



Rocky Trails



January 2024

Volume 18 Issue 1



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all continuing and new members. Seems we are having problems with McKissick Museum in that they are unable to host our meetings at this time. Therefore, we will be meeting at Hope Church Monday, January 22nd and again on February 19th. After that, we will be looking for alternative meeting locations. If any of you have suggestions for meeting locations, please let one of the officers know about it. The club officers will likely bring this subject up during the January meeting. A good reason to make the January meeting is that I will be giving a presentation on the evolution of fish based on the fossil record. You will be surprised at just how long fish have been around!

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 Mandy Wenzel, Sue Shrader, Sharon Sterrett, Gary Hert, Angela Valvasori, Susan Bloodworth, Terri Tokaz and Sheila Frame. Please give them a big thank you for their very gracious contributions. There are many others who assisted in the show, and we owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who volunteered their time to help! Just ask any volunteer, it is no simple task to make our show successful. There will be a drawing to award two lucky volunteer scholarships to William Holland or Wild Acres lapidary schools in one of the upcoming general meetings.

There have been some changes in our officer positions for 2024. For starters, Cheryl Coker has taken the position of Vice-President and Jason Dolinski is our new Secretary. I have assumed the position of Auctioneer and look forward to running a few silent auctions this year. We still have committee positions available such as Fieldtrips and show-related positions if you are interested in increasing your involvement with the club.

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 2024 starting Monday night!

Stay in touch,
Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

January 22, 2024

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

The January 2023 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.

PROGRAM:

Ron Ahle will present a program on the evolutionary history of fish as told through the fossil record. Ron will discuss 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) will provide Door Prizes.

Refreshments will be provided by Sheila Frame, Sharon Sterrett and The Wenzel Family.

Executive Meeting

February 26, 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 Program

Ron Ahle, retired South Carolina Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist, will be giving a presentation on the evolutionary history of fishes as indicated in the fossil record. Ron will discuss fish fossils from the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras starting with the first common ancestor and ending in the vast diversity present today. Ron will use fossil collections from the Smithsonian and the Royal Ontario Museum to illustrate the early evolution during the Paleozoic. For the Mesozoic, Ron will present the Late Jurassic fossils assemblage from Solnhofen Plattenkalk Formation in Germany. For the Cenozoic, Ron will present Eocene fish fossils from the Green River Formation in Wyoming. Ron will finish with fossils from the Pliocene Yorktown Formation in North Carolina. Ron will show photos from museum collections as well as his own collection plus bring specimens to look at.



Phareodus sp from the Green River Formation (ROM collection).

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2023, Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on November 20, 2023, at McKissick Museum. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Jim thanked Mandie and all the volunteers who worked the show. He acknowledged new members and visitors in attendance. Jim talked about the passing of Rudy Mancke and the upcoming memorial service.

Treasurer's Report: Angela gave a preliminary report on income from the show from admissions, grab bags and geodes. She mentioned that 1/3 of geodes sales were by credit card. She also stated that we had lower total show attendance than last year.

Website: Steve Coker encouraged the membership to check the website and make suggestions for improvements or additions. He also mentioned that Facebook was good for the show. Sue Shrader mentioned that photos from the show have been placed on the Facebook site.

Field Trips: Catherine Sawyer informed the membership that our club has been invited to join the Aiken club on a fossil collecting fieldtrip to Tallahassee, Fl. She also suggested possible fieldtrips with Palmetto Fossil Excursions and Ashby Gail.

Sunshine: Joan Beckham is ill and is having an open house to liquidate items in Beckham's Barn.

Gem and Mineral Show: Mandie said she was sending out a survey monkey to get feed-back from the membership on the show.

Workshop: Cheryl Coker explained that the club needs to develop fundraising opportunities in order to secure a new workshop.

Programs: Main Program: Show and Tell. Future presenters for 2024 include Ron Ahle, Bailey Slice-Parker, and Kim Cochran. Sue passed around the refreshments and door prizes sign-up sheet for 2024 meetings.

