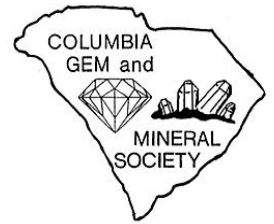




Rocky Trails



March 2025

Volume 19 Issue 3

The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all continuing and new members. We had a very well attended February meeting with many new faces. The board would like to thank all who volunteered to help with the various committees. We look forward to making new friendships with all of our new members. I am looking forward to presenting a program on plant evolution based on the fossil record for our March meeting. Please plan to attend. You will be rewarded.

Casey Tyler, our fieldtrip coordinator, is working on some special fieldtrips for our club members. He is wanting to plan a trip to Mt. Ida Arkansas for quartz crystals and would like to get ten members to attend so he can arrange group rates for the crystal collectors. He will share information on this trip at our March meeting. If you have never been, this is a great fieldtrip were everybody finds crystals!

Board members have been very busy looking for a new workshop location. We have several very interesting prospects that could be good fits for our club. If you read through the Board Meeting minutes in this issue of the Rocky Trails you will understand the effort that is being made especially by Cheryl Coker and Tom Stidom. When you see these folks at the March meeting, be sure and thank them for the work they are doing. Also, if you know of property that could be acquired for our workshop, please let Cheryl know about it.

As previously stated in the February, Sheila Fram is ready to hand-off the board position of membership committee chair. Sheila has graciously performed the duties of this position for many years as well as other club duties. When you see Sheila at the March meeting, please talk to her about this membership position. Remember, the best way to be a member is to participate in the club activities!

Finally, if you know anyone who wants to join the club, there is a membership form at the end of this edition.

Stay in touch,
Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

March 17, 2025

Socializing and refreshments at 7:00 pm.
Meeting at 7:30 pm.

The March 2025 CGMS meeting will be held at **Hope Church** located at 2609 Seminole Road. It is off Broad River Rd. and is easily accessible from I-26 or I-20. Use the side door (close to the main part of the parking lot). We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not come into Hope Church before 6:30 pm, as we are not allowed in before that time.

PROGRAM:

Ron Ahle will give our program. Ron, a retired biologist from South Carolina Natural Resources, is going to talk about the evolution of plants as indicated through the fossil record.

Gary Hert will provide door prizes.
Meaghan Westfall & Bri Tribbett will provide refreshments.

Executive Meeting

March 24, 2024

Dinner: 6 pm, Meeting: 7 pm

Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd.,

West Columbia. Members are welcome to attend. Only executive members can vote.

About the Programs

In **March**, Ron Ahle will give our program. Ron, a retired biologist from South Carolina Natural Resources, is going to talk about the evolution of plants as indicated through the fossil record. He will talk about the earliest plants from pre-Cambrian seas to the amazing diversity found today. Ron has visited many fossil sites where plant impressions and fossils are found and will show a few of the fossils he has collected.

In **April**, Kim Cochran will give us a mineral presentation. His talks are very informative and usually involves hands on specimens. For **May**, Cindy Lee will give a presentation on shells and in **June** we will have a silent auction of items from collections that were donated to the club plus an opportunity for members to sell items from their own collections.



Pecopteris fossil fern tree branch collected on a CGMS fieldtrip to Durham Coal Mine in Northwest Georgia
(Ron Ahle collection)

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2025, Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on February 17th, 2025, at Hope Church. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Patricia listed the currently unoccupied positions in various club committees and asked if members, especially new or young members, would please volunteer for any open positions. Sheila Frame would like to step down as membership chair, so the position is open. Please volunteer if you are interested. Steve Coker would like to pass on the website duties. The historian and social media positions are open.

Old Business: Angela Valvasori mentioned that she would like help with the Instagram for the club. New club member Asif Bhuiyan volunteered to help. Carol Elliot mentioned that the social media platform Blue Sky is also popular with young people, and that maybe we could make an account for the club. Angela also mentioned that she would like to pass on the show chairperson position or split it with someone. Olga Yukhno volunteered to work with Angela to jointly lead the show committee.

