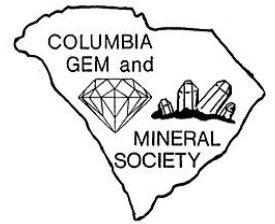




Rocky Trails



June 2026

Volume 21 Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to all members. Spring is over and the “dog days” of summer are here. It is time to head to the mountains for mineral collecting and gem and mineral shows. You might want to go on the DMC Mason Mountain Mine fieldtrip (*see page 17*) and combine that with some of the Franklin shows that are occurring during the same week. Speaking of fieldtrips, Casey Tyler, our fieldtrip coordinator, arranged for our club members a great trip to Propst Farm on May 30th that was well attended and most if not all found some rubies (*see page 2 for details*).

Here are some updates on the club. At the May meeting, Walt Kubilius gave a fantastic presentation on the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush of 1896-1899. He also described some of his own experience living and working in Alaska and looking for gold. At our June meeting, our speaker will be Chris Judge who is an archaeologist and professor at the University of South Carolina Lancaster, where his research focus is the late prehistoric and early historical archaeology of South Carolina.. Chris has been a friend of the club for many years and gives great presentations. What a good time to attend our club's meetings! Be sure to thank Catherine for lining up these excellent programs!

An important activity that everyone can participate in is fund raising to help generate capital needed to purchase a workshop location. One opportunity for fund raising is to get sponsors for our show (*see page 14 for more info on how to participate*). We are asking members to help identify potential sponsors and to contact them. These can be businesses you work for or regularly go to or companies/organizations that would benefit from having their name in front of our show attendees. **We need to have all of our sponsors lined up by the end of August, so we need your info and your efforts now!**

I am currently working on revisions to the club Bylaws. A draft has been reviewed by the board and changes were proposed. The final draft will be reviewed at the June Board Meeting and printed in the July Rocky Trails. A vote on the final draft will be made by the general membership at the July meeting.

Remember, the best way to be a member is to participate in the club activities!

Stay in touch,
Ron Ahle

NEXT MEETING

June 15, 2026

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

The April 2026 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 (close to the main part of the parking lot). We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not come into Hope Church before 6:30 pm, as we are not allowed in before that time.

PROGRAM:

Chris Judge will give a presentation on the history of Native American pottery in South Carolina. Chris Judge was an archaeologist at the University of South Carolina Lancaster, whose research focus was the late prehistoric and early historical archaeology of South Carolina. He has recently taken on the job of the South Carolina State Archaeologist.

Carol Elliot & Susan RRichardson will provide door prizes and refreshments.

Executive Meeting

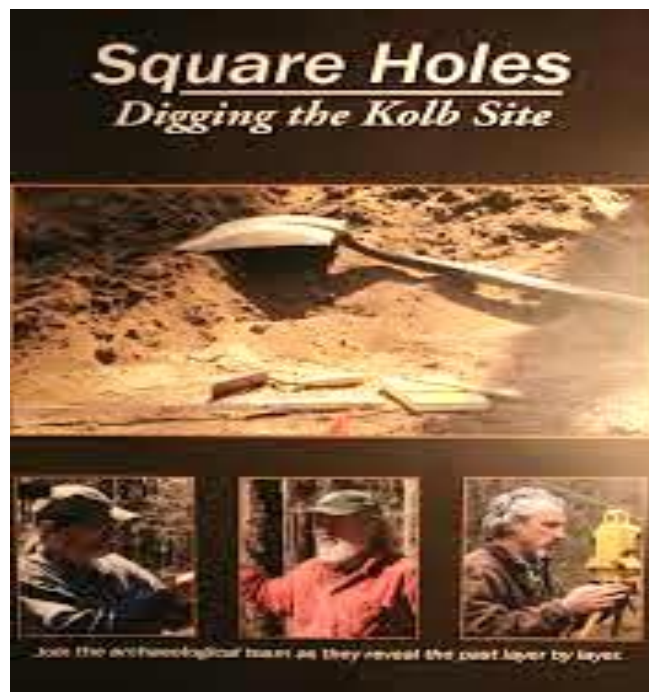
June 22, 2026

Dinner: 6 pm, Meeting: 7 pm
Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd.,
West Columbia. Members are
welcome to attend. Only executive
board members can vote.

