



Rocky Trails



March 2018

Volume 12 Issue 2



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

We are off to a good start in 2018 with two very good presentations, one on the raising of the Hunley and the other on a dinosaur fossil discovery in Mississippi. Earlier this year, members got together at the workshop to systematically go through hundreds of pounds of specimens that were donated to the Aiken and Columbia Clubs. Well, we barely got halfway through and are going to need volunteers to help us finish the job. I have agreed to oversee the completion of this task and am asking for volunteers (especially folks familiar with fossils) to help us get this job done. Join us at the workshop on March 17th at 9:00 am. And plan on staying as long as you want. It's a very interesting collection and you can be the first to see what's in it.

With so many new members, I would be remise to not welcome them all young and old alike to our club. We look forward to sharing our club activities with all of you! Just as a reminder, for everyone who has not paid your annual dues, they are due by the end of March. If you have friends who would like to join the club, there is an application form in this newsletter.

Until next time,



NEXT MEETING

MARCH 19, 2018

PROGRAM:

Kim Cochran will talk minerals and fossils. He will also bring several samples of minerals and fossils to show and pass around. Kim lives near Atlanta and is a member of the Georgia Mineral Society and several other mineral societies. He is a retired firefighter and had been rock hounding throughout the south for over 50 years.

Have supper with Kim Cochran before the meeting. Meet at the Grecian Gardens Restaurant on March 21 at 5:30..

REFRESHMENTS

Gary & Pat Hert; Susan Bloodworth

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP

The workshop is open and the hourly rate for using one of these machines is \$4.00/hour. If you are interested in using one of these machines, call Gary Hert @ 794-9362. The Club has a 24" flat lap polisher that is available for rent. Please contact Gary for details.

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.



**Columbia Gem & Mineral Society Picnic
& Rock Swap Sale...Show & Tell
Sunday April 22, 2018; 1:00 to 5:00**



**Club Lapidary Workshop
Cayce SC 29033**



**Bring a dish of vegetables, meat, dessert,
fruit or chips and dip to share.
Club will provide paper products and ice.
Bring your rocks and lapidary work to sell,
swap, or for show & tell**



Assemble Grab Bags for the Columbia Gem & Mineral Society Show

Tuesday March 20, 2018 12:00 to 3:00
Club Lapidary Workshop, Cayce, SC
Bring your lunch and a drink. Bring any crystals or fossils to use in the grab-bags.

To sign up call Sue 803-736-9317 ashraider@mindspring.com

Sunshine

Abbie Gates broke her right ankle.

Scott Shrader had emergency surgery for a ruptured appendix and the infection that it caused

Field Trip to Graves Mountain

April 27-29, 2017 Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA Rock Swap & Dig

Collecting Rutile, Kyanite, Lazulite, Iridescent Hematite, Pyrophyllite, Pyrite, Ilmenite, Fuchsite, Barite, Sulfur, variscite, woodhouseite, crandallite, strengite, phosphosiderite, cacoxenite, blue quartz, quartz crystals, etc.

Friday April 27, 8AM to 6 PM

Saturday April 28, 8AM to 6PM

Sunday April 29, 8AM to 6PM

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during April and October. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

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.

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706-359-1544 (his business) or 706-401-3173 (his cell)

DIRECTIONS: From Columbia, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left.

Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. - The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the "Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to obtain a liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

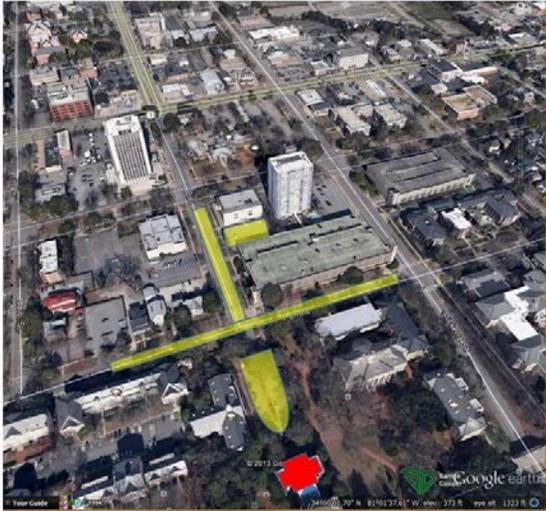
**THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL
NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP FOR ALL "ROCK SWAP AND DIGS"!**



Rutile



Lazulite



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

[South Carolina State Museum](#)

Boeing Observatory Public Solar Observing Times:
Mon. – Fri: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m....Saturday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m....Sunday: 1 to 5 p.m....Sunset to 8 p.m. during Second Shift Tuesday each week.