Field Trips: This Saturday, 2/22/25, there is a field trip to an Augusta area mine with the Aiken Club that has room for 7 club members to attend. March 8th starts Graves Mountain public weekend. On March 8th, there is also a Dixie Mineral field trip to Hogg Mine in Georgia. A club trip to Arkansas is being planned for the week of March 26th to 31st, tentatively. It would be an 11-hour drive. Some of the mines visited would be Wegman Mine and Ron Coleman Mine. Please see Casey Tyler after the meeting if you are interested in any of the trips so that he can get a headcount! Dee Iurcovich reviewed a field trip to Emerald Hollow Mine. There were displays out for the club to learn more information. They did have some salted material, but were very good at telling you what was from the property and what wasn't. It was very educational, and they did very well. Emerald Hollow was a great, kid friendly place to visit.

Programs: Ron Ahle gave a program rundown and mentioned that the club is trying to nail down programs for the year. In March, Ron is giving a presentation on the evolution of plant life on earth based on the fossil record. In April, Kim Cochran will give a presentation. Cindy Lee from the Palmetto Seashell Club will be giving a talk on seashells and seashell art in May. In June, the club will have a silent auction with donations from past members and the public. If you would like to sell anything, you can donate the proceeds to the club or keep the cash for yourself.

New Business: The Augusta/Aiken gem show is March 7th, 8th, and 9th.

The club handed out door prizes. Tom and Patricia Stidom and Ron Ahle brought door prizes. After door prizes were handed out, the club spent time looking at the show and tell rocks, and voting on the prettiest and ugliest rocks:

Prettiest Rock:

1st Place: Casey Tyler, Larimar

2nd place: Carol Elliot

Ugliest Rock: Charlie Wentzel, Empty Can (Aluminum)

Patricia Stidom adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsley

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2025, Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly board meeting on February 24th, 2025, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd. Members in attendance were Jim Cobb, Ron Ahle, Steve Coker, Cheryl Coker, Sheila Frame, Gary Hert, Sharon Sterett and Sophie Grimsley. President Patricia Stidom was unable to attend, so Vice President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Vice President: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Ron Ahle gave the treasurer's report for Angela Valvasori, who was out of town. The audit of the club's finances was completed and looks good.

Membership: Sheila asked if there were any questions on how the membership spreadsheet is organized. She gave a small demonstration of the membership spreadsheet, including how to access past years' membership list. You can also sort by the reported interests, status of dues, etcetera. Ron asked Sheila if there was a way to sort out past members who have not been members in a while to be able to remove them from the Rocky Trails e-mail list. Sheila says this is done partially already and folks who are unpaid for 2024 are on the list, but they are cut off after April.

Programs: Sue Schrader is not here, so Ron Ahle gave a rundown of the presentations for the next few months. Ron is giving the presentation next month in March about the history of plant life on Earth based on the fossil record. Kim Cochran will be giving the presentation in April and Cindy Lee from the Palmetto Seashell Club will give a presentation in May. June will be a silent auction.

Gary Hert asked who will be taking care of Kim Cochran when he comes to speak? Typically, someone takes him out to eat and we find him a hotel room for him. Last time, he was reimbursed for a hotel room. Sharon said that Sue notified her the last time an out-of-town speaker, Walt, was in town so she is still on top of it.

Show Committee: Olga Yukhno has volunteered to split the show chairperson position with Angela Valvasori this year. Jim mentioned that he is excited there are new members getting involved. Angela will be sending out a notification for the first show meeting. Steve asked to be sent information about the show when it is available so he can post it to the website.

Workshop: Gary has been giving a few cabochon classes for some new members. He also mentioned that he has talked with Olga, and she will need some more info on her volunteer position. The workshop needs a few new trim saw blades, around \$8 each. In addition, budget approval is needed for geodes. Gary made a motion to authorize approximately \$3000 to purchase geodes for the show. Sophie Grimsley seconded. All were in favor. Gary mentioned the geodes come from Mexico, and Ron and Steve mentioned that it may be wise to purchase the geodes before tariffs go into effect. Gary mentioned that cartels have affected the geode claim in the past, which is why prices went up 10% for the show last year.

Field Trips: Casey was not present at the meeting, so Ron gave a rundown of some trips that are coming up. Ron says that the Hot Springs Arkansas trip is in the process of being planned. The Dixie Mineral Hogg Mine trip is on March 8th, and the Graves Mountain open the same weekend.

