



Rocky Trails



January 2025

Volume 19 Issue 1



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all continuing and new members. This year we will be using the Hope Church for all of our monthly membership meetings thanks to the good work of Mandie Wenzel and the executive board in developing an MOU between CGMS and the Church. A good reason to make the January meeting is that Walt Kubilius will be giving a presentation on quartz veins and pegmatites. Walt will be able to shed light on the origins of many of the minerals that club members have been digging during club sponsored fieldtrips for the past twenty-five years!

The Gem Show was a great success thanks to all the efforts made by volunteers! A special thanks goes out to those who went above and beyond the call of duty in show preparations including but not limited to Angela Valvasori, Patricia and Tom Stidom, Gary Hert, Terri Tokaz, Pat and Jim Carter and Mandie Wenzel. Please give them a big thank you for their very gracious contributions. A debt of gratitude goes out to all who assisted at the show. Just ask any volunteer, it is no simple task to make our show successful. A message to all who volunteered: There will be a drawing to award two scholarships to William Holland or Wild Acres lapidary schools at the upcoming January 20th meeting.

There have been some changes in our officer positions for 2025. For starters, Patricia Stidom will be our new President and Jim Cobb will assume the Vice-President position. Please extend a warm welcome to Patricia and let's help her make this a great year for our club. Most of the remaining officer and chair positions will remain the same as last year for now. Several of the committee chairs have requested to be replaced including the positions of membership and show chair. These are important positions for our club and the board will be asking for volunteers from the club members. Please consider volunteering for these positions.

Finally, if you know anyone who wants to join the club, there is a membership form at the end of this edition. Let's have a great 2025 starting Monday night!

Stay in touch,
Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

January 20, 2025

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

The January 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:

Walt Kubilius will present a program on "Quartz Veins and Pegmatites". He will describe the differences between them, and how they form. Walt Kubilius is a geologist who retired from Savannah River Site in 2019. At Savannah River his work concerned groundwater contamination. As a young man he worked in the mining industry in Alaska, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Nova Scotia.

Sue Shrader will provide door prizes.
Refreshments will be provided by Angela Valvasori.

Executive Meeting

January 27, 2025

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 Program

Walt Kubilius is a geologist who retired from Savannah River Site in 2019. At Savannah River his work concerned groundwater contamination. As a young man he worked in the mining industry in Alaska, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Nova Scotia. Walt is a long-time member of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Club and President of the Aiken club. I have had the pleasure of knowing Walt for many years and assure you he knows geology! His presentation to the CGMS is entitled Quartz Veins and Pegmatites, and will describe the differences between them, and how they form. This presentation will inform us about how amethyst occurs at places such as Diamond Hill and why aquamarine is found at the Ray Mine in North Carolina. This will be a presentation you will not want to miss.



Aquamarine from pegmatite at Ray Mine and Amethyst from Quartz Veins at Diamond Hill
(Ron Ahle collection).

News From SFMS from Cindy Reed, SFMS Loadstar Editor

Happy New Year! Here's the link for the January edition of the SFMS Lodestar.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kBU9bQwi5c864NE_SequktajquqMjYym/view?usp=sharing

Rockhound Roundup info and app can be found on page 21. We have several great articles this month. So be sure to check them out.

There is an updated summary flyer of the classes offered during the SFMS workshop week at William Holland. You can find more info and registration at <https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/> We're still waiting on the dates for Wildacres.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 24, 2024, Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on November 24, 2024, at Hope Church. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM. Jim thanked Dee Iurcovich for bringing door prizes and welcomed new members.

Jim introduced the nominees for officers for 2025. Jim asked the membership for officer nominations. The slate of nominees is Patricia Stidom (President), Jim Cobb (Vice-President), Angela Valvasori (Treasurer) and Sophie Grimsley (Secretary). With no other nominations the membership approved the slate of nominees. Ron mentioned that there are many committee and non-officer positions that need to be filled. Sheila Frame would like someone to fill her role as membership chair. Please contact officers in the club if you would like to help.

Constitutional Amendment:

Sheila Frame explained the amendments to the constitution:

- Removed the extra \$1 for the first-time membership fee so that new members pay the same as current members
- The new member price will be pro-rated by the ½ year instead of quarterly

There was a motion to vote on these changes was made and seconded. All were in favor.

