

Tar Heel Tailings

Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Diamond the Size of a Tennis Ball Finally Sells
- Ancient 373.72-Carat Rough Diamond
- Venus: the world's largest flawless heart-shaped diamond

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

Prez Sez By Melissa Whitfield

Dear Members,

It's October and time for nominations already! This is a great time to think about using your talents to help out the club. Or if you know someone you think would make a great officer, talk with them and nominate them. Our Officers are critical for keeping the club running smoothly. And sometimes we take it for granted that some of our same hardworking people will fill those roles again next year. Talk to your current officers. Find out how you can help.

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Diamond the Size of a Tennis Ball Finally Sells

Continuing its mission to source exceptional stones, Graff said Tuesday that it has acquired the world's largest diamond following a year-long negotiation.

The diamond, named Lesedi La Rona, weighs 1,109 carats and is the size of a tennis ball. It was acquired by Laurence Graff, the company's chairman, for \$53 million from the chairman of Canadian mining company Lucara Diamond Corp.

It originally failed to sell at a Sotheby's sale held in June 2016.

Graff said his team of master craftsmen will work "night and day to ensure that we do justice to this remarkable gift. The stone will tell us its story, it will dictate how it

wants to be cut, and we will take the utmost care to respect its exceptional properties. This is a momentous day in my career."

The diamond is the largest rough diamond discovered in

the last 100 years. It was found in Botswana and, according to the Gemological Institute of America, it stands out for its quality and transparency.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tarheelclub.org

Program & Refreshments

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Loretta Turcotte
(919) 771-6366

October Linda Searcy

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

October Nominations, Grab Bags
November Elections

Remember, the club will reimburse you for up to \$85 (bring your receipts to the treasurer).

October Treasurer's Report

Aug. Ending /	
Sep. Beginning Balance	\$11,962.69

Deposits (+)	
Gem Auction	\$860.00
Members	25.00

Sub total	\$885.00

Checks Written (-)	
Newsletter	85.37

Sub Total	\$85.37

Sep. Ending /	
Oct. Beginning Balance	\$12,762.32

October B-Day Members

- Gerald Beck
- Brion Bromead
- Lynn Garabedian
- Brian Gray
- Eugene Homme
- Roger Ivey
- Larry Jackson
- Edwin Troy Lee
- Bruce McCall
- Joe Moylan
- Alan Santala
- John Sieminski
- Sean Snyder
- Dwayne & Alfredo Strange
- Troy Sullivan
- Ron Viles
- Melissa Whitfield



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. - September Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Attendees = 25

Opening of Club Meeting:

The President Melissa Whitfield opened the meeting at 7:30pm.



Program:

Fletcher McDonald, Micro-mineral Collecting and Preparation

- Micro-mount preparation - removing from host (use of diamond wheel on Dremel), pressure splitting, clean in ultrasonic w/Cascade
- micro-mount pedestal – animal hair, cork, wood, wire
- micro-mount boxes – paper, plastic, glass



Old Business:

Membership tag mineral ID, name of mineral to be revealed in October meeting. Wrong clue was provided early; therefore, even though a wrong answer was given, it will be accepted.

New Business:

Cyndy talked about the national show next year – AM Federation sponsored.

The following ideas were discussed:

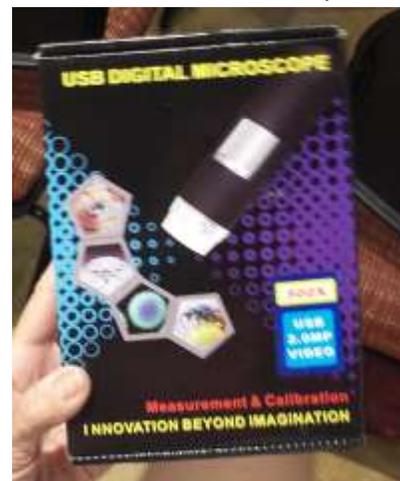
- Field trip for a large group
- Special T-shirts for show, pre-ordered with a limited extra supply to be available for vendors purchase option. What picture could be used - emeralds (state gemstone), sketch, outline? Need input from members.
- Banquet on Saturday night, need centerpiece for 5-10 tables that can be carried away. Any volunteers to make these? Show dates: April 6-8, 2018