Sunshine: Jesse and Abby are doing okay. Patricia and Tom are sick and missed the meeting. Sheila would like to relinquish membership and take over sunshine duties.

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES (continuation 1)

Newsletter: Ron stated that he will try to get the newsletter out sooner. Jim thanked Ron for his great work on the newsletter. Cheryl asked if the Workshop Location Committee could possibly be added to the newsletter.

Workshop Location: Ron stated that the constitution is being reviewed, and we could add an ad hoc committee for workshop location to it. Cheryl mentioned that it is currently a special committee. If it is in the constitution the Committee Chair for Workshop Location would be a voting member. Sharon stated that the bylaws might state something about how it should be done. Steve suggested that a Facilities Committee could be added so that facility maintenance could be easily managed in the future. Ron said that this is a good idea, but we should cross that bridge when we get there. Steve also mentioned that a Facilities Committee could be in charge of meeting locations every month. Ron said that we can consider adding things during the constitutional review, but adding the position of Workshop Location Committee Chair in the newsletter it would need to be addressed in the constitution. Cheryl said what she was trying to accomplish was having a point of contact so that members could reach out if they have any location ideas. Ron said that he can add contact info to the newsletter easily if Cheryl sends him the language. Gary mentioned a location that has been considered in the past that has been dropped by \$10,000. It is basically 3 storage units. Cheryl mentioned there is no heating or cooling. Gary mentioned that bathroom/plumbing and electric is laid out, just no fixtures, so it would need to be finished. Some concern is that it would be lots of area to heat and cool and may be expensive. The location is somewhere near Arcadia Lakes. Steve mentioned that we should put a list of desired amenities of locations in the Rocky Trails so that people know what we are looking for. Cheryl mentioned she is looking for around 1,000 square feet but is not sure the attributes we want have ever been written down. The board then brainstormed a few attributes that would be wanted:

- half acre or more
- around 1000 square feet
- plumbing, electricity, and parking
- Steve suggested writing a required criteria list and a “wants” list and also asked about safety. Cheryl stated she would like area for parking with some overflow or street parking.

Cheryl has been researching mobile offices as a lower cost option. They are often called mobile offices/ trailers and a company she researched, Wolcott, leases them. One has a bathroom that is ADA compliant and was made in 2021. Wolcott does delivery, repair, and tie downs with a high estimation of \$30,000-\$32,000 for a 720 square feet (60x20 feet) mobile office. They have some larger ones as well and all would be sturdy enough to support workshop machines. The widest available is 14 feet wide. Hoover building has also supplied estimates for a 30x36 feet (a little over 1000 square feet) building. They would pour a concrete slab, build, and do a little bit of insulation, but the property would need more insulation, sheetrock, a bathroom, electric, and HVAC. The cost for the Hoover building would be \$40,000. This will be placed on an empty lot, but we would still need to run a water line, sewer line, electrical, and plumbing would need to be put in before the concrete is poured. Gary stated that he thinks the \$40,000 price tag seems like a lot. Sheila stated that a mobile office would be easier and up and running a lot faster. It could also be liquidated very quickly. Ron said with a big enough property we could put a picnic shelter or some outdoor area in addition to whatever building we decide. Jim mentioned shipping container homes, which Cheryl has looked into. Cheryl mentioned there are some small homes available on Amazon for around \$35,000, too. Gary mentioned his workshop building which has no plumbing or electrical was \$10,000 to build. It's not on a slab, with no wheels, just a building shell.

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES (continuation 2)

Cheryl asked about the disclosure of brokerage relationship she sent to board members and wondered who had not reviewed it. Cheryl described the history of the document, and explained how signing the document allows Cheryl to go ahead and start sending out listings to everyone on a “collaboration center.” Jim Cobb and Sophie Grimsley signed the document and returned it to Cheryl who also signed.

New Business: Patricia wants to create a social media committee to coordinate outreach efforts. Steve suggests making it a Communication Committee to cover all the social media and show advertising, etc. Ron said that in the bylaws now, Webmaster and social media is a single position. Angela has mentioned that these should remain separate, but Ron and Steve think webpage should be underneath a Communication Chair so that all the messages are consistent. This position would involve coordinating lots of different people, and there were concerns with how this would work.

