



# Rocky Trails



November 2017

Volume 11 Issue 9



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Fall has arrived and our attention has been directed towards the holiday season and time spent with our families and friends. For many of us our focus is also on our club's annual Gem and Mineral Show. Many folks have spent a lot of time and effort in preparation leading to a successful show. A special thanks goes out to our show committee, Sue Shrader, Mike Montebello, and Sharon Sterrit, for making arrangements, contacting dealers, advertising and much, much more. When you see these folks, be sure and thank them for all they do to make our one of the best in the southeast. This year will be a special edition in that it is 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the show! This is a great opportunity to get involved in one of the best activities that supports the many programs of the club. In this addition of the Rocky Trails you will find information about the show and how to get involved. After the show, the next event will be the club's Christmas party that will be held at the workshop.

On a sad note, one person will be missed at our show. Mary Hillman, longtime member of the Columbia Gem & Mineral Society passed away on November 2, 2017, at her home in Columbia, SC. Mary is survived by her husband Derek. For those of us who went on field trips over the last ten years, we will remember Mary as a determined digger who would always find beautiful minerals and amazing fossils. Her passion for rock hounding was unrivaled. She represented the best of who we are and we will miss her. Please remember Derek in your thoughts and prayers.

Until next time,  
*Ron Ahle*

## **NEXT MEETING** **November 20, 2017**

### **PROGRAM:**

Angela Valvasori, Club Historian, will give a presentation on the club history. Angela has been going through a "ton" of old newsletters, history, and papers at the Lapidary Workshop. This year, 2017 is the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Some of the previous locations are Dutch Square Mall, SC State Fairgrounds and the South Carolina State Museum. The club was chartered May 18, 1965 as The Central South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society

### **REFRESHMENTS** Dana Mitchell

### **DOOR PRIZE** To be announced.

## Columbia Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show

\*Pass out show flyers.

\*Sign up to help... contact Sue 803-736-9317  
[ashrader@mindspring.com](mailto:ashrader@mindspring.com)

\*Bring rocks, fossils, crystals, sharks teeth, mica to the show for grab bags.

\* Share Show on Facebook and other social media.

**\*\* Abby Gates is in charge of the show dealer dinner Thursday at 5:00, the day of the show set up Nov.16. She is asking for members to bring a covered dish, dessert, or drinks. Abbie and the Dunlaps will provide the ham and turkey. Call her 803-799-9279**

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 6. 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**  
**Annual Christmas Party**

**Sunday December 10, 2015...2 to 5**  
Club Lapidary Workshop  
1601 Frink Street  
Cayce SC 29033

**Pot Luck. Bring a vegetable , meat, dessert,  
chips & dip, or appetizer to share with others**  
Gift Exchange \$15 or under

Questions call Sue 803-261-9317 ashraider@mindspring.com

**Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show** 2017  
50th Annual

**Jamil Temple**  
206 Jamil Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210  
Exit 106 off I - 26

Special Grand Prize  
Drawing Award for 2017!  
Large Quartz Crystal  
Cluster  
From Arkansas  
Donated by  
JohnBeCrystals.com  
John Beerhalter



Nov. 17, 10-6  
Nov. 18, 10-6  
Nov. 19, 11-5

Adults \$5.00...  
Children 16 & Under Free  
With adult  
3 Day Pass \$10.00

All Military & Dependents  
FREE

803-736-9317  
www.cgams.org

**\$1.00 Off Coupon**

**Columbia Gem & Mineral Society**  
A Non-Profit educational Organization



### New At The Workshop

#### Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Workshop Classes

Sheila Frame taught a Viking Knit wrapped pendant class at the Lapidary Workshop on Oct. 28. Dan Elswick, Susan Bloodworth, Sue Shrader, Alta Cadle, Juana Gumbs. Leslie Aiken , and Catherine Sawyer Attended the class



\* Call or email Gary Hert [gchert@hotmail.com](mailto:gchert@hotmail.com) 803-794-9362 to use the rock saws and cabbing machines.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### October 16, 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, October 16, 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 7:33 p.m.

