

# Tar Heel Tailings

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

## Special Interest Articles:

- Prez Sez
- Door Prize from August: Fluorite
- World Record Pearl
- Huge Gold Nugget
- M.A.G.M.A. Gem Show!
- Safety Matters

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## Prez Sez By Cyndy Hummel

We do need a refreshment volunteer for September. You may be reimbursed up to \$85 with proof of receipts. Contact the new refreshment coordinator, Loretta Turcotte.

Our presenter this month is Scott LaBorde, come find quartz crystals with him.

If you subscribe to Rocks & Minerals Magazine, check out page 458 of the current issue.



Photo by: Scott LaBorde

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## Door Prize from August: Fluorite By Sean Snyder

Fluorite is a fascinating very useful mineral from the halide family that has been in use for hundreds of years. Originally named fluorospar for its use as a flux in the smelting process. In iron smelting it was used to decrease the viscosity of slags. It is also a source of Later on in history it gives its name to the property fluorescence, which is the ability to emit light after absorption of the light or other electromagnetic radiation. It also gave its name to one of its component elements Fluorine. Which in turn makes up the compound fluoride.

It is formed in many

different isometric shapes but is usually found in a cubic shape and is prone to crystal twinning. It has four perfect cleavage plains. Its hardness is perfect 4 on the mohs scale of hardness making it the defining mineral for that level of hardness. Fluorite comes in a massive variety of colors and has been thought

of as, "the most colorful mineral in the world". It is allochromatic, which means it can be tinted with elemental impurities.

Mined in over 9,000 different localities it is a very sought after mineral for many different reasons.

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

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

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

**Program & Refreshments**

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE:

Coordinator: Loretta Turcotte  
[rosevilla@nc.rr.com](mailto:rosevilla@nc.rr.com)  
(919) 263-8523

September TBD

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

September Scott LaBorde: Quartz Collecting  
October Grab Bags AND (short) Program  
November Field Trip General Safety  
Session, Elections & Thank You  
from The Club

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

**September Treasurer's Report**

September Treasurer's Report

No Report for September

**September B-Day Members**

- James Adams
- Jim Bilau
- Eileen Breckstein
- Mike Franklin
- Mary Harbison
- George Harris
- Pat Jackson
- Randy Jones
- Gary McCutchen
- Susan McMillan
- Taylor Mitchell
- David Niederkorn
- Karen Santala
- Linda Searcy
- Collin Taylor
- Jackson welker



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. - August Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

Attendees = 57

### Opening of Club Meeting:

Meeting was called to order by Cyndy Hummel at 8:11pm

### New Business:

Loretta Turcotte has volunteered to be the refreshment coordinator.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies issued a refund of \$241 to our club due to accidentally overcharging us. The funds were especially appreciated since the Treasurer has had to dip into some of the club's rainy day funds to cover club costs.

### Program:

Ice Cream and Auction! Before officially starting the meeting we had an Ice Cream Social that included lots of yummy ice cream, awesome toppings, fruit, and desserts.

The Auction got started after all the club business and sales were brisk. There were so many great things to buy

that we ran out of time and will auction more items off at November's meeting.

### Old Business:

Julie Neidercorn has a birthday this month and when asked what she hoped to get out of the meeting she said "some money left after the auction!"

Jim Tunney is also celebrating a birthday this month.

### Door Prize:

Sean Snyder won the door prize and he picked a stunning Fluorite specimen from Mexico with unusual dark violet coloring. The door prize inventory has been restocked with some wonderful new pieces.

### Close of Meeting:

Cyndy called the meeting to a close at 9:30.

Respectfully Submitted

Melissa Whitfield,

Secretary, Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## Fluorite

Continued from Page 1

One such locality known as Castleton in Derbyshire, England is the source of the most sought after and famous variety collecting wise. It is known as Blue John and is a very deep purple blue color. Though it has been mined to near extinction and is only mined now in small amounts.

Lapidary uses for Fluorite are rather limited due to its relatively low level of hardness. It is primarily used for carving and ornamental use in this field. It can also be used to make beads and jewelry but not very often cause it prone to scratch easily.