Historian: position open.

Auctioneer: Ron stated that there will be a silent auction in June. There have been no recent collection donations to the club, but there is plenty of material.

Librarian: No updates.

Rookie Rockhound: Not active. Ron mentioned that this committee is not in our constitution, and that if there's no one excited about running it, perhaps we should eliminate it. Sheila mentioned that there was one person interested in it, but we would need to reach out to them. She mentioned that it was a program that was good for kids with badges and more activities. Ron mentioned that we don't need to include it in the updates list every meeting because the committee is not currently active. Jim acknowledged this point and tabled the topic.

Social Media: Patricia may want to create a committee for social media. Asif volunteered to take over the Instagram account. Terry Gregory, a new club member and retired IT guy, has offered to take over the website duties. Sue runs the Facebook page and group, and her son Scott helps her do it.

The club discussed more new business: The fourth Monday in May is Memorial Day. Patricia suggested moving the executive meeting to June 2nd. Ron said we have in the past been able to meet on Memorial Day and sees no reason why it should be moved. Jim will take the comment back to Patricia.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsley

Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Special Board Meeting Minutes about Possible Workshop Locations - Monday March 3, 2025

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held a special meeting on March 3, 2025, over Zoom. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present on the call were Patricia Stidom, Tom Stidom, Jim Cobb, Casey Tyler, Ron Ahle, Angela Valvasori, Steve Coker, Cheryl Coker, and Sophie Grimsley.

This meeting was called to discuss a possible workshop location located at 3721 Highway 321 in West Columbia, SC. Tom presented information about the property: It is 73 acres of which we can buy 1 or 2 (or 1-1/2) acres, it is 10 minutes from I-26, has one 4,000 sq. ft. metal building with a level concrete floor, and one mobile office building (24x30 feet). The metal building has lots of trash that would take a few days to remove. The price was discussed and the fact that Cheryl Coker would negotiate the price on the Club's behalf. Tom is interested in leasing 2,000 square feet at the back of the building for his use. It was recognized that the trash would need to be removed, and the building fixed up, electrical wires run, and it may need plumbing as it is currently hooked up to a septic tank. Tom offered his help and the help of other people he knows to clean up and fix up the building.

Cheryl verified that all parties could access the listings that she was sending out.

The group discussed having the building and property inspected prior to closing on any purchases. We want to ensure there is no hazardous material so inspection would include soil testing. This would be done as part of the due diligence period after an offer is made.

The group discussed the cost and logistics of cleanup, and the team agreed that we need to estimate the cost of cleanout and repairs prior to making an offer to purchase.

Cheryl emphasized that if this property does not work out, we have other options. She sent a list of other available properties to the executive committee, and this list will update automatically as new properties become available. She is planning to see another location this week. It was also agreed that others interested in seeing the Highway 321 meet there on Saturday March 8.

The Workshop Location Committee, headed by Cheryl Coker, is actively looking for a location to buy (or lease) for our workshop. Recent executive committee discussions on this subject can be found in the meeting minutes. We need a property zoned commercial. Members, please keep your eyes out for properties you see as you are driving around. It can be a building or a vacant lot for sale, or a building containing lease space. The goal is to purchase, but we are looking at leasing as a back-up if we can't find a property that fits our budget. Cheryl Coker can find out the price of the property. If you have any tips, call Cheryl Coker at her number in the roster or email tips to: CGMS.workshoplocation@outlook.com.

The meeting ended at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsley

South Carolina State Museum

301 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201
803-898-4921

<http://scmuseum.org/events/upcoming-events/>

Hours of Operation: Mon: CLOSED; Tue – Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 to 5 p.m.

Marian McPartland: Under the Stars, Thurs., March 20

Tickets: \$30 General Public & \$24 Museum Members

A decade after the passing of jazz legend Marian McPartland at the age of 95, her influence continues to resonate. The State Museum and the ColaJazz Foundation invite you to an evening celebrating the beloved host of NPR's "Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz." A jazz trio will perform a selection of her own compositions alongside works by the jazz giants who inspired her.

