



Rocky Trails



October 2024

Volume 18 Issue 9



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all continuing and new members. At our September meeting we had a successful a silent auction that generated a nice income for the club. Our October meeting promises to be exceptionally good with two very entertaining speakers, Carol Elliott & Susan Richardson giving firsthand accounts of their adventures in Utah. Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Party that will be on December 15th.

On a sad note, it is with a heavy heart I inform you that one of our members, Kathleen Wallis, wife of Walt Kubilius, has died after a sudden battle with cancer. Kathleen was a good friend, a gentle person with a great smile and always a pleasure to spend time with. We will miss her greatly. To find out about her funeral go to [Kathleen T. Wallis Obituary 2024 - Shellhouse Funeral Home, Inc \(shellhouseriversfuneralhome.com\)](https://www.shellhouseriversfuneralhome.com)

The club's show is only a month away and we are accepting volunteers. Please look on page 8 to sign up and on page 9 to read a description of volunteer positions. If you can help with the dealer dinner, please fill out the signup sheet on page 10 and give to Pat Carter at the club meeting or email it to her at pcarter32@sc.rr.com. Please consider helping with the show. On page 13 are show flyers designed by Sue. Please print them and distribute them. If you are interested in who the show dealers are, check out the club website where you can see the list as a drop down on the header or find the link in the show page. It is also in the page text.

Do not forget we have a meeting on November 18th where an important function for members will be to nominate and vote on officers for 2025. If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate a fellow member, please speak up in the meeting. Other board positions such as committee chairs volunteer basis if you are interested. We welcome all newcomers!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Party that will be on December 13th.

Happy Trails,
Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

October 21, 2024

The October 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. Socializing and refreshments at 7:00 pm. Meeting at 7:30 pm.

PROGRAM:

Carol Elliott & Susan Richardson (club members) will give a talk on a recent trip to Utah to collect rocks and minerals. Their efforts yielded such finds as sunstone, topaz, and the rare red beryl. They will give firsthand accounts, talk about the geology, and show specimens.

Tom and Patricia Stidom will provide door prizes. We need a volunteer for snacks.

Executive Meeting

Date October 28, 2024

Dinner: 6 pm, Meeting: 7 pm

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

Show Committee Meeting

Our fifth 2024 gem show meeting is set for **Friday, October 18, 4:00 to 5:30 pm at Richland County Library on North Main.**

Programs for the October & November Meetings

"Rock and Mineral Collecting in Utah"

By Carol Elliott & Susan Richardson

The October meeting presentation will be given by veteran presenters Carol Elliott & Susan Richardson (club members) who will give a talk on a recent trip to Utah to collect rocks and minerals. Their efforts yielded such finds as obsidian, sunstone, topaz, jasper, and the rare and valuable red beryl. They will give firsthand accounts, talk about the geology, and show specimens.

"The Dacites of Yellowstone"

By Kylie Moore

The November meeting will be a presentation on dacite occurrences in Yellowstone National Park. Dacite is a volcanic rock formed by rapid solidification of lava that is high in silica and low in alkali metal oxides. It has a fine-grained to porphyritic texture and is intermediate in composition between andesite and rhyolite. It is composed predominantly of plagioclase feldspar and quartz. More information will be in the November issue of the Rocky Trails.



Lava Flows in Yellowstone (Photographed by Ron Ahle)



*Please note that instructions for potluck and gift exchange will be published in the November Issue of the Rocky Trails. Note that participation in the gift exchange is voluntary.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2024, Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on September 16, 2024, at the Hope Church. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. Jim welcomed guests and visitors. Jim thanked Jim and Pat Carter for bringing refreshments. There were no door prizes in favor of a silent auction. Next month, our meeting will be at Hope Church again.

Programs: Tom and Patricia Stidom will provide door prizes at the October meeting. We need someone to volunteer to do refreshments. Angela reported that Carol Elliott & Susan Richardson (club members) will give a talk on a recent trip to Utah to collect rocks and minerals and that Kylie Moore will give a presentation on dacite occurrences in Yellowstone National Park. Instead of a general meeting in December, the club is sponsoring a Christmas Party on Friday, December 13th, at 6 pm at the lower floor of the Cayce Museum. It will be a potluck dinner and a gift exchange.