Show Committee:

The show is this weekend. Set-up starts at 9:30 am on Thursday, feel free to come early. There are 5 display cases; 4 have been filled by members. The grand door prize was donated by Sue Shrader. The club will be selling T-shirts for \$25 each. Thursday night is the dealer dinner. Please sign up for food items to bring and there will be chafing dishes available to keep food hot. Dinner will be at 6 pm at the Jamil Temple. Please label any items that you bring. Terri Tokaz discussed volunteers and passed around the volunteer schedule. She asked everyone to take note of what time slots and jobs they were signed up for. Front desk jobs on Saturday and Sunday need volunteers. Terri also mentioned that this would be her last year coordinating volunteers. Angela reminded all volunteers to sign in and out so that their hours could be counted for the William Holland/Wild Acres Lapidary Scholarships. Every four hours is worth one entry.

Field Trips: There will be a CGMS-only field trip to Graves Mountain on January 11th from 9 am to 4 pm. Surface collecting only. No shuttle will be provided so be prepared to walk approximately 1 mile to the site. Check Rocky Trails for more info. **Sunshine:** Laura Bailey's brother was in a bad motorcycle accident, and her father fell and is now in hospice. Sue Shrader is still recovering from hip surgery. Please keep Laura, her family, and Sue in your thoughts.

Christmas Party: The CGMS Christmas party will be held at the Cayce Museum, potluck style. The party will be held in the basement of the museum from 6 pm to 10 pm on December 13th.

This is the last club meeting of the year. The Christmas party will take the place of the December meeting. Door prizes were given out. Jim Cobb concluded the meeting at 8:45 pm. Ron Ahle thanked Jim for his time served as president.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsley

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held its executive board meeting on November 25, 2024, at Grecian Gardens Restaurant. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. In attendance were Jim Cobb (President), Ron Ahle (Editor & Auctioneer), Cheryl Coker (Vice-President), Angela Valvasori (Treasurer), Patricia Stidom (President Elect) and Tom Stidom. Jim welcomed us to the first meeting of the year. **Jim thanked everyone for their hard work in making the 56th Annual Show successful.**

Vice-President: Cheryl Coker stated that the interviews with the club members done by USC's Journalism students would be made available for us to view.

Show: Patricia Stidom, Dealer Chairperson and Tom Stidom, Co-Chairperson, presented the Executive Board with the final counts on the tables used by our dealers, as well as the club at the show.

Membership: No report. Please keep in mind that Shelia Frame is ready to step down and will be happy to help the next person transition into this position. The Membership position is an easy but critical chair position. If you like being around people who are ready and excited to join our club, please contact any Board Member and we will get you set up for success!

Sunshine: A memorial was made in our show pamphlet in memory of Kathleen Wallis Kubilius by the Columbia Gem and Mineral Club. Kathleen passed away September 21, 2024. Her husband, Walt Kubilius, thanked us for the memorial. They have both been faithful members of our club. Sue Shrader is still recovering at home. Keep Sue in your thoughts and prayers.

Website: Steve Coker reported no changes. He is ready to step down as our club's Webmaster and has suggested that we hire a professional to handle our website.

Fieldtrips: Casey Tyler was not present. Ron discussed that a Dixie Mineral Field trip will be on December 14th to Amos Cunningham's property in Donaldson, SC, near Diamond Hill. This location is known for finds of aquamarine, beryl as well as other good specimens. On January 11 there is a field trip planned just for our club to Graves Mountain. Speaking with Casey while working at the show, he mentioned that with all the rain we've had recently, there should be a lot of good ground searching finds. Ron also mentioned that there were about 5 past/present Field Trip Coordinators at the show this year.

Auctioneer: George Poulin, the past President, Field Trip Coordinator and many other committee titles of our club came to our show and donated some great material to the club. This was very much appreciated. Gary Hert and Tom Stidom moved the material to the storage unit.

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES (cont.)