About the Programs

In **June**, our speaker will be Chris Judge who was an archaeologist and professor at the University of South Carolina Lancaster, where his research focus was the late prehistoric and early historical archaeology of South Carolina. He has recently taken on the job of the South Carolina State Archaeologist.

Chris has been studying Native Americans in South Carolina for over thirty-five years. Chris says “The lens that informs my research is the anthropological archaeology of precontact Native American cultures. Additionally, I have conducted oral history type research in living Native American communities throughout South Carolina.” From 1996 - 2016, Chris along with his colleagues Carl Steen and Sean G. Taylor, ran a long-term initiative known as the Johannes Kolb Archaeological and Education Project. Many of our club members have been to the Kolb Site and seen firsthand the work that has been done uncovering the history. Chris is a distinguished speaker that has served as the President of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina and the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists (COSCAPA) and has served at various capacities on many committees. I have worked with Chris on many heritage trust projects when both of us were working with the South Carolina DNR and know that Chris is a knowledgeable and excellent speaker that you will not want to miss!



Kolb Site Archaeologist and common pottery shards from South Carolina

For the July meeting Dr. Scott Persons, a professor of paleobiology at the College of Charleston will be giving a presentation on the Dinosaurs of Glenrock, Wyoming. Glenrock is a world-renowned hotspot for Cretaceous-era fossils. The area is especially famous for the **Triceratops Gulch** fossil beds, which have yielded remarkably intact skeletons.

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2026, Executive Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held its monthly board meeting on April 27th, 2026, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd. Members in attendance were Patricia Stidom, Jim Cobb, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Steve Coker, Cheryl Coker, Jim Carter, Gary Hert, Catherine Sawyer, Sheila Frame, and Sophie Grimsley. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

President: No Report.

Vice President: No Report.

Treasurer: Angela Valvasori gave a report of the club's finances. She stated that the IRS 990 tax exemption and the raffle financial form had been filed. She asked the board if any charitable donations should be made by CGMS. The board discussed options for donations and voted to donate \$x to William Holland, \$x to the SC State Museum, and \$x to the Cayce Museum. Jim Cobb proposed the motion, Shiela Frame seconded, and all voted in favor.

Secretary: No Report.

Field Trips: Not present.

Membership: Not present.

Programs: Catherine Sawyer gave a report of the upcoming program schedule. Catherine also stated that she will not be program chair next year. Upcoming programs include:

- May: Walt Kubilius will be presenting on the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush of the 1880s and 1890s.
- June: Chris Judge will be presenting on the history of Native American Pottery in S.C.
- July: TBD
- August: Potential Live Auction by Carol Elliot and Ron Ahle (or one of them individually, details to be arranged).
 - The board discussed the possibility of doing a live auction. The discussion included thoughts on a larger live auction that would attract more than just club members and would be open to the public, hosting two auctions, tax forms needed for auctions, and potential for an auction at the Christmas party or picnic.
- September: Gwen Geidel will be presenting on the Remediation of Graves Mountain
- October: Dan Frost will be presenting on earthquakes.

Show Planning: Angela stated that she confirmed the show dates with Jamil Temple: November 20-22, 2026. Set-up will be on November 19, 2026. These dates are also confirmed with the security company. The new contracts manager said that they will not charge for parking but will ask for donations. The snack bar is currently down, and they are not sure if it will be operational during the show. If it remains inoperable, they will provide a food truck during the show. Jim asked Angela to address the cleanliness of the bathrooms with the new contracts manager, as well as an issue where they did not keep the outdoor geode area clean as promised. Angela also

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

stated that the contracts manager wants to renew the 5-year contract in July. Jim Carter volunteered to work with Angela to check out the convention center as another option to host the show. The next show planning meeting will be held either the week of May 25th or June 1st.

