



# Rocky Trails



February 2023

Volume 17 Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all continuing and new members. We are off to a great start for 2023 with a well-attended first meeting with an excellent presentation given by Archeologist Chris Judge. A real sign that we have gotten past the COVID pandemic is that we are once again going to have our club meetings at McKissick Museum! As much as we liked meeting at Hope Church, it will be nice to get back to McKissick. We had a drawing at the January Meeting and two lucky volunteers, Laura Bailey and Sharron Sterret, won scholarships to William Holland or Wild Acres lapidary schools. It just goes to show that hard work can benefit in surprising ways.

Speaking about our next meeting at McKissick, we have a program scheduled that will provide an opportunity for new members to get to know some of the membership. This is done by members sharing their collections and interest during show and tell. As was mentioned last month, Walt Kabilus has invited some of our members to join his club on a fieldtrip to Cross, SC. This fieldtrip is fully booked but, I will report on the trip during our next meeting. This is the beginning of our two clubs sharing fieldtrips.

Speaking of fieldtrips, there are a number of them happening soon. There are two Dixie Mineral Fieldtrips, one to Diamond Hill (see page 8) and one for lace agate in Georgia (see page 10). If you want to go on these trips and are having difficulties making reservations, send me an email and I will help you. Also another collecting opportunity will be available at Graves Mountain in April (see page 12).

On page 6, there is a list of activities being offered by Cayce Museum. One of the activities is a Bird Walk on Feb 11. That is not correct. It is actually on March 11, and the reason I know this that I will be leading that walk. Finally, on pages 15-23 you will find the CGMS Historian Report for 2022. It's a good read and is loaded with photos. Angela did a great job!

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

Stay in touch and don't take any risks.

*Ron Ahle*

## **NEXT MEETING**

**February 20, 2023**

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

The February 2023 CGMS meeting will be held at **The McKissick Museum** at USC. Parking is available beside the museum where Bull St. runs into Pendleton St. See map on page 10.

## PROGRAM:

**Show & Tell - Bring** a rock that you have found or bought, or a piece of jewelry. This includes items you have found on field trips, made in a lapidary class, or from your collection. Certificates will be awarded to the prettiest and ugliest items. Bring those fossils, crystals, or jewelry!

Door Prizes will be provided by Terri Tokaz and Sue Shrader.

Refreshments will be provided Bonnie Branan.

## **Executive Meeting**

February 27, 2023

Dinner: 6 pm, Meeting: 7 pm

Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd.,  
West Columbia.

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

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### January 16, 2023 Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on January 16, 2023 at Hope Church. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Jim announced that after the club would resume meeting at McKissick Museum starting in February. Jim thanked the Wenzel Family for providing snacks and Susan Richardson for providing door prizes. He acknowledged new members and visitors in attendance. The meeting was well attended.

**Treasurer's Report:** Angela reported the club's CD was transferred to a new CD in order to increase the interest income of the clubs money. She also expressed that the income from the show from admissions, grab bags, geodes, etc., was very similar to last year. Angela gave the details for acquiring name tags and offered club patches to members present.

**Website:** Steve Coker reported the website was up and running.

**Field Trips:** Ron gave a report on the Dixie Mineral fieldtrip to Morris Island and Walt Kabilus introduced the upcoming joint fieldtrip with the Aiken club to the Martin Marietta Quarry in Cross, SC. A sign-up sheet was passed around and available slots for our club members were filled up.

**Workshop:** A discussion was had over the future workshop. There was some discussion about the Frink Street site and other sites. Cheryl Coker gave a brief summary of what the club was looking for in the way of a workshop.

**Programs:** Main Program: Chris Judge gave a presentation on dating native Indian sites by looking at the dimensions of small points recovered at sites. Future presenters for 2023 include Ron Ahle and Walt Kabilus.

**Upcoming Events:** Walt Kabilus made a plug for the Aiken/Augusta gem & Mineral show. Sue conducted a drawing for lapidary scholarships from folks who assisted with the show. Laura Bailey and Sharon Sterrett were drawn for the awards and Angela Valvasori and Gary Hert were selected for alternates in the event that Laura or Sharon are unable to go.

Door prizes were given to most in attendance.

