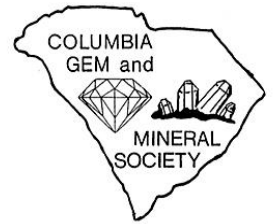




Rocky Trails



February 2024

Volume 18 Issue 2



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all continuing and new members. Seems it will be difficult for us to return to McKissick Museum this year in that they are unable to host our meetings due to staffing and costs. Therefore, we will be meeting at Hope Church Monday, February 19th. After that, we will be looking for alternative meeting locations. Please pay attention to meeting locations for all upcoming meetings until we have secured a permanent location. If any of you have suggestions for meeting locations, please let one of the officers know about it. We will get this issue resolved.

For those who made our last meeting, which was well attended, I hope you enjoyed the program. Evolution based on the fossil record is a fascinating subject. For February, our program will be a silent auction with mineral specimens from numerous donations and club members. This will be a good opportunity for you to acquire nice specimens for your collection while supporting the functions of our club.

After a great 2023 show, it is time to show some appreciation for all who volunteered. At the February meeting, we will have a drawing from show volunteers to award two scholarships to either William Holland or Wild Acres lapidary schools. These schools offer excellent training in lapidary arts and by sending show volunteers we support our show and the schools!

If you are interested in getting out in the field and doing some collecting, there are some nice field trips to choose from ranging from mineral collecting to fossil collecting. Look on pages 7-10 and 13 for details. We still have committee positions available such as Fieldtrip and show-related positions if you would like to increase 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. Also, do not miss the solar eclipse. Its time to start making plans if you want to see totality!

Stay in touch,
Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

February 19, 2024

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 to enter. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Socializing and refreshments at 7:00 pm. Meeting at 7:30 pm.

PROGRAM:

Silent Auction: Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry and other geology or lapidary items will be sold in a silent auction. CGMS has received many donations and these items, along with those brought by members, will be auctioned.

Bring items you wish to sell. You will be provided with the form to fill out to enter your item into the auction. You may choose to keep the proceeds, donate them to CGMS or split the proceeds with CGMS.

At the end of the bidding period, the Treasurer will collect the payment. Cash, check or credit card will be accepted.

Sue Shrader will provide Door Prizes.

Noami Cadle and Susan Bloodworth will provide refreshments.

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.

Program for the February Meeting

Silent Auction: Fossils, Minerals, Jewelry and other geology or lapidary items will be sold in a silent auction. CGMS has received many donations and these items, along with those brought by members, will be auctioned. Included this year's auction we have some nice crystal specimens from Diamond Hill that were donated by Ronnie Belleggia as well as an assortment of mineral specimens donated by Earl English Jr.

Items will be displayed with a bid form describing the object, a minimum bid and space for multiple bids. Members will have time to look at the items and make their bids.

Bring items you wish to sell. They can be objects you collected, made, or purchased. You will be provided with the form to fill out to enter your item into the auction. You may choose to keep the proceeds, donate them to CGMS or split the proceeds with CGMS.

At the end of the bidding period, the Treasurer will collect the payment. Cash, check or credit card will be accepted. Proceeds from the Auction will be put towards the shop development and other activities of the club.



Silent Auction from April 2019.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 2024, Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on January 22, 2024, at McKissick Museum. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Sue Shrader explained why the club will be meeting at alternative places temporarily. She said the club will be meeting in February at the Hope Church, but we would not meet at the church in March. Sue said we would need to look for a more permanent meeting place. Lisa Henry proposed that we look into the old Lexington Middle School which is now a Lexington Adult Learning Center. Sue passed around the refreshment volunteer list. Jim Cobb thanked Jonathan Wenzel and Sheila Frame for the refreshments for January, and Jim also thanked Gary Hert for door prizes. Ron Ahle also donated fossils for door prizes. Jim Cobb then welcomed new members and visitors and asked new members to introduce themselves.

Newsletter Rocky Trails: Ron Ahle asked if members had been receiving the newsletter, Rocky Trails. Ron reminded all members if they had any contributions to share, to send them to him.

Future Shop and Building: Cheryl Coker said that they were looking at some building possibilities.

Faceting: Tom Daniel said that we needed a faceting machine.