Fluorite is very special optically as well in that it has very low light dispersion. Lenses for everything from camera's to telescopes are made from fluorite cause it shows low chromatic aberration.

### Fluorite Specifics:

**Color:** Typically purple, yellow, and green but also occurs in black, red, blue and clear.

**Streak:** white

**Luster:** vitreous

**Cleavage:** Four perfect planes

**Mohs Hardness:** 4

**Compositon:** CaF<sub>2</sub>

References:

[geology.com/minerals/fluorite.shtml](http://geology.com/minerals/fluorite.shtml)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluorite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluorite)

## Prez Sez

Continued from Page 1

Please give a huge round of applause to Joe Moylan, John Heinz and new club member Mark Davis. They arrived in Joe's truck on short notice to load up the equipment that was auctioned. We made more than \$3,000 with auction items last month. A detailed report will be in next month's newsletter. Remember, we still have rough, including opal to auction in November. This will be a combined Election & Auction evening.

Show dates for 2017 are March 31, April 1 & April 2.

See you soon,

Cyndy Hummel

President,

Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

## Fisherman kept 'world record' pearl under his bed for 10 years



Could this be the world's biggest natural pearl

A fisherman who kept the 'mother of all pearls' under his bed for ten years not realizing its immense value could now make millions from its sale.

The unidentified man caught the enormous 34kg pearl, which could be the biggest natural pearl ever found, ten years ago off the coast of Palawan Island, Philippines.



The gigantic pearl was turned over by a relative of a local fisherman

He didn't realize the potential huge value of the gem, if officially verified, before a relative showed it to an astonished local tourism officer.

The man kept the giant clam pearl in his wooden home for the past decade as a good luck charm, according to SWNS, and only move it when a fire forced him to leave his home.

It measures 61cm (2ft) wide and 30cm long, dwarfing the current world's biggest Pearl of Allah which weighed 6.4kg and is worth \$35million (£26m).

Tourism officer Aileen Cynthia Amurao said: "The fisherman threw the anchor down and it got stuck on a rock during a storm.

"He noticed that it was lodged on a shell and swam down to pull up the anchor, and also brought the shell with him. This was a decade ago and he kept it at home.

"He didn't know how much it was worth and kept it tucked away at home as a simple good luck charm."

She added: "We were amazed when he brought it to us. We now need help from gemologists to fully certify it. We're waiting for authentication from Gemologist Institute and other international authorities.

"But we believe Puerto Princesa is likely [to] earn another prestigious title and a record breaker for having the world's biggest natural giant pearl from a giant clam.

"We will keep this here in the Philippines and I hope it will bring more tourists to the city."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/24/fisherman-kept-world-record-pearl-worth-millions-under-his-bed-f/a>

Previous Record Holder: Pearl of Allah



## Prospector finds huge gold nugget

Johnny Lieu



"Striking gold" is mainly a term to express when someone gets really lucky nowadays, but by golly, someone has actually done it.

A 145-ounce gold nugget has been reportedly found in Victoria, Australia by a real life prospector and could be worth more than A\$250,000 (\$190,710) when it goes to auction. The big 'ol nugget has been named "Friday's Joy" on account of the day it was found.



My preciouses.

The anonymous prospector initially found a nine ounce tennis ball-shaped gold nugget two feet deep, returning the next day to see if there was more, [according to a statement](#) from metal detector manufacturer, Minelab. And alas, gold was struck. Eureka!

"About 12 inches below the ground, I could just barely make out the top of something. As I began to scrape away the clay and dig deeper, I really couldn't believe my eyes — this wasn't an old piece of steel in front of me," the prospector said in the statement.

"I had just unearthed a colossal gold nugget — a once in a lifetime find! I was in total disbelief as I didn't think nuggets of this size were still around."



The gold nugget is apparently now safely stowed away in a bank vault, but the prospector *did* hide it in their oven the first night after it was discovered.

"It's like catching a big fish and not knowing what to do with it! Where do we put it? I washed it in water, covered it in aluminium foil and kept it in my oven on the first night," they said, now planning to purchase a van and travel Australia with their newfound wealth.

