



Rocky Trails



June 2017

Volume 11 Issue 5



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

We had a very enjoyable drop-in at the workshop on Tuesday May 23, 2017. About 20 people attended bring food and drink to share with one another. Susan Bloodworth brought a slab of jade that she offered to folks who wanted a slice cut by Gary. It was very generous of Susan to share this beautiful green stone and nice of Gary to cut slices. A good time was had by all. If you check under Workshop on this page, you will note that we are having another get together on July 11th with the same format. I encourage members to attend and enjoy the fellowship. If you haven't been to the shop, take advantage of the opportunity to learn firsthand all that the shop has to offer. It is a lot of fun and the rewards can be astonishing!

The club would like to thank Mandie and her kids for helping with yard care at the workshop. With the assistance of her kids, they managed to pick up branches and other debris from the grounds that in turn allowed the grounds keeper to mow the grass.

As you know, we are getting near to a total eclipse of the sun. Details of the eclipse are in the pages of this issue. We are canceling the July meeting so go out and enjoy the once in a lifetime event.

Finally, I'm looking forward to presenting Alaska to you at the next meeting.

Until next time,
Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

June 19, 2017

PROGRAM:

Ron Ahle will give a program on the glaciers of Alaska.

REFRESHMENTS

Sue Shrader & Sharon Sterrett

DOOR PRIZE

Sue Shrader

WORKSHOP

Mark your calendar. The club is planning an informal get together at the workshop on Tuesday July 11, 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 wherever. 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.

Sunshine

Fred and Jenny Meetze; son, Gilbert "Bert" Edward Meetze passed away. Services and interment was at St. Michael's Lutheran Church cemetery in Irmo. Mr. Meetze was born October 8, 1962 in Columbia, SC and passed away on Friday, May 12, 2017. He was a son of Fred C. Meetze, Sr. and Jennie L. McInvale Meetze. He was employed as a glazier mechanic. Mr. Meetze is survived by his parents; sister, Sharon "Sherry" M. Drennan and brother, Fred C. Meetze, Jr.

Susan Bloodworth will have thyroid surgery on June 5 in Columbia.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The program for June will be given by me, your newsletter editor. The title of my presentation is the "Glaciers of Alaska". In the presentation, I will give a brief review of the nature of glaciers and the presence of glaciers in Alaska. There will be some discussion on the effects of global warming with a focus on retreating glaciers and the melting perma-frost. We will explore how the glaciers effect the geomorphological landscapes and how glaciers play a big role in creating critical habitat for a variety birds and mammals.

We will visit a number of glaciers that Angela and I visited on a recent trip to Alaska. In several instances, we were able to hike to the very leading edge of glaciers and explore the many features that make glaciers beautiful. Still other glaciers were visited by boat with a totally different landscape with icebergs a major feature.

I look forward to sharing the beautiful scenery that Angela and I experienced through our photography.

Ron



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.

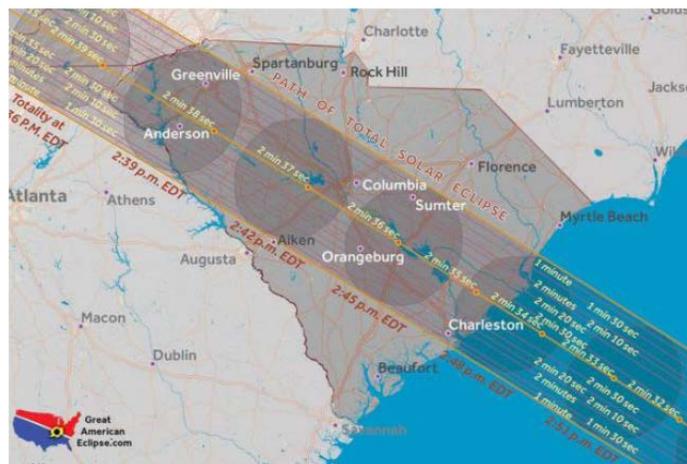
On Aug. 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will be visible from coast to coast, according to [NASA](#). It will be the first total eclipse visible only in the USA since the country was founded in 1776. It will also be the first total solar eclipse to sweep across the entire country in 99 years, NASA says. 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.

