

# Tar Heel Tailings

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

## Special Interest Articles:

- President's Report
- NC Farm Produces Largest Cut Emerald Found In North America
- Upcoming Events

## Individual Highlights:

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## President's Report

Hello All,

I hope all our coastal members and friends were able to dodge any serious harm from Hurricane Irene. For a Category 1 storm she sure made her presence felt all along the East Coast. We can only wait and see what the rest of the September storm season may bring.

For the September meeting we have a guest speaker who, I believe, will be talking about

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## NC Farm Produces Largest Cut Emerald Found In North America

Emery P. Dalesio | AP

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/31/north-carolina-farm-emerald\\_n\\_700329.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/31/north-carolina-farm-emerald_n_700329.html)

An emerald so large it's being compared with the crown jewels of Russian empress Catherine the Great was pulled from a pit near corn rows at a North Carolina farm.

The nearly 65-carat emerald its finders are marketing by the name Carolina Emperor was pulled from a farm once so well known among treasure hunters that the owners charged \$3 a day to shovel for small samples of the green stones. After the gem was cut and re-cut, the finished product was about one-fifth the weight of the original find, making it slightly larger than a U.S.

quarter and about as heavy as a AA battery.

The emerald compares in size and quality to one surrounded by diamonds in a brooch once owned by Catherine the Great, who was empress in the

18th century, that Christie's auction house in New York sold in April for \$1.65 million, said C.R. "Cap" Beesley, a New York gemologist who examined the stone.

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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: Jeanette Baugh (919) 522-9044  
[villagegems@yahoo.com](mailto:villagegems@yahoo.com)

September Walt Milowic  
October Cyndy and Corinne Hummel  
November Jerry and Deborah Miller

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

September Jeff Schlotman – Emerald Mining  
in North Carolina (Actual Footage Included)  
October Open  
November Open

We really appreciate the refreshments at our meetings. A big thank you to everyone volunteered and to all who brought something to the Ice Cream Social. We need to start thinking about next year's meetings. Please pick a month and sign up with Jeanette at this meeting. You can be reimbursed up to \$40 for volunteering to bring refreshment to a meeting.

Thank you, Jeanette Baugh

**July/August Treasurer's Report**

June Ending /  
July Beginning Balance \$15,997.34

-----  
Checks Written (-)  
Newsletter 58.15  
Storage with discount 93.00  
Stamps 530.47  
-----  
Sub Total \$681.62

-----  
Deposits (+)  
Members \$30.00  
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Sub Total \$30.00

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July Ending /  
Aug. Beginning Balance \$15,350.49

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Checks Written (-)  
Staples \$35.00  
Wildacres 25.00  
Rocks /Raffle 520.00  
Same " " 50.00  
Newsletter 155.32  
Storage 93.00  
-----  
Sub Total \$878.32

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Deposits (+)  
Left over from Rocks \$29.00  
Grab bags/teaching 21.00  
Members 35.00  
Tee Shirts 40.00  
-----  
Sub Total \$125.00

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Aug. Ending /  
Sep. Beginning Balance \$14,597.17

**September B-Day**

Members

- Jim Bilau
- Annava Bozick
- Eileen Breckstein
- Mitzi Broadway
- George Drakulic
- Mike Franklin
- George Harris
- Pat Jackson
- Randy Jones
- Karen Santala
- Lexi Todaro



Membership applications may be mailed to:

Tarheel Gem & Mineral Club  
Attention: Treasurer  
10609 Chelsea Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603

## Tar Heel G & M Club August Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

The meeting was opened at 7:40 by Joe Moylan.

Joe introduced visitors and broke for ice cream before it melted. Walt read the minutes. Dennis motioned that the minutes be accepted and Corinne seconded. Joe asked if there was any old business. Nothing was brought up.

Being no old business, Joe read an email from James Sasser. He has a big parcel of land where Howell Woods Environmental Learning, part of Johnston Community College, is having their second annual open house called Howell Woodstock. Our group is invited to participate on the 2nd Saturday in November. There are booths available. Many events are for kids. It's a one day, rain or shine outdoor event. There are also take nature tours.

Joe also talked about updated rules from the BLM and USFS concerning rock hounding on public lands and the many limitations being proposed. In the Lodestone SFMS website you can read about the new proposed rules for rock hounding, etc, on public lands. The rules for rock-hounding may be changing drastically. Someone asked what we could do, like signing a petition?

There was an SFMS annual meeting and Joe asked about the last time we sent a representative. It had been a while since a member attended regularly.

