



Rocky Trails



May 2023

Volume 17 Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all continuing and new members. Our third meeting back at McKissick was well attended with lots of great fellowship and a program by Danielle LoMonaco in which she shared with us her amazing jewelry creations and some of the techniques she uses to achieve beautiful works of art. At the May meeting, we will have a presentation by Dr. Scott Howard who will share with us his knowledge of the many earthquakes that have happened in South Carolina. I have known Scott for quit a long time as a colleague at SCDNR and he is an exceptionally good speaker. You will not want to miss this one! In July, I will be giving a presentation on Yellowstone. I have many beautiful photos to share.

I hope everyone is getting outdoors to enjoy our awesome Spring weather. For you history buffs, the May Dixie Mineral fieldtrip will be to collect civil war era slag which is an excellent material for lapidary projects or just as specimens for your collection. Also, for you fossil collectors, the June DMC trip might be a good choice. Just as a reminder, you must be a member in good standing to attend Dixie Mineral Fieldtrips.

The club is looking for volunteers for our 2023 gem show and is having a series of meetings. Look on page 4 for details about the meetings. Please join us to share your ideas, knowledge, and any insights that will help make our show better!

As stated previously, the club has some open officer positions including auctioneer and fieldtrip coordinator. The auctioneer is needed to run 1-2 auctions per year at club meetings. The fieldtrip coordinator is needed to organize 2-4 fieldtrips per year (some could be shared with the Aiken club) and keep the club informed on the upcoming Dixie Mineral fieldtrips. If you think you might want to join our Board and would like additional information on these positions, please ask any of the current officers.

Because Angela and I will be traveling for most of June, I will not be writing a June issue of the Rocky Trails and will pick it back up in July.

Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

May 15, 2023

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

The May 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:

This month's program will be given by Dr. Scott Howard, Ph.D. Scott is the SC State Geologist. He works at the South Carolina Geological Survey. The program title is "Earthquakes in South Carolina and the Recent Earthquake Swarm in Southwestern Kershaw County." The program will be a review of earthquake basics, the nature of earthquakes in the southeastern US and SC, a few historical SC earthquakes, the Elgin swarm, and possible explanations about the cause of the swarm.

Door Prizes will be provided by Max Mandell.

Refreshments will be provided Pat and Jim Carter.

Executive Meeting

May 22, 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

April 17, 2023 Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on April 17, 2023 at McKissick Museum. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Jim welcomed new members and guest. Jim thanked Laura Bailey for providing snacks and Daniel Miller for providing door prizes. The meeting was well attended.

Treasurer's Report: Angela reported the club finances were in good shape and she had no updated news.

Field Trips: Catherine Sawyer announced that she was working on a fieldtrip to the Martin-Marietta Quarry near the Black River in Georgetown to collect fossils. She mentioned that we would likely share this fieldtrip with the Aiken Club. Ron reminded members to check out upcoming Dixie Mineral Fieldtrips and the Graves Mountain Fieldtrip and rock swap.

Membership: Sheila announced to the club that we had 103 with more coming. The sign-up sheet for snacks and door prizes was passed around.

Show: Mandie talked about the show committee meetings and announced that two more were scheduled (May 1 & June 5th). She stated that the dealer contracts had been updated. Jim told the membership that the meetings were making substantial progress in preparing for our 2023 show. Sue reminded folks that the club needs material for the grab bags to be sold at the show.

Programs: Main Program: **Danielle LoMonaco** gave a presentation on jewelry making with an emphasis on working with Savannah River Agate and silver. She brought a lot of her wonderful jewelry for members to see and gave insight on how she comes up with her designs. Sue said upcoming programs will include a talk from the SCDNR State Geologist in May and a presentation from Ron Ahle in August plus a silent auction sometime this summer.

Shop: Cheryl Coker reported to the membership that several potential shop properties had been identified and investigated, but none were found to be suitable. **Historian:** Angela reported that she was cataloging the club's historic documents and photographs. **Librarian:** Sheila reported that the club had recently added a few books to the library. **Web Report:** Steve Coker reminded the membership that the club could use a web master.

Door prizes were given.

Jim Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Ahle

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2023 Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held its executive board meeting on April 23, 2023 at Grecian Gardens Restaurant. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. In attendance were Jim Cobb (President), Ron Ahle (Secretary), Jonathan Wenzel (Vice-President), Mandie Wenzel, Sue Shrader (Programs), Cheryl Coker (Shop), Steve Coker (Web) and Angela Valvasori (Treasurer). Jim thanked everyone in attendance and mentioned it was good to get the pandemic behind us and back to regular meetings.