Jim Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Ron Ahle*

### EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

#### January 23, 2023 Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held its executive board meeting on January 23, 2023 at Grecian Gardens Restaurant. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. In attendance were Vice President Tom Daniels, Ron Ahle (Secretary), Jim Cobb (President), Gary Hert (Workshop Chair), Sue Shrader (Program Chair), Terri Tokaz (Show Volunteer Coordinator), Cheryl Coker (Shop Purchase Committee), Steve Coker (Web Master), Jonathan Wenzel (Vice-President), Sheila Frame (Membership), Mandie Wenzel and Angela Valvasori (Treasurer). Jim thanked all of the incoming 2023 officers for agreeing to serve the club. Jim thanked the Wentzels for giving us the opportunity to convene our club meetings at their church.

**Show:** Sue mentioned that the club received generous donations for grab bags which were sold for nice profit for our club. Gary stated that we would need more geodes for 2023 and a motion was made and passed to allow Gary to make that purchase. Gary also noted that we would be needing saw blades as well as oil for the geode saw. Sue said she had tallied info that could be used to analyze the effectiveness of our advertising dollars.

**Program Coordinator:** Sue said that the Program for the February meeting would likely be some kind of show and tell activity. She also said that door prizes would be provided by her and Terri. Sue said she was lining up programs for this year with potential presenters including Clara Mata, Walt Kabilus and Ron Ahle. Jim mentioned the Aiken Club would be having their annual show the second weekend in March. An artifacts show in Camden on February 18<sup>th</sup> was also mentioned.

**Fieldtrips:** Ron reported on the upcoming joint fieldtrip with the Aiken club to the Martin Marietta Quarry in Cross, SC. **Historian:** Angela volunteered to be the historian. Angela reported that she had completed the 2022 Historical Report and would submit it for publication in the Rocky Trails. She is also working on digitizing historical slides. **Membership:** Sheila reported that we had about 70 members. She mentioned that she was running out business cards for the club and Ron said he would take care of acquiring new ones.

**Treasurer:** Angela gave the treasurer report for 2022. She mentioned she closed our existing CDs and opened a new one increasing our interest rate from 0.15 to 3.4%. Steve Coker mentioned that if we are to get a workshop, the club will need more income which could come from silent auctions, donations, etc. Angela was assigned to look at ways for our club to be paid electronically both through membership and at the show. She also mentioned that Irmo Trophy would be willing to make club badges for us. She mentioned that Jim Cobb will be a signatory to the club which will enable him to write checks. **Workshop:** Tom lead a discussion on facet machine and what the club would need once we had the shop set up. He also reminded members that he was looking for faceting books by Howard for Justin Prim. Cheryl lead a discussion workshop purchase options keeping in mind zoning and building codes. She thought a process were land purchase first would be more doable considering our finances.

**New Business:** A discussion was held on upgrading our website and potential web tools. Sheila agreed to investigate Google products for non-profits.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Ron Ahle*

**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***

**Live Sky Experience**

Travel through the night sky and take a tour of the constellations, planets and other celestial objects that can be seen in the current night sky from right here in Columbia. Learn how the sky changes over the course of the night and journey through space to get a close-up look at Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars. Show Run Time: 30 mins. Sat. and Sun.: 2:30 p.m.

**Black Holes**

Unimaginably powerful, relentless, and invisible, black holes are some of the most fascinating and extreme objects in the universe. They warp space and time, swallow up stars, and can grow to monstrous sizes. How do they form? Where are they found? What would happen to you if you fell into one? Go on a mind-bending journey that brings you face to face with these strange and enigmatic denizens of the cosmos. 35 mins. Tues. – Fri: 3:30 p.m., Sat-Sun: 4:00 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.

**Virtual Planetarium Sky Tour**

Thurs., Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. via [Facebook](#)

Join State Museum planetarium manager, Liz Klimek, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month for a virtual exploration of the stars, planets and constellations you can observe in night-sky. This programs premier on the museum's Facebook page at the designated time listed above.