Website: Steve Coker said the Website was up and active.

Field Trip: Sue Shrader passed around a notice about an upcoming fossil dig for March 30, 2024. She said she would email a copy to all members.

Treasurer: Angela Valvasori said that the Annual Report for 2023 had been published in the Rocky Trails. Angela also announced that the club made approximately \$12,000.00 profit at the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Show in November. She also said she had some club patches for sale.

Liaison: Jim Cobb said that our Club still shared a good relationship with the Aiken Club and that many Aiken members were in our club.

Facebook: Sue Shrader said meeting information would always be posted on Facebook, and Chris Glass was frequently posting premiere specimens.

Membership: Sheila Frame said she was taking up membership dues now. She said the club currently has 93 members.

Show Committee: Terri Tokaz thanked all volunteers for their efforts at the show. Angela then said that the club would be drawing from the list of volunteers for 2 scholarships for William Holland or Wild Acres.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (continued)

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

Sunshine: Abbie Gates remembered Rudy Mancke, Joan Beckham, and Chris Cicimurri. Abbie said Gary Hert had recently had shoulder surgery and Jesse had had a stroke.

Since there was no old or new business, Jim Cobb announced that Ron Ahle would be presenting on the "Evolutionary History of Fish as Supported by the Fossil Record." Gary Hert and Jim Cobb then called out winners for the door prizes. Jim Cobb concluded the meeting to begin Ron Ahle's presentation. Door prizes were given to most in attendance.

Jim Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Bloodworth

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.

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP

The CGMS lapidary workshop in West Columbia, SC is open. To use the rock saws and cabbing machines call or email Gary Hert gchert@hotmail.com 803-794-9362. There is an hourly rate for using the machines.



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

MARS: One Thousand One

MARS: One Thousand One takes viewers away from planet Earth, into space, and across our solar system to our neighboring planet. This thrilling planetarium experience follows the fictional story of the Mars IRIS 1 mission, a daring 1001-day voyage to fly an international crew to the planet and return them safely to Earth. The crew faces a few dangers along the way, including a solar coronal mass ejection that threatens their safety. And, once on Mars, viewers will see the team work on the planet's surface, exploring the landscape, looking for water, and retrieving rocks in a search for the history of water.

MARS: One Thousand One is a visually beautiful show that brings the reality of Mars exploration to audiences. It is set just far enough in the future to seem real and tells a story we all hope to see and hear in our lifetimes: a trip to the Red Planet. Showtimes are listed for the current month. **Show Run Time:**45 min.

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.