Refreshments:

None

Door Prize:

Winner: Suzanne Love, USB microscope



Winner: Wade Wilson, Fluorite



Close of Meeting:

Meeting ended 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Searcy,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Prez Sez

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Maybe they would like to be nominated again, or maybe they are ready for a break and would like you to lead while they work with you. It's time to find out, step up, and keep our strong tradition of leadership going.

Thank you,
Melissa Whitfield
President
Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

Diamond the Size of a Tennis Ball Finally Sells

Continued from Page 1

Tobias Kormind, managing director of the online retailer of diamond jewelry 77Diamonds.com, said that the sale marks an important moment for Britain's heritage in diamonds.

"The only larger diamond previously unearthed was the 3,106-carat Cullinan Diamond, discovered in South Africa in 1905, and it was cut into smaller stones, the largest of which is the 503-carat Star of Africa, which sits in the Queen's Sceptre within the Crown Jewels. It's unlikely the Lesedi La Rona will yield a larger diamond than that, because the priority for Graff will always be quality, not size, but the stone could yield two pear-shaped diamonds of over 200 carats each," said Kormind.

"It is likely to be welcomed by Graff's core clients, who adore enormously dramatic jewels of historic proportions."

Earlier this year, the jeweler also acquired a 373.72-carat rough diamond that was originally extracted from the Lesedi La Rona rock, as well as the largest heart-shaped diamond in the world, which weighs 118.78 carats, or 23.5 grams.

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/graff-acquires-world-largest-diamond-153020476.html>

Graff Acquires Ancient 373.72-Carat Rough Diamond

By Natalie Theodosi

The diamond was sourced in Botswana and is said to be over 3 billion years old.



The diamond, which is classified as a D-color, was part of the Lesedi la Rona, the largest gem discovered in the last century. It is estimated to be 3 billion years old and it was created when Earth was still being formed.

Laurence Graff, chairman of Graff diamonds, said he and his team of gemologists and master cutters will now work at cutting and polishing the stone, which has the potential to yield a significantly large polished diamond.

"Every diamond has an inner script that we must read and respect," said Graff. "We will now spend time discovering the secrets of this magnificent stone. Knowing that nature has given us this extraordinary gift, we take on the great responsibility of releasing its inner beauty."

Last year the British jeweler also unveiled the Venus, the largest heart-shaped diamond in the world which weighs 118.78 carats, or 23.5 grams. It was cut from a 375-carat rough diamond and polished to ensure it has no fluorescence or colored glow over a period of 18 months.

Other significantly large diamonds acquired by Graff include the Constellation, a round diamond that weighs 102.79-carats and the Delaire Sunrise, a square-cut yellow diamond that weighs 118.08-carats.

<http://wwd.com/fashion-news/fashion-scoops/graff-acquires-ancient-373-carat-rough-diamond-10888420/>

AGE AND BEAUTY: Continuing its mission to source exceptional stones, the diamond jeweler Graff has revealed the acquisition of a 373.72-carat rough diamond sourced from Botswana's Karowe mine.

Graff unveils the Venus: the world's largest flawless heart-shaped diamond

By [Sarah Royce-Greensill](#)

Since founding his business in 1960, Laurence Graff has built a reputation for owning some of the [world's most exceptional stones](#) - gems so rare and notable that they deserve a proper noun title. Over the decades the [Graff](#) family has included the Golden Empress: a 132.55-carat fancy intense yellow diamond; The Perfection: an Internally Flawless, D-colour pear-cut diamond weighing precisely 100 carats; and the 102.79-carat Constellation, the largest round shaped, D-colour, Internally Flawless diamond ever to be graded by the Gemological Institute of America.