***First Sunday Sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina***

**Sun., Mar. 5 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!

**McKissick Museum**[https://sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/artsandsciences/mckissick\\_museum/](https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/mckissick_museum/)**Hours**

McKissick Museum is free and open to the public Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm,  
Saturday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**Exhibitions:****WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023 AT 11 AM – 12 PM****Botany Walk on the Historic Horseshoe**

Steps of McKissick Museum

A FREE and informal botanical tour of the Horseshoe: trees, shrubs, and whatever is of interest. Plants featured or discussed will vary with group interest and by season. Meet on the steps of McKissick Museum. Brought to you by the friendly staff of the USC Herbarium! Walks occur every THIRD Wednesday of the month. Starts at 11am, lasts an hour.

**Check out the exhibition from February 1 - May 12, 2023.**

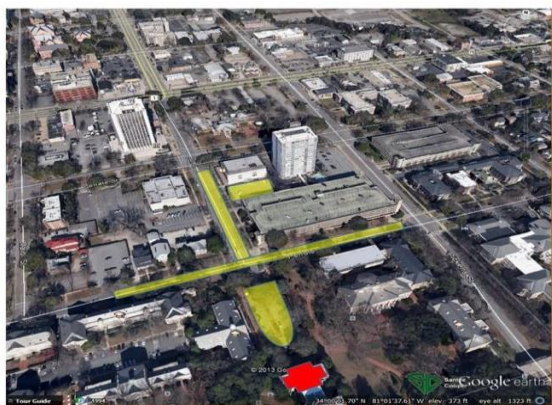
In September 2018, Anna Davidson was invited by USC Geology professor and oceanographer Susan Lang to be part of an expedition to study the Lost City as an artist-at-sea. The Lost City is a hydrothermal vent field located halfway between the US and Africa on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. They spent a month aboard the research vessel Atlantis and used a remotely operated, deep-submergence vehicle to collect samples and record video on multiple cameras. Based on her experience of being at sea and the documentary video footage, Davidson created a body of artwork about hydrothermal vents and the threats deep-sea mining poses to them. This exhibit will juxtapose Davidson's artwork with scientific specimens and data to ask what visual art and science disciplines share, and how might artists and scientists support each other's work.

During winter break, Dr. Anna Davidson visited the museum to install her artwork for our upcoming exhibition, *The Lost City: Between Art and Science*.

Davidson teaches ecological art in the Environment and Sustainability Program at Cornell University. In 2018, she accompanied former [University of South Carolina School of the Earth, Ocean, and Environment](#) professor Susan Lang on a month-long expedition to the Lost City — a hydrothermal vent field located at the bottom of the seafloor roughly between South Carolina and North Africa.

Working at the intersection of art and science, Davidson's prints, sculptures, and video installations incorporate and reinterpret scientific imagery and samples from her experience as an artist-at-sea.

**View and register for exhibition-related programming, including an artist's talk with Davidson, on our events calendar at [sc.edu/mckissickmuseum](https://sc.edu/mckissickmuseum)**



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

Club meetings are at The McKissick Museum at USC. Parking is available beside the museum where Bull St. runs into Pendleton St. See map on page 10. If you are unable to use the front steps of the McKissick Museum, there is an elevator on the ground floor down the hall from the parking lot. If you need to use the elevator call 803-261-9317 to have the door on the street level by the parking lot opened.



## Cayce Historical Museum

***Dave the Potter's Legacy***



Come hear George Wingard with the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program talk about the enslaved potter Dave who created beautiful alkaline-glazed stoneware vessels in Edgefield, SC. Dave's story is an inspiration and revelation on his experiences in enduring slavery with defiance and dignity. Mr. Wingard will bring the original Dave jar and also another for the audience to examine. He will talk about the modern importance of Dave's Legacy.