Show Committee: Angela Valvasori stated that the next Show Committee planning meeting will take place Tuesday, September 24th at the Richland County Library location on North Main Road. Angela reported that the show was full with 34 vendors. Sue Shrader is working on advertising and advises that show fliers need to be handed out. Ron reminded members that if they have donations for the salted mine or grab bags, to bring them to the next meeting. Ron thanked all who had donated so far and said that he would have a grab bag assembly day soon. The dealer dinner is being organized by Pat Carter who will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide food and to help with service. Terri Tokaz mentioned that sign-up sheets for show volunteering will be in the Rocky Trails and that members please email, or mail filled out forms to her as soon as possible.

Sunshine: Sue Shrader has had hip-replacement surgery and is recovering at home. Jesse Gates has been in the hospital for various health issues but is now at home where Abbie is working hard to take care of him.

Rocky Trails: Ron mentioned that for the first time there were 5 fieldtrips that club members could attend listed in the September Rocky Trails and that members should review these trips and take advantage of these opportunities.

New Business: Ron asked Jim if there was any progress on the nomination committee for board elections for 2025. Angela added by expressing to members to please volunteer for officer positions and committee positions if interested.

Ron gave instructions for the silent auction which included items from club donations and items brought by club members. Ron called the auction closed and folks paid for their purchases.

Jim concluded the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mandie Wentzel

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 23rd, 2024, Board Meeting of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly board meeting on September 23, 2024, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd. President Jim Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Members in attendance were Jim Cobb, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Steve Coker, Cheryl Coker, Sharon Sterett, Casey Tyler, Sheila Frame, and Sophie Grimsley.

Officer Reports:

President: Jim Cobb introduced Casey Tyler as the new Field Trip Coordinator. Jim also said that the silent auction at this month's general meeting went great and thanked the auctioneer, Ron Ahle, for his work putting it together.

Treasurer: Angela Valvasori gave a report of the club's finances, including the money made from the silent auction.

Secretary: Sophie Grimsley had no news to report. The board had a discussion about whether the meeting minutes should be approved as written in the Rocky trails at the beginning of each general meeting. It was decided that if we were to do this, the President would call for a vote to approve the meeting minutes, not the Secretary.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Sheila Frame gave a report on the club's membership: 132 members total, 110 adults, 22 juniors. She also mentioned that some members have already paid in advance for next year.

Programs: The October program will be given by Carol Elliot and Susan Richardson about their Utah fossil dig. The November program, "The Dacites of Yellowstone," will be given by member Kylie Moore. We hope to have Ashby Gale return to give another program but are still in the process of communicating with his team and hope to clarify with him when he is in town as a vendor for the show. Possible programs were discussed for next year, including a talk from the SC State Geology Department and a talk from the Palmetto Shell Club about shell art.

The club will be hosting a Christmas party in December! The party will be on Friday, December 13th from 6-10 pm at the Cayce Historical Museum. Since the museum gave us a great deal to host the party, the board discussed giving a donation to the museum.

Show Committee: Angela Valvasori stated that the next Show Committee planning meeting will take place Tuesday, September 24th at the Richland County Library on North Main Street at 4:00 pm. Tom Stidom has ordered the security system for the show. There are 33 vendors registered for the show. Ron Ahle suggested October 13th (*moved to 20th*) at 1:30 pm as a possible date and time to host a grab bag building day at the workshop to prepare for the show. He estimated that 6 people would be needed to help.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES (cont')

Field trips: Casey Tyler discussed his plans to try and schedule a club-only trip to Graves Mountain. Casey asked anyone that has contacts for old mines in the region to please let him know.

Sunshine: Sue Shrader is recovering from hip replacement surgery. Jessie Gates has been having health issues. Kathleen Wallace, long time member of the club, passed away on Saturday, September 21st. The details of the funeral service will be included in the Rocky Trails for those who wish to pay their respects.

Newsletter: The board discussed putting a recommendation for volunteers for officer positions in the Rocky Trails. Sheila Frame announced that she would like someone to take over Membership next year so that she can focus on teaching jewelry classes for the club.

Website: A new notice will be added to the front page of the website for the show. Steve Coker would like to use a photo of last year's show as a graphic on the page.

Librarian: Ron will go through the boxes of books to see if there is anything that could be used at a future auction or given away/sold at the show in November.

Auctioneer: Ron said that the silent auction at the September general meeting was a success and that more donations will be needed for future auctions.

Old Business: Sharon and Jim are working on a nominating committee and are in the process of contacting others.