Workshop: Gary Hert stated that he ordered geodes from the show and the price per box went up by \$x. 6 boxes were ordered, which went over the approved budget. The board amended the budget to allow for the overage and the purchase of a new pump for the rock saw.

Webmaster: Not present. Let Terry know if you have any questions or comments about the website. Angela Valvasori will give Terri the show dates to post on the website.

Sunshine: Sheila Frame sent a thank you note to Ellen Price, a sympathy note to Terri Tokaz, and thank you note for cactuses distributed at the last club meeting to Claire Shutrum.

Newsletter: Ron stated that he will not be doing the Rocky Trails newsletter during May. Ron also stated that he finished up the bylaws revisions and will send it out to the board. He would like everyone to review the documents and be prepared to discuss it at the next executive board meeting.

Historian: No report.

Auctioneer: Covered live auction in earlier discussion.

Workshop Location: Cheryl Coker sent some information to Gemini about workshop space, but they are full. She will ask about any kind of waitlist. If you see any available studio space, let Cheryl know,

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Patricia adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Meeting 04/20/26

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on April 20, 2026, at Hope Church. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Treasurer: Angela Valvasori gave a treasury report.

Show Planning: Angela Valvasori gave a report on the show planning committee. The 2026 show will be held at Jamil Temple on November 20, 21, and 22nd. Set-up will take place on Thursday, November 19th. The first show planning meeting will be held at the beginning of June. The following positions on the show planning committee are filled:

- Patricia Stidom- Dealer Chairperson
- Tom Stidom- Show Layout Organizer
- Gary Hert- Geodes
- Ron Ahle- Grab Bags

The following positions are open for any volunteers who are interested: Advertising and Publicity, Volunteer Organizer, Raffle Coordinator, Show Pamphlet Organizer. Olga is leading the set up and take down, but a volunteer to be the Show Leader during the show is still needed. See Angela to volunteer and ask questions.

Field Trips: Casey Tyler gave a field trip report. CGMS will have a field trip to Mason Mountain Mine on May 23rd. There is also the potential for the club to have a field trip to a new amethyst mine south of Greenville. They will also be hosting night digs to avoid the heat. Send Casey a schedule of when you are free, your budget, types of gems or minerals or fossils you are interested in collecting, or any other information to help him plan and schedule future trips!

Sunshine: Terri Tokaz lost her brother earlier this month, keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Program: This month Ellen Price of Martin Marietta gave a presentation about aggregate mining. She described the Martin Marietta quarries, how, what, and they mine. Her presentation was filled with photos and videos describing the process. She also mentioned the Martin Marietta Berkley Quarry Community Day on April 25th. The quarry pit will be open to the community for fossil collecting.

Thank you Ellen for a fantastic presentation!

New Business: The Fall Picnic is scheduled for October 17th, 2026, in Sesquicentennial Park.

Patricia Stidom ended the meeting at 8:52 pm.

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2026, Executive Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held its monthly board meeting on May 27th, 2026, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd. Members in attendance were Patricia Stidom, Jim Cobb, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Steve Coker, Cheryl Coker, Jim Carter, Pat Carter, Gary Hert, Catherine Sawyer, Sheila Frame, Terry Gregory, Liz Gregory, and Sophie Grimsley. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

President: No Report.

Vice President: No Report.

Treasurer: Angela Valvasori gave a report of the club's finances.

Secretary: No Report.

Membership: Liz Gregory gave a report of the membership count. The club has 93 adults and 32 children, for a total of 125 members.