*Thursday, February 16th at 6:00 PM*

*Cayce Historical Museum's Visitors Center,*

*1800 12th Street, Cayce, SC*

*Free to the Public!*



**HISTORY AT YOUR FEET**

12,000 YEAR HISTORY PARK • CAYCE, SOUTH CAROLINA

**12,000 Year History Park: Spring 2023 Tours**

Feb 4: Colonial Forts Tour: 1:00 PM  
 Feb 11: Bird Watching Tour: 10:00 AM\*\*\*\*\*  
 Feb 18: Civil War Tour: 1:00 PM  
 Feb 25: Civil War Tour: 1:00 PM  
 March 4: Colonial Forts Tour: 1:00 PM  
 March 11: **NO TOURS**  
 March 18: Civil War Tour: 1:00 PM\*\*\*\*\*  
 March 25: **NO TOURS**  
 April 1: **NO TOURS**  
 April 8: Civil War Tour: 1:00 PM  
 April 15: Colonial Forts Tour: 1:00 PM  
 April 22: **NO TOURS**  
 April 29: Civil War Tour: 1:00 PM

History Tours start at the Cayce Tennis Center, 1120 Fort Congaree Trail in Cayce, where free parking is available.

\*\*\*\*\*Please meet tour guide (s) at entrance to the park and park in dirt parking lot near by. There is event at Tennis Center and parking will be limited that day.

We also have a Native American tour that dates and times will be determined and passed along as soon as they are available. Visit our website at [cayce12000years.com](http://cayce12000years.com) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for new information!

If you have questions please contact (803)-739-5385.

### Special Announcement

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023 AT 9 AM**

49th Annual Conference on SC Archaeology

Gambrell Hall University of South Carolina

[Archaeological Society of South Carolina](http://archaeologysc.org)

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina is excited to announce our 49th Annual Conference! This year's theme is "Women in South Carolina Archaeology". The conference will be held at Gambrell Hall on the University of South Carolina campus. To see the full schedule go to: [49th Annual Conference Program \(2023\) | Archaeological Society of South Carolina](http://49thAnnualConferenceProgram(2023)|ArchaeologicalSocietyofSouthCarolina) ([archaeologysc.org](http://archaeologysc.org))

## News Worth Digging Up

**Scientists Found a Dinosaur's Face, Complete With Its Skin**

Source: Story by Frank Landymore / January, 2023

In 2011, archaeologists uncovered one of the most — if not *the* most — pristine [dinosaur fossils](#) yet: a near-whole ankylosaur, complete with its jagged spikes, most of its limbs, armor coating, and some of its guts and stomach contents. The most amazing detail, though? Its uncannily preserved face and skin.

It took Mark Mitchell, a technician at Royal Tyrell Museum, an absurd 7,000 hours and nearly six years to meticulously exhume the fossil by delicately chipping away at the surrounding stone. For his efforts, he had the newly discovered specie ankylosaur — named after him: *Borealopelta markmitchelli*.

The discovery was considered a holotype for the ages. The museum's curator, Donald Henderson, described it was a literal "one in a billion" find. The remarkable specimen has allowed researchers to do a series of impressive studies. One study suggested that the iconic spines were not used for protection against predators but rather as ornaments to attract mates. Another study found that this large dinosaur exhibited counter shading suggesting that Cretaceous predators may have been even more dangerous than previously thought. A more recent study was made that looked at the digestive parts and was able to make some determinations about what these large herbivores actually ate.

To read the entire article go to: [Scientists Found a Dinosaur's Face, Complete With Its Skin \(msn.com\)](#)

To Read more go to: [Researchers look a dinosaur in its remarkably preserved face](#)



PHOTO TAKEN AT ROYAL TYRELL MUSEUM

**Graves Mountain  
Rock Swap and Dig  
April 28th - 30th, 2023  
Lincolnton, Georgia**

As of this posting, the dig is tentively on for April, 2023 and back to normal. No reservations needed. Current covid safety precautions must be observed. Masks must be worn when at food and vending booths. Social distancing must be adhered to. 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 setup 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 setup 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




**AREA SHOWS**

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

**February 25-26, 2023—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](http://www.missgems.org)

**March 10-12, 2023 —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](mailto:agams.club@gmail.com); Website: [www.aikengmfs.org](http://www.aikengmfs.org) or [www.agams.club](http://www.agams.club)



