



Rocky Trails



May 2024

Volume 18 Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all continuing and new members. I hope that everybody got to see the incredible solar eclipse. Angela and I traveled to Texas and got great views (see photo on page 6). This month we will again have our general meeting at Hope Church. In that Hope Church will not be available in June, our meeting will be moved to the Woodland Park Community Center near the VA Hospital. A special thanks goes out to Terri Tokaz and Angela Valvasori for their assistance in reserving the meeting room at the Woodland Park Community Center for our June meeting. It is possible that this location could be available for the rest of the year if we like it.

Our April program will be presented by Kim Cochran who will educate us on rocks that are considered "polymers". The most famous of these is jade which is considered a polymer because it consists of more than one mineral in its composition. Kim is an excellent speaker and will bring specimens to go along with his presentation.

I missed the last meeting, but I understand there was a request for a volunteer for the position of Secretary and nobody stepped up. As I mentioned in the previous letter, this is an easy position with the primary responsibility being taking meeting minutes. There is no prerequisite for this position, and we encourage newer members to join our executive board team. We need folks to participate in board decisions which is really helpful for the club. Please consider volunteering. Don't make me ask again!

This is important! Our first 2024 Gem and Mineral Show date has been set for **Monday May 13, 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Richland County Library North Main**. Details about the meeting are on page 5. Participation by all members is strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated.

There are several mineral collecting field trips in North Carolina to choose (look on pages 11-13 for details). I have collected at each of these sites and have many nice specimens from both of them. Also, the Franklin Shows are coming up this month and should not be missed.

Stay in touch,
Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

May 20, 2024

The May 2024 CGMS meeting will be held at **Hope Church** located at 2609 Seminole Road. It is off Broad River Rd. and is easily accessible from I-26 or I-20. Use the side door to enter. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Socializing and refreshments at 7:00 pm. Meeting at 7:30 pm.

PROGRAM:

Kim Cochran will speak on polymers. The are rocks consisting of two or more minerals. Jade, alabaster, satin spar, aventurine are polymers. This is a hands-on program. Kim brings many specimens to look at and pass around. Kim has been rock hounding for 50 years and grew up in the Atlanta area. He is a retired firefighter and former curator of the William Weinmann Museum, now the Tellus Museum, in Cartersville, GA

Gary Hert will provide Door Prizes. The Club needs Door Prize donations for the June, August, and October meetings. Contact Sue if you are willing to donate for these months.

Sue Shrader will provide refreshments.

Executive Meeting

Date TBD

Dinner: 6 pm, Meeting: 7 pm

Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia. Members are welcome to attend. Only executive members can vote.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2024, Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on April 15, 2024, at Hope Church. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Jim welcomed guests and visitors. Jim thanked Sharon Sterrett, Sheila Frame, and Susan Bloodworth for refreshments. Then Jim told the membership that the Club had provided door prizes. Jim Cobb said that the Club needed a new Secretary and ask for a volunteer. The minutes for March meetings as published in the Rocky Trails were approved.

Treasurer: Angela Valvasori said there was no new news.

Membership: Sheila Frame said the club now has 139 members: 118 adults and 21 juniors.

Programs: Jim Cobb said that tonight's meeting would be "Show and Tell." For May's meeting, Kim Cochrane will give a presentation.

Show Committee: Angela Valvasori said the Show Committee will start meeting in May to start planning for the Show in November. Angela said the Committee will meet May 13 in a library room, and she would let members know where.

Sunshine: report given.

Rocky Trails and Field Trips: Members discussed the past field trips. Members discussed the upcoming Graves Mountain Field Trip. Gary Hert explained how to dig at Graves Mountain. Susan Bloodworth reminded members to pick up a few small specimens for grab bags and the salted mine. Susan Richardson told about an upcoming Dinosaur Dig in Wyoming.

Angela Valvasori asked if anyone had left a jacket at the previous meeting.

