



Rocky Trails



August 2017

Volume 11 Issue 7



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I bet everybody is ready for summer to be over. However, there is still one big event that should be the highlight of the summer, the total eclipse of the sun! This is a big event and just so happens to occur on the day in August when we normally have our club meeting. Because this is such a big event in Columbia, (2.5 minutes of totality), the museum will not be available for our meeting. So folks, take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy the eclipse and be ready to come back in September and share your stories with other members at our next club meeting.

Also, next month we will again have an informal get together at our workshop on September 19, 2017. These gatherings have been very enjoyable opportunities to meet with other members in an informal setting. I urge those of you who are new to the club to come to one of these informal get together to get to know some of the long time members in the club and learn more about the history of our club.

Until next time,

Ron Ahle



NEXT MEETING **September 18, 2017**

PROGRAM:

David Barbeau a geologist with the University of South Carolina will talk about zircons, and zircon geochronology.

Dave is doing some very interesting and useful things with zircons in South Carolina

WORKSHOP

Mark your calendar. The club is planning an informal get together at the workshop on Tuesday September 19, 2017. The workshop is located at: 1601 Frink St. Cayce, SC 29033

Bring something to eat and a drink. It can be pizza, sub sandwich, or something you have made. Come out to eat and talk about whatever. The workshop has paper plates, cups, & plastic forks knives. Call Gary 803-794-9362 if you want to use the saws. Drop in and visit the workshop! If you plan to be there call Sue 803-736-9317 ashrader@mindspring.com

If you would like to use the workshop, call or email Gary Hert gchert@hotmail.com 803-794-9362 to use the rock saws and capping machines

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.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

July 17, 2017 General Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held the monthly club meeting on the 3rd Monday, July 17, 2017, at the McKissick Museum at 816 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29208 on the USC campus. President Jimmy Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments were supplied by Alan and Michelle Kozuske.

Door prizes were supplied by Sue Shrader.

Visitors and/new members were Juana Gumbs and Otieno F Johnson.

Chair Reports: Sue Shrader reported that there will be no meeting in August because of the eclipse. Future **Programs** will be David Barbeau on zircons in September, Chris Cicimurri in October and Angela Valvasori in November. Geodes have been ordered for the **Show**. Gary will pick them up at the Franklin, NC show at the end of the month. Belts for the **Workshop** will be discussed at the next board meeting. It was reported that the club had a good soiree at the workshop. Another will be planned for September. Susan Bloodworth volunteered to do door prizes in Oct. Dan Elswick asked that everyone "like" our **Facebook** page and share information. Dan also asked that members and others not use Google to get to Facebook. There is a lot of old information on the web. Minutes as published in the Rocky Trails were accepted after a motion by Catherine Sawyer and a second by Jim Cobb. Catherine Sawyer noted that her name has been misspelled in the Rocky Trails. Catherine starts with a "C" not a "K." Look in the Rocky Trails for **Field Trip** information. Ron Ahle requested all **Rocky Trails** information be sent to him by the first of the month. As Liaison, Jim Cobb said the Aiken Club was on summer hiatus. **Historian**, Angela Valvasori, has been working on a program on cub history. Information at the club library has been helpful.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Some ideas for a workshop annual pass were brought up.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by John Narang, seconded by Adam Tesh and carried.

Program: Jimmy Armstrong and Catherine Sawyer gave an informative and interesting program on artifacts they have found while diving in South Carolina Rivers.

Door Prizes: Door Prize winners were Juana Gumbs, Pat Hert, Ginger Leonard, Tom Cox, Madeleine Wenzel and Dave Dunlap.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Sterrett

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

July 24, 2017 Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society met on the 4th Monday, July 24, 2017, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, SC 29169. Members and officers present were Berina Sutphin, Angela Valvasori, Sue Shrader, Jimmy Armstrong, Ron Ahle, Jim Cobb, Dan Elswick, Gary Hert, Laura Tesh, Susan Bloodworth and Sharon Sterrett. President Jimmy Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:02.