Show: Mandie gave an update on the planning meetings for the 2023 show. Mandie presented a draft budget that outlined how our show expenses have increased. A motion was made to except the proposed budget, and it passed unanimously. Mandie stated that a lot of volunteers have stepped up to work on the show planning and execution. Discussed during the planning meeting were increased rent at Jamil Temple and restructuring dealer contracts. Sue stated that she had show fliers with an established \$6.00 admission price and that Susan Bloodworth was in charge of the grab bags. Angela asked about putting Instagram on the flyers. Sue asked the board to approve the flyers. The board approved the flyers with a few minor changes. Patricia Stidom and Susan Bloodworth volunteered to do the show dinner. Mandie said the show was in really good shape.

Program Coordinator: Sue said that Scott Howard will present on recent earthquakes in the Elgin area at the May meeting. She also told the Board that we would have “show and Tell” in June and that I would be giving a presentation at the July meeting. She also proposed that we have a silent auction where we could sell recent donations to club members possibly in August. **Fieldtrips:** No report. **Membership:** No report.

Treasurer: Angela announced that balances were stable and non-profit filings had been made. Angela made charts that show the club’s cash flow for the last 5 years. She explained the amount of cash needed to run the club. She reported that that geodes are likely our biggest cash expense during a normal year. After some discussion, Angela said that she would buy SQUARE services for our club. **Workshop:** Cheryl needs a budget, to know we can get into a shop. Steve suggested Cheryl and Angela work together to establish a shop purchase budget.

New Business: Ron reported on the picnic shelter availability at Sesquicentennial SP with no weekends being available until next fall. Cheryl suggested that the club try to get onto Soda City to promote the club. Angela volunteered to represent the club. Mike Lewis sent a notice about getting a microphone for general meetings. Mandie offered to investigate this. Sue mentioned that there was some interest in having a spot for Buy/Sell/Trade in the Rocky Trails. Ron said that members had equipment and/or rough materials that they would like to offer to the membership that he would put it in the Rocky Trails.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and Jim adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Ahle

55th Annual CGMS Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Grab Bags

Bring crystals, fossils, tumbled stones, and small rocks to the May meeting for the show grab bags. The club is low on items for the grab bags that are sold at the show. We will have a grab bag workday in the fall.

Show Planning Meeting

Several show planning meetings have occurred to get the ball rolling for the 2023 show. So far, the meeting attendees have made adjustments to income revenues to account for the increased rent that we are being charged at Jamil Temple. Dealer contracts have been modified to create an easier process for setting up the show. Plans are being developed that deal with advertising strategies and social media. The group agreed to bring back the dealer potluck dinner. Attendees discussed the options for making volunteers working the show more visible such as tee shirts or caps.

The next **show planning meeting** is Monday June 5 at 7pm. at Hope Church located at 2609 Seminole Road. Columbia, SC 29210 Easily accessible from I-26 or I-20 (using a map or GPS is easier than giving directions since there are so many ways to get there). Use the side door (close to the main part of the parking lot). We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Please join us at these meeting to share your ideas, knowledge, and any insights that will help make our show better! Our desire is to have many hands/minds to help take the burden off the few. And fresh ideas are welcome! This is YOUR show! Please come and help us make it spectacular!

If you are unable to attend these meeting, but would like to be part of the future planning process, please contact Mandie Wenzel at 803-673-4044 (call or text), or jonathan.mandie.wenzel@gmail.com.



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.

Meteorites 2023

<https://www.amsmeteors.org/category/fireball-sightings/>

eta Aquariids

Next period of activity: April 15th, 2023, to May 27th, 2023. The Eta Aquariids are a strong shower when viewed from the southern tropics. From the equator northward, they usually only produce medium rates of 10-30 per hour just before dawn. Activity is good for a week centered the night of maximum activity. These are swift meteors that produce a high percentage of persistent trains, but few fireballs.

Next Peak - The eta Aquariids will next peak on the May 5-6, 2023, night. On this night, the moon will be 100% full.

McKissick Museum

https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/mckissick_museum/

Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays

Exhibitions:

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 AT 5:30 PM – 7 PM

Opening Reception for Needlework: Women's Unspoken Art Form

Join McKissick Museum as we celebrate the opening of *Needlework: Unspoken Art Form*. Guest curator Rachel McKeown will share how she came to study women's textiles of the 18th and 19th centuries, and eventually, became a researcher and student curator of one of McKissick Museum's permanent collections.