<b>INDIAN ARTIFACT SHOW</b>	
Camden, SC	
Saturday, February 18, 2023	
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	
<b>Kershaw County Recreation Dept. Bldg</b>	
<p><b>TABLES:</b> Dealer Tables: \$20 ea. Display Tables: \$10 ea.</p> <p><b>SET-UP TIME:</b> 8:30 am</p> <p><b>INFORMATION:</b> Larry McCaskill (803) 243-7396</p> <p><b>TABLE RESERVATIONS:</b> Rodney Peck (704) 933-8986</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>SHOW LOCATION:</b> 1042 West Dekalb Street (same road as US-1; US-601; SR-34; Jefferson Davis Hwy.) Across from O'Reilly Auto Parts Store.</p> <p><b>MOTEL INFO:</b> Colony Inn 2020 West Dekalb Street, Camden, SC (Close to show). Phone: 803-432-5508.</p>
<p><small>This show, sponsored by the Piedmont Archaeological Society of VA, NC, &amp; 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.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- Cut here -----</p>	

### 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](mailto:irmotrophy@gmail.com)

803-798-3735

5430 Old Bush River Rd.

Columbia, SC 29212



We also have patches for \$10. Angela Valvasori will have them available at the meetings.



### 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](http://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.

**Instagram page for the Show:** [@cgms\\_show](#)

### Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (CGMS) Historian's Summary of the Year 2022

The **Columbia Gem and Mineral Society** was established in 1965, making 2022 the Club's 57<sup>th</sup> year.

**Officers** for 2022 were;

- President – Vacant
- Vice President – Tom Daniels
- Secretary – Ron Ahle
- Treasurer - Angela Valvasori

The Committee Chairs were:

- Membership .....Sheila Frame
- Auctioneer.....Benira Sutphin
- Club Liaison.....Jim Cobb
- Faceting Guild.....Tom Daniels
- Facebook.....Dan Elswick / Sue Shrader
- Field Trip.....Carl Sorensen then vacant
- Historian.....Gordon Murphy
- Librarian.....Sheila Frame
- Newsletter Editor.....Ron Ahle
- Programs.....Sue Shrader
- Rookie Rockhound .....Vacant
- Show.....Dee Iurcovich with committee members Sue Shrader, Sharon Sterrett and Terri Tokaz
- Sunshine .....Abbie Gates
- Website.....Steven Coker
- Workshop.....Gary Hert

Due to COVID-19, the 2021 officers agreed to continue in their positions until the end of April 2022 because the lack of in-person general meetings which made it difficult to nominate new officers. New officers were requested to begin in March. The President office remained vacant, so the Vice President, Tom Daniels, conducted the remaining meetings.

At the end of 2022 the Club had 129 **members**: 103 adults and 26 juniors.

**Rocky Trails:** The CGMS newsletter, the Rocky Trails, was issued each month except December. The newsletter was emailed to members.

**COVID-19:** While the COVID-19 pandemic continued into 2022, many restrictions were eased and CGMS resumed in-person general and executive meetings in March. The Southeast Federation resumed the Dixie Mineral (DMC) field trips in January 2022. In light of diminished club function in 2021, CGMS members who paid dues for 2020 (dues from existing members were not collected in 2021) were given 50% off membership in 2022.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual **CGMS Show** was held at Jamil Temple on November 19, 20 and 21. The Show was a big success thanks to all the hard work of the show committee, club volunteers and our highly valued vendors! The club benefitted from all of our show programs such as the geode booth, grab bags, salted

mine and education programs. Because of the efforts of volunteers, we were able to display six beautiful show cases that were repaired and refurbished. Attendance was approximately 1500, consistent with recent history average. 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: a large amethyst geode on a stand, donated by Blue Earth Traders. The geode cutting saw was busy out front, with members selling and cutting beautiful geodes. The grab bags were again popular. Door prizes donated by the dealers were awarded hourly and the grand prize was awarded at the end of the show. In preparation for the 2022 show, the display cases were refurbished to hold screws in place more securely and with new fabric in the interior. An Instagram page was created to further advertise the show.

**Monthly Meetings** were held on the third Monday (fourth Monday in January) for the general meeting and the fourth Monday (third Monday in January) for the executive meeting. The January and February 2022 General Club and Executive meetings were held on-line by Zoom. In-person General and Executive meetings resumed in March 2021. The General Meetings were held at Hope Church since the McKissick meeting room was not yet available. The Wenzel family belongs to this church and graciously offered their meeting room as a place for our Club to meet. The in-person Executive meetings were held at Coco's Restaurant in Columbia and Grecian Gardens in West Columbia. At the general meetings, individually packaged refreshments and door prizes were provided by members. Educational programs were given by guest speakers.