**Refreshments** were supplied by Wenzel Family.

**Door prizes** were supplied by Susan Bloodworth, Pat Hert and Gary Hert.

**Visitors and/new members** were Deby Stewart and Juana Gumbs.

**Chair Reports:** Sue Shrader reported that there will be a **Grab Bag** work day at the workshop on Monday, November 6, 2017. Items for grab bags can be left at Sue's house or the covered rear porch at the workshop. **Classes:** Sue Shrader reported that Sheila Frame will teach a wire wrap class at the workshop on October 28, 2017 from 9:00 to noon. A sign-up sheet was passed around for the class. Sue Shrader passed around a **Show** sign-up sheet for members to say when and where they can work at the show. Sue also passed around a sign-up sheet for **2018 Door Prizes & Refreshments**. Ron Ahle asked members to send articles for the **Rocky Trails** to him. Ron also reported that items valued at over \$45,000.00 were stolen at the October Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig. Susan Bloodworth passed out **Membership** forms. Abbie Gates reported that the **Dealer Dinner** would be on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 5:30. She requested all food be brought to the temple at 5:00. A sign-up sheet for food was passed around. Dan Elswick asked that all **Facebook** members like and follow the club. Angela Valvasori gave positive comments on the new **Website** created by Mike Montebello. The address is [www.cgms.rocks](http://www.cgms.rocks) but if you the old address of [www.cgams.org](http://www.cgams.org) it will take you to the new site. Abbie Gates reported under **Sunshine** that a card was sent to Angela Valvasori and Ron Ahle on the passing of Ron's Father. As **Liaison** Jim Cobb reported that he had been to Aiken to hear Kim Cochran in October. Historian Angela Valvasori reported that she is preparing the November program on the history of the club. When asked for hints about the program she only said it would be a surprise. Look in the **Rocky Trails** for **Field Trip** information.

**Old Business:** Dan Elswick reported on the program the board passed to allow members to buy blocks of workshop time at a reduced rate. Ten hours will cost \$25.00. New members will get 5 hours free time. Free hours and bought hours are good for one year. Look in the **Rocky Trails** for additional details.

**New Business:** Jim Cobb reported that nominations for 2018 club officers will be presented and voted on at the November meeting.

**Door Prizes:** Door Prize winners were Shellie, Newell, Abbie Gates, Don Burger, Susan Richardson, Sue Shrader, Terri Tokaz, Patricia Burger, June Morrison, Pam Ethridge, Chris Cicimurri, Charlie Wentzel, Juana Gumbs, Noemi Cadle, Dan Elswick, Ron Ahle, Dave Dunlap, Mandie Wenzel, Jonathan Wenzel, Angela Valvasori and Sharon Sterrett.

**Program:** Sue Shrader introduced Chris Cicimurri. Chris took us upstairs to see the mineral displays and much more. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04.

Submitted by Sharon Sterrett

Respectfully submitted by  
*Sharon Sterrett*

### EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

#### October 23, 2017 Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society met on the 4th Monday, October 23, 2017, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, SC 29169. Members and officers present were Laura Tesh, Jimmy Armstrong, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Mike Montebello, Dan Elswick, Gary Hert, Susan Bloodworth, Jim Cobb, Berina Sutphin and Sharon Sterrett. President Jimmy Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:04. Jimmy thanked everyone for coming. Jimmy commented on the good October program by Chris Cicimurri. He had heard several positive comments.