This event is free and open to the public. The talk will begin at 6:00 pm. No advance registration required. For additional information or to schedule a tour of the exhibition, please call 803-777-7251. Information about all museum exhibits and programs is available at sc.edu/mckissickmuseum. More than a required skill for girls and women in the 19th century, hand sewing was an act of creative expression. From functional household textiles, to clothing, to home décor accents, small embellishments made a big statement as an indicator of women's artistry and imagination. This exhibition asks viewers to closely examine the quality of the needlework, rather than the type of textile, on display.

News Worth Digging Up

Ancient giant amphibians swam like crocodiles 250 million years ago

Source: PLOS, March 30, 2023

Ancient 2m-long amphibians swam like crocodiles long before true crocodiles existed, according to a new study published March 29, 2023 in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE* by David P. Groenewald of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa and colleagues.

“During the Late Permian Period, just over 250 million years ago, South Africa was home to rhinesuchid temnospondyls, large predatory amphibians with bodies similar to crocodiles. These extinct animals are known mainly from skeletal remains, but in this study, researchers describe an exceptional set of trace fossils which provide insight into how these animals moved through their environment.” The trace fossils were found in South Africa on a preserved rock surface that was a tidal flat or lagoon of an ancient sea. The fossil traces were of body impressions of the animal at rest and tail markings showing the animal swimming. It is these tail markings that suggest these animals swam through the water much in the same way as crocodiles. And because there were no footprints associated with the tail markings, it further supports a swimming manner like crocodiles. “This fossil site also preserves numerous traces from other tetrapods (four legged animals), fish, and invertebrates, and is therefore a key locality for understanding ecosystems of the Permian Period.” In addition to its remarkable scientific contribution, this study also demonstrates how important paleontological discoveries are often made by curious people bringing their findings to the attention of paleontologists.”

To find out more about this incredible fossil find, read the entire article at: [Ancient giant amphibians swam like crocodiles 250 million years ago: South African fossil site preserves trace evidence of large amphibian locomotion -- ScienceDaily](#)

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

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

Hours of Operation:

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

June 4, 2023: First Sunday Sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina

General admission is only \$1 on the first Sunday of every month. For an additional price, guests can enjoy a planetarium show and/or a 4D theater movie.

Planetarium Theater Shows: (Advance online ticket purchases are encouraged, especially if you wish to see planetarium and/or 4D 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. Check website for show times.

James Webb Space Telescope: The Story Unfolds See strange distant worlds in stunning detail and witness the evolution of galaxies over billions of years as revealed by the most powerful telescope ever built. Featuring groundbreaking images from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope visualized in brilliant 4K resolution, this special live planetarium experience explores the incredible, complex science behind the James Webb mission. *Show Run Time: 45 mins.* Check website for show times.

Habitat Earth The show features stunning visualizations of the natural world, as it takes you below the ocean's surface to explore the dynamic relationships found in kelp forest ecosystems, travel beneath the forest floor to see how Earth's tallest trees rely on tiny fungi to survive, and journey to new heights to witness the intricate intersection between human and ecological networks. 25 min. Check website for show times.

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

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. These programs premier on the museum's Facebook page.

Public Observatory Times (weather permitting)

Solar Observing: Mon: Closed, Tues. – Sat: 12 to 5 p.m., Sun: 1 to 5 p.m.

Night Observing: Select dates by arrangement with Observatory Manager

SFMS Workshops

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies has a Workshop Program, which offers members the opportunity to gather for week-long, hands-on seminars taught by experienced instructors. Whether you are a newcomer to the lapidary arts and want to learn the basics or are experienced and want to learn something new or advance your skill, the Workshop Program has something for you. A broad range of courses related to the lapidary arts are taught by qualified, volunteer instructors from throughout the Federation. The workshops are well equipped for lapidary activities such as cabochon cutting, faceting, and silversmithing. Workshops are held at Wildacres, near Little Switzerland in North Carolina, and at the William Holland Retreat near Young Harris in northeast Georgia.

William Holland Classes, June 4-10, 2023

Cabs 1	Cabs 2	Seedbeading on China Cabs	
Casting	Work Bench Building	Flame Painting	
Silver I+ (waiting list)	Silver II-Panel Bracelet	Silver III - Channel Inlay	
Soft Solder	Weave Tap & Drop	Wire II-Bracelets	Faceting

