janet Jones
- Chris Kyler
- Lorie LaRoe
- Michelle Macdonald
- John Rustad
- Claudia Sieminski
- Barbara Watkins

**November B-Day Members**

- Rick Baldwin
- Tara Bartal
- Catherine D Brittingham
- Dan Cathey
- Melissa Ellis
- Steve Glaser
- Karen Greene
- Scott LaBorde
- Jerry & Debbie Miller
- Shawn Pruett
- Richard Ryan
- Amber Shelton
- Tracy Soderberg
- Michael Troutman
- Kelsey 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. - October Meeting Minutes

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

Attendees = 31

### Opening of Club Meeting:

Meeting was called to order by Cyndy at 7:47.

### New Business:

After a short introduction on how to put together a grab bag, we began making grab

bags and eating! Things went quickly and we ended up with around 277 bags.

### Program:

Gary McCutchen did a presentation on how to file a claim. This mostly applies to out West where large tracts of public land are controlled by the Bureau of Land Management BLM. There are brochures that explain everything. Twenty acres per claim, roughly 600' by 1500'.

### Old Business:

After the presentation we looked at potential colors for our next T-shirt.

It was narrowed down to the forest green and burgundy (which tied). We will decide next time.

Birthday wishes to all our October birthday people.

It was decided that we would wait until next month for nominations.

### Door Prize:

## Prez Sez

Continued from page 1

### **Other non-elected positions:**

Newsletter Editor – George Harris,

Field Trip Chair – Shirley Green,

Webmaster – Melissa Whitfield.

As always, other nominations will be welcomed at the meeting.

### **Annual Show non-elected chairs are:**

Show & Dealer – Cyndy Hummel,

Geode – Greg Dillon,

ilent Auction – Jack Fried,

Demonstration – Obsidian Harris,

Refreshments – Gerald Beck,

Hospitality is **OPEN**.

A great big THANK YOU goes to Marion Broadway who has held this position for many, many years. She has summarized the duties for easy transition. We can either have one person as chair or co-chairs. Please volunteer to Serve the club in this fashion at the show. This area Must have a presence as club information is given here at the



Bob Bendelow won the drawing and chose a Hemimorphite specimen.

### Close of Meeting:

The business meeting was abbreviated because of how long the evening ran.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Respectfully Submitted

Walt Milowic,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

show. Also located here is - grab bags, free magazines, membership, T-shirt sales, daily raffle tickets, daily geode tickets and rock candy. This is the first booth visitors see as they arrive.

At the October meeting, we selected the 2 top color choices for the t-shirt. Our selections are burgundy and forest green. Be prepared to vote and select your favorite for the 40th Anniversary Show t-shirt for 2016.

Refreshments will be provided by the club as a "Thank you to club members" for your hard work in 2015.

### **RENEWAL FOR 2016**

Because of the difficulty in reading handwritten application forms, we are renewing a different way from this point forward. By the meeting night of the 17th, the application form on the website will be fillable. Please fill out this form by typing in the form, print it out and send the form and payment to the address at the bottom of the form. I will check with our webmaster Melissa to see if I can send this out as an attachment to the membership.

Cyndy Hummel

President,

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## LAPIS LAZULI - A gem with history

Continued from page 1

mines are the most important and produce the finest quality. On passing through this area in 1271 Marco Polo wrote "there is a mountain in this region, where the finest Azure (Lapis Lazuli) in the world is found.



The cloak of the Madonna was also painted ultramarine in renaissance times

In Renaissance times Lapis Lazuli was ground into a powder to produce the pigment ultramarine. It was much used by the old masters such as Leonardo De Vinci, Rubens and Michelangelo. Example of ultramarine is in the cloak of the Madonna.

In the early 1800's synthetic ultra marine was first produced and natural ultramarine from lapis fell out of use; although, it is still used in the restoration work of the old masterpieces.

The present day situation in the Afghan Lapis mines has not changed too much.

They are in a forbidding, isolated area of the Hindu Kush mountain range.

The Lapis is still brought out by mules through the Hindu Kush mountains. The mines can only be accessed and worked in the summer months. The lapis deposits are in the Kokcha valley where the peaks rise to over 6000 metres.

British Army Lieutenant John Wood, surveying the area, on behalf of the East India Company later wrote "If you do not wish to die avoid the valley of Kokcha."

Peter Bancroft, who personally visited the mines, wrote in his classic book "Gems and crystal treasures" (published 1984) -"The route to the lapis mines in the Kokcha Valley, is long, tortuous and dangerous. The lapis is mined on the steep sides of a long narrow defile. Only 200 metres wide and backed by jagged peaks that rise above 6000 metres. Sparsely populated and covered in snow for much of the year. The barren region is inhabited by wild hogs and wolves. The summer sun is scorching but the temperatures drop to below freezing at night.