Treasurer: Angela reviewed the income from the show, comparing this year's income to the past 3 shows, 2021 - 2023. Total income for the show did not show any outstanding receipts at the time of the meeting. Credit card payments have increased for the past few years over cash payments. It was discussed that the club needs to possibly use social media to advertise the show more. Posting pictures and/or videos of the show on social media might pique interest. T-Shirt sales were not as good as hoped. It was discussed that selling the T-shirts to club members will continue, as well as possibly posting the T-shirts sales on the club's website. We would have to look at the cost of shipping the T-shirts for this to be feasible to the club.

Programs: Angela is checking to see if we can find a SC Geologist for our January program. It is possible that Gwen Geidel would come and share with us her knowledge on the reclamation of Graves Mountain. Ashby Gale will not be able to do any programs for the club at this time.

Librarian: Angela reported that a good number of Lapidary magazines were given away at the show.

Old Business: Angela will be sending out an email to the members of the Show Planning Committee for a post-show review. Cheryl Coker will let us know as soon as the interviews done by the USC Journalism students are available for us to view. Also, board members discussed the rookie rockhounds program.

REMINDER: CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 13TH AT CAYCE HISTORICAL MUSEUM.
POTLUCK & GIFT EXCHANGE

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, and Jim adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Stidom

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. \(@cgms_rocks\)](https://www.instagram.com/cgms_rocks/)

Please like/follow our Facebook and Instagram pages and share posts to increase our reach on social media.

CGMS Field Trip to Graves MountainLincoln, Georgia (**Date Changed**) February 8th, 8am till 4 pm

Due to inclement weather, **the fieldtrip to Graves Mountain has been post-poned until February 8, 2025.** Graves Mountain has been a mecca for rockhounds for years. It is probably the most famous collecting site in Georgia. It is a premier location for large, multiple twinned rutile crystals; rutile, lazulite, pyrophyllite, kyanite, hematite, pyrite, ilmenite, muscovite, fuchsite, quartz crystals, and microcrystals. You can either surface collect or dig for minerals. There are also many boulders to bang on so you may want to bring a sledgehammer and a chisel. Just a reminder, you will not be able to drive into the site so you will have to carry your tools.

Children under the age of 12 years old are not allowed on the mountain because of potential dangers involved. All pets must be kept under control and on a leash.

GRAVES MOUNTAIN CODE OF CONDUCT!

Park your vehicle in the designated area at the end of the paved access road.

ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash. The caretaker, Jr. 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 RAPPELLING 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 6:00 p.m.** (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

DIRECTIONS: From Washington Georgia, drive east 11 miles on SR-378, look for mine entrance on right. From the Hardee's in Lincoln, Georgia, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR-378. Look for the sign at the entrance to Graves Mountain on the left side of the road. It is a little over a two-hour drive from Columbia.

Motels and Camping:

Cullars Inn, Lincoln, Georgia, 706-359-6161

Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincoln, 706-359-4100

Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275



Rutile twin & Lazulite crystal collected & photographed by Ron Ahle

**CGMS Field Trip Report to Wright Site
Saturday, December 14, 2024**

Five club member went to a Dixie Mineral sponsored fieldtrip near Donalds, SC to collect quartz crystals. Patricia and Tom Stidom, Laura Bailey, Sheila Frame and Catherine Sawyer went on the dig. It was a chilly day, but everyone enjoyed looking for crystals. The collection was made easier by the property manager who used a skidder to uncover fresh material. Laura found the best plate! Below are photos from the event provided by Catherine Sawyer.



South Carolina State Museum
<http://scmuseum.org/events/upcoming-events/>

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

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

Hours of Operation:

Mon: CLOSED.
Tue – Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 to 5 p.m.

Planetarium Theater Shows

Coastal Predators: A 4D Experience®

It is the greatest gathering of ocean predators on the planet. Dolphins, sharks, whales and seals converge to feast along the breathtaking South African coast in one of nature's most amazing events. Coastal Predators: A 4-D Experience is an astonishing underwater Armageddon. Each year billions of sardines are pushed into the shallows as the ocean's most incredible animals forego natural instincts towards each other to come together for a common quest. Without the annual sardine run, the lives of the animals caught up in the drama hang in the balance. Stunning visuals and high-octane action with 4-D effects bring this great spectacle to life as you dive into this feeding frenzy of epic proportions.