A motion to conclude the meeting was made by Sheila Frame and seconded by Cheryl Coker. The executive meeting concluded at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsley

Social Media Helps our Club Stay Social!

CGMS website: www.cgms.rocks

Facebook, Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066320452494>

Facebook, Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/322192978738281/>

Instagram: [Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. \(@cgms_rocks\)](https://www.instagram.com/cgms_rocks/)

Please like/follow our Facebook and Instagram pages and share posts to increase our reach on social media.

CGMS Show Planning Meeting, Sept. 24, 2024
Meeting Notes

The September 24 show planning meeting was held at the Richland County Library on North Main St. from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

In attendance: Pat Carter, Jim Carter, Tom Stidom, Patricia Stidom, Ron Ahle, Terri Tokaz, Jim Cobb, Angela Valvasori.

Notes:

Dealers and Layout: Tom Stidom updated the layout. Tom and Patricia went to Jamil Temple to check measurements and the floor drain. The drain (inactive) causes slopes in floor in an 8 ft. diameter circle. We discussed putting the display cases over the drain or on the stage. We decided to move one of the demonstrators to the back so we can put the display cases against the wall. Tom showed the coverage of the security cameras. He will loan the club two cameras for the show to complete the coverage. Only a small area is not covered. Tom would like to wire the cameras on Wednesday if Jamil will let him. Patricia will investigate leasing a sound system. She discussed microphone use with the building manager at Jamil and the only option they have that will work for us is to use the corded microphone on the stage.

Publicity and Advertising: Sue not present; nothing new to report. Angela still to ask Sheila to update the dropped pin on Google.

Grab bags: Ron scheduled workday Sunday Oct. 13 at 1:30 pm (*changed to Oct. 20*). Need 6 people.

Volunteer Organization: Mandie will ask the teens to help with setup from 9 am to noon.

Dealer Dinner: Pat Carter will bring the volunteer forms and aluminum pans to the October general meeting.

Grand door prize raffle: Team decided not to hold a raffle this year. Sue is still interested in donating a grand door prize.

T-Shirts: Tom visited Blazon and brought samples of T-shirts. We discussed the design and concluded upon putting the club emblem on the front and line drawings/pictures of mammoth (SC state fossil), amethyst (SC state mineral) and shark's tooth on the back. The T-shirts are a mid-range quality. There is a 2–3-week turnaround so we need to order by end of October. Tom will bring samples to the next meeting, and we will decide upon the final design then.

Other: Angela mentioned order plastic sidewalk sandwich board signs since the current wooden ones are very heavy. Discuss with Gary since he is the one that usually puts them out.

Next meeting: Friday, October 18 at 4:00 pm at the Richland County Library on North Main.

Volunteer Form for 2024 Show Help

Every volunteer must complete a Volunteer Sign Up Sheet. Terri Tokaz needs this so she can compile a list of everyone that is working. She will then email the group so everyone can verify their duties, dates, and times. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Please print clearly.

Work wherever needed.

I can work from _____ a.m./p.m. on Friday or Saturday or Sunday.

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

Photographer – _____

Front Desk, Admission

Friday, November 22	Saturday, November 23	Sunday, November 24
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 _____

Membership, Door Prize, Etc.

Friday, November 22	Saturday, November 23	Sunday, November 24
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 22	Saturday, November 23	Sunday, November 24
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 _____

Grab Bags

Friday, November 22	Saturday, November 23	Sunday, November 24
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

Friday, November 22	Saturday, November 23	Sunday, November 24
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 _____

Demonstrating

I would like to demonstrate _____

(List: faceting, bead stringing, etc.)

from _____ a.m. OR p.m. on Friday or Saturday or Sunday.

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, Nov.21, 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 Email to Terri Tokaz at TTokaz@SC.RR.com
Or Mail to.....Columbia Gem & Mineral Society, PO Box 6333, Columbia, SC 29260

2023 CGMS Gem & Mineral Show Volunteer Instructions

The following information is being provided for people who are either considering volunteering to work at the show or have already volunteered. Volunteer hours will be tallied, and for every four hours worked, your name is entered in a drawing for a lapidary class scholarship at William Holland or Wild Acres. Hours are tracked by signing in and out.

The following description of the duties will help you decide what you would like to volunteer for and what will be expected from you. A more detailed description will be provided prior to the Show, and someone will be available to help during the Show.