Fredora offered to take care of advertising with SFMS, Gem and Mineral, etc.

## President's Report

Continued from page 1

North Carolinas State Gemstone, the Emerald. I know we all will be interested in that!

Following the program we will hold a quick auction for the Vibra Tumbler donated to the club by an old member. Bidding will start at \$200.00.

Bob Bendelow has located and purchased a couple of Geiger counter units that the club may be interested in buying. If you have any rock specimens that you have been wondering how radioactive they might be, this will be an opportunity to test them. Several members will be bringing specimens to test. I am very curious to see just how "hot" some of our specimens are?

## NC Farm Produces Largest Cut Emerald Ever Found In North America

Continued from page 1

While big, uncut crystals and even notable gem-quality emeralds have come from the community 50 miles northwest of Charlotte called Hiddenite, there has never been one so big it's worthy of an imperial treasury, Beesley said.

"It is the largest cut emerald ever to be found in North America," Beesley said in a telephone interview from Myanmar, an Asian country rich in precious gems.

"It is the largest cut emerald ever to be found in North America," Beesley said in a telephone interview from Myanmar, an Asian country rich in precious gems.

The discovery is a rarity for emeralds found not in the rich veins of South America and Asia but in North America, said Robert Simon, owner of Windsor Jewelers in Winston-Salem.

"Most of the stones that have come out have not been gem-quality that I would mount in jewelry," said Simon, who was part

Dennis mentioned that maybe the club should purchase a Geiger counter. Joe mentioned that a Geiger counter for the club would be a great idea. Walt said that he had just purchased one that may be good for club, something to be discussed at the next meeting.

Greg Dillon talked about the Gold Prospectors Association of America. GPAA. On October 29-30, they are having a show. Details will be in the club newsletter.

Club T-shirts were available for anyone in the back corner during the meeting.

There is a napping demonstration in Rutherford County on September 13th.

Joe did the drawing for the door prize and Mike Franklin won again! He's waiting for the new specimens to come in before he chooses.

The September meeting program is by Jeff Schlotman who will be speaking about Emeralds in NC.

Mickey Broadway made a motion to close and Debbie Miller seconded. Joe closed the meeting at 9:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Milowic

I hope some of you have been able to get to some of the other local club shows that have been taking place recently. Feel free to write a report about what you saw and did and let us all know how you think our club show compares to what you've seen. It's never too early to do work on the show! As a matter of fact I think we will be making Grab Bags at the October meeting so be getting your Grab Bag donation specimens ready to go!

Look for information about the Rocks Trading Post Annual Rock Swap coming up October 01 in this newsletter.

See You at the Meeting,

Joe Moylan

owner of a 7.85-carat, dime-sized emerald found in the same community in 1998 that has since been set in jewelry and sold to a private owner.

Terry Ledford, 53, found the roughly 2-inch-square chunk rimmed with spots of iron a year ago on a 200-acre farm owned by business partner Renn Adams, 90, and his siblings. The rural community of Hiddenite is named for a paler stone that resembles emerald.

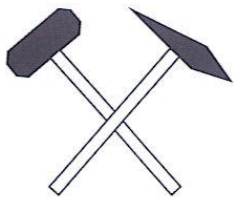
"It was so dark in color that holding it up to the sun you couldn't even get the light to come through it," a quality that ensured an intense green hue once the stone was cut with facets that allowed light into the gem's core, Ledford said.

**For More Information, go to:**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/31/north-carolina-farm-emerald\\_n\\_700329.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/31/north-carolina-farm-emerald_n_700329.html)

**Upcoming Events**

**The Rocks Trading Post 11th Annual Tailgate Rock Swap and Shop**



**THE ROCKS TRADING POST**

PRESENTS THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**Tailgate Rock Swap**

Sponsored by Royce Reeves.

Trade or sell gemstones, minerals, fossils, lapidary equipment, and jewelry crafted by the vendor. There is no charge for the set-up space. There are a few tables available but bring your own if you can.

Handmade knives, rough rock, crystals, slabs, lapidary equipment and jewelry (only those pieces handcrafted by the seller) are welcome.

Randy Jones will be there with his large collection (over 80 varieties) of gem slabs for you to choose from.