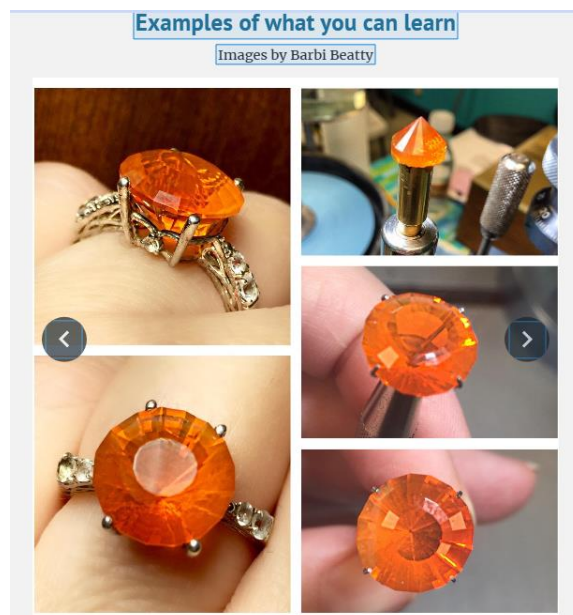
Wildacres Classes, Week 1, August 14-20, 2023

Casting	Hydraulic Press/Rolling Mill	Fused Chain
Special Projects	Stained Glass	Wire I/Weaving
Silver I+	Scrimshaw	

Wildacres Classes, Week 1, September 11-17, 2023

Weave-Tap-Drop	Wire I/Weaving	Polymer Clay
Silver II- Inlay with Knives	Chain Maille	Leather Bi-Metal Bracelet
Acid Etching & Enameling	Metal Clay	

For more information or to register go to: [SFMS Workshops](#)



North Carolina Fossil Festival

May 26-29, 2023 in Aurora, NC

Hosted by the Aurora Fossil Museum

Schedule and details:

[North Carolina Fossil Festival - May 26-29, 2023 - Aurora, NC \(ncfossilfest.com\)](http://ncfossilfest.com)**AREA SHOWS**

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

May 11-15, 2023, FRANKLIN, NC: Annual show; Echo Valley Gem Show; Echo Valley Showplace (across from GLW), 6456 Sylva Rd Franklin, NC contact BJ; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

May 12-14, 2023, MARIETTA, GA: Annual show; Georgia Mineral Society; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; Free; The Georgia Mineral Society's 53rd Annual Mother's Day Weekend (678) 612-7293; Email: mayshow@gaminal.org; Website: www.gaminal.org

May 18-21—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Three Bears LLP; Open Air Lot, 1602 Highlands Road; Ruth M. Gibson, (828) 369-6341; Email: vwcompanies@gmail.com

May 19-21—FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA: Retail show; The Franklin Gem & Mineral Society; The Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, (706) 982-0402; Email: fgmsshows@gmail.com; Website: fgmm.org

May 19-20-21, 2023, FRANKLIN, NC: Watauga Festival Center 6295 Sylva Road, Franklin, NC 28734 601-879-8832 <https://glwshows.com/>

May 26-28, 2023, SALEM, VIRGINIA: Annual show; American Gem, Mineral And Jewelry Shows LLC; Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd; Alan Koch; Email: agmjs3@gmail.com; www.americangemshow.com

JUNE 4, 2022, COLFAX, NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market, 2914 Sandy Ridge Rd., Colfax, North Carolina 27235 [Piedmont Open-Air Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show & Sale](#) Mary Pegram 336-918-8634; ggmc.rocks@gmail.com

June 2-4, 2023, DULUTH, GEORGIA: Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Gas South Convention Center (New Location), 6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy; www.bellpointpromotions.com

June 10-11, 2023, GASTONIA, NC: [GASTON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB](#) Annual Gaston Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show Johan Newcombe Event Center/Habitat for Humanity 1840 E. Franklin Blvd Gastonia, NC 28054; <http://gastongemclub.weebly.com/> GastonGemAndMineral@gmail.com

CGMS 55th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show 2023

Fri. Nov. 17, 10:00 - 6:00

Sat. Nov. 18, 10:00 - 6:00

Sun. Nov. 19, 12:00 - 5:00

Jamil Temple

206 Jamil Rd.

Columbia, SC 29210

Exit 106 off I26

Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale

Geodes sold & cut

Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations

Education for the whole family

South Carolina amethyst on display

Sponsored by The Columbia Gem & Mineral Society

\$6.00 for adults, Sixteen & under free with adult. 3-day pass - \$10

All military & their dependents free with ID Card

CGMS Name Tag

CGMS name tags can be obtained from Irmo Trophy. If you would like one, please contact Irmo Trophy by email. Tell them you are requesting a Columbia Gem and Mineral Society name tag and provide the name you want on it. The cost is \$7.



Irmo Trophy Co.

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.



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.

2023 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

COMMITTEE

MembershipSheila Frame
 Auctioneer.....Open
 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
 Rookie RockhoundOpen
 Show.....Open
 SunshineAbbie 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**