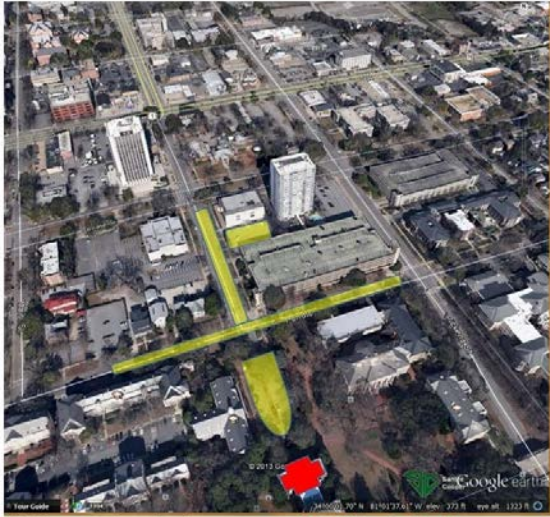
Committee and Officer Reports: Jimmy Armstrong reported that the **Shop Inventory** was sent to Laura Tesh. It was discussed that values needed to be added to the items. Jimmy will request that Gary Hert, David Dunlap and Mike Montebello research the items and assign values. As Treasurer, Laura Tesh said that when she is unavailable, authorized members can get access to the club check book by contacting Adam Tesh. The subject of an annual **Workshop Fee** was discussed. Things such as price, access and number of hours one could buy were discussed. Ways to keep track of hours used and if the fee would apply to individuals or families were discussed. An email committee with Dan Elswick as chairman, Gary Hert and Laura Tesh will draft a proposal to bring to the board. Susan Bloodworth will start taking new **Membership** applications in November. Sue Shrader reported on future **Programs**. Because of the eclipse there will not be a meeting in August. The September program will be on Zircons. In October Chris Cicimurri will give a tour in the McKissick Museum. In November Angela Valvasori will give a program on our club's history. Under the **Show** report a motion was made by Ron Ahle to pay for the Gardner Guide with the money saved on billboards. Money was saved because even though the board approved eight billboards, Sharon Sterrett mistakenly told Mike Montebello the total was six. The board requested the Show Committee submit a budget at the August meeting. The information will be sent to Ron Ahle to be compiled. Gary Hert reported that the **Workshop** needs belts for the cab machine. Gary made a motion to purchase 8 belts; 4 – 8,000 grit, 2 – 14000 grit and 2 - 50,000 grit belts. It was seconded by Laura Tesh and after discussion on the assortment of the belts it was carried. The fact that only Gary Hert is authorized to use workshop equipment was noted. Others must have Gary's approval to use machinery. Dan Elswick asked that **Facebook** members make comments on club postings. Jimmy Armstrong will call Mike Montebello to discuss the **Website**. As **Liaison**, Jim Cobb reported the Aiken club is on summer hiatus. **Historian**, Angela Valvasori, is working on her program for the November general meeting.

Old Business: Ron Ahle requested members send all articles and information for the **Rocky Trails** to him by the first of the month.

New Business: Jim Cobb was appointed chair of the 2018 officer **Nomination Committee**. If you are interested in serving on the executive board, please contact Jim (see last page for contact information).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Sterrett



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

[McKissick Museum](#)

McKissick Museum:

www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/mikissickmuseum; phone 803.777.7251; College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Carolina; 816 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29208

Natural Curiosity: The University of South Carolina and the Evolution of Scientific Inquiry in the Natural World is an ongoing exhibit in the 3rd floor gallery. Humans possess a fascination with the natural world around them. From the 32,000-year-old cave paintings of horses in France to the giraffe stickers today's children paste into their activity books, we can see that humans are eager to see, touch, collect, and understand nature. Ongoing, 3rd floor gallery.

Chris CiCiMurri Curator of Natural Science. 803-777-2823; cicimurri@sc.edu

Meteor Showers

Southern Delta Aquariids Active from July 21st to August 23rd... Peak Night July 19 – 30, 2017The Delta Aquariids are another strong shower best seen from the southern tropics. North of the equator the radiant is located lower in the southern sky and therefore rates are less than seen from further south. These meteors produce good rates for a week centered on the night of maximum. These are usually faint meteors that lack both persistent trains and fireballs.

Alpha Capricornids Active from July 11th to August 10th ...Peak Night July 29 – 27, 2017The Alpha Capricornids are active from July 11 through August with a "plateau-like" maximum centered on July 29. This shower is not very strong and rarely produces in excess of five shower members per hour. What is notable about this shower is the number of bright fireballs produced during its activity period. This shower is seen equally well on either side of the equator.