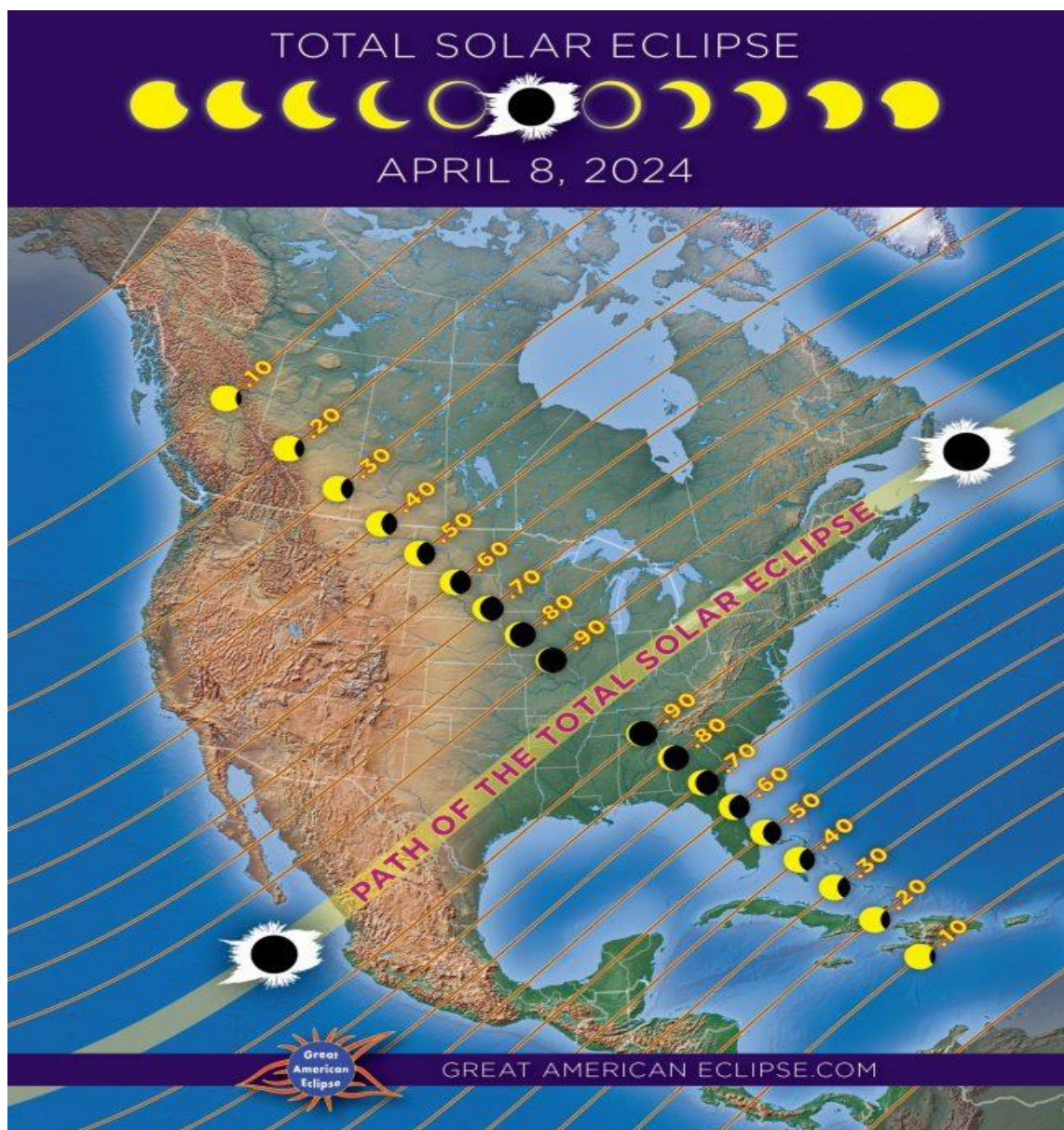
Museum Special Exhibit:

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 Solar Eclipse

A total [solar eclipse](#) will take place at the Moon's ascending node on Monday, April 8, 2024, visible across North America and dubbed the **Great North American Eclipse** (also **Great American Total Solar Eclipse** and **Great American Eclipse**) by some of the media. A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, thereby obscuring the image of the Sun for a viewer on Earth. A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's apparent diameter is larger than the Sun's, blocking all direct sunlight, turning day into darkness. [Totality](#) occurs only in a narrow path across Earth's surface, with the partial solar eclipse visible over a surrounding region thousands of kilometers wide.