## 5th Bi-Annual M.A.G.M.A. Gem, Mineral and Fossil show!

September 16th – 18th, 2016

Camp Stephens, Clayton Road, Asheville, NC

Indoor Vendors:

John Sinclair: Meteorites and other rocks from space!

Henderson County Mineral and Lapidary Museum: Gems, minerals and fossils from the USA and around the world!

Holman's Enterprises: Gems, minerals and fossils and faceted stones from the USA and around the world!

Luther Hunt Minerals: Gems, minerals and fossils from the USA and around the world! Specializing in southeastern minerals.

Carl & Sandee Barton: Gems, minerals and fossils from the USA and around the world!

Ron Seaver Minerals: Gems, minerals and fossils from the USA and around the world! Specializing in southeastern minerals.

Jacquot & Son Mining: Gems, minerals and fossils from the USA and around the world! Specializing in southeastern minerals.

Bob Roth Minerals: Gems, minerals and fossils from the USA and around the world! Specializing in southeastern minerals.

Which Way Mining: Gems, minerals and fossils from the USA and around the world! Specializing in southeastern minerals.

Morgan's: Gems, minerals and fossils from the USA and around the world!

There will also be numerous outdoor vendors.

If visiting from out of town:

For those who would rather stay in a hotel in the area, there are several hotel/motels 3.5 miles from the show at the I-26 exit. For more info on these motels:

Country Inn and Suites: 845 BREVARD RD, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 670-9000

Rodeway Inn and Suites: 9 Wedgefield Drive, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 670-8800

Fairfield Inn and Suites: 11 Rocky Ridge Road, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 665-4242

Hampton Inn: One Rocky Ridge Road, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 667-2022

Comfort Suites: 890 Brevard Road, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 665-4000

The show will be held at Camp Stephens in the pavilion where we have the roundup each summer and the gem show in March. This will be a three day show, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Vendors will be selling rocks, gems, minerals and other hobby

related items. There will also be displays of gems and minerals by the club members. The show is open to the general public and all are welcome to attend.

Admission: Free

Hours:

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday

This is an indoor/outdoor event and will take place rain or shine.

This show is open to all clubs, rockhounds and the general public.

Directions: Take exit 33 off of Interstate 26 East just outside of Asheville NC. Go west on Brevard Road/Hwy. 191. Drive 3.5 miles to Clayton Road on the left, turn left and drive 2/10ths of a mile to the entrance to Camp Stephens on the left. You will see a large GEM SHOW sign at the entrance. If coming from Interstate 26 West, take the Long Shoals Road exit, turn left on Long Shoals Road, then right onto Clayton Road, the show will be at the end of the road on the right. Look for GEM SHOW signs. 263 Clayton Road, Arden, NC

Outdoor vendors welcome, cost is \$12 per table for the weekend, bring your own tables.

More information, contact me at [rick@wncrocks.com](mailto:rick@wncrocks.com) or call 828-779-4501

## Safety Matters – Let the Chips Fall Where They May

by Ellery Borrow, Safety Chair



Yes, in most instances letting the chips fall wherever they may is about all we can do. When it comes to our hobby, however, we often try to exercise what I call – chip control.

Most of our lapidary work creates both large and small chips during the various activities of that work. Faceting, cabochon and sphere making, slab and trim sawing, and even some carving are usually performed wet using water, treated water, or oil. Wet work captures the dust and small chips, and together fall to the bottom of the pan—instead of entering the air we breathe. Working wet is a form of chip control. Some lapidary operations, notably carving, are done dry with any dust and small chips captured and diverted using some kind of fan, hood, and ductwork. This too is a form of chip control.

Many activities in our hobby produce a different kind of chip—a large chip. A chip whose flight, direction, velocity, and momentum are of concern and determine how we manage chip control. Large chips are produced when a rock pick strikes a rock, when a sledge/crack hammer impacts a chisel, when a rock is tossed aside and lands on another rock, and even when a bucket of rocks is upended.

Chips are also produced by seldom noted processes. For example, at shows I have noted demonstrations of geode cracking, with some using a chain and cutter, and cast iron pipe cutters to crack the geodes. I have seen a hydraulic and screw type matrix/specimen trimmers produce chips. Pretty much every operation to alter, separate, or play with the form of a hard rock produces chips.