With the Soviet intervention into Afghanistan in 1979 the center for the Lapis trade changed from Kabul to Peshawar as Kabul was under soviet control. The mines were under the control the Mujahideen anti Soviet fighters. Dealers said that buying lapis was a way of supporting the Mujahideen freedom fighters cause. The lapis was brought down through the Dorah pass to Chitral then onto Peshawar in the North West of Pakistan, where it ends up in an Namak Mandi gem market. Peshawar has been the center of the lapis trade ever since, maybe even more so than Kabul.

Lapis Lazuli is a rock made of several minerals including lazurite, sodalite, hauyne, calcite and pyrite. The composition is variable. It is a sodium calcium aluminum silicate.

It is debatable what the best colour of lapis is. Some people prefer a deep pure sky blue of intense colour, though most people would say a royal blue which may have a slight violet tinge with little or no pyrite.



Tutankhamun's death mask - finest quality lapis and no pyrite



Lapis from the Queens grave at Ur (about 2500bc).

Try these two links  
<http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/faculty/stsmith/classes/anth3/queenur.html>

<http://sumerianshakespeare.com/106901.html>

In metaphysical spiritualism stone represents the Brow Chakra also called the third eye which relate to attunement, intuition, psychic awareness, and cosmic wisdom. Some buddhists claim that it can be used to calm the mind and helps with meditation.



This is commercial quality, light colour with calcite.



A good piece, 72 grams



Source:  
 CONTACT : Dave Gibson. A collector in the UK.  
 My email is [davegibson46@rocketmail.com](mailto:davegibson46@rocketmail.com)

<http://www.mexicanamber.org.uk/lapis-lazuli.php>  
 ©All photos and texts are Copyright of David Gibson.

## The Gemmys – Rutilated Quartz Trillion

By Linda Searcy

I am finally published! My first ever facet cut rutilated quartz trillion in The Gemmys.

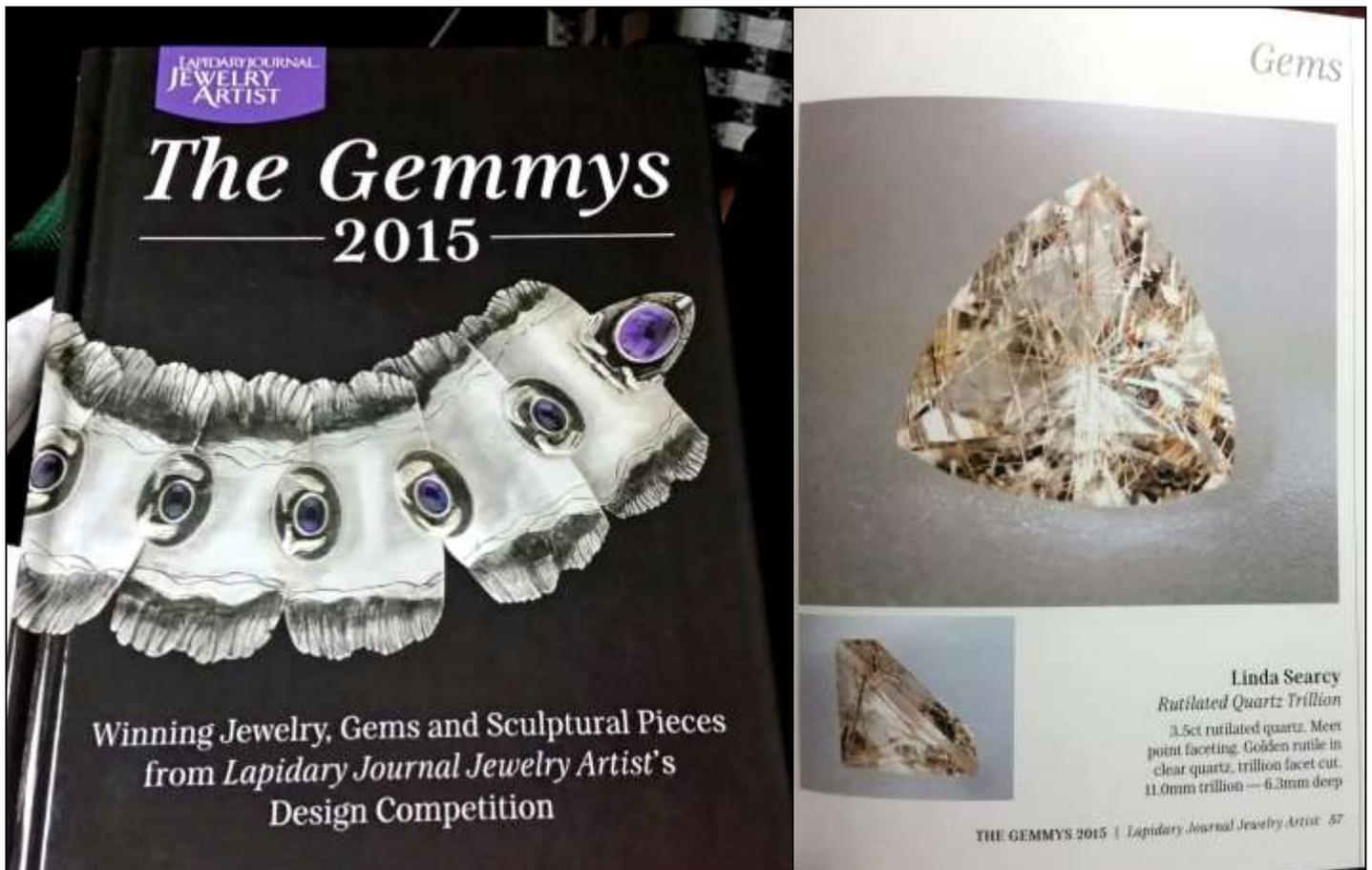
From the publication - introduction from the editors of LJJA:

"The Gemmys Jewelry Arts Design Competition is presented by Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist magazine and features the best in contemporary gem and jewelry art. From single pieces to suites, including non-jewelry metalwork and display

gems... Each of these works is representative of the unique artistry and commitment of gem cutters and studio jewelers worldwide..."

Linda Searcy

<http://www.interweavestore.com/the-gemmys-2015>



Gems

## The Gemmys 2015

Winning Jewelry, Gems and Sculptural Pieces  
 from Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist's  
 Design Competition

Linda Searcy  
*Rutilated Quartz Trillion*  
 3.5ct rutilated quartz. Meet  
 point faceting. Golden rutila in  
 clear quartz, trillion facet cut.  
 11.0mm trillion — 6.3mm deep

THE GEMMYS 2015 | Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist: 57

## AFMS Endowment Fund & EFMLS Annual Auction

By Larry Huffman, Region VI VP EFMLS

Welcome to another exciting year with the EFMLS!

If you all remember in the years' past I have requested the help of the Regional VPs in procuring donations for the annual auction.

Well, the same applies this year- However, this year I have been asked to Chair the AFMS Endowment Fund -

So you remember the ad for the chewing gum - double the fun!

In the past many of you have generously donated personally and I thank you and hope you will continue to support the annual auction-

In 2016 the annual auction is being held at Rochester, NY in the fall.

The 2016 AFMS Convention is being held in Oregon at the end of July-

For the AFMS fund, I need donations as soon as possible to have the pics uploaded to the website-

SO PLEASE- contact your clubs and ask for the donations

The Regional VPs who have clubs in both Federations should be asking them to donate twice for the AFMS!

Again, this year- any VP at the EFMLS Convention who brings in the most donations, will win \$25.00 to be used toward the hosting club's show!

Also, a big THANKS to Larry Huffman (Region 6) - he has already received donations for the AFMS and the convention...

As always - any question, please feel free to call!

I have attached my phone number.

Cheryl Neary

(516) 449-5341 cell

Please have the club members who wish to donate to either the EFMLS auction or the AFMS endowment fund please contact me for info on where to send the items.

Thank you,

Larry Huffman (828) 612-4469 cell

Region VI VP EFMLS

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**November 20 - 22, 2015: Columbia, SC** - The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society will hold its 47th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd. (Exit 106A off I -26), Columbia, South Carolina 29210. Hours: Friday November 20, 10:00 - 6:00. Saturday November 21, 10:00 - 6:00. Sunday November 22, 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. South Carolina amethyst on display. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, children sixteen & under are free with adult. All military & their dependants are free. Contact information: Sue Shrader...Publicity...803-736-9317 [ashrader@mindspring.com](mailto:ashrader@mindspring.com) Club website: [www.cgams.org](http://www.cgams.org)

**November 27 - 29, 2015: Salem, VA** - 36th Annual Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society Show. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Boulevard, Salem, VA 24153. Hours: Friday, Nov 27, 2015 - 2pm to 7pm. Saturday, Nov 28, 2015 - 10am to 6pm. Sunday, Nov 29, 2015 - Noon to 5pm. Hobby related exhibitors, Fluorescent Mineral Display, Club member displays, Geode Cutting. Door prizes drawn hourly. Grand Prize drawn 4:30pm Sunday. Admission \$4, ticket good for all three days. Children under age 16 free. Free Parking. Contact information: [CKWLT@aol.com](mailto:CKWLT@aol.com).

**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  
November 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