Arora

Explore the beauty of the Northern Lights in the new digital dome planetarium experience, *Áróra!* This immersive cinematic journey takes guests across remote Icelandic landscapes and into space to find and understand these mystical, eerie lights. During this award-winning show created by some of Iceland's best-known scientists, writers, photographers, and musicians, you will not only witness the beauty of the aurora above Earth but also explore how these stunning displays of colors have also been seen on other planets and moons throughout our galaxy.
21 mins. Tues. – Fri: 1:30 p.m., Sat: 11:30 am & 2:30 pm, Sun: 2:30 p.m.

Habitat Earth

This full dome planetarium show is narrated by Frances McDormand. The show features stunning visualizations of the natural world, as it takes you below the ocean's surface to explore the dynamic relationships found in kelp forest ecosystems, travel beneath the forest floor to see how Earth's tallest trees rely on tiny fungi to survive, and journey to new heights to witness the intricate intersection between human and ecological networks.

Museum Special Exhibit:

Apollo 16 & Beyond: South Carolina in Space

This new exhibition explores 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.

News Worth Digging Up

Digging for Information: 10 Things to Consider Before Collecting Minerals

Source: The Arkenstone

Date: February 10, 2015

By Bryan Swoboda

“The fine mineral collecting world is full of passionate collectors, dealers, and investors, some with backgrounds in geology, mining and/or field collecting, and others who just took their interest in “rocks” to a whole new level.”

The author recognizes that mineral collecting occurs in every country in the world focusing on investment value, artistic value and rarity. For folks who are considering collecting minerals it is important to focus on what this collection means to you and follow ten important considerations:

- 1) Realize that minerals are a unique collectable and not man-made. Their value may vary with rarity, beauty, quality and condition; origin, size, shape or form; balance on the matrix or base; “gemminess” or transparency; and provenance.
- 2) Know what your motivation is for collecting minerals and use that to drive your focus.
- 3) Develop focus with consideration to time, storage space and funds. Dr. Rob Lavinsky, owner of [The Arkenstone](#), suggests you “decide whether your goal is to be an investor of pieces of value, or a collector of pieces you love; you can do both, but articulate what your goal is.”
- 4) Plan a budget. Do you want a variety of lower-quality specimens to “fill-out” a sample collection, or do you want a few higher-quality show pieces?
- 5) Tap into information sources such as books on fine minerals, magazine publications such as Rock & Gem, network with dealers and rock clubs, and attend mineral shows and auctions to get an understanding of pricing.
- 6) Visit museum exhibits. The author gives a long list of highly regarded museums including the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Natural History in New York.
- 7) Develop dealer relationships. Their websites are wonderful resources for photo galleries, articles, news about finds and forums.
- 8) Purchase quality. Purchase the best quality you can afford from dealers, other collectors or from online auctions.
- 9) Keep labels. Labels provide information (provenance) that will help value the specimen such as name of mineral, origin, date when mined, owners, etc.
- 10) Create a database/catalog. When you collect mineral specimens, start your own catalog with all label information. Eventually, you’ll be able to search this database by type, color, origin, etc., and if you ever sell your collection, your catalog becomes part of the provenance.

To read more about how to manage your mineral collecting, go to: [Consider This Before Collecting Minerals](#)

**Graves Mountain
Rock Swap and Dig
March 7th - 9th, 2025
Lincolnton, Georgia**

As of this posting, the dig is scheduled for March 7-9, 2025. No reservations are needed. If something changes, it will be posted here.

The mountain will be open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All attendees must stop at the welcome table to sign a liability release and make a contribution/donation to help with the cost of providing porta johns and golf carts. The dig will end, and everyone must be off the mountain by 6:00 p.m. each day.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be set up for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to set up 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. There will be an area in the parking lot for vendors to sell and trade minerals. If you would like to set up a booth, contact Jr. at the phone number listed below. Hot food and drinks will be available for purchase on the mountain all three days.

<https://www.gamineral.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706-359-1544 (his business) or 706-401-3173 (his cell)

THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL CLUBS and ROCKHOUNDS!

GRAVES MOUNTAIN CODE OF CONDUCT!

Park your vehicle in the designated area at the end of the paved access road.

ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash. The caretaker, Jr. 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 RAPPELLING 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 6:00 p.m. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

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Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-4100

Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275

AREA SHOWS

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

February 22, 2025—LAKELAND, FLORIDA: Annual show; Bone Valley GM&FS; 9:00 - 4:30 Naro Mayo Hall, 500 3rd Street N.W., Winter Haven, Fl. 33881; Email: BoneValley.info@gmail.com; Website: www.bonevalley.net/

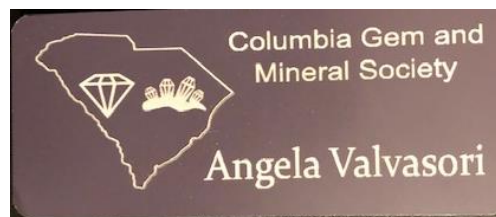
February 1-2, 2025—MERRITT ISLAND, FLORIDA: Show and sale; Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club; Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun. 10-4; Kiwanis Recreation Center, 951 Kiwanis Island Park; Roz Mestre, (321) 431-0159; Email: roz.mestre@att.net; Website: www.centralbrevardgems.com

February 22-23, 2025—JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI: Annual show; Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society; Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, 1200 Mississippi Street Leslie A Lane, (601) 344-8171; Email: rock2lanes@gmail.com; Website: www.missgems.org

March 8-10, 2025 —AUGUSTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Aiken Gem Mineral & Fossil Society and Augusta Gem & Mineral; Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$4 adult, \$6 weekend pass, children under 12 free with adult, cash at door only, please; Grab bags, Geode sales & cutting, Treasure Dig, Member displays • Lapidary demos • Hourly door prizes • Educational resource End-of-show GRAND PRIZE on Sunday ! (Attendance not required to win.) Dealers: • Gold • Silver • Fine and everyday jewelry • Loose gemstones • Cabochons • Crystals • Minerals; contact Debra Baer, (803) 295-7897; Email: debbie.aikenrocks@gmail.com; Website: <https://aikengmfs.org/>

CGMS Name Tag

Would you like to have a CGMS name tag? They can be obtained at Irmo Trophy. An example is shown below. If you would like one, please contact Irmo Trophy by email so they have the correct spelling of your name and tell them you are requesting a Columbia Gem and Mineral Society name tag. The cost is \$7. **Irmo Trophy Co.**, 803-798-3735; 5430 Old Bush River Rd., Columbia, SC 29212 irmotrophy@gmail.com



[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!



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	_____
		<i>Jan 1</i>		<i>July 1</i>

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? _____

**Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (CGMS)
Historian's Summary of the Year 2024**

The **Columbia Gem and Mineral Society** was established in 1965, making 2024 the Club's 59th year.

Officers for 2024 were.

- President – Jim Cobb
- Vice President – Cheryl Coker
- Secretary – Jason Dolinski then Ron Ahle then Sophie Grimsley
- Treasurer - Angela Valvasori

The Committee Chairs were:

- MembershipSheila Frame
- Auctioneer..... Ron Ahle
- Club Liaison.....Jim Cobb
- Faceting Guild.....Tom Daniels
- Facebook.....Sue Shrader (Instagram...Angela Valvasori)
- Field Trip..... Casey Tyler
- Historian.....Angela Valvasori
- Librarian.....Sheila Frame
- Newsletter Editor.....Ron Ahle
- Programs.....Sue Shrader
- Show Chair.....Angela Valvasori
- SunshineAbbie Gates
- Website.....Steven Coker
- Workshop.....Gary Hert (new workshop location...Cheryl Coker)

At the end of 2024, the Club had **141 members**: 116 adults and 25 juniors.

Rocky Trails: The CGMS newsletter, the Rocky Trails, was issued monthly except for July. The newsletter was emailed to members.