The 2022 **Programs** were:

- January: The program was show and tell, where members showed a specimen or piece of jewelry and told the story associated with it.
- February: "Jurassic Fossils of Southern Germany" presented by Ron Ahle. The presentation covered a summary of fossils found near Eichstatt Germany from the world famous Solnhofen Plattenkalk Formation.
- March: In-person meetings resumed. The program was "What have you found, made, or bought since March 2020". This was a membership participation program where members shared their rock and gem experiences and their recent acquisitions.
- April: Andy Shull spoke about Southeastern Chert and its applications and usage to ancient natives and modern flint knappers. Andy is a long time Native American artifact hunter and flint knapper. He also gave a demonstration of flint knapping using materials he brought.
- May: Abbie Gates brought her collection of fossils and artifacts she has found at Edisto Beach, SC. She has been collecting for many years and has a large and interesting collection. Abbie is a long-time member of CGMS and is our Sunshine Chairperson. She brought lots of fossils for everyone to look at and was very generous in passing them around while she presented the information. This hands on presentation was enjoyed by all.
- June: Ron Koenig gave a program on "Looking for Local Minerals". Ron has been digging for quartz and amethyst in South Carolina and Georgia since the 1960s. Ron Koenig is the recently retired owner of Michael's Jewelry. He has found some massive clusters of amethyst and smoky quartz and he brought specimens that he found at each location:
  - Broad River gravel bars, Columbia - moonstone, jasper, & agate.
  - Lake Murray Spillway - garnets
  - River Drive, Columbia - quartz crystals
  - Lake Murray (near Hilton Rd) when water level is down - limonite cubes

- Diamond Hill Mine, SC; Jackson Crossroads, GA; Reel Amethyst Mine, NC; Jonesville, Union Co., SC - amethyst
- Liberty Hill, Fairfield Co, SC - very large and clear smoky quartz crystals, some over a foot long.
- July: John Narang gave a presentation on colored gemstones, their supply, varieties and quality factors. John Narang is a 2007 Graduate Gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America. He has over 15 years of experience in searching out gem material, assessing value, turning rough into polished gems, and trading in the world of colored gemstones. John is a CGMS member and is currently the South Carolina State Director for SFMS.
- August: Quartz night. Chris Glass and Sue Shrader brought their quartz collection.
- September: Susan Richardson, Catherine Sawyer and Jimmy Armstrong spoke about their experience collecting cretaceous dinosaur bones in Wyoming. In 2020, Susan and Catherine went with a group of other dinosaur aficionados to the Harris Ranch featured in the Discovery Channel show “Dino Hunters” to dig for dinosaur fossils. Susan returned in 2021 and 2022. The fossils are in the Lance (Creek) formation which is well known for its Late Cretaceous fossils of plants, dinosaurs, and mammals. The majority of the dinosaur fossils found on the Harris Ranch are from Triceratops and other ceratopsids along with some T-Rex and other theropods. Reptile fossils include crocodile, alligator and turtle. They showed photos and brought specimens they found.
- October: “Paleo-geology of Wyoming and Nearby States with an Emphasis on Fossil Collecting” was given by Ron Ahle. The presentation was about fossil collecting sites and geological features visited by Ron and Angela during a 2022 trip to Wyoming. Fossil collecting sites include the Oligocene White River Formation badlands near Oglala National Grasslands, the Cretaceous Lance Creek Formation at the Harris Ranch near Newcastle, WY, the Eocene (50 mil yrs.) Green River Shale near Kemmerer, WY, and the Eocene (50 mil yrs.) Green River Shale in the “blue forest” near Eden, WY. Ron reviewed the geology of these sites and some of the fossils collected, which include Oligocene (30 mil yrs.) reptiles and mammals, Cretaceous (65 mil yrs.) reptiles and dinosaurs, and Eocene (50 mil yrs.) freshwater fish and petrified wood.
- November: Show and Tell. Members brought items they purchased at the Columbia Gem & Mineral Show.
- December: No meeting.

