



Rocky Trails



January 2022

Volume 16 Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Folks,

Welcome to all current and new members. We're still in a global crisis and this pandemic grows tiresome. For many of us, we have found that we can still do outdoor activities, but with social distancing and mask wearing! Thanks to "Zoom", in 2021 we were able to keep the club active with regular meetings while still having fieldtrips, picnics and our annual rock and gem show. The Gem Show was a great success thanks to all the efforts made by volunteers! Hopefully, 2022 will see changes in the pandemic that will allow us to meet in person. At the very least, we will be able to meet in outdoor settings. Dixie mineral Fieldtrips have been reinstated for 2022 and I would encourage folks to go on some of those trips. We are currently planning to have our 2022 annual show and hopefully resume general meetings at McKissick Museum sometime later in 2022. Be sure to mark your calendar for our first general meeting January 24.

It is with a sad heart that we have lost one of our dear members, David Frame, who passed away in November. He was the husband of Sheila Frame and was very active in the club through meetings and especially outdoor activities. He had a special interest in archeology and was always eager to share his knowledge. He was a genuinely nice person and we will miss him dearly. Our sincere condolences go out to his family, friends, and especially to Sheila.

Worth restating, we are reducing annual dues in half for 2022 for all members who have paid 2020. If you would like to be more involved with our club, we are looking for volunteers to take organizational duties such as President, secretary and fieldtrip chair. We will be having a picnic get together on March/April and are working out the details of that event.

Stay in touch and don't take any risks. STAY SAFE!

Sincerely,
Ron

NEXT MEETING

January 24, 2022

We will have the first CGMS meeting of 2022 digitally, by Zoom. You may attend the meeting by computer by clicking on the "Join Zoom Meeting" link below, or you can join by phone. If joining by phone, either dial the number highlighted in green below as a one tap access from your cell phone or dial the number highlighted in yellow, followed by the meeting ID and then the passcode, following the prompts. If you have any questions about using Zoom please contact Angela Valvasori.

Topic: CGMS General Meeting February 2022

Time: Jan 24, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84538576508?pwd=TWlvTlJjRHd0VWpzZy9kS09WWmwxZz09>
Meeting ID: 845 3857 6508
Passcode: 312139

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84538576508#,,,*,312139#

Dial by phone

1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 845 3857 6508
Passcode: 312139

PROGRAM:

The program will be show and tell. Be prepared to show a specimen or piece of jewelry and tell the story associated with it.

**JANUARY 24TH PICNIC IS
CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER!**

CGMS Lapidary Workshop

Closed for Now

New Location Needed

The club is seeking a new location for the workshop. A long term lease or purchase is desired. If you have any suggestions please contact one of the Executive Officers.

Social Media Helps our Club Stay Social!

Please use social media to keep up with club activities during the COVID-19 crisis.

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. Recent posts shared the information on the recent earthquake, as well as the Graves Mountain Fall Open House...

To access our web site, just type "CGMS.ROCKS" in your internet browser or you can search for Columbia Gem and Mineral Society in Google.