Jim introduced the nominees for officers for 2024. Jim asked the membership for officer nominations including a candidate for Vice President. The slate of nominees is Jim Cobb (President), Cheryl Coker (Vice-President), Angela Valvasori (Treasury) and Jason Dolinski (Secretary). With no other nominations with membership approved the slate of nominees.

Door prizes were given to most in attendance.

Jim Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Ahle

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

November 27, 2023, Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held its executive board meeting on November 27, 2023, at Grecian Gardens Restaurant. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. In attendance were Jim Cobb (President), Ron Ahle (Secretary), Jonathan Wenzel (Vice-President), Gary Hert (Shop), Sue Shrader (Programs), Angela Valvasori (Treasurer), and Mandie Wenzel (Show Committee). Jim thanked everyone in attendance and reminded the board that this would be the last meeting for 2023. Jim thanked all the incoming 2024 officers for agreeing to serve the club. Jim also thanked Mandie for scheduling the show meetings.

Show: Angela handed out a financial report on the show with three handouts relative to expenses and income. Angela stated that sale of the grab bags had dropped, and that attendance was down compared to last year. Sue discussed the effectiveness of the various publicity techniques. This led to a lively discussion on advertisement by the members present. Members agreed that the show cases looked great. Gary mentioned that we will need to buy geodes for next year. Gary mentioned that the show trailer needs new tires before we use it again. Mandie mentioned some issues with Jamil that need attention. She mentioned that the microphone did not work well, a lot of the tables were in poor condition and that the ATM machine did not work at all. Finally, the billboard at Jamil was not posted for our show in advance as we had asked. It was brought to board members attention that no grand door prize was collected from the dealers for next year.

Workshop: Gary Hert said that that he had cabbng equipment up and running in the storage workshop. He said he could train members on use of the equipment. Ron asked Gary if he could outline a process for allowing members to use the equipment. Ron offered to send Gary an example from our past workshop. The intent is to have a workshop program up and running in 2024 that takes into consideration the limited space and time scheduling.

Sunshine: Gary Hert had shoulder surgery.

Facebook: Sue Shrader gave the board an explanation of our Facebook site.

New Business: A discussion was made to consider giving Mike Montebello an honorary Lifetime Membership for his contributions to the club even after becoming inactive.

Old Business: Angela Valvasori offered to give a Google Workspace demonstration at the next board meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and Jim adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Ahle

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2024, Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held its executive board meeting on January 15, 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), Steve Coker (Web), Sheila Frame (Membership), Sue Shrader (Programs), Angela Valvasori (Treasurer), Sharon Sterrett (Show Committee) and Jason Dolinski (Secretary). Jim welcomed us to the first meeting of the year. Jim thanked all the incoming 2024 officers for agreeing to serve the club. Jim informed the board that the McKissick Museum will not be able to serve as host for the 2024 Meetings, due to staffing shortages. Which also resulted in the Museum hours to be cut. The meetings will now be held at Hope Church, which is located at 2609 Seminole Road, Columbia, SC 29210.

Vice-President: Nothing new to report at this time, and Cheryl was welcomed into the new position. **Treasurer:** Square is now live on the website for membership. Three members have currently utilized the online portion. In closing, Angela provided the standard treasurer report. **Show:** Sharon is going to be stepping down as dealer contact person for the show. Sue said she would continue doing advertising graphics. Angela provided some data regarding the Show advertising.

Programs: Sue mentioned some of the speakers she has lined up for 2024. Ron volunteered to give the program for the January meeting. **Editor:** Ron stated that he is now looking forward to pursuing the Auctioneering duties and will be doing some evaluation on the various donations received in 2023.

Secretary: Jason wished all attendees a Happy New Year and will assist Jim with the search for a new Meeting location. Cheryl will also investigate opportunities for a meeting location at USC. **Website:** Steve is still working on the ongoing website domain ownership transfer. **Workshop:** Gary will be using the equipment at the storage unit. **Sunshine:** Gary Hert is recuperating from his surgery.