Programs: Catherine Sawyer gave a report of the upcoming program schedule. Upcoming programs include:

- June: Chris Judge will be presenting on the history of Native American Pottery in S.C.
- July: Scott Persons will be giving a presentation on the Dinosaurs of Glen Rock.
- August: Silent Auction by Ron Ahle
- September: Gwen Geidel will be presenting on the Remediation of Graves Mountain
- October: Dan Frost will be presenting on earthquakes. There will also be a fall picnic in Sesquicentennial Park on October 17th, 2026.
- November: Election of Officers/Show and Tell

Show Planning: The first show planning meeting will be on June 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Main Richland Library on Assembly Street. The meeting will be held in Meeting Room N. The show planning committee could still use a volunteer to help with show sponsorships for the pamphlet and advertising.

Workshop: Gary Hert asked if the workshop has a budget. He and Jim Carter had to replace a drive pulley on the cabochon machine and need to buy a new hub for the breakers so the plugs for the electricity don't melt. Treasurer Angela paid for the pulley and approved the breaker.

Sunshine: Sheila Frame sent a thank you note to Walt Kubilius.

Library: Sheila has organized the book and placed them on the shelf in the workshop. She is planning on cataloguing the books soon.

Newsletter: Ron Ahle stated that the newsletter can go out as soon as he gets the meeting minutes for this meeting. He will also include the April meeting minutes in this month's newsletter which have already been sent. Gary Hert asked if asked if the newsletter contains the address of Hope Church so that new members can find the meeting location. Sophie Grimsley

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

said that the address is in the meeting minutes. Terry Gregory said that he will put the address on the website as well.

Webmaster: Terry said the show information has been posted to the webpage.

Historian: No report.

Auctioneer: No report.

Workshop Location: Cheryl Coker has not heard back from Gemini about workshop space and has looked at a few properties but not found anything that meets our needs. Jim Carter asked if buying a property with our budget is even reasonable, and if we should be looking at renting instead. The board discussed the pros and cons of renting. Pat Carter mentioned that one of the main draws for the club is the promise of a workshop and classes in lapidary and jewelry arts, and that the fact that we currently offer neither is disappointing. She believes that this should be a priority for the club for this reason. Jim Carter, Angela Valvasori, Cheryl Coker, and Gary Hert will form a group to create a budget on something we can rent.

Old Business: Catherine Sawyer emphasized that the Martin Marietta stone conveyor belts move between 5 1/2 and 9 miles per hour.

New Business:

- Catherine proposed that the club should buy a computer to travel around with the projector and avoid a situation where a presenter might not have one. Terry said he would be happy to bring his laptop to the meetings as a backup. He also suggested that we set up some time before the meetings to test run the presentations with the presenters. Catherine stated that she would also ask the presenters in advance if they need one.
- Ron Ahle led the club in a review of proposed changes to the bylaws. After discussion, the board suggested changes to be made. Ron stated that he will edit the draft and bring it back at the next meeting for the board to vote and approve. After the board approves, the draft will be presented to the general membership at a general meeting for voting on final approval.
- Catherine suggested that the club should find a nice location for the Christmas party this year and cater a meal. After some discussion, board members were interested in pursuing this idea but tabled it for a future meeting later in the year.

Patricia adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Meeting 05/18/26

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on May 18, 2026, at Hope Church. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Patricia thanked Dee and Sheila for providing the snacks, and Micheal Percell for the door prizes.

This month, Walt Kubilius gave a fantastic presentation on the Alaska Yukon Gold Rush of 1896-1899. He also described some of his own experience living and working in Alaska and looking for gold. Thank you, Walt, for a wonderful presentation!

Show Planning: The next show planning meeting will be on June 2nd, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Richland Library on Assembly Street.

Programs: Catherine Sawyer stated that next month's program will be about Native American pottery and will be given by Chris Judge.

Field Trips: Casey Tyler gave a field trip report. CGMS may have a field trip to Mason Mountain Mine or Franklin Ruby Mine on May 23rd (please tell Casey if you would like to attend this field trip). There will also be a field trip to Propst Farm, just north of Charlotte, to dig for corundum. The Propst Farm field trip will be held on May 30th. Sign up with Casey to get more information.