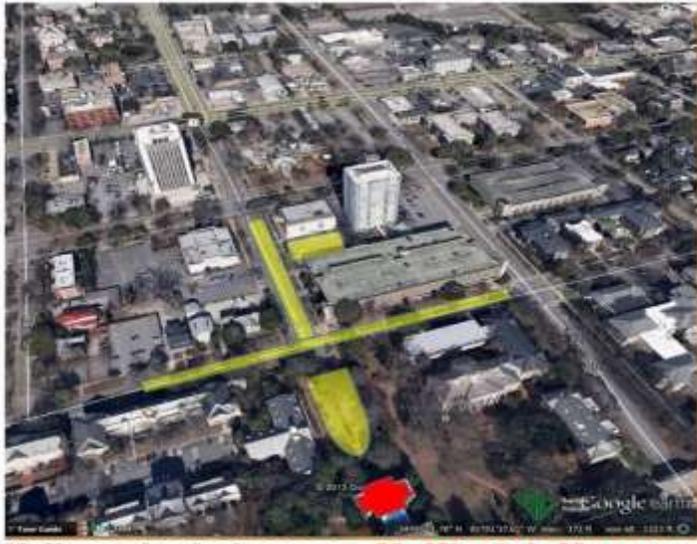
The Club's website is: www.cgms.rocks

News Worth Digging Up

Fossilized tree discovered at N.S. cliff on display at Royal Ontario Museum

By Moira Donovan, *CBC News*: December 24, 2021

[The 310-million-year-old tree from Joggins, NS is now part of a permanent ROM exhibit](#) that traces life from its earliest origins, four billion years in the past, to the appearance of the first dinosaurs and mammals about 200 million years ago. Trees in that period, unlike those today, had rigid exteriors and fibrous centers. When those centers rotted away, it left a hollow tube into which sand or mud would once have poured, eventually forming the kind of column. This type of "cast and mold" fossil is common at Joggins and dates back to a time when tropical rainforests first appeared on the planet contributing oxygen to the atmosphere allowing large organisms to flourish. "It was in those rainforests that the evolution from amphibians to reptiles happened and is recorded," said John Calder, a geologist and paleontologist. "And Joggins happens to have the oldest example, in the fossil record of reptiles, of this seminal step in the evolution or branching of the tree of life." Angela and I were visited Joggins before the World Heritage Designation and we saw these fern tree trunks in the cliff and collected fossil on the beach. It was awesome! Check out more about Joggins and the exhibits at the Royal Ontario Museum at: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/fossilized-tree-joggins-royal-museum-1.6292790>



Yellow shaded areas =suggested parking **McKissick Museum (in Red)**



[McKissick Museum](#)

Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Closed Sundays. Masks are required inside the museum.

McKissick Museum 2022 www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/mikissickmuseum;

The Shell Game: Unravelling Molluscan Mysteries

Ongoing through Saturday, Mar. 5, 2022

Location: McKissick Museum

Invitation to Explore

Ongoing through Saturday, May 28, 2022

Location: McKissick Museum

Natural Curiosity: The University of South Carolina and the Evolution of Scientific Inquiry in the Natural World

Ongoing through Saturday, May 28, 2022

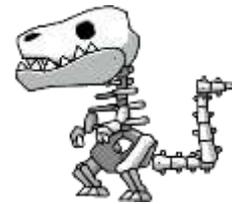
Location: McKissick Museum

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

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

As Covid-19 social distancing and face cover related guidance continues to be updated by the State of South Carolina (from the Governor's Executive Orders, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and AccelerateSC), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Museum will update our policies accordingly.

Face coverings are encouraged throughout the galleries and REQUIRED in the planetarium, 4d theater and observatory for ages 3 and above.



New Hours of Operation:

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

Boeing Observatory Telescope Livestream Every Saturday Night on Facebook.

Join State Museum Boeing Observatory staff for a virtual look at the night sky (including the Moon) from a telescope streamed on Facebook Live! Weather permitting, staff will livestream a telescope feed from the museum and be available to answer questions in the comments. **First Sunday**

Sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina

Sun., Feb. 6 from 12 – 5 p.m.

General admission is only \$1 for guests on the first Sunday of every month! PLUS enjoy 4-D movies and/or planetarium shows, for only \$5 each!

Virtual Planetarium Sky Tour – 2nd & 4th Thursday via Facebook

Planetarium manager, Liz Klimek, takes viewers on a virtual trip through the universe to explore planets, star clusters, constellations and more

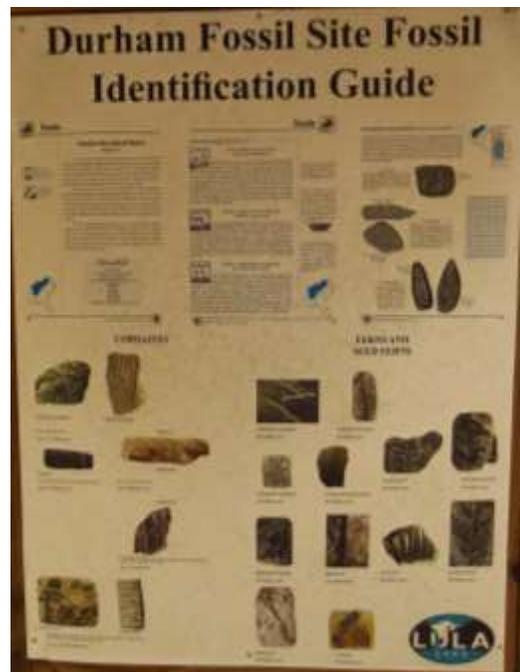
<https://www.facebook.com/scstatemuseum>