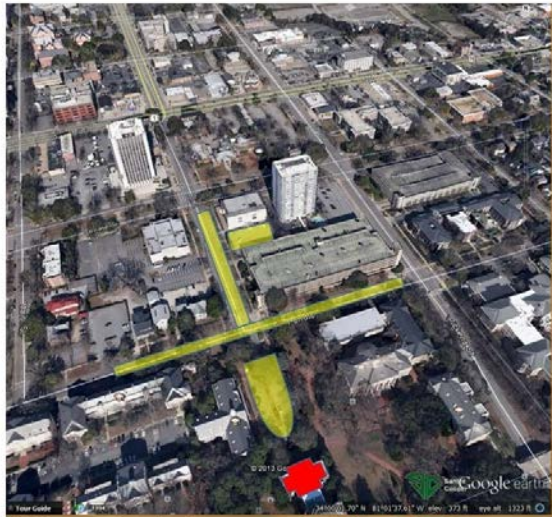
**Committee and Officer Reports:** Sue Shrader reported that Sheila Frame's **Class** on Saturday, October 28 was full. Berina Sutphin donated a table to the workshop. Angela Valvasori will call Don Burger about the dirt and shrinking parking at the **Workshop**. Hopefully, Don can talk to our landlord, as a friend, and stop the dumping. Sue Shrader reported on the **Show** advertising. The State Newspaper advertising will cost \$208.00 and not the anticipated \$200.00. The Free Times had internal problems with our advertising and had no record of our order. Sue was able to work a deal with them that will provide us with a better package than the one that was lost. Sue has contacted the TV stations. Jimmy Armstrong can help with TV interviews. Sharon Sterrett reported the Show **Security** with the Lexington County Deputies was in place. Dan Elswick asked that people not only "like" our club on **Facebook** but that they also "follow" us. The board wants to have a **Memorial** to Danny Jones of Firebird Minerals at the show. Jimmy Armstrong and Ron Ahle talked about a **Field Trip** to Burches Ferry. The number of people that can attend would need to be limited because of the small area there is to collect. Under **Sunshine** Sue Shrader reported that Sheila Frame will have cataract surgery. Ron Ahle asked that all **Rocky Trails** information be sent to him by the first of November. Jim Cobb reported as **Liaison** our club has a good relationship with the Aiken club. **Historian** Angela Valvasori is preparing her club history for November.

**Old Business:** The club Christmas party will be at the workshop on Sunday, December 10, 2017 from 2:00 to 5:00.

**New Business:** Jim Cobb reported that Susan Bloodworth agreed to be nominated as secretary for 2018. We will vote on officers at the November meeting.

President Jimmy Armstrong asked for a motion to adjourn. Berina Sutphin made the motion, Jim Cobb seconded the motion and it carried at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Sharon Sterrett*



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

### [McKissick Museum](#)

#### **McKissick Museum:**

[www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/mikissickmuseum](http://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, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor gallery.

Chris CiCiMurri Curator of Natural Science. 803-777-2823; [cicimurri@sc.edu](mailto:cicimurri@sc.edu)

### **Meteor Showers**

#### **Southern Taurids** Peak Night November 10 to 11

Active from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Southern Taurids are a long-lasting shower with several minor peaks in October and November. The shower is active for two months but rarely produces more than five shower members per hour, even at maximum activity. The Taurids (both branches) are most notable for colorful fireballs and are often responsible for an increased number of fireball reports from September through November.

#### **Northern Taurids** Peak night November 10-11

Active from October 19<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup> Peak night November 18 to 19, this shower is much like the Southern Taurids, just active a bit later in the year. When the two showers are active simultaneously in late October and early November, there is sometimes an notable increase in the fireball activity. There seems to be a seven year periodicity with these fireballs. 2008 was the last remarkable year.

#### **Leonids**

Active from November 5<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> **Peak night November 17 to 18, 2017**

The Leonids are best known for producing great meteor storms in the years of 1833, 1866, 1966, and 2001. These outbursts of meteor activity are best seen when the parent object, comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle, is near perihelion (closest approach to the sun). Yet it is not the fresh material we see from the comet, but rather debris from earlier returns that also happen to be most dense at the same time. The best we can hope for now until the year 2030 is peaks of around 15 shower members per hour and perhaps an occasional weak outburst when the earth passes near a debris trail. The Leonids are often bright meteors with a high percentage of persistent trains.

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



**2017 Show Help****Front Desk, Admission, Membership, Door Prize, Etc.**

Friday, November 17	Saturday, November 18	Sunday, November 19
10:00 to 2:00 _____	10:00 to 2:00 _____	12:00 to 2:30 _____
2:00 to 6:00 _____	2:00 to 6:00 _____	2:30 to 5:00 _____

**Geode Booth**

Friday, November 17	Saturday, November 18	Sunday, November 19
10:00 to 2:00 _____	10:00 to 2:00 _____	12:00 to 2:30 _____
2:00 to 6:00 _____	2:00 to 6:00 _____	2:30 to 5:00 _____

**Salted Mine & Grab Bags**

Friday, November 17	Saturday, November 18	Sunday, November 19
10:00 to 2:00 _____	10:00 to 2:00 _____	12:00 to 2:30 _____
2:00 to 6:00 _____	2:00 to 6:00 _____	2:30 to 5:00 _____

It is not necessary to work the listed hours. We can use your help even if you can work only a couple hours in the afternoon or evening.