Since there was no old news or new news, Jim Cobb concluded the meeting to do door prizes and the program. The program was a Show and Tell in which each person showed specimens and told about the specimens.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Bloodworth

BOARD MEETING MINUTES**April 29, 2024, Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society**

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held their monthly board meeting on April 29, 2024, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, SC. Members present: Gary Hert, Jim Cobb, Sue Shrader, Dee Iurcovich, Sheila Frame, Sharon Sterrett, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Steve Coker and Cheryl Coker. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order.

Committee and Officer Reports:

Vice President: No Report

Treasurer: Angela paid the club's Southeastern Federation dues. She sent a quarterly treasurers' report to the board members and gave an account of the club's banking and CDs.

Secretary: Position vacant.

Membership: Sheila gave a report on current members, 142 total.

Programs: Sue reviewed the programs for the rest of the year. Kim Cochran will speak in May. Justin Guy, an Edgefield potter was suggested as a speaker.

Show: A show meeting will be held Monday May 13, at the Richland County Library. Angela has an agenda of dealer space prices, asking members to fill positions and to review the dealer contract. A lapidary scholarship for club members that work on show planning and on for those who work at the show was discussed. A motion to approve this was made by Cheryl Coker, Ron Ahle seconded. It was approved. Gary Hert will order the geodes. Gary has purchased new tires for the show trailer. The tires need to be registered for the warranty. Gary will do this. Banks Ratchford pulled the trailer to have the tires installed.

Workshop: Gary is teaching cabbing classes and cutting rocks. The cabbing machine needs new belts. A motion was made by Cheryl for Gary to purchase the belts, seconded by Ron. It was approved.

Field Trips: Graves Mountain Rock Swap was April 26 to 28. The next one is in October. Ron went on a paid fossil dig near Holly Hill.

Sunshine: report given

Facebook: Sue regularly posts club information on both Facebook pages.

Auctioneer: There will be a silent auction of the club's inventory of rocks and minerals later this year.

Other Old business: Cheryl has investigated prefab buildings that are assembled on site to be used on land we purchase for a workshop. This would not include finishing, plumbing, electricity, metal floor joists, and foundation,

There was no new business. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sue, seconded by Cheryl and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Shrader

Social Media Helps our Club Stay Social!

To access our web site, type “CGMS.ROCKS” in your internet browser or you can search for Columbia Gem and Mineral Society in Google. **The Club’s website is:** www.cgms.rocks

To join the discussion with other CGMS members on **Facebook**, look under the Community tab, where you will find the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Member Group. When you ask to join the Group, please be sure to agree to follow the rules: Be Kind, No Hate Speech or Bullying; and No Promotions or Spam. Please feel free to add photos of your interesting finds, share your Jewelry making, or your field trip experiences.

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP

The CGMS lapidary workshop in West Columbia, SC is open. To use the rock saws and cabbing machines call or email Gary Hert at gchert@hotmail.com or 803-794-9362. There is an hourly rate for using the machines.



CGMS Show Planning Meeting

Monday May 13, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

**Richland County Library North Main, “Large Meeting Room”
5306 North Main St., Columbia, SC 29203**

Easily accessible from I-20

All CGMS members are invited to our first planning meeting for the 2024 Show! In this meeting, we plan to:

- describe the various committees,
- look for volunteers to lead or participate in the committees,
- discuss show prices, and
- if time permits, review the dealer contract.

The key committees that need to be filled are the *dealer liaison committee* and the *publicity and advertising committee*.

For new members, or those who have not participated in the planning before, this is an opportunity to get to know your fellow members, bring new ideas, try your hand at new things, have fun and collaborate to make this a great show!

Below is a list of the various committees so you can pick what interests you. However much or little you would like to do, it will be helpful and there will be someone to guide you. Those who have worked on these committees in the past can provide as much or as little guidance as you would like.

For those who participate in planning the show, their name will be entered into a drawing for a one-week lapidary class scholarship at either William Holland or Wildacres! Additionally, the club will have a drawing for a one-week scholarship for those who work at the show.

If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to be involved or have ideas, please email or call Angela Valvasori at thebears@earthlink.net or 803-960-6667.