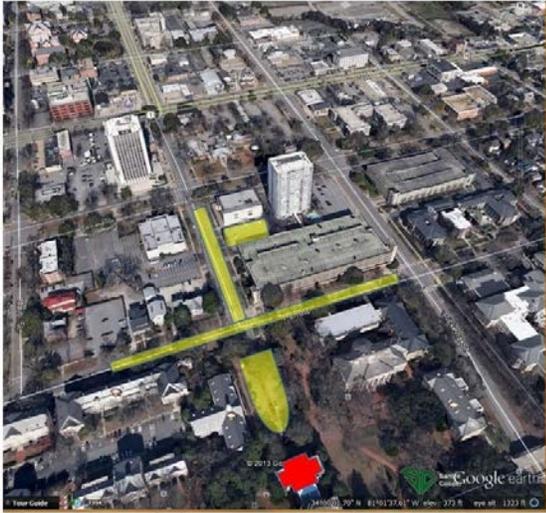
It will pass directly over cities such as Salem, Ore., Idaho Falls, Lincoln, Neb., Kansas City, Nashville, and **Columbia and Charleston, S.C.** Places within a one- or two-hour drive of the eclipse include Portland, Ore., Boise, Cheyenne, Rapid City, Omaha, Neb., Topeka, St. Louis, Louisville, Knoxville, 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/>





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](#)



Come to the State Museum for a special day full of fossils, dinosaurs, natural history and more at Paleopalooza. Open from 10 am to 4 pm.

Meet a real paleontologist and learn about a brand new dinosaur species. See birds of prey, including hawks, owls and others, and experience flight demonstrations by Winged Ambassadors. Skype with scientists in the jungles of Panama who are studying snakes.

Make your own "fossil" to take home.
<Reprinted from <http://scmuseum.org/>>

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

CAYCE EVENTS

The City of Cayce is having a music and arts festival on June 17, 2017. Visit this website for all the information: <http://www.caycesc.gov/soireeonstate.asp>

City of Cayce, 1800 12th Street, Cayce, SC 29033

Phone: 803.796.9020 info@cityofcayce-sc.gov

June 10, 2017 10:00 to 1:00..... Sharpe Creations

 Are you participating in "Funky Cycling On Frink Street"? 

...Have we got a DEAL for you!!! All participants with their bikes, can get \$5 off their purchase at Native Carolina on June 10th. You will also receive a free ticket with purchase for a chance to win prizes, art, gift certificates and more valued at \$1000.00 for Native Carolina's "Native Summer" contest!           

Come down to Frink Street and get FUNKY! — with [John Sharpe](#) and [Venetia Sharpe](#) at [Native Carolina](#). Sharpe Creations

<http://www.sharpe-creations.com/home>

904 Frink Street

Cayce, SC 29033

ph: 803 446 7000

[Scholarship Committee, SFMS Workshop Scholarship Raffle](#)

Latest News: Photos of the donated prizes will be available the Lodestar, and on the website. Please help make this program a success. **Let's see how many SFMS Workshop Scholarships we can create for 2018.**

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, the SFMS replaced the stamp collecting program with a drawing to raise funds to provide full Scholarships to the SFMS Workshops. THE SFMS is asking all member clubs to participate in two ways. The first way 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 23978. 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. For CGMS, Sue Shrader will be in charge of selling the tickets. 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

http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_pdf/Lodestar%20February%202017.pdf

The Raffle Tickets are for sale at the club meetings



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



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

An Official Field Trip of the Southern Appalachian Mineral Society (Asheville, NC) (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, July 15, 2017
9:00 a.m. Eastern
McKinney Mine
Near Spruce Pine, NC
Fee: \$20

TRIP: The Southern Appalachian Mineral Society is sponsoring the July field trip to the McKinney Mine at Emerald Village, near Spruce Pine, NC. The trip will begin at 9:30 am with a guided tour of the Bon Ami feldspar mine and Museum. At approximately 10:15 we will cross the road to the dump piles of the McKinney Mine. Digging is allowed all day.

COLLECTING: Nice Mica specimens as well as Smoky Quartz, Feldspar, and Garnets. Aquamarine & Green and Yellow Beryl can occasionally be found on the dumps but they are scarce. Many other rare and unusual rocks & minerals, including Columbite, Samarskite, Torbernite, Uranophane, Hyalite Opal, Malachite, Tourmaline, Thulite, Amazonite, Pyrite and Dendrites. One of our members will have a Geiger counter for checking Samarskite or Unaninite.

BRING: This is definitely a digging site. The surface will yield fewer specimens. People should bring hammers, chisel, shovel, safety glasses, gloves, collecting bucket, etc. Tools are available to rent for \$25 per day (+ \$50 deposit; tools can be shared & include shovel, rock hammer, crack hammer, safety goggles, trowel, small screen, 5 gallon bucket). Water and snacks are a good idea, but food is also available in the complex.

FEE: \$20 per person / \$10 for children 12 and under. Admission is by permit only! EVERY person going onto the dump area must pay the fee, whether collecting or not. There is also a flume where, for an additional fee, buckets can be purchased and searched.