Show setup (Thursday):

- *Unload the trailer:* The geode equipment, front desk materials, display cases, etc. are in a trailer which needs to be unloaded and moved into place. Help is also needed moving the geodes and grab bags.
- *Geode booth:* Help Gary set up the geode cutting and cleaning equipment and tables.
- *Display cases:* Put together the display cases. People show material from their collection to educate and inspire our attendees. You can also volunteer to create a display.
- *General setup:* Set up the front desk, door prize area and security cameras.

Show (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday):

- *Demonstrations:* Members who do lapidary work that can be done on a desktop demonstrate their work during the show. The table will be provided.
- *Door prizes:* Collect door prizes from vendors for hourly door prize drawing. Draw the name and announcing the winners on the microphone. Draw for the grand prize at the end of the Show and contact the winner.
- *Front Desk:* Need 2 people for Admissions – to collect money, hand out tickets and door prize forms. Need 1 person to provide CGMS information and answer questions.
- *Geode Booth:* Need 2 people to weigh and sell geodes, 2 to cut (training provided by Gary Hert), and 1 to wash & wrap after cutting.
- *Salted Mine and Grab Bags:* 1 to 2 people needed to sell grab bags and collect money, and 1 person to operate the salted mine by helping children sift, replenish material, and collect money.

Show takedown (Sunday evening):

- Show takedown begins as soon as the Show closes, at 5 pm. Assistance is needed with packing up display cases, show materials and the geode equipment and loading it into the trailer.

Show Dealer Dinner (Thursday):

- *Dealer dinner:* Pat Carter is coordinating this. Prepare a dish to bring or help with setting up the food and cleaning up. If would like to help, please fill out the following signup sheet and give to Pat Carter at the club meeting or email it to her at pcarter32@sc.rr.com.

Examples of Comfort Foods

Dealer's Dinner Thursday, November 21, 2024

Comfort Food Theme

Comfort food is something we all crave from time to time. It is the type of food that warms our hearts and brings a sense of nostalgia. The feelings of nostalgia and the indulgence of rich flavors can release endorphins, providing us with a temporary boost in happiness and well-being. Our hope is to provide our dealers with a sense of familiarity and happiness as we all prepare for our 56th CG&MS Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show.

SIDE DISHES		
Green Beans	Collard Greens	Pasta Salad
Green Bean Casserole	Corn	Seasoned Rice
Steamed Broccoli	Butter Beans	Vegetable Salad with Dressing
Broccoli Casserole	Hashbrown Casserole	Coleslaw
Broccoli Salad	Scalloped Potatoes	Baked Beans
Squash Casserole	Mashed Potatoes with Gravy	7 Layer Dip
Sweet Potato Dish	Potato Salad	Fresh Vegetables with Dip
Black-eyed Peas	Macaroni and Cheese	Waldorf Salad
MAIN DISHES		
Chicken and Dumplings	Pork Roast	Barbeque Chicken
Chicken Pot Pie	Baked Ziti	Pepper Steak with Rice
Fried Chicken	Beef Stroganoff	Chicken Alfredo with Noodles
Meat Loaf	Swedish Meat Balls	Pork Chops
Lasagna	Macaroni and Ground Beef Casserole	Sloppy Joes with Buns
Spaghetti Bake	Ham	Pulled Barbeque Pork with Buns
Pot Roast	Quiche	Broccoli Chicken Divan
Tamale Pie	Pizza Casserole	
DESSERTS		
Cakes	Brownies	Cup Cakes
Cobblers	Rice Krispies Treats	
Cinnamon Rolls	Fruit Salad	
Cookies	Fruit Pizza	
Pies	Pineapple Casserole	
Pudding	Jello	
DRINKS		
Sweet Tea		
Un-Sweetened Tea		
Lemonade		
Soda		
Diet Soda		
OTHERS		
Cornbread	Cinnamon Rolls	
Rolls	Muffins	
Biscuits	Banana Bread	
Deviled Eggs	Other Quick Breads	

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.