Committees:

- Chairperson (single person)
- Dealer Liaison Committee
- Graphics, Advertising and Publicity Committee
- Volunteer Recruitment and Organization Person
- Security
- Dealer Dinner
- Education
- Geodes
- Setup and Teardown Coordinator
- Front Desk Coordinator



Solar Eclipse photographed by Ron Ahle

2024 SFMS Workshops

Class	Instructor	Class	Instructor
-------	------------	-------	------------

William Holland June 2-8, 2024			
Gem Trees I+	Jerri Heer	Silver I+	Jason Hamilton (WLO)
Cabs I	Jack King (WLO)	Stained Glass	Stephanie Danz
Cab I & II	John Wild	Intarsia I & II	Bill Boggs
Casting	Bill Harr (WLO)	Moovin Metal	Cindy Moore
Stone in Stone	Michael Bateman	Wire I	Judi Wild
Faceting I & II	Tom Mitchell	Metal Clay	Susan Brooks
Silver W/Leather Inlay	Wayne Parker (WLO)	Acid Etch/Enameling	S Savic-Polk & K Ross

Wildacres I August 12-18, 2024		Wildacres II September 9-15, 2024	
Chain Maille	Jim Hird	Acid Etch/Enameling	S Savic-Polk & K Ross
Special Projects	Jeff Sheer	Chain—Loop n' Loop	Chuck Bruce
Stained Glass	Stephanie Danz	AFMS Judges Training	Leslie Wayment
Silver I+	Jason Hamilton	Chain Maile	Marilou
Weave-Tap-Drop	Cindy Moore	Soapstone Carving	Kim Valko
Cabs	Jack King	Moovin Metal	Cindy Moore
Casting	Bill Harr	Silver All-In-One	Jason Hamilton

Wait List Only (WLO)

It's time to start thinking about the SFMS Workshop offerings for 2024. We still have openings in most of the classes, so contact us quick to get your name on the list. The website is <https://www.sfmssworkshops.org>. You can sign up and pay your deposit directly online. If you prefer, you can fill in the attached application send it with a check, made to SFMS Workshops, to the Registrar below.

WH Registrar: Juergen Poppelreuter, 678-576-7034, wh-registrar@sfmssworkshops.org
 WA Registrar: Leslie Wayment, 772-539-2409, wa-registrar@sfmssworkshops.org

To see detailed information on each class offered, go to:

[Federation Week 2024 - Wildacres Flyer.pdf](#)

[Federation Week 2024 - William Holland Flyer.pdf](#)

or

[SFMS Workshops](#)

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

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

Advance online ticket purchases are encouraged, especially if you wish to see planetarium and/or 4D shows.

Hours of Operation:

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

Planetarium Theater Shows

Black Holes: Unimaginably powerful, relentless, and invisible, black holes are some of the most fascinating and extreme objects in the universe. They warp space and time, swallow up stars, and can grow to monstrous sizes. How do they form? Where are they found? What would happen to you if you fell into one? Go on a mind-bending journey that brings you face to face with these strange and enigmatic denizens of the cosmos.

James Webb Space Telescope: The Story Unfolds: See strange distant worlds in stunning detail and witness the evolution of galaxies over billions of years as revealed by the most powerful telescope ever built. Featuring groundbreaking images from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope visualized in brilliant 4K resolution, this special live planetarium experience explores the incredible, complex science behind the James Webb mission. Developed by the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL, this 42-minute live, interactive show also highlights the incredible science behind the James Webb mission. The State Museum is proud to be one of only two locations outside of the USSRC to debut this special planetarium experience that will bring new discoveries to audiences.

Show Run Time: 45 min.

Habitat Earth

This full dome planetarium show is narrated by Frances McDormand. The show features stunning visualizations of the natural world, as it takes you below the ocean's surface to explore the dynamic relationships found in kelp forest ecosystems, travel beneath the forest floor to see how Earth's tallest trees rely on tiny fungi to survive, and journey to new heights to witness the intricate intersection between human and ecological networks.

Show Run Time: 25 min.