Club Liaison: Jim will meet with Walt and procure some information on potential fieldtrips. **Librarian:** There is no new information currently. **Workshop Locations:** Cheryl reported that there are some potential lots that might be able to suit the needs of the Club. Some further research will now be done as to possible designs, floor plans, and structure types.

Old Business: Outside of the Museum announcement, the only other business was the ongoing activation of the Google Workspace. Angela gave a demonstration on how to use the workspace and provided attendees with the storage potential and instructions for use.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jason Dolinski

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

Shark: A 4D Experience®

Come face to face with some of the world's most strange and mysterious shark species. These extraordinarily intelligent underwater giants each exhibit unique behaviors to navigate their ever-changing environment. Essential to the fragile balance of our ocean's health, BBC Earth's *Shark: A 4D Experience®* explores the complex nature of these magnificent creatures' survival instincts. Stunning 3D and special effects place you right in the middle of the action as sharks reveal their hidden traits while roaming an eerily beautiful underwater landscape. Show Run Time: 12 mins. Tues. – Fri: 11:00 am & 2:30 pm, Sat: 11:00 am, 2:00 pm & 4:00 pm, Sun: 2:30 p.m. & 4:00 pm.

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.

We Are Stars

Go on an epic journey through time and space to explore our explosive origins and discover how we are connected to the cosmos. Watch the history of the universe unfold, from the big bang to the formation of the very first atoms to the very first stars. See how stars forged the elements that eventually came together to form planets and the complex molecules necessary for the evolution of life on Earth. 25 min. Tues-Fri 11:30 am.

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

The evolution of photosynthesis better documented thanks to the discovery of the oldest thylakoids in fossil cyanobacteria

Source: University of Liège

Date: January 5, 2024

Researchers at the University of Liège (ULiège) have identified microstructures in fossil cells that are 1.75 billion years old. These structures, called thylakoid membranes, are the oldest ever discovered. They push back the fossil record of thylakoids by 1.2 billion years and provide new information on the evolution of cyanobacteria which played a crucial role in the accumulation of oxygen on the early Earth. This major discovery is presented in the journal *Nature*.

Catherine Demoulin, Yannick Lara, Alexandre Lambion and Emmanuelle Javaux from the Early Life Traces & Evolution laboratory of the Astrobiology Research Unit at ULiège examined enigmatic microfossils called *Navifusa majensis* (*N.majensis*) in shales from the McDermott Formation in Australia, which are 1.75 billion years old, and in 1 billion-year-old formations of DR Congo and arctic Canada.

Analyses of fossilized cells from these sedimentary rocks revealed the presence of membranes with an arrangement, structure and dimensions permitting to interpret them as thylakoid membranes, where photosynthesis occurs. This discovery puts into perspective the role cyanobacteria played in the early evolution of life and during the Great Oxygenation Event (GOE), around 2.4 billion years ago.

"The discovery of preserved thylakoids in *N. majensis* provides direct evidence of a minimum age of around 1.75 billion years for the divergence between cyanobacteria with thylakoids and those without" stated Emmanuelle Javaux. He summarized the research by saying "Microscopic life is beautiful, the most diverse and abundant form of life on Earth since the origin of life. Studying its fossil record using new approaches will enable us to understand how life evolved over at least 3.5 billion years. Some of this research also tells us how to search for traces of life beyond Earth!"

To read more about how this research was conducted and the far reaching importance as to how life on earth began, go to: [The evolution of photosynthesis better documented thanks to the discovery of the oldest thylakoids in fossil cyanobacteria | ScienceDaily](#)



OLDEST EVIDENCE OF LIFE ON EARTH: 4-BILLION-YEAR-OLD BACTERIA

AREA SHOWS

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

January 20-21, 2024—DELAND, FLORIDA: Annual show; Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society; Volusia County Fairgrounds (Tommy Lawrence Arena), 3150 E New York Ave, 1000 Walker St., Lot 29, (386) 871-6221; Email: tomokagsvender@gmail.com; Website: tomokags.org