Perseids Active from July 13th to August 26th Peak Night August 11 to 12, 2017The Perseids are the most popular meteor shower as they peak on warm August nights as seen from the northern hemisphere. The Perseids are active from July 13 to August 26. They reach a strong maximum on August 12 or 13, depending on the year. Normal rates seen from rural locations range from 50-75 shower members per hour at maximum. The Perseids are particles released from comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle during its numerous returns to the inner solar system. They are called Perseids since the radiant (the area of the sky where the meteors seem to originate) is located near the prominent constellation of Perseus the hero

<http://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/>

The Columbia Gem & Mineral Society August 21 Meeting is canceled due to the Total Solar Eclipse

On Aug. 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will be visible from coast to coast. America will see its first total solar eclipse since 1979. The next one won't happen until April 2024.

On Aug. 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will be visible from coast to coast, according to [NASA](#). It will be the first total eclipse visible only in the USA since the country was founded in 1776. It will also be the first total solar eclipse to sweep across the entire country in 99 years, NASA says. And not since 1970 has there been an opportunity to see a total solar eclipse in such easily accessible and widespread areas of the nation. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon gets in the way of the sun, turning day to an eerie twilight. Barring pesky clouds, more Americans should be able to see this one than ever before as it passes through 12 states. The eclipse will start on the West Coast in Oregon and trace a 67-mile wide path east across the country, finally exiting the East Coast in South Carolina. At any given location, the total eclipse will last for around 2 or 3 minutes.

It will pass directly over cities such as Salem, Ore., Idaho Falls, Lincoln, Neb., Kansas City, Nashville, and **Columbia and Charleston, S.C.** Places within a one- or two-hour drive of the eclipse include Portland, Ore., Boise, Cheyenne, Rapid City, Omaha, Neb., Topeka, St. Louis, Louisville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Atlanta and Charlotte. At 2:41 p.m. viewers who have gathered in the Greater Columbia, S.C., area will experience the longest period of 100% total eclipse for a metro area on the entire East Coast of the United States — ranging from 2 minutes and 30 seconds to 2 minutes and 36 seconds of total darkness.

An estimated 12 million people live within the path of totality, according to [Space.com](#). The number of people within just one day's drive of the totality zone is around 200 million.

And in Columbia, S.C., the city is expecting and preparing for visitors to come to the region due to its unique location in the path and "to celebrate and witness the spectacle of totality," said Merritt McNeely of the [South Carolina State Museum](#)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/sciencefair/2016/08/21/total-solar-eclipse-august-2017/88514886/>



In Remembrance

It is with much sadness that I report that our friend, Jack Seech, died on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at Palmetto Health Tuomey. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, Jack was a retired US Air Force Lt. Colonel and was a Vietnam Combat Veteran. Following his military service, he was the owner of Binex Business Service and a long-time member of our club. Many of us knew Jack as a skilled faceter and have stones that he cut. These stones, along with his enduring kindness, will help us remember that Jack was a nice, gentle man with a great smile and attitude that he would share with anyone who would talk with him. He will be greatly missed.

Surviving in addition to wife are two children, Patrick Seech of Sumter and Susan Seech Colanduno of Atlanta, GA; one grandson, Zane S. Seech of Sumter and one brother, George Monahan of Pittsburgh, PA. A funeral service was held on Saturday, August 5, 2017 at the Bullock Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was held on Monday, August 7, 2017 at the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sumter United Ministries, 365 Artillery Drive, Sumter, SC 29150 or www.sumterunitedministried.org

You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family's guest book.

SFMS Workshop Scholarship Raffle

Let's see how many SFMS Workshop Scholarships we can create for 2018.

The first way to participate is to donate an item to be a drawing prize. Each member club will receive acknowledgement if it donates a prize, or if a member of the club donates a prize. All prizes should be mailed to Dave Wayment, PO Box 780791, Sebastian, FL 32978. Each prize should be identified, include the value of the item (we request that prizes have at least a \$25 value), identify who made the item if it is hand made, and who donated the item. Photographs and descriptions of all prizes will be posted on the SFMS website and published in the Loadstar.

The second way to participate is to sell the drawing tickets. Each member club is being sent 100 tickets for the drawing. The tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. We ask that each member club's treasurer, or another member chosen by the club, be in charge of selling the tickets, collecting the funds, and returning the ticket stubs, monies and unsold tickets to Dave Wayment at the same above address. The drawing for the prizes will be held at the Annual Meeting

Please remember, the scholarships to SFMS workshops are NOT prizes in the drawing. The prizes are the items that are donated by club members.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Wayment, SFMS Workshop Scholarship Committee Chair, at 772-532-6432



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
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An Official Field Trip of the Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society (Knoxville, TN) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, September 30, 2017
10:00 AM Eastern (9 am Central)
Clarkesville, GA
Fee: \$10 per person

TRIP: This location is located in a band of kyanite bearing material. The material has been moved around so the kyanite is not in situ. Small blades are easy to find, but digging and some perseverance is required to find the larger specimens. This site is fun and productive site for all ages.