Museum Special Exhibit:

Apollo 16 & Beyond: South Carolina in Space

This new exhibition explores the Apollo 16 lunar mission and the historic moonwalk of SC astronaut Charles Duke. In addition to featuring many Apollo 16 objects, the exhibition will also highlight South Carolina scientists and engineers who have contributed to the field of aerospace research and exploration.

McKissick Museum

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

Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays

McKissick Museum Events

<https://www.facebook.com/mckissickmuseum/>
www.sc.edu/mckissickmuseum

<https://www.facebook.com/mckissickmuseum/>
www.sc.edu/mckissickmuseum
www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/mckissickmuseum; phone
803.777.7251; College of Arts and Sciences, University of
South Carolina; 816 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29208

From Earth to Art: Alkaline-Glazed Pottery in the American Southeast

Ongoing through Saturday, July 27, 2024, 3 p.m.

From Earth to Art: Alkaline-Glazed Pottery in the American Southeast highlights the rich legacy of stoneware masterpieces in McKissick Museum's permanent collection. The exhibition is a travel through time and tradition. A selection of functional wares made by southern hands between the 1840s and early 2000s are featured. Each object is a celebration of the distinctiveness of its maker and the artistry of the applied glaze. This exhibition was curated by Abby Rivers, an art history major and former McKissick Museum intern.

Congaree National Park

100 National Park Road
Hopkins, SC 29061
803 776-4396
<https://www.nps.gov/cong/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

Congaree National Park is a 26,692.6-acre American national park in central South Carolina, 18 miles southeast of the state capital, Columbia. The park preserves the largest tract of old growth bottomland hardwood forest left in the United States

Lunch and Learn:

The last Friday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 pm

Contact Carson Lillard at carson_lillard@nps.com to be placed on the Lunch and Learn notification list.

Cayce Historical Museum

<https://caycesc.gov/museum.php>



12,000 Year History Park: Summer 2024 Tours

June 1 Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 10:00 AM

June 8 Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM

June 15 Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 10:00 AM

June 22 Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 10:00 AM

June 29 Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour: 11:00 AM

July 6 Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 10:00 AM

July 13 Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM

July 20, Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 11:00 AM

July 21 Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, Special Sunday 6:00 PM Start

July 27 Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 10:00 AM

August 3 Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 10:00 AM

August 10 Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM

August 17 Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 10:00 AM

August 24 Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 11:00 AM

August 31 Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 10:00 AM

History Tours start at the Cayce Tennis Center, 1120 Fort Congaree Trail in Cayce, where free parking is available.

For any updates, please visit our website at cayce12000years.com or follow us on Facebook!

(803)-739-5385.

News Worth Digging Up

Black Lights Turn This North Carolina Mine into a Psychedelic Wonderland

The Bon Ami Mine's deposits of the mineral hyalite glow fluorescent green under ultraviolet light

By: Jennifer Nalewicki

Date: April 12, 2022

Source: Smithsonian Magazine

The Bon Ami Mine in Little Switzerland, North Carolina, located about 50 miles northeast of Asheville. About ten times a year the mine is open so people can experience its [Black Light Mine Tour](#). The tour is the best way to see the mine's towering walls and ceiling, which are encrusted with large deposits of hyalite, a form of opal known for its glass-like transparency. When viewed under ultraviolet light, the normally colorless gemstone glows a brilliant fluorescent green.

Hyalite's intoxicating glow, which immediately calls to mind kryptonite from the *Superman* comic book series, is due to the gemstone's trace amounts of uranium, a chemical element that glows when exposed to ultraviolet light. The more uranium a hyalite deposit contains, the brighter it glows. The Bon Ami Mine is one of only two mines in the United States that are open to the public and offer black light tours. In this article, the history of the mine is discussed and the discovery of the hyalite is described in detail. The mine owner has purchased high powered black lights and leads the tours. The tour draws about 1000 tourists from around the world each year.