### Classes:

CGMS member Carol Elliot offered a class on resin geode art. She makes art pieces using quartz crystals, dyed crystals, mica, crushed glass and other materials. Class was held on February 26.

### Field trips:

Three CGMS field trips were held:

#### ▪ April 9, 2022 Forty-Acre Rock Heritage Preserve Field Trip

Back by popular demand, Ron led a small group folks to this treasured location to walk other parts of the preserve not covered in the 2021 field trip. It was a perfect day as we explored waterfalls, granitic dome and an ancient beaver pond. The wildflowers and rock formations were spectacular. We even managed to find Indian pottery shards on a sand bar in Flat Creek (which we left in place). See photos in the appendix.

#### ▪ September 3, 2022 Broad River for Moonstone



February 2023

On September 3rd, about 30 CGMS members gathered at the Palmetto Trail parking area near Jenkinsville, SC to go to the Broad River below the Parr dam to collect moon stone. The weather was very cooperative with a sunny day that made seeing the sheen on the moonstone easier. Everybody worked together to help each other follow the trail in and down a steep slope to get to the collecting area in the Broad River. The group waded into 1-3 foot deep water to access gravel bars. The amount of vegetation and silt made it hard to see the moonstone under water, so everyone was reaching in the water, grabbing gravel and bringing it up for examination. Ron Ahle gave advice to the collectors about how to differentiate the moonstone from quartz and other rock materials. Everyone went home with pieces of moonstone! This material makes beautiful cabochons when polished. Photos are provided in the attachment.

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

February: Ross Creek, Gruetli-Laager, TN. Pennsylvanian/Mississippian scale and fern tree fossil site.

March: Patty Construction Quarry, 7525 Hwy 27, Summerville GA. Summerville Agate at the quarry in Summerville Georgia. The agate forms within Mississippian age chert as delicate concentric bands. Colors are predominantly gray and red.

April: Bartow County, GA. This location is part of the Corbin Gneiss Complex. The quarry mines porphyroblastic granite gneiss, so the rock there has large crystals, e.g., quartz and feldspar. The rocks here are some of the oldest in Georgia - approximately 1.2 billion years. We will be collecting granitic gneiss with blue quartz.

May: Bayou Pierre, Hazlehurst, Copiah County, MS. Extensive deposits of Citronelle Formation gravel are exposed in the streambed and along the banks of the Bayou Pierre River as it meanders through rural Copiah County, Mississippi. Expect to find agates, petrified wood, fossil brachiopods, bryozoans, coral, crinoid stems and other gravel.

June: Propst Farm, Maiden, NC. This is a great location for nice corundum specimens: Corundum (var. Ruby, Sapphire), Quartz and Kyanite (rare).

July: Thermal City Gold Mine, Union Mills, NC. Learn about and enjoy the tradition and history of gold mining in North Carolina. This location provides both panning in the river and sluicing native soil from the site in covered flume areas. Other possible finds include: moonstone, emerald, citrine, aventurine, smoky quartz, tourmaline, ruby.

August: Hogg Mine, LaGrange, GA. The Hogg Mine started out as the Oxford Mine in 1942 to mine beryl to produce beryllium. Commercial operations shut down in 1960. Minerals found here have been large green aquamarine beryl, blue aquamarine beryl, rose quartz, smoky quartz, banded quartz, and beryl and tourmaline in matrix with the quartz.

September: Walker County, AL, Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint Site, also known as the Union Chapel Mine. This site has Fossil Tracks, both vertebrate and invertebrate and Pennsylvanian Fossils such as seed ferns, lepidodendron, and calamites. An excellent field trip guide is available at the Alabama Paleontological Society's website: [https://48efaeda-a166-4c9c-9ba2-36e0c85aed1f.filesusr.com/ugd/59a392\\_ecfa9bc5569b4ed18e9a66a9b420f87e.pdf](https://48efaeda-a166-4c9c-9ba2-36e0c85aed1f.filesusr.com/ugd/59a392_ecfa9bc5569b4ed18e9a66a9b420f87e.pdf)

October: Chattooga County, GA. Summerville Crazy Lace Agate.

November: Cumberland Furnace, TN to collect slag, a byproduct of making iron. Some of the slag is quite colorful in shades of blue and green and some with swirls.