Planetarium and 4D Theater Shows

Advance online ticket purchases are encouraged, especially if you wish to see planetarium and/or 4D shows

Coastal Predators: A 4D Experience®

NEW SHOW! Dolphins, sharks, whales, and seals converge to feast along the breathtaking South African coast in this great spectacle brought to life by high octane action, 4-D effects and stunning visuals.

Turtle Odyssey 4D

Discover the unique traits and fascinating behaviors of one of Earth's most ancient and majestic creatures: sea turtles. Join baby Bunji, an Australian green sea turtle, as she navigates the dangers of life at sea, growing into a thriving adult along the way. The remarkable reptile encounters sharks, octopus, whales and more on her beautiful journey thousands of miles through the depths of the oceans in Turtle Odyssey 4D.

Museum Special Exhibit:**Apollo 16 & Beyond: South Carolina in Space**

Explore the Apollo 16 lunar mission and the historic moonwalk of SC astronaut Charles Duke. In addition to featuring many Apollo 16 objects, the exhibition will also highlight South Carolina scientists and engineers who have contributed to the field of aerospace research and exploration.

Make Some Noise:

The Science of Sound engages guests of all ages in an interactive world of sound! Explore the way sound travels, how humans and animals hear sound, learn about the process of making instruments, and more.

News Worth Digging Up

Underwater Fossil Bed Discovered by Collectors Preserves Rare Slice of Florida's Past

Date: February 12, 2025

Source: Florida Museum of Natural History

About half a million years ago, several horses, sloths and armadillos fell into a sinkhole in Florida's Big Bend region and died. The sinkhole filled in with sediment over time, preserving the animals. Fossil collectors Robert Sinibaldi and Joseph Branin discovered them on their fossil hunting dive trip in the Steinhatchee River in June 2022. Branin noticed horse teeth, then they uncovered a hoof core, and then a tapir skull. The finds continued, many in pristine condition. They knew they had found an important site. As the Steinhatchee River meandered over time, it eroded into the sink hole, exposing the fossils along the riverbed.

They shared their findings with the Florida Museum of Natural History, where paleontologists determined the fossils were preserved during an obscure period of the Pleistocene called the middle Irvingtonian. The fossil record everywhere was lacking from this interval. From the many fossils just before and after, paleontologists know that some species from the early Pleistocene went extinct, and some went through changes in body size and shape during this time. One example is a member of the now-extinct genus *Holmesina*, which resemble modern armadillos, only larger. The fossils from this site offer a rare look into how the process of speciation took place, with ankle and foot bones that match the size of the newer, larger *Holmesina septentrionalis* species while retaining features of the older, smaller *Holmesina floridanus* species. (photo below)

Three-quarters of the 552 fossils recovered so far from the Steinhatchee River site belong to an early species of the subgroup of currently living horses. This provides a good sample size to measure and make comparisons and provide information about the environment.

The Steinhatchee River site, like many of Florida's great vertebrate fossil sites, was not found by professionals. Hobby fossil collectors work with experts to expand the collective understanding of Florida's natural history.

Story Source: [Fossils of animals that fell into the sink hole](#) provided by Florida Museum of Natural History. Original written by Jiayu Liang.

Journal Reference: Richard C. Hulbert, Rachel E. Narducci, Robert W. Sinibaldi, Joseph R. Branin. **An Equus-Dominated Middle Pleistocene (Irvingtonian) Vertebrate Fauna from Northcentral Florida, USA.** *Fossil Studies*, 2024; 2 (4): 294 DOI: [10.3390/fossils2040014](https://doi.org/10.3390/fossils2040014)



Holmesina fossils arranged in a partial reconstruction of the animal's foot.
Florida Museum photo by Kristen Grace

The Club is selling T-shirts at meetings this year!

We have two colors available, one tie-dyed (seen below) and one black. We have sizes ranging from medium to XXL currently available. If you can't make it to the meetings and would like to get a T-shirt, contact one of the officers in the club. We have limited supplies so don't wait!