February 24, 2024—LAKELAND, FLORIDA: Annual show; Bone Valley GM&FS; 9:00 - 4:30 First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Jim Reed, (863) 255-0651; Email: BoneValley.info@gmail.com; Website: www.bonevalley.net/

February 3-4, 2024—MERRITT ISLAND, FLORIDA: Show and sale; Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club; Sat. 9:30-5:30, 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 24-25, 2024—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, 2024 —AUGUSTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Augusta Gem & Mineral Society and Aiken Gem & Mineral Society; Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$4 Daily Pass or \$6 Weekend Pass - Children under 12 FREE with paying adult; Member Display Cases, Lapidary Demonstrations, Educational Resources, Hourly Door Prizes, Treasure Dig, Grab Bags, Geodes Sold & Cut, Grand Door Prize, Snack Bar Dealers: Gold Silver, Fine & Everyday Jewelry, Loose Gemstones, Cabochons, Slabs, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Treasures, Beads & More; contact Wayne Parker; Email: agams.club@gmail.com; Website: www.aikengmfs.org or www.agams.club

CGMS Name Tag

Would you like to have a CGMS name tag? They can now 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. Tell them you are requesting a Columbia Gem and Mineral Society name tag and give them the name you want on it. The cost is \$7. If you would like Angela Valvasori to pick it up for you and bring it to a meeting, please contact her using the contact info on the last page.

Irmo Trophy Co.

irmotrophy@gmail.com

803-798-3735

5430 Old Bush River Rd.

Columbia, SC 29212



Social Media Helps our Club Stay Social!

To access our web site, type “CGMS.ROCKS” in your internet browser or you can search for Columbia Gem and Mineral Society in Google. **The Club’s website is:** www.cgms.rocks

To join the discussion with other CGMS members on **Facebook**, look under the Community tab, where you will find the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Member Group. When you ask to join the Group, please be sure to agree to follow the rules: Be Kind, No Hate Speech or Bullying; and No Promotions or Spam. Please feel free to add photos of your interesting finds, share your Jewelry making, or your field trip experiences.

Mineral Display

There is an exceptional gem and mineral display at a Savannah, GA, Marriott hotel. It is in the JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District at 400 West River Street Savannah, Georgia, 31401. A couple of members saw it and were impressed. The following link to a YouTube video gives an idea of what there is to see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tY8z-AUqZfU>

Columbia Gem and Mineral

Society



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year _____

(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)

<https://www.cgms.rock>

Check one: **DUES CURRENT MEMBERS**

Individual \$25/2 _____
Family \$30/2 _____

DUES for NEW MEMBERS ONLY (Prorated Quarterly)

Individual \$26 _____ \$21 _____ \$14 _____ \$7 _____
Family \$31 _____ \$24 _____ \$16 _____ \$8 _____

Jan 1 Apr 1 July 1 Oct 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 Rockhound' s__

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 have a rock collection? If so, what? _____

What lapidary skills and interests do you have? _____

**Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (CGMS)
Historian's Summary of the Year 2023**

The **Columbia Gem and Mineral Society** was established in 1965, making 2023 the Club's 58th year.

Officers for 2023 were;

- President – Jim Cobb
- Vice President – Jonathan Wenzel
- Secretary – Ron Ahle
- Treasurer - Angela Valvasori

The Committee Chairs were:

- MembershipSheila Frame
- Auctioneer.....Jason Dolinski
- Club Liaison..... Jim Cobb
- Faceting Guild..... Tom Daniels
- Facebook..... Sue Shrader
- Field Trip..... Vacant
- Historian.....Angela Valvasori
- Librarian.....Sheila Frame
- Newsletter Editor.....Ron Ahle
- Programs.....Sue Shrader
- Show.....Mandie Wenzel with committee members Sue Shrader, Sharon Sterrett and Terri Tokaz and others
- SunshineAbbie Gates
- Website.....Steven Coker
- Workshop..... Gary Hert

At the end of 2023, the Club had 126 **members**: 103 adults and 23 juniors.