The 56th Annual **CGMS Show** was held at Jamil Temple on November 22, 23 and 24. The Show was a success thanks to the hard work of the show committee, club volunteers and our highly valued vendors! We had 35 vendors, completely filling the available space. The dealers offered jewelry, beads, mineral specimens, fossils and more for sale. We held a dinner for the dealers on Thursday evening. The club benefited from our offerings at the show: the geode booth, grab bags and salted mine as well as the entrance fee. Prices were raised to continue to help offset the previous increase in Jamil Temple rental. Show attendance was approximately 1200, slightly less than last year. The show opened on Friday at 10 am and closed on Sunday at 5 pm. Members set up display cases exhibiting fossils and minerals as well as the South Carolina state stone (amethyst) and the South Carolina state stone (blue granite), and the grand door prize: an amethyst cathedral geode, donated by Sue Shrader. Members demonstrated copper and silver jewelry-making, flint knapping and wire wrapping. The geode cutting saw was busy out front, with members selling and cutting beautiful geodes. Grab bags were offered for \$2, \$5, and \$10. T-shirts designed by Tom Stidom were sold. Door prizes donated by dealers and members were awarded hourly and the grand prize was awarded at the end of the show. Two lapidary art scholarships will be awarded in a drawing in January for those who worked at the show and on show planning. The success of the show was enhanced by Show planning meetings that were held monthly starting in May.

CGMS Monthly Meetings were held on the third Monday for the general meeting and the fourth Monday for the executive meeting. McKissick Museum was not available to us due to lack of museum staff. Most of the General Meetings were held at Hope Church, except March which was held at Greenlawn Baptist Church and June which was held at Woodlands Park Community Center. Guest speakers gave educational programs. Executive meetings were held at Grecian Gardens in West Columbia.

The 2024 **Programs** were:

- January: Ron Ahle presented a program on the evolutionary history of fish as told through the fossil record. He discussed fish fossils from the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras starting with the first common ancestor and ending in the vast diversity present today.
 - Gary Hert & Ron Ahle (fish fossils) provided Door Prizes. Sheila Frame, Sharon Sterrett and The Wenzel Family provided refreshments.
- February: Silent Auction: Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry and other geology or lapidary items were sold in a silent auction. CGMS has received many donations and these items, along with those brought by members, were auctioned.
 - Sue Shrader provided door prizes. Naomi Cadle and Susan Bloodworth provided refreshments.
- March: Gwendelyn Geidel, PhD, PG spoke about “Gills Creek Watershed - Stream Restoration, Geology and Water Quality.” Gwen gave us an overview of the physical characteristics of the watershed including geology, hydrology, and watershed impairments. She discussed the source of some of the pollutants and how the Gills Creek Watershed Association are addressing these.
 - Ron Ahle provided door prizes. Laura Bailey and Carol Elliott provided refreshments.
- April: Field Trip and Lapidary Class Show and Tell: Members brought rocks and fossils found on a field trip, lapidary items made in a class, or items created on their own.
 - CGMS provided the door prizes. Sharon Sterrett, Susan Bloodworth, and Sheila Frame provided refreshments.
- May: Kim Cochran spoke about polymers which are rocks consisting of two or more minerals. Jade, alabaster, satin spar, and aventurine are polymers. This was a hands-on program as Kim brought many specimens to pass around and look at.
 - Gary Hert provided door prizes. Sue Shrader provided refreshments.
- June: Ashby Gale, paleontologist, and owner of Charleston Fossil Adventures, spoke on the history of fossils along the east coast titled “Fossils Under Our Feet” and brought lots of fossils to show as examples. Ashby collaborated with his parents to publish “A Beachcomber’s Guide to Fossils.” He stayed after the meeting to help identify fossils brought by club members. Morphologie Fossil Fine Art joined Ashby and had a variety of beautiful jewelry pieces for sale.
 - Ron Ahle provided door prizes. Dave and Claire Schuetrum provided refreshments.
- July: Marion Mason, aka “Sculpt guy,” gave a presentation about his artwork which is made using various types of stone such as marble and soapstone.
 - Ken and Chris Glass provided refreshments. Tom and Patricia Stidom provided door prizes.
- August: Pam and Tony Etheridge spoke about making jewelry with copper and silver. They brought finished jewelry in the form of bracelets, pendants and earrings and spoke about the

creative process that goes into each piece. They showed and described the tools of the trade and provided tips for using them.