Old Business: Ellen Price got in touch Catherine Sawyer to answer Victor's question about the rock conveyor belts in the Berkeley Quarry. Victor asked how fast the conveyor belts move the rocks, and Ellen said they move from 5 ½ to 9 miles per hour!

Patricia Stidom ended the meeting at 8:46 pm.

News Worth Digging Up

Big-Brained Ancestors May Have Loved Crystals Just as Much as Modern Humans Do, According to New Research

Source: Smithsonian

Date: April 20, 2026

By Sarah Kuta

Archaeologists in Israel unearthed 10 prehistoric hand axes that *Homo erectus* crafted from stones including fossils and geodes, perhaps a sign that they wanted to connect “to their cosmological understandings of the world”. The researchers think *H. erectus* selected these rocks deliberately and created the artifacts between 500,000 and 200,000 years ago, as reported in a paper published March 17 in the journal *Tel Aviv*. The researchers say the cache represents the largest concentration of fossil- and geode-bearing stone tools discovered to date.

Experts believe *H. erectus* evolved roughly two million years ago in present-day Africa. Archaeological evidence suggests that these ancestors—which had relatively large brains—were skilled toolmakers. But making hand axes was no easy feat—and crafting them out of rocks that contain fossils, geodes or other geological anomalies was probably even more challenging. That difficulty, coupled with the discovery of so many unique stone tools in the same place, suggests that *H. erectus* living in the Sakhnin Valley didn’t accidentally grab the fossil-studded rocks and geodes while searching for stones to craft into tools.” It is no surprise to many researchers that *H. erectus* was attracted to unusual rocks—especially geodes. Archaeological evidence suggests that human ancestors have been collecting small crystals for at least 780,000 years. To read more go to: [Full article: Lower Palaeolithic Tools of Potency: Handaxes Shaped around Fossils and Other Extraordinary Features at Sakhnin Valley, Israel](#)



Archaeologists discovered the hand axes in Israel’s Sakhnin Valley. R. Barkai et al., *Tel Aviv*, 2026 under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

CLUB PICNIC

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!! Come join us at the club picnic which will be held at Sesquicentennial State Park at Picnic Shelter No. 1 on **Saturday October 17th 11:00 to 3:00**. This is a bring your own food event although sharing of deserts is always appreciated. The club will provide charcoal for the grill, ice, and some drinks. If you want to use the grill, please bring your own meat. Grilling is definitely a good way to go. There are opportunities for outdoor recreation such as walking trails, hiking, bird observation, kayaking and fishing if you would like to extend your day and take advantage of the park. **Please note that you will be responsible for entrance fees into the park.**

(The photo below is Picnic Shelter No. 1 (taken by Ron Ahle.)



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/)

YouTube:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMgAMgnIt49_IvIzQtsZZRF0EwfbY38kc&si=VrPx2vPIGOR81ZSR

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



Membership Notes

We currently have 124 members, comprised of 92 adults and 32 juniors. As always, let me know if you need any information changed, or do not receive your newsletter, or need a membership card! Email me anytime at membership@cgms.rocks

Sincerely,
Liz Gregory
Membership Chair

South Carolina State Museum
<http://scmuseum.org/events/upcoming-events/>
803-898-4921

Hours of Operation:

Mon: CLOSED.

Tue – Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: 12 to 5 p.m.

Planetarium/ Theater Shows

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. ***Recently updated with new images and fascinating discoveries!***

Into America's Wild

A non-stop ride via kayak, bike, train, hot air balloon, zipline and more, "Into America's Wild," explores some of the most beautiful but little-known landscapes of North America, from the wilds of Alaska and the lush coastline of Oregon to the ancient canyons of the Southwest and the rolling hills of the Appalachian Trail. Setting out on this journey are three trailblazers – pioneering Native American astronaut John Herrington, Alaskan pilot and youth advocate Ariel Tweto, and record-breaking long-distance hiker Jennifer Pharr Davis – who share a passion for connecting people to experiences in the wild. As they wind their way through the scenic byways, ancient homelands, secret gems and hidden trails of America, viewers will discover the special human connection we all share with the natural world. Narrated by Academy Award® winner Morgan Freeman