Referring to it as a "family" isn't far off the mark: Mr Graff remembers in great detail the journey behind every one of his notable stones; where they came from, the size of the rough, the painstaking process of cutting and polishing in order to achieve the perfection he's built his business around. And today Graff reveals the latest in its roster of mind-boggling gemstones: the Graff Venus, the largest D Flawless heart shape diamond in the world, weighing 118.78 carats.



The Graff Venus

Cut from a 357-carat rough discovered at the Letšeng Mine in Lesotho in 2015, it took 18 months for the stone to take shape. As with any rough diamond, it's impossible to know exactly what lies inside until cutting and polishing begins, so it was with trepidation that Graff's team embarked on creating this heart-shaped marvel. They had to develop new technology to cut and polish the Venus and the 22 other satellite stones yielded from the same piece of rough.

As always, Mr Graff prioritised perfection over size, instructing the polishers to shave a minuscule one-tenth of a carat off the original weight in order to achieve Flawless clarity: the highest possible grade. It's a practice he is renowned for: in 2010 he courted controversy by re-cutting the historic Wittelsbach-Graff diamond, reducing its weight by four carats and taking it from VS2 clarity to Internally Flawless.

In the case of the Venus, Graff's perfectionism paid off. As well as being a colourless D diamond, the Venus is classified as a Type IIa (attributed to only the top one to two per cent of diamonds in the world) with excellent polish, excellent symmetry and no fluorescence. "This is the most beautiful heart-shaped diamond I have ever seen," commented Mr Graff as he unveiled the stone at the house's Albemarle Street headquarters, admiring its overall shape and symmetry as well as the diamond's material properties.

A work of art in its own right as a loose stone, its fate is yet to be determined. Graff plans to showcase it around the world before setting it as a jewel. Its rarity and quality means it'll no doubt command a record-breaking price, but for now Mr Graff is happy to keep it in the family. "Sometimes there are stones that are so special we actually don't want to sell them straightaway," he says. "This is one of them."

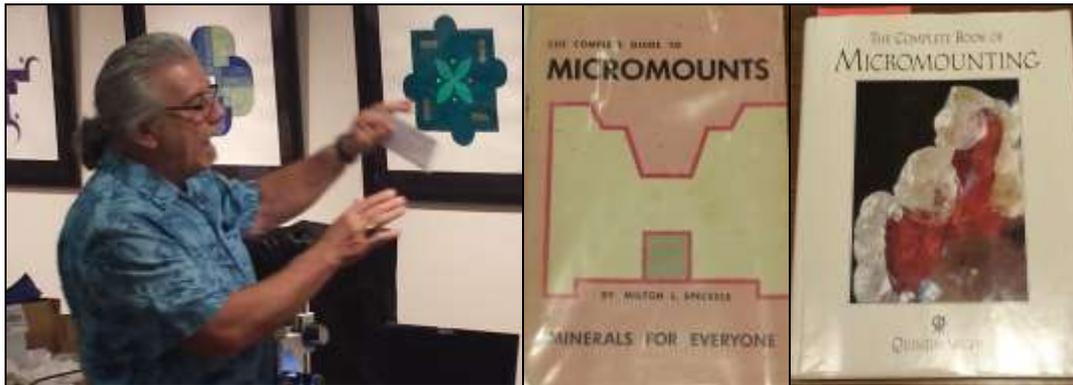
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/luxury/jewellery/graff-venus-the-worlds-largest-flawless-heart-shaped-diamond/>

Door prize - Fluorite

By Wade Wilson



When I won the raffle for the door prize, I chose the fluorite. I picked this stone because of its shape and color. The cubes on it almost look like a little city with scattered buildings, and I thought it would look really cool on display on my desk. The purple also looks great with the shape, so it's an overall good looking stone that I really like. Also, the label with the stone says it's from Mexico, so that adds to the rocks uniqueness because it is from a different country. The white calcite on the back of the stone is a good addition to the stones quality, which made me like it even more. Fluorite is used in tooth paste, which is sort of neat because I use it every day. Fluorite is commonly known for being fluorescent, but this one is a dark purple. Fluorite is also known for being one of the most colorful minerals.