REGISTRATION: Members should gather between 9:00 to 9:15 to register, pay the fee, and sign the release. For anyone under the age of 18, the form must also be signed by a parent or legal guardian. **You must keep a copy of the permit and show it to any staff person upon request. Failure to present a permit upon request will result in your eviction from the site and confiscation of any collected materials.**

REQUIREMENTS: Safety is paramount! Hazardous conditions occur on the dump and YOU are responsible for your own safety. No climbing or digging is allowed on or near the sides of the dump! **Safety glasses must be worn at all times when hammering is done.** Anyone practicing unsafe activities will be asked to leave and no refund will be given. Anyone on the dump without a permit (or using unauthorized equipment) will forfeit any rocks or minerals collected and will be evicted from the property. Be safe!

CHILDREN (Maybe): Collecting on the dumps can be hazardous and is not suitable for small children. Any person under the age of 18 going on the dumps must be accompanied by, and under the direct supervision of a responsible paying adult.

PETS (NO): No information, so assume pets are not allowed.

FACILITIES: Food, water, restrooms, and picnic tables are available at the site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: There is a walking path to the creek on the left as you enter the dump area. You can wash your rocks here or carry water from this location to your dig-site. Please do not access the creek anywhere else.

Collecting is only allowed in the designated dump area. Parking is not allowed along the road-side. All vehicles must be removed from the property by closing time. Emerald Village reserves the right to refuse access to anyone at any time, the right to close the dump at any time, and the right to limit amount collected to one 5 gallon bucket full per permit. Permits are revocable and are not transferable.

You are allowed to leave and return to the dump area to use the restrooms or get something to eat. When you are finished collecting please return any rental tools and get your deposit back. You are expected to remove any trash.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

From I40 exit 85 in Marion NC: Take US 221 toward Marion, turn left on US 221 N 1.8 miles; turn left to stay on US 221 N 12.1 miles; Turn left on NC 226N 5.3 miles; turn right to stay on NC 226 N 377 feet; turn right on Blue Ridge Parkway 3.0 miles; turn left toward High Ridge Rd 187 feet; turn right on High Ridge Rd 265 feet; turn right on Chestnut Grove Rd 1.0 mile; turn left onto McKinney Mine Rd destination on right.

From Burnsville NC: Take US 19E 9.1 miles; turn right on Crabtree Rd 4.8 miles; turn left on McKinney Mine Rd .3 mile.

CONTACT:

Ken Casebeer, SAMS at 828-277-1779

An Official Field Trip of the Forsyth Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (Winston-Salem, NC) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, June 17, 2017

9:00 a.m. Eastern

Earthen Paradise

Prospect, VA

Fee: \$20

TRIP: Earthen Paradise is located in the very Heart of Virginia between the Historic towns of Appomattox and Farmville only a short distance from the famous High Bridge Trail.

COLLECTING: Gemmy blue kyanite, garnet, and black tourmaline.

BRING: Picks, shovels, rock hammers and scratching tools. Screens could also be helpful. Bring plenty of drinks and lunch unless you want to drive a few miles for food.

FEE: \$20 per person / \$10 for children 12 and under.

REGISTRATION: No need to register.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult who is at least 18 years old.

PETS (NO): No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: A port-a-potty will be available onsite. Several fast food restaurants are located approximately 10 minutes away in Farmville, VA.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Address of Earthen Paradise is 599 Browntown Rd. Prospect, VA 23960

From Eastern VA:

Get to Hwy. 460 west and stay on it until the turn off to Rt. 608 (Prospect, Rd.) on your left in the town of Prospect, VA Turn left again at Rt. 677 (Browntown Rd.) on your left and go to the very end of the road.

From Western VA:

Get to Hwy. 460 east and stay on it until the turn off to Rt. 627 (Prospect, Rd.) on your right in the town of Prospect, VA Turn right again at Rt. 677 (Browntown Rd.) on your right and go to the very end of the road.

CONTACT:

Contact Stephanie Myers (witchmyers@yahoo.com) or Jessica Callan (Earthenparadiseinc@gmail.com) with questions.

**14th Annual Western North Carolina
Rockhound Roundup
July 24th - 30th, 2017**

The largest annual Rockhound gathering in North Carolina!