- Casey Tyler provided door prizes. Patricia Stidom provided refreshments.
- September: Silent Auction: Fossils, Minerals and Jewelry were sold in a silent auction. The items came from the many donations to CGMS, along with those brought by members.
 - Pat and Jim Carter provided refreshments. It was decided not to have door prizes with the silent auction as program.
- October: Carol Elliott & Susan Richardson gave a talk about their recent trip to Utah to collect rocks and minerals. Their efforts yielded such finds as sunstone, topaz, and the rare red beryl which they brought to show.
 - Tom and Patricia Stidom provided door prizes. A number of members contributed to the refreshments.
- November: Kylie Moore gave a presentation about her research on "The Dacites of Yellowstone". Dacite is a volcanic rock formed by rapid solidification of lava that is high in silica and low in alkali metal oxides. It is composed predominantly of plagioclase feldspar and quartz lava flows.
 - The executive officers for 2025 were nominated and elected. The officers for 2025 are: President: Patricia Stidom; Vice president: Jim Cobb; Secretary: Sophie Grimsley; Treasurer: Angela Valvasori.
 - The membership agreed to amend the bylaws to remove the \$1 membership initiation fee and to change the pro-rated dues from quarterly to semi-annually.
- December: In lieu of a meeting, a holiday party was held on December 13.

Classes: No classes were held in 2024.

Field trips:

There were no CGMS-specific field trips in 2024, however many SFMS field trips were available to club members (listed below). In March members also had an opportunity to dig for shark teeth and fossils in ancient gravel deposits at a site operated by Palmetto Fossil Excursions. In April, Graves Mountain held a Rock Swap and Dig. In October, the Martin Marietta Quarry in Cross, SC had an open house for guests to collect marine fossils of Eocene age, such as shark teeth, fish vertebrae and teeth, echinoids, scallops, oysters, brachiopods, and snail steinkerns.

Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. field trips:

January: Dale Hollow Lake, Livingston, TN for geodes of anhydrous nature and various Mississippian marine fossils such as crinoid stems, horn corals, coral heads.

February: Girard, GA for Savannah River Agate.

March: A quarry in Bartow County, GA that is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex, to collect metagranite with blue quartz and white feldspar that contrasts nicely.

April: Mason's Ruby and Sapphire Mine, Franklin, NC a dig your own gem mine. Minerals found include lavender sapphires (corundum) that fluoresce, are rubies, garnets, rutile, kyanite, sillimanite, mica, and quartz.

May: Chunky Gal Mountain Clay County, NC. This area is known for its large deposit of smaragdite, a variety of the amphibole mineral actinolite, that gets its green color from chromium. It often contains small red corundum crystals and garnets.

June: Hogg Mine, LaGrange, GA. Large green aquamarine beryl and pockets of green aquamarine beryl have been found there as well as rose quartz, smoky quartz, banded quartz, beryl in matrix with the quartz, and tourmaline in matrix with the quartz.

July: Mason County, KY to collect Ordovician fossils. This site is known for its large deposits of Ordovician fossils including bryozoans, several species of brachiopods, gastropods, rugose “horn” corals, crinoids, and occasional trilobites.

August: The Lucky Strike Gold & Gem Mine, Marion, NC to pan for pure NC gold and watch the operation of various kinds of equipment that assist the search.

September: Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine, Dillwyn, Virginia. White kyanite blades in the massive kyanite quartzite; pyrite; quartz; hematite with some iridescence, red mica, green mica, apatite, and possibly some blue kyanite and pale green trolleite. Some of the white kyanite and quartz have a beautiful light blue fluorescence.

September: At the land of a member of Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society, Seneca, SC. The owner of the property has found epidote, garnet, quartz (in its various forms), quartz arrowheads, actinolite, hematite, magnetite, and other iron minerals.

October: Southaven, MS to collect specimens from chert gravels with fossils (Mississippian, Devonian, and Silurian), petrified wood, agate, conglomerate, quartz and other rocks and minerals associated the Upland Complex of Pleistocene / Pliocene age.

November: Diamond Hill Mine in Abbeville, SC to collect quartz.

There was no SFMS field trip in December.

Lapidary Workshop: Although CGMS did not have a lapidary workshop location in 2024, a limited amount of equipment, rock saws and capping machines, were set up and operational in a storage unit where the club’s equipment is being stored. Cheryl Coker is leading the effort to locate a property for CGMS to purchase to set up or build a workshop.

Social Media: The Club’s website is: www.cgms.rocks. The Club has a Facebook page and a Facebook group. An Instagram page was created in 2024: **cgms_rocks**.