**News From SFMS from Cindy Reed, SFMS Loadstar Editor**

Here's the link for the March edition of the SFMS Lodestar, the newsletter for the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies: [Lodestar 2025-03.pdf - Google Drive](#)

The schedules for the SFMS Workshops at William Holland and Wildacres are available. Most classes still have openings. The exceptions are Intarsia, Opals, Wire I at William Holland. To register for a class or to get more info, visit <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/>

Social Media Helps our Club Stay Social!

CGMS website: www.cgms.rocks

Facebook, Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066320452494>

Facebook, Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Group:

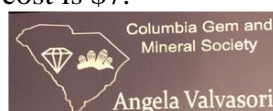
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/322192978738281/>

Instagram: Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. ([@cgms_rocks](#))

Please like/follow our Facebook and Instagram pages and share posts

CGMS Name Tag

Would you like to have a CGMS name tag? To obtain one, contact Irmo Trophy by email so they have the correct spelling of your name. Tell them you are requesting a Columbia Gem and Mineral Society name tag. The cost is \$7.



Irmo Trophy Co.

irmotrophy@gmail.com

5430 Old Bush River Rd., Columbia, SC 29212
803-798-3735

AREA SHOWS

To verify the accuracy of a show date, go to the show's website or contact them directly.

March 15-16, 2025...GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Gaston Gem and Mineral Club; Gastonia Farmers Market, 410 E Long Ave; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; contact Bob Winstanley; Email: GastonGemAndMineral@gmail.com; Website: gastongemclub.weebly.com

March 14-16, 2025...MARIETTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway; Fri. 10-5:30, Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; contact BJ; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

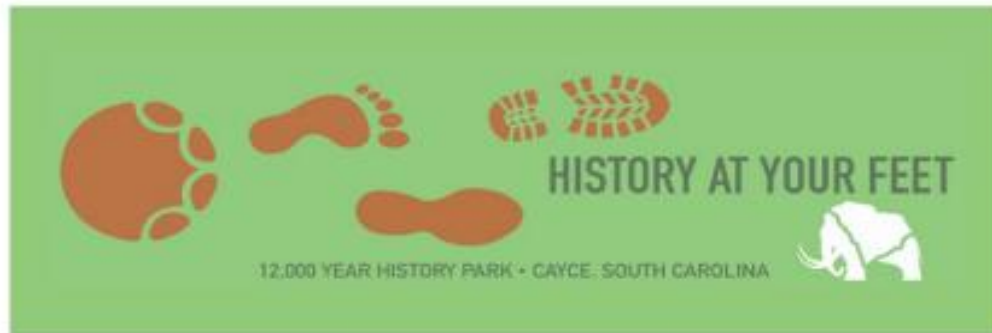
April 5, 2025... HENDERSONVILLE, TN: Middle Tennessee Rockhounds; 10th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Festival; Saturday, April 5, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM CST; Elevate50 at 197 Imperial Blvd, Hendersonville, TN; Free Admission and Parking; Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Slabs, Rough, & Gem Vendors, Education & Demonstrations/
Link: <https://rockhound.org/swap/default.htm>

April 12, 2025...APOPKA, FL: Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society "Circle Up Swap Meet". 1937 Lakeville Road Apopka Fl 32703; April 12, 2025, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Rock clubs and individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell, and swap anything LAPIDARY related. Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped or sold. Limited to 50 spaces. Outdoors in the circle under the trees; \$40 per 12'x20'space You bring your tables, tent and chairs. No electricity provided. Rain or shine event. For more information contact Nancy Allman, 407-739-0051 or email faceittoday@gmail.com.

April 26-27, 2025....ORLANDO, FL: Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society; Saturday April 26, 2025 show time is 9AM - 5PM, Sunday April 27, 2025 Show Time 9AM - 4PM; Admission fee: Ages 16 and up is \$6.00, Kids 6-15 \$3.00; Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806; Enjoy demonstrations, kid activities, door prizes, and silent auctions. Please visit the many vendors offering gemstones, minerals, crystals, and handmade jewelry for purchase.
Link: www.cfmgs.org

April 26, 2025... Marietta, GA: Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society Annual Spring Rock Show and Swap. Free event! 10am to 4pm Saturday April 26th rain or shine. We will have outside dealers and demos in our lapidary shop. 516 West Atlanta Street, Marietta, GA 30060.
Link: www.ccgms.org

May 3-4, 2025....Hixson, TN: Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Society; Rock Your World: A rock and mineral ,jewelry and fossil show and sale. 10 am-4pm eastern each day. 25 + vendors, rocking fun events for the kids, ongoing demonstrations, educational displays, door prizes. Free admission and parking. Chester Frost Pavilion, Chester Frost County Park, Hixson TN 37343.