December: **CGMS sponsored the Dixie Mineral Fieldtrip** on December 3, 2022. It was a great outing to Morris Island to collect fossils with all our friends in the federation. We had a completely booked outing with folks from all over the southeast. The weather was great and the collecting was good. The weather was perfect with a light breeze making the boat ride most enjoyable with dolphins and historic structures easily visible. It was sunny with temperatures in the upper 60's to lower 70's. Collecting conditions on the island were very good with an abundance of fossils to be found. The fossils were deposited on Morris Island from dredging of Charleston Harbor. Club members found shark teeth including both great white shark and giant white shark varieties, various mammal vertebrae and bone fragments, shark vertebrae, and a partial alligator jaw bone.

#### **Other Club Activities:**

- A committee was formed to better understand zoning requirements for our new lapidary workshop location. The CGMS equipment, materials and library remain stored at Ample Storage units in West Columbia, where they are accessible but not amendable to lapidary work.
- A new 5-year Contract with Jamil Temple for the annual CGMS Show was signed. This will cover the years 2022 to 2026.
- The Club had a table at the Columbia South Carolina Bottle Club Show and Sale on April 23, 2022. We provided information about CGMS.

The **spring picnic** was held at Sesquicentennial State Park at Picnic Shelter No. 1 on Sunday May 1st 11:00 to 3:00, with 25 members in attendance. Club members brought their own food and several made use of the available grill to cook. The park has opportunities for outdoor recreation such as walking trails, hiking, and bird observation, kayaking and fishing.

The club had our first ever Halloween **club picnic** at Sesquicentennial State Park on Sunday October 30th 1:00 to 5:00. It was a little windy and damp but that didn't stop those in attendance from having a good time. We had plenty of food and door prizes for everyone. Club members brought their own food and several made use of the available grill to cook.

The Club's website is: [www.cgms.rocks](http://www.cgms.rocks). The Club has a Facebook page, a Facebook group and an Instagram page for the Show.

Photos from the year are provided in the Attachment.

Prepared by,  
*Angela Valvasori*  
CGMS Treasurer



**Attachment**  
**Columbia Gem and Mineral Society 2022 Activities**



**Forty-Acre Rock Heritage Preserve, SC, Field Trip, April 9, 2022**



**Broad River, near Jenkinsville, SC, Field Trip for Moonstone, September 3, 2022**





**Halloween Picnic at Sesquicentennial State Park, October 30, 2022**



**Refurbishing the Display Cases**



**Preparing the Grab Bags**



**Cleaning the Geode Saw**  
**Show Preparation Activities, October – November 2022**



**Columbia Gem & Mineral Society**   
2022 Please Copy 54th Annual  
**Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show**   
Nov. 18, 10 to 6  
Nov. 19, 10 to 6  
Nov. 20, 12 to 5  
Jamil Temple  
206 Jamil Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210  
  
**Adults \$5.... Children 16 & Under Free**  
**All Military & Dependents Free**  
 **803-736-9317** **\$1.00 Off**  
**www.cgms.rocks**

Flyer for and photos from 2022 CGMS Gem and Mineral Show







**CGMS Gem & Mineral Show, Nov. 18-22, 2022  
Jamil Temple, Columbia, SC**



**Morris Island Field Trip, December 3, 2022  
SFMS Fieldtrip Sponsored by CGMS**

## Columbia Gem and Mineral

## Society



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year \_\_\_\_\_

(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)

<https://www.cgms.rock>Check one: DUES CURRENT MEMBERSIndividual \$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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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 affiliates of the American Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc.

### **2022 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

#### **COMMITTEE**

Membership .....Sheila Frame.....  
 Auctioneer.....open  
 Club Liaison.....Jim Cobb.....  
 Faceting Guild.....Tom Daniels.....  
 Facebook.....Dan Elswick.....  
 Field Trip.....open  
 Historian.....Gordon Murphy.....  
 Librarian.....Sheila Frame.....  
 Newsletter Editor.....Ron Ahle.....  
 Program.....Sue Shrader.....  
 Rookie Rockhound .....Open  
 Show.....Dee Iurcovich.....  
 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 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. Meal is at 6:00 pm. Meeting is at 7:00 pm.

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