Fieldtrip News

The first field trip of 2022 will be a Dixie Mineral lead field trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee to a Pennsylvanian/Mississippian scale and fern tree fossil site. Weather permitting, this looks like a good trip to attend with free access and everybody finds fossils. The area is perfect for a 3-day weekend with visits to the TELUS Science Museum and the Chattanooga Aquarium as possible destinations. There is also a trilobite location in NW Georgia that could be visited (if you know you are going on the fieldtrip and would like to know the location of the trilobite site please email me about your interest). Below are some examples of fossils that you might find on the fieldtrip.



Fossils collected by Angela Valvasori & Ron Ahle



Fieldtrip News, cont'd

Last year, Ron led a small group of folks to a rock shelter and waterfall at Forty-acre Rock Heritage preserve. Back by popular demand, Ron will again lead interested folks to this treasured location and walk to other parts of the preserve with waterfalls, granitic dome and an ancient beaver pond. Stay tuned for updates for when the fieldtrip date is set. Below are photos from last year's adventure.



Photos by Ron Ahle & Angela Valvasori

Membership News

We currently have 75 paid members. For all the new members, welcome to our club.

As a reminder, the board voted that all members who paid dues for 2020 will have a 50% off membership in 2022. All others will be expected to pay full dues for 2022.

CGMS Name Tag

Would you like to have a CGMS name tag? The Trophy and Gift Shop in Cayce has the template, shown below, for the CGMS name tags. They are magnetic so there are no pins. If you would like one, you can contact them by phone or via their website, tell them you would like a CGMS name tag and give them the name you want on it. Or you can contact Angela Valvasori (see contact information on last page) and she will have them made. The cost is \$10. The Trophy and Gift Shop 911 12th St., Cayce SC 803-796-7710, trophyandgiftshop.com. We also have patches for \$10. Contact Angela if you would like one.



EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2022 Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

We held a zoom board meeting on January 17th and the official minutes will be posted in next month's Rocky Trails. In summary, the board discussed upcoming events such as board meetings, general meetings, picnics and fieldtrips. One very important note is that the board has canceled the upcoming picnic at Gibson pond due to a very cold weather prediction (highs in the 30's). Instead, the general meeting will be held on January 24th through zoom. Please see the front page of the issue for details on the general meeting.

Congaree National Park.

Astonishing biodiversity exists in Congaree National Park, the largest intact expanse of old growth bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the southeastern United States. Waters from the Congaree and Wateree Rivers sweep through the floodplain, carrying nutrients and sediments that nourish and rejuvenate this ecosystem and support the growth of national and state champion trees.

Currently, Portions of Visitor Center Remain Closed due to COVID-19

The exhibit area and auditorium in the Visitor Center remain closed. All hiking & paddling trails, canoe launches, restrooms, bookstore, picnic shelter & picnic grounds remain open.

The park's campgrounds are open by reservation. Some sites at the Longleaf Campground & portions of the Visitor Center remain closed. The visitor center closing does not include the restrooms or the bookstore (open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm). All hiking & paddling trails, canoe launches, restrooms & the picnic shelter remain open.

The park's backcountry areas remain open, including the following trails: Cedar Creek Canoe Trail, Kingsnake, Oakridge, River, Weston Lake Loop, Bates Ferry, and Fork Swamp. Visitors wanting to come to the park are encouraged to email [e-mail us](mailto:congreenp@nps.gov) for guidance about how to access the park's backcountry



Photo by Ron Ahle



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Society (Chattanooga, TN) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, February 19, 2022
9:00 am CST
Ross Creek
Gruetli-Laager, TN

TRIP: Day trip to a Pennsylvanian/Mississippian scale and fern tree fossil site. The site is easily accessible by auto and is not a strenuous site. The site is a shallow creek that is wet year-round. This time of year, snakes and poison ivy are probably not a problem. Our club has been collecting at this site for 15 years.