Columbia Gem & Mineral Society
Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show
 Jamil Temple
 206 Jamil Rd.
 Columbia, SC 29210

Nov. 22, 10:00 – 6:00
 Nov. 23, 10:00 – 6:00
 Nov. 24, 12:00 – 5:00

56th Annual 2024




Adults \$7.... Children 12 & Under Free
All Military & Dependents Free with ID

Please Copy
www.cgms.rocks
 803-736-9317




\$1.00 Off

Non Profit Educational Organization
Columbia Gem & Mineral Society 2024
56th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show

Nov. 22, 10-6
 Nov. 23, 10-6
 Nov. 24, 12-5

Jamil Temple
 206 Jamil Rd.
 Columbia, SC 29016

\$7 12 & Under, Military Free
 With ID Card
www.cgms.rocks

803-736-9317



3 day pass \$12
\$1.00 Off

Non Profit Educational Organization




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Nov. 22, 10-6
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 With ID Card
 www.cgms.rocks

803-736-9317

3 day pass \$12
 \$1.00 Off

Non Profit Educational Organization

Cayce Historical Museum

1800 12th Street
Cayce, S.C. 29033
803.739.5385

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

Due to Hurricane Helene some of these events have been rescheduled.
Parts of the trails are blocked with trees, sand, and debris.
Check with the museum to find out the updates on these events.



12,000 Year History Park: Fall 2024 Tours

September 7: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 10:00 AM
September 8: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 2:00 PM
September 14: Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM
September 21: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 1:00 PM
September 29: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour: 2:00 PM

October 5: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 1:00 PM
October 6: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 2:00PM
October 12: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 1:00 PM
October 13: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 2:00 PM
October 19: Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM
October 26: **Archaeology Fall Field Day (10:00 AM-3:00 PM)**
Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour 1:00 PM

November 2: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 1:00 PM
November 3 : Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 2:00PM
November 9: **"Through the Eyes of the First Carolinians": Columbia
Audubon Society Bird Walk Tour, 9:00 AM**
November 10: Colonial Congaree Fort I Tour, 1:00 PM
November 16: Native American Lifeways Tour, 10:00 AM
November 23: Civil War Battle of Congaree Creek Tour, 2:00 PM

**Tours start at entrance to park just beyond the Cayce Tennis Center, 1120 Fort
Congaree Trail in Cayce. Free parking at dirt lot to the left just past the Tennis Center.**

For updates, visit the website at cayce12000years.com or follow us Facebook!
(803)-739-5385.

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

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***Solar Superstorms:***

A fury is building on the surface of the Sun: high-velocity jets, a fiery tsunami wave 100,000 km high, rising loops of electrified gas. What is driving these strange phenomena? How will they affect planet Earth? Find the answers as we venture into the seething interior of our star.

Solar Superstorms is a major new production that takes viewers into the tangle of magnetic fields and superhot plasma that vent the Sun's rage in dramatic flares, violent solar tornadoes, and the largest eruptions in the Solar System: coronal mass ejections. The show features one of the most intensive efforts ever made to visualize the Sun's inner workings, including a series of groundbreaking scientific visualizations computed on the giant supercomputing initiative, Blue Waters, based at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois.

James Webb Space Telescope: The Story Unfolds

Back by popular demand, 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.

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/>

Layers of Legacy: Exploring Daily Life and Colonialism in Cameroon

Layers of Legacy: Exploring Daily Life and Colonialism in Cameroon investigates the art and culture of the Grass fields of northwestern Cameroon, a country of rich resources exploited by European agents of the transatlantic slave trade and colonizers from the late 1400s until the 1960s. This collection features objects ranging from household items to ritual masks that inspire contemplation of their purpose and the intersection of art with everyday life. Layers of Legacy also encourages reflection on our responsibility as viewers, urging us to consider the circumstances surrounding the objects' acquisition and the ethical implications of our engagement with them.

Exhibit will show from August 17-December 14, 2024

Congaree National Park

100 National Park Road

Hopkins, SC 29061, ph# 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.



News Worth Digging Up

“Colombian Emeralds”

By Chris Glass

During a 10-day Caribbean cruise in 1/23, Sharon Sterrett, Dave Dunlap, Chris, and Ken Glass visited the Emerald Museum, owned and maintained by Caribe Jewelry and located in Cartagena, Columbia. The museum visit was a shore activity that was pre-arranged by the cruise line, including ground transportation into Cartagena and back to the dock. The visit began with a lecture (slide show) of ~ 1 hour's length, during which hors d'oeuvres and wine were served to guests. The lecture covered 5 main points concerning emeralds: their color, clarity, cut - when used as gemstones, carat size, and some rarer types such as trapiche and the exceedingly rare Micles forms.