**CONTACT:**  
 Royce Reeves  
 1-919-542-6112 or  
 1-919-542-2700 or  
 Randy Jones  
 1-434-753-9368  
 Email: [Email: doublersajf@netzero.net](mailto:doublersajf@netzero.net)  
 Web: [www.ncgems.com](http://www.ncgems.com)

The Rocks Trading Post  
 535-A Old Sanford Road  
 Moncure, NC 27559

**DIRECTIONS:**  
 From Pittsborough take 15-501 S.  
 2 miles bear right on old Sanford Rd.  
 Go 1/2 mile and swap is on the left.  
 There will be signs.

**Saturday, October 1, 2011  
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

The Rocks Trading Post will host the 11th annual Tailgate Rock Swap to trade and/or sell gemstones, minerals, fossils, lapidary equipment, and jewelry (if crafted by the vender).

There is **NO CHARGE** for the space. We have a few table available, although you may want to bring your own.

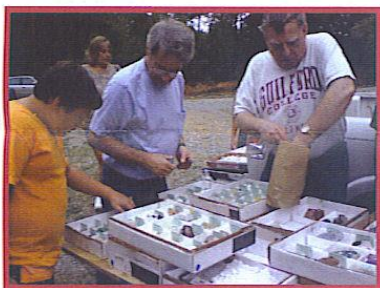
Hot dogs, drinks and baked goods will be for sale, provided by Chatham UMC Youth Group, and free face painting for kids!

**Please let us know if you plan to attend by detaching the lower portion and mailing it to:**

The Rocks Trading Post  
 535-A Old Sanford Road  
 Moncure, NC 27559

**Or contact us by:**

Phone: (919) 542-6112 • House: (919) 542-2700  
 Email: [doublersajf@netzero.net](mailto:doublersajf@netzero.net) • Web: [www.ncgems.com](http://www.ncgems.com)



I plan to attend THE ROCKS 11th Annual Tailgate Rock Swap on October 1, 2011.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

### Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

- 8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 7, 2011
- 8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 8, 2011
- 8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 9, 2011

"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during 2011. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

#### Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

Mark your calendar and tell all your friends about this great event!

**THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL.  
NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP!**

#### Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)

**Lots of Graves Mountain information, including reports and pictures, may be obtained on the Georgia Mineral Society website: <http://www.gaminer.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>**

### Graves Mountain code of conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area(at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).
- **CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION!**
- **ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.**
- **The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.**
- **Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)**
- **STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!**
- **NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!**
- **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)**
- **EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)**

**DIRECTIONS:** From Washington Georgia, drive 11 miles on SR-378, or from the Hardee's in Lincolnton, Georgia, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR-378. Look for a sign at the entrance to Graves Mountain on the south side of the road.

#### Motels and Camping:

Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Georgia, 706-359-6161  
Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-3124  
Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275

**Please protect our ability to field collect at Graves Mountain! Report Violations to: Clarence Norman Jr., 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)**  
All reported violations will be held in strict confidence.



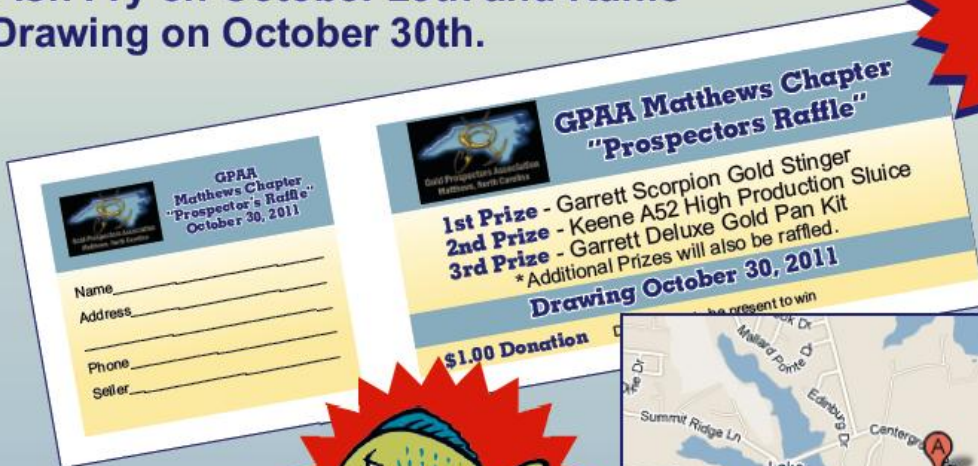
Gold Prospectors Association  
Matthews, North Carolina

Division of Gold Prospectors Association of America

# October Gold Festival

October 29th and 30th, 2011

Enjoy a day of Gold Prospecting, Panning, Sluicing, Highbanking and Metal Detecting. Fish Fry on October 29th and Raffle Drawing on October 30th.