COLLECTING: Kyanite blades and cobbles, small mica books, and graphite specimens (rare). The kyanite ranges from gray to pale blue and may contain graphite. Some of the blades can be polished and, because of the graphite, they have a curious depth and shimmer when they are polished.

BRING: Small blades can be found weathering out onto the surface. Bigger blades and cobbles are found by digging 8" to 24" deep. You will need scratching tools and baggies for surface collecting, and a shovel and pick for digging. **All holes must be refilled.** This site can be muddy at times, so a change of clothes would be good too.

FACILITIES: There are no bathroom facilities at the site, but there is a McDonald's Restaurant in Clarksville and also restrooms at a public park a few miles from where we will be collecting. The Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society members will have free water and snacks available for everyone.

CHILDREN: This field trip is suitable for children but they must be supervised at all times.

PETS: Because this is a working farm, pets are not allowed.

SAFETY: There are electrified fences on the farm so **do not** touch any fences. Field trip leads will open and close gates. This is a working farm and there may be animals present – **do not** approach any of the animals. **Do not** enter pastures where animals are present.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Coordinates: 34.603124,-83.517801

We will be meeting at 10:00 am Eastern time

Ingles Market (the only Ingles in Clarkesville)
199 East Louise Street (US Old/Historical 441)
Clarkesville, GA 30523

- 1) **From Atlanta**, take I-985 North towards Gainesville
- 2) I-985 will transition to GA 365/US 23
- 3) Continue on GA 365/US 23 to GA 197
- 4) Take GA 197 north to Clarkesville (about 3.5 miles)
- 5) Ingles is on the right, we will meet in the parking lot close to the highway.

CONTACT: Daniel Miller: 423-273-0487



Kyanite blades



Kyanite cobble and blades

AREA SHOWS

July 30-August 6—Spruce Pine, NC: Annual show; Parkway Fire and Rescue, Parkway Fire and Rescue new gem show field; 136 Majestic View; Daily 10-6; Free Admission; Donna Collis, 136 Majestic View, Spruce Pine, NC 28777, (828)-765-5519; e-mail: collisdonna@yahoo.com; Web site: <http://www.grassycreekgemshow.org>

August 11-13—Dalton, GA: Annual show; Dalton Gem and Mineral Jewelry Show, Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center; 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd.; Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$4, Children free under 17; Join us for the 26th Annual Dalton Gem and Mineral Jewelry Show! contact Mohammad Tahir, (706)-537-8960; tahir1269@yahoo.com; <https://www.facebook.com/pg/daltongemandmineraljewelryshow>

Sept 1–4, Hendersonville, NC: 36th Annual Gem and Mineral Spectacular. Sponsored by the Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society. Whitmire Activity Building 301 Lily Pond Road Hendersonville, NC. <http://www.hcgms.com/annual-gem-show.html>

September 1-4—Raleigh, NC: Retail show; Treasures of the Earth, Inc., North Carolina State Fairgrounds; 1025 Blue Ridge Road; Jane Westbrook, (804)-642-2011; e-mail: jane@treasuresoftheearth.com; Web site: www.TreasuresOfTheEarth.com

September 8-10—Winston- Salem, NC: Show and sale; Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club, Educational Building, ; Fairgrounds, Gate 9 from 27th. Street ; William Marion, e-mail: mariona1@yadtel.net; Web site: www.forsythgemclub.com

November 17 -19; Columbia, SC 50th Annual Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show ...Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd. Columbia, SC 29210; Adults \$5.00, 16 & under Free ; All military free 803-736-9317 ashrader@mindspring.com





Columbia Gem and Mineral Society
MEMBERSHIP FORM
(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)
<http://www.cgams.org>



Check one: **DUES CURRENT MEMBERS**

Individual \$25 _____
Family \$30 _____

DUES NEW MEMBERS ONLY (Prorated Quarterly)

Individual \$26 _____ \$21 _____ \$14 _____ \$7 _____
Family \$31 _____ \$24 _____ \$16 _____ \$8 _____
Jan.1 April 1 July 1 Oct.1

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone(s) _____

Email 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 Rockhounds _____

May we call on you to work with a Board Member on a committee or project? _____

Make all checks payable to Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

And mail to: Columbia Gem & Mineral Society, PO Box 6333, Columbia, SC 29260

Previous Membership in another Mineral Society?