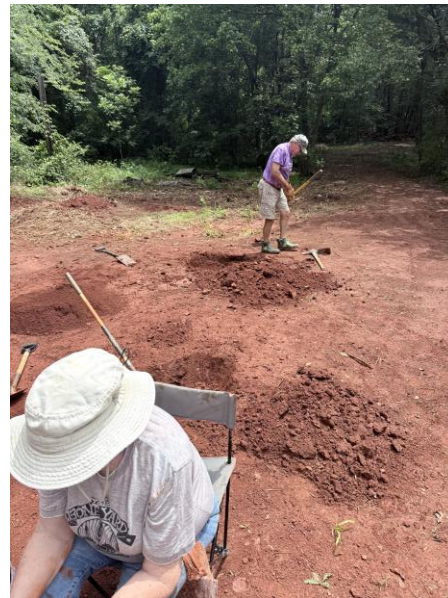
Solar Superstorms

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's 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.

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.

CGMS Fieldtrip Report

On May 30th, nine CGMS members gathered at Propst Farm to dig and screen for rubies and sapphires. It was pouring rain on the drive up but as we all arrived, the clouds parted and the sun came out. Digging for rubies at Propst Farm is not easy so folks worked together to dig holes and sift clay for about five hours. Some finds were made during the digging process but most of the rubies were covered clay and hard to see. Therefore, the team collected most of the gravel and small rocks and placed them in shared buckets. The gravel and small rocks were divided amongst participants. In my share of clay covered gravel, I found five rubies! It was a lot of fun to work together and share all the findings. Below are photos by Casey of CGMS members digging and screening!



59th Annual Columbia Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show
November 20-22, 2026
Jamil Temple

Show planning is underway! We had our first show planning meeting on June 2. The next planning meeting is on **Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 pm at the St. Andrews Library**, 2916 Broad River Rd., in the large meeting room. All CGMS members are invited to the show planning meetings, whether you would like to be involved in specific tasks or just want to help with decisions.

CGMS is asking for sponsorships to raise additional show income. The sponsors will be at a minimum recognized with their business name and logo in a special informational booklet to be given to attendees at the show. The booklet will also have the show layout, and information about the club and geology, minerals, fossils, etc. Cheryl Coker is leading the effort. We are asking members to help identify potential sponsors and to contact them. These can be businesses you work for or regularly go to or companies/organizations that would benefit from having their name in front of our show attendees. We would like to contact the potential sponsors by the end of July and secure their logo/artwork by the end of August to have time to design and print the booklets. Cheryl has created a one-page handout with an explanation and pricing to use when talking to potential sponsors. We will hold a training session for those who would like some guidance. **Please email me if you have ideas for potential sponsors and/or if you are willing to help. If you are willing to help, please also let me know if you would like to join a training session with Cheryl Coker.**

The show committees are listed in the table below. Items in purple text are areas where we still need help.

The current planning status is:

- Patricia Stidom has sent contracts to our dealers. If you know of any dealers you would like to be included, please contact Patricia.
- Gary has ordered the geodes.
- Sue Shrader has created the show poster.
- For advertising and publicity, we need someone to post on website event calendars (we have a list) starting now and someone to contact TV and radio stations in October.
- Pat Carter is brainstorming ideas for the theme of the dealer dinner.
- Casey has agreed to lead the raffle effort. If you have a grand prize specimen to donate, contact Casey.
- Bri Tribett has agreed to organize the volunteers.

Remember that the show is our largest fundraising event, but it is also fun and is a great venue to enhance our mineral and fossils collections; a place to meet like-minded people; introduces the community of people who like fossils, minerals and jewelry to CGMS.

If you are interested in helping with show planning, please come to the June 30 meeting or contact me. My information is at the end of the Rocky Trails.