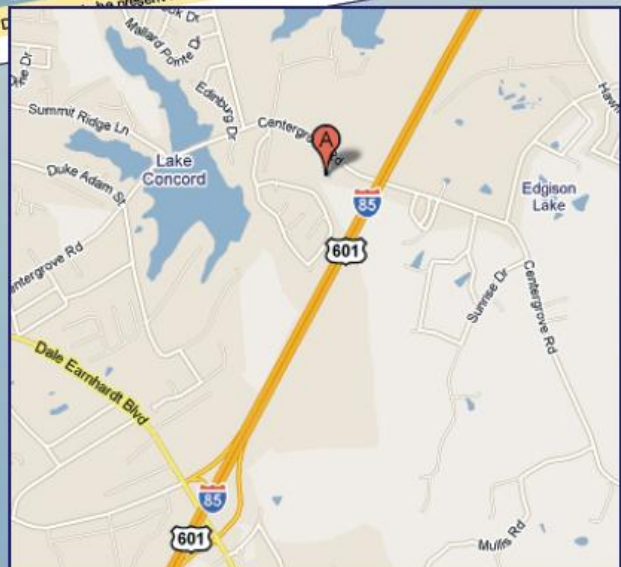
GPAA Matthews Chapter "Prospectors Raffle" October 30, 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Seller \_\_\_\_\_



## Contact

GPAA Matthews Chapter  
2554 Centergrove Road  
Kannapolis, NC 28083  
Glenn Coleman, Pres.  
704.299.2808  
GPAAmatthews.com



## UPCOMING SHOWS

Sept 30—Oct 2, 2011: Dallas, NC. Gaston Gem, Mineral & Faceters Club. Show & Swap, Resource Center, 1006 Biggerstaff Park, Dallas/Cherryville Highway, Dallas. Free admission. Hours: 9-6 each day. Contact Showchair Jackay McDaniel at (704) 865-6748

Dec 10-11, 2011: Franklin, TN. Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show and Sale, Williamson County AgExpo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN 37064. Hours: Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5. Admission \$4 (2-Day Pass \$6.00), students 18 and under \$1, children under 12 free with adult. Show contacts: John Stanley, Show Chair, (615) 885-5704 or Steve Henegar, Dealer Chair, (615) 714-3194. Email contact: [show@mtgms.org](mailto:show@mtgms.org) <http://www.MTGMS.org/Show.htm>

### Pictures from This Year's Ice Cream Social



### Pictures from This Year's Show and Tell at the Ice Cream Social



## 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.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](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.

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.

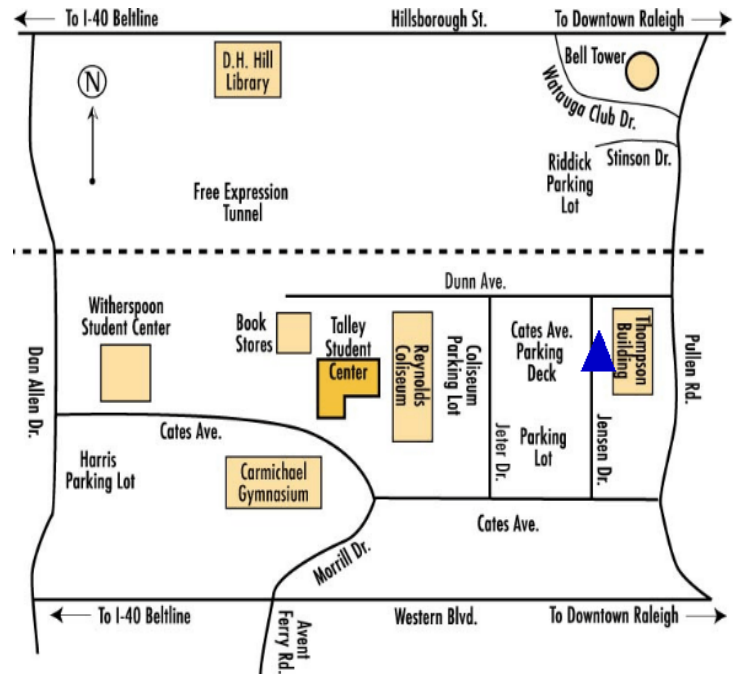
Park in the Cates Ave. Parking Deck off Jensen Dr. Enter Thompson Building directly across from the parking lot.

# Our Next Meeting is September 20, 2011 @ 7:30PM Thompson Building / NCSU Campus.

## 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**  
10609 Chelsea Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27603