To read more about this incredible mine go to: [Black Lights Turn This North Carolina Mine Into a Psychedelic Wonderland | Travel| Smithsonian Magazine](#)



Glowing hyalite immediately calls to mind kryptonite from the *Superman* comic book

AREA SHOWS

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

May 10-12, MARIETTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Georgia Mineral Society, Inc; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy contact Juergen Popplereuter; Email: Mayshow@gamineral.org; Website: <https://gamineral.org/showmain.html>

May 10-12, MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: Annual show; Travelin Rocks; Quartz Capital Of The World, 1210 Hwy 270 E; Vendors Text (870 490 2997) for more information; contact Chris Wood, (870) 490-2997; Email: bearisgrateful@gmail.com

May 17-19, 2024, MELBOURNE, FLORIDA: Retail show; H & R Gem Shows; Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E Hibiscus Blvd; contact Jerri Heer, (419) 344-9999; Email: hrgemshows@gmail.com; Website: hrgemshows.com

May 17-19, 2024, Franklin, NC [The Franklin Gem and Mineral Show](#)

Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin, North Carolina 28734 The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC

Larry Ellert 727-455-1849 clellert@yahoo.com www.fgmm.org

May 17-19, 2024, Franklin, NC

Watauga Festival Center, 6296 Sylva Rd., Franklin, North Carolina 28734

Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers, Inc. (601) 879-8832

Admission: FREE!! Wholesale Only Shows - Open Only to Trade Valid Tax Certificate OR Sales and Use Tax Permit in Gem or Jewelry Related Business is Required.

info@glwshows.com www.glwshows.com

May 24-26, 2024, SALEM, VIRGINIA: Annual show; Salem Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show; Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd; contact Alan Koch; Email: agmjs3@gmail.com; Website: www.americangemshow.com

May 31-June 2, 2024, DULUTH, GEORGIA: Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Gas South Convention Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy; BJ; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

June 1-2, COLFAX, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club; Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, 2914 Sandy Ridge Road; contact KB Montgomery, (336) 706-0061; Email: ggmc.rocks@gmail.com; Website: ggmc-rockhounds.com

June 7-9, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA: Retail show; Raleigh Rocks, Minerals, Crystals, Beads and Jewelry Show; NC State Fairground (Scott Building), 4285 Trinity Road; contact Ash, (919) 257-8915; Email: Jewelpassageshows@gmail.com; Website: www.jewelpassageshows.com

June 21-23, SWANNANOVA, NORTH CAROLINA: Show; Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association; Land of the Sky Shrine Club, 39 Spring Cove Road; contact Richard Jacquot, (828) 779-4501; Email: rickjacquot@gmail.com; Website: www.AmericanRockhound.com

June 28-30, CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Southeastern Mineral Specimens; Cabarras Arena and Events Center, 4751 State Hwy 49, Gold Hall contact Mark E. P. Woods, (706) 296-9467; Email: imineral@bellsouth.net; Website: <https://facebook.com/events/s/the-2024-greater-charlotte-gem/1418218972405703/>

Graves Mountain Rock Swap & Dig

Lincolnton, Georgia

2024 Fall. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. October 4, 5, 6. 8 am to 6 pm.

<https://www.gamineral.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>

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 an affiliate of the American Federation of Mineralogical Society Inc.

2024 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President..... Jim Cobb.
 Vice President..... Cheryl Coker.....
 Treasurer..... Angela Valvasori.....
 Secretary..... Open

COMMITTEES

Membership Sheila Frame.....
 Auctioneer..... Ron Ahle.....
 Club Liaison..... Jim Cobb.....
 Faceting Guild..... Tom Daniels.....
 Facebook..... Sue Shrader
 Field Trip..... Open
 Historian.....Angela Valvasori
 Librarian.....Sheila Frame.....
 Newsletter Editor..... Ron Ahle.....
 Program..... Sue Shrader.....
 Show..... Open
 Sunshine Abbie Gates.....
 Website..... Steve Coker.....
 Workshop..... Gary Hert.....



CGMS Website

Please visit our Website:

<http://www.cgms.rocks>

Webmaster: Steve Coker

Monthly Meeting

Except for January, the meetings are held the third Monday of each month. Socializing and refreshments at 7:00 pm; Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Executive Board Meetings:

Except for January, the meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month. Meal is at 6:00 pm. Meeting is at 7:00 pm.

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