Hosted by: M.A.G.M.A., the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association

This event will be based at Camp Stephens. This property is located just outside the city of Asheville off of Interstate 26. The camp is just 3.5 miles from the Interstate but located in a secluded wooded area on the French Broad River. There is room for many RV's and tent campers. There is a large indoor pavilion with two bathrooms, two showers, a kitchen, electricity and water for the outside campers and inside the pavilion. There are large campfire pits for use by campers. I will also have two porta potties' on site for extra bathrooms. There will be a dumpster on site for all garbage (be sure to bag your garbage before putting it in the dumpster). Campers will be able to swim, fish, canoe, snorkel, etc. in the river. The camp

area is completely wooded so there is plenty of shade. We will be allowed to use the numerous tables provided in the pavilion to set up and swap our rocks and minerals. Three miles from the camp are numerous gas stations, a mall, restaurants, movie theater, motels/hotels and more.

Campers are welcome to begin arriving Sunday afternoon the 23rd to set up camp and get ready for the week's events.

Agenda: We have coordinated this event to coincide with the numerous gem and mineral shows that are taking place in Franklin, NC. We will be leading field trips each day to various mines in the Western North Carolina area. We will also have groups going to the gem shows in Franklin as well.

Tuesday the 25th: A field trip to the Crabtree Emerald Mine in Mitchell County, NC. Fee: \$10 for those camping at the roundup, \$15 for all others. Members will leave camp at 8:00 am and caravan to the mine. Forms and payment will be collected at the camp prior to the dig. Directions will be provided for everyone, so no one gets lost during the trip. Alternative trip: A trip to the Sinkhole Mine in Mitchell County for those that want to pass on the Crabtree. For more info on Crabtree:

[Crabtree Emerald Mine](#)

Wednesday the 26th: A trip to the Little Pine Garnet Mine in Madison County, NC. Fee: \$20 per person. Forms and payment are handled at the office of the Sandy Bottom Trail Rides before proceeding to the mine. Directions will be provided for everyone, so no one gets lost during the trip. For more info on Little Pine Mine:

[Little Pine Mine](#)

Thursday the 27th: Show day, groups will be visiting the various gem and mineral shows taking place in Franklin, NC.

Friday the 28th: A field trip to the Sharpes Emerald Prospect in Hiddenite, NC. Fee \$20 for those camping at the roundup, \$25 for all others. Directions will be provided for everyone, so no one gets lost during the trip. For more info on Sharpes:

[Sharpes Emerald Prospect](#)

There will be demonstrations on wire wrap, flint knapping, cabochon making, etc. Display tables will be available to show off your favorite specimens. The members have a cookout in the evening and a big campfire. There will be tables setup throughout the week for people to sell and trade their rocks and minerals, gems and jewelry.

Saturday the 29th; THE FEAST! Everyone should bring a dish or desert and something to drink. If you need to cook something for the meal, you should start cooking around 1:00 to be ready to eat around 3:00.

Saturday morning, some of the group will head out to various mines to collect while others will visit the gem shows.

Fee for Roundup: \$40.00 per person. Vendors, \$60.00. This covers all 7 days of the Roundup.

Kids 12 and under are free.

If you plan to only attend a few of the days, the cost will be \$10.00 per day.

Accommodations: Camping on the Camp Stephens property is included in the above cost.

Directions: Take exit 33 off of Interstate 26 just outside of Asheville NC. Go west on Brevard Road/Hwy. 191. Drive 3.5 miles to Clayton Road on the left, turn left and drive 2/10ths of a mile to the entrance to Camp Stephens on the left. You will see a large MAGMA sign at the entrance. If coming from Exit 37 off I-26, turn right onto Clayton Road, the event will be on the right.

There are two excellent KOA campgrounds in the area:

East Asheville KOA: reservations: 1-800-562-5907, information: 828-686-3121

West Asheville KOA: reservations: 1-800-562-9015, information: 828-665-7015

For those who would rather stay in a hotel in the area, there are several hotel/motels 3.5 miles from the camp at the I-26 exit. For more info on these motels:

Country Inn and Suites: 845 BREVARD RD, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 670-9000

Roadway Inn and Suites: 9 Wedgefield Drive, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 670-8800

Fairfield Inn and Suites: 11 Rocky Ridge Road, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 665-4242

Hampton Inn: One Rocky Ridge Road, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 667-2022

Comfort Suites: 890 Brevard Road, Asheville, NC 28806

(828) 665-4000

This roundup is open to all clubs and anyone visiting the area from out of town who would like to attend. Remember to bring plenty of rocks and minerals to trade, sell, and show.

For more information, contact Rick Jacquot at: 828-779-4501 or email rick@wncrocks.com

AREA SHOWS

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: _____

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
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 Treasurer.....Laura Tesh.....731-4760.....lauralaw@bellsouth.net
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 Past President.....Angela Valvasori.....419-2923.....thebears@earthlink.net

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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**