The QR code for our website:

Google Workspace: A Google workspace was created in 2023. This is a repository for CGMS electronic files and provides email addresses by position. Sheila Frame and Angela Valvasori are the administrators. In January 2024, passwords were provided to the executive committee members.

Photos from the year are provided in the Attachment.

Prepared by,

Angela Valvasori

Historian

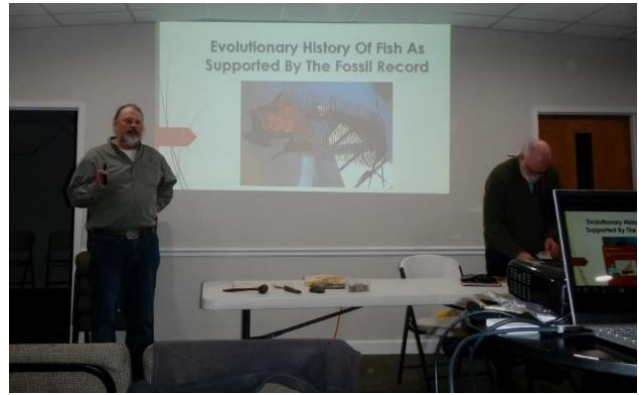
Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Attachment
Columbia Gem and Mineral Society 2024 Activities

January Meeting



Social time



Member and presenter, Ron Ahle and President Jim Cobb

July Meeting

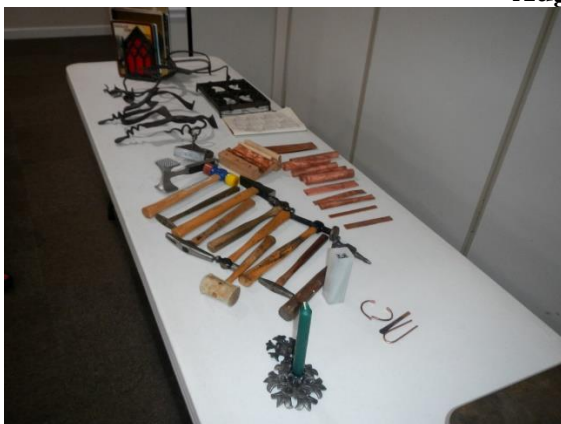


Social time



Presenter Marion Mason

August Meeting



Etheridge's metalworking tools



President Jim Cobb



Members and presenters: Tony and Pam Etheridge



Tony answering questions

October Meeting



Social time



Social time



Social time



Social time



Members Angela Valvasori and Terri Tokaz relaying show information



Ron Ahle introducing members and presenters: Carol Elliott and Susan Richardson (seated Casey Tyler)

**CGMS Gem & Mineral Show
Nov. 22-24, 2024
Jamil Temple, Columbia, SC**



Vendors



Vendors



Sheila Frame demonstrating wire wrapping



Tony and Pam Etheridge demonstrating silver and copper jewelry making



Pat Carter organizing dealer dinner



Tom Stidom demonstrating faceting



Geode selling and cutting

Adam Tesh, Conry David, Gary Hert geodes



Adam Tesh, Laura Tesh, Angela Valvsori, Conry Davis, Gary Hert,



Ron Ahle



Display Cases
Mandeleine Wenzel



Chris Glass



Grand door prize:
amethyst cathedral donated by Sue Shrader



2024 CGMS Gem Mineral Show Flyer

CGMS Holiday Party
Cayce Historical Museum



Steve Coker, Pat Carter



Kharabella, Jennifer and David Murphy



Derek Hillman, Jim Carter, Ron Ahle, Tom Stidom



Jennifer & David Murphy, Patricia & Tom Stidom,
Terri Tokaz, Jim Cobb



Gary Hert, Sophie Grimsley, guest



Chris

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..... Angela Valvasori
 Librarian..... Sheila Frame.....
 Newsletter Editor..... Ron Ahle.....
 Program..... Sue Shrader.....
 Show..... open
 Sunshine Abbie Gates.....
 Website..... Steve Coker.....
 Workshop..... Gary Hert.....



CGMS Website

Please visit our website:

<http://www.cgms.rocks>

Webmaster: Steve Coker

Monthly Meeting

Except for January, 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**