

METEORITES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES: RE-EXAMINATION AND RECLASSIFICATION. R. C. Tacker¹, S. Singletary² and D. Lawver¹. ¹North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC, 27603. ²Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC, 28301.

Introduction: The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCMNS) is located in Raleigh, NC and houses a wide variety of exhibits, collections and research programs related to the Natural Sciences. A group of fourteen meteorites comprise part of the Museum's holdings. All of the meteorites were found or observed to fall in NC. Several specimens are on display in the museum and all are available for research. Here we present the results of a collaboration with faculty at Fayetteville State University (FSU) to re-examine (and if necessary, reclassify) the NCMNS meteorite collection.

History: The Geology Collection began with the collections of the North Carolina Geological Survey, which predates the Museum's founding in 1879. Samples have been added sporadically by purchase, trade and/or collection, principally by former Curator Harry Davis. The last effort to classify and curate these is unknown due to a twenty-three year hiatus between curators. Currently, the Collection is curated by Dr. Chris Tacker who is overseeing this re-examination of the meteorite collection as part of an effort to re-invigorate and showcase astromaterials research in North Carolina.

The Collection: The collection contains fourteen specimens with several notable members. The collection contains six stony meteorites, and eight iron meteorites. The jewel of the collection is the Moore County Euclite while the largest is the 75 kg Uwharrie iron. Five meteorites are on permanent display in the Museum: Uwharrie, Farmville, Moore County, Rich Mountain and Deep Springs meteorites.

Specific problems are apparent. A meteorite listed in Museum records as "McDowell County" (found May 1921) may be the same meteorite as Wood's Mountain (found 1918); "McDowell County" is given as a synonym in the Catalogue of Meteorites. The Deep Springs meteorite is an ungrouped iron and several iron meteorites are listed only as NiFe bearing in the museums records.