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? _____

<i>For Club Use</i>			
Amount Paid _____	Check# _____	Cash Received _____	Date Received _____
Club Officer Receiving Payment _____			

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.

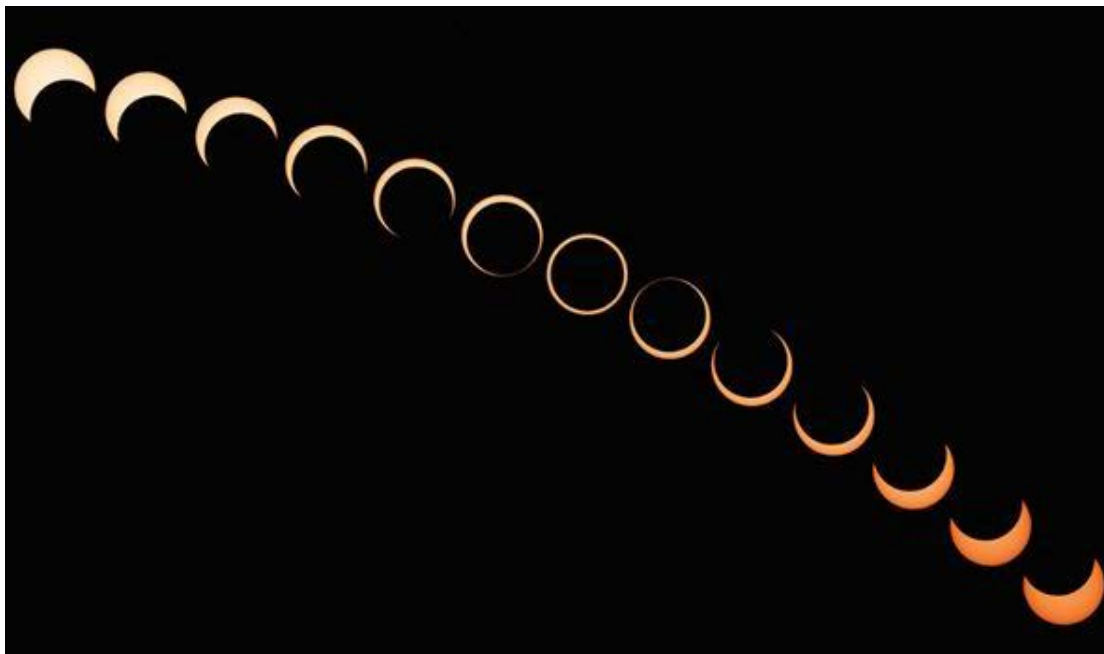
2017 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President.....Jimmie Armstrong...(803) 438-6000.....rvrdvr29078@gmail.com
 Vice President.....Ron Ahle.....419-2923.....the bears@earthlink.net
 Treasurer.....Laura Tesh.....731-4760.....lauralaw@bellsouth.net
 Secretary.....Sharon Sterrett.....356-1472.....ssterrett@sc.rr.com
 Past President.....Angela Valvasori.....419-2923.....thebears@earthlink.net

COMMITTEE

MembershipSusan Bloodworth.....604-1045.....susanbloodworth374@att.net
 Auctioneer.....Benira Sutphin.....315-5250.....benira@bellsouth.net
 Club Liaison.....Jim Cobb.....794-0045.....jocobb3@bellsouth.netFaceting
 Guild.....Fred Meetze.....345-7463.....fredfacator@gmail.com
 Facebook.....Dan Elswick.....252-2346.....elswickdan@yahoo.com
 Field Trip.....Open
 Historian.....Angela Valvasori.....419-2923.....thebears@earthlink.net
 Librarian.....Sheila Frame.....739-0682.....snframe@aol.com
 Newsletter Editor.....Ron Ahle.....419-2923.....thebears@earthlink.net
 Program.....Sue Shrader.....736-9317.....sue_shrader@mindspring.com
 Rookie RockhoundOpen
 Show.....Michael Montebello.....791-9921.....mauimonte@hotmail.com
 SunshineAbbie Gates.....799-9279.....2rustygates@att.net
 Website.....Michael Montebello.....791-9921.....mauimonte@hotmail.com
 Workshop.....Gary Hert.....794-9362.....gchert@hotmail.com





CGMS Website

Please visit our Website:

<http://www.cgams.org>

Webmaster: Mike Montebello

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 at Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd., and West Columbia. Meal is at 6:30pm. Meeting is at 7:00 pm.

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