How do we perform chip control, especially with those large chip-producing procedures? First, we must protect ourselves with proper safety gear such as gloves, long pants and shirt sleeves, eye protection, and whatever other protective gear is appropriate for the situation. Now, personal protective gear is all good and well, but what about the safety of others? Shielding an area by positioning your body or using a glove to capture chips; create a barrier using collecting buckets, screens; and sequestering an area are some answers.

(adapted from the A.F.M.S. Newsletter 2016;vol 69: No. 8)

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**Sep. 30 - Oct 2, 2016: Dallas, NC** - 38th Annual Gaston Gem & Mineral Show. The show is located at Gaston County Park on Hwy 279(1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy). It is located 1/2 mile off 321. There is a sluice. We sell buckets of sand with minerals and great other items in them. Hours: Sep. 30 - Oct 1: 9:00-6:00; Oct 2: 9:00-5:00. Admission is free. hourly raffles, Grand prize drawn Oct. 2 at 5:00. We offer geodes, wire wrapping, quality gemstones, fossils, minerals, faceted stones, makings, cutting material, jewelry. Our website is <http://gastongemclub.weebly.com/>

**Nov. 18 - 20, 2016: Columbia, SC** - The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society will hold its 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd., Columbia, SC 29210. 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. Hours: Fri. 10:00 - 6:00; Sat. 10:00 - 6:00; Sun. 12:00 - 5:00. Admission: \$5.00 for adults, Sixteen & under free with adult. All military & their dependents free. Contact: Sue Shrader 803-736-9317; ashnader@mindspring.com. Dealers; Sharon Sterrett 803-356-1472; ssterrett@sc.rr.com. <http://www.cgams.org>

**Nov. 25 - 27, 2016: Salem, VA** - Roanoke Valley Mineral and Gem Society annual show; Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Boulevard, Salem, Va. 24153; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 25, 26, 27. Hours, 2pm – 7pm Friday; 10am – 6pm Saturday; 12pm – 5pm Sunday.; Admission \$5.00 good for all 3 days; Door prizes, Fluorescent mineral display and new this year a video room showing videos about rocks and minerals. Door prizes, grand prize drawn Sunday at 4:30pm; Contact: Mark Hodges [markh5@cox.net](mailto:markh5@cox.net)

**March 31 - April 2, 2017: Raleigh, NC** – 41<sup>st</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 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);

**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](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.

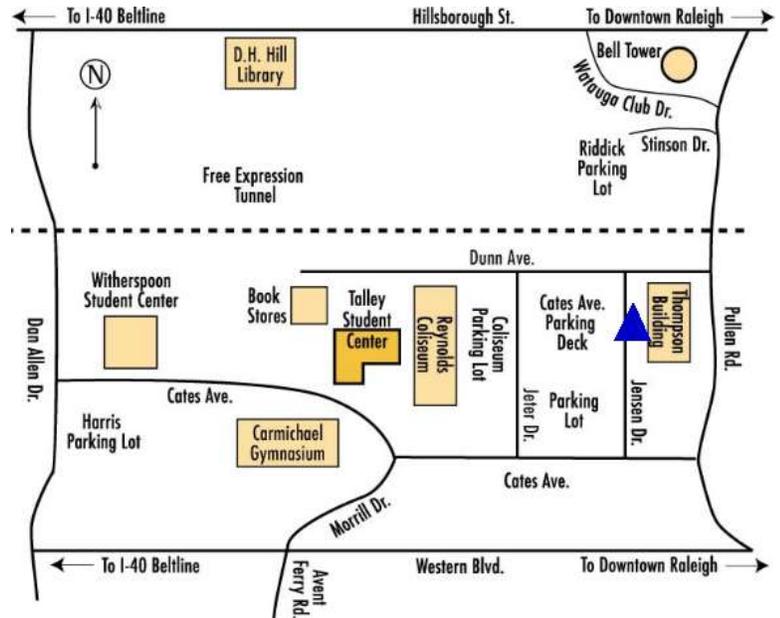
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

**Our Next Meeting is  
September 20, 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  
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