Rocky Trails: The CGMS newsletter, the Rocky Trails, was issued January through May and July through November. The newsletter was emailed to members.

The 55th Annual **CGMS Show** was held at Jamil Temple on November 17, 18 and 19. The Show was a success thanks to the hard work of the show committee, club volunteers and our highly valued vendors! 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 help the increase in Jamil Temple rental. This is the first year that CGMS accepted credit cards. We used square hardware and app. This proved beneficial since many people prefer to use credit cards. Show attendance was approximately 1300, a bit less than recent historical average. On Friday we held an educational program for home-schooled students. The show opened on Friday at 10 am and closed on Sunday at 5 pm. Twenty-eight dealers offered jewelry, beads, mineral specimens, fossils and more for sale. Members set up display cases exhibiting fossils and minerals as well as the South Carolina state stone: amethyst, and the grand door prize: black tourmaline in matrix, donated by Cannaco Collections. The geode cutting saw was busy out front, with members selling and cutting beautiful geodes. \$1, \$5, and \$10 grab bags were offered. Door prizes donated by the dealers were awarded hourly and the grand prize was awarded at the end of the show.

Monthly Meetings were held on the third Monday for the general meeting and the fourth Monday for the executive meeting. The January General Meeting was held at Hope Church. The Club returned to the McKissick Museum for General Meetings starting in February. Guest speakers gave educational programs. Executive meetings were held at Grecian Gardens in West Columbia.

The 2023 **Programs** were:

- January: Chris Judge presented a program on the evolution of the bow and arrow in native cultures. The bow and arrow were introduced into South Carolina in the last 2,000 years.
- February: Show and Tell and Voting for Prettiest and Ugliest Item.
- March: Max Mandell spoke about jade, primarily jade from Guatemala. Max's father made many trips to the Guatemala jungles to collect jade boulders. Max is a talented lapidary artist. He displayed cabochons and other pieces of his work and explained the process.
- April: Danielle LoMonaco gave a presentation on jewelry making with an emphasis on working with Savannah River Agate. She starts with exceptional hand-cut and polished stones from the most talented independent lapidary artists in the country. She chooses the stones carefully based on their natural beauty, quality, and unique patterns and colors. Using these outstanding stones as inspiration, she designs to celebrate their unique characteristics.
- May: Dr. Scott Howard, Ph.D. Scott is the SC State Geologist, working with the South Carolina Geological Survey. His presentation was on "Earthquakes in South Carolina and the Recent Earthquake Swarm in Southwestern Kershaw County." He gave a review of earthquake basics, the nature of earthquakes in the southeastern US and SC, a few historical SC earthquakes, the recent Elgin, SC swarm.
- June: Show and Tell: Members brought remarkably interesting objects from their collections and told the stories associated with them.
- July: Yellowstone National Park; What Could Be Better?" Ron Ahle reviewed the history, geology, and natural wonders of the World's First National Park! Ron gave a brief history of how the park was established, the geology of a super volcano and how it resulted in the incredible landforms that make Yellowstone magnificent. Ron showed photos he took of wildlife in beautiful landscapes at Yellowstone.
- August: Dr. David Shelley presented Isotopes in Geology. He explained what isotopes are and why they are important in the study of earth science.
- 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.
- October: Daniel Morgan gave a wire wrap demonstration. He is known for his dragons and scorpions. He also has created many of his own jewelry designs.
- November: Show and Tell: Members brought items they purchased at our show and described what made them special.
- December: No meeting.

Classes: No classes were held in 2023.

Field trips:

One **CGMS** field trip was held in 2023: A fieldtrip to the Martin-Marietta Quarry near the Black River in Georgetown was held in February to collect fossils. This was a joint trip with the Aiken Gem and

Mineral Society. It was well attended and a great success. Fossils found included a range from shark teeth to echinoids. The Martin-Marietta Quarry had an open house for the general public to collect fossils in September. This was attended by members of CGMS.

Other trips sponsored by the **Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.** were available to Club members:

February: Diamond Hill Mine, Abbeville, SC for quartz, amethyst, and smoky quartz, in skeletal and angle plated forms, some are iron and manganese oxide coated.