COLLECTING: Collecting will include various genus and species of Pennsylvanian and Mississippian carboniferous plant fossils. Extensive digging is not required as most specimens are readily picked up in the creek or in the creek bank wash.

BRING: Bring a bucket, digging trowel, geology hammer, magnifying lens, packing material to protect finds, wet weather gear especially boots, gloves, change of shoes and pants as you will get wet. It will be cold this time of year and you will be on top of a mountain, so bring warm dry clothes to change into and check weather for Monteagle, TN for forecast.

REQUIREMENTS: There are no age restrictions but must be able to negotiate uneven terrain and cross a creek. It may be muddy and slippery. Remember this is undeveloped land and has many roots and vines on the ground. Loose rocks everywhere.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Parking will be ample on a dirt road. It may be muddy depending on the weather. There are no facilities in the area, so bring water, food and first aid meds if needed. Cell phone reception at best is unreliable.

FEE: There is no fee.

REGISTRATION: No limit on participants, will register at meeting site

CHILDREN: Children encouraged, but must be able to walk on uneven terrain. Adults are expected to supervise your children.

PETS: No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: There are no adjacent facilities for this site, this is a remote site, very primitive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: A brief safety/orientation meeting will be held at the rendezvous site. Samples of collection material will be available for inspection.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: We will meet at the Hardee's parking lot on top of Monteagle Mountain, exit 138 on I-24 W 50 min from Chattanooga.



AREA SHOWS

Due to the coronavirus, shows may be cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled. Show dates listed on this site may have been changed without notifying us. To verify the accuracy of a show date go to the show's website or contact them directly.

February 5 & 6, 2022...Merritt Island, FL

Show and sale; Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club; Kiwanis Island Recreation Center, 951 Kiwanis Island Park; (321) 455-1380;

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/947251509213541?ref=newsfeed>

February 26, 2022... Lakeland, FL

Annual Show Imperial Bone Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Hours: 9:00am – 4:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church 175 Lake Hollingsworth DR. Sat .

IBVGMFS@gmail.net

www.bonevalley.net

March 4 to 6, 2022...Athens, GA

[Fifth Annual Athens Rock, Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show! -](#)

Hours: 10-6 Fri, 10-6 Sat, 11-5 Sun

300 N Thomas St The Classic Center, Grand Hall 8 ,Athens, GA 30606

(706) 296-9467 Darklighter@bellsouth.net

February 18 to 20, 2021 ...Live Oak, FL

SMSF Rockhound Roundup Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

4th Annual Rockhound Round-Up

All members of all SFMS Clubs are welcome. From clubs in good standing from over 74 clubs

A Good old-fashioned Rock-Swap

Spirit of Suwannee Music Park

3076 95th Dr. Live Oak, FL 32060

For more information contact Jerri Heer at secretary@southeastfed.org

Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year _____

(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)

<https://www.cgms.rocks>

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 don't 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: _____

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

Field Trips__ Membership__ Newsletter__ Programs__ Social__ Faceting Guild__

Workshop__ Show Chairman__ 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? _____

For Club Use

Amount Pd _____	Chk# _____	Cash _____	Officer _____	Date _____
Amount Pd _____	Chk# _____	Cash _____	Officer _____	Date _____
Amount Pd _____	Chk# _____	Cash _____	Officer _____	Date _____
Amount Pd _____	Chk# _____	Cash _____	Officer _____	Date _____
Amount Pd _____	Chk# _____	Cash _____	Officer _____	Date _____



CGMS Website

Please visit our Website:

<http://www.cgms.rocks>

Webmaster: Mike Montebello

Monthly Meeting

Starting in 2021, Except for January, the meetings are held the third Monday of each month at the McKissick Museum's Auditorium, on the USC campus. Socializing and refreshments at 7:00 pm; Meeting at 7:30 pm. Please enter from the Horseshoe entrance.

Executive Board Meetings:

Except for January, the meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd., and West Columbia. Meal is at 6:30 pm. Meeting is at 7:00 pm.

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