Meteorite Times Magazine is an on-line bi-monthly magazine devoted to every area of meteorite interest. Readers will find it full of meteorite articles, images, and stories about the people of the meteorite community. It is brought to you by [The Meteorite Exchange, Inc.](#) Read and learn about meteorites through the eyes of meteorite collectors, hunters, dealers, and researchers, as they study, hunt for, photograph, and collect meteorites from around the world. Join us six times a year for new issues full of meteorite information, news, and photography. Back issues from the last 12 years are always available for further study also.

www.scmuseum.org/ 803-898-4921 301 Gervais Street Columbia, SC 29201

[Calling On Volunteers to Help Sort Fossils](#)

Meet at the club workshop
Saturday, March 17th 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

The club is asking for volunteers to help sort, identify, and organize rock and fossil specimens donated by Max Smith's family. Earlier this year, members got together at the workshop to go through hundreds of pounds of specimens. Well, we barely got halfway through the collection and are going to need volunteers to help us finish the job. Ron Ahle has agreed to oversee the completion of this task and is asking for volunteers (especially folks familiar with fossils) to get the job done. Join us at the workshop on March 17th at 9:00 am. and plan on staying as long as you want. It's a very interesting collection and you can be the first to see what's in it. If you have any buckets or empty boxes that you could donate to the club, please bring them. If you have any other questions, contact Ron Ahle, your club vice-president.

Thanks in advance for helping us out!!!

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

February 2018 Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society met on February 26, 2018 at the CGMS workshop at Grecian Gardens. Members and officers present were Jimmy Armstrong, Ron Ahle, Pat Hert, Sharon Sterrett, Gary Hurt, Susan Bloodworth, Jim Cobb, Benira Sutphin and Dan Elswick. President Jimmy Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:08.

Committee and Officer Reports Jimmy thank everyone for coming. Jimmy opened discussion about possibilities for new workshop when lease runs out on existing workshop: buy and move building on lot of existing workshop lot, look at portables from schools, buy lot and put up second hand mobile home, buy lot with a structure, and look at foreclosures (discussed complications of this possibility). Jimmy Armstrong thanked Mike Montebello for excellent job keeping trailer organized.

Sunshine: Abbie Gates broke her right ankle. **Newsletter:** Ron said that he would make a special point to announce and discuss fieldtrips at future meetings. . He asked that all information for the newsletter be sent to him by the 1st of each month. **Liaison,** Jim Cobb noted the Aiken Club was having their show from March 9-11 in Augusta. **Membership,** Susan Bloodworth said membership growing. **Facebook Communication Coordinator,** Dan Elswick said Facebook hits had increased to 240, and he encourage members to share information on the site.

Workshop: Members noted that the February 27 gathering was a success with new members showing interest in the workshop equipment. More members have been using the workshop stated Gary Hert. Gary Hert indicated that there may be security issues at the workshop and the members said they would get locks to better secure the building and shed.

Old Business: Ron Ahle expressed concerns about the organization and distributions of the Max Smith collection. Ron typed out a list of procedures to follow to separate, organize and disperse rock specimens. Sharon Sterrett moved to accept Ron's proposal for handling the collection and the board members voted to accept the proposal. The next workday for organization was set for 9:00 on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at the workshop. **New Business:** Members agreed that April 22 would be the best date for the Club Picnic.

Jimmy Armstrong asked for motion to adjourn meeting which ended at 8:12.

Respectfully submitted by
Susan Bloodworth

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2018 General Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held the monthly club meeting on the 4th Monday, February 19, 2018, at the McKissick Museum at 816 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29208 on the USC campus. Because of the Martin Luther King Holiday the General and Board Meetings were reversed. President Jimmy Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Jimmy thanked Susan Richardson for providing the refreshments. Jimmy asked visitors and new members to stand and introduce themselves and welcomed them to the meeting. Jimmy announced that there would be a workday on March 17 to help sort, identify, and organized rock and fossil specimens donated by Max Smith's family. Jimmy, as President of the club, said he had no information to share other than the club would be looking at finding a site for the workshop.

Refreshments were supplied by Susan Richardson.