The speakers were fluent in English. All information was conveyed in a way that kept the audience interested and focused. Example stones were passed around for inspection by the audience during each of the five segments of the presentation. The program was followed by a guided tour of the museum and its many exhibits. The “jewel of the collection” is the world's largest emerald in matrix, a solid block weighing over 250 pounds!

There were many exhibits of emeralds found in other locations around the world, all attractively displayed in dark wooden cabinets. Also, several enclosed and open dioramas depicting mining activities and historical activities influenced by exploiting the gemstone deposits around the world. After more wine, all guests were given an opportunity to shop in their in-house store for jewelry and mineral specimens. Pricing was attractive for both categories of goods. The Following is a review of the history of the gemstone and its geology.

For millennia, emeralds have been sought out as one of the most valuable gemstones in the world, strongly associated with royalty and social status. While the first known emeralds were found in Egypt around 1500 BC, they were likely found and used by humans well before this discovery, notably the Incas in South America. Whether found in the centerpiece of a crown jewel, part of a state treasure, or used as a powerful talisman, humans have long treasured this hypnotically ancient green gemstone throughout our recorded history. A variety of the mineral beryl, emeralds are considered to be the most valuable beryl in their group of silicates. The gemstone's inherently green hue is owed to the chemical elements of beryllium, chromium, and vanadium, which scarcely occur in nature and is a major factor in their rarity. The basis of the market value of emeralds, however, is determined by levels of clarity, sparkle, and depth of color. For this reason, the most prized specimens of emeralds are few and far between - given that the softness of the stone lends to it often being cloudy or full of naturally occurring cracks, almost all emeralds are treated to enhance clarity (with heat or lasers), and oil fillers are often used to obscure naturally occurring fissures and cracks.

For over 5,500 years, emeralds have been mined on our planet. Their first-ever recorded evidence appears as far back as ancient Egypt, where these gems were particularly beloved by none other than Queen Cleopatra. During the museum tour one guide related the story of the queen sending a stone the size of a grapefruit to Julius Caesar as her invitation for him to visit her in Egypt. At this time, emeralds were collected from the storied mines of the Sikait-Zabara region in Egypt - thought to be the only source for ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans - which have long since dried up. Emeralds were highly prized in the Americas, too, by the Incas, Mayans, and the Aztecs.

“Colombian Emeralds” (cont)

However, all these treasures most likely came from Colombia, since there were no other deposits known in the Americas at the time. It was not until the 16th Century, when Spanish conquistadors looted several thousands of emeralds from the mines in South America, that Colombian emeralds became more widely known, triggering a worldwide desire for the stones from the region.

Geologically speaking, Colombian emeralds are said to be the “purest” emeralds in the world, because their emerald deposits are the only ones on the planet found in sedimentary host rock instead of igneous rock. The secret recipe of elements underground, including aluminum, silicate oxide, chromium, iron, and vanadium, initiated the extensive and lengthy formation of the emeralds, starting 30 to 38 million years ago during the formation of the Andean mountains. This means that Colombian emeralds were formed within an aquatic environment and is the leading theory for why they have such a natural clarity, distinct from emeralds found in other regions.

Even if mined in the same area of the world, each emerald has its own hue that sets it apart. The deepest and darkest greens in these captivating gemstones are widely considered to be the most beautiful, valuable, and rare, and thus, Colombian emeralds stand out as even more desirable from their counterparts - not only because of their unsurpassed quality and color, but also their lack of inclusions and inherent clarity. Famously, the largest single emerald crystal, weighing 7,025 carats, was found in Cruces Mine in Colombia in 1969, while several other notable emeralds throughout history have also been Colombian. This includes the Duke of Devonshire emerald (now on view at the Natural History Museum in London), the Patricia Emeralds (currently residing in the American Museum of Natural History in New York), the Tena emerald (the most valuable emerald in the world), and the emeralds found in the Crown of the Andes, one of the most renowned pieces of jewelry in the world with 453 stones totaling 1,521 carats, and includes the Atahualpa emerald, a 45-carat gemstone named after the last Inca emperor. Source: CARIBE Jewelry Emerald Museum, www.caribejewelry.com



AREA SHOWS

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

October 18-20-2024—HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc; Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave. Dr. SE; Dean Russell, (828) 303-1448; Email: cvgmcsecretary@aol.com; Website: www.cvgmc.com

October 18-20-2024-Knoxville, TN. Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society The three-day 33rd Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show opens October 20th at 10 am at the Rothchild Conference Center at 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923.