**Odd Jobs**

I can work from \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. on Friday/Saturday/Sunday.

(Please circle a.m. or p.m. and the day).

I would like to help with \_\_\_\_\_ (Please list an area).

**Demonstrating**

I would like to demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_ (List faceting, bead string from \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. on Friday/Saturday/Sunday.  
(Please circle a.m. or p.m. and the day).

**Display Case**

I would like to fill a display case (please list items to be displayed below).

**Set Up and Take Down**

I can be at the Jamil Temple at 9:30 on Thursday morning to Set up \_\_\_\_\_ yes

I can help with take down on Sunday beginning at 5:00 ..... \_\_\_\_\_ yes

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring to the Club Meeting.....or send to Sue.... [ashrader@mindspring.com](mailto:ashrader@mindspring.com) 803-736-9317

Or Mail to.....Columbia Gem & Mineral Society  
PO Box 6333  
Columbia, SC 29260

Notes.....



## 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 Emerald City Rock and Gem Club (Greenwood, SC) (HOST)**  
**An Official Field Trip of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society**

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**  
**9:00 am to 2:00 pm EST**  
**Diamond Hill Mine**  
**Antreville, Abbeville County, SC**  
**Fee (See Below)**

**TRIP:** This is a very popular site that has had the spoil heaps turned over regularly this fall. In our travels around the country we've run into people from all over who love coming here. Recently people have been finding aquamarine in smoky quartz matrix. We often don't know what we've found until we get it home and clean it up!

**COLLECTING:** Quartz crystals (milky, skeletal, smoky, and some amethyst - rare), Beryl/Aquamarine - rare. Garnet and epidote finds have also been reported.

**BRING:** Digging tools, buckets, work gloves, and don't forget weather protection gear, water and snacks. It can be muddy, depending on the weather.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Participants can take away as much as can fit in their car. Recently, there have been some problems with people digging outside the confines of the mine area, specifically into the county road easement. Participants are asked to stay on the mine side of the log. The mounds of dirt are fairly tall, so stout shoes are recommended. A wide path to the back area of the mine has been created making that an easier walk. Hand tools only.

**FEE:** \$20 per adult 18 and up, cash only (Checks are accepted only from a club account). Teens and Seniors \$10. Children 12 and under \$5.

**CHILDREN:** Yes. This is a great place for children.

**PETS:** Yes. Diamond Hill Mine is pet friendly.

**FACILITIES:** There are picnic tables and a porta potty, but no running water. If you want to clean your finds before taking them home, bring some water and a scrub brush.



**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

**Meet at:** 50-99 Diamond Mine Rd.

**From I-85 -** Take exit 19A for US-76 E/Carolina 28 E toward Anderson. Turn right onto Hwy 28 S E. Turn right on SC-284 S. Turn right on Suber and a right on Diamond Mine Road. About 40 minutes from I-85.

**CONTACT:** Marf Shopmyer at (864) 910-5369



Aquamarine in smoky quartz matrix,  
found July 2017.



Quartz cluster with iron stain.



Quartz cluster, approx. 8" across, found Sept. 2017



# Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)  
<http://www.cgams.org>



Check one: **DUES CURRENT MEMBERS**  
**Quarterly**

Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Family \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES NEW MEMBERS ONLY (Prorated)**

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? \_\_\_\_\_

*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.....Sharon Sterrett.....356-1472.....ssterrett@sc.rr.com  
 Past President.....Angela Valvasori.....419-2923.....thebears@earthlink.net

#### **COMMITTEE**

Membership .....Susan 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.....fredfacetor@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 Rockhound .....Open  
 Show.....Michael Montebello.....791-9921.....mauimonte@hotmail.com  
 Sunshine .....Abbie 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**