Angela Valvasori
Show Chair

Show Committees

Committee	Lead and Details
Show Chair	Angela Valvasori Olga Yukhno for setup and teardown
Dealers and Layout	Patricia and Tom Stidom
Geodes & Show Trailer	Gary Hert, Jim Carter
Sponsorship & Show Booklet	Cheryl Coker Help with selling sponsorships
Dealer Dinner	Pat Carter
Advertising and Publicity	Posters – Sue Shrader Billboards – Angela Valvasori Posting on event calendars – open Contact TV and radio stations – open Help with show reminder postcards and emails
Volunteer Organization	Bri Tribbett
Raffle	Casey Tyler
Mystery Bags	Ron Ahle

News From SFMS from Cindy Reed, SFMS Loadstar Editor

Here's the link for the June edition of the SFMS Lodestar.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vckq2jR66ZHfkEzHe14QWOo6u2BwGKfb/view?usp=sharing>

The AFMS newsletter is now digital only and they will not be sending copies through the mail. I will include the link in my emails each month. Here is the May link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rpLprQp_974HQm0IpDLJdNV7TLM06pV9/view

Preliminary info on the next quarterly meeting is on page 1. Spoiler alert - It's in Franklin, NC on July 25. Registration info to follow.

Be sure to check out David Liles article on Ordovician Period Fossils.

You too can be published. Send your submissions to this email by the 25th of the month.

As always, if you have any suggestions or additions, please let me know.

Cindy Reed, SFMS Lodestar Editor

AREA SHOWS

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

July 24-26, Franklin, NC: 57th Annual Macon County Gemboree; Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin NC, Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Road; Friday and Saturday 10:00 - 6:00; Sunday 10:00 -4:00, contact Linda Harbuck (800)-336-7829; e-mail: lindah@franklin-chamber.com; www.visitfranklinnc.com

July 26-August 2, Spruce Pine, NC: 42nd Annual Grassy Creek Gem & Mineral Show Organized by: Parkway Fire and Rescue Department Parkway Fire and Rescue (Parkway Fairgrounds 136 Majestic View, Spruce Pine, North Carolina 28777) Contact Us: grassycreekgemshow@gmail.com

Oct. 2-4, Graves Mountain Rock Swap & Dig

Lincolnton, Georgia. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. October 2, 3, 4. 8 am to 6 pm.

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

The Columbia Gem & Mineral Society will hold its 58th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show on November 22-22, 2025.

Jamil Shrine Temple, 206 Jamil Road, Columbia, SC 29210

Friday and Saturday 10:00 - 6:00; Sunday 12:00 - 5:00.

\$7.00 for adults, 3 days pass \$14.00, 12 & under free. All military & their dependents free with ID Card

www.cgms.rocks

Patricia Stidom is the dealer's contact. pstidom@aol.com

CGMS Name Tag

Would you like to have a CGMS name tag? They can be obtained at Irmo Trophy. An example is shown below. If you would like one, please contact Irmo Trophy by email so they have the correct spelling of your name and tell them you are requesting a Columbia Gem and Mineral Society name tag. The cost is \$7. **Irmo Trophy Co.**, 803-798-3735; 5430 Old Bush River Rd., Columbia, SC 29212 irmotrophy@gmail.com



The Club is selling T-shirts

We have two colors available, tie-dyed (shown below) and black. We have small, medium and large sizes currently available. If you would like to buy a T-shirt, contact one of the officers in the club.



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.

2026 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President..... Patricia Stidom.
 Vice President..... Jim Carter.
 Treasurer..... Angela Valvasori.....
 Secretary..... Sophie Grimsley.....

COMMITTEES

Membership Liz Gregory.....
 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..... Catherine Sawyer.....
 Show..... Angela Valvasori.....
 Sunshine Sheila Frame.....
 Website..... Terry Gregory
 Workshop..... Gary Hert.....
 Workshop Location Special Committee.... Cheryl Coker.....



CGMS Website

Please visit our website:

<http://www.cgms.rocks>

Webmaster: Terry Gregory

Monthly Meeting

Typically, 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:

Typically, 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**