<https://www.knoxrocks.org/gem-show/>

October 26-27, 2024—GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA: Upstate Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show. Annual show; Southeastern Mineral Specimens; Greenville Convention Center, One Exposition Drive; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$10 Adults, kids 12 and under free! Wristband good for both days; Open to the public, this show brings together over 2 dozen professional dealers, who will have all manner of items of geological origin available for purchase! Items are from all over the world, with an emphasis on regional finds. Several dealers just returning from buying at the major Tucson Show; contact Mark E. P. Woods, (706) 296-9467; Email: imineral@bellsouth.net; Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/876943940893270>

November 8-10, 2024—GRAY, TENNESSEE: Annual show; Kingsport Gems & Minerals Club; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1, 100 Lakeview Street; Gene Backlund; Email: nrgdad@gmail.com; Website: www.facebook.com/kgmsociety/

Due to Hurricane Helene damage check before you attend.

The Columbia, SC Gem & Mineral Society will hold its 56th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show on November 22-24, 2024.

Friday and Saturday 10:00 - 6:00; Sunday 10:00 - 6:00.

\$7.00 for adults, 3 days pass \$12.00, 12 & under free. All military & their dependents free with ID Card

www.cgms.rocks

CGMS 56th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show 2024

Fri. Nov. 22, 10:00 - 6:00

Sat. Nov. 23, 10:00 - 6:00

Sun. Nov. 24, 12:00 - 5:00

Jamil Temple

206 Jamil Rd.

Columbia, SC 29210

Exit 106 off I-26

Jewelry, beads, loose stones, fossils, minerals, gold, silver, & tools for sale

Geodes sold & cut

Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations

Education for the whole family

South Carolina amethyst on display

Sponsored by The Columbia Gem & Mineral Society

\$7.00 for adults, 3-day pass- \$12; Twelve & under free with adult.

All military & their dependents free with ID Card

Meteorites

<https://www.amsmeteors.org/category/>

Orionids September 26th, 2024, to November 22nd, 2024
Next Peak night **Oct 20-21, 2024**

The Orionids are a medium strength shower that sometimes reaches high strength activity. In a normal year, the Orionids produce 10-20 shower members at maximum. In exceptional years, such as 2006-2009, the peak rates were on par with the Perseids (50-75 per hour). Recent displays have produced low to average displays of this shower. In 2024, a waning gibbous moon will rise during the late evening hours and will severely hamper views of this display.

Southern Taurids September 23rd, 2024, to December 8th, 2024
Next Peak night **Nov 4-5, 2024**

The Southern Taurids are a long-lasting shower that several peaks during its activity period. The shower is active for more than two months but rarely produces more than five shower members per hour, even at maximum activity. The Taurids (both branches) are rich in fireballs and are often responsible for increased number of fireball reports from September through November.

Northern Taurids
Next period of activity: October 13th, 2024, to December 2nd, 2024
Next Peak night Nov **11-12, 2024**

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 a notable increase in the fireball activity.

Helpful tips to spot a comet.

- 1. Be sure you are looking at the correct direction and time.** Comet A3 will be visible low in the west after sunset beginning around October 14. Comet S1, if it holds together, will be visible in late October to early November, low in the east before sunrise.
- 2. You need a dark, unobstructed sky.** Start looking when the sky is dark, but close to sunrise or sunset. Make sure there are not hills, trees or buildings blocking your view.
- 3. If you cannot see the comet with your eye, try your phone.** Most cell phone cameras provide a night or low-light mode. But capturing an image of the comet will require that you hold the camera firmly – or lean against a fixed object like a tree – to avoid shaky or blurred images. Try taking a few pictures facing west after sunset (for Comet A3) or east before sunrise (for Comet S1). These images accumulate the light for a few seconds, so you might be able to catch the comet in your images, even if you cannot see it with the eye.

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..... Sophie Grimsley.....

COMMITTEES

Membership Sheila Frame.....
 Auctioneer..... Ron Ahle.....
 Club Liaison..... Jim Cobb.....
 Faceting Guild..... Tom Daniels.....
 Facebook..... Sue Shrader
 Field Trip..... Casey Tyler.....
 Historian.....Angela Valvasori
 Librarian.....Sheila Frame.....
 Newsletter Editor..... Ron Ahle.....
 Program..... Sue Shrader.....
 Show..... Angela Valvasori
 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**