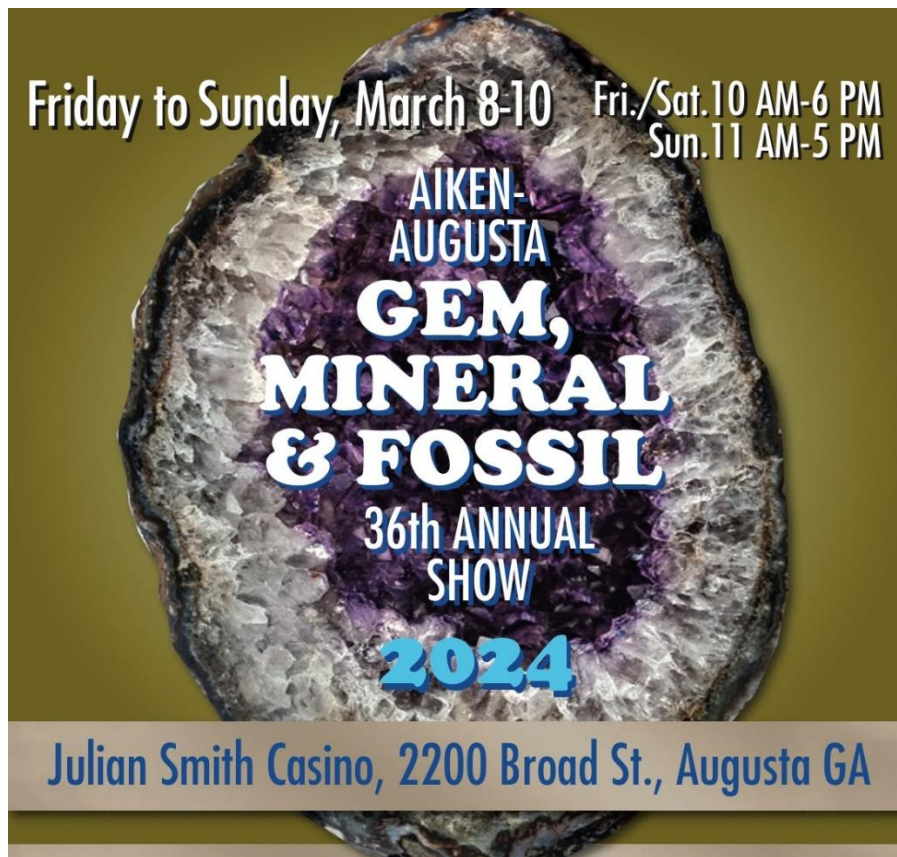
AREA SHOWS

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

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 24-25, 2024—JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI: Annual show; Mississippi Gem and Mineral
Society; Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; 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



March 15-17, 2024—MARIETTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Cobb Co. Civic
Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy; Fri. 10-5:30, Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; mbellpoint@gmail.com;
Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

The Mountain Area Gem & Mineral Association Presents:



Friday, Saturday & Sunday



MARCH 15th & 16th
9am - 6pm

MARCH 17th, 2024
10am - 4pm

FREE ADMISSION

Food & Drink Available

M.A.G.M.A. LAND OF THE SKY
GEM SHOW

Indoor and Outdoor Vendors



- Crystals
- Gemstones
- Moldavite
- Fossils
- Jewelry
- Minerals
- Meteorites
- Trinitite
- Artifacts



Thousands of Crystals, Rocks, Minerals
and Other Hobby Related Items!

From affordable treasures to museum-quality specimens

Land of The Sky Event Venue



39 Spring Cove Road
Swannanoa, NC 28778
15 Minutes from Asheville



For Show Info and Vendor Spaces, Call: 828-779-4501

Sponsored by M.A.G.M.A., Jacquot & Son Mining, & crystal potential

www.AmericanRockhound.com

www.crystalpotential.com



**Graves Mountain
Rock Swap and Dig
April 26th - 28th, 2024
Lincolnton, Georgia**

As of this posting, the dig is scheduled for April 2023. No reservations 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 setup 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.

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.)

DIRECTIONS: From Washington Georgia, drive east 11 miles on SR-378, look for mine entrance on right. From the Hardee's in Lincolnton, 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.

Motels and Camping:

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

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

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

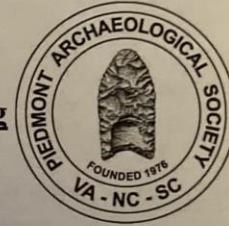
INDIAN ARTIFACT SHOW

Camden, SC

Saturday, February 17, 2024

8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Kershaw County Recreation Dept. Bldg



TABLES:

Dealer Tables: \$20 ea.

Display Tables: \$10 ea.

SET-UP TIME:

8:00 am

INFORMATION:

Larry McCaskill (803)243-7396

TABLE RESERVATIONS:

Rodney Peck (704) 933-8986

SHOW LOCATION:

1042 West Dekalb Street (same road as US-1;
US-601; SR-34; Jefferson Davis Hwy.)
Across from O'Reilly Auto Parts Store.

This show, sponsored by the Piedmont Archaeological Society of VA, NC, & SC, Inc. is for the exhibition of authentic American Indian Artifacts, and archaeological books and related items. No human remains or unlawful items may be exhibited or brought into the show room.

----- Cut here -----

Rodney Peck

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

Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year _____

(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)

<https://www.cgms.ocks>

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? _____

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**