March: Chattooga County, GA for Summerville Crazy Lace Agate which is a colorful lace banded chert/agate.

April: Girard GA for brown agate with some white and some reddish-brown areas. Some samples have small nicely preserved Eocene foraminifera fossils.

May: Cumberland Furnace, TN to collect slag. The slag was a byproduct of making iron. Some of the slag is quite colorful in shades of blue and green, some with swirls. The slag is easily cut and polished and makes nice pendants.

June: Dorchester, SC at Palmetto Fossil Excursions to collect shark and megalodon teeth, whale remnants, quartz, garnet, and amethyst.

July: Raleigh, North Carolina. Tour of the Nature Exploration Center of the North Carolina Museum of Natural History guided by Dr. Chris Tacker, Curator of the Geology Department. Explored the gems and minerals on display and a visit to the archives of the museum to see minerals not on display.

August: Three sites at Chunky Gal Mountain, Clay County, NC. Buck Creek has small gemmy almandine garnets, quartz, chert, a blue corundum dump pile and a ruby area. Chunky Gal Mine, on the top of the mountain, has smaragdite with ruby, bronze sapphire, and some blue corundum. Herbert Corundum Mine has hexagonal corundum crystals, mostly white and blue, found in the creek.

September: Berkely Quarry Community Day in Cross, SC to collect fossils.

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/October: Uphapee Creek, Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama. Specimens are found in the gravel banks and sand bars of the creek: red carnelian, quartz with tourmaline inclusions, petrified wood from ancient tree ferns.

November: Abbeville, SC to collect quartz crystals including amethyst, smoky quartz, skeletal quartz, and angle plated quartz.

December: Chattooga County, GA for Summerville Crazy Lace Agate, a colorful lace banded chert/agate.

Social Media:

The Club's website is: www.cgms.rocks. A former website, cgams.org, directs users to the current website. The Club has a Facebook page and a Facebook group.

The QR code for our website:



Prepared by,
Angela valvasori
Historian
Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Columbia Gem and Mineral Society 2023 Activities

February Field Trip to Cross Quarry of Martin Marietta



March Meeting



President Jim Cobb



Speaker Max Mandell

August Meeting



Speaker David Shelley

October Meeting



President Jim Cobb



Speaker Daniel Morgan

CGMS Gem & Mineral Show
Nov. 17-19, 2023
Jamil Temple, Columbia, SC



Geodes, Gary Hert and customers



Geodes, Laura Tesh and customers



View from Front Desk



Membership Desk, Sheila Frame,
Loree Ratchford and Carol Elliott



Pat Stidom and Mandie Wenzel near front desk



Sharon Sterret, Tom Cox and Angela
Valvasori at front desk (admissions)



Demonstrations: Flint Knapping



Demonstrations: Copper Work, Pam and Tony Etheridge



Demonstrations: Copper Work, Tony Etheridge



Jewelry Making Class for young students,
Susan Bloodworth



Vendor display



Vendor display and customer.

Columbia Gem & Mineral Society
2023 Please Copy 55th Annual

Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show

Nov. 17, 10:00 - 6:00 Jamil Temple
Nov. 18, 10:00 - 6:00 206 Jamil Rd.
Nov. 19, 12:00 - 5:00 Columbia, SC 29210

Adults \$6... Children 16 & Under Free
All Military & Dependents Free

With ID card

 www.cgms.rocks  **\$1.00 Off**
803-736-9317

Flyer for 2023 CGMS Gem and Mineral Show

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.

2024 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President..... Jim Cobb.
 Vice President..... Cheryl Coker.....
 Treasurer..... Angela Valvasori.....
 Secretary..... Jason Dolinski

COMMITTEE

Membership Sheila Frame.....
 Auctioneer..... Ron Ahle.....
 Club Liaison..... Jim Cobb.....
 Faceting Guild..... Tom Daniels.....
 Facebook..... Sue Shrader

Field Trip..... Open
 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**