Chair Reports: Membership: Susan Bloodworth announced the club has 113 members paid for 2018 so far, and that members could pay membership fees up until March. **Program:** Sue Shrader noted upcoming events: (1) Tuesday, February 27 -The CG&MS would meet at the workshop for a gathering and sharing, and for people coming to bring food. (2) Tuesday, March 20 at noon- Members would have a work day to put together grab bags. (3) March 9-11-The Aiken Mineral Society's Gem and Mineral Show in Augusta. See Rocky Trails for details. She stated that next month's speaker would be Kim Cochran who will be giving a presentation on birth stones. Sue also noted that the club would try to schedule a picnic for either April 22 or April 29. Sometime in April, Sue would be teaching a glass fusion class at the workshop. **Sunshine:** Sue Shrader announced that Abby Gates had broken her foot and would not be driving for a while. **Newsletter:** Ron Ahle said to send him important or interesting information that could be printed in the Rocky Trails Newsletter. Ron also talked about the up-coming Field Trip to Graves Mountain April 27-29, 2018:7 Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA Rock Swap & Dig. **Workshop:** Gary Hert noted that some people had been using the workshop and making things and that anyone who would like to use the workshop or learn how to use the equipment should call him. **Historian:** Angela Valvasori said she would organize Rocky Trails and club files to be stored and maintained at the workshop.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Adjourn: The club meeting was concluded and door prizes, donated by Jimmy Armstrong, were drawn.

Program: Sue Shrader introduced Dave Hanes the guest speaker. David Hanes "The Dinosaur Hunter" *The dinosaur fossil discoveries from Prentiss County in Mississippi.*

Respectfully submitted by
Susan Bloodworth



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 Mid-Ga Gem & Mineral Society (Macon, GA) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, March 10, 2018
10:00 AM Eastern Time
Clarksville, GA
Fee Site (\$10.00 per person)

TRIP: This site 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 a 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.

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.

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.

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:

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

Coordinates: 34.603124,-83.517801

- 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: Jay Batcha: cell: 478-957-5002, home: 478-784-1965



Kyanite blades



Kyanite cobble and blades

30th annual Aiken-Augusta
**Gem, Mineral
& Fossil Show**
March 9–11, 2018

Fri & Sat 10–6 Sun 11–5

JULIAN SMITH CASINO ♦ 2200 BROAD ST. ♦ AUGUSTA, GA

ADMISSION: \$3 per Adult or \$5 Weekend Pass
Children under 12 FREE with an Adult
Look for a 50¢-off one admission coupon on our websites

<http://www.aikengmfs.org>

AREA SHOWS

March 9-11—AUGUSTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Aiken and Augusta Gem and Mineral Societies, Julian Smith Casino; 2200 Broad Street; Fri. 10-6; Admission \$3 or \$5 for a weekend pass, Children under 12 free; Display cases, Ongoing demonstrations of lapidary arts, Treasure dig for children of all ages. All specimens in the grab bags are individually labeled; contact Chris Glass, 7 Knollwood Blvd, North Augusta, SC 29841, (706)-284-9239; e-mail: crismineral@gmail.com __ Web site: <http://agams.club> or <http://www.aikengmfs.org>

March 17 - 18, 2018...Dothan, AL DOTHAN GEM AND MINERAL SHOW
Hosted by the Dothan Gem and Mineral Club
Houston County Farm Center
1701 East Cottonwood Road, Dothan, AL
Jeff DeRoche, show chair, 334-673-3554 www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

March 16-18—Arden, NC: Annual show; M.A.G.M.A., Numerous venders specializing in gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites, and artifacts from North Carolina and around the world. Hours 9-5 Friday and Saturday, 10-4 Sunday., **Free Admission** Camp Stephens; 263 Clayton Road; Richard Jacquot, , (828)-779-4501; e-mail: rick@wncrocks.com ; www.americanrockhound.com

March 23-25—Marietta, GA: Annual show; Damian w/ Bellpoint Promotions, Cobb County Civic Center ; 548 S. Marietta Pkwy; Damian Belgali, GA, (678)-852-8273; mbellpoint@gmail.com; www.bellpointpromotions.com

March 24-25—Lexington, KY: Blue Grass Gem And Mineral Club, Clarion Hotel; 1950 Newtown Pike; Allen Ferrell, (859)-277-2469; kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com; www.bggamc.homestead.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 \$20 _____
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: _____

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? _____

For Club Use
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..... Susan Bloodworth.....604-1045.....susanbloodworth374@att.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
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 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**