12,000 Year History Park: Spring 2025 Tours

February 15: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM

February 22: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 1:00 PM

February 23: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 2:00 PM

March 1: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 1:00 PM

March 8: Native American Lifeways Tour, 1:30 PM

March 15: No Tours

March 16: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 2:00 PM

March 22: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 1:00 PM

March 29: Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM

April 6: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 2:00 PM

April 12: Native American Lifeways Tour, 1:30 PM

April 19: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 1:00 PM

April 20: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 2:00 PM

April 26 : Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM

May 3: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 10:00 AM

May 10: Native American Lifeways Tour, 1:30 PM

May 17: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 1:00 PM

May 18: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 2:00 PM

May 24 No Tours

May 31: Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM

Red text indicates Sunday Tours

Tours start at entrance to park just beyond the Cayce Tennis Center, 1120 Fort Congaree Trail in Cayce. Free parking at dirt lot to left just past the Tennis Center.

For any updates, please visit our website at cayce12000years.com or follow us on Facebook!; (803)-739-5385.

Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year _____

(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)

<https://www.cgms.rocks>

Check one: MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual \$25 _____ \$13 _____

Family \$30 _____ \$15 _____

Jan 1 July 1

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone(s): _____

Email Address: _____

For those with privacy concerns: If you do not want your home phone or physical address published in the Club Roster please circle or highlight: No phone No address.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Spouse and children under 18 yrs. living at the same address.

Spouse: _____ Birth Date: _____

Child: _____ Birth Date: _____

Child: _____ Birth Date: _____

Child: _____ Birth Date: _____

Child: _____ Birth Date: _____

CLUB PARTICIPATION: Please indicate which committee you can help with:

Field Trips__ Membership__ Newsletter__ Programs__ Social__ Faceting Guild__

Workshop__ Show Chair__ Publicity__ Sunshine__ Rookie Rockhounds__

May we call on you to work with a Board Member on a committee or project? _____

Make checks payable to: Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (and) mail to: PO Box 6333
Columbia, SC 29260

Previous Membership in another Mineral Society? Club _____

Have you held an office in another club? Club/Office _____

Do you collect minerals and/or fossils? _____

What lapidary skills and interests do you have? _____

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society is an organization of persons associated together to promote popular interest in and to provide means for the exchange of knowledge of the Earth Sciences – Geology, Mineralogy, and Paleontology – and of the related Arts – Lapidary and other. The Society is a member of the Southeast Federation Mineralogical Societies Inc. and an affiliate of the American Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc.

2025 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President..... Patricia Stidom.
 Vice President..... Jim Cobb.
 Treasurer..... Angela Valvasori.....
 Secretary..... Sophie Grimsley.....

COMMITTEES

Membership OPEN
 Auctioneer..... Ron Ahle.....
 Club Liaison..... Jim Cobb.....
 Faceting Guild..... Tom Daniels.....
 Facebook..... Sue Shrader
 Field Trip..... Casey Tyler.....
 Historian..... OPEN
 Librarian..... Sheila Frame.....
 Newsletter Editor..... Ron Ahle.....
 Program..... Sue Shrader.....
 Show..... Angela Valvasori/Olga Yukhno.....
 Sunshine Abbie Gates.....
 Website..... Steve Coker.....
 Workshop..... Gary Hert.....
 Workshop Location Special Committee.... Cheryl Coker.....



CGMS Website

Please visit our website:

<http://www.cgms.rocks>

Webmaster: Steve Coker

Monthly Meeting

The meetings are held the third Monday of each month. Socializing and refreshments at 7:00 pm; Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Executive Board Meetings:

Except for January, the meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month. Meal is at 6:00 pm. Meeting is at 7:00 pm.

**Rocky Trails
PO Box 6333
Columbia, SC 29260**