What Micromounting Is

- Micromounting is the study of mineral specimens that require magnification to be appreciated. The typical micromount is a group of crystals only a few millimeters in diameter, mounted in a small box no larger than 1"x1.5"x1", properly labeled with species and location. Collectors study and enjoy their minerals under low-power (around 100X or less) stereo microscopes. Most specimens can easily be enjoyed with 10x to 45X.



UPCOMING SHOWS

April 6 - 8, 2018: Raleigh, NC – 42nd 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 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; www.tarheelclub.org;

November 24 - 26, 2017: Salem, Va - Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society 38th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd., Salem, Va. 24153. Hours: Nov 24th 2pm-7pm; Nov 25th 10am-6pm; Nov 26th Noon-5pm; ADMISSION: Three day admission ticket price \$5; Children aged 14 and under FREE. FOOD DRIVE to benefit the Salem/Roanoke County Food Pantry. Panning Sluice, Fluorescent Mineral Display, Kindness Rocks Project, Geode Sales, DOOR PRIZES, Videos and more! Contact Carol Messimer, ckwlt@aol.com

November 17 - 19, 2017: Columbia, SC - The Columbia Gem & Mineral Society will hold its 50th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. Hours: Fri. Nov. 17, 10:00 - 6:00; Sat. Nov. 18, 10:00 - 6:00; Sun. Nov. 19, 11:00 - 5:00; Address: Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd., Columbia, SC 29210. Admission: \$5.00 for adults, Sixteen & under free with adult. All military & their dependents free. Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale. Geodes sold & cut. Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations. Lots of fun for the whole family. South Carolina amethyst on display. Sponsored by The Columbia Gem & Mineral Society. Contact: Sue Shrader 803-736-9317; ashrader@mindspring.com; Dealers; Sharon Sterrett 803-356-1472; ssterrett@sc.rr.com; www.cgams.org

Vugsites

The following are some links to Web-Sites that may interest some of our members:

<http://www.tarheelclub.org> / <https://www.facebook.com/tarheelgemandmineralclub/> These are the official sites for the Tar Heel Gem & Mineral Club. I would strongly urge all members to check them out on a regular basis.

<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.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 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.

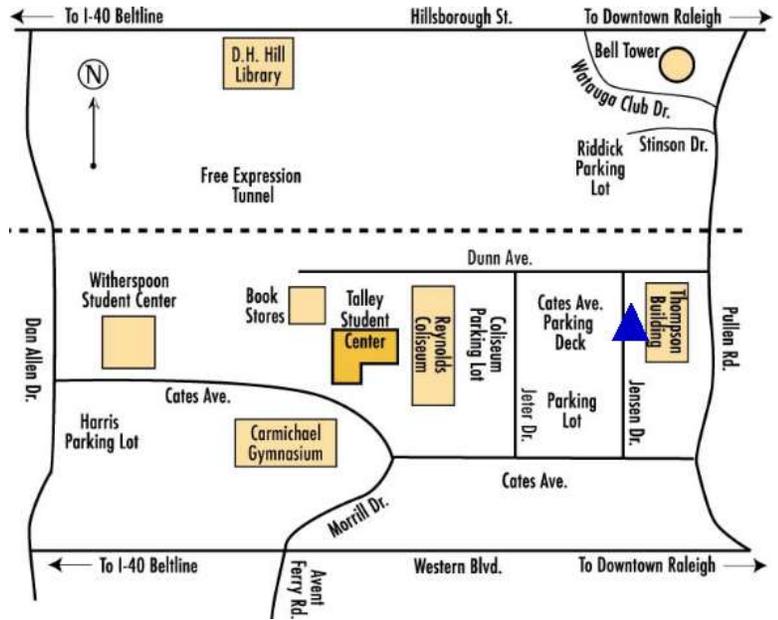
**Our Next Meeting is
October 17, 2017 @ 7:30PM
Thompson Building / NCSU Campus.**

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 club pursues these goals through publications, meetings, lectures, field trips, exhibits, demonstrations, and other activities.

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

